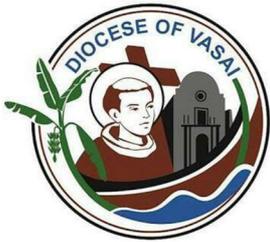


# DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR LITURGY, VASAI



## Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly



*(To be said in the family on the occasion of the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, 25th July 2021, instituted by Pope Francis.)*

“I am with you always.” (Mt. 28:20)

**Hymn:** 30 - All things are Thine, O Lord.

Tradition has it that St. Joachim, the grandfather of Jesus, felt estranged from those around him because he had no children; his life like that of his wife Anne, was considered useless. But God did not leave them in that situation but sent an angel to console them and announce to them the birth of a daughter, Mary.

God is always close to grandparents and the elderly ones, especially the lonely, asking them to do something new, however old they may be. They can preserve our roots and pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. God never retires and so he expects all to work to the end. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

**Scripture Reading :** Isaiah 46 : 3 - 7

### **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love. In your graciousness towards us you have given us loving and dedicated grandfathers and grandmothers and the elderly. It is they who have passed on the faith to us and nurtured it in our hearts, themselves, and through their children – our parents. Guard and protect them. Let them not feel lonely or in despair.

Remind them of the words of your only begotten son spoken to the apostles before he ascended unto you to sit on your right hand, “I am with you always.” May this same message be true to our grandparents and the elderly - a message which is timely, coming as it does, during this pandemic, which has swept down on us causing illness, death and isolation for long periods. May every Grandfather, grandmother, and elderly person, especially those who are alone, receive the visit of an angel who gives a message of consolation from you.

Let the words of the Gospel comfort them by the knowledge of your faithfulness. Through the scriptures may they know that even now what God is asking of them

today – to continue to proclaim his word. May they open their hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit who blows where he wills.

Enkindle in them the awareness that they are needed in order to help build a world where our children and grandchildren will live in fraternity and social friendship once the storm of the pandemic has subsided.

May they take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies. May their dreams of justice, peace and solidarity make it possible for young people to have new visions and thus build the future. May their painful memories of war and violence of the past help the young build a more humane and welcoming world and may the prayers that pass from their lips be a deep breath that the world urgently needs as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of this pandemic.

**Intercession:**

**Response:** Lord, graciously hear us.

- 1) We pray for our grandparents and the elderly that they may receive the love and affection of their family members as well as from their relatives and members of the community. **Our response.**
- 2) We pray that the young members of the families as well as the youth in general be aware of the rich memories, dreams and ability to pray of the elderly for their benefit and for the common good. **Our response.**
- 3) We pray for all members of Society, the elderly, the sick, the handicapped – mentally and physically, and the abandoned, be cared for by the people with regard to their basic and medical needs. **Our response.**
- 4) We pray that the word of God may dwell deeply in the hearts of the young and elderly alike so that our lives may be guided by the light of God's truth. **Our response.**
- 5) Let us pray for our personal needs.. and particularly for the needs of the elderly whom we know in our own family and community. **Our response.**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne, protect our grandfathers, grandmothers and the elderly, and may they be a source of enrichment to all the families on earth.

Mother Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland, where you await all humanity, for the great embrace of life without end, Amen.

Our Father, 3 Hail Mary, Glory be.

**Hymn:** 133 - Give thanks with a grateful heart...