



25th July 2021
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

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World Day of Prayer for Grandparents & the Elderly

Pope Francis has established a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will take place for the first time on **Sunday 25 July 2021** on the theme **"I am with you always"**. Today is a day of joy and hope for all of us in celebrating and giving thanks for our grandparents and the elderly.

Grandparents Day Prayer

I thank You, Lord, for the comfort of Your presence: even in times of loneliness, You are my hope and my confidence, You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth! I thank You for having given me a family and for having blessed me with a long life.

I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty, for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me. I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You call me. Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace, teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me, to never stop dreaming & tell of your wonders to new generations. Protect & guide Pope Francis and the Church, that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth. Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world, that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed, the poor consoled & wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness & help me to live life fully in each moment that you give me, in the certainty that you're with me, until the end of the age. Amen.



Saints Mary, Martha, and Lazarus



Pope Francis on Tuesday added the memorial of **Saints Mary, Martha, and Lazarus** to the General Roman Calendar, giving the siblings the combined feast day of **July 29**.

Pope Francis included the three saints in the General Roman Calendar "considering the important evangelical witness they offered in welcoming the Lord Jesus into their home, in listening to him attentively, in believing that he is the resurrection and the life".

Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus were three siblings living in the town of Bethany outside of Jerusalem during the time of Christ.

The Pope's said that "in the household of Bethany the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, and for this reason, the Gospel of John states that he loved them".

"Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the One who humiliated death", the decree continued.

The **July 29 feast day of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus** will now appear in the Church's calendars and liturgical texts as a memorial.



St. Alphonsus Liguori

Sunday 1st August is the **feast day** of **St. Alphonsus Liguori** - founder of the Redemptorists, priest, doctor of the Church, and moral theologian.

GOD'S WORD IN JULY 2021

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kg 4:42-44; Ps 114; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

Gift for the Hungry

For the next four Sundays we read from the famous "Bread of Life" chapter in the Gospel of John (Jn 6:1-69). Today's text is John's account of the feeding of at least 5000 people in the wilderness.

Jesus is on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The people have gathered because they have seen him work a healing miracle or "sign," as John likes to call such miracles. Jesus retreats with his disciples to a mountain. John then adds that the Feast of Passover was near. As you will recall, Passover is the Jewish liturgical celebration of the Exodus event when God liberated the Hebrew slaves from Egypt. Exodus themes dominate much of John Chapter 6.

When Jesus sees the crowd approaching, he knows that they are hungry and asks Philip where they could buy food. He is testing Philip. Jesus knows exactly what he is going to do, but he wants to see if Philip does. Philip does not and neither does the other disciple, Andrew. They fail to understand that Jesus is the one who will satisfy the people's hunger. Philip and Andrew try to come up with practical but conventional solutions. There are 5000 men present, not counting women and children. According to Philip there is not enough money to feed such a crowd. According to Andrew, there is insufficient food in the five loaves and two small fish that are offered by a little boy. Conventional solutions will not feed the people; only Jesus can. Jesus then works the miracle.

Notice something very important. It is Jesus himself who shares the food with the people, not the disciples. He is the source of the gift for these hungry people. The miracle produces so much food that 12 baskets of leftovers are gathered. Jesus' command to gather up the leftovers and to waste nothing echoes the Exodus story. On the Exodus trek Moses had commanded the people to do the same with the manna or miraculous bread from heaven given by God in the wilderness.

As always the people are ecstatic about the miracle. They identify Jesus as a prophet and want to make him king. As we have seen before, Jesus is cautious about such enthusiasm based on his miracles or "signs." He is truly a king, but not in the way the people think. His response is to withdraw by himself to the mountain. He will not be their kind of king.

Courtesy of REALITY magazine



Webcam and Public Masses in Clonard

Sunday July 25 th	7.00am	9.30am	11.00am	12.30pm
Monday July 26 th	7.00am	9.30am	6.15pm	
Tuesday July 27 th	7.00am	9.30am	6.15pm	
Wednesday July 28 th	7.00am	9.30am	6.15pm	
Thursday July 29 th [Novena Masses]	7.00am	9.30am	6.15pm	8.00pm
Friday July 30 th	7.00am	9.30am	6.15pm	
Saturday July 31 st	7.00am	9.30am	12.00pm	7.30pm [Vigil Mass]

THANKYOU!

We thank you for last week's Collection which came to £2,049.00.

And your kind donations, online and by post.