



Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne

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BISHOP'S LETTER TO CHILDREN ON GRANDPARENTS' DAY

My dear children in Jesus,

On Sunday, 26 July, we celebrate the feast of Saints JOACHIM AND ANNE, grandparents of Jesus. Remember that Saints JOACHIM AND ANNE are role models for grandparents. On this day, let us wish "HAPPY FEAST DAY!" to our grandparents. **Each grandparent is unique and irreplaceable. Join us in celebrating the gift they are in our lives!** To our grandparents, let us thank them for the gifts of life and faith they have given us.

By tradition, Joachim and Anne are considered the parents of Mary, the Mother of God. The oldest story about them is that, after years of childlessness, an angel appeared to tell Anne and Joachim that they would have a child. Anne promised to dedicate this child, Mary, to God.

Mary's parents nurtured and taught her, and brought her up to be a worthy Mother of God. It was their teaching that led her to respond to God's request with faith, "*Let it be done to me as you will.*" It was their example of parenting that Mary must have followed as she brought up her own son, Jesus. It was their faith that laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed her to stand by the cross with her crucified son. Such parents are examples and models for all parents.

Saints Joachim and St. Anne have been a part of the Church's liturgical calendar for many centuries. Devotion to their memory is particularly strong in the Eastern Catholic churches.

Today, on their feast day, we celebrate the gift of grandparents, who have given us the gift of life and faith. They continue to give us the gift of love.

My Dear Children, I invite you to celebrate Grandparents Day in a creative way – this is a special day for you and for them.

Continue to love your grandparents more intensively.

Pray for them everyday, for good health and happiness in life.

Offer in a special way today's *Qurbana* for the intention of your Grandparents.

Make a phone call to them to remind them of your love and gratitude.

Make a special picture card and send your loving greetings to them.

Have a conversation with your parents about grandparents

Be always grateful to God for your grandparents.



+ Bosco Puthur

Your loving Pithav in Jesus Christ.

3 JULY 2015, DUKHRANA, THE FEAST OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

NB: As a token of recognition, I recommend the community to present a gift to the grandparents present.

2 ATTACHMENTS FOR LITURGICAL CELEBRATION:

1) PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR THE FEAST OF GRANDPARENTS

Leader: God has made us experience his everlasting love through our grandparents. Let us pray with trust in his love.

1. For all grandparents: that their presence be a sign of God's love for their grandchildren and that their memories help younger generations to connect with their origins. We pray to the Lord.
2. For grandparents: may they continue to pass on to future generations their faith and their mature human and spiritual experience. We pray to the Lord.
3. For grandparents raising children: that their selfless love and commitment be recognized and supported by those around them. We pray to the Lord.
4. For grandparents: may they be blessed in the affection and gratitude of their grandchildren. May they always encounter respect and love. We pray to the Lord.
5. For children who have no grandparents: that they may find encouragement in the friendship and support of faith-filled seniors. We pray to the Lord.
6. For grandparents who have died: that their families will be consoled in their loss of ones so precious to them. We pray to the Lord

BLESSING OF GRANDPARENTS AT THE END OF QURBANA

AT THE END OF QURBANA, INVITE THE CHILDREN TO READ THE FOLLOWING PRAYER FOR THEIR GRANDPARENTS.

2) A PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS (ALL TOGETHER)

Dear God,

Please bless our grandparents.

Thank you for the LIFE AND FAITH they gave my parents and they continue give to me.

For the ways they helped me and made me strong, I give thanks.

For the ways they love me no matter what, I rejoice.

For the ways they have paved the road that leads me here, I am grateful.

Give our grandparents good health, wisdom and joy in life.

Give them peace and rest from their work.

Give them healing from every sickness and pain.

Let them see with their own eyes the glory of your Son, Jesus, in the love of their children and grandchildren.

Bless them always until they come to rest in you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

+Bosco Puthur