



Coloma Catholic Life.



Year of the Family

(From The God Who Speaks website)

The “Amoris Laetitia Family Year” is an initiative of Pope Francis which began on 19 March 2021 and ends on 26 June 2022. For our July Focus, we have created a number of biblical resources to celebrate this year <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/year-of-the-family/>.

This website provides a wealth of information and resources on Pope Francis’ initiative, Amoris Laetitia Family: <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html>

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2021 – 25th July

(From the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales)



The inaugural World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly falls on Sunday 25 July 2021. Pope Francis has given it the theme “I am with you always” from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 28: 30). This day will be celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday in July.

Pope Francis has instituted a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Identifying with the more senior members of our society, he says “The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!”



Pope Francis

Prayer Intention for July:

Social Friendship.

‘We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.’

Video:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-06/pope-francis-july-2021-prayer-intention-social-friendship.html>

Tweet: ‘Like Jesus’ follow villagers, we risk not recognizing him. An abstract and distant god who does not get himself involved in situations is more comfortable. God incarnated Himself, humble, tender, hidden, drawing near to us, living the normality of our daily life.’

Liturgical Year

Week: 14th of Ordinary
Time, Year B
Colour: Green

Here you can read the full [message from the Holy Father](#) as well as a filmed [reflection from President of the Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Vincent Nichols](#). You can also [use our prayers](#) and links to help you celebrate the day.

As the Pope says, we should cherish the elderly and recognise that there's no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to grandchildren.

CYMFED – Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (From the cymfed.org.uk)



CYMFed's starting point is to be found in the principle of synodality. We recognize that it takes the whole Church to minister effectively to young people. CYMFed seeks to help, shape and support youth ministry throughout the federation, encouraging and facilitating members working together in a spirit of mutual and reciprocal responsibility. By cultivating a nationwide atmosphere of encouragement and providing opportunity where possible, CYMFed members collectively deliver a shared vision for youth ministry and best practice for the benefit of young people across England and Wales. From this collective working, CYMFed is able to provide a national voice for youth ministry and insight into youth culture to the Bishops' Conference and other bodies within and outside of the Church.

"Youth ministry has to be synodal; it should involve a 'journeying together' that values 'the charisms that the Spirit bestows in accordance with the vocation and role of each of the Church's members, through a process of co-responsibility.'" (Pope Francis, Christus Vivit, 206)

CYMFed Award

The CYMFed Faith in Action Award rewards young people's active service in helping to build the Kingdom of God on Earth. Many young people are doing so much to follow Jesus' example in serving others in their schools and parishes. The Faith in Action Award encourages young people to take that service into their wider community and accept greater responsibility for their faith in action. The programme facilitates an exploration of scripture and Church teaching, with an emphasis on translating this into action. It encourages young people to shine the light of faith upon their experience of service through guided and personal reflection. The CYMFed Faith in Action Award was launched in 2016.



How does it work?

There are four levels of award: Pin, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Participants accrue credits of service in their parish and / or school and the wider community. The Faith in Action Award builds on what young people already experience in serving others, asking them to reflect upon it so that they may find new ways of living out and exploring their faith. There is an opportunity for both guided reflections, through group reflection points and personal reflection, through journaling. At the end of the scheme, participants submit a final piece of work for moderation before being awarded their Faith in Action Award.

Who is the Award for?

The Faith in Action Award is for young people aged 10-18 (Year 6 to Year 13). Young people undertake the award through their school, parish or organisation. Information about the CYMFed Faith in Action Award can be found here: <https://faithinactionaward.co.uk/>

The St Mary's Theology Essay Competition 2021



'The Bible is the supreme authority for Christians.' Discuss.

Prizes: First Place Award £250; Honourable mention £20 Book voucher (5) The competition is open to students in England and Wales who are currently in Year 12. More details at <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/theology/essay-competition.aspx>

The deadline is 8th July 2021.

Saints of the Week

St Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest – 5th July.



Anthony Mary Zaccaria was born into an Italian family of nobility in Cremona during 1502. His father Lazzaro died shortly after Anthony's birth, and his mother Antonietta – though only 18 years old – chose not to marry again, preferring to devote herself to charitable works and her son's education.

Antonietta's son took after her in devotion to God and generosity toward the poor. He studied Latin and Greek with tutors in his youth, and was afterward sent to Pavia to study philosophy. He went on to study medicine at the University of Padua, earning his degree at age 22 and returning to Cremona.

Despite his noble background and secular profession, the young doctor had no intention of either marrying or accumulating wealth. While caring for the physical conditions of his patients, he also encouraged them to find spiritual healing through repentance and the sacraments. Anthony also taught catechism to children, and went on to participate in the religious formation of young adults. He eventually decided to withdraw from the practice of medicine, and with the encouragement of his spiritual director he began to study for the priesthood.

Ordained a priest at age 26, Anthony is said to have experienced a miraculous occurrence during his first Mass, being surrounded by a supernatural light and a multitude of angels during the consecration of the Eucharist. Contemporary witnesses marvelled at the event, and testified to it after his death.

Church life in Cremona had suffered decline in the late 15th and early 16th centuries. The new priest encountered widespread ignorance and religious indifference among laypersons, while many of the clergy were either weak or corrupt. In these dire circumstances, Anthony Mary Zaccaria devoted his life to proclaiming the truths of the Gospel both clearly and charitably. Within two years, his eloquent preaching and tireless pastoral care is said to have changed the moral character of the city dramatically.

In 1530, Anthony moved to Milan, where a similar spirit of corruption and religious neglect prevailed. There, he decided to form a priestly society, the Clerics Regular of St. Paul. Inspired by the apostle's life and writings, the order was founded on a vision of humility, asceticism, poverty, and preaching. After the founder's death, they were entrusted with a prominent church named for St. Barnabas, and became commonly known as the "Barnabites." The priest also founded a women's religious order, the Angelic Sisters of St. Paul; and an organization, the Laity of St. Paul, geared toward the sanctification of those outside the priesthood and religious life. He pioneered the "40 Hours" devotion, involving continuous prayer before the Blessed

Sacrament.

In 1539, Anthony became seriously ill and returned to his mother's house in Cremona. The founder of the Clerics Regular of St. Paul died on July 5, during the liturgical octave of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, at the age of only 36. Nearly three decades after his death, St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria's body was found to be incorrupt. He was beatified by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1849, and declared a saint by Pope Leo XIII in 1897.

St Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr – 6th July



Maria Goretti was the third of seven children of a poor peasant family living near Corinaldo in the province of Ancona in Italy; owing to extreme poverty the family later migrated to a village near Anzio. In order to make ends meet, Maria's father entered into partnership with a man called Serenelli, and shared a house with him and his two sons, one of whom was called Alessandro. Her father died in 1900, when Maria was ten.

Maria impressed everyone with her radiant purity. She was naturally pious, kind, and helpful. She was also outstandingly beautiful – and Alessandro Serenelli was an outstandingly passionate and undisciplined man. She resisted his attentions, which only made her the more desirable, and narrowly managed to escape a serious sexual assault, which he made her keep secret by means of threats of murder. A month later Alessandro arranged things so that he would be alone in the house with Maria; and he had a dagger. She tried to resist, begging him to have care for his immortal soul, but he thrust a handkerchief into her mouth to prevent her from crying out, tied her up, and threatened her with the dagger. She could have consented then, with no danger to her soul; but her love of purity was too great. Alessandro, enraged, stabbed her fourteen times. She did not die, though her entrails were hanging out from one of her abdominal wounds. She was taken to hospital, seven miles of bad road in a horse-drawn ambulance and was operated on for more than two hours. She lived for twenty hours more, became a Child of Mary, received the Last Sacrament, and specifically forgave her murderer. She died in the afternoon of 6 July 1902, at the age of eleven years, eight months, and twenty days.

Alessandro narrowly escaped being lynched and was tried and sentenced to thirty years' penal servitude with hard labour. For the first seven years or so he maintained a cynical and defiant attitude, but he repented, and dreams of Maria herself figured largely in his repentance. Maria was beatified in 1927. Alessandro was released in 1928; and he and Maria's mother received Communion side by side on Christmas Day 1937, and they spent Christmas together.

Maria was canonized in 1950. Her mother was present at the ceremony, the first time this has ever happened. Some people say that Alessandro was there too, others not; but it is certain that he spent his last years in a Capuchin monastery: he died in 1970.

St Augustine Zhao Rong and his Companions, Martyrs – 9th July.

Augustine Zhao Rong was one of the Chinese soldiers who escorted Bishop John Gabriel Taurin Dufresse to his execution. Moved by his patience, he asked to be baptized, and in due course was sent to the seminary and ordained a priest. He was arrested and savagely tortured. He died in 1815.



With him are celebrated 119 of his companions in martyrdom in China between 1648 and 1930 (including Bishop Dufresse). Official persecution of Christians by the Emperors ceased in 1842, but violent anti-religious sentiments persisted, and in the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, Christians were particularly attacked and many thousands were killed.

