THE WAY

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FROM THE ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

Happy Grandparents' Day!

I’m going to be honest - this is one of my favourite days in the Junior School calendar. As a class teacher, I loved welcoming grandparents into the classroom. They are so appreciative to be granted “special access” to a vital part of their grandchildren’s world. Artworks and exercise books are pored over and compliments flow. There are plenty of stories beginning with “When I was in primary school…” And it works the other way too, students are proud to share their doting grandparents with peers and teachers.

Grandparents Day also serves as a reminder of the importance of respecting our elders. It is easy to get caught up in the excitement of growing up, changing fast, and looking toward the future. Yet if we don’t take time to cultivate strong intergenerational relationships, we will miss out on so much.

I recently spent some time in the country of Rwanda. It was very clear that respect for elders is part of the fabric of that society. I was therefore not surprised to find this African Proverb: "A youth that does not cultivate friendship with the elderly is like a tree without roots." Without our roots, none of us can stand tall. Our elders hold the stories, the family histories, and the quiet moments of resilience that keep us grounded. They show us where we come from and give us a safe place to learn.

For Christians, this bond across generations is also deeply sacred. In Leviticus 19:32, God gives us a gentle but clear reminder: "Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly

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and revere your God." This verse shows us that when we treat older people with kindness, we are reflecting God's own love.

Ultimately, how we care for our elders shows who we are as a community. By surrounding our elders with warmth and friendship, we make sure our community stays connected - ensuring that everyone, no matter their age, feels valued and loved.

And so, thank you to the many grandparents who made the effort to come and celebrate the learning of our young people and to those who wanted to, but were unable to do so. Your contribution to the next generation is so valued and we thank God for your wisdom and care.

Mr Peter Butchatsky
Assistant Chaplain

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