



**Sisters of Charity**  
of Australia

# Keep in Touch

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MAGAZINE

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## Welcome to the September issue of Keep in Touch!

In this edition, we take time to celebrate the lives and the ministries of five Jubilarian Sisters who between them have served the Australian community through education, health, spirituality, and leadership for a combined total of 370 years!

Congratulations to the Sisters and thank you for your faithful service and dedication. You will find their stories beginning on Page 6.

We also commemorate the lives of Sr Patricia Shinnars rsc, who died on July 29, and Sr Margaret Laffan rsc, who died on August 17.

Also in this edition, we go to Rome with Sr Margaret Scully, and on pilgrimage to Ireland with Sr Helen Clarke rsc.



## 2017 Pilgrimage to Ireland

In late May, 24 pilgrims (above), including Fr Darryl Mackie and Sr Helen Clarke rsc, gathered in Dublin to begin their journey around the sacred sites that are part of the Mary Aikenhead story.

Pilgrims were drawn from across Mary Aikenhead Ministries: Some were from healthcare, others from education. The group included Lynette Ybarzabal, the healthcare co-ordinator who cares for the Sisters of Charity in Queensland, and Sr Maureen Heffernan rsc.

In addition, this year we were honoured to have Bishop Terry Brady (an Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney) as a pilgrim. Bishop Terry and Father Darryl shared the liturgies at various sites.

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# 2017 Pilgrimage to Ireland

From page 1



Sr Helen Clarke and Fr Darryl Mackie the Sanctuary in Dublin

The pilgrimage took us from Dublin, to Cork, to Galway and Foxford, then back to Dublin, then Glendalough for two reflective days.

A highlight of the pilgrimage was meeting the Sisters of Charity in different places and accepting their hospitality.

Sr Mary Christian, Congregational Leader, hosted our opening liturgy and dinner at Sandymount, Dublin, and the Sisters of Charity criss-crossed across our paths throughout the entire pilgrimage.

Each day, pilgrims were encouraged to journal and then reflect on three aspects, "what did I learn today?", "what touched me today?" and "what will I take back to my ministry?" – head, heart, hands!

The pilgrimage ended on Tuesday, 30 May when pilgrims were delivered back to Dublin Airport, after nine days together in the country that was home to Mary Aikenhead, the early Congregation of the Sisters of Charity, and our sister Congregation.

by Sr Helen Clarke rsc

## “A deepening call to integrity and service”

**Maureen Heffernan rsc reflects on what it means to be a pilgrim**

A pilgrim is one who follows a sacred path – an intentional journey. Our Mary Aikenhead Ministries pilgrimage from May 21 to 30 this year was just that – a journey back to our Congregational roots, moving to a deeper understanding of the life of Mary Aikenhead and her intentions that those who would join with her in ministering to the poor and needy would do so with tender concern, practicality, and respect for each one's dignity and worth.

Before leaving for Ireland, each pilgrim was acknowledged and blessed at the Mary Aikenhead Ministries conference. In this moving ritual, each pilgrim received an Aboriginal journey stone and scallop shell as special symbols of our quest.

Many of us have encountered the Irish saying: *Céad míle fáilte* – “A hundred thousand blessings! A hundred thousand welcomes!” – and welcomed we were in Ireland.

Each place we visited the reception was warm and enthusiastic, the hospitality exceptional: Each was significant in its uniqueness.

One of the special places for us was the Heritage Centre at Harold's Cross, following Mary Aikenhead's life story through a diorama which depicts significant moments of her life both personally and for the beginnings of the Sisters of Charity.

Mary Aikenhead lived here for many years, and it was where she died. Here sits the Round Table, where she wrote thousands of documents, including letters begging for financial support for the growing needs of the poor she was so aware of, letters of encouragement and guidance to many Sisters.

A moving moment for me at the Heritage Centre was gazing at the picture of Mary Aikenhead in the habit, a picture we are so familiar with – this particular image had such clarity. Looking into her eyes felt so real; I truly felt her presence, her encouragement, and a deepening call to integrity and service.

It was a great joy to visit St Vincent's School in Cork. The dedicated principal spoke to us at length about their programs and hopes for their students: “We want the girls to be happy!” It was impressive to hear that as the most important goal for these girls.



We were treated to spending some time with some of the girls who had prepared some items – in song and artwork for us and who had asked to hear something of life in Australia. Sharon Volp, Principal of Mt St Michael's Ashgrove responded superbly, eliciting questions from the girls and suggesting future links between the colleges.

It was exciting to be in Cork, Mary Aikenhead's birthplace and where the Spirit moved her so deeply as she absorbed the story of Dives and Lazarus which she later articulated as a foundational principle: "To give to the poor what the rich can buy for money."

At Cork Cathedral, we participated in a beautiful paraliturgy around the Baptismal Font, gathering to remember the gift of faith and our continuing commitment to our Baptismal promises.

The poignancy of Dun Laoghaire (pictured on this edition's front cover) from where the first five Sisters departed for Australia and the Museum at Cobh, graphically portraying the enormous suffering of poor people banished from their families and homeland, never to return, has left an indelible mark of the suffering of loneliness, insecurity, fear, which I now associate with the many refugees and asylum seekers of today.

From left: Srs Linda and Maureen in the South Chapel, Cork Cathedral; Inside Cork Cathedral; Anthony Chapman, a pilgrim from Mt Carmel College in Hobart on the MAM pilgrimage

Halfway through our time of pilgrimage we visited The Sanctuary, established by Sister Stanislaus Kennedy rsc. This is a place of refuge from the busy-ness of modern life, an oasis for troubled souls, place of welcome for the homeless. Here, a beautiful open garden offers tranquil and restful spaces to sit and dwell a while. Inside the building there are quiet nooks for group gatherings and individual reflection. Much work has been done and continues to be done for the homeless by Sr Stan and her colleagues.

We visited Donnybrook, place of eternal rest for Mother Mary Aikenhead, Sister Mary Baptist de Lacy – one of the first five Sisters who came to Australia – and many Sisters of Charity and women who had been in the care of the Sisters.

It was very sobering to be in this place of remembrance, standing among those who had walked in the footsteps of Mary Aikenhead, carrying forward her wisdom, compassion, generosity, strength of purpose, and making tangible the words:

*"I comforted the heart of the widow, I was an eye to the blind, a foot to the lame, to the poor I was a mother."*

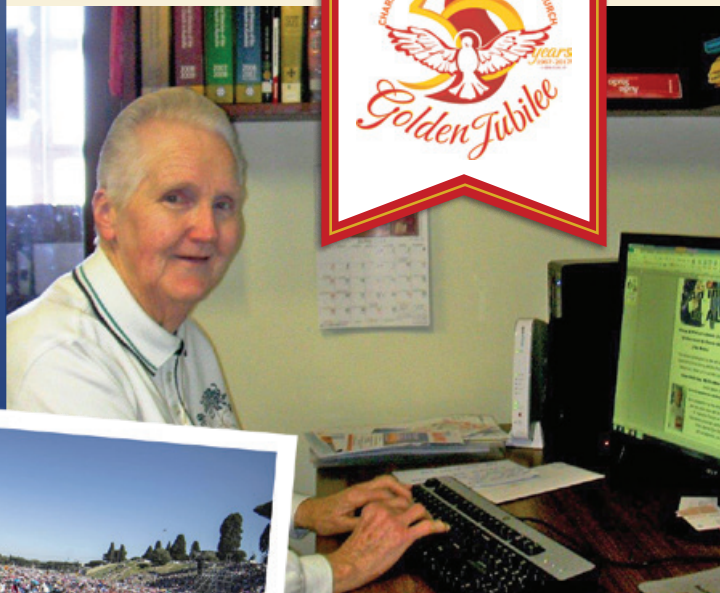
(Job 29: 14, 16)



Sr Linda takes tea with Sarah Michaels and Sister Pauline rsc at St Vincent's, Cork

# Sr Margaret goes to Rome

As I write, it is just a week since my return from Rome where I joined in celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal with more than 200 Australians and 30,000 others from all around the world.



Sr Margaret Scully rsc



That number does not include those of other denominations and Pentecostal groups who were also invited by Pope Francis to this momentous celebration.

Given the opportunity to attend the Rome event I asked myself: "Why do I want to go?" Really, it was to give thanks to God for the many graces and blessings I have received from CCR since my introduction to it in 1976 at the second prayer meeting held by the group in the Wollongong Diocese.

Since then, through the ministry of Sr Briege McKenna, I experienced the healing love of Jesus in my own life in 1986 and subsequently witnessed that same love touching the lives of others through the ministry of healing power in which I continue to be involved.

So I just wanted to say "thank you" to our wonderful God with the silent query, "why me?"

*Dove of the Holy Spirit*  
Gian Lorenzo Bernini, ca. 1660

Yet this wasn't just about me, but also about all whom I know and have ministered to and with during the years – my Sisters of Charity religious congregation, the Australian Catholic Charismatic Renewal ... Yes, you were all with me there in Rome witnessing the most powerful expressions of unity imaginable.

People from every country, all languages, shapes and sizes, together in unity, praising and worshipping God, one in mind and heart, in unity of purpose,

moving beyond the differences and joining together in that unique gift of praising God.

On my return, someone from the CCR Centre asked me: "What did you learn?" That stumped me for a moment, because I hadn't gone to learn, but rather to experience. And that was a reality at Circo Massimo on the eve of Pentecost for, while my mind was not comprehending the Italian, the responsive atmosphere around me spoke volumes.





Pentecost vigil and ecumenical prayer with Pope Francis, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Charismatic Renewal

Then when Pope Francis proclaimed in English, "Jesus is Lord!" the stadium erupted on one great burst of joy.

That's how it felt for four days of preparation for Pentecost itself. It seemed that lack of unity in the one language was compensated for by a spirit of unity in the one spirit, the Holy Spirit.

There was unity in joy, respect, reverence. I experienced kindness, thoughtfulness, and friendship hard to imagine in such vast, compact gatherings. Dare I say it was a little touch of heaven although I could have done without the 30 plus degree heat.

And so – what have I come home with? A renewed and deep desire for unity, particularly unity within our own Church; within CCR; and indeed, wherever unity in the body of Christ has been fractured.

Something Fr Ken Barker mgl said at the session for Australians at Sant'Anastasia church resonated within me both for the CCR and as a Sister of Charity... "There are some who say we are dying; this is sombre thinking. We will last for as long as the Holy spirit is within us."

And we were invited to make our "yes" to God again. Archbishop Christopher Prowse added to this when he said: "The Church without the Holy Spirit becomes infertile."

Pope Francis also spoke of unity at Pentecost vigil in terms of Christian unity and that morning, attending a session at the Urbiana University entitled *CCR: A current of grace for the whole Church*. I heard people such as Charles Whitehead (from England and former ICCRS President), Fr Raniero Cantalamessa ofm Cap. (preacher to the Papal household), Fr Hocken and Vincent Synon together with two Messianic Jews who shared their remarkable stories and

marvelled at their being seated between two Catholic priests.

There is so much more which could be said about the whole experience not least of all was the interaction with ordinary Romans, including at the Pantheon one particular very handicapped man whose face shone with a smile which was contagious. It is etched in my mind.

**I thank God for him and each and every moment which was total gift and blessing.**

Golden Jubilee 2017 – Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Rome



# Sr Regina Millard

## Celebrating a Sister “who has given her life for love”

“This is the day the Lord has made! Fifty years of faithful, loving service. What a privilege it is for me to share this day with you,” Congregational Leader Sr Clare Nolan said at the celebrations to mark the golden jubilee of the profession of Sr Regina Millard.

“When I reflect on the young woman who entered the novitiate at Wahroonga – hat, gloves and all – I remember a confident, quite prayerful woman. You recited poems at the concerts perfectly – *The white magnolia tree* is one I will never forget.

“The two years we were together you deepened your spirituality and quietly, by being yourself, you were an example to many of us.

“Profession came; you graduated as a nurse, a vocation within a vocation. It wasn't long after that you were encouraged to enter the field of nurse education.

I remember vividly you as the Clinical Nurse Educator teaching at the bedside with the new student nurses. Once again, those qualities of confidence, kindness, compassion, and excellence shone through. You were able to create in the nurses the wonder at the make-up and the function of the human body.

“After 12 years, proud as you were to be part of an historic moment in nurse education, when it moved into colleges of advanced education, the ministry that you loved – the formation of nurses with Christian values – came to an end. From that ending came new beginnings.



Sr Regina Millard rsc

### Palliative care

“In the spirit of our early days, the dream was to have a palliative care ward at St Joseph's Hospital in Auburn. You developed a program in information for all the staff, the dream was realised, and still today this centre flourishes in excellence and care. Twenty years in the area of community palliative care, ministering to the spiritual needs of patients and families and being the spiritual carer on an interdisciplinary palliative care team, educating staff, volunteers, outside agencies, peers in the field, and local communities in spiritual care of the dying and in bereavement care, conducting rituals where appropriate.

“I am overwhelmed to see where God led you and how He used your gifts and talents in the healing ministry and education. You live out your charism of bringing each person the love, tenderness and concern of Christ for the poor, seeing Christ in everyone we serve.

“You were happy because you were caring for the dying in the spirit of Mary Aikenhead.

“And Regina you are more than that. You were and are the rock in your family. They love you and look to you to be ‘the wind beneath their wings’. You were and still are there for them, bringing that special card, brightening up the room with flowers, bringing comfort, support and making each one feel special. When you say God bless you, people pause and feel it. It's a special blessing, because you mean it.

“You are a dear friend, sincere, kind, generous, and inclusive, you never forget birthdays, special milestones, you go the extra mile to point out beauty, beauty in the world, a drop of dew on a daisy, photography, an article written, beauty of the soul. The groups you gather that enable people to reflect and share life and love, their inner journey, is so appreciated.

“So now your present ministry is in parish and formation. All through your life as a Sister of Charity, you have been in education and formation. Your education experience has spilled over into the parish and wider Melbourne in educating parishioners about palliative and bereavement care.

“Mary Aikenhead said: ‘No great work was ever done for God except by persons of prayer.’ Rest assured that your work has been and is great because you are a woman of prayer and deep faith.

*“These few words reflect some of the richness of your life as a Sister of Charity for 50 years. You chose as your personal motto ‘To know, love, and serve your Son! I pray this prayer with you today, Regina.”*

# Sr Elizabeth Costigan

## Diamond Jubilee

You invited us to celebrate with you, Liz.

The occasion, and the words you spoke renewing your 60 years of sacred commitment as Religious Sister of Charity, touched us deeply.

Moments of prayerful presence, remembrance, companionship carried us through our celebration of Eucharist in our Currajeen chapel – moving us to quiet tears of joy and gratitude with you, our dear Sister and friend, grateful for simply being with you.

Your chosen Scriptures and music lifted us in heart and spirit – with Paul in his words to the people of Philippi, "Rejoice! The Lord is near!" – with John speaking of the grain of wheat: "If it dies, it bears much fruit ..." and "those who serve me must follow me, for where I am there shall my servants be also."

You led us with our everyday God, into the creating God of Psalm 139 "for the wonder of who I am I praise you, safe in your hands all creation is made new."



Sr Elizabeth Costigan rsc

We were welcomed in Communion by our loving God: "Do not be afraid I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come follow me. I will bring you home. I love you, and you are mine.

The occasion, and the words you spoke renewing your 60 years of sacred commitment as a Religious Sister of Charity, touched us deeply.

*I remember well the grace you bring, the power of your love for me.*

*I remember all the lives that you set free.*

*I remember well the way you speak my mystery.*

*Are you ready now to come with me until my dream goes free?*

*"You are a loving and a trusted friend to many. You show the hospitality of God to all and you rejoice in your vocation. You are a true daughter of Mary Aikenhead.*

Sr Clare Nolan rsc  
Congregational Leader

This was no ordinary occasion. It was one that carried the impact and witness of faith lived, of lives touched and changed in the experience of crisis, of deep supporting love, and of fidelity lived in Jesus.

There were 18 of us gathered – family members, community and friends including our Leader, Clare – on a winter's morning in Melbourne that was uplifted in the colours and fragrance of flowers gifted by our Sisters and friends from across the country and the years.

We travelled to the nearby Growling Frog Golf Course Restaurant with an afternoon of sunshine, blue skies, and outlook of rolling greens, in which kangaroos delighted. It was a lovely environment for celebration.

In words echoing those of your big brother, Adrian, Liz –

*"Well done!"*

by Sr Maureen Delaney rsc



Sr Liz cuts the cake

# Sr Marguerite Moloney

## Platinum Jubilee



Sr Marguerite Moloney rsc

**"The apostolic effectiveness of consecrated life depends on the eloquence of your lives, which radiate the joy and beauty of living the Gospel and following Christ to the full."**

Those were the words of Pope Francis to Religious in 2014, and they are the words Congregational Leader Sr Clare Nolan used to open her written tribute to Sr Marguerite Moloney to celebrate her platinum jubilee.

"You certainly fill the bill of Pope Francis' words to the religious," wrote Sr Clare. "Your life as a Sister of Charity radiates the joy and beauty of living the Gospel and following Christ faithfully."

"You are such an example of joy and faithfulness to me as I journey now from my Golden Jubilee. Only 20 more years to catch up with you!"

*Heart of Jesus, my portion and my inheritance forever.*

Sr Marguerite's motto

"When I think of you I see a loving and free woman who is deeply spiritual in her daily living. When I converse with you, you really listen and it is as if I am all that matters to you in that moment."

"You are a happy woman, a faith-filled woman. To be in your presence lifts the spirit. You are interested in everyone. You are full of fun and live life to the full, limitations and all. And you are a lady, always. You are not afraid to be feminine."

Sr Clare referenced Sr Marguerite's personal style, but also her deeper values of love for the family, and the Congregation, and to the children and parents in her teaching days which extended to her Parish Ministry of Personal Care.

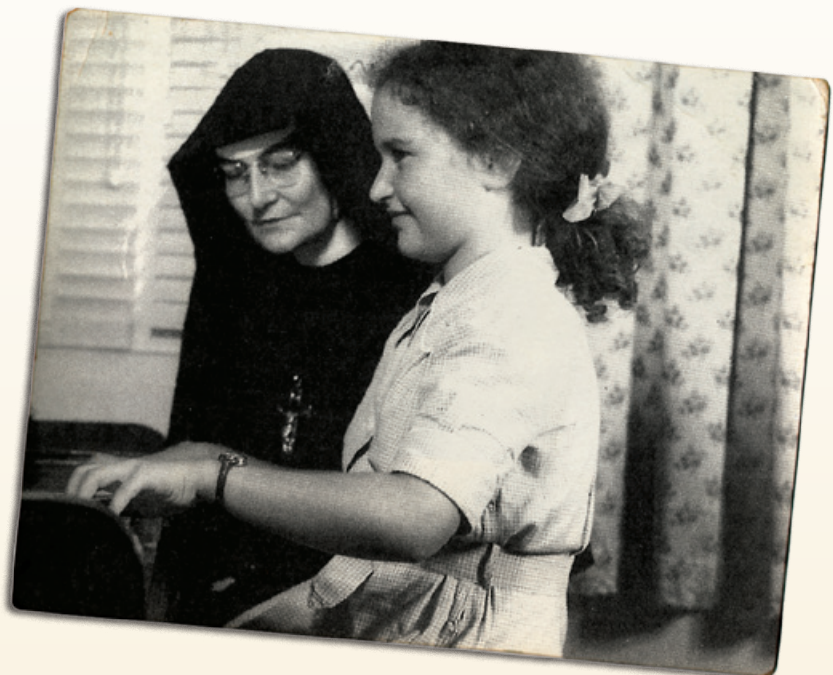
"And last but not least is the love of friends. You have a special relationship with Colleen which sees you supporting each other as you struggle with serious illness. Always cheerful. Always grateful. Always expressing love to and for the Sisters."

"You are a prayerful woman, and as your motto reflects, God is your all. I join my prayers of praise and thanksgiving to God with yours for this day."

**"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!"**

(Mt 6:21)

Sr Marguerite, a gifted musician and teacher





# Sr Helen Malone

## Platinum Jubilee

*My soul thirsts for the living God.*

(Ps 42:2)

Sr Helen's motto

Sister Helen is one of the three Sisters of Charity marking their platinum anniversaries in August.

Sr Clare was on hand to acknowledge Sr Helen's life dedicated to the Church.

"May God's blessings pour over you today, Helen, as we give thanks to God for you and your service of the poor which you continue so faithfully today.

"You are the champion of the little ones. You have the ability to make them feel worthwhile," Sr Clare noted.

"Your ministry in education, both primary and secondary, spanned many, many years. You are always happy to admit that you are always learning. After much thought and discernment, you responded to an important ministry which was teaching English to migrants. You have done this with great patience and love. And you never give up on them.

"You are delighted to support staff on St Vincent's Campus, Fitzroy, especially teaching English to those who struggle with it.

"Your love of family was evident and recently you were saddened by the loss of your dear sister Jan. You are full of love for the Congregation, and age is no barrier to you as you involve yourself in its life and mission.



Sr Helen Malone rsc

You have a deep sense of social justice, you are non-judgemental and you can be yourself freely.

"You embrace change as a good thing in your life and move along with it. Learning is a gift you always welcome and you have contributed greatly through your own academic achievements.

"We welcome an article you wrote just recently on the ministry of education in the Congregation. Wonderful, Helen! You are a vibrant woman and a true daughter of Mary Aikenhead.

"Thank you for sharing your gifts of humour, genuine interest in others and being able to see the good in others. As you probably realise after we nearly lost you through illness, your work on earth is not finished yet.

**"May you continue to grow in the love of God and others, dear Helen!"**

# Sr Eileen Thynne

## Platinum Jubilee

*I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.*

(Ph 4:13)

Sr Eileen's motto

Sr Eileen celebrated her platinum jubilee with two other Sisters of Charity, Sr Helen and Sr Marguerite. Sr Clare was on hand to congratulate her:

I am so glad to be able to share your jubilee with you. As Pope Francis says, the eloquence of your life is what brings apostolic effectiveness and you have done that magnificently for 70 years.

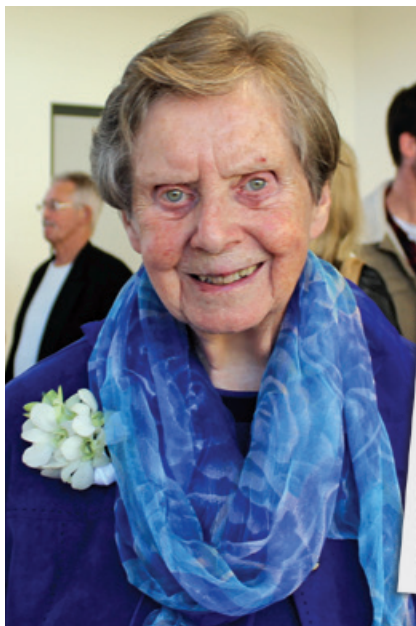
In that time, you have ministered in education, leadership roles, and the healing ministry of Christ at Caritas Christi Hospice, Kew and Corpus Christi, Clayton.

Seventy years of ministry, of going where you were called.

"Tucked away in that 70 years was a time in Bundi, Papua New Guinea as principal of St Francis of Assisi school. You were always ready to go where you were called. Always readings the signs of the times. Always a yes to what was asked of you in serving the poor. As Superior, you cared about the individual Sister, and as a leader you were tireless and whole-hearted in your ministry.

"You supported those who struggled and championed the underdog.

"When you were at Caritas Christi Hospice, Kew, as hospitality Sister, a role of



Sr Eileen Thynne rsc

welcome and giving time to the distressed and grieving, you found yourself loved and welcomed by all. The staff grew to love you very much and your role as the one who welcomed those entering CCH and showing the Sisters' hospitality, was appreciated and valued by all.

"You spent many years in caring service to the most vulnerable patients and families who needed your gentle way and your loving kindness. The staff experienced that care on a daily basis.

"On leaving CCH and going to CCC, you have cared generously for our Sisters in care at Clayton.



You are a friend and companion to all. A true daughter of Mary Aikenhead. Thank you, Eileen!

"On the day of your profession, you took as your motto 'I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.' (Ph 4:13) May God continue to strengthen you, dear Eileen.

"You have great love for your family and they for you, especially your nieces and nephews. May their love continue to support you. May you feel God's presence with you, walking beside you in the moments to come.

"As John O'Donoghue says: 'May a slow wind work these words of love around you, an invisible cloak to mind your life.'"

# We remember...

## Sr Patricia 'Trish' Shinnars rsc

**Words of Remembrance**  
All Hallows Church, Balwyn  
August 3, 2017

Trish died on the Feast of St Martha, which was appropriate for someone well known for her busy-ness. Trish was a Martha, busy about many things – especially in seeking out the poor and lonely and giving them what they might need.

My journey with Trish began with her diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease (MND). What a shock that was to all who loved her. Such a dreadful disease and I learned so much about it as we took the various steps with Trish.

In my heart, I asked God: "Why Trish with everything else she was suffering?"

But never once did Trish say "Why me?" She accepted her lot in life. It wasn't long before the call went out to the Sisters both at home and in Ireland for prayers for Trish. Trish herself wanted the Sisters to pray for her spiritual and emotional healing before she died. That was what she wanted most. She never wanted to focus on her physical illness.

As I visited with Sisters, the Novena to Mary Aikenhead was underway, the prayer cards were visible and Trish was open about the intention for the Novena. She struggled so much and it was agonising for Sisters, family, and friends to see her struggle and feel so helpless. All we had to offer was our presence and God's presence in us.



Sr Patricia 'Trish' Shinnars rsc

The living with MND for Trish lasted longer than for most sufferers but the prayers and support for her never stopped.

Her psychiatrist Lorien was her rock. Claire, her support person visiting from Melbourne Clinic for years, was always a highlight for Trish. As recently as last week when I saw her to say my goodbye, Trish stressed once more her love and deep gratitude for these two faithful women on her journey. To Lorien and Claire – our deepest thanks.

In the end, she was grateful to everyone and all was in readiness to go when God called her name.

Everything was accomplished. She arranged her own funeral with the help of the Sisters and her family. And everyone just hung in there with her till the end with love, prayers, cards, visits.

It was a difficult journey for all. But to accompany Trish during these years was a gift. We struggled together with her emptiness as far as feeling God as absence rather than presence. It was just desperation at times, and an emptiness no one could reach.

But through the kindness and skill of staff, the love of family and friends and their visits, and the faithfulness of her own religious community of the Sisters of Charity and so many others, we got to where Trish prayed to be – emotionally and spiritually at peace.

My last visit was a big hug, sharing my love for her and the inspiration she has been in my life and deep, deep gratitude for her. I expressed to her that there would never be another Trish... I got the thumbs up!

Her family, friends and Sisters were with her to the end. She was grateful, and so my God, was I. I say in deep reverence and humility that I have never in my life seen a human being suffer as much as Trish did. However, she never felt sorry for herself or blamed anyone. She was a perfectionist in all aspects of her life. Working together with Trish got us all there in the end. We will never forget Trish, and the poor will never forget her as they open the door to Heaven for her and Mary Aikenhead welcomes her daughter home.

Go in peace, dear Trish.

by Sr Clare Nolan rsc  
Congregational Leader



Sr Margaret Laffan rsc

# We remember...

## Sr Margaret Laffan rsc

### Words of Remembrance

St Therese's Church,  
Essendon, Victoria  
August 23, 2017

This Parish of St Therese is Margaret's home parish, where, along with her family, her early faith-life was nourished.

After attending school at St Columba's, Margaret felt the strong pull to religious life, to be a missionary and serve the poor. The Sisters of Charity were not her first thought even though she felt close to them. She did not know about the charism of service of the poor. She was not interested in teaching or nursing.

So "in desperation" she made a Novena to reach the right decision and, after an Easter retreat, Margaret knew religious life was for her and entered the Sisters of Charity in July, 1952 at the age of 20.

During her time in the Novitiate, Margaret read the life of Mary Aikenhead and in those pages she found what she had been looking for, the Charism of the Sisters of Charity and our fourth vow of Service of the poor.

Margaret went nursing and grew to love it. After nine years, Margaret was sent to study social work at Melbourne University. Which recommended that Margaret do a three-month placement in India which she did with Sr Madeline rsc.

They worked with the Holy Spirit Sisters in Bombay. Margaret found this trip a truly spiritual experience which opened her heart to the poor and suffering but always with a deep sense of God's presence with her.

Margaret became part of the team for the Better World Movement and worked for five years as part of the Australian team and she went far and wide sharing this message of hope and peace.

Margaret then became immersed in the ministry of Spiritual Direction and became part of the Retreat Team with the Jesuits at Pymble NSW and was with them for six years.

From our own Spirituality centre at Wahroonga, Margaret joined with Marnie Kennedy rscj, Michael Kennedy SJ and Brian Stoney SJ developing the Street Retreats Program.

Back in Melbourne, Margaret ministered at Sacred Heart Mission St Kilda where she was with the poor and homeless. This extended to our Detox Centre De Paul House as an outreach worker. And after a few years in this ministry Margaret saw her dream fulfilled to have a place for people living in rooming houses around Fitzroy, who had lost their roots and were very lonely.

Over a period of time with the support of wonderful volunteers Briar Terrace became home for so many and they found themselves in a safe place and trusted.

It is my privilege on behalf of all Sisters of Charity to offer these words of remembrance to honour our Sister in Christ, Margaret Laffan.

She lies in peace here at the altar of thanksgiving for her life so faithfully, lovingly and fully lived as a Sister of Charity for 62 years.

by Sr Clare Nolan rsc  
*Congregational Leader*



**Sisters of Charity**  
of Australia

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