

# Keeping in Touch

SSHJM



SPRING 2022

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Front cover:

## A Word from the Editor

We come united in this time of world crisis as we pray for the people of the Ukraine and therefore we open our Spring edition with a small prayer service which may bring us together to pray for peace. These days are terrifying for so many innocent people and we reflect also on our own history of WW11. Years before many of us were born, our sisters suffered and supported those around them. The account of the blitz on our house in Rotherhithe is difficult to read and as it is long it will be presented in parts. Natural disasters have also affected us and our lovely cedar tree was badly damaged in a recent storm.

Life goes on and we rejoice to see the happy photos and report on the Christmas Nativity in Mbala (it's never too late to enjoy Christmas photos). Sister Lucky in Chingola sends a little narrative report of the projects they are involved with, most inspiring!

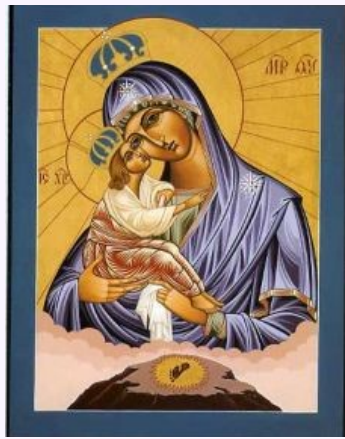
Before returning to Zambia, Sisters Yvonne and Trinitor took time to visit some of the communities here in the UK and share the culture of 'fish and chips'. Sister Julie also took time to visit the sisters in Cork community and celebrations there, as always, are great excuses for a party. Cork had a wonderful celebration also with Sister Mary Jo on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee along with other feasts and 'big' birthdays.

The sisters and the people of Cebu were very happy to be able to reach out to many people whose homes were badly damaged or destroyed during the typhoon, and the Congregation is so grateful to the many of you who responded to our call to help and support. It is impossible to name you all but know that your generosity will be rewarded in heaven.

Please continue to keep us up to date with what is happening. What seems little to you is of great interest to us all.

*With love and prayers*

Anne



Our Lady of Pochaev  
(Почаїв) in the Ukraine

Let us pray for peace in the Ukraine.

### **Opening song or hymn:**

The little seven year old who sang in the bomb shelter, sings the national anthem. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Krl7jPWzHzA>

### **A prayer psalm:**

Borders, barricades, bewilderment...

When the bargaining begins, God please protect peace.

Sanctions, security measured in minutes and it's scary...

When safety scatters, God please protect peace.

War dresses up in peace-keepers clothes,

Troops amass, the ground trembles and so do people...

When the future feels fragile, God please protect peace.

The littlest, the least likely to have a say, those whose  
lives are sanctioned and bargained over—violence  
always finds them first.

And the 'oh-so important' political manoeuvres mean  
nothing to them. They just want to live.



When the winners just want to wipe them out of the way,  
God please protect peace.

We will not turn away. We will stand together—  
God give us the strength to protect peace.

**Amen**

### **Action**

Take some time to meditate and then discuss how we as  
SSHJM Sisters can become involved.

### **Concluding prayer**

Loving God, through the intercession of Our Lady of Pochaev  
We pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.      **Amen.**



**Our Lady of Pochaev, pray for us.**

*Taken from Cafod and Christian Aid resources*

# The blitz destruction of the church of Our Lady Immaculate, The convent and St. Pelagia's Home, 654 Rotherhithe Street, London SE 16

## Part One

*This account of the tragic events in one of our houses during WW11 brings home to us the horrors of war. As it is a very long report I will print it in instalments. Our Federation sisters in Germany also suffered greatly during this time, sacrificing themselves to stay with the handicapped children in their care. Some of them were even sent to Labour camps. In war we all suffer.*



The 7th of September, 1940 dawned as one of the most beautiful days with which God has ever blessed this earth. In fact the whole Summer was exceptionally fine, but alas! Few could enjoy it with so many nations at war.

Our convent in Rotherhithe, being near the docks and surrounded by warehouses, was so to speak, in the front line. We had only just built the new convent. The church was a public one, originally the old parish church. To evacuate meant giving up our care of the poor and parish work, and leaving the church without anyone to look after it. We decided therefore to remain and to place our trust in God for our safety and protection from air attacks. We resolved to have two Masses offered weekly for this intention. Accordingly, placing ourselves

under the protection of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Lourdes. From September 1939 until September 1940 the Masses were offered faithfully every Friday and Saturday. Every evening the Chaplain said the Rosary in public with the prayer of peace. There was Benediction three evenings a week and Holy hour on Thursdays. In addition there were so many visits to the Blessed Sacrament and private prayers apart from the community prayers that we feared no danger.

It was the eve of Our Lady's Nativity. We therefore had the chapel beautifully decorated. We intended having an entire day of supplication with Our Divine Lord. All our preparations were finished by tea time and as the sisters sat at tea that Saturday afternoon, they were exceedingly happy. We had many jokes and we little dreamt it was to be our last meal together in our new convent.

During tea the drone of enemy 'planes could be heard overhead. Yet we were not alarmed, and all the sisters returned to their different duties immediately tea was over. We had left the refectory only about 15 minutes when we heard bombs dropping. Sister Mechtilde came to my room and told me of the danger. I asked her to bring everyone to the ground floor (our shelter) immediately. There we said the Rosary and stormed Heaven by prayer. The raid lasted for about half-an-hour. Tons (hundreds) of incendiary bombs were dropped but, as far as we knew, none fell on the convent. So terrible was the bombing around us that it shook the convent to its very foundations. The walls were rocking so much that the sisters had to lie flat on the ground to protect themselves from falling. To add to this terror, a thick cloud of smoke came through the windows and doors so that it was almost impossible to breathe or see. It was said that 500 planes took part in this raid and that a smoke screen was also used. This I cannot vouch for but it was certainly the worst raid we had till then experienced.

The raid now over, we emerged from our shelter and ventured into the yard. What a sight met our eyes! The whole of the surrounding buildings were one mass of fire—the angry flames ascending to an enormous height . Darkness spread all-over the place and the wind blew fiercely. As I said the day dawned most beautifully but now all had changed and it could only be compared to hell upon earth. There were in the midst of all this like helpless children, with great sparks of fire blowing around us in all directions. Apparently no earthly power could save us in the midst of such danger. I had in my hand a large bottle of Holy water. To this I had recourse throwing it in all directions. At this moment the Chaplain arrived from the hospital. “Thank God you have come, Father”, I said. “Yes, but I am afraid, Mother, I must remove the Blessed Sacrament from the Chapel” “ Yes, go quickly” I said as I went to bring a lamp for the Blessed Sacrament, on the way I met two sisters who told me the convent had caught fire. The skylight had caught fire . At the top of the stairs there were some pails of water and a stirrup-pump. Sister Fabian and I began throwing water all around, trying to extinguish the flames . Soon Father Cole came and told us to get out. I told him I must go to my room to get some things but Father insisted saying “Your life is more precious than goods”. I unlocked the safe, got my chequebook, passbook and some notes. Father would not allow me to remain longer, he locked the door and put the key in his pocket.

Sister Fabian and I went down, closing all the doors as we went. Outside we found two girls awaiting us to tell us that the sisters and girls had left, some of them had gone to the chapel for safety, but only to find that the chapel too had caught fire. They took flight immediately. Before leaving we went to the girls’ classroom to see that all windows and doors were closed. We left until last the door leading to the chapel porch, the smoke was so thick that we had to turn back. Outside we met two firemen simply exhausted and asking for a drink, I showed in and them where to get a

drink and then went to join Sister Fabian and the two girls. As we walked up the street for about a mile, the sight was terrifying. Men, women and children, running from their homes, carrying little parcels of anything and everything they could. At a door in a block of flats, a baby lay asleep in a pram, surrounded by fire and no one could get to it.

Soon we found the girls and Sisters all together in a shelter with a very mixed crowd, some of whom were rather intolerant. I asked the sisters and girls how they were and if they had said the Rosary. They replied very cheerfully that they were well and were so glad to see me safe, but added that some of the people had objected to the Rosary and were anything but nice. I asked them to come away immediately.

On the opposite side of the street I went into an office that I knew, asking if I might use their telephone to speak to Reverend Mother General, to tell her what had happened, and to find out what we were to do.

Unfortunately the phone was for official use only. Leaving the office I met an old friend Mr O'Mahony, who came to sympathise with us, I told him I wished to phone Rev. Mother General. He brought me to his office and I tried to call Chigwell, Lewisham and Father Sullivan, but all in vain. Mr O'Mahony got a friend of his to take the more helpless ones in a car. He took Mother John and four of the eldest girls (probably women but all were referred to as girls). Two of these had been in bed with a bad cold. They were called hurriedly and were not sufficiently clad against the cold. In fact, we had all walked out just as we stood up—the sisters without wraps or cloaks, the girls without coats. What a plight! When we left the convent we thought we might be able to return in half-an-hour or so. I gave instruction to the gentleman with the car to take the sisters and girls to our convent, St. Teresa's in Lewisham, where I had now decided to take the sisters and girls. We numbered 12 sisters and 44 girls. As we thanked the gentleman, he begged our prayers, saying that he later had to go on duty as an Air Raid Warden (A.R.P), where he might easily meet his death.



So great were the fires that the firemen could not cope with them and in that fire alone 28 firemen lost their lives and many A.R.P workers.

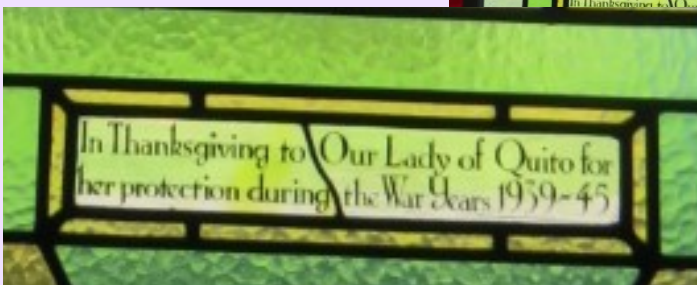
*To be continued.*

This account was written by Mother Adelaide (The Reverend Mother) and the next issues of KIT will have further instalments.

*The photo here and on page 6 is of the window in the front parlour in Chigwell. It was originally in Lewisham and shows the great faith of the sisters in the power of prayer. The inset says: In thanksgiving to Our Lady of Quito for her protection during the war 1939—1945.*

*Below is a link to a You-Tube video of some of that night which was the first of 57 consecutive nights in London. The Blitz lasted many months.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/from-the-archive-blog/2015/sep/07/blitz-london-september-1940>





Commercial Docks Rotherhithe , 7th September 1940 which was in the next street to the convent



Above: The same image we see today but in a different age.

Left: Air-raid shelter in an underground station, London, during the WW 11

## *'A Tree is Planted' and now it has fallen.*

It was a sad day here in Chigwell last Friday the 18th of February when storm Eunice blew in and destroyed the main part of our beautiful cedar tree in the garden.

The cedar was present when we purchased the house 125 years ago and has witnessed many comings and goings, extensions and buildings (human and otherwise).

After becoming established as a new and independent Congregation, SSHJM, in 1903, we spread our wings and allowed the Holy Spirit to direct us to places near and far, none better or worse but always to bring the love of the Sacred Heart to those most in need, many times setting off from Chigwell with feelings of excitement and challenge. When we felt the need to hand on we returned with feelings of gladness and joy to Chigwell where our magnificent tree gave us a sense of continuity, beauty and belonging. The years were sometimes hard, the storms came and some branches lost but we delighted every time it survived another onslaught.

We have just completed our 19th General Chapter and have had many Congregational Leaders. We have lived in many countries and boast in being both multicultural and international. Now moving towards becoming "intercultural and intergenerational, where there is deep respect, understanding and acceptance" (Acts of the Chapter 2022).

Today I felt that I wanted to bring part of our tree into the Sacred Heart oratory which was there from our earliest days in Chigwell. As you can see in the photo opposite, the branch





with its cones and wood are together with the icon of Father Victor Braun and the photo of Mother Winefride Tyrrell.

We pray that we will continue our Service of Love wherever we are and that we will continue to plant new trees to give shelter and love to all in our shade.

*I have to investigate now how to plant a cedar tree from the seeds.*



### The Cedar tree

Is considered to be the first of trees (1 Kings 4:33). The Bible describes the cedar tree as **strong and durable** (Isaiah 9:10), graceful and beautiful (Psalm 80:10, Ezekiel 17:23), high and tall (Amos 2:9, Ezekiel 17:22), fragrant (Song of Songs 4:11) and spreading wide (Psalm 80:10-11).

# Mbala, Zambia.

## Households in Distress (HID) Programme

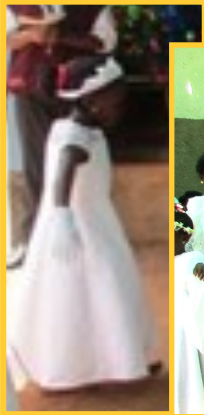
### Christmas Celebration for the children at Sunsuntila and Victor Braun Special Needs School

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2021, the SSHJM-HID Programme Management team organised a Christmas party for the children at Sunsuntila Orphan Day Care Centre and Victor Braun Special Needs School. The program started with celebrating Holy Mass . All the children from the Centre and VB attended the Holy Mass even those who are not Catholics. After Holy Mass, the children involved themselves in different entertainment activities, such as dancing, the Nativity play, Christmas carols , and traditional dances. Later they ended the Christmas Party together sharing a meal.

*Sister Muda, the organiser, makes sure that all is perfect for the Nativity Mass and much more that happens on a daily basis.*





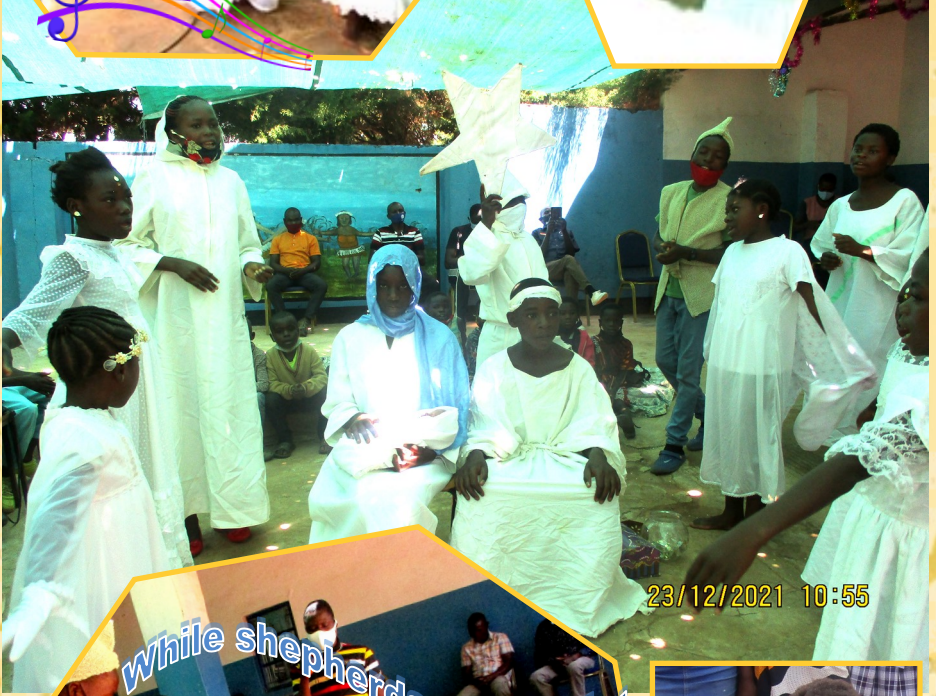


Procession of  
the Angels





Glory to God...



23/12/2021 10:55

While shepherds watched...



23/12/2021







Below: Herod and his guards



## **A REPORT ON COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION CENTER (CBR) SSHJM MARCH, 2022.**

Chingola is a mining town which depends much on copper mining as the main source of income for its citizens; hence the economic transformation which started with the second Republican government has affected the prices of basic commodities needed for daily necessities for home consumption. High costs of school requirements also affected the education of the poor youth in the communities of Chingola. A survey was done by the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary to investigate the number of youth in Chiwempala township who are growing up without receiving primary and basic school education.

Like other towns on the Copper Belt province, Chingola youth engage themselves in illegal mining at Nchanga Mine dumpsites because of the poverty experienced by their parents on becoming employed. The same dumpsite it is a source of income for poor people in the area. Despite being a source of income it is a dangerous place for young ones to do illegal mining. During the process of mining the pit sometimes collapses and children are buried alive.

Young ones are given drugs before starting work to combat the fears of going dangerously underground. They also smoke dagga (a type of strong cannabis), drink beer and tend to become violent or aggressive in their behaviour. During the survey SSHJM discovered that most of these children are unable to read or write.

Therefore, we (SSHJM) have taken up the challenge to respond to some of the needs of these children: school dropouts and marginalized groupings: i.e. young adults, street children, children with special needs, orphans and vulnerable children ranging from 15 to 25 years at the former CBR in Chingola Chiwempala Township in the Copper Belt Province of Zambia.

Currently we have 30 boys and 49 girls who are attending the Centre on a

daily basis and there are another 10 on the waiting list. On Saturdays we hold literacy classes for 45 women and 2 men.

**The activities that are offered to our beneficiaries are:**

Adult literacy Education.

Feeding programme.

Physical Education

Gardening

Spiritual and Moral education

Psychosocial counselling programme

Social activities

Our literacy classes are conducted every Saturday.

*Sr. Lucky Nambeye,*

Coordinator.







## Harmony House.

Harmony House in Dagenham, Essex, is a community project that offers services to the local community. One of the programmes is outreach to the elderly people in the area. The service consists of get-together groups, events days, outings and a computer club for elders. Another valuable service is the Job-2-do programme. Through this the service offers gardening, housework, decorating and small DIY jobs to older people in their homes.

While the social side of the programme had to be suspended during the lockdown, gardening and essential household tasks were continued to deliver throughout the year. They also distributed hampers of essential items including wipes, hand sanitizer, bleach, bathing products, washing powder, toilet rolls as well as other essential and often hard to get items. Every hamper also contained a 'surprise' item – sweets, drinks, biscuits, cakes etc – which was very much appreciated.

With the relaxation of the Covid restrictions Harmony House was able to invite the elderly to a St. Patrick's Day celebration which was very much enjoyed by all who attended.





*Dancing ,  
Reels , Jigs  
and a good old  
sing-a-long .*

*It's a great day for  
the Irish and all  
their friends.*



## Rebuilding Lives, homes and all around us on the beautiful Island of Cebu.

Yes, we are recovering from the typhoon Odette and sending a big thank you to all of you who continue to help us in our hour of need.

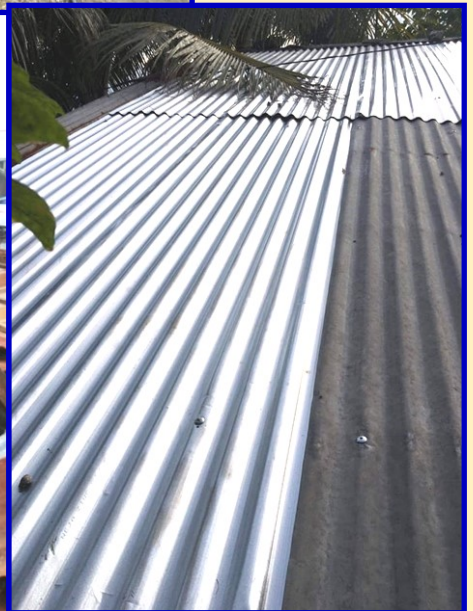


Above: Our Sacred Heart Companions helping Sr. Anne sort out the materials for the families who were badly affected by typhoon Odette. And below we see one of the trucks loaded up with roofing materials. They are

bound for Argao in the southern part of Cebu. Over the page we see the very grateful families who send their thanks and prayers.









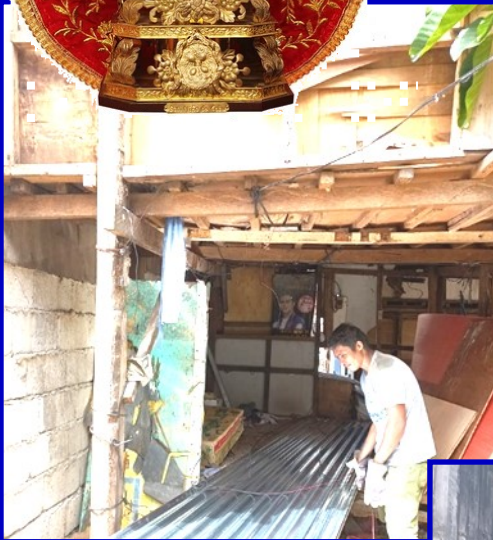
One of our students with Special Needs and his family, delighted to receive materials for rebuilding their house. Everyone gets into the rebuild work—no exceptions. Below right: Vicky ; looks like she is starting from scratch but she has a big smile of gratitude on her face for having the resources to start again.







We pray that El Santo Nino will bless all who reach out to those in their time of great need. We cannot repay your goodness to us but we are sure that you will be blessed a hundredfold. We will keep you ever in our hearts. We thank you also for the constant flow of parcels that arrive without many people knowing from where or from whom, but we know our sisters in the congregation keep us ever in their hearts and minds.



# Diamond Jubilee, Sister Mary Jo



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February Sr. Mary Jo celebrated her Diamond Jubilee of her Religious Vows at Cork Convent. She was so pleased that her family could join her for this great milestone in her life. The day began with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Colin Doocey PP. During the Eucharist Father highlighted the importance of listening to the voice of God speaking deep within us. He said Sr. Mary Jo did that so many years ago and generously responded to the call to give her whole life to serving God. The heart of Jesus called her to spread His love wherever she went. Father said how apt for her to have joined the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary where Love is your centre and love is evident in everything you do for others. He prayed that God would bless our Congregation and all that we do for the poor.



Left: Sister M. Carmel with her sister, the 'Diamond of the day', Sister Mary Jo and Sister Annie Mary.



Following the Eucharist, we all gathered in the dining room for a scrumptious meal, plenty of laughter and song ending with the cutting of the cake carefully prepared by the kitchen Staff.

We thank you, Sr. Mary Jo, for your faithful service and for your joyful presence in our community. *Sr Annie Mary*



Back row: Fr. J.P. O' Riordan, David (Mary Jo's brother) Fr. Colin Doocey, Michael (MJ's brother) Sister Mary Jo.

Middle row: Sr. Marian. Sr Annie Mary, Marie (MJ's sister)

Front row: Fr Pat Sugrue , Vincent (MJ's brother) Sister M. Carmel



# Happy 90th Birthday Sister Sarto



# Sister Gabriele!



# Happy Feastday



## A VISIT TO HERNE BAY



*Sisters Eileen, Dayssi, Maria Goretti, Trinitor, Yvonne and Mary Ita*

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, Sisters Yvonne, Daisy and myself (Trinitor), escorted by Sister Eileen set out for Herne Bay to visit the Sisters Angela and her sister, Sr. Maria Goretti. We received a great welcomed in that beautiful house which is just by the sea. The following morning, we attended Mass at St. Peter's Parish. The Parish is run by the Passionist Missionaries whose community consists of three elderly brothers and three elderly priests. We were warmly welcomed and introduced in the church. After Mass, we took a walk by the sea and took some beautiful photos. We found people to be very friendly. They greeted us, as we walked along the sea shore. In the afternoon, I had the opportunity to visit, with Sister Maria Goretti, a lady from the parish who is in a care home. Her name is Mary, a wonderful person, suffering from dementia. The following day on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Sisters Yvonne, Dayssi and myself walked to

the 10:00 Mass and later stayed on for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Sisters Angela and Maria G. had gone to Canterbury that morning. On their return, Sr. Maria took us to Herne Bay cemetery to visit the graves of our 22 Sisters buried there, Sr. Jerome Murphy, Sr. Ailbe O'Dwyer, Sr. Joachim McCrann, Sr. Helen Murphy, Sr. Wilfrid Moynihan, Sr. Egbert O'Dwyer, Sr. Joan Weir, Kathryn Rochford, Sr. Mary of the Blessed Sacrament, Sr. Boniface Maher, Sr. Rose Kathleen Harkin, Sr. Elizabeth McDonald, Sr. Martha Sinnott, Sr. Cecilia Noran, Sr. Mary Ursula Gay, Sr. Matilda Farrelly, Sr. Maureen Calderwood, Sr. Victoria Byrne, Sr. Werburgh Gilmore and Sr. Tarcisius Farrell (may the rest in peace).

In the afternoon of that day, we were visited by Fr Patrick, an Irish Priest from the parish also belonging to the Congregation of the Passionist missionaries.

The whole experience was just wonderful for us. We felt at home and it reminded me of Zambia where people greet each other a lot. The Sisters were just wonderful, ensuring that we had a good experience.

Both Sisters Angela and Maria Goretti are doing great in the area and I felt so encouraged by their enthusiasm to serve others despite their age. They visit the sick in care homes, encouraging them, praying for them and with them and taking Holy communion to them. (Herne Bay has a total number of 32 nursing homes). They also meet the Sacred Heart Companions, both in the parish and at the convent where they



have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday. It is worth noting that this year on 1<sup>st</sup> December, Sr. Maria will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birth day.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, that beautiful afternoon, Sisters Eileen and Mary Ita came to take us back to Chigwell. We left at 4:45pm after a good lunch, which was followed by a good walk along the sea shore.

Sisters Angela and Maria G. thank you for what you do for Jesus. You inspire us. We will not forget what we learned from you both in the short time we stayed with you.

God bless you

*Sr.Trínítor Putapo*



## Sister Julie visits Sacred Heart Convent Cork.



Above: Sisters Nora, Austin, Julie, Mary Clare, Catherine Kennedy and Annie Mary.

Below: Sisters Eileen H, Celine, M Carmel, Bridget Mc, Julie, Mary Jo, and Christina D.

*P.S. I think it was just one cake and two photos.*



21 January 2022



**Sister Kathleen Buckley**

**1933 ~ 2022**

**Family Reflection on Sr Kathleen Buckley**

The word 'Beautiful' pops up all the time when people speak about Kathleen. She was someone who saw the goodness in everyone. She radiated love and kindness. She never judged or spoke ill of people. Always smiling...she truly was a beautiful person, inside and out.

We're all united here today with Sr. Sheila, in celebration of Kathleen's amazing life. Her sister Josie joins us from Boston via video-link, as do her nephew, nieces and their families in the US and England, along with her friends and sisters in the Sacred Heart Community. And it is indeed a celebration, for her's was a life well-lived, someone special, who touched lives and was loved dearly.

Kathleen was fearless, guided at all times by her faith. When Declan and I visited her in Uganda, we saw first-hand her bravery. Kathleen drove us around and was unfazed by the treacherous roads, where the only rule seemed to be 'trust in God'. Neither of us would have taken it on, but it didn't daunt Kathleen!

In her fifties, her yearning to work amongst the poor, led her to El

Salvador. She loved writing to us about her experiences. In her letters, the vivid accounts of her life kept us all enthralled. We heard about the earthquake, violence, food scarcity and of course, her mission to build a school.

But most of all, through her stories and photos, she loved us to get to know the people that meant so much to her.

Kathleen loved people. And people loved Kathleen. And when she was in the company of children, that's when her eyes lit up the most.

She had a passion for teaching. We have fond memories of her coming home to West Cork and staging 'school around the corner'. She'd even bring materials and workbooks from England. We all enjoyed her teaching us to swim and encouraging us to play the guitar and of course, sing.

One memory that we cherish is of us all on a bus trip to a family wedding, just six years ago. Her grand-nephew Niall started singing 'He's Got The Whole World In His Hands', which happened to be a favourite of Kathleen and one that she'd have sung with us all, down through the years. As soon as she heard it, she sprang out of her seat and joined the children in the back seat, where she was in her absolute element, singing along with them all!

There are many life lessons we have learned from Kathleen:

- To live with kindness and compassion for others,
- To be grateful for all our blessings in life,
- To be brave and trust in the Lord.

I'd like to finish by expressing our thanks to Sister Annie Mary, and all the sisters here in the community, to Breda, the nurses and the care staff – they all gave Sr. Kathleen such excellent and loving care.

It was heart-warming to see how happy and content Kathleen was during her time here.



On behalf of us all, we greatly appreciate the warm welcome we received during our visits. We've particularly loved hearing all the personal stories that you have shared with us over the past few days. Thank you all so much.



## Eulogy for sister Kathleen Buckley RIP 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Sister Kathleen left her home in Skibbereen in 1949 to join the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary at Chigwell in Essex. She was following in the footsteps of her older sister, Mary, who had already entered Religious Life in Chigwell.

Kathleen was the third youngest of a family of ten, 6 girls and four boys.

Leaving home in post-world-war II Ireland must have been particularly challenging because it meant she would not meet her parents or family for some time. That's how it was in those days!

Kathleen's contemporaries remember her as someone gifted with a sparkling vivacious personality, outgoing and friendly. She was well known for her pranks and practical jokes which could sometimes land her in trouble!

After Novitiate she was sent to train as a teacher. It was within this environment that her musical and singing talents came to the fore. Her classes were enriched with her singing, dancing, music drama and art. It was no surprise that she was awarded at the end of the course with the prize of 'Gifted Teacher'. Throughout her teaching career of over thirty years Kathleen's teaching remained exiting and varied. Several years were dedicated to children with special educational needs, with whom she showed great creativity and pastoral care.

Alongside a busy teaching schedule she found time to become a vibrant member of a local charismatic group where her gift for guitar music enabled her to take a leading role in prayer groups. Many of her earlier teaching years were in the new town of Harlow, Essex. With her energy and enthusiasm Kathleen became involved in establishing the new parish communities.

She was ever alert on meeting a need wherever it came from. By 1990 a rather strange voice attracted her attention. This time it was from El Salvador, Central America. There was no doubt that she heard this new demand as she herself put it, “the Cry of the Poor”. In consultation with the then Superior General, Sister John Vincent McDonald, she ventured to this distant place and set up a school for young people. Accompanied by other sisters and volunteers she established what is now a thriving mission school, where her name will always live on.

Kathleen was happy to spend her retirement years with her sister Sheila in Greenock.

Her life has now come full circle, as she returned to her native county, to be laid at rest among her own people. We give thanks for her family who nurtured her faith and her Religious Vocation, and for her two sisters Srs Sheila and Mary Vianney.

As we say goodbye to Kathleen, we do so in the words of St Thomas More, spoken to his daughter Meg on the eve of his execution: “May we all meet merrily in Heaven”.

*Sister Austin Gallagher*



# Thank you all

Sister Shiela (Buckley) and family thank Sister Annie Mary and staff in Cork for the wonderful care, compassion and love they each gave Sister Kathleen for the past four years.

Thanks also to all the Sisters, SHCs and friends of Kathleen who sent Masses, sympathy and prayers. All your support and love was deeply appreciated. Holy Mass is being offered for your intentions.

Sister Mary Joseph in Cork wishes to thank everyone most sincerely for all your Masses, prayers, greetings flowers and gifts on the occasion of my diamond Jubilee. I would like to thank you all individually but I feel that is not possible; so please accept this expression of heartfelt gratitude for so much. Holy Mass is being offered for you all. (see page 20)

## Hello and Goodbye

Sisters Yvonne and Trinitor make a flying visit to Marian House and manage to get in on one of the few days when the regulations were not as stringent. Shortly after their visit they returned to Zambia where they are both applying for longer term visas for the UK. So the next visits can be more relaxed and even more enjoyable.

Come back soon—we miss you already.







*Sister Sheila visiting Joan McLachlan after the Mass with the SHCs in Port Glasgow, Scotland.*

On Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> Holy Mass was offered in Holy Family Port Glasgow for Sister Kathleen Buckley RIP. We would have done it sooner but our Parish Priest had gone home to Uganda and because Sister Kathleen had spent time working there, we waited for his return. Many of our SHCompanions attended with parishioners, Choir and organist as well as Sr Sheila Buckley, it was beautiful. I read the eulogy that was read at Sr Kathleen's funeral and added some of our memories of her and the work she did in our diocese. After Mass we went into the church hall for tea and some very enjoyable home baking from two of our Companions, and it gave us the opportunity to chat to Sr Sheila. Sr Sheila very kindly visited Joan McLachlan one of our companions who had an accident early in December and is still unable to walk. Joan's daughter, Margaret, is married to Sr Anne Griffin's brother Tom.

*Maureen Bradley Holy Family Companion's of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary.*



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