

Chigwell Convent

November 29th 2016

Celebration in Thanksgiving for the life of



Mother Winefride Tyrrell

Co-founder of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Superior General 1903 –1908

Prayer for the Congregation

*God, Our Father, grant to our religious family,
a deep love for you and for each other and
true humility, so that we may faithfully carry
out the mission which You have given us.
Put into our hearts the love of the Heart of
Your Son, Jesus so that our faithfulness gives
witness to the holiness of our founders,
Father Victor Braun and Mother Winefride
Tyrrell. We ask this through the intercession
of Mary and all the saints, that together we
praise You and give You glory, through
Christ, Our Lord. Amen*



On the 29th of November 2016, in Chigwell Convent, we celebrated the life of Mother Winefride Tyrrell one hundred years after her death. She was the Co-founder of the Sisters of the Sacred

Hearts of Jesus and Mary and the first Superior General from 1903 to 1908.

The preparations for the celebrations started much earlier with Sister Rosemary Clerkin (and some helpers) researching the life of Mother Winefride and recording it so that this important part of our history will be passed on, remembered and cherished, it is something that we are proud to share.

The sisters in Chigwell all joined in to prepare notes on the legacies of all the Superior Generals (we now use the term Congregational Leader), since Mother Winefride—there are eleven of them.

The chapel was beautifully prepared and flowers arranged, the sisters chapel was decorated with the pictures of all the Superior Generals and decorated with garlands of gold.

The students of St John's school here in Chigwell were delighted to be invited to sing at the Mass





and we have to say that their presence and singing gave much joy and life to the Mass. They reminded us of the importance of inclusion when two of the girls signed the hymns with simple beauty. Two more students were more than happy to serve on the altar and did so with great

respect.

Father Bob Hamill is the chaplain of St John's and also Chair of Governors. He has a long history not only with St John's but with the sisters in Cranleigh (special school in Surrey, England). Sr. Mary



Mangan was the last head

teacher there before we handed it over to the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in 1982. Father Bob also remembered other places where he knew the sisters. He was just the right person for the job of making the students feel at home (the sisters, SHC's and invited friends too).

We were blessed with the presence of Fathers Quentin and Michael OFM from Woodford, our local parish, but they



represent much more than that – we (SHJM) have a long history with the friars from when they ‘ousted’ us from the convent in Stratford many years ago! (as Fr. Quentin reminded us in the few words of gratitude that he shared with us).



As offerings we presented, with the bread and wine a copy of our constitutions and the Federation Victor Braun logo.

Many sisters, Sacred Heart Companions, friends and members of staff joined with us in the celebrations creating an atmosphere of all belonging to one family sharing a special moment together.

Sister Mary Mangan shared with us a little of the history of Mother Winefride and



the importance of recognising her as Co-founder. We shared a new version of the Prayer for the Congregation which includes Mother Winefride along side of Father Victor Braun.

Most important was the announcement of the Mother

Winefride Tyrrell Award, the details of this are on the back page and need to be kept so that each year we can all nominate a person that demonstrates her qualities. This year and the first person to receive the award is Sister Rosemary

Clerkin and how apt that is as she has also done so much in helping us all to get to know Mother Winefride a little better.

At the end of Mass, with Sister Mary M. leading the way and carrying the photograph of Mother Winefride, we processed through the sisters chapel. Along the way we paused at each of the pictures of the past Superior Generals and listened to a part of each ones legacy to the Congregation. It was difficult for everyone to 'fit' in the chapel but we all breathed in a little so that another 'little' could get in.



On arrival at the Sacred Heart Oratory Mother Winefrides' picture was placed on the wall and blessed. Then the symbols of the Federation Victor Braun were also blessed— with a special blessing for the icon of Father Victor Braun.





After the blessings we remembered the words that Mother Winefride wrote in her records in 1903 when word came from Rome recognising us as a 'new and separate

Congregation', she writes "**this evening the statue of Our Lady was lit up and hymns were sung in thanksgiving**". So we too lit candles before the statue of Our Lady and sang the Salve Regina in thanksgiving to God for gifting us with this brave woman who led us through difficult times in spite of opposition and criticisms.

Another wonderful Chigwell tradition is enjoying a sumptuous meal prepared and served by our own staff; there is non better. And to round it all off a cake to be cut by, not one but, three Congregational Leaders; Sisters Catherine Collins, Elizabeth Dawson and Sister Mary Mangan.



Mother Winefride Tyrrell Award

The Mother Winefride Tyrrell Annual Award will be given to a child/young person/ adult within the SHJM family; who has demonstrated the qualities of Mother Winefride: these include;

- ◇ The courage to step out in faith in the face of great opposition and to stand up for what you believe in
- ◇ To show leadership skills in being able to inspire others
- ◇ Appreciating the values of the Gospel of Jesus
- ◇ Having a Heart for others, especially the poor.

Nominations for this award which will be awarded yearly in November should be sent to the Congregational Leader, Sister Mary Mangan at gensec@sacredheartsjm.org arriving no later than the first of October .



The inscription on the award reads;

Mother Winefride Tyrrell Award 2016

Sister Rosemary Clerkin.

(It has the Congregations' crest engraved on it)



(A copy of the life of Mother Winefride who was the first Superior General of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, will be made available to all our houses and missions).