



*The Sisters of Charity of Australia*

OBITUARIES

# CARITAS CHRISTI URGET NOS



The concept for this Obituary Book was conceived by Sister Elizabeth Dodds rsc, Congregational Leader, as a tribute to the Sisters who died during her Leadership and that of her Council (December 8, 2002 ~ December 8, 2008).  
This concept is being continued.

*We remember each deceased sister with love and pray for her.*



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## January



1	Patricia REGAN	1988	17	Lucy MACNAMARA	1998
2	Labre BRENNAN	1904	18	Marcellus WOOLFORD	1941
	Mechtilde WHITE	1904		Magdala BUTLER	1975
	Cajetan O'BRIEN	1946			
	Canice O'NEILL	1958	19	John Gabriel MURRAY	1935
	Edward HILL	1971		Emerentiana MAGNIER	1963
3	Ignatius D'ARCY	1919		Vianney BYRNE	1990
4	Brendan O'FLAHERTY	1984		Bede PHIBBS	1990
5	Urban CLEARY	1965		Mildred CARROLL	1991
6	Ludovic MACKEL	1926	20	Laurent CROOK	1956
	Kieran MULCAHY	1959		Eulalia MURPHY	1970
	Hubert FLYNN	1982	21	Athansius BRADY	1977
	Macrina BANE	1989		Peter Joseph CARSE	2006
7	Rose RIGGS	1923	22	Fidelis HOGAN	1935
	Bede DALY	1939		Jeanne FORBES	1978
	Mechtilde DUNLEVIE	1960	23	Margaret NABBS	2020
	Dorothy BEEDEN	1994	24	Vincentius RYAN	1952
8	Aileen THOMAS	2017		Noel CONDON	1989
9	Bernadette O'KANE	1964	25	Lelia FULLER	1979
	Gemma MARTIN	2013	26	Fachnan SHEEHY	1935
10				St Bernard O'ROURKE	1979
11	Augustine QUINLAN	1932	27	Damian GREALY	1949
	Alipius MYERS	1958		Annette CLEAL	1961
	Faye TURNER	2010	28	Imelda Green	2002
12	Stephen CARROLL	1907	29	Juliana GOODYER	1922
	Benigna O'DONOVAN	1979		Columba FAULKNER	1934
	Mary FREEMAN	2012		Catherine ROWDEN	1996
13	Alexis O'GORMAN	1939	30	Leonard SMYTHE	1939
	Augustine LYHANE	1951		Antoninus KNOWLES	1946
	Xavier TIER	1976		Madeleine Sophie HENDERSON	1966
	Joan ARTAUD	1983		Elaine LUM	1998
14	Teresa FISHER	1844		Eileen May GALE	2009
	Ethelreda CHIRGWIN	1947	31	Brigid NOLAN	1904
	Grace BENNINGTON	1980		Eugene PURTILL	1931
15				Genevieve CUSACK	1936
16	Joseph MURPHY	1923		Margaret O'BRIEN	2010
	Claver MADDEN	1951			
	Nola RILEY	2018			



## Sister Aileen Thomas



*“Do with me what thou wilt.”*

*As the congregation tried to come to terms with Aileen’s diagnosis of acute leukaemia, Aileen herself had received the news with great courage and acceptance but would not have known that her death was so imminent. Within a week, further shock and disbelief came upon us when we heard the news of her sudden death on 8 January 2017. Aileen’s motto became significant.*

Aileen Ellen Thomas was the elder of the two children born to William Henry Thomas and Florence McCarthy on 29 July 1939 at Earlwood, New South Wales. Aileen was proud of her parents who were generous community workers ~ her father was a removalist with Grace Brothers and her mother was a recognised musician, pianist, singer and composer. Aileen had a close bond with her brother Raymond and his wife, Barbara. This bond was a great support to both Aileen and Barbara when Raymond died. Their friendship continued until Aileen’s sudden and unexpected death. Aileen’s other great friend was Mary Garske RSC. Stories abound of their holiday experiences!

As the Thomas family lived near Campsie, Aileen attended St Mel’s School for her Primary education and later attended Sisters of Charity schools for her early Secondary education at Bethlehem College Ashfield and St Mary’s School Concord. She then completed her education at St Vincent’s College Potts Point, gaining her Leaving Certificate in 1956. As a student, Aileen had strong opinions and her views on issues continued throughout her life. After leaving school, she worked as a Clerical assistant for two years before entering the Sisters of Charity Novitiate at Wairoonga on 2 February 1958.

On 16 August 1958, Aileen was admitted to the Novitiate and given the name Raymond Joseph. Even after she changed back to her Baptismal name, Aileen continued to be known affectionately as *Ray J*. She made her First Profession on 17 August 1960 and Final Profession on 17 August 1965 in the Chapel of the Mother House and her old School, St Vincent’s Potts Point. At the time of her death, Aileen was aged seventy seven years and in the 56th year of Religious Profession.

After gaining her Teacher’s Registration, Aileen’s first appointment was as a Secondary teacher at Mount St Michael’s College, Ashgrove and in the following year, 1962, St John’s High School Auburn. In 1963, Aileen showed her versatility as a teacher by returning to ministry at Monte Oliveto Primary School

Edgecliff for six months followed by her only other interstate appointment at Corpus Christi Primary School, Glenroy and the Community of Strathmore until August 1966.

Following these rather short term appointments, Aileen became a long stayer and demonstrated the quality of thoroughness and the ability to complete a task to the very end. From September 1966 she spent nine years teaching at Sacred Heart, Cabramatta. After two years at St Mary’s Concord, she was appointed for four years as RE Resource Teacher at St Mary’s, Liverpool which included a significant role in 1978 for the centenary celebration of the Sisters of Charity ministry in Liverpool. From 1983 until 1988, Aileen exercised a Community Apostolate at Potts Point and was able to use her qualifications in Garment Construction as the Congregational Dressmaker, sewing habits for many Sisters. In 1989, Aileen undertook a short period of Spiritual Renewal at St Joseph’s, Baulkham Hills.

Returning then to her Alma Mater, Bethlehem College, Aileen was involved in many aspects of the school from Clerical assistant, introducing the new computer programme in school Administration to part time volunteer work in the Learning Support Team. She remained there for twenty eight years and affirmed *“I loved every minute of it.”*

It was fitting that Aileen’s Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Vincent’s Church, Ashfield with a large attendance of Sisters of Charity, Bethlehem staff and students. In her Eulogy, the Principal of Bethlehem College, Paula Bounds, quoted some of the tributes she had received from staff and parents and paid her own tribute to Aileen, stating that Aileen would have been *“both humbled and embarrassed by those tributes as she was the first to admit she wasn’t perfect.”* Paula agreed that, at times, Aileen *“could be a little change-averse!”* But *“she strove in simple ways to make a difference to the lives of others, impelled by the love of Christ.”* We, her sisters, thank Aileen for her constant efforts in following in the footsteps of Mary Aikenhead.

*Ray J ~ rest in peace!*



## *Sister M. Gemma Martin*

*“Love is repaid by love alone”*

*Sister Gemma, 77 years a Sister of Charity, entered our Novitiate on 2nd February, 1940 and died at Parkville on 9th January, 2013, aged 90 years.*

Sister Gemma, born on 14th October, 1922, was the fifth child of Cyril and Florence Martin and was baptised Lesley Berenice. She had two brothers and five sisters in a happy and devout Catholic family in the Essendon area. Lesley went to St Theresa's, Essendon and St Monica's, Moonee Ponds for her primary years then did her secondary studies at St Columba's College, Essendon, graduating from there with Leaving Honours in 1939.

Having been taught by the Sisters of Charity throughout it is not surprising that, realising that religious life was her vocation Lesley decided to enter our Novitiate on 2nd February, 1940. She chose 'Gemma' for her religious name and made her first Profession of Vows on 27th August, 1942. After the Novitiate, she studied and gained her Teacher Registration before beginning her teaching ministry at St Vincent's Ashfield, then Potts Point and St Mary's Hurstville.

After three years as a primary teacher, Gemma was considered better suited to secondary teaching so she was assigned to Paddington, Edgecliff, CLC and Katoomba over a twelve year period. In 1957, she was moved to Mt St Michael's Ashgrove as Deputy Principal where she remained for eleven years. Gemma had a special flair for mathematics and during this time at Ashgrove studied Pure Maths at Queensland University.

After four years at Mt St Mary's, Katoomba, Gemma had a year's study at NPI, Melbourne. The remainder of Gemma's teaching ministry was spent at CLC, Eltham and Sancta Sophia College, Glenroy. Gemma was a gifted and devoted teacher. Her constant patience, mathematical ability, good teaching practice and

especially her gentle manner, endeared her to her students and won the respect and appreciation of their parents and of her teacher colleagues.

At the beginning of 1989, Gemma retired from classroom duties but undertook a pastoral care ministry at Sancta Sophia for ten years. She was also Superior at Moonee Ponds and then Strathmore. In 1999 the Parish at Moonee Ponds welcomed Gemma as a member of the Parish Pastoral Team. Her role included visits to residents in nursing homes and to the sick in their homes where Gemma's caring and gentle manner made her much loved and appreciated.

During 2009 Gemma became a resident at Mercy Place at Parkville. Here too, her "listening ear" and pastoral care were appreciated. Gemma spent most of her religious life in Melbourne so was able to share in special family events. The bonds of love and closeness to her family always remained strong. In 2012 Gemma celebrated two milestones ~ August 27th, the 70th Anniversary of her Profession and October 14th, her 90th birthday. Both were celebrated with a small gathering of Sisters, family and friends. These were happy occasions for Gemma.

Just three months later, Gemma's sudden death on January 9th, 2013, surprised us all. Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St Monica's, Moonee Ponds where she had so often worshipped. After 70 years lived faithfully as a Sister of Charity with the prime intention of repaying God's love ~ Love is repaid by love alone, we can easily believe that Gemma was welcomed into heaven with another happy celebration.



## Sister Faye Turner

*All for you Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*

*Sister Faye Turner pronounced her Vows as a Sister of Charity on 23rd January, 1950 and died in Sydney on 11th January 2010, just two weeks before her Diamond Jubilee, the 60th anniversary of her Profession.*

Faye Turner, the first child of Edmund and Nora Turner, was born in Sale, Victoria in 1930. Faye had three siblings, twin sisters and a step-brother. The family lived in Richmond, a suburb of Melbourne and the children went to St Ignatius parish school. Faye completed her schooling at Merit level in 1943 and, until she entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate in 1947, worked in a clerical position at St Vincent's Private Hospital.

At the completion of her Novitiate training in 1950, Faye, called at that time Sister Mary Berchmans, pronounced her first Religious Vows. She then spent one year as a probationary nurse at Sacred Heart Hospice before going to St Vincent's Hospital to train for her General Nurse Registration. Faye gained that Certificate and also a Diploma in Paediatric Nursing from the Children's Hospital, Camperdown, before being appointed to her first ministry at St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn where she remained for three years.

Faye's next move was to St Vincent's, Melbourne where she ministered for the next fifteen years. In 1971 Faye entered the College and gained a Nurse Educator's Diploma which qualified her for her next appointment as Nurse Educator of the trainee nurses at St Vincent's, Sydney. Faye ministered in this position for four years before retiring from full-time ministry in our hospitals.

As a young Sister, Faye had been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis but as she was very determined and uncomplaining and looked fit. She was able to maintain, and do well for many years in a normal nursing ministry. However, by 1977 it became necessary for her to seek a new way to fulfil her desire to actively serve others, so she enrolled in Certificate Courses

in Community Development and Counselling and moved into parish pastoral work. Faye developed an ease in engaging with the many, very needy people in the streets around Darlinghurst. Her walking was unsteady and she sometimes fell, but it did not deter her from moving about among the people, listening to their stories and offering whatever help she could.

After two years as resident nurse for the boarders at St Vincent's College, Faye moved into pastoral work at Liverpool parish, assisting greatly in the Antioch Movement. At Auburn and Concord West, Faye did some voluntary English teaching at A.M.E.S. Later, when she required residential care, Faye moved to Cardinal Gilroy Retirement Village, Merrylands, where, on her motor scooter, she was able to move about among the residents and continue, with cheerful good humour, to offer a listening ear.

In the eulogy given by her nephew during the Mass of Christian Burial, in the chapel of the Retirement Village, Merrylands, the family remembered particularly the acceptance and strength with which Faye bore her illness and all the limitations it engendered. They spoke, too, of her wisdom and the support she was to all the family. The Sisters and those who visited her most, often remembered her peacefulness and contentment and how graciously she spoke of the care she received at Merrylands and of her gratitude and love of the Congregation, her family and friends for their love and support.

As a Sister of Charity, Sister Faye has left us a fine example of steadfast commitment and fidelity to the Vows she made, in response to God's call, fifty-nine years before her death.



## Sister Mary Freeman

*“Through You and with You and in You”*

*Sister Mary Freeman, a Sister of Charity since 1935 died, aged 93, at St Joseph’s Hospital, Auburn on 12th January, 2012.*

Sister Mary was the first of our Sisters to die in 2012. The Sisters and friends who gathered to remember her at the evening Vigil and the words of remembrance spoken during the Eucharist of her Mass of Christian Burial at St John of God Church, Auburn on the 18th January, all recalled the same fine qualities in Mary’s character and personality ~ her simple goodness, good humour, easy manner, her wit and sense of fun ~ *“Mary was fun to be with.”*

The Freeman family lived in Darlinghurst when Mary was born. Her parents, Robert and Margaret had five children, two boys and three girls. James, the oldest, became the Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney (1971-1983). In many ways he and Mary were alike in personality and their relationship was very close. After her primary schooling at St Canice’s, Elizabeth Bay, Mary completed her secondary studies at St Vincent’s College, Potts Point. Both schools were staffed by our Sisters so it is not surprising that Mary chose the Sisters of Charity when she decided to become a Religious.

Mary began her Novitiate at ‘Bethania’, Potts Point in February, 1935. Having completed her spiritual training, Mary made Profession of Vows in August, 1937, with the religious name of Sister Mary Scholastica. Later, when given the option of resuming her baptismal name, Mary did so. Teaching was to be Mary’s future ministry so she began her studies to qualify for a Teacher’s Certificate.

The parish primary school at Hurstville was Mary’s first appointment and in the years that followed she taught in the parish schools at Auburn, East Melbourne and New Norfolk (Tas). After further studies at the University of Tasmania, Mary moved into our secondary Colleges: CLC, East Melbourne, St Vincent’s, Potts Point, St Mary’s, Katoomba and Bethlehem, Ashfield.

At Katoomba and Ashfield, Mary was both Principal of the school and Rectress of the Community. Her time at Ashfield ended her ministry in the classroom. In 1966 Mary became a member of the General Council of the Congregation and served in the position of Councillor for two six-year terms. In 1970 Mary became a Member of the Australian College of Education.

Mary’s years as a teacher had not wearied her, so when the opportunity offered, she chose to go back into a school, however, not into a classroom ~ Mary joined the office staff at Our Lady of Mt Carmel primary school at Mt Pritchard. Here she found much scope for her love of fun and the children and staff responded whole-heartedly. Soon Sister Mary was everybody’s friend and she delighted in relating her amusing exchanges with the children. The eight years at Mt Pritchard was a very happy time for Mary, for the school and for the parish.

Even in her retirement, Mary kept in touch with her past students and colleagues and attended the ex-student reunions. Mary never lost her interest in sport and in spite of her diminishing hearing she was always up to date with the tennis, cricket and rugby league scores. Just as her deep faith, sincerity, kindness, gratitude and good humour made Mary a pleasing companion to live with in our communities, it was also those qualities that endeared her to the staff and fellow residents during her years in retirement at St Joseph’s Village, Auburn.

*What is it that we, her sisters, most remember about Mary?* Perhaps it was her goodness that made her gracious, simple and unassuming. The depth and sincerity of her commitment to God were always evident and Mary seemed to give this gift with much lightness of heart.



## Sr Nola Riley

*“For Jesus, in Mary, by Mary and with Mary.”*

*Nola Riley, the eldest of the six children of Thomas Gordon Riley and Edna Grace Campbell, was born on 26 August 1927 in Alstonville NSW. Nola and her siblings – Alfred, Melanie, Thomas, Francis and Peter – held strong family connections throughout their lives that included extended family members.*

The Riley family lived in other parts of northern New South Wales, where her father's business would take them and finally settled in South Lismore. It was in this area that Nola came into contact with the Sisters of Charity. After she left school in 1942, she worked in the Office at St Vincent's Hospital Lismore for several years before beginning her General Nursing Training. She received General Nursing and Midwifery Certificates before entering the Sisters of Charity Novitiate at Bethania on 2 February 1952, later moving to Wahroonga.

On 4 August 1952, Nola was received into the Novitiate and given the name Sr M. Kevin. She later returned to her baptismal name. Her first Profession of Vows took place on 4 August 1954. At the time of her death, Nola had been a Sister of Charity for sixty three years. Throughout her life, Nola was a much loved member of the Congregation. She was a mentor and confidante to so many ~ members of the Congregation, family members, those with whom she ministered. Stories abound about the influence Nola had on the lives and work of all whom she encountered.

One of the tributes received after Nola's death attests to this ~ *“Sr Nola Riley was the last of the Sisters serving as Hospital Administrator from 1979 to 1992. Under her guidance, the hospice (Mount Olivet) was transformed into an integrated model of care. Our beautiful garden facing the Brisbane River is named in her honour.”* In June 1991 the congregation rejoiced with Nola when she was awarded with an AM ~ Member of the Order of Australia ~ for her contribution to Health Care.

Being a trained Nurse, after Profession, Nola began her ministry in Health Care in positions of leadership from 1954-1994 either as Charge Sister, Administrator or Matron at St Vincent's hospitals at Darlinghurst, Fitzroy, Toowoomba, St Joseph's Auburn and Mt Olivet Kangaroo Point. As well as these roles, she was often Superior in the communities where she resided. She furthered her nursing qualifications with Diplomas in Nursing Administration at the

Australian College of Nursing and in Cardio-Thoracic medicine at Royal North Shore Hospital. Following her training in the latter field, Nola was assigned to the Cameron Wing at St Vincent's Darlinghurst from 1958-1963. This was pioneering work.

From 1973-1979, she was General Councillor and at the same time Superior, Administrator and Matron of St Joseph's Hospital Auburn. Her leadership was valued and on conclusion of her Councillor role, she held the position of Regional Superior for Qld/Lismore from 1979-1983, residing at Kangaroo Point. It was here that Nola took on more pioneering work in Aged Care and Hospice Care as Administrator and Superior at Mt Olivet until 1994. At every opportunity, she made sure the charism of Mary Aikenhead was kept alive with the focus on a spirit of service. She would take her place at Aged Care Forums and other functions to keep well informed.

Nola was committed to the Mission of the Congregation, always offering hospitality and a welcome to others ~ a dedicated woman and faithful daughter of Mary Aikenhead. By her quiet presence, Nola nurtured many of our young sisters with a deep spirit of service of the poor as they carried out their ministry in Health Care.

After a time of leave to care for her aged mother, Nola began her next pioneering work. She became 'a religious presence and pastoral carer' firstly, at St Vincent's Hospital Robina Qld in 1999 and then at Burleigh Heads Parish from 2002-2006. She officially 'retired' then and lived at Mt Olivet convent ~ continuing her special role of hospitality to all. In July 2015, she moved into Marycrest and finally to St Vincent's Palliative Care (previously Mt Olivet).

Nola was aged ninety when she died on 16 January 2018, having lived out her motto in imitation of Mary, Mother of God ~ *“a gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright.”* We call on Nola to intercede for us, that we too may imitate Mary and bring the love of Christ to all whom we encounter.





## *Sister M. Peter Joseph Carse*

*“Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in thee.”*

*Joyce Mary Carse was born on the 23rd September, 1913 at Charters Towers, Queensland. She was the eldest of three children of William James Carse and Kate Graham. She entered the Sisters of Charity on the 16th July, 1942 from her then home Parish of Cronulla.*

Joyce obtained her early and her secondary education at St Saviour's Toowoomba. Her work experience and qualifications before entering the convent were as a stenographer and then a trained nurse.

As a Sister of Charity, Sister M. Peter Joseph began as a ward Sister at St Vincent's, Toowoomba. Over the next few years she went to St Vincent's, Darlinghurst and then St Vincent's Fitzroy. It was here in Melbourne that she did her Midwifery Training in 1951 while at St Vincent's Maternity Hospital, completing her course in 1952.

Moving to St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn as Hospital Matron and Convent Rectress, she remained there until 1963. The following year, Sister was again appointed as the matron, this time at St Vincent's Hospital, Bathurst. From 1972, she was again in Sydney at Darlinghurst, remaining there for the next eleven years.

Sister M Peter Joseph was known as an extremely competent medical nurse. She had a reputation of expecting excellence in all that concerned the care of her patients. The senior medical staff appreciated her attention to detail in all that concerned treatment.

In the early 1980's, Sister was at St Vincent's, Darlinghurst. Here she spent her pre-retirement years undertaking clerical duties at the Rehabilitation Unit. While here, she gave the same attention to detail she had previously given when working in the wards.

“PJ”, as she was affectionately known to the Sisters, loved to shop. If the article purchased did not fit or was not found suitable, she happily went in to exchange it. She was an excellent driver and was delighted to take her friends out, especially when they became frailer. When the time came, she found giving up her driving a difficult matter.

PJ was a very spiritual woman and found God in the world around her. As she grew older, she found much support in the visits she made to the Cistercian Monastery. After her retirement, she went to Caritas Christi Hostel. She died at the age of 92 years on the 21st January 2006.



## Sr Margaret Nabbs

*“Behold the handmaid  
of the Lord.”*

*Margaret Brenda Nabbs was born on 17 February 1935, the eldest child but only daughter of James Walker Nabbs and Mary Brenda King.*

She was a loving big sister to her three brothers ~ Bruce, who became a Marist Brother, John and Peter. Margaret's father worked for the Malvern Star Bike Company. This work took him to many parts of Australia, especially in Margaret's infancy. She was born in Perth but before she turned five, she had lived in four different States!

During her interrupted schooling, Margaret attended several High Schools for brief periods, but luckily for us, she studied at Mt St Michael's Ashgrove Qld and in her final year of school in 1952 attended St Columba's College Essendon Vic. and completed her Matriculation with a Commonwealth Scholarship.

It was during these times at Ashgrove and Essendon that Margaret decided to join the Sisters of Charity. In her memoirs, Margaret wrote *'I was one of twelve postulants who entered the Novitiate on February 2, 1953: Srs Brigid Hussey, Genevieve Baben, Catherine O'Connell, Marina Ward, Maureen Sheaban, Grace McDonald, Ellen Scott, Tereska Jess, Deirdre Hickey, Noelene Kirkman and Marietta Martin. Twelve were professed on August 6 1955 and ten made Final Vows.'*

With these women and all the connections she made with people throughout her life, Margaret's whole life has been one of thinking of others, reaching out to the poor and lonely. Nothing was any trouble to her. She was a person who was full of faith and shared that so well with many people.

After gaining her Teacher's Registration, Margaret taught in Primary schools at Lewisham, Essendon, Aikenhead House, Concord and Liverpool and Secondary schools at Clifton Hill and Glenroy from 1958 to December 1977. She began a new ministry at Holy Spirit Sandy Bay as Parish Sister in 1978 until December 1981.

From 1983 until December 1993, Margaret's ministry was in Pastoral Care at Kangaroo Point and Ashgrove and finally at CLC Eltham. Over those years, Margaret realised that Pastoral Care was one of her gifts. She was a listening ear, a generous friend, a kind mentor to so many.

Marg was a real homemaker. She had a rare gift of making a Community a home wherever she lived.

The opportunity for Margaret to use her gifts more fully came about when she was asked to set up the Conference Centre at Rosebank, Strathmore. She admitted *'I was delighted and although it took time to create, the response was great. It was a chance for me to use my creative gifts in floral arrangements and catering, with prayer groups, reading groups and craft groups, coming in to use the Centre. The years at Rosebank were the happiest years of my life.'* She loved entertaining and was a good cook.

In the family's Eulogy, her niece Felicity had gathered remembrances from family members who all declared the special place they had in their hearts for this kind-hearted, compassionate Aunt. *'She was wonderfully social, loved a celebration and was a brilliant host.'*

They also recalled that for a whole month in successive years, she would visit the Aboriginal settlement at Santa Teresa where her brother Bruce was stationed, to help in classrooms, teach reading and spend time with the Aboriginal women while they were painting. Scones and tea were always on the menu! She was such a giving person!

In 2003, Margaret moved to Moonee Ponds and continued her Pastoral Care/Hospitality role at Caritas Christi Hostel, Kew and then a part-time Pastoral Care role at Corpus Christi Clayton from 2006 until July 2015. Margaret retired in 2015 and moved to St Catherine's Aged Care Facility Balwyn, where she could receive more care. Margaret endeared herself to the staff and residents.

Margaret died on 23 January, 2020 and in his homily at Margaret's funeral, Fr Tony Feeney quoted Pope Francis who said that Christianity must become a 'culture of encounter'. Margaret was more than a 'culture of encounter'. She was a 'sacrament of encounter'. Margaret in her life and Christian witness as a Sister of Charity 'unlocked' many hearts to the beauty and goodness of God. Closeness was the program of Margaret's life – closeness to God the constant love of her life, her family, her Religious Sisters of Charity, closeness to all who knew her.

*Thank you for the hospitality you offered during your life, Marg. Rest now and receive the hospitality that our God offers you!*



## Sr Colleen Bell

*"I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me."*

*Colleen Frances Bell, the second child and only daughter of Eileen Doris McEncroe and Clive Ogilvie Bell, was born on 17 December 1927.*

Her father was the Branch Manager of a Retail Store and together with her brother Desmond, the family lived in Randwick. Colleen attended Brigidine College Randwick and then St Vincent's College Potts Point, completing her education with the Leaving Certificate. Colleen was very proud of her brother Des and with his sons, the family had a close relationship throughout their lives.

Responding to the call to Religious life, Colleen entered the Novitiate at Bethania on 2 July 1946 and became a Novice on 25 January 1947 and was given the name 'Eunice' but changed back to her Baptismal name at a later date. Colleen made her first vows on 25 January 1949.

We were fortunate that Colleen chose to join the Sisters of Charity as those of us who lived with or associated with her, found in her a generous spirit, who had much humour to add! She and Marguerite Moloney, her great friend, shared a spirit of hospitality that lifted our hearts with their unique humour!

After study and training, Colleen received her Teachers' Registration. Later she studied to obtain a Diploma of Theology. She began her teaching ministry in the Primary Schools at St Ambrose Concord West and St Canice's Elizabeth Bay, but from 1952 to 1970, Colleen was a Secondary School teacher at Bethlehem, Ashfield, St Vincent's Potts Point, St Mary's Concord and finally Mt St Mary's Katoomba from 1965 to December 1970.

Like so many of our Sisters, Colleen kept in touch with Staff members and the families and students she had ministered to over the years. She then had a five year period of Community ministry at Strathmore and CLC Eltham.

In 1977, she moved to the hospital community at St Vincent's Fitzroy in Melbourne, gaining a Certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education and began a ministry in Pastoral Care and Office work at the Hospital until 1982. In 1982 and 1983, she returned to Secondary Education at Sancta Sophia College Glenroy and finally spent twenty two years at St Columba's Essendon, until retirement in December 2007.

In 2009, Colleen and Marguerite were given the opportunity to move to an ILU at Mercy Place Parkville. The decision to accept this move was made much easier when they were assured that Annabelle, their cat, would be welcome too! Colleen then began the work of getting the best deals for furniture and other items needed for their new home. They were among the first residents of the complex and contributed in a special way to the spirit of the new facility. Their gratitude to the Congregation was voiced continuously.

Throughout her life, Colleen had had various setbacks from ill health, but each time, she would take Doctors' advice and make some improvement. What a joy it was for her in December 2017, to celebrate her ninetieth Birthday and then in January 2019, to have a celebration for her Platinum Jubilee! Quite remarkable!

On 27 February 2019, Colleen collapsed at home and was taken to the Royal Melbourne Hospital when she later died. This was a great sorrow for Marguerite and the Congregation but we are confident that Colleen will continue her outreach to all through interceding for the Congregation and our world.

In the Words of Remembrance at the funeral, Sr Clare summarised Colleen's uniqueness:

*"Colleen endeared herself to all and she was loved by so many in return. No one was left out of her embrace. Colleen's connections with others - from her family, her Sisters, her Carers to the Hairdresser, to the Podiatrist, to the Doctor, to the Barista who prepared coffee for Marguerite and herself - all her interactions engaged her with people and what people found in Colleen brought them joy and comfort. She celebrated everyone and everything, including Annabelle, her cat! Colleen was a great story teller."*

Colleen, we thank you for the thoughtfulness you showed and the hospitality you gave to so many! We will miss the Birthday phone call you made to each of us every year! So much giving! Be at peace now in the arms of your God!



## *Sister Mary Imelda Green*

*"I am thy servant and thy handmaid."*

*Sister Mary Imelda was born Kathleen (Kitty) Green in 1907 and entered the Sisters of Charity in 1926. Her sister, Eileen, also entered the Sisters of Charity and took the name Monica. Their two brothers became Redemptorist priests.*

As a Sister of Charity she had a long teaching career, spending many years at East Melbourne (35 years) and St Teresa's, Essendon. Upon retiring from teaching she took on a second career, that of visiting the sick, aged and lonely in the Essendon and Moonee Ponds areas. Finally, on retirement when she went to live at Caritas Christi Hostel (Convent), Kew, Sister turned her hand to helping the work of the Overseas Aid helpers by repairing clothing to be sent to the Missions.

In more recent times, Sr Mary Imelda took up handicraft including ceramics, card making and painting. Sister was first at all activities and the last to leave.

She appreciated visits from her friends, relatives and her many past pupils and always expressed her gratitude with a very firm "thank you" and shake of the hand or cuddle.

Another great interest Sr Imelda had was her Friday selection of the horses and her tipping competition during the football season ~ both these interests gave her great pleasure and she was a successful punter.

Sister Mary Imelda died in late January, 2002, following a short spell in hospital as a consequence of a fall.

Sr Mary Imelda's funeral Mass took place at Sacred Heart Church, Kew where the celebrants who had been associated with Sister over the years joined Father Malcolm Crawford, the Parish Priest.

Father Peter O'Donnell CSsR, a past pupil, gave the homily and Fathers Peter Kenny, Pat McQuillan and John Mullally who worked with Sister in her Parish visitation, were concelebrants.



## *Sister Eileen May Gale*



*Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sanctu*

*Sister Eileen May Gale (formerly Mary Protase) had been a Sister of Charity for 67 years when she died in Melbourne on 30th January 2009, aged 93 years. Sister Eileen May was born in Marrickville, Sydney on the 15th May 1915. Her parents, John Gale and Ethel Walker, had six children, four girls and two boys. Eileen May was the second child and all but her youngest sister and brother pre-deceased her.*

Having graduated with a Commercial Certificate from St Mary's, Concord in 1929, Eileen May worked in secretarial positions until entering the Sisters of Charity in July, 1942. After Profession in January, 1945 Eileen May was posted to St Patrick's College, Paddington to teach commercial subjects. She then trained as a Primary Teacher at St Vincent's Training College and obtained her Teacher Registration. During the next 21 years Eileen May taught at Mt Pritchard, Ashgrove (Queensland), Paddington, Edgecliff, Cabramatta, Sandy Bay (Tasmania), and Hurstville.

Eileen May liked people and her simple, positive approach to life, her sense of humour, her infectious laugh and her joyfulness as a Religious drew people to like her also. She was artistic. She liked to paint and write poetry and had a special talent with words. All these gifts served her well as a teacher.

After her years in the classroom, Eileen May made use, once again, of her secretarial skills when she was moved to St Vincent's Hospital, Fitzroy and later to Caritas Christi Hospice to work in clerical positions. She continued in this ministry for many years and once more established a very gracious relationship with the nurses and staff in both places.

In 1981 Eileen May had a time of renewal and travelled to Lourdes, Rome, the Holy Land and the UK. This she enjoyed very much and often spoke of it in later years. When ill-health made it necessary for Eileen May to retire from work she lived first at "Caritas Christi" Hostel and when the hostel closed, she moved to "Cambridge House" Nursing Home where she was a resident until her death in January, 2009.

During the years at "Cambridge House" Eileen May remained alert and always cheerful and interested in what was happening. A quote from a Sister whose Community was asked to companion Eileen May during her stay at the nursing home, tells something of her last years:

*"We were thrilled to be asked to do this and thus began a wonderful time, a privileged time. Not only did Eileen May affect our lives for the better, she had a great effect on the staff and residents with whom she lived and they loved her dearly."*



## Sister Margaret O'Brien

*"My Beloved to Me and I to Him."*

*Sister Margaret O'Brien was professed as a Sister of Charity in 1952 and, after fifty-seven years in the Congregation, died on 31st January, 2010.*

Margaret Bertha O'Brien, the second child of John and Thelma O'Brien, was born in Brisbane in 1933. Margaret had two brothers and one sister, Catherine, who was only two years old when Margaret left home to become a Sister of Charity. The children began their education with the Sisters of Mercy at Red Hill, a Brisbane suburb, and Margaret completed her secondary education at "All Hallows" College. She then worked as a dental nurse, before entering the Novitiate in February, 1950.

Margaret took the name "*Fabre*" after her aunt, Sister Mary Fabre O'Brien, who had died. She kept that name until the time when Sisters were able, if they wished, to resume to their baptismal name, and she became Sister Margaret.

On leaving the Novitiate, Margaret gained her Teacher Registration Certificate in 1955. She taught at parish primary schools in Paddington and Hurstville, St Finbarr's, Ashgrove, Shellharbour, Mt Pritchard as Deputy Principal. In Brisbane, she worked in the St John's Wood parish school and helped with the establishment of St Peter Chanel Primary School, The Gap. Margaret worked with the C.C.D. in Sydney, then as Principal at St Francis, Paddington and also at St Aloysius, Kingston Beach, Tasmania. Margaret spent a year at the Assumption Institute before becoming Principal at Sacred Heart Diamond Creek parish school. Her final year as a teacher, was at St Finbarr's Ashgrove.

After a three months trip overseas, Margaret began a new pastoral care ministry of the sick and aged at Mt Olivet Hospital and Marycrest, Kangaroo Point; St Vincent's Darlinghurst; St Vincent's Robina and then again at Marycrest and Mt Olivet. Her happy smile, simplicity and warmth of personality were most appreciated. She remembered not only names but personal family details. No matter who you were, you were special to Margaret.

One of the greatest joys in Margaret's life was when her sister, Catherine (Cate), entered our Novitiate in 1972. They were not often in the same State, so it was fortunate that when Margaret was diagnosed with cancer in 2008, Cate was working in a Parish Ministry in Brisbane.

Margaret died at Mt Olivet on 31st January, 2010 and throughout her last illness, was gracious and uncomplaining, revealing the principle on which she based her life ~ if God wanted it, so did she. For as long as she was able, Margaret expressed her thanks to all who nursed or visited her. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St Brigid's Church, Red Hill and was crowded with people from all walks of life. We, her Sisters, and all who knew her, will surely remember Sister Margaret for her simplicity and graciousness, her engaging little laugh and happy smile ~ a Sister of Charity who lived her commitment to God with great cheerfulness.

## February



1	Edwina VICKERY Ethna WALSH	1957 1958	14	Patricia LYNCH	1990
2	Norbert CAMPBELL Albertus COSTELLO Pius DOCKENDORFF Kathleen FANNING	1937 1988 1993 2002	15	Borromeo CURTIS Joan JURD	2006 2018
3	Clare Joseph MILLEA Claver STRINGER	1968 1985	16	St Anne MAHER Dorothy HARRISON	1956 2013
4			17	Mercedes CURTIS de Chantal FARRELL	1932 1983
5			18	Eustelle ROCHE	1897
6	Hildegarde McDONNELL Claire NOLAN	1943 2005	19	Brendan LYNCH Borgia BURNES	1931 1937
7	Inigo McBREEN Kieran Joseph O'REILLY	1969 1984	20		
8			21	Claudia DOYLE	2017
9			22	Lucilla WARD	1923
10	Berchmans O'MEARA Anacletus O'BRIEN Barbara Mary McGREGOR Josephine THOMPSON (Jose) Carol PEDERSEN	1904 1970 2002 2006 2017	23	Le Merci WALSH St Joseph STRINGER	1977 1983
11			24	Thais O'HALLORAN	1949
12	Sarah RYAN Joyce GINN	2014 2015	25	Helena PARKER	2006
13	Anthony HANRAHAN Lorenzo HOSKING Dominic POPPENHAGEN Marie Camillus PUCKERIDGE	1931 1932 1945 1981	26	Joan McKENNA	2016
			27	Petronilla CARROLL Colleen BELL	1978 2019
			28	Damian MEANEY Pacificus ST JULIEN Leila McGRATH Vincent NELSON Denise McCARTHY	1936 1938 1991 2000 2016
			29	Philomena POHLMAN	1984



## Sister Kathleen Fanning

*“Sacred Heart of Jesus, in thee I place my trust.”*

*Kathleen died in St Vincent’s Private Hospital, Melbourne on Saturday 2nd February 2002, the 47th anniversary of her entrance into the Sisters of Charity Novitiate.*

The following is an extract from Kathleen Fanning’s eulogy: Through the symbols placed on her coffin at the beginning of the Mass, the readings from Proverbs and John’s Gospel, the prayers of intercession, Father Christopher Goulding’s Homily, the hymns we have sung and Loreto’s tribute, we have had placed before us the woman who is far beyond the price of pearls and who is loved, admired and respected by all of us here present and by many others who have been influenced by her in so many ways.

Kathleen’s influence extended to P.N.G. where she spent seventeen years in Bundi and Megiar as well as eleven years of teaching the little ones in NSW and here in Melbourne at Oak Park and Airport West. In addition there were these last fifteen years when she ministered to the marginalised in Fitzroy and Healesville, including her more recent ministry to the carers of the eastern region situated at Comely Bank, the place she loved so dearly. Kathleen lived to the full her vow of service to the poor.

Kathleen never pushed herself forward or sought any limelight or wanted things for herself. She was completely selfless, lived simply and as an acquaintance described her yesterday ~ *she oozed serenity.*

However, a few years ago Kathleen shared with some friends her three wishes and they were to visit Perth, to visit the Hall of Fame at the M.C.G. and to visit Assisi. Unfortunately her first two wishes weren’t fulfilled but in 2000 she had the most wonderful experience of her life when with Patricia and Lossie she travelled overseas and fulfilled her third wish when she spent time in Assisi.

St Francis of Assisi speaks to us of simplicity, humility, peace, love, truth, hope, compassion, and trust ~ virtues that shone out in Kathleen. During these last weeks when she faced her own vulnerability and she knew that her days on this earth were numbered the words “*thank you*” were uttered by her so many times and she couldn’t believe how so many were expressing their love and care for her.





## *Sister Claire Nolan*

*“This place here, this world now.”*

*Claire Nolan was born on the 19th April 1947 at Auburn, New South Wales, the second of seven children of Richard Noland and Sarah Moore. Her primary education was at St. John's School, Auburn and her secondary education at St Mary's Commercial College.*

**I**n the time before her entrance into the Sisters of Charity, Claire worked as a stenographer and secretary. After her Profession, Claire trained in general nursing, obtaining her nurses's registration in 1972.

Sister Claire received a Bachelor of Education in nursing, and a Master of Education from the University of Technology, Sydney. She trained in coronary care, midwifery and theatres and worked as an operating theatre nurse educator. Sister Claire offered compassion and healing to so many in her tireless life's work. The Sister Claire Nolan Memorial Theological Scholarship for Women has been established in her memory.

Sister Claire spent many years providing care and compassion in St Vincent's Hospital theatres, and guidance and inspiration as the Hospital's Director of Mission.

Since 2002, Sister Claire exercised her ministry as a member of the Congregational Council, with particular responsibility for health services, and as a Trustee of the Sisters of Charity of Australia.

Her ministries also included work with St Vincent's Hospital in Launceston and Fitzroy, as well as working to help the people of Cambodia and East Timor.

She served as National Director of Mission and a member of many Catholic Health Service Boards as well as the National Board of the Sisters of Charity Health Service.

On 6 February 2005, Sister Claire Nolan passed peacefully from this world at the Sisters of Charity community home in Potts Point.



## *Sister Barbara Mary McGregor*

*“Lord, thou knowest all things,  
thou knowest that I love thee.”*

*Barbara entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate in 1960 and was professed on 24th August 1962. A nurse, she spent extended periods of time nursing in both St Vincent's Sydney and Melbourne where she was greatly respected and loved by her colleagues and patients.*

**H**er care for the individual and her generosity were exemplary. A keen musician, she was very generous in using this talent to enrich the liturgy in both her community and the parish.

Sister Barbara Mary died peacefully on Sunday evening 10th February 2002 and her requiem Mass was celebrated at All Saints Church, Fitzroy on Thursday 14th February 2002. The chief concelebrant was her long time friend Father Christopher Goulding OFM. Other celebrants included Fathers Pat Harvey PP and Michael Elligate PP.

On hearing news of Barbara's death, Mr Adrian Verryt, Director of Mission at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney issued the following e-mail message to campus personnel.

Adrian captures many of those attributes, which we so fondly remember:

*“Many of you will remember Sr Barbara more recently in her capacity as Staff Ministry sister working alongside Sr Margaret O'Brien. Barbara brought much passion and energy to her ministry and would be remembered for only one speed ~ Full Speed Ahead.*

*Even after being diagnosed with cancer Sr Barbara still went about her daily work with the same vitality and enthusiasm. A recent move to Melbourne was to allow Barbara the opportunity to catch up with family and friends. Here she undertook volunteer work at St Vincent's Melbourne until such time as her illness made it no longer possible for her to do so.”*



## *Sister Josephine (Jose) Thompson*



*“To know thee, that I may know myself.”*

*Born in Melbourne, Sister Jose Thompson was educated at Catholic Ladies College, East Melbourne, where she matriculated. She graduated in Science and Education from the University of Melbourne, and was elected to membership of the Australian Council of Education.*

She had many years of experience in the Sisters of Charity schools ~ at Bethlehem College, Ashfield, and at CLC East Melbourne which later transferred to Eltham.

She taught Science at Bethlehem College when the Wyndham Syllabus was initiated in the 1960's and like other Religious teachers in different subjects was invited to become an examiner in science.

When the new science blocks were being installed in all secondary schools she gave invaluable advice to many Catholic schools. The Australian Industries Development Association each year awarded a medal to an outstanding class teacher, and in 1965-6 Sister Austin of Bethlehem College was presented with it by the general manager of the Australian Gas Light Company and the Cranbrook School in Sydney.

The citation acknowledged her work for the formation and growth of the Catholic Secondary Schools' Science Association of NSW, which was formed to supplement the work of the NSW Science Teachers Association.

She was known far beyond that Association because on several occasions Bethlehem was host to the NSW Science Teachers Association, and she became the first Catholic Sister to be a member of it.

Upon retirement Sister Jose researched the dates of the foundation and certification of all the Sisters of Charity schools.

She was meticulous and enthusiastic in this entire endeavour, indicative of the thoroughness with which she pursued the facts in her earlier scientific work.

The Congregation has lost an illustrious exemplar of what it is to be a good educationist and one whose every effort was *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*.



## Sister Carol Pedersen

*“I Thirst.”*

*On 14 June 1942, Carol Margaret Pedersen was born at Port Kembla, the second child and only daughter of Margaret Doyle and James Pedersen. Carol and her older brother Ron had a loving family relationship which continued until her untimely death on 10 February 2017, aged 74.*

Carol was educated in Wollongong at St Francis Xavier School for her Primary education and at St Mary's College during her Secondary years. After leaving school, she did her General Nursing Training at St Vincent's Darlinghurst and gained her Certificate.

Having been inspired by the Sisters of Charity in their 'Service of the Poor', Carol entered the congregation on 2 February 1964. At her Reception into the Novitiate on 2 August that same year, she was given the name 'M. Peder' but later resumed her Baptismal name, Carol. Carol was certainly unique. She dared to be different and had the courage to be herself. So the two years of Novitiate were a particularly challenging time for Carol and her group when Novices were expected to conform to a way of life that did not recognise uniqueness. However, Carol was professed as a Sister of Charity on 25 August 1966. Carol lived to celebrate her Golden Jubilee with her 'co' Maria Wheeler RSC in September 2016, despite the fact that she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2012. For the Jubilee she wore her customary 'outfit' ~ with a new Kathmandu jacket to go with the jeans and boots!

Carol's first appointment as a Sister of Charity was as Ward Sister at St Vincent's in Sydney and then in 1968/69, she was sent to be Ward Sister at St Vincent's Toowoomba. During this time, she injured her back and was unable to continue her Nursing career. But not to be overcome, while recuperating from the back injury, Carol decided to do studies in Social Work, graduating in 1974 with B.Soc.Work Hons1 from the University of NSW. Carol worked with St Vincent's Hospital in the Darlinghurst area from 1975 to 1985, setting up various programmes for those forgotten by society ~ D4 (1975-77) (a neighbourhood development programme aimed at keeping children out of residential care); the Richardson Centre (1978-85) (which provided hospitality for alcoholics); in 1981 Gorman House described as 'a sobering-up area for acutely inebriated persons'; at this time she also supervised the establishment of a Detoxification Unit in Darwin. Carol did amazing work with little 'fanfare'.

Following a time of overseas study and through the University of NSW, Carol was awarded her Ph.D. in Social Work. On her return in 1987,

Carol spent the next ten years at the various branches of the Drug and Alcohol Department of St Vincent's Hospital at Darlinghurst.

She was a trailblazer for ways to help people in need, from all works of life. Furthermore, in 2001, Carol did further studies in Homeopathy and was awarded an Advanced Diploma from the Sydney College of Homeopathic Medicine. The Congregation agreed to support Carol in providing a homeopathic service to outback parts of NSW, Victoria and Southern Queensland. Through the Sisters of Charity Foundation, Carol was able to procure a four-wheel drive vehicle and a caravan, which she named 'Providence', to take her and her four-legged friends (Speck, Mr Darcy, MLee and Pudd) on her journeys to help the poor and marginalised.

As the cancer became more aggressive, Carol had to relinquish her ministries, her caravan, her vehicle and, hardest of all, to part with Pudd. With the wonderful support of her community, Carol was able to stay at Berala until Christmas 2016 when she was admitted to St Joseph's Palliative Care Hospital Auburn. Throughout her time in hospital, sisters, family and friends were constant visitors. Carol knew she was loved and supported. She gave a directive that there were to be no 'jabbering prayers' around her bed! The doctors, nurses and other staff in Palliative Care experienced the gratitude Carol had for them. Carol never complained. A Vigil service was held for her at St Vincent's Sydney and Mass of Christian Burial at St John's Auburn. She is buried at Rookwood Cemetery

At her Jubilee, Sr Clare had written:

*“Carol, your unique personality allowed you to relate to all types of people, top professionals and researchers, as well as the homeless, street people, addicts, lost and lonely. You were always someone who moved on to the next need.”*

There are many more initiatives of Carol's that could be added to her Obituary. She was a unique human being, a champion for the poor.

*“Carol – we are so proud of you and claim you as a 'true-blue Sister of Charity!'”*



## Sister Sarah Ryan

*“God alone.”*

*Sister Sarah Ryan pronounced her Vows on 31st August 1946 and was a Sister of Charity for sixty-eight years until her death in Sydney on 12th February, 2014. She was 89 years old.*

Sarah Theresa Ryan was born in Darlinghurst NSW on 23rd August, 1924. She was the second of the five children of Ernest and Norah Ryan. All Sarah's siblings: Mary, Madeleine, Stanley and Joseph predeceased her. Her older sister, Mary, joined the Congregation in 1947 and died in 2002. Sarah attended St Francis and Mt St Patrick's schools at Paddington and St Vincent's College. As well as the usual subjects undertaken during her schooling, Sarah had a particular flair for Business and Commercial Studies. The skills she gained from these subjects were to be of great benefit to her as a teacher and later in her work as a Finance Office. Her skills and competency were further developed when she left school and worked for some years as a Stenographer.

At 19, Sarah felt that God was calling her to religious life. The Sisters of Charity had been her teachers throughout her schooling so it was not surprising that she chose to become a Sister of Charity. On 2nd February, 1944, Sarah entered the Novitiate at 'Bethania', Potts Point and at her Clothing Ceremony on 30th August that year, was given the religious name 'Úrsuline'. At the completion of her novitiate Sarah made profession of Vows on 31st August, 1946. Following her training Sarah gained her Teachers' Registration Certificate and became a talented educator. She taught in Secondary Schools at Concord, Hurstville, Paddington, Ashfield and Potts Points. As well as other subjects St Mary's Concord and St Patrick's, Paddington had components of Commercial Studies. Students from these schools still extol the excellent grounding they had from 'Sister Úrsuline'. When the Sisters were given the option of changing to their Baptismal name, Sister Sarah did so.

The greater part of the thirty six years of Sarah's teaching ministry was spent at Bethlehem College (1964-1983) where

she was teacher, Deputy Principal and Principal. That several of her former colleagues from her time there were present at her funeral Mass was testimony to the respect and affection in which Sarah was held. During her early years of teaching, Sarah, as an external student at the University of New England, gained her BA and DipEd Degrees. In 1969 she gained a Diploma of Theology. The last year of Sarah's ministry in the classroom was spent at St Vincent's College, Potts Point.

After a time of renewal, Sarah began a Business/School Administration and Finance ministry in 1985 at St Vincent's College and then Librarian/Secretarial work at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst. In 2000 she became Finance Officer in the Congregational Bursar's Office where she worked for three years before she retired. In 2006 Sarah moved to St Joseph's Village, Auburn and, because of deteriorating health, received constant assistance and care. Sarah was 89 when she died on 12th February, 2014. Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St John of God Church, Auburn. At the end of Mass, as the funeral procession left the Church, students from Bethlehem College and Staff from St Joseph's Village formed a guard of honour.

The most lasting memories her sisters and those who knew her well will have of Sarah are her fine intellect and kindness of heart which she used so well in becoming a quality teacher. Whatever Sarah did she did well, applying herself with commitment and generosity. That too was the way she lived her daily life as a Sister of Charity, totally committed to God ~ 'God alone' was the motto she chose in the novitiate. For Sarah's long life of quietly giving of her best, and for her example and encouragement we thank her and we thank God.



## Sister Joyce Ginn

*“To be another Christ.”*

*When Joyce May Ginn was born on 26 June, 1935, the Ginn family lived on the Atherton Tableland in Queensland. She was the eldest child of James Henry Ginn and Constance Emma Gazzard and had two brothers and a sister.*

Joyce's family moved to New South Wales where she attended Clergate Public School and Orange High School for her Primary and Secondary education. Throughout her life, Joyce had a close association with her family and enjoyed the regular chats or occasional visits from her sister Margaret who still lived in Bathurst.

After completing her schooling in 1952, Joyce trained in General and Midwifery nursing at Orange Base Hospital where she graduated. She studied for and obtained a Certificate in Advanced Nursing in 1959. She kept in contact with many friends from Orange and made connections with the Sisters of Charity at St Vincent's Hospital, Bathurst. From this latter association, Joyce felt a calling to religious life.

On 2 July, 1960, Joyce entered the Sisters of Charity at Wahroonga and was professed on 15 January, 1963. After Profession, she began her nursing ministry which would take her to the various Eastern States of Australia, except Tasmania.

She became a highly qualified and respected member of the Nursing Community. In 1968 she attended the Australian College of Nursing where she completed the Operating Theatre Technique course. For the next 11 years, she worked in operating theatres at St Vincent's Hospitals, Darlinghurst, Fitzroy and Toowoomba.

In the following years, she qualified in Nursing Management at the Queensland Institute of Technology, Level III Certificate in Grief Counselling at the Monash University and Peter McCallum Institute as well as Intensive Bioethics at St Patrick's College, Manly. Towards the end of 1979, Joyce had a time of Renewal in Ignatian Spirituality at Canisius College, Pymble.

In 1985, Joyce was missioned to Caritas Christi Hospice, Kew, as Director of Nursing

and then Administrator. In these positions she was highly respected. Her concern for staff, visitors, patients and relatives was outstanding. She was a good listener.

In 1996 Joyce completed the Clinical Pastoral Education course at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst and this began a new phase of her life. She ministered in Pastoral Care, firstly at St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn then St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba before retiring in 2001. Joyce then travelled overseas for Renewal at Hawkstone Hall and some further travel.

Joyce retired to 21 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy and generously became a volunteer at the Mary of the Cross Centre in Fitzroy for a number of years before she suffered continuing ill health. In 2006, Joyce moved to Corpus Christi Age Care, Clayton. She had a great devotion to the rosary and organised the saying of the Rosary at 4.00pm every day until she was unable to do so. Joyce's health deteriorated rapidly and she was moved to High Care. The staff, who had a special love for Joyce, were most attentive and gave her the best of care.

When Joyce died at Corpus Christi Aged Care, Clayton on 12 February, 2015, aged 79 years, she had been a Sister of Charity for 52 years. Staff at St Vincent's Hospital and Caritas Christi Hospice were notified of Joyce's death and John Riley, Operations Manager/Director of Nursing, Caritas Christi Hospice wrote:

*“I would like you all to join me in quiet appreciation of Joy's commitment and dedication to Caritas and those she cared for. She will be remembered fondly.”*

She was farewelled from St Peter's Church, Clayton, Victoria and is buried at the Springvale Cemetery. We thank Joyce for her life of fidelity and service. May she rest in peace.



## *Sister M. Borrromeo Curtis*

*“Behold the handmaid of the Lord.”*

*Alice Curtis was born on the 23rd January, 1914, to George Curtis and Hilda Bauer in Kooroongarra, Queensland. She was the eldest of ten children. Alice attended the Kooroongarra Primary School and then the Mercy Convent at Nudgee. On leaving school, she began her training as a teacher and also gained some experience as a nurse in the Toowoomba area.*

Sister M. Borrromeo entered the Sisters of Charity in February, 1936 and was professed in 1938. In 1939, she began her general nursing training at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. Between 1941 and 1950, she taught at CLC, Melbourne, St Vincent's College, Potts Point and Bethlehem College, Ashfield before returning to nursing. At some of these Colleges she also acted as the Infirmarian as well as teacher. She carried out nursing duties in the Sydney and Queensland areas, did some tutoring at Lismore and then turned to Community Apostolates in Toowoomba and Sydney.

Sister M Borrromeo was a quiet and gentle Sister with a ready smile and a hidden sense of humour. Fondly known to the Sisters as “*Borrie*”, she could often be seen doing her chores around the Convent in her large apron and blue plastic gloves.

Borrie loved to cook. When the urge came upon her she would really get serious about it. Five or six batches of scones, several large and numerous small cakes would come from her busy oven.

Sister Borrromeo also liked to paint. She preferred to paint in oils and to record the scenes around her. Her artistic skills were used by her in her loving care of the Chapel, especially in her time at Toowoomba and Potts Point.

In 1988, Sister Borrromeo retired from active duties at St Vincent's Potts Point and in 1991 she moved to St Joseph's Auburn. She died in Lewisham Nursing Home on 15th February, 2006.



## Sister Dorothy Harrison

*“One is my Master, Christ”*

*Sister Dorothy, a Sister of Charity for 76 years, was born in 1914 and died in Sydney on 16th February, 2013, only 20 months short of a century.*

Born in the small town of Cygnet in Tasmania, she entered our Novitiate, *Bethania*, in Sydney aged 18. This already leaves us amazed at Dorothy's tenacity of purpose in taking this step. Frederick and Mary Harrison, Dorothy's parents, had two sons and four daughters when their last child, Doris Mary was born on 18th October, 1914. The family owned an orchard in Cygnet and the children attended the local primary school. Dorothy was strongly united with her siblings throughout her life. For her secondary years Dorothy stayed with relatives during the week to attend Hobart High School. After leaving school, she worked as a secretary.

In the early 1930's, any young woman in Cygnet who expressed interest in following a religious vocation was advised by Fr Arthur Cullen PP to join the Sisters of Charity. He and his older brother, Fr John Cullen B.A. were great supporters of our Sisters. Taking this advice, Doris Mary decided to enter the congregation although this would mean leaving home and family, possibly for a long time. Dorothy put her trust in God and during the next 78 years of her Religious life, spent 27 of them ministering in Tasmania. God knows how to say “thank you”.

On 8th December, 1933, Dorothy entered the Novitiate at Potts Point. On completing her Novitiate in 1936, she made her first Profession of Vows on 22nd August, with Edmund as her religious name. Dorothy then began her ministry at Mt St Mary's, Katoomba, where she cared for the boarding students. In the early days of her ministry, Dorothy served in both of our boarding schools at Potts Point and Katoomba and in our two Child-Care

Homes, Liverpool and Hobart. She cared for the children and also taught part-time. Dorothy's gentle manner, her sense of humour and her ability to plan and organise well, made her a suitable choice for these positions and also for the many times she held the position of Ministress in the communities where she lived.

Dorothy taught in primary schools in New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria. She was Principal at St George's, Carlton and OLHC, Eltham before her move back to Centacare, Hobart. During this time, Dorothy was able to enjoy an overseas trip with her lifelong friend and fellow Tasmanian Sr Josephine Cannell. They went to the *Passion Play* at Oberammergau, visited Europe, England, Ireland and Western Australia.

On her return, Dorothy was moved to Shellharbour in 1988 as Library Assistant at Stella Maris School. After retiring in 1991, she returned to Sandy Bay and lived there until 22nd August, 1999, when moved to St Joseph's, Auburn. In 2010, needing a greater level of care, Dorothy was moved to St Joseph's, Kensington, where she died peacefully on 16th February, 2013.

Our memories of Sister Dorothy are firstly that she loved God whole-heartedly and generously and she loved and served people in the same gracious, cheerful manner. Dorothy was gentle, kind and good humoured. She is also remembered as a good cook, a keen reader and a crossword buff ~ a positive presence in community.

We honour her memory as a Sister of Charity who, urged on by the love of Christ ~ and helped by His grace ~ served Him faithfully for so long.





## Sr Joan Jurd

*“Thy will be done.”*

*Joan Lenore Jurd was born on the family property, Carwee, about twenty miles out of Moree, on 19 August 1915, in the midst of World War I. Her mother Agnes May Hickey had been a teacher and her father, Ernest James Jurd owned and managed this sheep property.*

Joan's love for her family was quite remarkable. Her pride and affection grew deeper over the years and never diminished. She was the third child and first daughter. Her four brothers Mervyn, Adrian (Bill), John and Desmond and sister, Julie completed the family. Joan's primary school education was undertaken at home supervised by a governess, who lived with the family. Her early secondary education was as a boarding student at the school conducted by the Sisters of Mercy at Gunnedah, the boarding at St. Vincent's College, Potts Point for her final two years and, inspired by those who taught her, she recognised her vocation to become a Sister of Charity.

After completion of her Leaving Certificate at the end of 1932, Joan entered the Sisters of Charity on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, 23 June 1933 in the midst of the Depression. She was then received as a Novice on 13 January 1934 and received the name, Sr M Perpetua, but later returned to her Baptismal name. Her beloved father had died suddenly during her Novitiate, but she firmly declined her brother's efforts to induce her to return home because of this and made her first vows on 20 January 1936. When she made final vows on 20 January 1939, the world was on the verge of World War II.

After gaining her Teacher's Registration from St Vincent's Training College, Joan spent her first year as a Sister of Charity at St Theresa's Primary School Essendon and was a member of St Columba's Community. This was her only interstate appointment in eighty two years of Profession. Apart from a brief time at Bethlehem College Ashfield, Joan's only other appointments were at St Vincent's College Potts Point at various times over sixteen years and St Mary's Hurstville over periods of twenty years. Joan was an inspiring educator, who built strong bonds of friendship and respect with her many students. Her love of literature, history and current affairs were the hallmarks of her skills which she passed on to generations of relatives and students. Despite her focus on her students, the heavy burden of responsibility as Rectress and Principal took a huge toll on

Joan, resulting in several years of illness. She spent time at St Vincent's Lismore recuperating before returning to teach at Hurstville in 1967. She retired in 1981.

In June 1981, she undertook an overseas trip to various overseas places of pilgrimage including both Lord's Cricket Ground and the shrine of Lourdes. Joan remained living in Hurstville/Bexley until she moved to St Joseph's Village in 2011, where she settled quickly, appreciating the care she received, the friendship of other Sisters resident there and the freedom to participate in activities or to choose not to.

Throughout her busy life, Joan found time to enjoy wide reading and all types of sport, but especially cricket. In 2015, she was able to celebrate her 100th Birthday with family, members of the congregation and staff at St Joseph's Village. She received a card from Queen Elizabeth but the highlight of the day was a message from Steve Waugh whose cricketing prowess and charity work she so admired! Family and staff decorated her room with all the cards on display and she would invite her visitors to look at her two 'exceptional' cards! Following the special Mass in the Chapel, celebrations continued at Morning Tea in the beautifully decorated Activity Room.

Joan was always most grateful to the staff for their constant care and attention whilst in Tarmons. Gradually, Joan's needs became greater. Her sight and hearing were diminishing and speech was impaired so she was moved to Bethany. Her smile was the response when she was visited by family, friends and members of the congregation. She died on 15 February 2018 at the age of one hundred and two having been a professed Sister of Charity for 82 years. From the Words of Remembrance ~

*“Joan, though your century plus surpasses even Bradman's average batting score and we knew that you had to leave us some time, your passing leaves a huge hole in our lives but we know that your love of and interest in us all will continue forever. May God's love enfold you now.”*



## Sister Claudia Doyle

*“Jesu, Thy Will Be Done.”*

*Mavis Eileen Doyle was born in Taree, NSW on 11 March 1923, the second child of David Doyle, a clerk and Minnie Margaret Henry and sister to Anne, Kevin (both deceased) and Michael.*

She received her primary education at St Anthony’s, Picton and St Joseph’s, Mittagong before the family moved to Lewisham and became members of St Thomas’ Parish. Mavis received her early secondary education at St Thomas’ School Lewisham and she completed her secondary education at St Vincent’s College Potts Point at Leaving Certificate level in 1939. After leaving school, Mavis was employed as a clerk for several years before deciding to enter the Sisters of Charity congregation.

On 2 February 1945, Mavis entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate at Bethania, Potts Point. After six months pre-Novitiate, she was formally received into the Novitiate in the Chapel at Potts Point on 7 August 1945 and given the name, *‘Claudia’*, a name she kept throughout her Religious life. At the completion of Novitiate, Claudia made her First Profession of Vows on 22 August 1947 and, when she died on 21 February 2017, was 93 years old and in the 70th year of her Religious Profession.

Having gained her Teacher’s Registration, Claudia began a teaching ministry over ten years in Primary schools at Mt St Patrick’s, Paddington, St Canice’s, Elizabeth Bay, St Mary’s Cathedral School, St Vincent’s and Bethlehem Ashfield and finally at St Joseph’s Hobart, her only interstate placement. For a period of eight years (1959-67), she was on the staff at St Mary’s High School, Hurstville. She was a great favourite with the students because of her common-sense approach and her skill in making her lessons attractive and interesting.

In 1968, Claudia had a change of ministry ~ she was appointed Assistant Novice Mistress at the Novitiate at Wahroonga for two years. During this time, she undertook a Diploma of Theological Studies at the Mater Dei Institute. No doubt, this provided good experience for her next challenge as Superior and Principal at St Mary’s, Liverpool. Her final years in secondary education were at St John’s, Auburn (1976-77) and then back to St Mary’s, Hurstville (1978-80).

Claudia moved into a significant change of ministry in 1981 when she was given permission to undertake a course in Canon Law study at the Canon Law Society to become an Advocate at the Marriage Tribunal in Sydney. Her gifts of wisdom, astuteness and a common-sense approach were great assets in the work she undertook for the thirteen years at the Tribunal.

Following her final ministry as part-time Congregational Secretary from 1998 to 2000, Claudia retired from active ministry but continued to develop her knowledge through a love of reading, especially Australian and Irish history and research. She assisted many Sisters in compiling their family history. Until the last few weeks of her life, Claudia retained her interests, including daily crossword puzzles!

To provide further assistance for Claudia in her retirement, she moved to St Joseph’s Village, Auburn on 16 October 2008. As Claudia became more infirm, her ‘no nonsense’ attitude to life came to the fore! In death, she wanted no vigil or eulogy. Instead, Libbey Byrne RSC gave a Reflection on the readings chosen for her Mass of Christian Burial reminding us of Claudia’s vocation and the Christian vocation of us all. (*Isaiah 43:1-5 and John 15:9-17*). She died in Bethany, St Joseph’s High Care Facility on 21 February 2017. Her Requiem Mass at St John of God Church, Auburn was a great celebration attended by many of her ex-students who spoke with much affection for their outstanding teacher and friend and by family and Sisters. Her ashes are interred in the Sisters of Charity Section of Rookwood Cemetery.

It seems fitting to conclude with a summary of the Reflection given during her Mass:

*“Chosen by Christ, God knows the fruit of Claudia’s life and the lives of us all. Each of us is privileged to have glimpsed some of that fruit in the time we have spent in her company over the years. Her love and service of others was done quietly, faithfully and above all, with “no nonsense”! Claudia, Aunty Mavis, Mae-mae, Sister of Charity urged on by the love of Christ, beloved disciple, lover of family and friends, of humour, of history, of words and crosswords, we wish you complete joy!”*



## *Sister M. Helena Parker*



*“Not my will, but Thine be done.”*

*Helena was born in Lismore on 17th April 1913, the second of six children. Her brother Joseph was the eldest, and her other two brothers Frank and Gus, became priests of the Lismore diocese. Like her brothers, her sisters Sheila and Mary pre-deceased her.*

A keen student, Helena attended St Carthage's Primary School and gained her Leaving Certificate at the Presentation Convent Lismore. She entered the Sisters of Charity on 16th June 1931 and was professed on 13 January 1934.

Her further education was spread over the next twenty-five years and included a Certificate in Accountancy, a Bachelor of Commerce degree, a Post Graduate Diploma in Sociology and Physical Health from the University of Sydney, and a Departmental Certificate in Social Welfare Administration.

Helena taught in primary and secondary schools: St Joseph's Hobart, St John's Clifton Hill and St Teresa's Essendon, and, in Sydney, at St Mary's Cathedral, St Thomas' Lewisham and St John's Auburn.

For eight years, she held the position of assistant accountant at St Vincent's Hospital Darlinghurst, followed by three years in the social work department of that hospital.

In January 1972, Helena became the founding Director of the Parish Centre at St John's Auburn where she was to minister for the next sixteen years. She then spent another ten years engaged in social and pastoral ministry in the Auburn parish. It was principally for this work that, in 1985, she was awarded the Order of Australia medal (OAM). Other awards were a Service Certificate from Auburn Rotary and, from the State Government, the Arthur Stone Volunteers Award in 1991.

Sister Mary Helena (Phyllis Kathleen) Parker died on Saturday 25th February 2006 at St Joachim's Nursing Home Lidcombe.

Helena's life was celebrated with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10.30 am on Thursday, 2nd March at St. John of God Church, Auburn.



## Sister Joan McKenna

“Rabbouni”

*Joan Wilma McKenna was born in Canberra on 25 March, 1935. Her parents, John James McKenna and Edith Annie Parker had two children, Joan, and her brother, Brian.*

It was said that her love for people, her family, especially her beloved ‘little people’, Matilda and Charlie (her twin niece and nephew), and our RSC Congregation, was the best in every way.

Joan’s father served in the Navy, so in Joan’s early years, the family moved frequently ~ to Canberra, Rabaul, Garden Island, Kings Cross and at the end of World War II, to Melbourne. Joan was enrolled at Catholic Ladies College, East Melbourne, thus beginning a long association with CLC. In the next sixty years she would be a student, teacher at CLC Eltham, and finally a Board member until 2009.

After finishing school, Joan worked in the Public Service at the Mont Albert Barracks for a year before entering the Sisters of Charity on 2 February, 1954. Joan said that the Novitiate was a happy time for her. She never thought of going home, believing her family’s nomadic lifestyle put her in good stead. (Joan lived in twenty different RSC communities over the course of her life). On 16 August, 1956, she made her First Profession of Vows.

When Joan began her teaching ministry, by her own admission, she “kept a few pages ahead of the students”! She taught at Paddington, Ashfield, Sandy Bay and after completing a Science Degree through UNSW and a Dip Ed through the University of New England, Joan taught in Canberra and Brisbane before returning to Melbourne, to ‘put on her ‘L’ plates’ as Principal at Sancta Sophia College, Glenroy!

Her final education ministry was as a Science Teacher at CLC, Eltham. Joan spent a time of Renewal in Spirituality at Pymble and in Theology at the San Francisco University, California before beginning Chaplaincy to prisoners with psychiatric illnesses and intellectual disabilities. Later, Joan spent a year in Aboriginal communities in Central Australia before taking on a role of caring for carers at Outreach in Sydney and at Comely Bank, Healesville.

In 2010, Joan suffered a stroke while in the surf at Shellharbour. From being the carer, she now had to learn to be cared for. Joan herself called it “*the other side of caring*”. She spent many months in hospital and rehabilitation and through her dogged determination, Joan, rather than being discharged to residential care, was instead welcomed to live in the community at Deepdene. This was a blessing for Joan, as the sisters there allowed her independence, but were on hand when needed.

There were many things Joan had to re-learn as a stroke victim. While Joan acknowledged that she was “*the luckiest person alive*” to have such a supportive community, the community believed that Joan looked after them, because of her positive attitude. On occasions, patience was tried when certain rules were not heeded, but all was forgiven shortly after! To everyone’s amazement, Joan joined a Stroke Group, taking part in many of their activities with great gusto. She learnt to play lawn bowls, got onto their Committee, joined a Writing Skills programme and became a mentor for stroke victims at St George’s Hospital.

In April 2004, when Joan made the decision to accept residential care at St Catherine’s, Balwyn, she said the one thing she would miss, would be her furry friends, *Peppi* the dog and *Sheba* the cat! They had been her constant companions at Deepdene. At St Catherine’s she participated wholeheartedly and loved her time there.

Joan was taken to St Vincent’s Hospital suffering further complications from the stroke shortly before she died there on 26 February, 2016. Her Funeral Mass was celebrated at All Hallows, Balwyn and she is buried at the Springvale Cemetery ~ a place of Nature’s beauty.

Joan Wilma McKenna rsc, Sister, friend, carer ~ tenacious, positive, loving, funny, wise, mischievous, compassionate, passionate! We loved you, and our lives are blessed by yours. VALE Joan.



## Sister Denise McCarthy



*"He must increase. I must decrease."*

*Mary Denise McCarthy was born in Melbourne on 24 January, 1934. Denise and her younger sister Bernadette, were the daughters of Thomas Oliver McCarthy and Irene Mary Cosgrove.*

The family lived in Alphington, Victoria, and their Parish was St Anthony's. Both girls attended St Anthony's Primary School and then went to CLC East Melbourne for their secondary education. Throughout her life, Denise was very close to her sister and it was a great sorrow when her sister died from cancer in the 1990s. Denise continued contact with her brother-in-law, Vic, and his much-loved children, after Bernadette's death.

After completing her education and gaining the Leaving Certificate, Denise worked as a Bank Officer for two years before she felt the call to Religious Life. She entered the Novitiate on 2 July, 1952 at Bethania and then at Wahroonga in 1953. She made her first Profession on 6 January, 1955. *'Irene'* was her religious name. In later years, she reverted to her Baptismal name. The year before she died, 2015, Denise had celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. At the time of her death, she had been a Sister of Charity for sixty-one years.

During her Novitiate, Denise gained her Teacher's Registration and began her teaching ministry after Profession in Primary schools at Ashfield, Potts Point, Hurstville, Hobart and Collingwood then St John's East Melbourne secondary school.

Denise always had a gentle and gracious presence about her, being most attentive and respectful when with people. In addition to her teaching skills, Denise had other talents. She had an eye for style and fashion, was gifted in crafts and art and she generously shared these gifts with others. To enhance her skills, she had the opportunity in 1969 to attend the Emily McPherson College.

After the three year Course, she graduated with a Diploma in Style, Design and Production. Denise took up her teaching ministry again, this time at Clifton Hill and CLC, focussing on design and craft areas. In later years, as a Recreational Officer at St Vincent's Hospital Fitzroy and Diversional

Therapist at Sacred Heart Hospice, her talents and skills were again utilised to help others.

In 1980, after a year of renewal at the Assumption Institute in Melbourne, Denise became the Assistant Novice Mistress at the Novitiate at Auburn. Following her time in Sydney, Denise moved back to Melbourne to become the Superior at CLC Eltham for three years.

Other times of Renewal enjoyed and appreciated by Denise, were her overseas trips in 1990 (with her sister Bernadette) and in 1999 when she visited Ireland to have a better understanding of the Irish Welfare Bureau for which she was a volunteer in Melbourne.

In 2000, she moved to the Moonee Ponds complex of Units and was a valued member of the community. Her Unit had a sacred space for a Chapel and Denise ensured its continuing readiness for the sisters' use. One of her delights was to mind Sr Patricia's dog, *'Tess'*, when Patricia was away! She loved that little dog and the dog loved her! Denise became a Parish volunteer at Moonee Ponds, until she fully retired. However, Denise continued her outreach to others in the local area, with a ministry of *'coffee and conversation'*.

With failing health, Denise moved to Mercy Place Aged Care Facility at Parkville in 2014 where staff and residents experienced a gracious Sister of Charity. From time to time while at Parkville, Denise would have a visit from *'Tess'*. What a reunion it would be!

A few weeks before she died, she was admitted to St Vincent's Hospital and to the last, her peaceful and graceful presence remained with her as she sent visitors off with a wave of her hand, and a *"Goodbye and God bless you."*

She died on 28 February, 2016 aged eighty-two years. Parishioners, family and friends gathered for her Mass of Christian Burial at St Monica's, Moonee Ponds, a place which had been very special to Denise. Her Burial was at the Melbourne Cemetery. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

## March



1	Agnes SMITH	1940	18	Paul DIAMOND	1973
	St Aloysius O'DONOGHUE	1950		Miriam ADAIR	1981
	Agatha O'LEARY	1989			
2			19	Berenice SWEENEY	2001
3	Anselm HAYES	1961	20	Mother M. Ignatius GIBBONS	1853
				Aquin BOURKE	1898
4	Mother M. Berchmans DALY	1924		Anne MEAGHER	1902
	Alacoque BOURKE	1941		Mary Veronica DUFFY	2014
	St Roch SHANAHAN	1953	21	Teresa WALSH	1853
5				Colette MULCAHY	1946
				Marie Bernadette WUNCH	2012
6	Teresa ROBERTSON	1851	22	Enda O'CONNOR	1976
	Ignatia O'BRIEN	1936		Tarcisius DONOVAN	2014
	Wilfred CARRIGG	1961	23	Patritius MOLONY	1942
	Anne Mary REYNOLDS	2012		Kostka KANE	1977
7	Hyacinth NOONE	1951		Grata KELLY	2002
8	Mother M. Xavier WILLIAMS	1892	24	Anthony McCAFFREY	1920
	Christine MADDEN	2014		Ignatius BALFE	1926
9	Bernadine O'REILLY	1948		Imelda MOLONY	1937
10	Peter FENNESSY	1985	25	de Sales PHILLIPS	1913
	Roberta BRADY	1992		Cyprian PRENDERGAST	1939
11	Carmel BURKE	1951	26	Columba SHANNON	1880
	Ethelburg SAUNDERS	1984		Monica BEARD	1969
	Margaret Mary DONOVAN	1993	27	Teresita DAVIS	1949
12	Gerard RYAN	1949		Paulina FENNESSY	1969
				Patricia GRANTHAM	2009
13	Alphonsus HEYDON	1876	28		
	Maria CUNNINGHAM	2012	29	Dunstan WILSON	1959
14	Benedicta MARTIN	1962		Kathleen KENNEDY	2012
15	Germanus McQUILLAN	1986	30	Chanel DOYLE	1927
	Maureen FETHERSTON	1994		Finbarr BALZEN	1983
16			31	Bernard STAUNTON	1891
17	Rita CREGO	1951			
	Hilda CECIL	1959			
	Aquin JAMIESON	1963			
	Thecla BERTOLOTTI	1993			



## Sister Anne Mary Reynolds

*“Behold the Handmaid of the Lord”*

*The qualities of a ‘country girl’ ~ hospitality, kindness and generosity ~ were the hallmark of Anne Mary’s life.*

Annie Joan Reynolds was born on 2nd July, 1928 at Casino, New South Wales. She was the eldest of the 13 children of Bernard and Jessie Reynolds. By the time Annie Joan was school age, the family had moved to a dairy farm near Kyogle and, with her younger sister, Annie rode her pony to the nearest school at Cedar Point until she completed primary school in 1942.

In her early adult life, the call to religious life was very strong but making a decision to leave her family was difficult. However, on her 19th birthday, Annie was able to fulfil her desire, entering the Congregation on 2nd July, 1947 at *Bethania* and took the name ‘Mary Germaine’. Later, when the opportunity offered, she resumed her baptismal name and became ‘Anne Mary’. On 23rd January, 1950, Anne Mary was professed and lived a life of fidelity and commitment, celebrating her Diamond Jubilee in January 2010.

All of Anne Mary’s appointments to ministry were in New South Wales. She cared for the Boarders at St Vincent’s College Potts Point and taught at Hurstville, Mortlake, Cabramatta and Mt Pritchard schools. Later she studied and qualified as an enrolled nurse and ministered in St Vincent’s, Lismore and at Sacred Heart Hospice, Darlinghurst, where it seemed her gifts were especially suited to pastoral care and staff support. So after further training, Anne Mary gained a Certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education and was appointed to St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney where she ministered in the transit lounge, greeting patients entering the wards or farewelling those going home after treatment. Here her loving care and respect eased many worries and comforted many heavy hearts.

In remembering and honouring her life, many of the Sisters recalled Anne Mary as never being short of a word! Sometimes, she would be referred to affectionately as ‘Sister Have-A-Chat!’ She could engage with all kinds of people ~ from Prime Ministers to the aged and lonely.

The love Anne Mary had for her siblings and extended family was unbounded. She never failed to have a beautifully crocheted outfit or any number of baby items ready for the birth of a newly born. Not a birthday, engagement or wedding celebration went by for any of her nieces or nephews without Anne Mary’s acknowledgement. They knew their aunt was proud of them.

When Anne Mary concluded her years of ministering in pastoral care, she retired to Marycrest, Kangaroo Point, Queensland and continued a caring role of support for residents. Anne Mary did not always enjoy good health herself but had some chronic health matters that, from time to time, necessitated hospitalisation. It was during one of these hospital stays on 6th March 2012 that Anne Mary died.

Anne Mary, like so many of our Sisters, seems to have lived her life with no particular great achievements, but long years of faithful commitment, surely achievement enough,

*“that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life and rest in unvisited tombs.”*

(Middlemarch, George Eliot)

We salute and thank you Anne Mary!



## Sister M. Christine Madden

*“This is the will of God, my sanctification.”*

*Sister Christine Madden, a Sister of Charity since 1949, died, aged 83, at St Joseph’s Village, Auburn on 8th March, 2014.*

Patricia Mary Madden, known lovingly as ‘Sr Chris’, was born on 12th July, 2014 to Joseph and Jessie Madden who were the proud parents of two daughters, Christine and Margaret. The family lived at Ashfield and the girls attended Bethlehem College for their primary and secondary education. Patricia completed her secondary education in 1946, having gained her Leaving Certificate.

After working for three years in the Public Service, Patricia responded to God’s invitation to religious life and decided to become a Sister of Charity. She entered our Novitiate on 2nd July, 1949. During her training she took Christine as her Religious name and made her Profession of Vows on 24th January, 1952.

After gaining her Teachers’ Registration Christine began her teaching at St Canice’s School, Elizabeth Bay and her teaching ministry continued for the next thirty years. Christine had first taught Primary and then Secondary classes at Hurstville, Potts Point, Bethlehem College, Ashfield, St Mary’s, Hurstville and St Mary’s, Liverpool.

During those years she obtained a B.A. degree and a Diploma of Education as an external student at the University of New England. She was a much loved teacher and Principal who with kindness and competence inspired her students not only to do their best but to be their best. Many kept in touch with her and were present at her Funeral Mass.

On completion of her teaching ministry Christine had a year of renewal at Assumption Institute, Melbourne before taking up the role of Regional Superior. While in this position she visited our sisters working in Papua New Guinea and Thailand.

Through her life as a Sister of Charity and after her teaching ministry, Christine had a number of diverse roles within the Congregation: Regional Superior in Victoria and New South Wales, Congregational Councillor, Superior and Co-ordinator of Caritas Christi Conference Centre, Resident Advocate at Marycrest Nursing Home in Brisbane, Pastoral Care to our aged sisters,

together with voluntary ministry to refugees and migrants and up until the time of her death, Congregational Bursar in a part-time capacity. In each of these roles Chris created networks of support, understanding and care. In the finance area within the Congregation and in the Congregational Office, her constant support and helpful advice were deeply appreciated. As Bursar she served three Congregational Councils and 2 Leaders providing advice where needed and following up in a range of matters.

The hallmarks of Christine’s life were her simplicity and single-mindedness, her deep compassion and keen interest in justice issues and her ability to reach out to others. It was easy to be with her. She was always interested in people and she rejoiced and suffered with them. In whatever she did, Chris was a humble bearer of grace and an advocate for justice. She was gentle and gracious but also possessed a dogged determination. So in the first weeks of the year it was distressing to see Chris trying to cope with an illness which was, for a long time, difficult for doctors to diagnose and to offer a cure. The days and weeks before her death were such a trial for Christine and she suffered much in her pain and frustration. Chris moved from Paddington where she was living, to St Joseph’s Village on 19th February and died there on 8th March, 2014.

As a Sister of Charity, Chris was strongly committed to making the love of Christ known and to sharing the common life. Her observance of her religious duties was unwavering and she wholeheartedly participated in faith sharing opportunities which presented themselves. She lived simply, even frugally, but possessed and exercised great generosity of spirit.

In the words of the first reading of her Requiem Mass, *‘the life and death of each of us has its influence on others...’* we are reminded of the influence for good that Sr Christine was for so many. We give thanks to God for her life, and ask that the networks of support, understanding and care she began on earth, will continue with her support for us from Heaven. May she rest in peace.





## Sister Maria Cunningham OAM

*"The Lord is my strength"*

*Maria often spoke of their happy childhood on the farm and she always thought of herself as a 'country girl'.*

Sister Maria Cunningham OAM, was born on 25th January, 1942 and lived as a Sister of Charity for 46 years. Michael and Mary Cunningham raised their four children on a farm near Werribee, Victoria.

Maria felt called to nursing and trained at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. She admired the Sisters' care of the poor at St. Vincent's and was drawn to join them. On 2nd July, 1963, Maria entered the Novitiate at Wahroonga, making her first profession on 26th January 1966. Maria was then assigned to St Vincent's Sydney and then Lismore in the first year of her ministry after profession.

Maria's potential soon became evident and for the next five years she studied and obtained certificates in Paediatric nursing, Obstetrics and Infant Welfare. After a time as Supervisor in St Vincent's Hospital Launceston, Maria obtained a Diploma in Community Health. This deepening of her knowledge and experience prepared her for her key role in the birth of Catholic Health Australia (CHA). In 2011, CHA honoured Maria with the establishment of the annual '*Maria Cunningham Lifetime Contribution Award*', of which, Maria was the inaugural recipient.

Maria's involvement in Catholic Health Care was experienced across Australia and overseas. Her contribution to the ministry of healing was extraordinary. She chaired the Australia Catholic Health Care Association over a number of years and held leadership and governance positions nationally in hospitals and for six years as Congregational Councillor and Vicar. She played significant roles internationally, helping and advising in Health and Mission services. It was said of her that she was "a refounding person ~ courageous, innovative, collaborative, faith-filled".

There was another side to Maria ~ she loved parties and was a great entertainer! Maria was an excellent cook and homemaker which, with her love of people and hospitality, made her a great community sister. Maria's love for her family was strong and deep. To her nieces and nephews the enormous contribution Maria had made to health services in Australia was secondary to her being their much loved 'Aunty Nan' who made time in her busy schedule to be with family, especially for special milestones. The family had gathered on Maria's 70th birthday in January for what would be their final get-together with her.

Despite the high offices Maria held, she never lost her love for the poor and those on the margins of society, including setting up accommodation for homeless men in Melbourne and arranging holidays for families of children with severe disabilities. On her retirement from health ministry, Maria was instrumental in setting up 'Blake Cottage' in Castlemaine ~ a home where families of prisoners could stay while visiting relatives in prison. Maria was there for seven years before ill health forced her to retire.

All would agree that Maria's true greatness was shown in the last months of her life. Her acceptance of her illness was inspirational. Despite being stripped of her independence, her focus was still on others. She was grateful for the care she received and never complained. Maria made Mary Aikenhead's words her own:

*"We must be ever ready to receive all losses and crosses with a willing heart and gratitude for all that our God sends us".*

She fulfilled her motto, depending entirely on God for the strength to accomplish all that was asked of her. Maria used the many gifts God had given her with true humility. She died in St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne on 13th March 2012.



## Sister Mary Veronica Duffy

*“All for thee, O Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
through and with Mary.”*

*Mary Veronica Duffy had been a Sister of Charity for sixty-nine years when she died at St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne on 20th March, three weeks before her 96th birthday.*

The Duffy family lived in Carlton, Victoria and Mary Veronica was born on 10th April, 1918 just before the First World War finished. She was the eldest of the five daughters and two sons of Daniel and Mary Duffy. Mary Veronica was named after Sister Mary Veronica RSC, who had prepared her mother for her First Communion at St John’s, East Melbourne. The Duffy children began their primary schooling at St George’s School, Carlton, then the girls went to Catholic Ladies’ College, East Melbourne.

Having completed Grade 10, in Commercial subjects, Mary Veronica left school and worked as a clerical assistant. During her school days she had been very impressed by the love and kindness of the Sisters for those in any kind of distress and felt called to join the Congregation and help them in their service of the poor. After some months at work, Mary Veronica began to prepare to enter the Novitiate, but just at that time, her younger brother, Danny, was stricken with Polio and for three years had to be nursed at home.

Mary Veronica, being the eldest, was much needed at home to help her parents in caring for her siblings. When Danny’s condition worsened he was transferred to St Vincent’s Hospital where he died in 1940. Before his death he urged Mary Veronica to go ahead with her arrangements to become a Sister of Charity.

On the 2 February, 1942 Mary Veronica entered our Novitiate. It was temporarily located at ‘Viller’s Bret’ Katoomba, but returned to ‘Bethania’ a short time after, so Mary Veronica continued her novitiate training and made her Profession of Vows at Potts Point on the 30 August, 1944. She had wanted to retain her baptismal name so became Sister Mary Veronica and was appointed to St Vincent’s, Potts Point.

Mary Veronica would have liked to nurse, but God’s plans were different. She was

to become a teacher, so was sent to study for her Leaving Certificate, do her teacher training and gain her Teachers’ Registration. Sent to Sacred Heart School, Darlinghurst to begin her teaching ministry, Mary Veronica took up her task with typical cheerfulness, vigour and energy and was much loved by her students and colleagues.

During her 29 years in the classroom, Mary Veronica taught at Primary, Secondary and Commercial schools in NSW, Victoria and Queensland. These appointments included Lewisham, Elizabeth Bay, St Mary’s Commercial College, St John’s Primary and Secondary at Auburn, Clifton Hill, Eltham and Mt St Michael’s College, Ashgrove. While teaching, Mary Veronica had studied and obtained Diplomas in Theology and Business Studies and a Certificate of Commercial Education, to better qualify herself for her ministry.

In 1980 Mary Veronica was able to begin studies in Clinical Pastoral Education at St Vincent’s Melbourne. When qualified, she worked in Pastoral Care for the next ten years, nine at St Vincent’s, Fitzroy and one as Pastoral Care Supervisor at Caritas Christi, Kew. She retired from Pastoral Ministry in 1990 and went to live with the elderly sisters at the Hostel at Kew. Eileen, her sister, also a Sister of Charity and a teacher, had lived there for some years because of increasing sight impairment.

In 2006 the Sisters moved from Kew to Corpus Christi, Clayton and Mary Veronica lived nine years there before she died, aged 95 in St Vincent’s Hospital, Fitzroy. We remember Mary Veronica’s long life in the Congregation with love and gratitude for the example of generous fidelity to all she had promised God and for her good humour and cheerful readiness to help wherever and whenever she was needed.

Mary Veronica, may you rest in peace.



## Sister Marie Bernadette Wunsch

*“Lord, thou knowest that I love thee”*

*Stories that were told at the wake for Marie Bernadette revealed a woman with a great heart and a sense of humour, who cared about people and connected with them in practical, supporting ways.*

Sister Marie Bernadette Wunsch entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate in February 1952 and, having lived her chosen motto, “Lord thou knowest that I love thee” (*John 21:16*) deeply and sincerely in a way that was evident to all, died in Melbourne on 21st March, 2012.

Winifred Mary Wunsch was born on 29th November, 1930 in country Condobolin, New South Wales, to William and Eileen Wunsch. She grew up on the family farm with six sisters and five brothers and her roots were always firmly linked to the country. Surely it was there that she gained the qualities of character ~ her practical common sense, her multi-tasked giftedness, her generous service of others which later in community were appreciated by the Sisters. At times, while the rest of the Sisters were thinking about what might need to be done, she had gone ahead and done it! Her practical nature of hospitality and care was a gift to us all.

Winifred Mary joined the Congregation on 2nd February, 1952. She had an aunt, Sister Melita O’Farrell, a Sister of Charity, so perhaps when she felt God’s call to religious life that was the inspiration that encouraged her and led her to our Congregation. Marie Bernadette was the name she chose in the Novitiate and she retained it throughout her religious life. In August 1954 Marie Bernadette made her profession of Vows and, after gaining her nursing Certificate, took up her first appointment at St Joseph’s Hospital, Auburn. Throughout her religious life, her ministry was in healthcare, staff ministry and community leadership.

From Auburn, Marie Bernadette was sent to Toowoomba where she ministered for 10 years as Charge Sister. Then came postings to Fitzroy, Darlinghurst and back to Fitzroy. At the time of her death, she was Community Leader at Mononia, Fitzroy.

Marie Bernadette’s special character trait was being present to people in all walks of life. The tributes in the newspapers, phone calls and flowers sent to the Community at the time of her death, bore witness to her wisdom, her care and her outreach to so many people in varied ways ~ like preparing the rooms at Mononia to welcome visitors, with fresh roses from the garden.

The love Marie Bernadette had for her family was very special. When it was possible, she would take the opportunity of returning north to holiday with them. She really enjoyed this time away and on her return, would entertain the Community with family stories. On the occasion of her 80th birthday, the family celebrated the big event and many humorous stories were shared.

The staff, at St Vincent’s Melbourne, believed that Marie Bernadette was the ‘heart and soul’ of their hospital for more than 30 years. She represented the sisters as the public face of St Vincent’s. Many tributes were heard from staff and colleagues about her remarkable Christlikeness. Her compassion and care, especially for those in need, was inspirational. Her life gave witness to her belief that healthcare is built on love and that healing only begins when patients are respected.

Although Marie Bernadette had suffered chronic illness throughout her life, her death was unexpected. Her community, staff, family and friends were in a state of shock and disbelief when her death was announced on 21st March, 2012. She was aged 82 years and had been a Sister of Charity for 57 years. St John, in his First Letter, tells us that we cannot claim to love God unless we also love our ‘brother’. Marie Bernadette’s life was spent in loving and serving her ‘brothers’ ~ a certain proof that she truly loved God with a great heart as we, as Sisters of Charity, all hope to do.



## Sister M. Tarcisius Donovan

*“Him in all and all in Him.”*

*Tarcisius made her Profession of Vows on 24th August, 1938 in the centenary year of our Pioneer Sisters’ arrival in Australia in 1838. She had been a Sister of Charity for seventy five years when she died in Brisbane on 22nd March, 2014, aged 95.*

When, in 1920, Mother Berchmans Daly and her companion stepped off the train at Toowoomba railway station with the intention of founding St Vincent’s Hospital, little did they imagine that a small Toowoomba child, almost two years old, would later spend 76 years of her life as a Sister of Charity. That small girl was Catherine Anne Donovan, born on 2nd July, 1918, the ninth of twelve children born to John and Lucy Donovan of Cabariah on the Darling Downs. Catherine’s parents owned a dairy farm and she spoke often of the pride and joy she had in her family and the happy childhood she had with her siblings on the farm.

For her primary schooling, Catherine attended Highfields State Primary School and Geham State School for her secondary education. The school had a Domestic Science component in the 3rd year of high school, and in these classes Catherine learnt many domestic skills that served her well in later life.

After completing school, Catherine worked at home for some years before responding to what she believed was God’s invitation to religious life. She entered our Novitiate at Potts Point on 8th December, 1935. She chose St Tarcisius for her patron and became Sister M. Tarcisius. At the end of her Novitiate training she made her Profession of Vows on 24th August, 1938 then moved to Paddington to prepare for her ministry. Later on in life Sister Tarcisius, or ‘Tarcie’, as she was fondly called, would say: *“The happiest and proudest thing for me was to be a Sister of Charity.”*

For the next 45 years, Tarcie taught Infant Classes ~ seventeen years of short stays in our schools in New South Wales, seven years in Tasmania at Hobart and Kingston, nine years at Ashgrove and nine years at Coorparoo in Brisbane. In reflecting on her ministry at the time of her Golden Jubilee, Tarcie wrote: *‘Looking back now, my mission was preparing little children for their First Holy Communion. I have spent forty-five years teaching God’s little ones, I must say that I loved it.’*

In the first part of 1981 Tarcie travelled Overseas for a time of Renewal. On her return she spent time at Sacred Heart Hospice and St Vincent’s, Potts Point. Then in 1987 the good news came: she was posted to Toowoomba.

Joy overflowed for Tarcie and her family when she was sent to her home city, Toowoomba to minister in the Pastoral Care Department of St Vincent’s Hospital and later in St Vincent’s Outreach. Tarcie was very happy in this new work, visiting patients in hospital and people in their homes. She also spent much time in her garden with her lavender and roses and her Willy Wagtails and Magpies.

In 2012 the Sisters had to vacate the Convent in Toowoomba and Tarcie, with great sadness, made the decision, in June that year, to move to ‘Marycrest’ in Brisbane. After she had settled in, Tarcie became a loved member of that community and of the community of Sisters at Mt Olivet. She lived at Marycrest until she became ill and was admitted to the Mater Hospital a short time before she died peacefully on 22nd March, 2014.

Sr Tarcisius seems to be a true example of how grace builds on nature. Her loving family and happy childhood and her upbringing on the farm made Tarcie a young woman of great simplicity and her journey through religious life enhanced her childlike qualities of trust, kindness, delight in a little fun and laughter and that simple wisdom with which children often surprise us.

In the Words of Remembrance spoken at Tarcie’s Mass of Christian Burial in the Giovanni Chapel at Mt Olivet, a Sister who had lived with her for many years put it this way:

*“No matter how bad a situation, one conversation with Tarcie would have you convinced that you had done your best. She was there for every person, no issue too big or too insignificant. Knowing her, her sense of humour and love for people made her, for me a true Sister of Charity.”*



## Sister M. Grata Kelly

*“Behold the handmaid of the Lord.”*

*Mavis Kelly, one of five children, three girls and two boys, was born to Edward and Madeline Kelly in Bega. She was the youngest of the girls and followed her two older sisters into religious life in 1939. Sister Carmena had earlier entered the Sisters of Charity and Margery Cecilia became a Good Samaritan Sister.*

Following her profession in 1941 Grata taught music for the next twenty-five years at Darlinghurst, Katoomba and Paddington. She was an accomplished pianist, organist and loved singing. Her love of music continued as she combined it with classroom teaching in subsequent appointments to Cabramatta, Hurstville and Ashfield.

Her last two appointments prior to her retirement were to the community at Potts Point and then parish work at Hurstville. For the past fourteen years Grate suffered from poor health and prior to moving to Marian Nursing Home five years ago she lived for a time at Concord West, then at St Joseph’s Village Auburn.

Sister Grata Kelly died on 23rd March 2002 and her Requiem was celebrated by Father Bob McGruckin in St John’s Church Auburn on 27th March, in the presence of a large number of Sisters, relatives and friends.

Grata will be remembered as a woman of prayer, faithful to her motto *‘Behold the handmaid of the Lord’*. Her quick sense of humour often defused situations and her infectious laugh came from deep within, her whole body laughed. Many an amusing story is told of incidents involving the *‘Kelly Gang’* on holidays at their beloved Bega or at their brother’s holiday house at Bateman’s Bay.

Grata is enjoying the rewards of her labours in the vineyard of the Lord.



## *Sister Patricia Grantham*



*“Dominus Est ~ It is the Lord!”*

*Sister Patricia Grantham completed her secondary education at St Vincent’s College, Potts Point in 1959 and two years later, July, 1961 entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate, Wahroonga. Patricia was the first of two children, a girl and a boy, and was born in Gunnedah, rural NSW, in September 1942, to Thomas Leo and Marie Patricia Grantham.*

At her baptism, Patricia was named Patricia Anne. In the primary classes she was educated by the Sisters of Mercy in Gunnedah, and then went to St Vincent’s, Potts Point as a boarder, for her senior secondary education and Leaving Certificate.

In the novitiate Patricia took Mary de Lellis as her religious name but in later years changed back to Patricia. Having completed her novitiate training as a Sister of Charity, Patricia was professed on 25th January 1964 and sent, as a trainee nurse, to St Vincent’s Hospital, Darlinghurst to gain her Nursing Registration. Her first assignment was to St Vincent’s Hospital Lismore, for four years. It was during this time that Patricia’s parents were killed in a motor accident while returning home after visiting her, and it was later that same year that Patricia developed the first symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis ~ a disease she lived with for forty years without complaint.

In 1972 Patricia gained a Diploma of Nursing Administration from the Australian College of Nursing and in 1973 her Midwifery Certificate from St Vincent’s Maternity Hospital, Fitzroy. These studies prepared her for the leadership positions she was asked to fill during the next thirteen years, as Director of Nursing, at Auburn and Darlinghurst and as Administrator at Sacred Heart Hospice, on three occasions. While there in the early eighties, Patricia was much involved in the rebuilding of the Hospice, and in the effort to get Palliative Care recognised as a special ministry of the Sisters of Charity. She was particularly attentive to the development of the garden and to the patients having access to a view and fresh air.

For two years Patricia was a member of the Sisters of Charity Health Services Management Team and in 1991 was appointed to St Vincent’s Private Hospital as Chief Executive Officer. In 1995 Patricia enjoyed a Sabbatical year, visiting Ireland, Scotland, the Holy Land before spending six-months studying Applied Theology at the University of Berkeley, California Patricia enjoyed this year very much and was glad to be posted to Melbourne on her return to Australia. She relished her new ministry with our aged Sisters at Caritas Christi Hostel, Kew where she co-ordinated their care and supervised the closure of the Hostel and the moving of the Sisters to “Corpus Christi Aged Care” at Clayton.

Within the next year Patricia’s medical condition began to worsen and she herself became a resident at “Corpus Christi” Clayton. In many ways Patricia was a very private person and those who lived or worked with her knew her best by her calm, warm smile and her cheerful presence. Her brother, Tom and his family, were very dear to Patricia and for them she was a special sister aunt and friend. Patricia’s sense of humour, her use of understatement, her incredible memory and above all, her simple life and innate goodness are perhaps the special things about Patricia that most remember.

Patricia died at Kew on 27th March, 2009, as was said at her Mass ~ *“After a life full of grace.”*



## *Sister Kathleen Kennedy*

*“Not my will but Thine be done”*

*Kathleen was gentle and refined and in her youth, even shy and reserved, but was much loved by her students and worked tirelessly for their welfare.*

Sister Kathleen (S.M. Ignatia) was born in Moonee Ponds, in August 1923 and died, aged 88 years, in March 2012, having spent 69 years as a Sister of Charity. Catherine Anastasia was the fourth of five children born to Mary Frances Walsh and John Kennedy, an Irishman from County Cork. At Moonee Ponds and St Columba's, Essendon, Catherine was taught by the Sisters of Charity. She Matriculated in 1939 and, having decided that she was called to religious life, chose to enter the Sisters of Charity.

On 2nd February 1940, Catherine entered our Novitiate at Bethania Potts Point and made her first Profession of Vows on 27th August 1942, having chosen 'Ignatia' as her religious name. After leaving the Novitiate, Ignatia gained her Teacher Registration at St Vincent's Training College and began her teaching ministry at Sacred Heart School Darlinghurst, Sydney.

Two years later, she began Junior Secondary teaching at St John's Auburn, then St Vincent's, Potts Point. In 1951 she taught at St Joseph's, Hobart and after four years, began a twenty-year period in Victoria at St Columba's College, Essendon, Sancta Sophia College, Glenroy, (Deputy Principal) and CLC, Eltham. In 1975 she was appointed to Mt St Michael's College, Ashgrove where she was Superior of the Convent. During her years in Melbourne, while still teaching, Ignatia gained her BA degree from the University of Melbourne in 1971. In 1972, she did a School Administration Course and later in 1987 gained a certificate in Pastoral Care. During this time she changed back to her baptismal name, Kathleen (Catherine).

As a Language Teacher, especially of German, she was very successful and this was recognised by parents and students. In 1986, after 43 years in the classroom, Kathleen's ministry of teaching in schools concluded and she began a new ministry in the Sandy Bay Parish in Tasmania. Kathleen really shone as a pastoral worker. She prepared children to receive the sacraments, even enrolling in a calligraphy course at the age of 82, so that she could complete their certificates by hand. She visited the sick and elderly in their homes or in nursing homes, taking Holy Communion, praying with them while listening to their worries. Kathleen was never one for the limelight but did much behind the scenes.

Kathleen was skilful at arranging flowers. The finished products were exquisite. Kathleen was greatly loved by the people of Sandy Bay. They recognised a gentle, deeply spiritual woman with a beautiful smile and a quiet, unobtrusive manner, who always had time to listen to them or to help in any way. She was selfless and committed to bringing God's love into the lives of others. After 23 years Kathleen retired and she agreed to move to Melbourne where her two brothers lived. She joined the Mononia community in December 2009.

In September 2011 Kathleen moved to St Catherine's Aged Care Facility at Balwyn and died there on 29th March 2012. We will always remember Kathleen's beautiful, gentle smile, her quiet sense of humour, her love for people but above all, her faithful commitment to what she had promised God when she made her Vows 69 years ago.

## April



1			15 Osmond POPPENS	1962
2	Denis MAGUIRE	1947	16 Dympna BRUTON	1938
	Cleophas STANLEY	1950	Avelino WALSH	1970
	Michael FARRELL	1986	Annette HALL	2014
3	Aloysius SMITH	1928	17	
	Augusta BYRNE	1973		
	Placid NEED	1988	18 St Luke LAWLESS	1925
4	Bernard Joseph COFFEY	1963	19	
	Maria Genevieve BAHEN	1976		
	Anthony FENNESSY	1983	20 Mother M. Joseph O'BRIEN	1889
5	Maureen HICKEY	1949	Joseph COUNIHAN	1952
	Camillus HUMPHREYS	1956	21 Ignatius O'TOOLE	1938
	Therese COTTER	1966		
	Patrick GORMAN	1975	22 Irenaeus MILLET	1962
	Dorothy MAIN	1997	Mother M. Edmund DANIEL	1965
6	Stanislaus BYRNE	1864	Marie DOYLE	1989
	Ligouri QUINN	1932	Etienne McMAHON	1996
	Domitilla GALVIN	1937	Bernadette SHAND	2008
	Dara HIGGINS	1969	Honorata SCANLON	2014
7	Brigid SHANAHAN	1918	23 Columbiere WAIN	1957
	de Sales CLEARY	1950	Eustelle DUNNE	1967
8	Catherine DOYLE	1909	24	
	de Ricci COMYNS	1931		
	Xavier FEGAN	1954	25 Patricia NUNAN	2018
9	Dominic THOMAS	1995	26 Vincent HEFFERNAN	1949
10				
11	Stanislaus BARBER	1890	27 Vincent CARROLL	1908
	Patricia HAMILTON	1989	Gabriel HEANEY	1966
	Leonore MURPHY	2012	Helen YOUNG	1996
12	Eulalia HOOLEY	1920	Margaret COONEY	2015
	Malachy O'CONNOR	1929	28 Finbarr SULLIVAN	1922
	Luigi BECK	1950	Lawrence DWYER	1945
13	Mother M. John CAHILL	1864	Gertrude HEALY	1952
14			29 Nolasco MURPHY	1937
			David CLEMENTSON	1991
			30 Albeus NOLAN	1942
			John BLACK	1965





## Sister M. Leonore Murphy

*“To glory in the cross with Thee”*

*Leonore’s artistic talent and attention to detail was remarkable. It enabled her to produce beautiful water colours and oil paintings, or intricate candle artwork gifts for Baptisms, Jubilees or weddings.*

Sister M. Leonore had been a Sister of Charity for 73 years when she died on 11th April, 2012, aged 95 years. She was the last of the three Murphy sisters who had entered our Congregation. John Michael Murphy and Mabel Carew, both from rural Victoria, were the parents of eight children, three boys and five girls. The family was at Clifton Hill when Mabel Joan, the seventh child was born on 23rd December, 1916. She attended CLC, East Melbourne, for her primary schooling and Genazzano Convent, Kew, for her secondary education. She Matriculated in 1935. Mabel Joan decided that God was calling her to follow her two older sisters (Eulalia and Martha) by joining the Sisters of Charity.

On 2nd February, 1937 she entered our Novitiate at Bethania, Potts Point and made her first profession of Vows on 25th August 1939, having taken ‘Leonore’ as her religious name. It was soon found, that like her two sisters, Sister M. Leonore was very gifted.

Leonore trained as a teacher and became a talented educator. From 1956 until 1968, she was a valued Assistant and Lecturer at St Vincent’s Teacher Training College, Potts Point, for the newly professed sisters. At St Mary’s Cathedral School and later at St Francis School Paddington, she gave inspiring demonstration lessons. In 1956 Leonore did her second Infant Training Certificate with the Victorian Education Department, and in 1968, studied Diagnostic and Remedial Testing and Teaching and gained a Diploma from the Schonnel Institute at the University of Queensland. Leonore was always open to further learning.

She mastered Cuisenaire ~ a worldwide Mathematics innovation and was a trail blazer for the introduction of ‘Words in Colour’ ~ a Reading/Spelling innovation in Australia. In 1971, she conducted an Overseas Lecture Tour to Papua New Guinea, Thailand, the British Isles, New York and California on the study of *Words in Colour*. She was the author of several books on this topic.

Her calligraphy work was quite magnificent. Some of the cards Leonore made for sisters on special occasions remain among their treasured possessions. Leonore was an incredibly creative and gifted lady.

In later years Leonore took on part-time remedial education in schools at Strathmore, Kingston Beach and Eltham. Children, who would otherwise have ‘slipped through the cracks’, were taught to read and write through Leonore’s expertise, patience and dedication. At this time, it was a pleasure to be in community with Leonore. She had a great community spirit and her quick wit, ‘quirky’ sense of humour and expressive language, gave us many a laugh! When Leonore concluded her ministry at Our Lady’s Eltham, she became an assistant at the Currajeen Retreat house for two years, before she moved to Caritas Christi Hostel at Kew in 2000.

Leonore moved to Corpus Christi Aged Care Facility at Clayton in 2006. The staff came to love her quick wit, sense of humour and her constant expressions of gratitude. Leonore died on 11th April, 2012. Our memory of Sister Leonore will surely be of her giftedness and how generously she used her gifts, “impelled by the love of Christ”, to help others.



## Sister M. Annette Hall

*“Lord help me. Without you I can do nothing.”*

*Annette had been a Sister of Charity for fifty-eight years when she died at St. Joseph’s Village, Auburn on 16th April, 2014, aged 86 years.*

Patricia Emily was the second child born to Edward and Catherine Hall at Concord, Sydney on 22nd March, 1928. Her brother, John, the very dear companion of her childhood, died several years before Patricia. Patricia’s sister-in-law, Norma with whom she had worked before entering the convent and her children, became a very close family for Patricia.

Patricia attended St Mary’s, Concord for both her Primary and Secondary schooling, gaining her Intermediate Certificate in 1943 after which she left school. The Second World War was being fought at that time, so, as well as being employed as a comptometrist in the NSW Railways, Patricia took part in the War Effort by working in a factory making springs.

It was not until ten years after she had left school that Patricia decided that God was calling her to religious life. Having known the Sisters of Charity from her school days, she entered our Novitiate at Potts Point on 2nd July, 1953. During her novitiate training Patricia took the name of ‘Annette’ as her name in Religion. At the completion of her training she made her Profession of Vows and became a Sister of Charity.

Preparation for her ministry began. ‘Annie’ as she was affectionately called, was to become a Teacher, so she studied to gain her Teachers’ Registration and was sent to teach infant classes at Katoomba, then South Hurstville and Darlinghurst. The next sixteen years were spent in Primary classes at Lewisham, Aikenhead House (Hobart), Niddrie, (Vic), Concord and Katoomba where she was Principal. Sr Annette’s teaching was then interrupted by a year of Renewal at Assumption Institute, (Melbourne).

Being assigned to Caritas Christi Conference Centre at Wahroonga in 1979 was a perfect role for Annie. She was Superior and Coordinator of the Centre, and she loved the interaction with people and the hospitality that she was able to extend to visitors. Throughout her life, Annie scored top marks as a loyal and generous friend, keeping regular contact and never forgetting a birthday or any other significant celebration

in the lives of family and friends. It was with a heavy heart, that Annie had to face one of the biggest challenges of her religious life, when it was decided that Caritas Christi was to be closed and sold.

After the closure of Wahroonga, Annie was able to take on various administration positions in Primary schools beginning with the new Marion School at Horsley Park. For some time, she was Congregational Secretary, later she had a role in Pastoral Care for the Aged and her final ministry was at St Francis School, Paddington where she created lots of fun and laughter for staff and children during the ten years after she officially ‘retired’. Her one-day-a-week ministry entailed assisting in the Office. She would also do ‘the honours’ when Awards had to be given out. The children made her cards for her birthday, her feastday and any day she was away sick. Gradually, it was a real struggle for Annie to get about, but Thursday at Paddington with the children, pepped her up as nothing else could ~ except perhaps, a glass of ‘Baileys’!

While all find change difficult, for Sr Annette it was a real challenge. In many aspects she was a contradiction. The aging process and associated health issues proved particularly difficult for her and the fun loving Annie disappeared for a time. The final crunch came when she had to give up driving. Needing further care, Annie took up residence at St Joseph’s Village, Auburn in December 2012. She received constant and loving care but her good humour did not return. When she was moved into high care at Bethany, she became much more peaceful and accepting and to the joy of the Sisters, family and friends who visited her and the staff, Annie’s sense of humour returned.

Annie died peacefully surrounded by the Sisters. Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St John of God Church, Auburn. The Sisters, her family and friends will always remember her fun-loving and outgoing nature. Annie lived faithful to her commitment as a Sister of Charity for fifty eight years.



## Sister Mary Bernadette Shand

*“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.”*

*Mary-Clare Warner Shand was the youngest child of Charles Warner Shand and Clare Shand. She was born on 23 April 1925 in Brisbane, Queensland. She had two brothers, Francis and Cyril, now both deceased and a sister, Laura Warner Young.*

Mary-Clare entered the Sisters of Charity from her home parish of Wooloowin, Queensland on 2 July, 1944 making her first Profession on 25 January, 1947 and her Final Profession on 25 January, 1950 at St Vincent’s Convent, Potts Point.

Mary-Clare attended St Agatha’s Primary School at Clayfield and then Holy Cross School at Wooloowin. After that, she went to All Hallows in Brisbane for her secondary education and, having gained her Senior Certificate at the end of 1941, she left to begin work as a clerk.

Sister Mary Bernadette became an Infant Teacher, training with the Department of Education in Victoria, gaining her Teacher’s Registration and, later on, her Licentiate in Speech and Drama. In 1970, Bernadette gained her Diploma of Theology from Banyo Seminary in Brisbane and then in 1978 her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Queensland.

Bernadette had a long, varied and interesting life as a Sister of Charity. She was an Infant Mistress over a period of ten years in New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria and, when her health was not good, was a switch board operator at St Vincent’s Hospital for a year. She then served as Primary Principal at Potts Point, Ashgrove and Lewisham. Bernadette worked with VASCA for two years in 1979 and 1980 before moving into Pastoral Care Work for the next seven or so years before her retirement.

She was a long time member of the Mt Olivet Community at Kangaroo Point. During many years Bernadette’s health was not good but it improved when she was living in Marycrest and her Diamond Jubilee celebration in 2007 was a very happy occasion for her.

Bernadette had great connections with The Sisters of Charity. Her great aunt was Sister Agnes Fitzgerald who often assisted Mother M. Giovanni and so there was, for her, a great connection with Mt Olivet. Bernadette wrote a short tribute to the life and work of Sister Agnes entitled *“Melody in the Sun”*.

Bernadette was a dedicated teacher. While she was Principal at Mater Dei and in charge of the Year 7 Class, she taught speech before and after school. She particularly enjoyed her time as Principal at Mater Dei and at St Finbarr’s School. These positions gave her time with her beloved brother, Father Cyril and also her sister Laura and her family, particularly her three nephews and five nieces. The closeness developed over these years was evidenced in the presence of her family at her Golden and Diamond Jubilees, celebrated in the Giovanni Chapel and the presence of her family at her Requiem Mass.

Bernadette died, aged 79 years, on the 22nd April, 2008, just a day before her birthday. The Celebrants at her Requiem Mass were Reverend Fathers Brian Burke and Martin Arnold.



## Sister M. Honorata Scanlon

*“For Thy Sake, Jesus.”*

*Sister Honorata Scanlon, who was professed on 26th January 1939, was a Sister of Charity for seventy-five years. She died on 22nd April, 2014, aged 97 years.*

**K**athleen Mary Scanlon born on 1 February, 1917, was the fourth child of Denis and Mary Scanlon. Her seven siblings, two girls and four boys all predeceased her. The family lived in Hobart and Kathleen went to the local school, St Joseph's, in Molle St.

During her school years Kathleen spent the week days with her Grandmother and went back to her family at Moonah on Sundays. This continued throughout secondary school until she had completed her Intermediate Level in 1932. Kathleen then moved back to her family home and began work at Cadbury's in Claremont. Kathleen was fifteen, honest and hard-working, always ready with help when needed and her outgoing personality enabled her to make friends easily and endear herself to those with whom she worked.

For some years Kathleen had thought that God was calling her to Religious Life so, at nineteen, she asked to join the Sisters of Charity and came to our Novitiate, *'Bethania'* at Potts Point, on 19 June 1936 ~ a bold and trusting step from one who had to cross Bass Strait to do so! However, her long-time friend, Josie Cannell, was already there. They had met in Grade 2 and continued to be friends for the next eighty-eight years. Kathleen received the religious habit and new name on 25 January, 1937. She chose 'Honorata', meaning *'noble woman'* and it proved to be very apt.

After Profession, on 26 January, 1939, Sister Honorata was missioned to the Mother House as Portress. In those pre-intercom days it would have been a tiring occupation in such a big house and large Community, but Honorata did it graciously, as was her manner.

Meanwhile she had been studying. In 1938 she had passed the Nurses' Entrance exam, but it was not till 1947 that she began her nursing training at St Vincent's, Darlinghurst and in 1950 gained her Nurses' Registration. Honorata was then appointed to St Vincent's, Launceston to commence her nursing ministry.

Her next move was back to NSW where, for the next twenty-five years, Honnie, as we fondly called her, ministered at St Vincent's, Sydney in the Public and Private Hospitals, in Lismore as Matron & Superior, and at Potts Point at St Brigid's Nursing Home, as Matron and as Superior. In 1979 she returned to Launceston and, in 1980, began a ministry in Pastoral and Community Care until she retired in 2002. St Mary's Grange became Honnie's new home and she soon endeared herself to the residents there. Sadly, with the onset of dementia, she needed further care and moved to Mary Potter House, Taroona two years later.

We remember Honnie as big in stature and big of heart and a woman of great integrity whose first thoughts were always for the welfare of others and whose fine sense of humour helped her through many situations. These are some of the things we remember about Honnie and we loved and admired her for them, but still more we were grateful for and admired her for her long and faithful commitment to what she had promised God when she became a Sister of Charity.

Sister Honorata died peacefully with the Sisters and staff who had been caring for her at her bedside. Archbishop Adrian Doyle celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial.



## Sr Patricia Nunan



*“In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.”*

*With the news of Sr Patricia’s death, countless messages were sent to the Congregation with tributes about this remarkable woman whose life had had a positive impact on hundreds of others!*

As a teacher, she gave so much and mentored so many, remembering names of staff, students and parents and fondly recalling stories and connections. Her family treasured the genuine, passionate interest she had in their lives. Patricia always considered her family as *‘treasures’*.

Patricia Nunan (M. Vincentius) was born in Melbourne on 11 March 1936. Her parents, Vincent Morrison Nunan and Mary Catherine Murphy made their home in Moonee Ponds in the Essendon area. It was in those early days that the Essendon AFL team became the Nunan’s team too! Those of us who lived in community with Patricia remember the *‘celebrations’* led by Patricia throughout the convent when Essendon won a game!! When they lost, there was a certain silence throughout the house!

For her schooling, Patricia attended the local Catholic school and St Columba’s Essendon for secondary education, matriculating in 1953. The following year, Patricia entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate on 2 February 1954, and began her Novitiate on 5 August, receiving the name Vincentius but she reverted to her Baptismal name at a later date. She made her first profession on 16 August 1956 and at the time of her death, had been a Sister of Charity for sixty one years.

The first three years of Patricia’s teaching ministry were at Hurstville, Liverpool and Cabramatta as a Primary teacher. From 1959 until December 1964, she was based at St Mary’s Cathedral School (a Demonstration School for RSC beginning teachers with Sr Leonore) as an assistant teacher.

Her final posting in Sydney was as a Secondary teacher for one year at Bethlehem College Ashfield. In 1966 she returned to her Alma Mater ~ St Columba’s College Essendon ~ as a staff member for six years. In 1973, she moved to Glenroy and joined the staff of the new co-educational Geoghegan College Broadmeadows until December 1977, where she continued her unique interaction in the lives of her students and their families.

In 1978/79, Patricia was granted the opportunity of studying at Harvard University Boston USA. When she returned, Patricia embarked on bringing her teaching and leadership qualities to the role of Principal at Catholic Ladies College Eltham (1980-1986), Christ the King College (1987-Jun 1992) as Principal of the Junior Secondary section of the College and later as Principal at St Columba’s Essendon (Jul 1992-1999). She was innovative, an ideas woman and totally committed to preparing young women for both career and life. Patricia had a collegial approach to working with other religious Congregations, offering alternative forms of education and was a great mentor for other Principals. After a career of involvement with young people for over four decades, Patricia completed her term as Principal at the end of 1999.

Although Patricia worked on the Towards Healing response, and became a member of the Inaugural Board of St Columba’s College and later, the Board of Catholic Ladies College, she valued the chance to enjoy other *‘pastimes’* ~ especially the weekly game of golf, more time for the *‘Bombers’* and the joy of having four-legged friends ~ her Mum’s dog Jock and later Tess! She felt this contributed to the joy of living in her Unit at Moonee Ponds. In 2013, she officially *‘retired’* from her part time ministries as her health had begun to deteriorate and in 2016, after finding a home for Tess with her sister, Nola, Patricia made the difficult decision to move into care. She was gracious in knowing and accepting it was time and then living fully this new stage.

St Catherine’s Balwyn welcomed Patricia on 24 August 2016 and for the eighteen months she resided there, Patricia was grateful for the care and support she received and the welcome visits from family and friends, especially Nola and Tess!

Patricia died peacefully on 25 April 2018. She had truly lived life to the full and helped so many in The Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.



## Sister Margaret Cooney

*“Lord, thou knowest all things,  
thou knowest that I love thee.”*

*The Cooney family lived at Burwood, NSW and Winifred Margaret Cooney was born on 2 October, 1928.*

Margaret was the third of the five children of Thomas Vincent Cooney and Winifred Amelia Povey. Her two sisters and one brother predeceased her, while Anthony, her remaining sibling, was present at her Requiem Mass. Margaret attended Bethlehem College at Ashfield for both her Primary and Secondary education, completing her education in 1945 with the Leaving Certificate.

After finishing school, she worked for a short period as a clerical assistant. It would appear that Margaret gained her mathematical and administration skills from her father who was a retail store manager and her gifts enhanced her ability as a teacher in Mathematics and Business Studies.

During her years of schooling, the stirrings to become a Sister of Charity were beginning and on 2 July, 1946, Margaret entered the Novitiate at Bethania, making her First Profession on 25 January, 1949. She was given the name ‘Austina’. When the time came to change back to her Baptismal name ‘Winifred’, Margaret chose to use her middle name rather than Winifred ~ a secret she had concealed from everyone, even her family over the years!

Having gained her Teacher’s Registration, Margaret’s teaching ministry began as a Primary teacher at St Mary’s, Concord and then Sacred Heart School, Darlinghurst, however, it was felt that her teaching skills would be better suited to Secondary classes.

She was regarded by all as an excellent teacher of Geography, Business Principles, French and Mathematics. Margaret’s postings included St John’s, Auburn, St Mary’s Cathedral School, Mt St Michael’s, Ashgrove, St Mary’s, Liverpool, Mt St Mary’s, Katoomba, St Mary’s, Hurstville and Bethlehem College, Ashfield.

Memories were shared of Margaret’s justice and fairness in her dealings with students.

Sisters, who were former students of ‘Sr Austina’, recalled her teaching skills and the enthusiasm she had as a basketball coach. All acknowledged the organisational skills which Margaret showed as a key organiser of the Sisters of Charity Combined Sports. Many local ladies who were her students at Auburn, attended her Funeral. Margaret’s only interstate assignment was at Ashgrove, where it was said she brought ‘a breath of fresh air’ because of her youth and enthusiasm.

Margaret had a deep love for her family and the extended family of nieces and nephews. They, in turn, held her in high regard. She made time to be with them for special milestones. This was made a little easier because she was mostly based in Sydney.

Following her retirement from schools, Margaret moved to St Joseph’s Village, Auburn in 1995. The residents were pleased that she volunteered to be a Reader at Sunday Mass as she always read with clarity and confidence.

Throughout her life, Margaret had suffered many periods of chronic illness and yet those who had lived with Margaret in community, at those times, knew that she endured them with patience. Perhaps she was called on to live out her motto more in sickness than in health. It was in the last two years of her life, that Margaret’s health deteriorated further. She was moved to the High Care area at St Joseph’s Village.

After a long life of dedication, she died on 27 April, 2015, aged eighty-six. Margaret had been a Sister of Charity for sixty-six years of her life. Her Mass of Christian Burial was held at St John’s, Auburn and the Burial at Rookwood Cemetery.

*‘God rest you, Margaret, as you are now  
with the One who called you by name. You  
are very dear to Him.’*

## May



1	Albeus GLASHEEN Boniface MURPHY Veronica LYNCH Mary Margaret CUMMINS	1893 1934 1952 2004	16	Alphonse DALY Dominica MULCAHY	1936 1976
2	Augustine MARUM Agnes HALL	1853 1934	17	Baptista BROWNE Canisius BYRNE Celine MELLOR	1900 1902 1968
3	Loyola DONOVAN Fabre O'BRIEN Eugene BOURKE	1904 1950 1986	18	Teresa MAHER Thaddeus Shanahan	1889 1941
4	Coltilde TASSELL Ann CONWAY Felicia McCARTHY	1972 2004 2007	19		
5	John Baptist ROONEY	1961	20	Felix STEELE Rose Anne CROKE	1897 2020
6	Frances Therese O'CONNOR Rene DUFFY	1981 2004	21	Gonzales O'KEEFE Antoinette COPPI Vincent McHUGH Patricia Mary RYAN Marita SWEENEY	1958 1985 1990 2009 2018
7	Ineen BECKWITH Agnes Joseph MULQUINEY	1979 1989	22	Martina O'CALLAGHAN Cecilia BRUTON Monica GREEN	1928 1934 1995
8	Marianne ROPER Kathleen SHARPE	1958 1992	23	Ephrem KAIN Felicitas GRIFFITHS Loreto SCICLUNA	1953 1965 2007
9			24	Odilia MYERS Natalie PIKE	1934 2014
10	des Anges STANLEY Nonie REILLY	1948 1991	25	Canisius COUPE Dorothy MAHER	2003 2016
11	Josephine BYRNE Consuelo SULLIVAN Florence BAILEY Brigid RYAN Editha LEO Clare O'DONAGHOE	1949 1953 1970 1987 1992 2003	26	Michael BOURKE Bernadine CHATHAM	1942 1945
12	Clare DUNCAN Austin MADDEN	1918 1944	27	Lorenzo MURPHY St Gabriel POWER Margaret Mary MOORE	1981 1995 2003
13			28	Assisi KING Euphrasia CARR Gilbert STEWART	1947 1955 1977
14	Casimir BESTON Abban BRUTON Magdalen WALSH Gerardine BROWNE	1936 1953 1953 1985	29	Francis Jerome CONNELLAN de Chantal COSTELLO	1904 1935
15	Perpetua O'CONNOR Sebastian McIVOR Margaret SULLIVAN	1932 1935 1962	30	Brigidine DRAY Martin MAHONY	1965 1999
			31	Paul of the Cross CHRISTIAN	1941



## Sister Mary Margaret Cummins

*“Love is repaid by love alone.”*

*Margaret was the elder of two children born to Edward and Honora Cummins in Shepparton in 1914. Mary Margaret trained as a nurse and entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate on 2nd July 1947 taking the name Sister Lucy. She was professed in 1950.*

Sister Mary Margaret Cummins died on 1st May 2004 at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Melbourne, where she had been lovingly cared for with great respect and compassion for the last eleven months.

Following the singing of the opening hymn, ‘Gentle Woman’, Sister Laureen Dixon, acting Congregational Leader, in Sister Elizabeth Dodd’s absence in Rome, welcomed many Sisters of Charity along with staff and friends to the Mass of Christian Burial in Caritas Christi Convent Chapel, Kew. Many of those present had known Mary Margaret since she moved to Caritas in 1991. Sister Laureen said it was appropriate that the liturgy commenced with such a hymn as today they gathered to bid a final farewell to a truly gentle woman, one who served her God with great generosity, humility and gentleness.

Father L Leonard SJ celebrated the Mass of thanksgiving for the life of Mary Margaret.

Father Leonard in his homily made reference to Mary Margaret’s motto: ‘Love is repaid by love alone’, and how she had throughout her life of active ministry in health care, lived out that motto.

Mary Margaret’s selfless care of others particularly the elderly and the dying at Mount Olivet, Sacred Heart Hospice and Caritas Christi Hospice, had been a great example to all with whom she came in contact.

For a number of years Mary Margaret had suffered from near blindness, a condition that she accepted without complaint. Her carers and those associated with her noted her never failing words of appreciation of all that was done for her and her sense of gratitude for the smallest gesture.

Mary Margaret’s sister Ann predeceased her in October 2003. They had spent much time together, especially in recent years, and now both enjoy their eternal reward.





## Sister Ann Conway

*“For me, to live is Christ.”*

*Sister Ann died in Caritas Christi, Kew on Tuesday 4th May following an extended illness, spending her last four months firstly in St Vincent's Private Hospital before moving to Caritas in March. A large gathering of Sisters, family and friends joined Ann's Doreen community to celebrate Ann's life at a Mass of Christian Burial in Sacred Heart Church Kew on Friday 7th May.*

**F**ather Mick Mulcahy, a good friend and regular visitor to the Doreen community was principal celebrant. Jim Olson, Ann's nephew, delivered the Eulogy:

*“It is a good day as we gather here to celebrate Ann's life because her suffering is at an end. The family was always challenged by our distance from her in recent times but she was in marvellous hands with Margaret (Dwyer), Liz (Costigan) and Sr Jan Ryan (our cousin, a Good Shepherd Sister), the Charity Sisters in Melbourne and the Doreen community who were with her and supportive of her.*

*Ann Conway (Sister Marise in her early days) was 67 years young, born 3rd July 1936, the third daughter of William Thomas and Doris Sarah. They lived in Leinster Street, Paddington, next door to the Convent and across the road from St Francis, Paddington where Ann first went to school, then to St Vincent's, Potts Point where she was a boarder and top notch student ~ placed in the State in Leaving Certificate Modern and Ancient History.*

*Perhaps by osmosis given the geographic association, or the attraction of the charisma of Mary Aikenhead, she decided to join the Sisters of Charity at 18 on 2nd February 1955, following a year working as she promised for her father.*

*She was professed in August 1957. Her entering religious life was no retreat from the world to a cloistered life but an embracing of a life of love and service very much in the world.*

*The Sisters of Charity motto is “Caritas Christi Urget Nos” (The Love of Christ urges us) and it urged Ann to be an educator, administrator and boarding mistress, at St Mary's Katoomba (football with the boys!), careers advisor, catechist, director of institute, retreat director, sister, aunt, confidante and friend. Her list of ministries attests to this and only hints at the hundreds of lives to which she has made a difference.*

*Ann Conway was:*

- ~ Good humoured and vitally sincere.*
- ~ Interested in people.*
- ~ A feisty fighter for the proper role of women in the church.*
- ~ Competent, articulate, intelligent and creative.*
- ~ Totally caring and serving (for tender care of her sister, my mother, the family is eternally grateful).*
- ~ Courageous ~ given the diagnosis, she thought of her own mortality and faced the next step and was at peace ~ though she would have liked a few more years.”*



## Sister Felicia McCarthy

*“All for Jesus through Mary.”*

*Sister Felicia McCarthy was born on 20th December 1926, the only daughter of Sir Mortimer and Lady Linda McCarthy, and the sister of two older brothers, Bill and Frank. She died in Box Hill Hospital on the morning of 4th May 2007.*

Having been educated at CLC East Melbourne, Felicia entered the Sisters of Charity on 2nd February 1945. For many years, Felicia taught English at a number of secondary schools including CLC East Melbourne and Eltham, Sancta Sophia Glenroy, and Mount Carmel Hobart. When she retired from teaching, she learned Braille so that she could assist the students at St Paul's Home for the Blind. Her final active ministry was at *“The Stables”*, a support network for missionaries in Papua New Guinea.

A gifted pianist, Felicia would often entertain her sisters, family and friends, sometimes performing duets with her friend Marguerite Moloney who shared her musical talent and who entered religious life the same day as Felicia. Among her other creative talents, Felicia was a wonderful embroiderer; some of her altar cloths and lectern covers are used in those communities lucky enough to have inherited them.

Her Requiem Eucharist on Wednesday 9th May was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church Kew, in the presence of Felicia's nephews Sean, David and Brendan, their families, her niece Katrina, her sister-in-law Del, and cousins; many Sisters of Charity, friends, colleagues from St Paul's Home and from *“The Stables”*, friends and ex-students, and carers from Caritas Christi Kew and St Vincent de Paul Nursing Home Box Hill.

The principal celebrant Father Mal Crawford was assisted by Fathers Des Jenkins an old friend of the McCarthy family, and Kevin Penry SJ. In his homily, Father Mal spoke of Felicia's many talents as a musician, artist and teacher, a woman of *“spirit”* who, when her health led to her premature retirement from teaching, simply found new ways to serve, with compassion and gentle humour.

As well as the congregational singing, two special tributes to Felicia were included. At the Offertory, the organist played Thais' *“Meditation”*, which two days before her death, Felicia listened to with great enjoyment. In place of the more usual version of the prayers of final commendation, a magnificent recording was played of *In Paradisum* by Gabriel Fauré.

May Felicia now rest in peace in the eternal presence of the God to whom she gave her entire adult life and who was the constant source of her consolation and joy.



## Sister Mary Rene Duffy

*"Behold the handmaid of the Lord."*

*Sister Mary Rene was born Frances Margaret Duffy in Benalla on 13th April 1908, the only daughter and second child of John and Frances Duffy. Her father was a farmer in Yarrawonga. She entered the Sisters of Charity in January 1931 and was professed in August 1933.*

Rene died on 6th May 2004 at the Austin Hospital after surgery for a fractured hip. She had been cared for at the St Vincent de Paul Nursing Home since August 2003, following a number of falls at Caritas Christi Hostel. She still enjoyed her visits back to Caritas for special celebrations.

Rene spent more than 30 years of her life as a Sister of Charity in the service of God's people in Melbourne. She was appointed to Strathmore during the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's.

I think it was in Cork where the Sisters of Charity first gained the title, *"The Walking Nuns"*. I feel sure that each of us gathered for this celebration would agree that this is one daughter of Mary Aikenhead who truly and without question deserves the title, *The Walking Nun!* Just to contemplate the kilometres Rene walked around those streets would be a huge mathematical challenge. Then we would need to add her more than 40 years in school in Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania and other parts of Melbourne.

Rene's qualities were outstanding, but two of her trademarks were her smile and the twinkle in her eye.

I am sure that for her family these and so many of her other gifts will be missed but will live on in her spirit. We extend to you our deepest sympathy.

I feel sure that not one day of Rene's long life would have passed when her motto ~ *Behold the handmaid of the Lord* ~ would not have been uttered in prayer with faith, openness and abandonment to God. Her gracious responsiveness remains an example and an inspiration to us.

As we know, on Thursday night, our God who is life and resurrection invited this faithful and gentle handmaid to behold and share the glory for which she has been preparing during her long and fruitful life. Let our prayer be full of praise and thanksgiving this morning and with hearts alive with hope let us say to God ~ Behold Lord, your handmaid Rene!

Father Dominic de Giorgio, Parish Priest, was the main celebrant at Sister Rene's funeral Mass celebrated in St Vincent de Paul Church. Prior to the Mass, Father Dominic led the Rosary using the new Mysteries of Light and related each decade to Rene's life. In his homily he spoke of the Beatitudes as being the principles by which all Christians should live and how Rene's life was a true example of them being lived out in daily life in so many and varied ways.



## Sister M. Clare O'Donaghoe

*"Do not be afraid; it is I."*

*Clare entered the Sisters of Charity in June 1933. She was professed in 1936, and was sent to teach at Moonee Ponds in Melbourne.*

Teaching, especially English, was her great joy. Coming from a family of six girls and three boys (she was 6th in the family), it is probably not surprising that she understood and loved young people. There is no doubt that her favourite school was Bethlehem College, Ashfield, her own Alma Mater and a school where she taught on two occasions ~ the first one for eleven years. A number of girls she taught there became Sisters of Charity, and many of these are honouring her by taking part in this morning's Eucharist.

The present staff of Bethlehem have sent a message of condolence and, along with the students, are uniting with us in prayer this morning.

In her early 40's, Clare was called to serve the Congregation from 1955-1960 as a General Councillor under the leadership of Sister M. St Agnes Skewes. During this time she kept in touch with the classroom through teaching the Novices who were to become teachers. After her term of office was completed she returned to schools, first as Principal at St Michael's, Ashgrove in Brisbane, then to the classroom in various schools in Sydney until her retirement to Wahroonga.

Those who were taught by Clare, or who lived with her, have many stories. The spontaneous question from one ex-student was "*are you going to include an extract from 'Wind in the Willow'? or 'Merchant of Venice'?*" Obvious favourites! Another ex-student recalls with much hilarity a fundraising basketball game Clare organised between the students and a team of the Fathers Auxiliary ~ nicknamed Bedlam by Clare.

Many of us were present in the dining room at Wahroonga when Clare regaled us with her story of the worm ~ a tale which extended for about ten minutes, accompanied by wide eyes, many hand gestures and most amusing facial expressions. We laughed till we cried. She was a born storyteller! Her sense of fun enabled her to entertain others, but also to sustain her own spirit during the last years of her life when she became totally dependent on others for her care.

Sister Clare O'Donaghoe, in the 90th year of her age was a woman with a ready wit, a deep love of God, her family, the Congregation and the pupils she taught. Her beautiful smile endeared her to everyone, especially the staff at Lewisham Nursing Home with whom she was a favourite and to all who came to visit her.



## Sr Rose Anne Croke

*“Father, not my will but thine be done.”*

*Doreen Grace Croke was the ninth of the ten children of Mary Agnes Ryan and Patrick Croke born on 23 March 1920 and this year, celebrated her 100th Birthday!*

The family lived on a rural property in the district of Woodview near Casino in NSW as her father was a farmer and grazier. Doreen received her infants and primary education at the Woodview School ~ her form of ‘transport’ ~ her pony! Secondary schooling was at St Mary’s High School Casino where she completed the Leaving Certificate in 1937.

After finishing school and during the days of the Great Depression, Doreen spent four years working on the farm with her siblings (six sisters and three brothers). The girls did the milking while the boys did the heavier work on the farm. In 1941, Doreen left the farm and went to live with her sister Ellie at Dulwich Hill and got employment as a typist in the Public Service. During this time she learnt about the Sisters of Charity after she joined the Theresians and felt called to enter with them.

So, on 2 July 1950, Doreen entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of Charity and became a Novice on 4 January 1951. She was given the name ‘Rose Anne’ which she chose to keep throughout her life. She made her First Profession of vows on 5 January 1953. At the time of her death Rose Anne had been a Sister of Charity for sixty-seven years. Rose Anne was a much loved member of the congregation. She always showed a genuine interest in her dealings with others and had a remarkable memory for connecting with people. She had a ‘quirky’ sense of humour with the stories she told or the poems she wrote, creating much laughter in the community!

Although Rose Anne was a ‘self-taught’ piano player as a young girl, she was a gifted musician. She gave of her time to play at countless functions for schools and other groups and was the organist for many Church services and funerals. She gained academic degrees (A.Mus.A and T.Mus.A) in Piano, Violin, Music Teaching and Singing from the Conservatorium of Music in Sydney.

Throughout her religious life, she was a Music Teacher in schools at St Vincent’s College Potts Point, Hurstville, Concord West, Katoomba and Sth Auburn. Her only other ministry outside NSW was a year at Aikenhead House in Hobart where, unfortunately she contracted pneumonia and had to return to Sydney during 1959 to convalesce at Potts Point.

Over the years, Rose Anne would have taught hundreds of students to play a musical instrument. One student, Dominic Mouwad, began his lessons with Rose Anne as a small boy; he is now assistant organist at St Mary’s Cathedral. Dominic and his family, have been great friends over all those years, visiting her regularly and bringing her great joy. Another of her musician friends, John Gala, often joined Rose Anne in performing, right up to the recent past. Both took part at her funeral.

Fr Garry Reynolds sm, Rose Anne’s cousin, was chief celebrant at her Requiem Mass and in the homily spoke about the aptness of the readings (which Rose Anne had chosen!) He went on to say that while music had been significant to Rose Anne throughout her life, family connections and relationships had been even more significant. She had an amazing capacity to stay in touch. She built relationships with her God, her family and all the people she encountered. In one of her notebooks, daily messages like: *“Today’s Rosary is for ...”* is a typical example of Rose Anne’s remembrance of those dear to her.

In October 1998, Rose Anne retired from Music teaching and the following year moved into St Joseph’s Village, (now known as St Vincent’s Care Services), Auburn. She was happy in her new home and was appreciative of the care she received from the staff. She used her musical talent on many occasions to play the piano for the sing-a-long or for other gatherings. There was much rejoicing at her 100th Birthday celebration! Just after that time, Rose Anne’s health began to deteriorate. In the weeks before her death on 20 May 2020, our sisters and staff ‘kept watch’. She repeatedly expressed her gratitude to them and had earlier requested that at her funeral people wear something pink! Only a limited number could attend her funeral because of the COVID-19 pandemic but to oblige, all had a tinge of pink. After the Mass, as a guard of honour, staff lined Alice Street holding pink balloons as the hearse passed by them. Rose Anne would have been delighted!

*Rose Anne, we pray that as you were welcomed into Heaven, you heard this song by Frank Anderson: “Let there be music and let there be song, for the triumph that your life has been!”*



## Sister Patricia Mary Ryan

*“Consecrated for them in Truth.”*

*Sister Patricia Mary Ryan entered the Sisters of Charity in July 1950, trained as a nurse and for thirty-two years ministered in the nursing profession and later for six years worked in parish ministry. Patricia Mary died, aged 82, on 21st May 2009.*

Patricia Mary was born in Sydney on 16th December, 1926. Her parents, Leonard James Ryan and Constance Mary Lyons had two children, Patricia Constance Mary and her brother, Barry Leonard. The children received their primary schooling at St Brigid's Marrickville and Patricia Mary completed her secondary education at St Paul's, Dulwich Hill. Before entering the Sisters of Charity novitiate at Bethania, Potts Point in 1950, Patricia Mary worked as a clerk. At this time she also became a Theresian.

Having completed her novitiate training Patricia Mary was professed in January 1953 with the religious name of Mary Damien. Her first appointment was to St Vincent's College, Potts Point, where for three years, she cared for the junior boarders before being sent to St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba as a trainee nurse. Patricia Mary gained her Nursing Registration in 1960 and remained one more year in Toowoomba.

A move to St Vincent's, Lismore was the beginning of fourteen years as a Charge Sister at St Vincent's Fitzroy, Darlinghurst and Launceston. Patricia then had some time for study and gained a Certificate in Intensive Care Nursing, from St Vincent's Melbourne and later a Diploma in Ward Administration and a Diploma in Nursing Administration from the Australian College of Nursing. These studies prepared Patricia Mary for the next eight years as Director of Nursing, first at St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn for four years and then at St Vincent's, Darlinghurst, for the next four years. This was Patricia Mary's last assignment in her nursing ministry.

After a time of renewal at the Pacific Mission Institute, Turramurra, and later a visit to Ireland and the Holy Land, Patricia Mary worked in Parish Ministry for six years before declining health made it necessary for her to retire in April 2004.

When Patricia Mary's family, the Sisters, friends and colleagues gathered at the Vigil, the evening before her Mass and funeral, many stories were shared about the place Patricia Mary held in their lives. She was remembered as a loving aunt and cousin, the glue that kept the family together, the Scottish dancer, the caring nurse, the capable Director of Nursing, the generous community Sister, the parish worker, the friend of the poor. In fact, a person, no matter what the task, who put her whole heart into doing it thoroughly *'for the greater glory of God'*.

Patricia Mary was diagnosed with cancer in December 2008 and in her usual way set about preparing herself for whatever was ahead. She was cheerful and peaceful and lived at Concord West for the next four months, pleased to have the time to express her thanks for the happiness of her life as a Sister of Charity, to delight in the visits of her family, Sisters and friends, always thanking them for their love and care. When Patricia needed more care she was admitted to Concord Hospital and died there on 21st May, 2009.



## Sr Marita Sweeney

*“Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee.”*

*Maida Imelda Sweeney was the fifth of the six children of James Thomas Sweeney and Maida Monica Gorey. Maida’s father was a Geologist with the Tasmanian Forestry Department and with her mother, Maida and her sisters Mary, Loys, Teresa and brothers Francis and Bernard, formed a proud Tasmanian family.*

The strong, loving bond she had with her siblings and their families, continued throughout her life. Maida was born on 12 December 1919 in Zeehan, Tasmania and at the time of her death on 21 May 2018, she was in her ninety ninth year. Maida attended St Joseph’s school Hobart for Primary, Secondary and Commercial classes, completing her education in 1937.

On 2 February 1938, Marita and ten other women, entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate. One hundred years earlier, the first five Sisters of Charity had arrived from Ireland in 1838 to begin their ministry in Australia. This was indeed a very special day for Maida. At her Reception on 24 August, Maida was given the name ‘Marita’ ~ the name she retained throughout her religious life. Marita made her First Profession of vows on 26 August 1940 and at the time of her death, she had been a Sister of Charity for seventy seven years.

Who was this woman to us? She was gentle, softly spoken, had a beautiful face with eyes that showed great interest and love to whomever she spoke. Any conversation with Marita always included a “*How are you?*” and she was interested in whatever the response might be. And being a good listener and woman of integrity she could allow herself to be a confidant to many. She was trustworthy, sensitive and caring.

Marita began her Teacher Training and taught at schools in Sydney at Potts Point, Hurstville, Concord West and finally Katoomba before being posted to CLC East Melbourne in 1953 and from 1957-1971 to St Columba’s Essendon. Marita was well known for her love of children. From her memoirs written with the assistance of Sr Cathy Meese, Marita said that after she began teaching at St Vincent’s Potts Point as an Infants Teacher, she knew she had a great love for children and that she would love teaching Infants students.

In 1972, Marita had a memorable experience ~ being missioned to Bundi PNG for that year, to teach ‘the little ones’. Marita found it amazing

and so different from what she had left in Australia. The children were a joy to teach. When she returned from Bundi, she became the Superior at CLC Eltham for five years and then in January 1978, returned to NSW doing Pastoral Visitation at St Mary’s Leura.

From the beginning of 1979 until the end of May, Marita ministered at Stella Maris School Shellharbour. Then to her great delight, she enjoyed a marvellous overseas trip with her friend Sr Marie Joan Gough. This trip formed many beautiful memories that lasted throughout her life and she constantly expressed her gratitude for this wonderful opportunity. On her return, she resumed her ministry at Stella Maris until December 1980. Her final teaching ministry until December 1984 was in her beloved Tasmania at St Aloysius’ Kingston Beach.

Known for her gentleness, warmth and compassion and her prayerful attitude, Marita began a new ministry of Prayer Ministry and as an Assistant to Sr Margaret Laffan at Bethany Retreat House, formerly the Novitiate at Wahroonga until 1989. In 1990, she moved back to Melbourne to provide community Ministry in Strathmore, Forest Hill, and at Fitzroy in 23 Brunswick Street, then at Mononia. Her gentle and supportive ways were appreciated by sisters in the community and the numbers of visitors Marita welcomed to the places where she resided.

In Melbourne retired sisters were accommodated at Caritas Christi Hostel Kew but the Hostel section closed in 2008. As Marita had retired, she was among the first group of eight Sisters of Charity to move to a new facility ~ Corpus Christi Aged Care at Clayton in July 2008. She continued her kind and gentle ways of being a listening ear, especially to residents and of offering words of thanks and encouragement to staff. There would have been a great reunion of family and RSC friends when Marita went to her eternal reward, having lived her life loving God and God’s people!

*Rest now, Marita!*



## *Sister Loreto Scicluna*

*“All for thee, Jesus all for thee.”*

*Carmena Maria Scicluna was born on the 9th May, 1909 in Chelsea, Portsmouth, England. Her father, Anthony Scicluna, was a Maltese naval officer and her mother, Carmena Cunningham was born in Scotland. Loreto entered the Congregation in February, 1926 from her Parish in Rose Bay. She was professed on 10th November, 1928.*

**F**rom 1928 until 1935, Sister Loreto lived at Catholic Ladies College and taught the Infant Class at St John’s East Melbourne. From there she moved to Ashgrove before being appointed as the Infant Mistress at Auburn, then at Lewisham and Moonee Ponds. From 1952 to 1956, Loreto was the Principal at St Vincent de Paul, Strathmore. From 1957 to 1964, she taught the Infant Classes in Hobart and then East Melbourne before running the Canteen at Lewisham for five years.

In 1970, Loreto resumed teaching duties again and was appointed the Principal at Oak Park and then at Strathmore. In 1976 to 1987, she took on new roles as Administrative Assistant at Wahroonga and Home Duties at Auburn. In 1988 Loreto retired while in the Community at Lewisham, moving to St Joseph’s Village, Auburn in 1992. She later moved to St Joachim’s Aged Care Facility at Lidcombe where she was greatly loved.

Loreto was a gifted Infant Teacher and Infant Mistress. One Sister said:

*“Sister Loreto was a wonderful song and dance act. She played the piano, sang with the children and danced with them. They loved her and thought that she was great fun. At the same time, she taught them well and used her talents to help her to do this. She was also fairly perceptive about children. She seemed to have the ability to see right into them.”*

Loreto died, aged 98 years, on 23rd May, 2007 in the Palliative Care Unit of St Joseph’s Hospital. She had been in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity for 82 years.





## Sister Natalie Pike

*“Lord you know my heart; you know I am your friend.”*

*Sr Natalie Pike had been a Sister of Charity for seventy-one years when she died, at Auburn on 24th May, 2014, aged 91 years.*

Sr Natalie, born at Marrickville, NSW on 7th April, 1923, was the first of two children born to Harold and Eileen Pike. Her brother, named Harold after his father, predeceased her. She was Baptised Natalie Dolores.

The family had moved to Manly by the time the children were school age. They attended the local schools: St Mary's Primary and Stella Maris College. Having obtained her Intermediate Certificate, Natalie graduated from school in 1938 and began work as a Clerk in a retail store.

By 1940 she had decided that she wanted to commit her life to God as a Sister of Charity so she entered our Novitiate on 16th July, 1940. At that time, because of the war, the Novices were transferred to 'Villers Bret' a Guest house in Katoomba, so Natalie entered at 'Bethania', Potts Point but spent part of her Novitiate in Katoomba. While in the Novitiate she chose Sr Mary Colman as her religious name, but changed back to Natalie some years later. Natalie made her Profession of Vows on 28th January, 1943 and moved to Edgecliff to begin her teaching ministry.

For five years she taught Kindergarten children at Edgecliff, then taught Primary and Infant classes at Hurstville, Lewisham and Katoomba. Teaching was not Natalie's forte, so after a year's trial as a Nursing Aide she trained as a nurse ~ a profession to which she dedicated many years. She gained her Nurses' Registration and nursed at St Vincent's Fitzroy, Sacred Heart Hospice, Mt Olivet Community Services and St Joseph's, Auburn. In 1964 she gained a certificate in Geriatric Nursing and was the Matron of St Brigid's Nursing Home, Potts Point for a number of years. Natalie also gained Psychiatric Nursing Registration for which she trained in 1969 at the Parramatta Psychiatric Centre. Later she ministered at Caritas Centre at Darlinghurst. She then gained a certificate in Catholic Pastoral Care and used her skills as a valued member of the Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care team in Brisbane for a number of years.

Natalie's ministry was very varied and took her to many places. As a general nurse, she served on two occasions at St Vincent's Bathurst, at St Vincent's Darlinghurst and

Babworth House. She was five years working with St Vincent de Paul in Pastoral Care, four years in Toowoomba, seven years with Mt Olivet Community Services and ten years at Ashfield.

Handicrafts were of special interest to Natalie and she was skilled in a variety of crafts. She had a spinning wheel and a loom and belonged to a professional group highly skilled in these crafts. She was accomplished at sewing and embroidery and after retiring from nursing, used these talents as a member of the Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care (CPPC) and at 'Casa Venegas' with the St John of God Brothers where she ministered for ten years.

When Natalie could no longer work she retired and moved to St Joseph's Village. Throughout her life, Natalie had overcome many medical problems with the help of doctors, and as her health deteriorated, she found it difficult to accept that the doctors could not restore her energy and interest in life. The staff in the Hostel and nursing home at St Joseph's, were extremely patient as they tried to explain that medicine does not always hold the answer to better health. Natalie soon moved to 'Bethany' for high care and became much more at peace. When she died on 24th May, 2014 several sisters were with her in prayer. Natalie's Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St John of God Church, Auburn.

Sister Natalie lived among us in many communities of the Congregation for seventy-one years. Her death now causes us to think of her and reflect on the sister she was. Natalie, by nature, was devout ~ earnestly religious. She liked to attend Spiritual Conferences, faith sharing groups and when speaking with her, she would often share with you some spiritual thought she had heard or read. To be faithful to the commitment she had made to God and to love Him were what always mattered most. Natalie was gracious and kind to others especially to the patients she had chosen to care for in becoming a Psychiatric Nurse. Certainly, she was urged on by the love of Christ and we, her sisters and those to whom she ministered, have been enriched by the long years she spent with us. We thank you, Natalie. May you rest in peace.



## Sister M. Canisius Coupe

*“Strengthen me with a perfect spirit.”*

*Eileen Dorothy Coupe, only daughter of Robert Coupe and Maria O’Sullivan and sister to brothers Harry, Bob and Reg, was born in Charters Towers, Queensland and grew up in Clovelly Sydney.*

Eileen, Aunty Dorothy, Sr Canisius was affectionately known as “*Canis*” to members of the Congregation (and “*Dodo*”, I believe, to her school friends.) When I first joined the Community at Leura in the mid 90’s, I wondered how many sisters were in the Community as I answered phone calls for Dorothy, Eileen and Canisius!

Sister M Canisius Coupe, who died in St Mary’s Villa Concord on Saturday evening 25th May 2003, was 94 and in the 70th year of her entrance into religious life. Her Requiem Mass, attended by a large number of Sisters, family members and friends took place at St John’s Church, Auburn on Wednesday 28th May.

The chief celebrant was the Parish Priest, Father Ray Farrell and Rev. John McMillan, Chaplain at St Joseph’s Village, concelebrated and spoke briefly of Canisius’ reliability and integrity in passing on information. Once when he commented to her on this point, she said she had learnt early to listen rather than talk.

The coffin was brought into the chapel by the Sisters of the Medley Avenue Community, the Community to which Canisius had been attached since moving to the Village. Sister Elizabeth Dodds, Congregational Leader, welcomed all present to the celebration and extended her sympathy to the members of Canisius’ family. Various Sisters and members of Canisius’ family placed the pall and symbols on the coffin, including a copy of the newspaper, as she was an avid reader of the daily newspaper until her stroke about ten days before her death.

At seventeen and a half, she left her family to respond to the invitation to deepen her baptismal commitment as a Sister of Charity. Like many of us, the love of Christ urged, challenged and drove her to have “*no other choice*” than to be that love for all through her service to the poor. The words she chose as her motto were both a prayer and a source of inspiration: *‘Strengthen me with a perfect spirit’*. She had spirit and the life-giving sap from the vine flowed through her as she strived to become the living embodiment of this motto.



## Sister Dorothy Maher

*“To love as Christ loves.”*

*Dorothy Margaret Maher was born in Dandenong on 6 May, 1937, the only daughter of Margaret Harris and Joseph Maher, who was an Officer with Victorian Railways and sister of Brian and Kevin.*

Throughout her life she had a loving relationship with her two brothers and their families. After completing her Secondary Education with the Sisters of Mercy at Sacred Heart College, Ballarat, Dorothy graduated with degrees in Arts and Education from the University of Melbourne in 1962. For the next five years after graduation, she travelled overseas and taught in London for a time, and also taught at Catholic Ladies College, East Melbourne.

On 2 February, 1967, Dorothy entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate. She was given the name Sr. M. Paul Joseph but later reverted to her baptismal name. Her First Profession was made on 26 August, 1969 and then began a life of dedication with her characteristic modesty. On 27 August, 1994, Dorothy celebrated her Silver Jubilee. She had extraordinary commitment, love of the Congregation and a true missionary spirit, so frequently ‘on the move’, striving for excellence with a passion to serve the poor in a unique manner.

As a qualified teacher, Dorothy continued in this profession in her early appointments as a Sister of Charity. She was a part time Lecturer at Catholic Teachers’ Training College, North Sydney, a secondary teacher at St Vincent’s College Potts Point and later at CLC Eltham, Deputy Principal at St Mary’s Hurstville and Principal at Sancta Sophia Glenroy. Not only was she a gifted teacher, but a mentor and friend to colleagues and students.

From 1984, Dorothy’s ministry journey experienced significant change. She was appointed Assistant Novice Mistress and Mistress of Sisters in Temporary Commitment. She was elected to the General Council and assumed the duties of Assistant/Vicar to the Superior General for three years. In 1988, the Congregation appointed Regional Superiors for the various States and Dorothy became the Regional Superior for Victoria and Tasmania until 1990.

Dorothy continued studies and gained a Diploma in Theological Studies from Yarra Theological Union. She undertook overseas study and was awarded an Internship in Spiritual Direction from Mercy Centre, Burlingame, USA. From 1994 to 1998 Dorothy resumed her earlier ministry ~ Novice Director at the Novitiate in Medley Avenue, Liverpool, NSW. In all her undertakings, Dorothy gave generously of her time and efforts.

Another phase of Dorothy’s ministry began in 2004. This was, as she described, the ministry she really loved ~ spiritual direction. After spending so much of her religious life ‘on the move’, she could now enjoy more stability in her home city. Like Mary Aikenhead, she struggled with illness, which she bore with great courage and humility, as she continued with spiritual direction at the convent in Glenroy. Dorothy retired from formal ministry in 2009 and moved to the Convent at 88 Rowe Street, Fitzroy North and gradually reduced the number of directees but continued her ministry until January 2015, when her health severely deteriorated. She was no longer able to serve on Boards or offer spiritual direction. She had to let them go and she did.

Our sister, ‘Dot’, (as she was fondly called), will be remembered as a good and prayerful woman, a person of integrity who extended hospitality to all. Sisters of Charity, friends and family, especially her brothers and their families. They had accompanied her throughout her life and especially in her illness and were with her when she died at Caritas Christi Hospice on 25 May, 2016.

Mass of Christian Burial was offered on 31 May at John the Baptist Church, Clifton Hill and burial took place at Melbourne General Cemetery. May Dorothy’s example of living her motto ~ *To love as Christ loves* ~ be a constant inspiration to each of us to ‘love one another’ as we journey through life.



## *Sister Margaret Mary Moore*

*“Jesus, his heart, his will, his cross.”*

*Margaret Mary Moore made her profession as a Sister of Charity on 31st August 1946. Inspired by Mary Aikenhead, our Foundress and, I imagine her patron saint St Margaret Mary Alcoque, she responded to the stirring in her and like Jesus embraced God’s will with all its highs and lows, its joys and sufferings.*

She had trained as a teacher before joining the Congregation and taught in numerous primary schools, mainly in the Sydney area, before moving into the welfare ministry at the end of 1977. Having had her own share of suffering, Margaret Mary was keenly tuned to the suffering of others. She was interested in the lives of others and took special care of the lonely and the isolated, visiting many of these in their homes. There are many parishioners at Paddington who still remember her for her kindness to them.

It was at Paddington that I got to know Margaret Mary when I lived there with her for a short time in the late 1970’s. At that time her ministry was the ‘*Open Door*’, located at the back of the Parish hall. As its name implies it was a gathering place open to all who approached it. It was a place of hospitality where people came to share and seek comfort. Here Margaret Mary listened to people’s stories and directed them to services in the community that would enhance their lives. It was at ‘*Open Door*’ that she welcomed Gary Rhor, founder of the Australian Academy of Tai Chi and provided him with a space to begin teaching Tai Chi in Australia. Here too, many a senior citizen from the parish enjoyed this graceful practice under Gary’s tuition.

Margaret Mary’s last years of active ministry were in pastoral care at Sacred Heart Hospice where she conducted retreat days. She was later involved as a coordinator at the Catholic Information Centre and as an archivist at St Mary’s Cathedral.

In November 1991 Margaret Mary retired to St Joseph’s Village at Auburn where she remained till late last year when her health deteriorated and she moved to St Joseph’s Nursing Home at Lidcombe. A fiercely independent and tenacious woman, Margaret Mary struggled to maintain control of her life. Limited by poor eyesight and hearing she had to make many adjustments to cope with the ordinary things most of us take for granted.

As we reflect on Margaret Mary’s life as a Sister of Charity, we come today to pay tribute to her faithfulness and courage in the face of the Cross that she bore for so many years. We give thanks to her life and rejoice in the knowledge that will now see what no eye has seen, hear what no ear has heard as she meets her beloved face to face and hears the words:

*‘Come to Me...  
and I will give you rest.’*

## June



1	Ninian MURRAY	1964	17	Austin WILSON	1932
	Marie Sophie WERDER	1967		Patricia MURRAY	1949
	Antonia NEYLON	1968	<hr/>		
	Virginia WILKINSON	2020	18		
<hr/>					
2	Paula COLLINS	1934	19	Anselm FOLEY	1903
	Pietro MAURUS	1990		Eusebius QUINLAN	1947
	De Ricci BEEDON	2002		Barbara REECE	1967
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3	Patricia O'DONNELL	1984	20	St Rose GINTY	1948
<hr/>					
4	Elizabeth O'MEARA	1913		Bernice ELPHICK	2008
	Gonzaga CONSIDINE	1970	<hr/>		
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5	Germaine NOONAN	1947	21	Lucilla FITZGERALD	1969
<hr/>					
6	Leonard O'BEIRNE	1926		Hedwige BAGLEY	1971
	Helena MORIARTY	1931		Casilda PRICE	1992
	Evaristus SCHMID	1986		Constance BARRY	1998
<hr/>					
7	Eileen TERRILL	2002	22	Camillus LEE	1955
<hr/>					
8	Baptista O'CONNOR	1958	23	Lucy RYAN	1946
<hr/>					
9	Theodore KEATING	1965		Agnes Gertrude TOOHEY	1985
	Francis CONLAN	1966		St Therese KENT	1997
<hr/>					
10					
<hr/>					
11	Aquinas ROGERS	1948		Geraldine McGOWAN	2018
<hr/>					
12					
<hr/>					
13	Gabriel MOLONY	1928	24	Agnes SHORTAL	1899
<hr/>					
14	Wenceslaus HENNESSY	1939		Reparata CONRY	1933
<hr/>					
15	Josephine HANLEY	1961	25	Christina WELSFORD	1990
	Basil HYLAND	1986	<hr/>		
<hr/>					
16	Francis MAHER	1932	26	Eustace RAHILLY	1948
	St Pierre LYNCH	1940	<hr/>		
	Theophane COFFEY	1967	27	Cecily MULQUINEY	1995
	Agnētis LYNCH	1985	<hr/>		
	Patricia CARR	2003	28	Frances McGRATH	1941
<hr/>					
				Bonaventure CONNELL	1957
				Eucharīa McNAMARA	1964
				Joseph Magdalen BURKE	1983
<hr/>					
			29	Baptist ENNIS	1921
				Francesca HEALY	1980
<hr/>					
			30	Alacoque COFFEY	1964
				Fabian ELLIOTT	1998



## Sr M. Virginia Wilkinson

*“O Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
I place my trust in you.”*

*On 1 June 2020, there was deep sadness throughout the Congregation when the news of Virginia's death was announced. We understood she had had ongoing health problems and would need further care but no one expected her sudden death a few days after she had moved into St Vincent's Care Services at Bronte.*

In the Words of Remembrance, Sr Deirdre Hickey used this Scripture extract: *'This is how everyone will recognise that you are my disciples when they see the love you have for one another.'* John 14:35.

She also shared:

*'Virginia's life that we celebrate this morning was about LOVE. It was visible in her and through her and she was continually giving her love away!'*

The Wilkinson family welcomed Marie Evelyn on 21 December 1930 ~ the youngest daughter of Ellen Margaret Cloake and William Robert Wilkinson and loved sister of Jessica, Jack and Cecily. The family had settled in the Auburn Parish when Marie was in Primary grades and she got to know the Sisters of Charity at St John's School and again at Bethlehem College Ashfield during her Secondary schooling which she completed in 1946.

Marie felt called to Religious life and following her happy association with the Sisters of Charity during her school days, she entered the Novitiate at Bethania on 2 February 1947. She became a Novice on 22 August 1947 and was given the name Virginia. She was professed on 27 August 1949 and was so proud to be a Sister of Charity.

After Virginia received her Teacher's Registration, she began as a Primary school teacher/Infant Mistress at Cabramatta in 1950 and for the rest of her life in schools, she was Principal at the Primary Schools in Glenroy, Kingston Beach, Mt Pritchard, Shellharbour and Lewisham until December 1982. Everywhere she went, she was greatly loved and remembered for her whole-hearted service of others. At the time of her death, many tributes were received from our sisters, ex-staff, parents, students, Christian Brothers and friends. All spoke of the blessing it was to have known Virginia.

Family members knew Virginia as a wonderful and devoted daughter, sister, aunt, great aunt and great, great aunt to their large family. Despite various appointments away from Sydney, she continued to be an integral part of

their lives and when she returned to Sydney, was a constant presence at Weddings, Christenings, Christmas and Birthday celebrations and family funerals. Those in community with Virginia felt they knew each relative as Virginia 'kept us posted' with family news! When Virginia moved to her Paddington Unit in 2007, her relatives loved sharing Morning Tea with her on her veranda.

During 1983 Virginia had a time of Renewal at The Centre Randwick ~ Spirituality for Leadership ~ and for the next three years, assisted in the Novitiate at Auburn. Her final posting as Principal was the eight years she spent at St Canice's Katoomba concluding in December 1994.

She travelled to the USA in 1995 with her great friend Sr St Jude Doyle for a time of Sabbatical. When she returned in September 1995, she was appointed as Co-Ordinator of Caritas Christi Conference Centre Wahroonga (our former Novitiate building) until December 1998. Her final teaching ministry was at the Christian Brothers' School at St Mary's Cathedral where she was 'Teacher Support' for thirteen years.

Fr Paul Ghanem ofm had had a long association with Virginia and was the main celebrant at her funeral. He shared with us that Virginia was a remarkable person who had truly lived the seven corporal works of mercy. Last year 2019, it was Virginia's 70th anniversary of Profession and in his homily, Fr Paul shared that rather than the focus being on her, she wanted it to be a 'Thank You' to everyone who came, to express her gratitude to each one for their companionship to her throughout life. Surely, Virginia lived out an 8th work of mercy ~ To live in gratitude in the image of God in which we are made.

We echo the words of so many over these days ~

*'How fortunate were we to have known her.'*

Thank you, Virginia, for your love to us all during life. Remember us before our loving God now.



## *Sister M. de Ricci Beeden*

*“Be it done unto me according to thy word.”*

*Benedicta Agnes was born at Fitzroy, the fifth of six children to Helena and Henry Beeden on 14th October 1913.*

After finishing her Leaving Certificate at Catholic Ladies College she followed the footsteps of her sister, Veronica (Sister M Dorothy) and entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate on 24th May 1931 taking the name de Ricci when she was clothed. Sister de Ricci was professed on 13th January 1934.

Sister de Ricci was a respected infant and primary teacher in Melbourne where she taught from 1936 till her retirement in 1980. During those years she prepared many hundreds of children for their First Communion so it was fitting that she died on the feast of Corpus Christi. Many of her former students remained in contact with de Ricci and were present at her Requiem.

Following her retirement Sister de Ricci continued to live in community in Essendon until she moved to Caritas Christi Hostel in 1996.

For the past six years she was a resident at Villa Madonna Nursing home. She had regained her sight following cataract surgery some years ago and with the help of her hearing aid there wasn't too much that Sister de Ricci missed.

Sister de Ricci died on the 2nd June 2002 at Caritas Christi Hospice and Father Malcolm Crawford, who had known De Ricci and her sister, Sister Dorothy when they lived at Essendon and had been taught by their brothers, celebrated her funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Church Kew.

Sister de Ricci often worried about her younger sister, Mary, so that she would have been happy to welcome Mary who died ten days after her.



## *Sister Eileen Terrill*

*“I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine.”*

*Sister Eileen Terrill was born on 2nd August 1928, the fourth of ten children of Nell and Jack Terrill who had a successful farming property outside Rutherglen, in North-East Victoria. She was educated at the local Presentation convent followed by boarding at Melbourne’s Genazzano College.*

Sister Eileen Terrill who died on 7th June 2002 aged 73, was regarded by those who worked with her and were nursed by her as a kind, generous, warm-hearted and courageous nursing nun who showed the world the true meaning of Charity in her daily life. In February 2002 Sister Eileen was diagnosed with an aggressive form of Motor Neurone Disease. True to her strong character she met this final challenge with courageous acceptance and no complaints.

In July 1948, aged twenty years, Sister Eileen made the decision to join the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity in Sydney and was professed in January 1951. With characteristic single-mindedness and determination, she then embarked on her outstanding nursing career starting with four year’s training at St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney. Over the next eighteen years Eileen gained many post-graduate certificates and awards. These included a Midwifery Course, a Diploma in Ward and Department Management and a Cardiothoracic Nursing Certificate. In 1968, she received the honour of being admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing, Australia. Typical of her humble and self-effacing ways, not many, even within her family, knew of these outstanding achievements.

In 1955 she began nursing at St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne as Sister in Charge of

Surgical, Medical and Casualty Departments and later as Deputy Director of Nursing. In 1969 she returned to St Vincent’s, Sydney for the next eleven years as Nurse Educator of the Cardiothoracic nursing certificate course and then as Assistant Director of Nursing for the Cardiothoracic Unit. Her final posting was at Mount Olivet Hospital, Brisbane where she started the Palliative Home Care Department. Here she was appointed Superior of the Convent for three years and served for a time as Deputy Sister Administrator. Throughout her brilliant nursing career she gained wide recognition for her excellent level of patient care and her ability to build high staff morale.

Sister Eileen’s deep spirituality was often demonstrated in practical and non-judgmental ways. She welcomed changes in the Church after Vatican II. In keeping with her ever-inquiring mind, she was always seeking opportunities to deepen her knowledge and understanding of her faith. In 1978, she completed a three-year part-time Diploma in Christian Spirituality and in 1986 she completed a Diploma in Contemporary Theology and Religious Renewal.

A humble woman, Sister Eileen had a positive influence for goodness on all those privileged to know her. She excelled in every sphere ~ as a nursing nun, a sister, a daughter and an aunt.





## Sister Patricia Carr

*“Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to Holy Spirit through Mary.”*

*Pat was born in Wollongong in January 1931, the eldest of four, there being three girls and one boy in the family. Perhaps being the eldest taught her from her earliest years to be reliable and aware of the needs of others - qualities attested to by those who knew her well.*

After leaving school, Pat decided to make nursing her career, and, since the family had moved to Bathurst, she trained at St Vincent's Hospital there. Some time later she responded to the call to enter religious life, joining the Sisters of Charity on 2nd February 1956.

After profession, she was appointed to St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn, where she found herself in charge of a ward, and then to the Accident and Emergency Unit. Only a few weeks ago she was reflecting on the time and commented on how difficult she found those years. She had been trained at a small country hospital and discovered very quickly that she did not have all the skills the doctors expected. But, in typical fashion, she persevered in her role, learning as quickly as she could. It must have been with relief that she found herself appointed to Bathurst for a year!

Then it was off to Melbourne for the next 35 years. She loved her time at Caritas Christi, Kew, where she accepted the role of Tutor Sister. I could well imagine how thorough would have been the training she gave those young women.

When her increasing disabilities forced her to relinquish that task, she moved to the Outpatients at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. Sister Marie Bernadette shared with me some of her memories of Pat's work there.

*“She was just so lovely with people, taking an interest in them and doing what she could for them ~ including pushing people in wheelchairs, despite her own crippled hands.”*

The staff told Marie Bernadette they sometimes offered to do it for her but she would have none of that. Many of the Outpatients still ask about Sister Patricia, such an impression did she make by her obvious love for them. Several Sisters who worked with Pat, highlighted the tremendous love she had for people ~ and how that love was reciprocated. She was even described as a “*lame dog's friend*”. These Sisters also remarked on Pat's ability to form lasting friendships. One in particular recalled by them ~ a woman Pat befriended through a choir, and who in turn joined the Catholic Church.

When Pat could no longer walk to Outpatients, she assumed the role of hospitality at home ~ providing cups of tea and a friendly welcome to visitors. She was always delighted to be asked to do whatever lay in her power including keeping up-to-date a list of names, addresses and phone numbers of benefactors to the Hospital ~ no mean task. Then too began her apostolate of the telephone whereby she kept in touch with many friends.



## *Sister Mary Bernice Elphick*

*“All for Jesus through Mary and Joseph.”*

*Alice Nolan Elphick was born on 4 August, 1921, in Foster, South Gippsland, Victoria to Herbert and Sarah Elphick. Her father was a farmer and a railway engineer. Alice had three brothers and two sisters.*

In 1938, she completed her Leaving Certificate at University High School, Parkville, Victoria and then proceeded to undertake her General Nursing Training at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. At the completion of this time, she entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of Charity on 2 July, 1943 and was professed on 14 January, 1946.

Bernice was appointed as Ward Sister in 1946 at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney and then moved to St Vincent's, Launceston, Tasmania, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne and then St Vincent's Maternity Hospital in Melbourne where she completed her midwifery training. Her administrative ability was soon evident and she was appointed once again to Launceston, Tasmania from 1957-1962 as Mother Rectress. While there, she attended a post graduate course at the College of Nursing in St Kilda Road, Melbourne. She became a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing at this time. In 1963 she was sent to St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney as the Mother Rectress, managing the hospital as well as the Convent.

Sister Bernice achieved much at St Vincent's Campus including her interest in and assistance with the building of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research (1963), the rebuilding of St Vincent's Private Hospital (1977), the opening of St Vincent's Clinic, the brainchild of Dr John Roarty (1990), and the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (1994) after Victor Chang's tragic death in 1991.

In 2002, a fund raising rose for the Victor Chang Institute was named after Sister Bernice and her photograph with this rose was placed on the front of her Mass Booklet.

Sister Bernice was recognized not only within her Congregation and within the St Vincent's Campus. In the Queen's Birthday Honours List (1977) she was awarded an O.B.E. and then, when the new Australian Orders were introduced, an AM (1986). Not long before her death, Sister Bernice received the award of Officer of the Order of Australia (AC), the highest award given in Australia. All of Bernice's awards were for her service to health.

Sister Bernice was a faithful and gracious member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity. She was a woman of prayer with a generosity of spirit which extended to both the poor and the rich. She was dearly loved by the Sisters, her family and friends, the staff, her colleagues and the many benefactors of the hospitals served by the Sisters of Charity in Launceston, Sydney and Melbourne.

Sister Bernice retired in 1997 to the West Street Community, Darlinghurst and then later moved to St Joseph's Aged Care Facility, Kensington where she still exerted her caring influence. She died there on 20 June, 2008.



## Sr Geraldine McGowan

*“To love Thee Jesus and to make Thee loved.”*

*All those who knew and loved Geraldine believe she lived her motto to the fullest. Geraldine Mary McGowan was the eldest child of Thomas Gerald McGowan, a clerk in the Military Forces and Catherine Joyce Leach.*

She had nine brothers and sisters ~ Deirdre and Anthony (who predeceased her) and Leo, Judith, Christopher, Susan, Gregory, Mark, and Gerard. Family continued to be very special for Geraldine throughout her life. She was born at Haberfield NSW on 18 October 1935 and when she died on 23 June 2018, she was eighty two years old. Her early education was at St Anne's Bondi then St John's Auburn when the family lived in North Auburn and claimed St Stanislaus' Church Silverwater as their Parish. She later attended Bethlehem College for her secondary education until 1951. It was in the family home that Geraldine's faith was shaped and nurtured.

When Geraldine made the decision to enter the Sisters of Charity, it was her parents' faith that was tested. Geraldine had been a great support to them, assisting with her younger siblings. She would be dearly missed by all but being people of faith, they accepted Geraldine's decision and supported her in her vocation. On 2 July 1952, Geraldine entered the Novitiate at Bethania and then moved to the new building in Wahroonga to begin her Novitiate on 5 January 1953. She received the name 'Barbara' but changed back to her Baptismal name at a later date. On 6 January 1955 she made her First Profession.

From 1952 to December 1971 Geraldine was in ministry as an Infants and Primary school teacher, having gained her Teacher Registration and upgraded her qualifications. She worked in Sydney (1952-1960; 1967-1971) at Elizabeth Bay, Potts Point, South Hurstville, Lewisham and Hurstville; in Melbourne (1961-1965) at Carlton, East Melbourne and Niddrie; in Tasmania (1966) at Kingston Beach. As a teacher, Geraldine took a keen interest not only in her students' academic work but in their welfare, liaising with parents and doing all she could to support them.

In January 1972, she began a new ministry in the Green Valley/Mt Pritchard area on the Motor Mission. As was mentioned in the Eulogy ~ *“This ministry brought Geraldine into contact with not only hundreds of students in State Schools but their parents also. Geraldine was a people person. She loved people and people loved her. She gave her time unreservedly to*

*everyone, visiting them in their homes or if sick, in hospital.”* Geraldine continued her Motor Mission ministry from 1979 until December 1989 at the Parishes of Moorebank and then Leura. Fr Gerard Kelly reflected from his days at Moorebank ~ *“I watched as she taught the children and prepared them for the sacraments. I watched as she believed in all the people she met and gave them hope and confidence. She built people up. People stayed in touch with one another and supported each other as life took its course.”*

During 1990, she became the Hostel-carer at St Vincent's Convent Potts Point before continuing as C.C.D. Coordinator in the Rose Bay, Bondi, Waverley areas from 1991. In 1995, she took a time of Renewal at Castle Hill for four months, before beginning a new ministry as Parish Associate in the Rose Bay Parish until December 2002 and then a Pastoral Ministry at Carnes Hill for two years.

Life took a different course for Geraldine when she was diagnosed with cancer. Over a number of years, she had chemotherapy treatment and endured sickness and pain. Despite her illness, she still wanted to help people so as well as being a listening ear for those around her, she began a small but valued ministry at the Sisters of Charity Outreach office at Darlinghurst in January 2005, and began sending out 'thank you' letters to the benefactors of Outreach. Geraldine's presence at St Vincent's was greatly appreciated.

Gradually, Geraldine's illness returned and she needed to go into care. Fortunately, a place was found for her at the Little Sisters of the Poor at Randwick on 22 February 2013. For a time, some better health returned and once again she was able to reach out to others to 'lift them up and give them comfort' by her friendly and accepting manner and through the Christian Meditation groups she set up. In the last days of her life, Sisters, family and friends kept Vigil with her. She died peacefully on 23 June 2018. We are proud of our sister Geraldine ~

*‘a beloved disciple attuned to the heartbeat of God and God's people.’*

## July



1	Lucy TEELING Venantius CAIRD	1919 1936	17	Theresa GANNON John RYAN Flavia METHERELL Romuald O'DWYER Melita O'FARRELL Melania VINEY	1874 1919 1947 1950 1961 1994
2	Eustelle BROWN Adrian FISH Evin LYNCH Solanus ST JULIEN Marie Therese HOWARD Eleanor MACRIS	1913 1926 1940 1947 1995 2012	18	Joseph CHISHOLM Evangelista CARTY Loyola HAYES	1901 1943 1968
3	de Chantal KELLY Aidan LARNER Maria Joseph HERAGHTY	1921 1959 1992	19	Borgia HARVEY Theresia BRENNAN Mary RYAN	1926 1971 2003
4	Pascal NOBLE	1954	20	Catherine LEAHY de Sales KEARNEY Benedict Joseph HANSCOMBE Eileen Frances LALOR Maria Therese HESS	1898 1937 1951 1994 2016
5	Marie Joan GOUGH Zita CLOONAN	1998 1999	21	Alban ROPER St Gregory MAGUIRE	1962 2001
6	Venard MULCAHY	1967	22	Philomena HOSIER Arsenius KERIN Sarto PEARDON Joyce Mary BUCKMAN	1925 1959 1993 2011
7	Thecla O'BRIEN Inez O'SHEA Elsbeth SMITH	1930 1966 2003	23	Rosalia PUCKERIDGE	2001
8	Pietro KEANE Majella O'SHEA Conrad DIREEN Baptist WHYTE	1928 1946 1980 1992	24		
9	Cephas THORN Elizabeth REARDON Eileen KEAN	1960 1999 2011	25	Oliver DUNPHY Dorothy McNAMARA	1974 1991
10	Basil RYAN Mary of the Cross FENTON	1923 1966	26	Gonzales CAMERON Lidwina FOURTER Eunice McGRATH Seraphim FLEMING	1908 1926 1945 1974
11	Rodriquez JONES Raymond McEVOY Malachy GANNON Blandina MASON	1930 1958 1970 1979	27	Dionysius EDWARDS	1962
12	Benignus REDMOND Barbara MORRIS Amadeus PAINE Elizabeth DWYER	1912 1944 1995 2016	28	Gertrude KEAN Pauline BARBER Beatrice KENNEALY	1928 1953 1963
13	Guisseppi CADE Aelred McENTYRE	1963 1978	29	Ignace CLARKE Joachim BURNS Patricia (Trish) SHINNERS	1976 1981 2017
14	de Chantal PINE	1912	30	Aloysius SMITH Bonaventure LAFFERTY	1883 1906
15			31		
16	Finnian McMAHON	2002			



## *Sister M. Eleanor Macris OAM*

*“Christ is my life”*

*Throughout her life Eleanor always wore her religious habit, believing it better identified her as having given her life to God. “Christ is my life” was her motto and she lived her long life as a Sister of Charity as whole-heartedly as she did everything else.*

Sister Eleanor (Elizabeth) Macris entered our Novitiate on 2nd July, 1941 and died at St Joseph’s Village Auburn on 2nd July, 2012, the 71st anniversary of her entrance into religious life. She was born in Sydney on 18th December, 1923. Her father, Con, was Greek, her mother, Helena, Irish. Elizabeth was the fifth and youngest child of a loving family. Her parents were proprietors of a café in Park Street, Sydney and the family lived in the flat above. Helena had a beautiful singing voice and her children Dessie, George, Eve, John and Elizabeth, inherited her love of singing and music.

With her siblings, Elizabeth attended St Mary’s Cathedral School where the Sisters of Charity and Christian Brothers shared the school premises. Most Sunday mornings, Elizabeth and other pupils from St Mary’s (including Sr M. Philippine Humphreys who was also a pupil) would sing at all three morning Masses in the Cathedral. Sr Rose Souter heard Elizabeth singing at the Cathedral and recognised her exceptional talent. Sister Rose arranged for the young Elizabeth to have singing lessons with Sr M. Paul of the Cross Christian, who also gave lessons to Nellie Melba.

Elizabeth graduated from school in 1939 having completed the Commercial Studies Course and began work as an Office Machinist. Two years later, she decided to become a Sister of Charity and entered the Novitiate at Bethania on 2nd July, 1941, being professed on 29th January, 1944 with ‘Eleanor’ as her religious name. Eleanor first gained her Teacher’s Registration and Senior Certificate at Potts Point. She began teaching Primary classes at St Vincent’s College and taught singing.

For the next 15 years, she taught in our primary schools in Sydney and was then moved to St Columba’s, Essendon, and then to Strathmore, where for 11 years Eleanor was Superior of the new convent and Principal of the school.

Eleanor studied singing at the Conservatorium of Music in Victoria and Sydney, gaining all the qualifications (FTCL) for teaching singing and music. Eleanor taught briefly at Mt St Mary’s, Katoomba and St Mary’s, Liverpool, before establishing her Music Centre at Sacred Heart, Darlinghurst in 1974.

For the next 35 years, she travelled regularly to Liverpool to teach singing and music. It was at Liverpool that Eleanor established a children’s choir, the *Caritas Singers*, a group very dear to her heart. This choir performed in Sydney on a regular basis but also Eleanor, with her faithful accompanist Eileen Hannon, took the choir to Wales to participate in annual eisteddfods and they seldom came home without a prize. Eleanor herself was also the recipient of many awards including an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for ‘Service to the Community’ in 1982.

Eleanor also served at Darlinghurst Parish where every weekend, over almost 30 years, she went to Sacred Heart Church to assist with the preparation for Masses and to lead the singing. At the beginning of 2012, Eleanor moved to St Joseph’s Village, Auburn until her peaceful death on Monday 2nd July. This tribute to Eleanor, and there were many, at the time of her death, is especially apt:

*“... strong yet gentle, strict yet yielding, loving... always.”*



## Sister Elspeth Smith

*“Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in you.”*

*Sister Elspeth, born Anne Catherine on 2nd April 1917, known as Elsie to her religious family and Aunt Nancy to the Smith Family, died on July 7th 2003 at St Vincent's Private Hospital in Melbourne after a fall in her room at Caritas Christi Hostel. She had lived at Caritas since 1994, after retiring from Pastoral Visitation in the Essendon area.*

As a Sister of Charity she had a long and impressive teaching career, spending 35 years at East Melbourne followed by time at St Theresa's Essendon.

Sr Elspeth enjoyed her days in the classroom both in NSW and Victoria where she taught many primary students. She was always pleased to meet her ex-students at functions and celebrations over the past years and enjoyed being able to say *“I taught her (or him) at St Theresa's or St Columba's”*. Many Sisters remembered Elspeth in the classroom with affection and realize that she taught them well.

Elspeth did not always enjoy good health, but in the weeks before she died she was well and happy and enjoyed outings with carers and volunteers. Those of us who lived with Elspeth or visited her in recent weeks are left with this memory of her. Sisters Patricia Walker and Patricia Grantham sat with her as she waited to go into surgery ~ not a word of complaint about the pain, the delay in surgery or her current situation, to the contrary Elspeth chatted away to the point that they had to leave her so that she would rest.

These Sisters considered it a privilege to be with her. Unfortunately her general well-being was unable to handle the trauma of the fall and the surgery.

Elspeth was buried from Sacred Heart Church, Kew on 11th July where Father M Crawford celebrated the Funeral Mass. Father Crawford knew Elspeth when she was at St Columba's and he often visited her at the hostel so was able to speak of her faithfulness to her prayer and Eucharist. He spoke of her enjoying her eternal reward, going to the Father to whom she prayed so often. We believe Elspeth is enjoying her reward for her sixty-seven years of faithful service to the Lord.

The Smith family were well represented at the Vigil on the 10th at the Hostel, participated in the Liturgy of the Eucharist and were at the wake afterwards at the Hostel.

May Elspeth rest in peace.



## Sister Eileen Kean



*“Jesus with me”*

*Sister Eileen Kean died on the 9th July, 2011 aged 94 and having spent 73 years as a Sister of Charity.*

When remembering Sister Eileen Kean quite likely our first image will be of a very diminutive woman with a strong, direct personality. Speaking the *Words of Remembrance* at Eileen’s Mass of Christian Burial, Paul Murphy claimed that Eileen, his aunt, had inherited her frankness, common-sense, can-do attitude and her gift for friendship from her mother. Eileen’s friends, her students and Sisters who lived with her, would agree that these were obvious qualities in Eileen’s personality.

Eileen, the fourth of eight children of Catherine Flynn and Thomas Kean, was born on 19th June, 1917 at Millthorpe in rural NSW. Eileen began school at Millthorpe then, when the family moved to Dulwich Hill, continued her primary schooling at St Thomas’ Lewisham. From there she went to Bethlehem College at Ashfield and graduated with her Leaving Certificate in 1934.

Having been taught by our Sisters at both St Thomas’ and Bethlehem, it is not surprising that when feeling God’s call to religious life, Eileen thought of the Sisters of Charity. Six months after leaving school, Eileen set aside the pleas of both parents and entered the novitiate at ‘Bethania’ in June 1935. Eileen chose ‘Gervase’ as her religious name and was known as Sister M. Gervase until it became optional for the Sisters, if they wished, to use their baptismal names. Eileen made her Profession of Vows on 24th January, 1938. Then, having completed her teacher training and gained her Teacher Registration, Eileen was sent to Concord West to begin her ministry in the classroom, where she had a long and very committed ministry. She taught, firstly in the primary classes as Potts Point, St Mary’s Cathedral and St Finbarr’s Ashgrove, and

for thirty-six years between 1942 and 1982, in secondary schools at Auburn, Edgecliff, Concord, Hurstville, Sandy Bay (Tas) and Liverpool.

During these years Eileen, as a part-time student, obtained in 1964, a Diploma of Theology and in 1967 a Certificate in Physics and Chemistry. Then as a full time student (1972-73) at the University of New England, Armidale, Eileen completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Masters Degree in Educational Administration. Following this time Eileen was sent once again to Sandy Bay where she ministered for nine years as Principal of Mt Carmel College. This, the last assignment in Eileen’s teaching time in Tasmania, always remained a memory that she cherished dearly.

The opportunity for an overseas trip at this time enabled her to visit Ireland, Rome and some European countries. In 1984 Eileen was appointed to the position of Congregational Bursar. Then, from 1989 till her retirement from active ministry, Eileen held the positions of Community Superior and Finance Assistant in the Office at St Vincent’s Hospital, and from 1997-2003 was Secretary of the N.S.W. Professional Standards Office. After her long and varied life in active ministry, Eileen lived her years of retirement at Dulwich Hill where her much loved family, the Sisters, her friends, ex-students and neighbours always found a warm welcome when they called to visit her.

Eileen died peacefully at Dulwich Hill during the night of 9th July, and her Mass of Christian Burial took place at St John of God Church, Auburn on 15th July, after which she was buried with our other much loved and respected Sisters, at Rookwood Cemetery. May she rest in peace.



## Sister Elizabeth Dwyer

*“To Jesus through Mary.”*

*Elizabeth Mary Dwyer was born on 12 November, 1927, the second eldest child of Mary Josephine Healy and William Maurice Dwyer. Her other siblings were Maurice, Bill (who became a Jesuit priest and has remained in India), and her two sisters, Margaret (also a Sister of Charity) and Mary.*

The Dwyer family lived in the Moonee Ponds/Essendon area where the Sisters of Charity had established schools. In 2013, Elizabeth or *Liz* as she was fondly called, wrote a short story of her spiritual journey which told of the significant influence the sisters had in her discernment of a religious vocation.

So on 2 February, 1946, Liz entered the Novitiate. She was given the name *John Bosco* but later resumed her baptismal name. She was professed on 7 August, 1948. Liz recalled that her preference for a ministry was nursing, but she was asked to train as a teacher! She gave it her all and throughout her life, Liz was not only teacher and Principal, but confidant and wise counsellor. All who experienced her as an educator rejoiced that she was guided to teaching! Wherever Liz ministered, she had a gentle care of staff and students and was diligent in keeping in touch with ex-students.

Her teaching ministry began at Lewisham, Potts Point and Hurstville, then at St John's and CLC, East Melbourne. In 1964 she was posted to Sandy Bay, Tasmania. During that time she took on the role of Superior and Principal of the College until 1974 when she returned to Melbourne to be Superior at Glenroy and on the staff at Sancta Sophia College. In 1977, a new ministry began for Liz ~ she became the Assistant to the Novice Mistress. The qualities she had brought to her education ministry made her a good choice to walk with the young women who had entered the Sisters of Charity.

Liz kept up to date with new technology and had good computer skills. For a time, she served in the Congregational Office in Administration and became the Executive Secretary for the Conference of Religious Leaders in Australia. Her final official ministry was in Administration as well as support for staff and students at St Columba's College, Essendon. As always, she was interested in the people with whom she associated and constantly offered support. Liz was a *‘people person’*!

First and foremost, Liz had a special affinity with her family. She was so proud of each one ~ Maurice and Mary and their families, Bill and Margaret. When they gathered for family celebrations, Liz treasured these opportunities. Each family member felt loved and supported by Liz, too.

When Liz moved into an independent living unit at Mercy Place, Parkville in 2009, she continued her ministry at St Columba's until she *‘retired’*. In 2014, she moved into Hostel Care at Mercy Place and in her own words said:

*“I love being a presence at Mercy Place. I visit the people in high care, meet family members, walk with people to Mass who need help walking to the Chapel. I am unable to sit for long, owing to back problems so I walk around in the garden. God's presence is always with me.”*

This *‘ministry of presence’* was greatly appreciated by staff and residents at Mercy Place.

In early July, Liz went to St Vincent's Hospital for some tests but she was not to return to Mercy Place. She had a cerebral haemorrhage on 5 July. Family and Sisters kept vigil with her until she died on 12 July. Sisters Clare Nolan and Colleen Mills had visited her that afternoon, perhaps giving Liz *‘permission’* to continue her journey of life in Heaven.

Many gathered at St Therese's, Essendon for the Mass of Christian Burial for Liz's faithful life of love for God and others. Because of ill health, Bill and Margaret were unable to attend Liz's funeral. Margaret died just six weeks later. Liz was buried at the Melbourne General Cemetery. We conclude with the words of Macrina Wiederkehr:

*There is really no death for those caught up in God, only a moment of passing over, a moment of folding up your tent.... we praise a woman who had the vision to let go. We praise a God who had the love to ask her to let go.*





## *Sister M. Finnian McMahon*

*“Doing all things to the Glory of God.”*

*Sister Finnian was born Agnes McMahon in Kilnaboy, County Clare Ireland on 9th November 1908. Her parents were farmers and she was one of eight children. She was educated first at the local school at Tubber and later at the Convent of Mercy Ennis.*

The name Finnian means *‘diligent one’* and as Sr Leone Wittmack said in her Eulogy at Sr Finnian’s Mass of Christian Burial, it is linked to Psalm 119:

*‘Blessed are those who keep  
His testimonies and who seek  
Him with their whole heart.’*

It was therefore appropriate that on her Clothing Day as a Sister of Charity, Agnes McMahon was given the name Finnian and that she chose the motto *‘Doing all things to the Glory of God’*. She lived her 68 years as a religious diligently and faithful to that motto.

Prior to coming to Australia she had begun her nursing career in England, gaining her Preliminary State Certificate for England and Wales. Having been told by an Aunt there were plenty of nursing jobs available in Australia she came to Sydney at the age of 22 and completed her Nurses Education Certificate for New South Wales. A short time later she entered the Sisters of Charity and was professed on 21st August 1934. This was a very courageous step, for in those days there was no prospect of her ever returning to Ireland or seeing her family again. To her great delight and that of her family, circumstances changed and some thirty years later she was given the opportunity to go home and visit her family.

Sr Finnian’s first appointment was to St Vincent’s, Fitzroy, a hospital she returned to on several occasions during her long and distinguished nursing career, during which time she continued to update her qualifications.

In 1978 she undertook a Pastoral Care Course after which she worked in pastoral care at St Vincent’s, Fitzroy and then at St Vincent’s, Toowoomba.

Following her retirement in 1987 she continued to live at Toowoomba until such time as her health demanded that she move first to Marycrest as a resident and then to Lillian Cooper at Kangaroo Point.

Sr Finnian had a lifelong love of learning and in addition to her professional qualification she completed a Diploma in Theology, trained as a catechist and studied Italian. She had a graciousness about her that always made people feel welcome and endeared her to them. A woman of style, Sr Finnian took great pride in her appearance. Along with her single-mindedness she had a wicked Irish sense of humour and was not above bending the rules, for instance, keeping her bird, Clarke Gable, in her ward.

Sister Finnian died on 16th July at the age of 93.



## Sister Mary Ryan

*“Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in thee.”*

*Sister Mary Ryan was born in Sydney in 1922. She was the eldest child of Ernest Michael Ryan and Nora Mary Boyles. At Baptism Mary was named Mary Magdalen. Her first sister, Sarah, also became a Sister of Charity and they had another sister and two brothers. The family lived in Paddington, Sydney and the children were taught by our Sisters at St Francis School.*

After completing school, Mary worked for some years as a machinist and entered the Sisters of Charity in 1947 when she was twenty-five years old. In the Novitiate Mary took the name Mary Solanus, but later resumed her own name, Mary. After her first Profession in 1950, Mary was sent to St Vincent's, Darlinghurst to do her nursing training. During the first twenty years as a Sister of Charity, Mary nursed in nearly all our NSW hospitals ~ Bathurst, Darlinghurst, Auburn, St Vincent's Private and at Babworth House, Darling Point. In most of these appointments her role was Sister-in-Charge. During these years Mary did a course in psychiatric nursing at Broughton Hall, Sydney. In 1975 Mary was moved to Brisbane where for the next ten years, she ministered with great devotion to the terminally ill patients at Mt Olivet Hospital.

This was Mary's last nursing assignment. Arthritis, from which she had suffered for several years, made it impossible for her to continue, so having completed a two-year course in Pastoral Care at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Mary returned to Mt Olivet Hospital in 1986 and worked in pastoral ministry. With a year out for spiritual renewal and an overseas trip, Mary continued in pastoral care in Brisbane until 1992 when she moved to Melbourne to work part-time in the same ministry at Caritas Christi Hospice, Kew.

During all her years of ministry, Mary was renowned for her kindness and sensitive concern for her patients. Her presence was gentle, peaceful and smiling, qualities that were surely born of her sincere commitment to God and her steadfast trust in him. At her Profession Mary had taken as her motto, *“Sacred Heart of Jesus I place my trust in Thee”* and as she experienced the pain and loss of mobility when her hands and feet became more and more misshapen, that trust must have been sorely tested.

Mary was a resident at the Sister's Hostel at Kew until 2002. When her disabilities necessitated nursing home care, Mary moved to Cambridge House, Collingwood where she remained until her death on 19th July 2003.

Throughout her life Mary had always had a number of special interests, which she maintained even during her time at Cambridge House. She was always glad to find a Scrabble partner. She studied the *'Form'* with an expert's discerning eye and followed the ups and downs of her favourite footy team with as much devotion as any native Victorian.

At her Requiem Mass, Sister Sarah concluded her words of remembrance with one of Mary's simple sayings ~ *“Step-by-step, prayer-by-prayer; God will always get you there.”* Obviously it was a life-plan that worked.



## Sister Maria Therese Hess

*“Love is repaid by love alone.”*

*Mary Therese Hess was born in Greenwich, NSW on 1 November, 1926, the second eldest of the seven children of Anna Maria Kehoe and Michael George Hess. She was the much loved sister of Frank, Monica, Patrick, Ann, Michael Eris and Bernadette and special aunt to her many nieces and nephews.*

This strong bond of family connections continued throughout her life. Mary received her Primary education at St Mary’s, Concord and, when her family moved to Victoria, she was awarded a scholarship to Sacré Coeur, Glen Iris for Secondary education.

The Sisters of Charity at Concord must have had a strong influence on Mary and when she completed her education, she spent a brief time as a Student Teacher at St Columba’s College, Essendon, before entering the Novitiate at *Bethania* on 2 July, 1943. At her Reception on 13 January, 1944, she was given the name ‘*Maria Therese*’ and was pleased to be able to keep it.

Her Profession of vows took place on 14 January, 1946. Throughout her life, Maria was a happy community member who had an engaging smile and encouraged fun with her quick wit! When reflecting on her life, some stated they wished they had known a secret she had ~ ‘escaping’ out of ‘sticky’ community situations!

After gaining her Teacher’s Registration, Maria Therese taught in secondary schools in Sydney at Paddington, Hurstville, Darlinghurst and St Mary’s Cathedral. In 1951 she was moved to Victoria and taught at St Columba’s College, Essendon for ten years. She returned to Sydney in 1962 and at different times taught at Bethlehem College, Ashfield, St Vincent’s College, Potts Point and St Mary’s, Hurstville.

In all the schools where Maria ministered, her outgoing personality enabled her to have a great rapport with her students and colleagues and she remained in contact with many over the years. Maria continued her studies and gained her B.A. and M.Ed.

Amongst her other gifts Maria had a flair for French and in 1977 she received a Grant from the French government for overseas study of the French culture and language.

On her return, she spent six years at Mount Carmel College, Sandy Bay where she was a staff member and Superior of the community.

In 1984, Maria Therese took on a new challenge. She retired from her ministry in education and was appointed to minister in Patient Services and Staff Development at St Vincent’s Private Hospital, Sydney. As she had done in schools, Maria endeared herself to those to whom she ministered, showing a genuine interest in people and giving invaluable support. She is still remembered at St Vincent’s and stories abound of the loving service she offered to all those she encountered. After a seventeen year period in this ministry, Maria was appointed to her final ministry of service as a volunteer at St Vincent’s Melbourne from 2001 to 2006.

Corpus Christi Clayton would be Maria’s home for the last eight years of her life and she was welcomed there on 20 April, 2008. She was always grateful for the care she received from our Sisters when they visited and the staff at Corpus Christi. To the staff and residents, she was a loving presence and her gentleness, patience and cooperation (together with her dry sense of humour) made for a happy environment at Corpus Christi.

Maria Therese truly followed in the footsteps of her Patroness, St Therese of Lisieux and lived out the motto they both aspired to: *Love is repaid by love alone*. As the months and weeks and days passed by, Maria Therese waited patiently for her God to call her before she took her final breath on 20 July, 2016, four months before her 90th birthday and having celebrated her 70 year Jubilee of Religious Profession in January of that year. She is buried at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

We, her sisters, give thanks for Maria Therese who lived our charism of service of the poor in so many loving ways. As she shared such joy and happiness with others, may she now be receiving her joy-filled eternal rest.



## *Sister Joyce Mary Buckman*

*“Heart of Jesus, all for Thee”*

*Sister Joyce Mary Buckman was born in Sydney on 7th August, 1918. Her parents Mary and Bernard Buckman had three daughters Joyce Mary, Agnes and Kathleen. During her childhood the family lived on the south coast of N.S.W.*

Joyce Mary's primary school years were spent at St Joseph's, Bulli where she won a bursary to attend St Vincent's College, Potts Point. As a boarder at St Vincent's for five years, Joyce Mary continued to excel at her studies and, on Matriculation, was awarded a Teaching Scholarship.

Now aged 18, Joyce Mary had other plans and did not take up the Scholarship, but applied to join the Sisters of Charity. On 2nd February 1936 Joyce Mary was accepted into our Novitiate at Bethania, and on 21st August 1938, made her first Profession of Vows. Joyce Mary then studied to gain her Teachers' Registration before beginning her teaching ministry at St Canice's, Elizabeth Bay.

Joyce Mary had many talents and qualities that fitted her well for the many years she spent in the classroom. Her teaching ministry spread over three States and thirty-three years ~ at Elizabeth Bay, Edgecliff, Auburn and East Melbourne in the primary classes and at Bethlehem Ashfield, St Mary's Hurstville, Mt St Michael's Ashgrove, and St John's Auburn in the secondary classes. During much of this time Joyce Mary was known as Sister M. Columba, the religious name she chose during her Novitiate. Still today, past students often ask about her and say what a fine teacher she was, and with how much admiration and affection they, and their parents, remember her.

When, in 1958, Joyce Mary was sent to Liverpool to be Principal of the school and, for the first time, Rectress in the Community; a Sister who lived there tells how a day or two after Joyce Mary's arrival, she met her in the laundry dropping secret tears into the tub as she did her washing. Asked what was the matter, Joyce replied that she couldn't be Rectress because she just didn't know how. Looking back, Joyce Mary must have been a quick learner and had talents well suited to the job, as many times during her life as a Sister of Charity, Joyce Mary was entrusted with positions of leadership in our communities and colleges. Often the young Sisters, when leaving the Novitiate, were sent

to the community where Joyce Mary was the Superior, and those who lived with her speak with appreciation and gratitude of the wise, spiritual, common-sense example and kindly guidance she gave them.

A small, gentle woman of few words, Joyce Mary, in ordinary discussions, was direct; even bordering on blunt at times, and many remember how prepared and brief one had to be in telephone conversations with her during the years when she was Regional Superior in NSW. However, Joyce Mary was also very sociable, an avid reader and a keen 'Scrabble' and 'Canasta' player. She liked people and enjoyed company. Always very close to her sister, Agnes and her family, Joyce shared in all family events and they, like her many friends; some of whom had been at school with her and still kept in touch; were remembered, loved and prayed for in all their needs.

Having completed her term as Regional Superior (1973-79), Joyce Mary spent a year of spiritual renewal at Assumption Institute in Melbourne and was then appointed Assistant to the Bursar General, and later accountant at St Brigid's Nursing Home, Potts Point. On her return from a trip to Ireland and Rome in 1982, Joyce Mary spent three years at Mt Olivet/Marycrest in Brisbane and eight years on the staff of the Caritas Christi Conference, Centre, Wahroonga, before retiring from full-time ministry. After moving to the Bondi community and still in reasonably good health, Joyce Mary offered her services, as a part-time volunteer at 'Outreach' and continued there for nine years until her failing eyesight made it necessary to retire to St Joseph's Village, Auburn, where she lived with gracious dignity until her death, at St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn, at the age of 92, on 22nd July, 2011. Joyce Mary's Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St John's Church, Auburn on 29th July, 2011.

During her 72 years as a Sister of Charity, Sister Joyce Mary was a fine example of steadfast commitment to the Vows she had made to God and of fidelity to the charism on which Mary Aikenhead had founded the Congregation.



## *Sr Patricia (Trish) Shinnners*

*“Take all, O Lord.”*

*Patricia Margaret Shinnners was born on 9 December 1937, the eldest of the four children of Mary Kathleen Boyle and Mervyn Martin Shinnners. Trish, as she was fondly known, her two sisters ~ Marie (Rie), Joan, and her brother Michael, attended the local school at St John’s, West Footscray. Trish also attended St Philomena’s Moonee Ponds and then Catholic Ladies College East Melbourne.*

After leaving school, Trish undertook an Accountancy Course and worked as a clerk before entering the Novitiate of the Sisters of Charity at Wahroonga on 2 February 1956. Six months later, on 17 August, she was formally received as a Novice and given the name ‘*M. Laurence*’ but later changed back to her Baptismal name. On 18 August 1958, Trish made her First Profession of Vows and chose the motto “*Take all, O Lord.*” Throughout her life, but especially in the latter years, Trish was asked to live out her motto in coping with mental illness and then Motor Neurone Disease.

Having gained her Teacher’s Registration in 1960, Trish began a series of appointments as a Secondary Teacher for the next eleven years at St Mary’s Cathedral School (1960-1962), St Philomena’s Scholarship School Moonee Ponds (1963-1965), Bethlehem College Ashfield (1966-1970) and St John’s Clifton Hill (1971-1972). Trish was a devoted and hardworking teacher ensuring the best outcome for each student. From 1973-74, Trish was appointed as Principal at Clifton Hill.

In 1974, she was transferred to St Columba’s College, Essendon as Secondary Teacher for five years and in 1980, she undertook a year of Personal Development at the National Pastoral Institute in Melbourne. Her final teaching position was at her Alma Mater, Catholic Ladies College, which by this time had been relocated to Eltham.

From 1 January 1982, Trish moved into a series of new and innovative ministries ~ Chaplaincy and Social Awareness at St Columba’s College where she was well known for collecting charitable donations and collection of money for the overseas missions. She became Manager of Prague House, a residential facility, which cared for sufferers of mental illness at risk of becoming homeless. As she had done as a teacher, Trish ‘*gave her all*’ in reaching out to support and help those less fortunate, the poor and needy.

In 1993, Trish was granted six months Renewal at Lechaim Centre, Toronto NSW. Following this time of Renewal, she was appointed to Caritas Christi, Wahroonga, no longer a Novitiate but a Conference Centre where she was engaged in House Duties. She retired from formal Ministry, but still remained active in volunteer service at Kew in Melbourne at the Francesca Healy Cottage, where people experiencing homelessness or social isolation could receive a welcome safe haven and a place of support. Trish’s final appointment was in 2012 as a volunteer tutor for AMES, a migrant and emergency centre. She carried out this ministry from her place of residence in Essendon.

With her health deteriorating, and having had some time in hospital, Trish moved into community at Deepdene and after some time, moved to an ILU at Parkville. Trish then spent time at Mononia in Fitzroy where she was accessible to those who could support her and get her to doctor’s appointments. Sr Mary Gabrielle and Liz Reid our Health Care Co-Ordinator were always there for Trish and it was a long hard journey for everyone especially as Trish’s communication began to deteriorate. When the diagnosis of MND was given, Trish moved to St Catherine’s Balwyn for permanent care. This was a struggle for Trish but with the loving care of all Staff she was able to adapt and in the end knew all Staff by name and the qualities of each that she was grateful for. She wrote a list with each name and what they meant to her. A great tribute to the Staff at St Catherine’s.

Trish died on 29 July 2017, the Feast of St Martha, a saint well known for her busyness. Trish was a Martha, busy about many things especially in seeking out the poor and lonely and giving them what they might need. Her family, friends and Sisters were with her to the end. 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.

## August



1	Irene RYAN	1952	17	Benignus MAGUIRE	1962
	Virgilius McHUGH	1953		Merici McALEER	1948
	Bernadine BARTLEY	1964		Margaret LAFFAN	2017
2	Kathleen LAFFAN	1999	18	Dorothea DEVINE	1990
				Thaddeus McNICOL	1991
3	Angela BARRETT	1924		Dolores BRUTON	2005
				Anne Louise HEMINGWAY	2011
4	Irene O'CONNOR	1932	19	Raphael RIGNEY	1902
				Philomena HOSIER	1925
5	Stanislaus BARRETT	1937		Gabriel BOURKE	1927
	Carmena KELLY	2004		Beniti HEFFERIN	1968
6	Fabian CAREY	1938	20		
	Remigius O'BRIEN	1974			
7	Magdalen DWYER	1920	21	Teresa DOYLE	1932
	Helen ROGERS	1951		Regis BURKE	1993
8	Camillus O'KEEFE	1916	22	Gonzaga RUSSELL	1913
				Brian VEECH	1958
9	Beatrice WHITE	1902		Clare RICHARDSON	1963
	Laurence NORMOYLE	1955		Juliana WILMOTT	1980
	Isidore DOWNEY	1979		Margaret COSTIGAN	2015
	Mary GARSKE	2003		Valerie Jaeger GREEN	2019
10	St Paul HOOKE	1936	23	Felix BRYNE	1940
	Hilarion McNAMARA	1961		Giovanni ACKMAN	1966
	Francis Borgia O'BRIEN	1984	24	Matthias DOWNES	1948
				Cletus FITZ	1951
11	Zita DALY	1890	25	St Gregory SLATTERY	1939
	Walburga HASSON	1911		Francis Jerome DONOVAN	1962
	Mother Alphonsus O'DOHERTY	1983	26	Philomena GLEESON	1938
12	Scholastica RIGGS	1934		Benedict O'BRIEN	1944
	Teresa ROPER	1939		Casimir BAPTISTE	2010
13	Andrew PATTISON	1970		Jean Marie BRENNAN	2016
	Julien PEARSON	1999	27		
14	Lutegarde MEECHAM	1956	28	Teresa LOCKINGTON	1916
	Patrick MORAN	1969	29	Aloysius RAYMOND	1871
15	Christina WEIR	1943		Eymard SAUNDERS	1985
	St Mark MITCHELL	1946	30	Catherine BRICKLEY	1895
	Una WILSON	1964		Brigida HOLDEN	1957
	Chanel WALZ	1966		Margaret LEE	2000
	Marie BOURKE	2016		Mary GOSS	2011
16	Pius ENNIS	1939	31	Anastasia BARRETT	1944
				Margaret DWYER	2016



## Sister M. Carmena Kelly

*“With Christ I am nailed to the Cross.”*

*Lulitha Magdalen Kelly was born on 22nd July 1908, the feast of St Mary Magdalen as her middle name reminds us. The date is also the anniversary of the death of Mary Aikenhead, foundress of the Sisters of Charity, the Congregation Carmena was to join around 1927. When she died on 5th August this year, she had attained the age of 96 years.*

Born to parents Edward G. Kelly (1875) and Madeline Madge O’Hare (1884), Carmena was the eldest of five siblings, the others being Marjorie Cecelia who became a Sister of the Good Samaritan, Thomas who married Jean, Mavis Mary (Sister Grata RSC) and Benjamin who married Pat. Carmena survived them all.

Educated by the Sisters of Charity in Bega, Carmena moved with the family to Canberra in the mid 1920’s after their dairy farm at Tanja had been flooded several times. The story is told that Edward herded the dairy cows all the way from Bega to Canberra.

Carmena spent her early years as a Sister of Charity teaching at Concord West, Liverpool and Ashfield, at St Anne’s Orphanage, Liverpool and as Assistant Novice Mistress at Potts Point but she is best remembered from her twenty-three years in the novitiate at Wahroonga. We all remember Nicky the Labrador dog who really belonged to the next-door neighbors but followed Carmena everywhere. She loved the garden at Wahroonga and seemed to know every plant by name.

There are many stories that former novices could tell about driving to the markets in *‘Joseph’* the truck or riding in a succession of cars all which bore the number plate *‘BVM 333’*. Carmena believed in the principle of equity rather than equality ~ if a novice looked like she was in need of a boost, Carmena would be there with kind words and deeds. By the same token, she would be tough if she thought it was needed.

Carmena loved her family and took an interest in the lives of her various nieces, nephews and cousins. She enjoyed many family holidays with Marj and Grata, usually driving down in the truck. They would go fishing at Bateman’s Bay and spend time at Tanja and in Canberra.

Carmena chose her motto from St Paul’s words: *“With Christ I am nailed to the Cross”*, and she must have reflected on this many times in her life, particularly as each of her younger siblings predeceased her and she watched Grata’s dementia worsen. She would often question why she was left to the last. Today, however, we can imagine the rejoicing that must be taking place in heaven as she is reunited with her much-loved Ben, Tom, Marj and Grata as well as her parents Ed and Madge.



## Sister Mary Garske

*“To love and to serve.”*

*Mary was born in Barraba on 19th October 1917 and was the eldest of three children of Charles and Margaret Garske. When her mother died when she was six, an aunt offered to raise the three young children and care for their father. By then the family was living in Sydney. Mary attended school at Lewisham, where she met the Sisters of Charity.*

When Mary first indicated she wanted to enter the Sisters of Charity her aunt was reluctant, believing she was too young. Her aunt finally agreed and at 18, Mary joined the Congregation in 1935. Following her profession, Mary began her teaching career and soon established herself as an excellent Infants' teacher, and was sent to Melbourne to complete both first and second ITC ~ the highest qualification possible at the time for an infants' teacher.

Over the course of many years Mary prepared in excess of 2000 children for their first Holy Communion. In the post-War years she often taught classes of 70 children, and was lucky if 20 could speak English. After her first heart attack in 1979, her full time teaching days were over but she maintained her interest in an education for the young first as a remedial teacher and later as a library assistant at Cabramatta for ten years, delighting many youngsters with her story-telling skills. Here also she endeared herself to children, staff, parents and priests.

From Cabramatta, Mary went to live at Ashfield where she assisted in the Book Hire room, initially three mornings a week and then one morning as her health deteriorated. Here too Mary endeared herself to staff and students alike.

Although she had lived for many years, Jan said, *“her (Mary's) final illness was not one to prepare us for her leaving”*. When word came on the Saturday evening that Mary had been moved to intensive care, after contacting Mary's niece, Catherine, Aileen and Jan went straight in to St Vincent's, where they were joined by Sister Laureen.

Towards the end, Laureen prayed thanking God for the gift of Mary to us through a life of love and fidelity. Aileen also spoke of their friendship and told Mary it was now time to go on the greatest trip of her life.





## Sister Marie Bourke

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

*Marie Josephine Bourke, born in Sydney on 7 February, 1923, was the only child of Ida Mary Crowe and Dominic Bourke. The family lived at Lewisham and Marie attended primary and secondary school at St Thomas' School.*

Marie went on to St Mary's Commercial College and then took up a secretarial position at Sacred Heart Hospice.

Sorrow overshadowed Marie's life in her early years. When she was just fourteen years old, her father died. She entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of Charity on 2 February, 1940 and on the eve of her clothing as a Novice on 26 August that year, her much loved mother died. It would seem that the motto she chose before her profession, encapsulated the source of her strength through all the sadness she experienced. She was professed on 27 August, 1942. At the time of her death, Marie had been a Sister of Charity for seventy three years.

Following teacher training, Marie (M. Hildergarde was her Religious name), taught at Auburn, Liverpool and Concord West as a commercial teacher. She had a special love for all those with whom she came into contact and her wisdom and listening heart were a great support to many. Appointments to New Norfolk, Hobart and St Joseph's Orphanage, Sandy Bay followed. When she returned to Concord West in 1954, she was both Superior and Principal for six years before she began another six years as Superior and Principal at Cabramatta. The sisters in community, especially young Sisters of Charity, the staff, students and parents found in Marie a Christlike person who was there for each one as a mentor or companion.

Although Marie was a much loved teacher, her particular *'forte'* was her work in Social Welfare, a ministry that was very dear to her heart. She possessed a wisdom born of her own faithfulness and drawn from personal experiences of loss and grief in her own life. For the six years she was at St Anne's Orphanage and in her other appointments at St Joseph's Taroona and at the Catholic Social Welfare Office in Sydney, she was a *'mother'* figure to many disadvantaged children.

Children with worries, but adults too, came confidently to Marie knowing that they would find a *'listening ear'* and a *'compassionate heart'*.

No one was ever disappointed. Marie listened, counselled, referred people to professional help or took steps through appropriate channels to alleviate the burden being painfully carried.

In 1981, Marie had a time of Renewal at the Strannick Course at Wahroonga as well as an overseas trip. On her return, she returned to her *'beloved Tassie'* where she spent many happy years being a *'presence'* to others. In 1995, because of failing health and the need for specialist care, Marie was brought to St Joseph's Village, Auburn. Leaving *'Tassie'* was a difficult time for Marie and it was some time before she settled at the Village. However, her deep faith and trust in God enabled her to accept this move and to continue her role of being mentor, counsellor, friend to residents, carers and those who came to visit or kept in touch with her by phone. She spent many happy years at St Joseph's Village.

It was necessary for Marie to receive further medical care in 2010 and she was transferred to St Joseph's Aged Care Centre at Kensington. Marie was most grateful for the tender and loving care she received from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and their dedicated staff and in time, loved her new home.

Throughout her life, Marie had inherited devotion to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart from her mother and it was on the feast of Mary's Assumption, 15 August, that Marie breathed her last. Her Mass of Christian Burial was held at St John's, Auburn and she is buried at Rookwood. While Marie gave thanks for all those who loved and cared for her, we, her sisters, are grateful to God that this gentle, gracious woman, woman, without guile, *'passed this way'*. We thank Marie for who she was to so many, especially to Christ's little ones ~ *the Anawim*.



## Sr Margaret Laffan

*“Thy will be done, O God of love.”*

*Margaret Laffan (M. Josita) was born on 9 May 1932, the youngest of the three daughters of Julia Crough and John Michael Laffan. Her older sisters, Carmel and Kathleen rsc predeceased her.*

St Therese's Essendon was Margaret's home Parish, where her early faith-life was nourished. Margaret herself recalled those early years and remarked ~

*“Through my parents I absorbed a deep desire at a young age to be with the poor and lonely.”*

The three girls attended St Theresa's Primary School and then St Columba's College. Throughout her life, Margaret kept strong links with her sisters and later with Carmel's family. In 1948 when Margaret had completed her education, she worked as a Laboratory Technician and Trainee Clerk for four years. She felt called to Religious life to be a missionary and serve the poor, but not specifically with the Sisters of Charity. However, 'in desperation', she made a Novena which helped her to make a decision to enter our Novitiate on 2 July 1952. She was received on 5 January 1953 and professed on 6 January 1955.

During her time in the Novitiate, Margaret read the life of Mary Aikenhead, discovering what she had been looking for ~ the Charism of the Sisters of Charity and our fourth vow of Service of the Poor. In 1955 Margaret did her nursing training and grew to love general nursing. After nine years Margaret was sent to study Social Work at Melbourne University where she gained a Diploma.

The University recommended that Margaret do a three month placement in India which she did with Sr Madeleine Sophie Henderson rsc in 1964. They worked with the Holy Spirit Sisters in Bombay. Margaret found this trip a truly spiritual experience. Between 1967 and 1971, Margaret ministered at St Vincent's Fitzroy in Social Work, including at the Alcoholism Clinic and in Community Medicine.

In 1972, Margaret did training and in-service before becoming part of the team for the Movement for a Better World founded by Jesuit, Fr Lombardi. He saw the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius as a great gift among the nations for reconciliation. Margaret worked for five years as part of the Australian team and she went far and wide sharing this message of hope and peace.

From 1980, Spiritual Direction was a special ministry in which Margaret became immersed and many have been the recipients of her spiritual companionship. She trained at MSC Croydon in the Siloam Course for Spiritual Direction and for further training, went to the Jesuit Renewal Centre, USA, for a Course in Supervision Renewal in Spiritual Direction in 1986.

Margaret 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 which Margaret described as '*wonderful, humbling years*'.

Returning to Melbourne in 1990, Margaret was based at Sacred Heart Mission St Kilda where she was with the poor and homeless and an outreach worker at our Detox Centre ~ *De Paul House*. It was a few years later in this ministry that Margaret saw her dream fulfilled ~ *Briar Terrace* came into being. Over time, with the support of wonderful volunteers, the Terrace became refuge for so many people living in rooming houses around Fitzroy, who had lost their roots and were very lonely. They now found themselves in a safe and trusted place.

Margaret herself, lived in the Fitzroy area before she moved to an ILU at Parkville in 2009 until her health deteriorated in 2014. She moved to Mononia and then spent the last years of her life at St Catherine's Balwyn. She was grateful for the loving care she received until her death on 17 August 2017. Some of the messages of sympathy received about Margaret read ~ *“Compassionate listener, woman of great faith, generous service and full of grace.”* Margaret has been to us *“gentle woman, quiet light, morning star so strong and bright”*.

*“Come then my love, my lovely one, come!  
Show me your face, let me hear your voice; for  
your voice is sweet and your face is beautiful.”  
(Song of Songs)*

Thank you Margaret for who you have been for so many! You will be missed!



## *Sister Dolores Bruton*



*“He loved me and sacrificed himself for my sake.”*

*Dolores Ellen Bruton was born on 11th April, 1919 at Croydon, Sydney. After completing her secondary schooling at St Vincent’s College Potts Point, Dolores entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate in 1937 and took the name of Mary Dymphna after a cousin, a Sister of Charity who had died in 1938.*

After her first Profession in 1939, Dolores did her teacher training and taught first in Primary schools in Sydney and Melbourne. From 1951-1984 Dolores spent some years teaching in all but two of our Congregational Secondary Schools ~ Auburn, Concord, Potts Point, Ashfield, Hurstville, Ashgrove (Queensland) and Hobart (Tasmania). During these years Dolores also obtained Diplomas in Dressmaking, Theology, Religious Education, Educational Studies (Pastoral Guidance & Counselling) and used them well in her teaching assignments.

After retiring from classroom teaching Dolores ministered part-time as Pastoral Counsellor at St John’s Girls School, Auburn, then as Director of Mission at St Joseph’s Village where she worked to imbue the staff with our RSC values. In 2000 Dolores became a resident at the Village. In July/August 2005 she spent some weeks in Westmead Hospital and was then transferred to St Vincent de Paul Nursing Home at Lewisham. After only a couple of days there she was admitted to St Vincent’s Hospital, Darlinghurst where she died on 18th August.

Dolores was a very committed Sister of Charity. She loved teaching and was punctilious in preparing her lessons and in correction of the students’ work. Dolores was always very interested in the girls she taught and kept in touch with many of them right till the time of her death. She had a quick wit and a hearty laugh, which was part of her identity as she used it frequently. Her brothers ~ five of them ~ were very dear to her and her nieces and nephews visited her often.

Dolores was the seventh member of the Bruton family to become a Sister of Charity. The first, a great aunt, died in 1899 and the last in 1953. One relative, Mother Mary Canice Bruton was Superior General of the Congregation from 1924 till 1936. All those past Bruton Sisters would have felt proud to acknowledge Dolores as a Sister of Charity worthy of a place among them.

Dolores Bruton died on the 18th August 2005. Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St John’s Parish Church, Auburn and the burial was at Rookwood Cemetery.



## *Sister Anne Louise Hemingway*

*“With Christ in God”*

*Sister Anne Louise Hemingway who died on 18th August, 2011 aged 94 years, joined the Sisters of Charity at ‘Bethania’ in June 1935.*

In her words of welcome at the Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Anne Louise, Sister Annette Cunliffe said, *“Later you will bear something of Anne Louise’s life and her gentle influence, but now I do want to recall her generosity, kindness and her wonderful sense of gratitude for the gifts of God and for anyone who helped her in any way.”* All who knew Anne Louise would agree that it was these qualities, ever-present in her character that helped make her a faithful and much loved Sister of Charity.

Anne Louise was the elder of two children born to Frank Hemingway, an Englishman, and Julia Green, on 13th April, 1917 at Darlington in rural NSW. When the family moved to Sydney, Anne Louise and her sister, Olive, went to St Paul’s school, Dulwich Hill for their primary schooling, and Bethlehem College for their secondary education. It seems likely that it was here that Anne Louise began to think about entering religious life. A year after graduating from Bethlehem, Anne Louise asked to join the Sisters of Charity.

During her time in the novitiate, Anne Louise chose St Laurence as her patron and took Sister Mary Laurentia, as her religious name. Later when it became optional to do so, Anne Louise resumed her baptismal name. Anne Louise made her first Profession of Vows on 24th January, 1938. As Anne Louise had much musical talent, it was decided that she should begin her ministry as a music teacher.

Anne Louise was sent to study and to spend practice-teaching time at St Mary’s Cathedral School and at St Mary’s, Liverpool. Her ministry as a music-teacher began in 1940 at Concord West, where she taught for twelve years. Then followed short terms at Ashgrove, Auburn, Concord, and again at Concord West. While at Auburn, Anne Louise gained her A.Mus.A. (violin) qualification from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Having gained her Teacher’s Registration in 1965, Anne Louise changed from music to classroom teaching, spending a short time at Edgecliff and Shellharbour before being sent to St Thomas More’s, Brighton-le-Sands. She was Principal at Concord West and then at St Joseph the Worker, South Auburn, completing her teaching ministry. In the years that followed she was able to make worthwhile contributions in other areas of need ~ as Staff Supervisor at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Minto and in Outreach Ministry, at Liverpool.

On her return home from an overseas trip in 1988, Anne Louise, now aged 72, felt there was still something she could do, so with Sister Josephine Hodges, she volunteered to spend some time with the Indigenous people in Cherbourg (Qld) and here again, her gentle manner endeared her to those to whom she ministered. Anne Louise, now becoming frail in health, decided it was time to move to St Joseph’s Village, Auburn. It was here she lived for twenty years until her death in 2011.

At the Vigil, the Sisters spoke of the sincerity of her commitment, of how she never sought attention for herself but was generous in praising others, of how supportive she was of her school staff and of her matter-of-fact attitude. Without fuss or complaint, Anne Louise liked to ‘get-on-with’ whatever needed to be done. The presence, at the Eucharist, of so many of the nursing staff who had cared for her so lovingly and of members of the school staff from South Auburn who had taught with her so many years before, were a testimony to the respect and affection they felt for her.

Sister Anne Louise is yet another of our Sisters in whose life we can rejoice and of whom we can feel proud that the Congregation has given God much glory in her simple life.



## Sister Margaret Costigan

*“Take Lord, receive.”*

*There was great sadness and shock in the Costigan family and throughout the Congregation at the sudden death of Margaret Anne Costigan.*

**M**argaret died of a massive heart attack in her home at Epping, Victoria, on 22 August, 2015.

Margaret had dedicated much of her life to education, social justice, supporting our indigenous brothers and sisters and being advocate for those in need in our society. For over sixty years she lived out our Sisters of Charity charism, responding in service to people, whose stories we may never know.

Margaret was born on 22 June, 1933, the eldest daughter of Joseph Aloysius Costigan and Ileen Muriel Martin and loving sister of Adrian, Frank (d.2009), Michael, Peter (d.2002), Elizabeth, Paul and Anne.

Members of the Costigan family held leading positions in the fields of Civil and Canon Law, business and local government in Melbourne. Her father was an accountant and worked long hours to give the family every opportunity in life. Margaret's mother, known as a 'wonderful homemaker', encouraged a strong sense of social justice and debate around the dinner table. No doubt, Margaret's commitment to social justice was instilled in her by her parents and siblings, as throughout her life, she was untiring in her efforts to be a passionate advocate for others' rights ~ a voice for the 'voiceless'.

On 2 February, 1951, Margaret entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of Charity at Bethania, later moving to Wairoonga. She was received into the Novitiate six months later and given the name 'Sr M. Rita'. Margaret made her First Profession on 4 August, 1953. A few years later, her sister Elizabeth also entered the Sisters of Charity and took the name of 'Sr M. St Michael'. When given the option to change to their Baptismal names, both Margaret and Elizabeth did so.

Having gained teaching qualifications, Margaret taught in secondary schools at Mt St Mary's College, Katoomba, Catholic Ladies College, Melbourne, (having been a pupil there herself for secondary education), Mt Carmel College, Sandy Bay and Sancta Sophia College, Glenroy.

She also published instructional books, including a guide for practical maths exercises for migrants. After her years in secondary education, Margaret became involved in Adult Education and lectured for the Council of Adult Education. She studied in Edinburgh and gained a Graduate Diploma of Community Education, before beginning Post-graduate Research (Divinity) towards a Ph.D. Later, she worked at Geoghegan College in Melbourne as a Parent/Parish Liaison and took on a prison ministry as Adult Educator at Pentridge Jail in Melbourne.

Family was very special for Margaret. She kept close contact with her siblings and was a much loved aunt to her nieces & nephews. She loved to hear about their progression through school, their interests and sporting or cultural activities. At times, she was a listening ear and a confidant.

In 1999, Margaret continued an Aboriginal Awareness Ministry, particularly Project Dreaming Tracks, which assisted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people struggling with poverty, loneliness, institutionalism and insecurity. The ministry of Catalyst for Renewal also engaged Margaret for more than ten years, seeking truth and renewal through conversation about what touches individuals deeply.

In the Sisters of Charity Anniversary Book, *Impelled by Christ's Love 175 years of serving in Australia*, Margaret wrote:

*‘For me, spirituality is being in touch with the totality of who I am and my world around me. The challenge is to try to change the negativity into a bright spot and then to concentrate on that bright spot and make it the focus.’*

At the time of her death, Margaret had been a Sister of Charity for sixty-two years. Her funeral took place at St. Peter's Church, Clayton and she is buried in Springvale Cemetery, Victoria. She had truly lived out her motto ~ 'Take Lord, receive'. Margaret did 'act with justice, loved tenderly and walked humbly with her God'.



## Sr Valerie Jaeger Green

*“Omnia Omnibus.”  
All to all for love of Thee.*

*“Everything starts with a sunrise, but .... what you do  
before it sets, is what is important.”*

This quote seems to be very fitting to describe Val's life, as between each sunrise and sunset it was Val's intention to make every moment count ... and she did this by encouraging and supporting others. She asked that, at her funeral, we would not be sad, but that we would make it a celebration of joy and thanksgiving! In the Words of Remembrance given by her good friend Sr Pauline Staunton, we shared in some of the special memories.

Who was this Sr Val?

Valerie Jaeger Green was the only child of May Grace Tansley and Harry Alfred Green born on 1 December 1932. Although she had no siblings, her extended family of cousins became very special to her. They spoke so highly of her at her Requiem, stating that she always remembered their birthdays and would come 'laden' with gifts for them on special occasions. She was full of fun and they loved her for who she was.

The family lived in the Croydon/Burwood area and Val's Primary education was at Burwood Public School and then at Croydon Home Science High School. She completed her education in 1947 and spent the next ten years of her life as a Swimming Instructor. She was a champion swimmer who later in her life, competed in Masters here and overseas.

Through her association with various friends in the Parish of St Mary's Concord, Val was converted to Catholicism and after a time of discernment, joined the Sisters of Charity. She entered in February 1957 and became a Novice on 7 August 1957. She made her First Profession on 8 August 1959. This year, she had prepared a celebration for her Diamond Jubilee but as her health had deteriorated, this became a small gathering of family and friends who prayed the prayers for Val.

After gaining her Teacher's Registration, Val taught Infants classes for fifteen years from 1962 until 1977 in Darlinghurst, Paddington, Curtin ACT, Ashfield, Oak Park Vic, Hurstville and Cabramatta and Liverpool for short times and finally concluded her teaching ministry at Sacred Heart Darlinghurst. Val was a popular and much loved teacher.

Although there were serious times for learning, Val was able to incorporate fun times, too, for the students! She won so many hearts with her enthusiasm and love of life! Sometimes this 'enthusiasm' went 'over the top'!

When Val moved to Edgecliff in 1978 until 1985, she assisted at the Theresian Emergency Centre which provided emergency accommodation to children 3 to 16 years of age. As she had done in teaching, Val also excelled in this ministry. She studied and completed the NSW Child Care Association and Child Welfare Courses, receiving Diplomas. Sr Pauline shared:

*“Children would often come to the Centre with only the clothes they stood in. Val could fit them out in the blink of an eye. Her vision was such a life saver for many of our children who were so emotionally fragile.”*

In 1986 until 1990, Val did Social Welfare ministry at Sacred Heart Darlinghurst before beginning a Diversional Therapy ministry with residents at St Joseph's Village Auburn from June 1991 until February 1993. Then it was back to working with children and adults in March 2002, this time in her favourite pastime as a Swimming Teacher and linked with Social Welfare. From April 2002 until 2013, Val 'arranged a new ministry for herself' as Parish Sister with the Parish Priest at Vincentia. (She later informed the Congregational Leader! Enthusiasm overload? All turned out well ~ eventually!)

Val became a resident at Stella Maris Hostel on 6 June 2013 and she said: *“I have my own cathedral of God's creation!”* Before long, she was the producer and director of the musicals like The Sound of Music and had a Residents' Percussion Band! It was only when Val's health deteriorated, that she began to slow down.

On 22 August, surrounded by that small group of family and friends, Val went to her eternal reward, having had a 'wow of a ride' through life! Fr Paul Foley, Chaplain at Stella Maris, was the celebrant at her funeral at Our Lady Star of the Sea Miranda.

*We salute you, Val and thank you for 'the colours of life' you provided for so many of God's little ones!*



## *Sister Mary Casimir*

*“Be it done unto me according to thy word.”*

*Sister Mary Casimir died, aged 96, at Mt St Joseph’s Home, Little Sisters of the Poor, Randwick on 26th August 2010.*

Sister Mary Casimir was born in Sydney on 5th August 1914, the first child of Ellen (Back) and Vincent Baptist. Although baptized Mary Ellen, in the family she was known as Molly. Her only sibling was her brother, Patrick. The children went to Sacred Heart Parish School, Darlinghurst for their primary education and then Mary Ellen went to St Mary’s Commercial College for her secondary studies. She graduated with her Intermediate Certificate. Both schools were under the care of the Sisters of Charity so, no doubt, it was the influence of the Sisters she had met during her schooling that led her, aged 21, to seek entrance to our Novitiate in February 1936.

Mary Ellen had already completed her nursing training at St Joseph’s Hospital, Auburn before joining the Congregation. While at Auburn, Mary Ellen had nursed and become friendly with Sister Mary Casimir Beston. When Sister Casimir died in May, 1936, Mary Ellen asked to be given “Mary Casimir” as her religious name. So throughout her long life as a Sister of Charity, Mary Ellen was known as Sister Mary Casimir. At the completion of her novitiate training in August 1938, Mary Ellen, now Sister Mary Casimir, made her first vows and was sent to begin her ministry at St Vincent’s Hospital Lismore.

She also ministered at St Vincent’s College, to the health needs of the boarding students, in our hospitals in Bathurst, Toowoomba and Launceston and St Vincent’s Maternity Hospital Fitzroy where she completed Obstetric training. Having gained that certificate, Casimir began Post Graduate studies and obtained a Certificate in Infant and Child Welfare and later, after further studies in Nurse Education, she became a Fellow of the College of Nursing, Australia.

Casimir was for three years at St Vincent’s Maternity, Melbourne, Nursing Administrator St Vincent’s Darlinghurst for nine years and Sister-in-Charge at Babworth House, Darling Point, for eight years. Casimir then spent ten years in various pastoral ministries at Darlinghurst, Edgecliff and Launceston, before retiring in 2000 to St Joseph’s Village, Auburn.

Casimir’s call to religious life and her call to Nursing, were so closely entwined that she would not have defined herself as a Sister of Charity and a Nurse, but rather, as a Sister of Charity Nurse. Casimir loved the Congregation and religious life and sincerely committed herself to living fully that life by her service of the sick and the poor. Nursing gave her the facility and the opportunity to do this in all fields of her ministry.

A very sociable woman among her friends and in Community, Casimir loved to play cards, especially Canasta, and her creativity revealed itself in the handicrafts she produced and the poetry she liked to write. The Missions were always one of her interest and while our Sisters were in New Guinea and Zambia, Casimir frequently showed her interest and practical support by sending parcels of tiny knitted beanies and clothing for new babies whom she had heard often had nothing but a lap-lap to cover them on their arrival.

In February 2000, Casimir, in need of extra care, moved from her Community at 40 West Street to St Joseph’s Village, Auburn and later to the Little Sisters of the Poor at Randwick where she died seventy-four years after her entrance into Religious life. At her Mass of Christian Burial at St John of God Church Auburn on September 1st 2010, Casimir’s relatives, friends and many Sisters prayed for Casimir and celebrated the goodness of her life and her long years of fidelity to God and to our Congregation.



## Sister Jean Marie Brennan

*“Jesus in you I trust.”*

*Jean Marie Brennan (M. Vincentia) was born on 18 June, 1935, (her father's birthday), the eldest of the four daughters of Winifred Grace and James Brennan. Her sisters Fay, Helen and Margot remained a strong and loving family support throughout Jean's life.*

To their extended family, Jean became to some Auntie Jean the *'Jumping Bean'* and to others, the *'Fairy Queen'* because she remembered birthdays, arrived with gifts and was everything a loving Aunt can be. The family lived at Kogarah and the girls had their Primary education at St Patrick's. They attended St Vincent's College, Potts Point for their secondary years. Jean gained her BA and DipEd and began her teaching career at Kogarah High School.

Having been inspired by the Sisters of Charity during her College years, Jean entered the Novitiate on 2 February, 1959 and was professed on 8 August, 1961. Following profession, Jean continued her teaching role and was appointed to the secondary schools at Hurstville and Potts Point. She studied at NPI and gained Diplomas in Theology, Religious Education and Biblical Studies and at a later time, studied at the Melbourne College of Divinity and was awarded a Bachelor of Divinity degree. She worked as an RE Consultant in Melbourne and Tasmanian schools before returning to secondary teaching at Auburn. Then, in 1981, she returned to St Mary's, Hurstville as Principal.

While maintaining her role as educator, Jean moved into a new ministry in 1987 as CCD regional co-ordinator in the Liverpool area for several years and continued in this role with the Sydney branch of CCD when she lived at Lewisham and Bexley. In 1996 she had a time of overseas Renewal in Boston and a sabbatical in Sydney.

The invitation to serve the poor came early in Jean's life ~ she often commented that when playing with their dolls, hers were always the poor ones and she had to look after them! This was certainly an early touch of her life-long commitment to be with and for others that was witnessed so often in Jean's daily life for fifty five years as a Sister of Charity.

From 1997 until the time of her death, Jean began volunteer ministries of visitation of the poor, *Youth Off the Streets* and, with Sr Eileen Browne, teaching English to migrants and refugees. The gratitude of all those who received such help was unbounded and on Australia Day, 2001, Jean was awarded the City of Liverpool Heritage Award of *Officer of the Order of Liverpool* for Services to the Community and an award for great commitment to Key College, Youth Off the Streets. Fr Phil Linder acknowledged the tremendous support Jean Marie was to him and the other priests at Liverpool.

All acknowledged Jean as a woman of honesty and integrity, faithful to prayer and to her ministry in its various forms at different times and places. She was a generous person, always willing to help as a committee member, or in community.

She was rarely idle ~ visiting, letter writing and doing craft. Those holidaying with Jean recall happy times at Shellharbour and her constant *'This is the life'* comment! Jean had numerous friends and associates. What a thrill it was to receive a handmade card from Jean, beautifully inscribed in her distinctive handwriting for birthdays, Christmas or a *Thank You* for something someone had done for her. Jean did so much for so many.

Despite her generosity to others, Jean struggled throughout her life with mood swings. In 2010, she moved into an ILU at St Joseph's Village and travelled by train to continue her ministry at Liverpool, despite deteriorating health. Only a few weeks before she died, she was diagnosed with a terminal illness and died on 26 August, 2016.

The church of St John of God was packed with those whose lives had been touched by Jean. They came to acknowledge this Sister of Charity who had been a *'life line'* or faithful friend for them. As Jean receives her eternal reward, may the words she made famous be heard throughout heaven:

*This is the life!*





## Sister Mary Goss

*“All for Jesus through Mary”*

*Sister Mary Goss entered our Congregation in February, 1939 and after 72 years as a Sister of Charity, Mary died, aged 91, in Brisbane on 30th August 2011.*

Mary's parents, John and Fanny Goss, had fifteen children, and when Mary was born she already had three brothers and three sisters. The family lived in Essendon so most of the children were pupils in the parish schools at Essendon or Moonee Ponds where our Sisters taught. At the Eucharist in the Chapel at Marycrest on the day of Mary's Burial her younger brother, Richard, on behalf of the family, spoke of Mary with great love and admiration. These are some of Richard's words:

*“Mary's death has caused us much sorrow but on the other hand we rejoice that she has gone to her heavenly home. Ours was a big family and I think it's fair to say that Mary was the most loving and loved of all of us. The Goss family has had a lifetime association with the Sisters of Charity and most of us were taught by them. There is no doubt that it was the example of the Sisters at the time that inspired Mary to join the Congregation. Mary decided to enter the Sisters of Charity in 1939 after she had visited St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne during the Great Depression and witnessed the Sisters' dedicated service to the sick and the poor; all of whom were given free treatment”.*

Mary began her Novitiate at 'Bethania' at Potts Point on 2nd February, 1939, and, on completion of her training, made her first profession of Vows in August, 1941. Mary had taken Declan as her religious name, so for many years was known as Sister Mary Declan. Later, when able to resume her baptismal name, she did so and became Sister Mary. After gaining her Teacher's Registration, Mary was sent to Katoomba, and for the next twenty-five years taught in parish schools in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

One year of pastoral ministry at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst, encouraged Mary to gain a Certificate in Business Studies and

move into the administration services in our hospitals. Mary served for six years at St Vincent's Launceston and then at Mt Olivet and Marycrest in Brisbane where she ministered in a variety of positions in administration and pastoral care for the next thirteen years. Mary always claimed that these were the years of ministry she most enjoyed. One special occasion was when she was able to minister to her brother, Father Gerard CSsR, during the last weeks of his life.

Mary, small in stature, always rather youthful looking and careful to keep herself fit, was well and active almost to the time of her death. Even in retirement in her eighties she would walk and swim every day. Mary was gracious, gentle and very hospitable, a woman of many interests, always open to learning new things. Whether it was calligraphy, playing her keyboard, making cards or reading, which was her greatest love, Mary kept herself busy, and was even happy to take a share in some community duties. Many events in Mary's life showed her to be realistic, practical and intelligent.

Just a few days before her death, Mary had reached her Platinum Jubilee ~ the seventieth anniversary of her commitment to God as a Sister of Charity. To quote again her brother, Richard, *“Mary never had any doubts about her calling to religious life and embraced it with zest and determination to offer God her very best.”* And that is how we, who lived with her, saw Mary ~ faithful, committed and happy.

Mary is buried at Nudgee Cemetery with all our Sisters who have died while living in Brisbane. It is a long way from her Victorian home, but she is at rest with her Sisters, some of whom perhaps taught her, lived with her or encouraged her along the way ~ all of them, like herself, *“Impelled by the love of Christ”.*



## Sister Margaret Dwyer

*“Jesus my Lord, my God, my All.”*

*Margaret Therese Dwyer (M. John Berchmans) was the fourth child of Mary Josephine Healy and William Maurice Dwyer who instilled a deep and practical faith in their children.*

As the family lived in the Essendon area, Margaret and her siblings Maurice, Elizabeth RSC, Bill SJ and Mary were ‘Essendonites’ through and through. They remained a strong family unit. Throughout life, Margaret faced challenges. As a child, she was diagnosed with polio and despite the physical and emotional pain she suffered, she was not deterred from participating in what everyone else was doing ~ even joining the school basketball and tennis teams! Margaret and her sisters attended St Therese’s Primary School and St Columba’s College, Essendon and throughout her religious life, Margaret would spend twenty two years in the Essendon area until her final farewell from St Therese’s Church.

After matriculating from college, Margaret had a great desire to become a teacher. She worked as a Student Teacher at St Therese’s, Essendon for two years, before entering the Sisters of Charity Novitiate at *Bethania* on 2 February 1950, making her first vows on 4 August, 1952.

At the time of her death, Margaret had been a Sister of Charity for sixty four years. She gained her Teachers’ Registration and then began her teaching ministry in primary schools at Darlinghurst, Potts Point, Cabramatta and Hobart, before becoming a Secondary teacher at St Mary’s Cathedral, Sydney, Sandy Bay, Ashfield and finally at St Columba’s where she was Deputy then Principal of the College. It was during this time that she studied for and gained her BA and MA. For a time, she worked at the CEO as an Education Officer and in all her undertakings, Margaret gave generously of her time and talents. As Fr Bill remarked:

*“Margaret’s gifts were not hers to cling to.  
Her hard earned knowledge and insights  
were for sharing.”*

In 1978, Margaret travelled overseas to do further study at the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley gaining her Masters in Sacred Theology. Her thesis was entitled *‘Personality and Prayer’* and it was from here that her sacred ministry in Spiritual Direction took prominence in her life. She became a Spiritual Director at Campion Retreat Centre in Melbourne for several years before beginning as Retreat Director at Currajeen Retreat House in Eltham in 1988.

Ten years later, Currajeen Retreat House moved to Doreen where Margaret procured the property and prepared it for Retreatants.

It was a great honour for Margaret to be asked to be Vicar for Religious in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2008 and she moved from Doreen to a Unit in Washington St., Essendon. Her wisdom and integrity were both invaluable to the Archbishop and the priests and religious in Melbourne. Also, friends and colleagues of the Sisters of Charity benefitted from her wisdom and guidance through the *RSC Companions* which Margaret established in Melbourne.

Apart from her academic and religious gifts, there was another side to Margaret! She was a good cook who shared her freshly baked cakes with Directees or guests who came to her home. She enjoyed a regular game of cards with friends and was known as a *‘card shark!’* Another gift was as a gardener. She brought the roses and other plants from Eltham to beautify the Doreen Retreat House garden.

In all the challenges of her life, the greatest was to come in 2015 when she was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. It was such a shock for all and especially for Margaret, but with deep faith and courage, she accepted the diagnosis. She shared with others that:

*“... although my body is wearing out, my spirit  
within me is strong and accepting of my journey.”*

For a time she was able to use a computer for better communication and a motorised scooter to help with mobility, but gradually, she had to surrender these aids. She was supported by medical teams as well as family and friends, moving from her Unit in Washington St., Essendon to Arcadia Aged Care Facility and finally to Caritas Christi Hospice at Kew.

Margaret’s final joy was to have a visit from her new baby grandnephew, Archie Allen. He was placed in her arms for a few moments. It seemed that Margaret’s earthly journey was completed. She died the morning after Archie’s visit on 31 August! Following her death, the congregation received many tributes of Margaret from those to whom Margaret had *‘brought the face of Jesus to’*. Jesus was her Lord, her God and her All. Margaret, we salute you!

## September



1	Joseph O'FARRELL Celsus HEFFERNAN	1890 1961	16	Charles BRADY Leo DOWLING	1931 1943
2	St Roch DOHERTY Walburga KRUGER	1901 1977	17	Columba KING Ita Joseph McMAHON Martha MURPHY	1924 1933 1998
3	Claude BAILLIE Dismas BINNS Stephen DOWD Myrna LYNCH	1947 1953 1975 2001	18	Maria Helen McMANUS Bernadette CULHANE	1976 2016
4			19	Laurentia JAGUERS St Andrew CARROLL Thomas NORTH	1934 1944 1951
5	Peter POLAND Paul DUGGAN Cuthbert TYLER St James WATSON	1904 1930 1946 1959	20		
6	Martha SCANLON Catherine CROWE	1922 1955	21	Jean MONTGOMERY	2019
7	Aloysia SHAFFREY Agnes KENNY Jean WEATHERLEY	1941 2006 2012	22	Ita McCORMACK Brigid HUSSEY	1935 1987
8	Martina MURTAGH Kilian HUGHES Azevedo DOYLE	1898 1938 1966	23	Antoninus CONNELLY Cyril ETTINGER Berchmans MILLEA	1919 1939 1975
9	Columbanus O'CONNOR Kevin LAMONT	1924 1983	24	Josephine O'BRIEN	1922
10	Mother M. Gertrude DAVIS Magdalena HADFIELD Dolores O'DONNELL	1910 1940 1959	25	Victoire SINCLAIR Ursula LEARY Chrysostom LALOR Jane Frances WALL	1937 1959 1969 1984
11	Donatus CURRAN Margaret Mary BRODERICK Justine DOHERTY	1939 1954 2011	26	Agnes FITZGERALD Patrice LOHAN Anita VAUGHAN Ignatius JENKINS	1962 1967 1981 1995
12	Margaret ENNIS Stephen O'DONNELL Christopher PRINGLE	1931 1941 1961	27		
13	Gerardus SHOLL	1962	28	Bernard BENNINGTON	1951
14	de Lellis NORMOYLE	1954	29	Alphonso KILLEN Rose SOUTER Conleth CUNNANE	1960 1973 1980
15			30	Patrick KING St Philip REYNOLDS Catherine TIERNEY Lucius MARTIN Marcian RYAN	1936 1943 1984 1987 1992



## *Sister Agnes (Teresa) Kenny*

*“To love and serve God.”*

*Agnes was born in 1918 to Patrick Kenny and Maud Gummer. She was the eldest of a large family. Her mother did not have good health, and Agnes took over many of the roles in the family, caring for her younger sisters and brothers. Following her mother's death in 1939, Agnes nurtured the family and in 1941 after her father had remarried, she entered Religious Life.*

She had a love for all the members of her family, her brothers and sisters, her nieces and nephews, and often spoke about them. She had a special love for Jim, who became Father Bernard, and spoke about taking him to school as a new kindergarten pupil. Proud of this brother who had joined the Passionist Order and was spoken of as a dedicated religious and priest, Agnes was well enough to attend his Requiem Mass in Sydney when he died on 29th June, 2003.

In addition to teaching and leading school communities as Principal in a number of places Agnes, known then as Sister Teresa, ministered also in the Sisters of Charity Orphanage in Hobart, and as a Pastoral Carer in Lismore, Darlinghurst and here at Kangaroo Point. Agnes was very creative and artistic and a great organizer.

When in Canberra she commenced a Seniors' group which was a wonderful asset to the area and which continues to this day. She was a generous tour guide to many visitors and generously drove them to see the sights of Canberra. Agnes also considered it a privilege to work for the St. Vincent de Paul Society as her father had done before her.

Agnes lived through global and historical changes she would have found hard to imagine when she was a young nun. Yet all of her many assignments had meaning for her only within her commitment as a Sister of Charity. For 63 years she remained steadfastly faithful to the constant core of who she was as an RSC, and her life had its steady focus on Jesus.



## Sister Jean Weatherley

*“To Jesus Through Mary”*

*Jean was very proud of her birth place and used to say “I grew up on the richest black soil on the Darling Downs, Allora”.*

Sister Jean (formerly known as Sr M. Syra) had been a Sister of Charity for 79 years when she died on 7th September, 2012, aged 99 ~ the most senior Sister in our Congregation at that time.

Jean was born on 3rd November, 1913 at Hendon a small town on the Darling Downs about 15km south west of Allora. Allora was also the birth place of her father. Jean was the fourth of seven children born to Daniel and Josephine Weatherley. She was sent to Toowoomba for her secondary schooling and on completion of her schooling began Teacher Training.

Our Sisters arrived in Toowoomba to found St Vincent's Hospital in 1920. That may have inspired Jean, in 1931 at the age of 17, to choose the Sisters of Charity when feeling God was inviting her to religious life. Jean entered the Novitiate on the 6th January, 1931 and was professed on the 21st August, 1933. As her religious name, she had chosen 'Sister Mary Syra'. Later when it was permitted to return to the use of her baptismal name, Jean did so.

Jean's first appointment was as an Infant Teacher at St Vincent's Potts Point, then as Primary Teacher in Sydney, Queensland, Hobart and Katoomba. Many remember Jean best at Katoomba where she spent time in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s in the Boarding School at Mt St Mary's. Jean was very serious about her responsibilities. The Boarders' welfare was paramount and her organisational skills and attention to detail came to the fore. It was part of her; she liked good order, making things look nice and arranging celebrations and entertainment. Jean was careful of her appearance and always looked neat and well groomed.

Katoomba was the last of Jean's school ministries. From there she went to the Novitiate at Liverpool, the Conference Centre, Wahroonga and then, in 1979, to Mt Olivet, Brisbane. In each of these placements Jean's service was by ministering to the Community.

In her busy, cheerful way Jean made the convent a more comfortable and pleasant home for the sisters. At Mt Olivet she also engaged in pastoral care at Marycrest. Being back in Queensland Jean was able to join the family more often on special occasions. There had always been a great bond between herself, her siblings and their children. While Jean is remembered as a busy, active worker, there was another side to her ~ she loved parties and entertaining! She enjoyed putting the finishing touches to the preparations for a celebration in the community or a function with friends.

After a life of service Jean herself retired to Marycrest until she needed further care when she moved to Oxford Park Retirement Centre at Mitchelton for a few years. There she was a favourite resident, much loved for her deep faith and acceptance of God's will. In 2012 Jean returned to Kangaroo Point, in Lilian Cooper Nursing Home where the bustling energy and vitality at last became still as she waited for God's call on 7th September.

Jean's family described her as:

*“dedicated and committed to her profession as a nun, as a teacher and as part of the various Communities to which she belonged”.*

We, your Sisters, can say the same ~ Thank you Jean, for your long example of fidelity for 79 years as a Sister of Charity.



## *Sister M. Justine Doherty*

*“The Almighty does great things for me”*

*Sister M. Justine Doherty, aged 94 and a Sister of Charity for 71 years, died in Melbourne on the 11th September 2011.*

Sister Justine was born on 7th November, 1916 at Camperdown in rural Victoria where her father was a farmer. Her parents, Thomas Doherty and Frances Quinlan, had five children ~ Justine, her twin brother, Finbar, two brothers, Francis and Leo, and her sister, Margaret. In Baptism, Justine was named Mary Catherine, but took Justine as her religious name and continued to use that name throughout her life.

After primary school at St Patrick's, Camperdown, Justine attended Sacred Heart College, Ballarat, studied commercial subjects and worked in secretarial positions for some years before June, 1937, when she entered our Novitiate, 'Bethania', in Sydney.

After her novitiate training and Profession of Vows, on 26th January, 1940, Justine trained as a General Nurse and began her nursing ministry at Sacred Heart Hospice, Darlinghurst in 1944. Two or three years later, while nursing at St Vincent's, Launceston, Justine was diagnosed with TB and from then on her ministry was several times interrupted by periods of illness.

This did not, however, prevent Justine from becoming a very fine nurse, offering her skills of organization and of efficient and gracious patient care for twenty years, working in the Wards, Administration or Reception in our hospitals at Lismore, Auburn and St Vincent's, Fitzroy where, prior to her retirement, Justine ministered for ten years at the Reception desk.

Blessed with the two talents of initiative and organizational skills, Justine was often able to see needs and introduce new ideas to improve the care and comfort of her patients.

While ministering in the Intermediate Ward in Melbourne, Justine was the first to provide curtains that could be pulled around the bed when extra privacy was needed. In 1973, when nursing in the Urology Ward, Justine studied and gained a Certificate in Stomal Therapy and initiated small changes in that field that improved nursing practices and enhanced the comfort of the patients.

In the wards or at the administration and reception desks, courteous interaction with people was just part of Justine. She was not critical, she liked people whoever they were and showed this by her interest and kindness.

Justine was very close to her family and much loved by them, and she often expressed her gratitude and love for the Congregation and all it had done for her. In retirement, Justine lived first at Mononia, Fitzroy, and then from 2006, at Corpus Christi, Clayton. She died at Caritas Christi Hospice in September, 2011. Justine was the first Sister of Charity to be buried in the new area where the Congregation had purchased graves at Springvale Cemetery.

Justine preferred not to have a eulogy, but asked that these words, which so well express her feelings, be spoken at her final Eucharist:

*“I asked for health, that I might do great things. I was given infirmity, that I might do better things, I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God. Not given all that I asked for, but everything I hoped for. I am among the most richly blessed.”*



## Sister Bernadette Culhane



*"It is the Lord!"*

*Bernadette Mary Culhane (M. Raymond) was born in Yallourn, Victoria on 10 June, 1933, the fourth of the five children of Ellen Dwyer and John Culhane and loving sister of Kevin (RIP), Noreen (RIP), Cecily and Mary.*

The family lived in Melbourne and Bernadette attended St Mary's Primary School, East Malvern and the Presentation Sisters' O'Neill College at Elsternwick. After completing her education, Bernadette trained at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne and became a Registered Nurse. Also training at St Vincent's was a Daughter of Charity who became a friend of Bernadette's and Bernadette relates that she was going to become a Daughter of Charity too, when she finished her training! But at the end of her training, she had a stronger desire to become a Sister of Charity and had to break this news to her friend!

So on 15 February, 1956, she entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate at Wahroonga and at her Reception in August of that year, asked to be given the name *Raymond*. Her wish was granted! (Bernadette was good at art and Sr Raymond had been her favourite art teacher!) She changed back to her Baptismal name at a later time.

Bernadette was professed on 18 August, 1958 and began her first ministry as Sister in Charge at the Accident & Emergency, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney. After further training over the years in Obstetrics, Infant Welfare, CPE, Counselling, Clinical Counselling and Palliative Care, Bernadette ministered in most of our Health facilities in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria from 1958 to her retirement in 2013. She was a dedicated nursing sister who was loved wherever she went.

One of Bernadette's most important legacies to the sick and dying of Brisbane was the setting up of a *'Hospice in the Home'* Service. Today, St Vincent's in Brisbane continues the work Bernadette began in Palliative Care Services. Wherever she was sent, Bernadette had a special care for the *"down and outs"*. The poor had special treatment from Bernadette in places like the Casualty at St Vincent's Melbourne and Sydney and St Joseph's, Auburn. It was not surprising that, after retiring from the busy schedule

she had had in nursing, she volunteered as a Team Member at Briar Terrace in Melbourne, to help the less fortunate ~ *'making cups of tea for people living on the streets, listening to their stories or just being with them.'*

Over the years, Bernadette took advantage of times of Renewal so that she could be of better service to others. She did courses in Ignatian Spirituality at Pymble, Pastoral Leadership in Auckland and in 1994 enjoyed an overseas trip with her friend Margaret O'Brien rsc. She continued to enjoy using her artistic talents: painting, making cards, designing covers for Mass booklets and candle painting for special occasions. She would also generously accept requests to do art work for others.

Throughout her life, Bernadette had suffered from various medical complaints, especially serious back problems which limited her mobility but did not interfere with her ability to drive a car. However, in late 2012 when she was diagnosed with early dementia, it was a greater blow to her to be told that she had to give up driving. She bravely tried to come to terms with this new situation in her life. She continued to live at 21 Brunswick St., Fitzroy until, needing further care, she moved to St Catherine's Aged Care Facility at Balwyn in 2013 where other Sisters of Charity were in residence.

A few weeks before she died, Bernadette was admitted to St Vincent's, Melbourne for various tests but it was expected that she would return to St Catherine's. However, she was transferred to the Palliative Care section of St Vincent's and died there on 18 September, 2016, having been a Sister of Charity for 58 years. Bernadette is buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery. She would have been truly humbled by the loving tributes paid to her in cards, letters and the newspapers:

*"Another link in the chain is broken ~ 'A pearl of great price.' A true daughter of Mary Aikenhead for almost sixty years."*



## Sr Jean Montgomery



*“Not my will but Thine be done.”*

*Jean Montgomery (S.M.Philomena) was born on 11 March 1936, the second child of Marjorie Sanders and Hugh Montgomery. Jean and her brother Michael had a happy childhood, but when their father returned from WWII after five years as a prisoner of war in Changi, family life was very difficult.*

**W**e believe that Jean's 83 years could be summed up in these words by Ralph W. Emerson:

*“To laugh often and love much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to give oneself, and to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to have played and laughed with enthusiasm, and to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived”.*

Jean's early education was in the Blue Mountains at Katoomba and she completed her education at Bethlehem College in 1951. When she left school, she worked for a year as a Bookkeeping machinist.

Having been inspired by the Sisters of Charity during her schooling, Jean felt called to Religious Life. She entered the Novitiate on 2 July 1953 and became a Novice on 9 January 1954. She made her First Profession on 23 January 1956 and at the time of her death, had been sixty three years professed.

After completing her Teacher Training, Jean ministered in the Primary schools at Liverpool, Clifton Hill Vic., Kingston Beach and Aikenhead House in Tasmania from 1956 until 1967. From 1968 until 1970, she was Principal at St Monica's Moonee Ponds. After four years at Megiar in PNG, Concord, Strathmore and OLMC Mt Pritchard were her final Primary school ministries, concluding in 1984. Jean was a much loved teacher who developed a helpful rapport with her students and their families. She had a great sense of humour and entertained her students with lots of stories! In community, Jean would entertain us with countless funny stories which she would dramatize for us!

As well as her sense of humour, Jean possessed a deep compassion for others. When she began in other pastoral ministries, those with whom and to whom she ministered, were the recipients of her rich qualities. All came to know Jean as a compassionate listener who put them at ease with her welcoming smile. From 1985 until 2017, Jean studied and gained Certificates in Pastoral Ministry, Catechist Training Program

and Clinical Pastoral Education to prepare her for a variety of ministries which she undertook: Pastoral Care at Kingston Beach, Sacred Heart Hospice, Stella Maris Shellharbour, St Catherine of Siena Prestons, Sudanese ministry at OLMC Wentworthville, St Joseph's Village Auburn, Sisters of Charity Outreach including Care for Carers and finally to RSCs in Aged Care Facilities. During these years, she was also involved with the RSC Companions in Sydney, a special group of people whom Jean mentored with spiritual depth and wisdom.

Towards the end of her active ministry, Jean had some health concerns. She had surgery and recovered better health for a time, but in late 2018, Jean was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Jean had lived in an ILU at St Joseph's Auburn but she then needed to move to Hostel care then Palliative care at St Joseph's.

On 15 July 2019, Jean and her community gathered for a special Mass with Frs Pat McAuliffe and Chris Toohey to pray for Jean. She was able to express her thanks to each one present for their love and support of her during life. The love and gratitude for Jean was reciprocated. Jean was lovingly cared for in St Joseph's Hospital and died on the feast of St Matthew 21 September 2019 in the presence of those keeping vigil with her ~ Sr Clare, her RSC friends and colleague and friend Christine Scanlon.

Special mention should be made of her good friend, Margaret Valentine, who was her constant companion and support during her last days. Sisters of Charity, family members, many friends and the staff of the Hospital gathered in the Chapel on 1 October for a Vigil to express appreciation of Jean's life and to farewell her. Together with RSCs, family and friends, Jean's Funeral Mass at Auburn was celebrated by Frs Kevin Walsh, Pat McAuliffe and Isaac Koi MSC on 4 October. Pauline Staunton, her 'co', gave the Words of Remembrance. Jean is buried at Rookwood.

*Welcome home Jean and thank you from all of us for your presence in our lives. You have enriched, encouraged and inspired us to become more than we would have been because we have known you.*



## October



1			16 St Michael CLEARY	1954
			Nicholas COSGRAVE	1987
			Andrea DONNELLAN	1989
2	Dorothea HARDING	1934		
	Alphonsus FITZPATRICK	1936		
	Bertrand RYAN	1951		
	St Luke O'DONOGHUE	1988	17 Tarcisius O'BRIEN	1912
	Emeric UNDERWOOD	1993	Zita RICHARDSON	1952
	Una McALLISTER	2009	Martina McMANUS	1960
3	Margaret REEVE	1967		
	Eugenia SMITH	1991	18 Kevin PURTILL	1938
	Mary Clare POLLOCK	2004	Sabina RICKABY	1956
4	Silvester KELAHER	1948		
5	Colman BIGGINS	1938	19 Vincent MARUM	1844
	Consolata CORNELL	2005	Callistus CROWLEY	1953
			Mary COOKE	2019
6	Claver McMAHON	1900		
	Audeon POULTON	1970	20 Mary KENNEDY	2014
	Louise BASTANY	1975		
7	Catherine ELLIS	2005	21 Placid DOYLE	1924
	Catherine O'CARRIGAN	2010		
8				
9	Marcellina BREEN	1962	22 Maurus TIERNEY	1960
	Aurelius POWELL	1970	Frances MAGUIRE	1974
	Carmella KISSANE	1978	Eileen DUFFY	2018
	Adrian WALSH	1988		
10	Irene Mary BUCKLEY	2005	23	
11	Magdalen TOO HILL	1917		
	Isabel WALDRON	1964	24 de Pazzi CONNELLY	1925
	Bernadine FENNESSY	2004	Cecily MORPHY	1926
12			Veronica McKENNEY	1935
			Stanislaus ROONEY	1944
			Aquinas KEANE	1971
13	Francesca COTTER	1933	25 Veronica O'BRIEN	1890
	Antonia LOUGHNAN	1938		
14			26	
15	Mother M. Scholastica GIBBONS	1901	27 Mother M. Francis McGUIGAN	1923
	Mother M. Canice BRUTON	1937	Antoninus KEEFFE	2000
			28	
			29 Ildephonsus LARNER	1900
			30 Mechtilde LONG	1918
			31	



## Sister M. Emeric Underwood

*“You, O Lord are My Strength.”*

*Mary Elizabeth Underwood was born on 21 September, 1905, into the small country town of Arthurs Creek, Victoria, north east of Melbourne.*

Emeric's Irish parents, William Charles Underwood and Elizabeth Frances Carton, were married in 1897. Mary was the fifth of their nine children ~ five boys and four girls. The others were Jim, Bill, Gordon, Catherine, Mary Alice, Suzanne, Bernard and Joseph.

Before he was married, William Underwood bought a property of one hundred acres at Arthurs Creek and in 1899 the family moved onto this property where Mary's parents turned half the property into an orchard growing pears and apples. On the other half, his family produced crops to feed the horses, kept cows to produce milk for the family and his wife had over two hundred chickens. Eggs were sold to a General Store in Melbourne. Grandmother Jane, who lived with them, tended the vegetable garden, of which she was very, very proud. A new school was opened at Arthurs Creek, where the younger members of the family attended.

In 1920, Mary's father, William, died of septicaemia which was caused by an infected tooth. After this, it became increasingly hard for the family to make the orchard a profitable concern and so the decision was made to sell the farm in 1924. The family shifted to the suburb of Box Hill in Melbourne. As the children grew, they began to seek employment in various fields, including farming, plumbing, as a postman, plastering and butchering. The girls became seamstresses and one, a secretary.

In 1930, Mary decided to join the Sisters of Charity and went from Melbourne to Sydney to begin her Novitiate. When she was professed, she was known as Sister Mary Emeric. This was followed with further studies to become a nurse at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. In this, her chosen profession, she was a perfectionist (according to her sister Alice). Emeric was a good Religious and always remained faithful to her vows.

On Sr Emeric's return to Melbourne, she was sent to the 'Emily McPherson Australian Domestic Science College' to train in food services, dietetics and nutrition as well as food science. After this, she was put in charge of the St Vincent's Hospital Kitchen in Fitzroy, Victoria, a position she held for approximately twenty seven years.

How wonderful these years were for her siblings and their growing families. On the third Sunday of the month, it was 'Visitors' Day' and her brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews have many happy memories of all the families meeting at St Vincent's and getting to know one another. The kitchen always provided beautiful afternoon teas for Sister's visitors; most times they would congregate on the roof of the hospital, one floor up from the kitchen, spending a couple of hours socialising.

In 1967, Sr Emeric was sent to St Vincent's, Lismore as Sister-In-Charge, then three years later to Sacred Heart Hospice, Darlinghurst as Mother Rectress for six years. In 1976, she moved to Mt Olivet, Kangaroo Point, witnessing the building and opening of *Marycrest*, before she returned to Caritas Christi Hostel, Kew to retire. In 1982, she celebrated her Golden Jubilee and at least thirty family members were present for this wonderful occasion. Ten years later, she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee.

Sr Emeric's perfectionist nature again revealed itself as she began to embroider altar cloths for the Chapel. She did the most beautiful hardanger embroidery work. The lectern drapes and altar cloths she made were used for the many years that she was a sacristan and beyond. Emeric died on 2 October, 1993, Feast of the Guardian Angels, surrounded by Sisters of Charity and her own sister Alice. Emeric had been a Sister of Charity for sixty-one years. We give thanks for her life of service to God and others.



## Sister Una McAllister



*“God Alone.”*

*Sister Una McAllister had been a Sister of Charity for sixty-one years when she died, aged eighty-four years, at Caritas Christi Hospice on 2nd October, 2009.*

Una was born in Moonee Ponds on 14th July, 1925, the first child and only daughter of Mel and Kathleen McAllister. At baptism she was given the name Marie Una. At her religious profession she retained the name Una and became Sister Mary Una. Having been educated at St. Columba's College, Essendon from Kindergarten till her graduation with Leaving Honours, Una often claimed that she was a *“true RSC girl”*.

Leaving school in 1941, Una worked as a bank clerk until her entrance into the Novitiate at Bethania, Potts Point in 1946. Una was professed in August, 1948 and began study at St Vincent's Training College for her Teacher Registration. Her first appointment was to St Mary's Cathedral School, then St John's, East Melbourne before moving to the staff at Catholic Ladies College where she remained from 1954 till 1972. During this time Una studied part-time at Melbourne University and obtained her BA Degree.

This lengthy ministry at CLC was to have a deep connection with much that Una did in her later life. Appointed Rectress and Principal of the College in 1962, it fell to Una's lot in the next ten years, to oversee the transfer of CLC Cathedral Place, to CLC Eltham. The selection and purchase of the site, the planning and construction of the new school building and convent and the transfer of the staff and students to the new location, all took place during Una's term of office.

Having filled the role of Regional Superior (Vic/Tas) for one year, Una was elected to the General Council and moved to Potts Point. During her time as Councillor she spent six months studying Justice Education at the East Asian Pastoral Institute in Manila.

This experience was the impetus that gave Una a keen commitment to social justice issues for the rest of her life. From 1979 until she was again elected to the Council in 1984, Una worked with Australian Catholic Relief. During her second term as a Councillor, Una spent the six years as Regional Superior, first in New South Wales and then in Queensland.

Una had a great capacity for friendship. Her brothers John and Ray and their families were very dear and very close to her, as well as her many friends with whom Una kept in touch and met with regularly.

Una spent the last eighteen years of her life at Clifton Hill/Nth Fitzroy and for the centenary of CLC, Una, with four past students, wrote the history of the College. The work was completed and *“Catholic Ladies College, 100 years, 1902-2002”* was launched as planned during the centenary celebrations.

For five years, in her retirement, Una offered her services as a part-time volunteer at the Catholic Missions Office. Una thought “Church” and always tried to enter into the life of the Parishes in which she lived.

Una did all things well and nowhere was this characteristic more in evidence than in the way she lived her religious life. In this she was truly single-minded. She had committed herself to God and all else followed from that. Una was a woman of integrity, she listened, questioned, looked at the issue ~ not the person, formed an opinion and dared to stand up and be counted. She was indeed *“a true RSC girl”*, one of whom we are justly proud.



## *Sister Mary Clare Pollock*

*“Deus solus. God alone.”*

*Known in religion as Sister Mary Loyola, Mary Clare Pollock was born on the 20th April, 1918 at Clarence, New South Wales. Mary Clare was the third of four children born to William Pollock and Marcella McCauley. Mary Clare’s Secondary education was at St Mary’s Cathedral School where she gained her Leaving Certificate. Before entering the Sisters of Charity in January she was a Switchboard Operator.*

**S**ister Mary Clare entered the Sisters of Charity in July 1934 and was professed in 1937, gaining her teaching registration in 1941.

During her long teaching career, she taught both primary and junior secondary classes at East Melbourne, Strathmore Hobart, Auburn, Liverpool, Concord, Paddington, Cabramatta, Hurstville and Potts Point. She held the position of Principal at both St Patrick’s, Paddington from 1956 to 1961, and St Mary’s, Hurstville from 1964 to 1970.

While resident at Liverpool from 1983 to the end of 1987, Sister Mary Clare used her many skills to assist those requiring Adult Education, visiting them in their homes in order to do this.

In 1988, Mary Clare retired at Liverpool Convent, remaining there until 1996. When she became frailer, she moved to St Joseph’s Auburn in 1997 and then to Lewisham Nursing home in 1999. She died peacefully on the 3rd October, 2004.



## *Sister (M. Consolata) Maure Cornell*



*“All for Jesus, through Mary.”*

*Maure Denise Cornell was born in Pambula, South Coast NSW, on 20th July, 1912. She was the elder of two girls born to Vincent and Marie Cornell. Her parents and Shelia her sister, predeceased her. In her primary school years, Maure attended St Mary's, Hurstville. After completing her secondary schooling at Kincoppal College, Rose Bay, she did a Course in Hotel Management and taught music at St Mary's Hurstville.*

**O**n 2nd February, 1937, at the age of 25, Maure entered the Sisters of Charity. On completion of her training in the Novitiate, Maure was professed on 25th August, 1939 and received the name of Consolata.

Consolata's first appointment was to St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. From 1939 till 1944 she managed the departments for the ordering of supplies for the hospital kitchens at St Vincent's, Melbourne and St Vincent's, Sydney. Consolata was then sent to Toowoomba where she did her nursing training, graduating as a general nurse in 1950. As a qualified nurse Consolata ministered at St Joseph's, Auburn; St Vincent's, Darlinghurst; Sacred Heart Hospice and then to St Vincent's, Melbourne. Back in Sydney in 1969, Consolata was appointed Administrator of Babworth House while Sacred Heart Hospice was relocated there for a time while the Hospice was being refurbished.

Consolata retired from active ministry in 1985 and went to live at Edgecliff. Although retired, Consolata spent much time visiting the elderly or sick in their homes around the Parish.

On 9th January 1994, there was a fire in part of the Convent. The next day the Community had to move to temporary accommodation at Darlinghurst but Consolata went to the Village at Auburn. That fire was something she often talked about because it was the cause of her having to leave Edgecliff and the Community and the many friends she had made during the seven years she had lived there.

In 2003 it was necessary for Consolata to have full time nursing assistance so she moved to St Vincent de Paul Nursing Home at Lewisham. As usual, Consolata was interested in everything around her.

When she could move about freely she kept a nurse's eye on Sister Agnes and Sister Irene Mary who were also at Lewisham at that time. In July, 2004 Consolata was chosen Resident of the Month. The Staff who nursed her became very fond of her and asked her prayers for special worries in their lives.



## Sister M. Catherine Ellis

*“Ecce ancilla Domini.”*

*Sister Catherine was born at Taradale, Victoria on 13th January 1908, and christened Kathleen Mary. She was the eldest of seven children. Catherine did her primary schooling at Castlemaine and gained Leaving Certificate when she completed her secondary schooling at St Columba's College Essendon in 1925.*

In the two years before joining the Sisters of Charity, in May 1927, Catherine did a year's teacher training and taught for a year with the State Education Department.

After Profession on 23 January, 1930, Catherine's ministry began at St Teresa's Primary School, Essendon where she spent 14 years. From 1930 to 1938 she was Infant Mistress and from 1939 till 1944 the School Principal.

Catherine inherited a fortuitous mix of talent from her schoolmaster father and her teacher/businesswoman mother. She was respected for her teaching ability and for her caring concern for her students as was evidenced by so many at her Requiem who said *“I had to come for Katie”*.

1947 saw a dramatic change in Catherine's life when she went as Superior of St Joseph's Orphanage in Hobart. After Hobart it was back to the schoolrooms at Lewisham in 1953 but this foray was cut short the following year when she was one of the appointed Assistants to the new Mother General, Sr Agnes Skewes. Catherine's portfolio was mainly education and she organised the transfer from the 110 year old convent at St Joseph's Hobart to Mt Carmel Sandy Bay.

Strathmore Convent was purchased in 1960 and, following much restoration and the building of the Chapel, Catherine moved in with a Community in 1961.

Two years later she returned to St Joseph's Orphanage, then known as Aikenhead House, with a plan for updated Child Care facilities. Six Group Homes were established to house the children in a family situation. Here, Catherine was at her best, working in conjunction with Centacare and a dedicated committee of men and women.

In 1971 the call came for Catherine to leave Hobart and take over the role of Bursar General. This departure was soul-tearing for her, but, of course, she went and served well as Bursar.

A short term in Child Care at Edgecliff followed, then Catherine returned once more to Essendon as Superior. This was a time for further change and she was to oversee the transfer of the Convent to the College and the relocation of the Community to units in Moonee Ponds and Essendon.

Retirement came in 1988 with a move to Moonee Ponds where Catherine soon became involved in parish affairs. When the move to Caritas Christi became necessary, Catherine went with some misgivings but soon settled in and, as usual, became interested and involved.

Catherine's small stature belied the largeness of her mind and soul. She kept herself informed about the latest trends in church, world and theology, and almost to the end, was an active participant in the Prayer Days at Doreen.



## Sister Catherine O'Carrigan

*Et Verbum Caro Factum Est  
(And the Word was made flesh).*

*Sister Catherine O'Carrigan died on 7th October 2010, just a month after she had celebrated the 70th anniversary of her profession as a Sister of Charity.*

Catherine (Kathleen) was born on 25th February 1919. Her parents Patrick O'Carrigan, from Durham England, and Ellen McCaughan from Ballycastle, Northern Ireland, were blessed with seven children, three girls and four boys. Catherine, the second child, was born in Co. Antrim, and was seven years old when the family migrated to Australia and settled in Woy Woy (NSW) where her father began farming. Catherine completed her primary schooling in Woy Woy and Springwood before attending St Scholastica's College, Glebe Point. There she gained her Leaving Certificate and graduated in 1936.

When Catherine entered our Novitiate at Potts Point in February 1938, she had already commenced her training as a Teacher. Always proud of her Irish birth and heritage, Catherine, when choosing a name by which she would be known in Religious life, chose an Irish saint, Eunan, as her patron. At her profession on 24th August, 1938, she was Sister Mary Eunan and continued so until after Vatican 11 when she resumed her baptismal name, Catherine.

After leaving the Novitiate, Catherine's first appointment was to Sacred Heart Primary School, Darlinghurst, later in the Parish Primary schools at South Hurstville, Paddington, Cabramatta, Auburn and Concord West. During these years, Catherine studied part time and gained an A.M.E.B. Teachers Registration in 1946 and an Associate Diploma in 1947 in Speech and Drama. These qualifications she used extensively through the remaining years on her teaching ministry.

At Mt St Michael's Ashgrove in 1949, Catherine began teaching at secondary level and December 1965, she taught at St Vincent's Potts Point,

St Mary's Cathedral College, St Mary's Liverpool, Bethlehem College and St John's Auburn. At the National Art School she gained a Diploma in Fine Arts. In 1971 Catherine was able to begin full time study at Sydney University where she gained her Bachelor of Arts Degree. During 1977, she travelled overseas to Ireland, Europe and USA.

Catherine will be remembered for her passionate interest in History, especially that of our Congregation and of the Church. Catherine spent her last years in community at Potts Point. She studied to gain her Master of Arts and devoted her time to research, writing articles for The Catholic Weekly, letters to the Press and speaking at historical gatherings.

Catherine has a great love for her family and delighted her nieces and nephews and their children. In the eulogy spoken at Catherine's Mass at St John's Church Auburn on 13th October 2010, her brother John summed up Catherine's life in these words: "*The strength of her faith was based on the loving Providence of God which she accepted as intimately bound up with her life's fortunes through the whole range of high to low experiences.*"

As ageing and health concerns made extra care necessary, she moved from the Community to 'Stella Maris' Aged Care Facility at Cronulla. It was there while celebrating her Platinum (70yrs) Jubilee that Catherine renewed her vows for the last time. She died a few weeks later at the age of 91.

A long life lived in faithful commitment to God and to her life as a Sister of Charity.



## *Sister Irene Mary Buckley*



*“Jesus and I.”*

*Irene Mary Buckley was born in Newtown, Sydney on 21st November, 1917. In the family of three boys and two girls, Irene Mary was the second oldest.*

From Grade One until her graduation from Secondary School at Intermediate in 1931, Irene Mary attended St Mary's Hurstville. After leaving school, she trained as a tailoress while working at Lowes, a well-known clothing firm in Sydney.

In July 1937 Irene Mary joined the Sisters of Charity and at her clothing ceremony received the name, Mary Herman.

After her profession, in January 1940, she trained as a teacher and her first appointment was to St Ambrose Primary School in Concord West, where she taught for the next ten years. Following that she taught in the infant classes at Potts Point, Mortlake and Edgecliff.

In 1958 Irene Mary was sent to St Anne's Orphanage at Liverpool and remained there for ten years. Nowhere was her love of children more evident than it was at St Anne's. Many of them kept in touch with her over the years and often told her how much her presence at the Orphanage and her love and acceptance in their adult lives meant to them.

Irene Mary's next moves were to Potts Point and Caritas Christi Conference Centre, Wahroonga. In both these Communities she made good use of the tailoring training she had learnt before entering. She was a very skilled and careful seamstress and used that talent all her life.

Gardening was also one of Irene Mary's great loves and Wahroonga provided her with just the right environment for the expression of this interest. Mr Yamma, who for many years kept the garden at Caritas Christi looking trim and beautiful had an ardent assistant in Sister Carmena Kelly but gladly welcomed Irene Mary as his second assistant. Irene Mary, like Carmena, had much artistic ability in floral decoration so together they kept the chapel at the Centre looking beautiful with arrangements of fresh flowers.

Irene Mary was always very close to her only sister, Margaret and to her brothers and their families. Margaret's death affected her deeply and she became like a second mother to her five children.

From Wahroonga Irene Mary retired from active ministry and moved to St Joseph's Village, Auburn in 1998 and then in 2003 to St Vincent de Paul Nursing Home, Lewisham where she died on 10th October 2005.

Sisters who lived with Irene Mary admired her for her sincere commitment and generous fidelity to her vocation as a Sister of Charity. Certainly she *“served God with a great heart and a willing mind”*.





## *Sister M. Bernardine Fennessy*

*“To Jesus through Mary.”*

*Margaret Fennessy, known in the Congregation as Sister M Bernardine, was born on 5 September, 1929 at Royal Park, Victoria. Her father was Michael Patrick Fennessy from Fitzroy and her mother was Ellen Ann O’Regan from Canterbury, both well-known Victorian suburbs. Bernardine was the youngest child of four, the other children being Bernard, Paul and Mary.*

**B**ernardine was educated at St Margaret Mary’s Primary School, East Brunswick and Catholic Ladies’ College, Melbourne from which she matriculated in 1947.

Bernardine entered the Congregation on 2 February, 1949 and her home Parish at this time was that of St Margaret Mary. She was professed in 1951 and obtained her Teaching Certificate the same year.

Bernardine began teaching at St Mary’s, Liverpool in 1952. In 1954 she taught junior secondary at St Mary’s, Concord West and then from 1957 to 1973 was appointed as Principal at Strathmore, East Melbourne, Essendon, all in Victoria and then Curtin in ACT.

She continued in the schools as Religion Co ordinator at Niddrie and then Altona North and then as a teacher at Clifton Hill and Strathmore. At this last school, Bernardine became the much loved part time librarian from 1988 until 2000 after which she continued the position in a voluntary capacity until December, 2003.

Bernardine was a quiet, reliable, gentle woman who had a passion for books, the garden and people. In the Community, she was very aware of the needs of others and would do things unobtrusively like writing each week to someone away on a Course. The garden, particularly flowers, were important to her and one would often find her watering and weeding.

In her latter years she would often bring home the children’s library books to read and enjoy. This helped her with recommending authors to children. She was inclined to worry unnecessarily but was careful that others were not affected by it. Her keen sense of humour helped her in many situations. Love for her family, especially Mary, with whom in her retirement she met each Friday for lunch, was evident. Bernardine was a much-loved Sister of Charity.

Bernardine died on the 11th October, 2004. Her motto was, *“To Jesus through Mary”*.



## Sr Mary Cooke

*Ego amo te, deus meus.  
"I love Thee, my God."*

*Mary Josephine Cooke (S.M. Mercedes) was born on 26 August 1929 - the only child and much loved daughter of Mary Josephine McFadden and George Joseph Cooke.*

The endearing term her father used for Mary was *'his Mary Jo'*! Mary adored her father and from an early age, it was her father who helped her to cope to deal with the mental illness of her mother. The family lived at Rose Bay and Mary's Primary schooling began at St Mary Magdalen's Rose Bay, continued at St Dymphna's Hendra, Qld., and then at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney, when the family moved back to Rose Bay. Mary's Secondary education was at St Vincent's College Potts Point where she completed the Leaving Certificate in 1946.

Being a very reserved, private person, responding to the call to Religious life would have had its challenges for Mary, but with the support of her father, she entered the Sisters of Charity Novitiate at Bethania on 2 February 1948 and began her Novitiate on 19 August.

Mary showed amazing bravery and courage during her Novitiate when she received the devastating news that her beloved father had died. As was customary at the time, she was not able to go to his funeral. Another hardship for Mary in the Novitiate was that she was the only one in her batch! When the time came for her Profession in 1950, she had to wait to be professed on 29 January 1951 with the next group of Novices but she was a Sister of Charity for sixty nine years!

Mary gained her Teacher's Registration and began her Primary teaching ministry at Darlinghurst in 1951, then Paddington, before starting to teach Secondary in 1954 at St Mary's Commercial College until 1960. At these schools and in future undertakings, Mary made a great impression upon people ~ as a devoted teacher, confidant, a deep listener, one who provided counsel. Comments about Mary abounded amongst ex-students such as: *"Weren't we fortunate to have Sr Mercedes as our teacher?"* From 1961 to 1977, Mary lived at Ashgrove and taught at Mt St Michael's College as Secondary Teacher, Deputy Principal and for the last six years there, as Principal, leaving lasting impressions. To this day, she is remembered in the Ashgrove area, for the difference she made in so many people's lives.

Amongst the lasting friends Mary made in life were two Bishops ~ James Foley and David Cremin.

In 1978 Mary was moved to St Mary's Hurstville as Deputy Principal and then as Principal for the next two years. Mary's life changed in 1981 when she became ill and had time off in Kew for Sick Leave. Then, back in Darlinghurst, she did Research work for St Vincent's Hospital for the next nine years. After a brief return to Ashgrove, Mary retired and moved to the Bexley community in 1992. She was glad to be in community again with her former teacher, friend and mentor, Joan Jurd. In her retirement, Mary enjoyed many interests ~ music, studying all kinds of history, geography and gardening.

On 7 July 2011, Mary became a resident at Stella Maris Hostel, Cronulla. There was an area outside her Unit which became a great talking point for residents and staff, as Mary planned out and purchased plants for a new garden there. During the eight years that Mary was at Stella Maria, she spoke highly of the dedication of staff and was most grateful for the care and attention each resident received.

During her life, Mary had had various bouts of ill health but as her 90th Birthday approached, she had a secret hope that she may live long enough to reach that milestone and be able to have a *"private, 'no fuss' gathering with a small group of friends, especially Bishop James, to celebrate the great occasion!"* This came about and Mary was thrilled! Those invited felt very honoured! Tribute must be paid to Kate Fitzpatrick who was Mary's Companion Sister at Stella Maris and walked the journey with her.

About six weeks after her Birthday celebration, Mary died quietly and peacefully on 19 October 2019. Her funeral was held at Sacred Heart Chapel Rookwood on 31 October. Bishop James was the celebrant. Mary had prepared the Mass herself and her instructions were carried out as she would have wished. Members of staff were devastated at the news of her death, as for them and so many others who had known and loved Mary, she had been a friend and special confidant. As we packed up Mary's belongings, we invited staff to choose a picture, cup, vase or something to have as a keepsake.

*We rejoice that Mary has reached her 'homeland' and has been reunited with all her loved ones. We are sure you are tending a garden in Heaven, Mary! Remember us until we reach our 'homeland'!*



## Sister Mary Kennedy



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

*Mary Josephine Kennedy was born in Haberfield, NSW on 20 July, 1918, the third of the five children of John Charles Kennedy and Mildred Elizabeth Bartley.*

The Kennedys were a close family unit. Mary recalled that her brothers and sisters actively participated in sport. Mary's sporting talent was tennis and she always maintained that she had led a healthy life because of the exercise tennis had provided in her teenage and early adult life. She kept in close contact with her sisters Sheila, Kathleen and their families, taking holidays with them or attending special occasions. Her two brothers predeceased her.

St Vincent's School, Ashfield was the place of Mary's Primary education, followed by her secondary education at Santa Sabina, Strathfield and St Joseph's, Enfield. Although Mary would have had some contact with the Sisters of Charity during her Primary education at Ashfield, it would be in her role as a Theresian, that Mary felt a deeper calling to join the Congregation.

On 2nd July, 1943, she entered the Novitiate at Bethania and was professed on 14th January, 1946. She was given the name 'Magdalena', but changed back to her Baptismal name at a later time. She began General Nurse Training after Profession, but after a short time, changed to studies to prepare her as a teacher.

Her teaching assignments began at Lewisham and Hurstville, before she moved to Aikenhead House in Hobart in 1958 to be a carer for the children in residence there. She returned to Sydney in 1961 and ministered at Cabramatta.

From 1966, she began family services work in Hobart and was House Mother at St Joseph's, Taroona. Mary was appointed Superior at Edgecliff in 1971 and she continued Child Care work at the Theresian Centre, Edgecliff. After a time of Renewal at the Assumption Institute in 1977,

Mary moved into Parish Ministry at Moorebank, Shellharbour, Sandy Bay and finally Clifton Hill.

Wherever Mary lived in community, she was known as a hard worker, a "doer" and a "goer" with a good sense of humour. Some said that to keep up with her, one needed to have "running shoes" on! She could turn her hand to so many things ~ cooking, floral arranging, gardening, decorating dining room tables on special occasions and the like. Mary was a very practical woman, a 'home maker'.

In 2002, Mary 'retired' and lived in community at Mononia, Fitzroy for the next ten years, but continued to give loving service through household duties, arranging flowers, caring for the Chapel or welcoming guests with a cup of tea. Visitors to Mononia would often comment on the lovely floral arrangements provided by Mary.

In 2012, Mary who was ninety four years old at the time, had some respite care at St Catherine's, Balwyn and then agreed to take up residence there. As she had always done, Mary busied herself helping where she could ~ in the Chapel and tending a small garden.

The good health that Mary had enjoyed throughout her life, began to fail only a few weeks before she died. On 20 October, 2014, Mary died peacefully at St Catherine's, aged ninety-six. She had been a Sister of Charity for sixty-eight years. She was buried at the Melbourne General Cemetery. Following the burial, family, sisters and friends gathered at Mononia for refreshments.

We give thanks to God for Mary, a loving daughter of Mary Aikenhead.



## Sr Eileen Duffy

*“Lord, Thou knowest all things,  
Thou knowest that I love Thee.”*

*Eileen Margaret Duffy was born on 8 September 1920. She was the third of the seven children of Mary Dorothy Jones and Daniel Duffy. Her two brothers, Daniel and Thomas and four sisters, Mary Veronica, Dorothy, Edna and Joan, formed a close-knit family throughout her life.*

The family lived in inner city Melbourne and Eileen attended St George's Carlton for her Primary schooling and CLC East Melbourne until completion of Commercial education. Eileen had a special flair in this type of education and she used her skills throughout her years of ministry in assisting many young women, beginning their working life, to develop their expertise in shorthand, typing and secretarial skills.

On 2 July 1943, Eileen followed her sister, Mary Veronica into the Sisters of Charity at Bethania, Potts Point. She was received into the Novitiate on 13 January 1944 and given the name, Sr M. Aloysius. She later changed back to her Baptismal name. Eileen's First Profession took place in the Chapel of St. Vincent's Potts Point on 14 January 1946.

Her chosen motto was *“Lord, Thou knowest all things, Thou knowest that I love Thee”*. In January 2016, Eileen celebrated her Platinum Jubilee. At the time of her death, Eileen had been a Sister of Charity for seventy two years.

From her Profession day until June 1946, Eileen was the Portress at St Vincent's Convent Potts Point. She then began a long ministry of Commercial teaching at St Mary's Cathedral Commercial College, St Columba's College Essendon and CLC East Melbourne until 1975.

In 1976, she began a new ministry as a Book Keeper at CLC Eltham and then at Caritas Christi Kew. Unfortunately, Eileen's eyesight began to deteriorate and despite this handicap, Eileen continued in ministry as Manager of the Kiosk at Caritas Christi Kew until she retired in 1990 and lived at Caritas Christi Hostel. She was associated with the Villa Maria Society and St Paul's School for the Blind for many years.

Eileen had only pinpoint vision in one eye but it did not deter her ~ she was where the people were, reaching out to them and spreading God's loving kindness to all.

In 2006, because of government requirements, the Hostel at Kew had to close. The Congregation made provision for those residing at Kew to be accommodated at a new Catholic Aged Care Facility at Clayton. Eileen and Mary Veronica were in the first group to move to Corpus Christi. Eileen was cared for there until 2015 when she moved to St Catherine's at Balwyn after Mary Veronica's death in 2014.

She was grateful for the care she received at both Facilities and spent most of her days praying for those in need. When she heard the list of those needing prayerful support through the weekly news, she would respond immediately through her prayer and make enquiries about the welfare of those she prayed for.

Eileen's sister Joan was a constant visitor at Corpus Christi and this was a great consolation for both sisters. In the earlier days at Clayton, she would take Mary Veronica and Eileen for outings. When they became frailer, she would bring a picnic basket with 'goodies' to share. Other members of the Congregation were constant visitors to Eileen and the other sisters in care and this was much appreciated. When visiting and making ourselves known, Eileen would exclaim: *“Oh! How good of you to come!”*

We, in turn have prayed for Eileen and thanked God for a life well lived for God and others. Eileen died at St Catherine's Balwyn on 22 October 2018. Her Funeral Mass was held at All Hallows Balwyn and she is buried at the Melbourne General Cemetery. May Eileen hear the words of Christ

*“Come you who have been  
blessed by my Father.”*

Rest in peace.

## November



1	Alphonsus UNSWORTH Rosita CORRIGAN	1864 2003	15	Brenda JORDAN Margaret GALVIN	2014 2016
2	John Baptist BARTLEY de Britto CLARKE Katherina FOLEY	1910 1938 1981	16	Agatha BUSH Leonie GRIFFITHS St Gertrude MALONE Antonita DUTHY	1935 1963 1977 2009
3			17	Ethelburg STEVENS	1916
4	Ursula BRUTON Patricia HOGAN	1899 1950	18	Aquin FLYNN	1925
5	Vincent RYAN	1920	19		
6	Mother M. de Sales O'BRIEN Leo JONES	1871 2010	20	St Paul DONOVAN	1982
7	Bertrand FAY John Berchmans MILES Dorotheus POLA Vianney FARRELLY	1897 1948 1975 1994	21	Bernadette O'CALLAGHAN Annunciata STANLEY	1936 1949
8	Celestine DARBY Gonzaga LEDWIDGE Francis Xavier PURCELL	1897 1939 2015	22	Stephanie HAYDEN Winifred O'CONNOR	1950 1960
9	Joachim HENNESSY	1974	23	Rita JOHNSON Dominica McMAHON Hilary O'KEEFE Marcella CRAFT Gerard PURCELL	1904 1940 1955 1967 2002
10	Patrick O'MEARA Teresina LEMKE Leonard O'NEILL	1903 1978 1999	24	Phillipa QUINLAN Kathleen HIGGS	1947 2002
11			25		
12	Ursula SMITH	1995	26	Angela LAWLESS Veronica BRADY	1962 2000
13	Stanislaus FITZGERALD Catherine O'CONNELL	1969 1991	27		
14	Justina LYNCH St Denis REARDON Marius LUCAS Victoire PEARCE	1893 1975 2002 2014	28		
			29		
			30	Lidwina HARTMANN	1972



## *Sister M. Rosita Corrigan*

*“To live for Jesus and His interests.”*

*Margaret was the fourth of eight children of Scottish parents, Francis and Louise Corrigan. She was brought up in Newtown and was educated at St Joseph’s there.*

After some years in the workforce she became a Theresian and through this contact with the Sisters of Charity she decided to join them. Margaret entered the Sisters of Charity on 2nd February 1945. She received the religious habit as Sister M. Rosita on 7th August 1945. After her profession on 22nd August 1947, she was appointed to the position of Portress at St Vincent’s Potts Point, remaining there till 1959. In that quite demanding position, in a large community, Sister Rosita was remarkable for her cheerful hospitality and the warm welcome she extended to all visitors.

Part of her duty was looking after the priests who in those days celebrated daily Mass in the convent Chapel. Over the years she brought that same gentleness and perfection of detail to all the ministries entrusted to her. Whether with the children at Aikenhead House, Hobart, as laundry supervisor at Potts Point, or finally in her long years as receptionist at St Joseph’s Hospital Auburn, she was a compassionate presence to all who came.

Sister Rosita had many interests ~ she loved cooking, was keenly interested in sport particularly cricket and racing, enjoyed doing jigsaws, and was a skilful knitter. She had a gift for floral arrangement especially showing this talent in the decoration of the Chapel.

Sister Rosita and her family were very close. They met every month and had a family celebration at Christmas on Boxing Day each year. Rosita was particularly devoted to her brother Father Frank, first parish priest of Bass Hill, who died some twenty years ago. The naming of the parish hall in his honour gives evidence of the high regard in which his parishioners held him. Rosita was happy and proud to be at this dedication ceremony.

All who lived with Rosita must have been impressed by her faithfulness to Mass, which she attended daily, despite years of poor health. She was most prayerful, had a great love of Our Lady and a special devotion to the Rosary. She loved her retreats at Douglas Park, where she liked to spend Holy Week and celebrate Easter. This year’s retreat, her last, followed closely on a period in hospital.

Though there must be sadness in parting, we can be confident that Sister Rosita has been warmly welcomed by the God she served so devotedly.



## Sister Mary Leo Jones

*“Behold the handmaid of the Lord.”*

*Sister Mary Leo Jones died on 6th November 2010 at St Joseph’s Village Auburn, aged 96 and in the 66th year of her Religious Life.*

Sister Leo was born at Concord, Sydney on 28th September 1914. At Baptism she was named Mary Dorothy. Her parents, Frederick Jones and Mary Blewett had eight children, seven boys and one girl, Mary Dorothy, who was the second youngest. After completing her Primary schooling at St Mary’s Concord, Mary Dorothy went to St Joseph’s Secondary School at Burwood and graduated in 1930. Soon after finishing school, Mary Dorothy began Nursing Training at St Joseph’s Hospital Auburn and gained her General Nursing Certificate.

Mary Dorothy entered the Novitiate at Potts Point on 2nd July 1943, a qualified nurse with many years experience. During the Novitiate she chose Leo as her religious name and continued to use that name throughout her religious life. Leo made her first Profession in August 1945 and on leaving the Novitiate was appointed Sister-in-Charge at Sacred Heart Hospice, Darlinghurst.

She ministered in the hospitals of the Congregation in Toowoomba, Bathurst Lismore and then Caritas Christi Hospice Kew, Melbourne. Leo always claimed that the care of the dying and their families held a special place in her heart. Such nursing certainly gave great scope to her capacity to listen and be with people. For six years at Kew, Leo was Rectress of the Convent and Sister-in-Charge in the Hospice. This gave her the chance to promote her special concern for quality nurse/patient care and also to make two significant building changes. In 1962, *“The Cottage”* was replaced by the Archbishop Mannix Wing, and in 1967, a new Unit, capable of housing 98 patients, was blessed and opened by Archbishop Knox.

Leo returned to St Vincent’s Darlinghurst and, for the next decade, ministered there in the Outpatients’ Department. This completed Leo’s nursing ministry and after a time as Superior of the Fitzroy Community, she travelled to Ireland and Rome during her overseas holiday. On her return, Leo lived at 40 West Street Darlinghurst and with the help of Father Reg Keating SM, set up the Pastoral Care Department in St Vincent’s Darlinghurst. This was an initiative in health care at the time.

In 1995, Leo moved to St Joseph’s Village, Auburn and although retired, continued to be a listening presence to the residents. As might be expected, Leo had a large extended family and she maintained a very close relationship with them all. Throughout her years at the Village, they kept in touch with Aunty Sue, as they called her, by frequent visits. During the last weeks of her life, Leo was very happy that so many of the family had visited her and she had been able to say good-bye. Leo died at the Village on 6th November 2010 and many family members, Sisters and friends from her nursing days gathered at St John of God Church Auburn to celebrate her Mass of Christian Burial and give thanks for her long and faithful life.

We who lived and worked with her remember Leo for her gentle, cheerful manner and as a Sister of Charity who willingly and faithfully responded to God with a heartfelt “yes” in the various circumstances of her life. Leo had chosen Mary as her special patron and with Mary’s help and her words *“Behold the handmaid of the Lord”* as her motto and guiding principle, lived the 66 years of her religious life with a life commitment.



## *Sister M. Francis Xavier Purcell*

*“As, O Jesus, you love me,  
so do I love and will love thee.”*

*Margaret Elizabeth Purcell (Peggy) was born in inner city Sydney on 3 September, 1927, the elder daughter of Joseph Purcell and Elizabeth Mary Leahy.*

She was just eighteen months older than her sister Mollie and their close, loving relationship continued throughout their lives. The family lived at Waterloo and the girls attended Mt Carmel Primary school. They travelled to Bethlehem College, Ashfield for their secondary education. Peggy's skills in music were fostered and, as she excelled in piano, choral singing and theory, her passion for making music, grew. We were surprised to learn that she was also a good netball player, having played in teams with Sr Margaret Cooney (RIP)! She completed her schooling in 1944.

Peggy entered the Sisters of Charity on 2 July 1945 and was received as a Novice on 14 January 1946 when she was given the name *Francis Xavier*. Exactly two years later, 14 January 1948, she pronounced her First Vows. During this time, she gained her Teacher's Registration in readiness for the ministry in schools she would undertake. When she died, she had been a Sister of Charity for sixty-seven years, having led a life of service for others.

Sr Francis Xavier (affectionately known as 'FX' or 'Francie') began her teaching career at St Canice's, Elizabeth Bay, then Bethlehem College and Lewisham. She studied at the Conservatorium of Music, Sydney and gained her A.Mus.A in 1954.

Francie's talents as a musician were recognized and so began her ministry of more than forty years of commitment to developing the music skills of many students. She taught music at Bethlehem College, Ashfield, Catholic Ladies College in East Melbourne, (now at Eltham), St John's, Auburn, Mount Carmel College, Sandy Bay Tasmania and for many years at St Vincent's College, Potts Point. One of her distinguished students was the Australian jazz and 'blues' singer, Kerrie Biddell (RIP). In 1975, she was accredited by the Conservatorium for Piano and Choral Music. Francie served on Music Curriculum and Examination Committees.

The close bond Francie had with her sister extended to Mollie's family. Visits and holiday times shared together were always

enjoyed. As a proud aunt, Francie loved her nieces and nephews and delighted in sharing stories about them with her community. When time permitted, she attended many of their school functions or family occasions.

Having taught in schools for more than forty years, Francie undertook a renewal course at Assumption Institute in Melbourne in 1987. She kept in touch with most of the people on the Course. Francie was a 'detail' person and kept a long list of addresses and phone numbers. In 1988 she became an assistant at Currajeen Retreat House at Eltham before beginning her final public ministry at Reception at Sacred Heart Hospice, Darlinghurst in 1994. Her happy disposition was appreciated by patients, staff and visitors, alike.

Over the years, Francie gave of her free time to play the piano or organ for special occasions and generously responded to requests to play at weddings, funerals, family occasions, school assemblies and the like.

In 2004, Francie moved to St Joseph's Village, Auburn and delighted the residents with her enthusiastic playing of 'old time favourites' at the weekly 'Sing-along', or her careful preparation of the hymns for Sunday Mass. With residents or the staff, she loved to 'have a chat'! Later, as her health failed, she was appreciative of the care she received from the Staff and Carers. She had a special way of knowing each of their names.

On Sunday 8 November, 2015, Francie died at 5 a.m, a few hours before the Sunday Mass at the Village which she loved so much. In the days that followed, she was remembered for her passion for music, but most especially for her simple enjoyment of life, her compassion, generosity, love and support of others. Francie's sister Mollie and her family attended her Mass of Christian Burial at St John's, Auburn. On behalf of the family, Peter, her nephew, gave the Eulogy. Many lives were touched by Francie and we give thanks for the goodness and fidelity of her life ~ a life which gave great glory to God.





## *Sister Marius Lucas*



*“Passion of Christ, strengthen me.”*

*Sr M Marius was one of a large family from the Western District of Victoria. She entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of Charity in 1938 and was professed in January 1941. In January last year Marius celebrated her Diamond Jubilee at Caritas Christi, Kew in presence of a large number of Sisters and family members, many of whom travelled from the country to celebrate the occasion with her.*

During her sixty-one years as a Sister of Charity Marius worked in various ministries, teaching infants and primary school children in Sydney, Shellharbour, Melbourne and Tasmania and was involved in Child Care both in Sydney and Tasmania. Marius is remembered fondly by those for whom she cared in the Orphanage at Liverpool and in the Emergency Care Centres at Edgecliff and Hobart. Her gentle administrative skills as Principal and Superior were evident on many occasions throughout her active years.

In the 1980's Marius assisted Sr Denise Hannebery in preparing material for the *“Journey Programme”*. In 1999, she moved to Caritas Christi Hostel Community, where she enjoyed her involvement in many activities.

On 20th November, Marius' Funeral Mass was held at Sacred Heart Church Kew, celebrated by Fr Malcolm Crawford PP. Fr Crawford in his homily spoke of Marius' gentleness expressed in her living, her ministries and her dying. At all times, Marius' sense of humour was evident and her quick wit was appreciated by all who lived and ministered with her.

Marius' four sisters and her many nieces and nephews were involved in the preparation and participation in the Liturgy. Many Sisters of Charity, friends and colleagues were present at the Mass, and many returned to the Hostel at Kew, where happy memories of Marius were shared by all.

Sr M Marius died on 14th November, 2002, at St Vincent de Paul Nursing Home at Box Hill, very peacefully in the presence of her nieces, Elizabeth and Maria.



## Sister M. Victoire Pearce AM

*“Behold the Little Servant of the Lord.”*

*Eileen Marguerite Pearce was born in Sydney on 21 February, 1915, the only daughter and elder child of Harry and Josephine Green and sister of Harry.*

Very early in her life during World War 1, Eileen’s father contracted tuberculosis and it was felt that a country residence would be more suitable for his health, so the family moved to Junee. Sadly her father died in 1922. The family returned to Sydney in the late 1920s, but with their mother’s health deteriorating, Eileen and her brother Harry went through a difficult period of separation until their mother’s health was restored.

During the Depression, Eileen trained as a beautician and worked at Farmer Brothers in Sydney. She was a person with style, gifted in her work and she became a valued employee. At the same time, she joined the Theresian Club based at St Vincent’s Hospital. Theresians were women who worked during the week and at weekends, giving their time as Catechists, visiting homes or conducting Sunday school for young children in the very poor inner suburbs of Sydney. Throughout her life, Eileen would continue her ministry of love and service to all people, especially the terminally ill.

*‘Impelled by the love of Christ’,* Eileen entered the Sisters of Charity on 2 February, 1946. She said she had been drawn to join the Order because of our fourth Vow ~ Service of the Poor. She received the name *‘Victoire’* and retained that name throughout her religious life. *‘Vicky’*, as she was affectionately known, was professed on 6 August, 1948. She lived until the age of ninety-nine and at the time of her death, had been a Sister of Charity for sixty six years. Those who knew her well could attest to her having put into practice the Congregation’s motto.

Victoire’s love and care for others was especially shown to her family. She was a much loved sister to Harry and his family. Her niece, Sharon, and James, her nephew, were very proud of their aunt.

In their family Eulogy, they described their Auntie Eileen as *“a quintessential woman of the twentieth century”* who came to count the poor as friends. What a genuine description of Victoire!

The most important work of her life began when Victoire trained as a nurse at St Vincent’s Hospital, Darlinghurst, Sydney, and gained her Nurse’s Registration. She did special studies in Palliative Care and obtained a Certificate in Geriatric Training. Although she also ministered at St Vincent’s, Lismore, St Vincent’s, Darlinghurst and St Joseph’s, Auburn, her ministry in Geriatric Nursing at Sacred Heart Hospice was where her efforts for ‘service of the poor’ became her driving force.

Despite having to face opposition, Victoire ensured there was music and dancing and fun with the introduction of the *‘Quality of Life’* program for the dying ~ music therapy and entertainment, including Bingo and ‘happy hour’. Fortunately, in all her undertakings, she had the strong support of Mother Dorothea Devine. This quote from a former Hospice patient encapsulates a fine tribute to Victoire:

*“Sister Victoire’s incredible optimism and sense of humour made her the main source of joy at the hospice.”*

We, her sisters, remember Victoire with pride as a person who exuded happiness. Her focus in life was to do all she could to help others, (even if it did mean not ‘keeping the rules’ at times!). She ‘retired’ in 2004 and became a much loved resident of Albert Court, Edgecliff ~ continuing the music and dancing and fun until she became too frail. After her long life of ninety-nine years, she died on 14 November, 2014.

Her Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Joseph’s, Edgecliff and she is buried at Rookwood. No doubt, she will be creating a lot of fun and laughter in Heaven! Thank you Victoire for truly being *‘impelled by the love of Christ’* and counting the poor as friends.



## Sister M. Brenda Jordan

*“For Thy Sake, Jesus.”*

*Margaret Mary Jordan was born at Cowra, NSW, on 2 May, 1924, the youngest of the five daughters of Thomas Rupert Jordan and Alice Maude Anthony.*

Brenda's family moved to Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains. This geographical part of the world had a particular allure for Margaret. Her sister Clare married but her other sisters ~ Olive, Moya and Una, continued to live in the family home. Margaret and her sisters received their Primary education at St Canice's Primary School, Katoomba and they attended Mt St Mary's, Katoomba for their secondary education.

Margaret's special field was Music. She was a gifted musician, violinist and flautist, who, throughout her life, gave generously of her time to play an instrument to enhance liturgies or at special occasions.

After she left school, she worked for a short time as a cashier at a local retail store. Having had the influence of the Sisters of Charity at the schools she attended, she felt called to become a Sister of Charity, herself. So on 2 July, 1941, Margaret entered the Novitiate. At that time, because of World War II, the Novitiate had been relocated to Villers Bret in Katoomba. At her Reception, she was given the name '*Brenda*', and later, rather than revert to her Baptismal name, she retained '*Brenda*', her religious name. On 29 January, 1944, Brenda made her First Profession. In 2014, the year that she died, Brenda celebrated the 70th Anniversary of her Religious Profession. What an achievement!

The ministry Brenda would undertake was as a music teacher in schools. She began at St Vincent's, Potts Point for ten years, then one year at Notre Dame, Coorparoo, Queensland. She was at St Mary's, Concord and St John's, Auburn for short periods, before being assigned to St Vincent's, Ashfield for fifteen years. At the mention of Brenda's name, people's faces would light up with joy. She was a gentle, gracious lady who was a cause of fun and laughter.

It was at Ashfield that stories abounded about her two special friends there ~ *Fella*, the dog and *Bloggs*, the cat! So many funny things happened and Brenda would have the whole community in fits of laughter as she told each 'true' story! Other stories circulated about '*Brenda the driver*' ~ who would get hopelessly lost, but regardless of where she was, would just keep going until she came to Murrumbidgee and then she knew the way home!

Brenda's great desire was to help people. She helped them through her music ministry and looked for other ways she could support people. She became a volunteer for the Life Line Telephone Counselling Service from 1970-1976 and faithfully carried out this work together with her other commitments.

In 1980, Brenda began a new ministry of Family Support with Centacare at Sandy Bay, Tasmania, for three years. During that time, she had a four months' time of sabbatical, travelling overseas. It was with great delight in 1984, that Brenda, Margaret, was appointed back to Leura to minister in the Blue Mountains area as a Family Support person. She loved the opportunity to be close to her family again and was there for eighteen years. Towards the latter part of her time at Leura, she was able to provide loving care for her ageing sisters.

After her generous life of service, Brenda retired to St Joseph's Village, Auburn, in September, 2002. She took part in activities at the Village and provided entertainment or assisted the organist with her violin or flute. As her health began to fail, she moved to the high care section at the Village and died peacefully on 15th November, 2014 aged ninety. Her Mass of Christian Burial was at St John's Auburn and she was buried at Rookwood Cemetery. After her long life of dedication and service, may her gentle soul rest in peace.



## Sister Margaret Galvin

*“Behold the Handmaid of the Lord.”*

*Margaret Mary Galvin was born on 13 April, 1928, the eldest of the three daughters of Alice Eileen Byrne and Francis James Galvin. As the family lived in the Essendon area, Margaret attended St Vincent’s, Strathmore and St Theresé’s, Essendon for her Primary schooling and St Columba’s College, Essendon for secondary education.*

A year after finishing school, Margaret studied at the Melbourne Teachers College and University and graduated as a Teacher in 1950, majoring in Physical Education. Margaret and her siblings Frances and Helen, had a close bond throughout their lives. Holidays and special occasions were shared and Margaret took great pride in relaying news and family happenings of her loved ones with her communities.

After several years teaching in State schools, Margaret entered the Novitiate on 2 February, 1954 at the age of twenty five. At her Reception in August that year, she was given the name *Joseph Carmel* and later changed back to her Baptismal name. Margaret and her companions celebrated their Diamond Jubilee of Religious Profession on 16 August, 2016. It was a very special time of her life and she enjoyed the celebrations immensely, ensuring she contacted each sister in her group, not knowing that these calls would be her last to them. How good to hear her called ~ *Woman of faith and love, warm, hospitable, charitable, non-judgemental and a good listener.*

Following her Novitiate years, Margaret’s first posting as a Primary teacher was to St Mary’s Cathedral school then St Canice’s, Elizabeth Bay in 1957. This school was used as a demonstration and teaching school for newly professed Sisters of Charity beginning their Teacher Training at St Vincent’s Teachers Training College at Potts Point. Margaret’s expertise as a teacher, enabled beginning teachers to learn and practise teaching skills.

For eleven years in this role, Margaret was a dedicated and passionate teacher, guiding and assisting many new teachers as Teacher Educator until the mid to late 1960s when future teachers undertook their training at the Catholic Teachers College, North Sydney. Margaret moved to Cabramatta for one year before moving back to Melbourne from 1969 where she was Principal at St John Bosco, Niddrie for three years. She had a two year study break at Christ College in Melbourne in Curriculum and High Incidence Learning Difficulties for which she was awarded a Graduate Diploma.

Margaret’s final posting in education was six years as Principal at Our Lady Help of Christians School at Eltham from 1979. In 1985 she had a year of renewal at Yarra Theological Union with a focus on Ecumenism and Leadership in Prayer-Meditation.

A new ministry for Margaret began in 1986 when she became Pastoral Associate at St Stephen’s Parish, Reservoir for six years. At Reservoir, and as she had experienced in other school communities, she had the support and friendship of many fine parents. Margaret had studied the works of Dom John Main and Dom Lawrence Freeman on Small Christian Meditation Groups and she began to form groups in Spirituality and Family Development and assisted others who began these groups. While continuing her involvement in these groups, Margaret also became a member of the Interfaith and Ecumenical Commission of Victoria as well as the Catholic delegate to the Victorian Council of Churches. In 2009, Margaret moved into an ILU at Mercy Place Parkville and took her turn in hosting the Small Meditation Group in her Unit, faithfully preparing and contributing to the group.

Around the time of her Jubilee, Margaret contacted the Congregational Leader, Sr Clare Nolan, to say that she had come to the decision to go into care at St Catherine’s Aged Care Facility, Balwyn. Margaret always had a great love for the congregation and as there was already a small community of our sisters at Balwyn, she would be pleased to join the community there. Her family was pleased that she had made the decision.

With the Jubilee celebrations concluded and the move to St Catherine’s on 6 September complete, it was a great shock to everyone when Margaret died suddenly on 15 November, 2016. Although her health had been deteriorating slowly, her imminent death was unexpected. Her life was celebrated with Mass of Christian Burial at All Hallows, Balwyn. Margaret lived out her motto saying “Yes” as Mary did. May she now share in the banquet God has prepared for her.



## Sister Antonita Duthy

*“Through Him, with Him, in Him.”*

*Sister Antonita Duthy joined the Sisters of Charity in February 1945 and after sixty-four years of faithful commitment to God and the Congregation, died on 16th November 2009.*

Antonita, born on 6th August 1925, was the oldest of three daughters born to John and Beryl Duthy. At Baptism she was given the name Valerie Veronica, but in the family, was always affectionately known as “Billie”.

The girls attended the Sisters of Charity schools at Edgecliff and Paddington and on leaving school in 1940, Valerie joined the staff of David Jones as an apprentice dressmaker and later graduated to a senior position of “*finisher*”, inspecting the completed garments. After five years in this position, Valerie felt called to religious life and entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of Charity at Potts Point. At her reception, Valerie chose Antonita as her religious name and at the conclusion of her novitiate training made her first Profession on 22nd August 1947 and her final Profession three years later.

In 1948, after completing her training and gaining her Teacher Registration, Antonita was appointed to St Mary’s Liverpool as an Infant Teacher and during the next fourteen years taught at Potts Point, Hurstville, Katoomba, Cooparoo, Paddington, Shellharbour and then, as Primary Principal, at South Auburn and Concord West.

During 1976, Antonita studied at the National Pastoral Institute and gained a Diploma in Religious Education and Pastoral Studies and in 1978 she completed a course in Counselling. These studies fitted her well for her next ministry as Parish Sister at Cabramatta and then as Regional Superior of NSW from 1980 till 1984.

Antonita then travelled overseas to study pastoral ministry in parishes and was much inspired by an Ignatian spiritual development programme, Light Out of Darkness. On her return home, Antonita used this programme extensively in her role as Pastoral Assistant in parishes of Liverpool and Bonnyrigg. The training of group leaders to assist in running the programme was Antonita’s special focus.

When failing health made it necessary for Antonita to give up active ministry, she continued to support the leaders in the promotion of the programme. When no longer able to do this, Antonita retired to Cardinal Gilroy Village, Merrylands where she became a quiet presence among the residents until her death, at St Vincent’s Hospital, on 16th November, 2009.

Antonita’s Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Chapel at Gilroy Village by Fathers Ron Hickman, Pat McAuliffe and Peter Henry and with her family, her friends from her days of school and parish ministry, her religious Sisters and the residents of the Village. Phillip, her nephew, gave the eulogy and recalled the many happy memories of family visits and outings with “*Auntie Billie*”, her love of the outdoors and of painting and needlework. In all generations of the family she held a central place of love and honour.

Sisters, especially those who had lived with her and knew her best, recalled the fine qualities of character that had enabled Antonita to commit herself to such a long life of loving fidelity to God and to his people.



## *Sister M. Gerard Majella Purcell*

*“Not my will, O Lord, but Thine be done.”*

*Born Kathleen Purcell to Thomas and Mary, farmers in the Enoggera district on the 15th July 1899 in Waterworks Road Enoggera, her life has spanned three centuries.*

Gerard entered the Sisters of Charity on 2nd February 1929 and being older than the other novices that would have presented a few difficulties, I'm sure. However, Gerard had a good sense of humour and Sr Jean, who is with us here today, and who was in the Novitiate with Gerard, certainly has a few stories to tell.

Following her Profession in 1931, she was sent to Melbourne to do her nursing training. During this time she made her Final Profession in 1934 and completed her nursing training in 1937.

Her ability to organise and manage was well recognised for, from the time she completed her training, she was asked to take positions of responsibility in our hospitals. She was in charge or held Administrative positions in St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, St Joseph's Hospital Auburn, St Vincent's Hospital Lismore, Caritas Christi Hospice Kew, St Vincent's Hospital Launceston, St Vincent's Hospital Darlinghurst, Prague House in Kew and lastly here at Mt Olivet in 1980 where she took charge of caring for the Chapel, a ministry which she really cherished, where there was never a thing out of place and the seasons of the Church calendar were observed to the letter of the law.

Gerard was a woman of prayer and commitment. She had a great devotion to our Lady, the Rosary and her favourite prayer the Memorare. She also had a great love for the Eucharist and Benediction.

Gerard was a solid, no frills person whose reason for getting up in the morning was to serve her God in prayer and through the people she met in her daily ministry. There was no *“poor me”* attitude in Gerard. She just got on with it. She was a true Sister of Charity and daughter of Mary Aikenhead and an inspiration to many people and had a wonderful capacity to make friends.

She loved the Sisters and her family. The nurses who worked with her saw her as a very capable woman, always kind and thoughtful. She was always interested in the staff, their welfare and that of their families.



## *Sister Kathleen Higgs*

*“Let us love one another.”*

*Kathleen was born in Bathurst on the 28th May 1938. She was one of four children born to Jack and Madge Higgs who predeceased her. Kathleen spent her childhood years in Bathurst and commenced her nursing training at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney where she came in contact with the Sisters of Charity.*

Following her training she worked in several hospitals in country New South Wales. These experiences developed in her a tremendous compassion for all those who needed care.

Kathleen entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity in the early 1960's. Her ministries in health care within the Congregation included intensive care nursing, nursing administration and hospital management. Kathleen had a deep commitment to the nursing profession and was instrumental in introducing many innovative practices into the profession. Many of these innovations continue today. Her commitment to nursing was recognised by her admission to fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing (Australia). She was overjoyed with this privilege.

One of the highlights of Kathleen's life was the nine months spent in Vietnam as a member of the medical team from St Vincent's Hospital Sydney.

This experience deeply influenced her concern for the poor and sick in third world countries, especially those torn by war.

In the midst of her busy nursing life she had the desire to study comparative religions and for this reason she completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree at Sydney University. Her main interest was Celtic Spirituality. She chose to master the Welsh language and took great delight in meeting and communicating with Welsh people in their native language. Kathleen also attained post graduate qualifications in health administration.

When diagnosed with cancer last year Kathleen faced her illness with her usual courage and faith. As a nurse Kathleen knew what the probable outcome would be. Regardless of this she undertook her treatment with hope. It was her deep faith that sustained her during this time.

## December



1	Philip MAHER Maree HENDERSON	2002 2016	17	St John BRADY Patrick DRAY	1944 1974
2	Felix THORBURN	2008	18	Xaviera CUNNINGHAM Clement STAPLETON Iledphonsus RAHILLY de Paul DUNNE Adrian ZEVEN	1941 1947 1961 1986 1996
3	Vincent MALONEY Zephyrina RASMUSSEN	1902 1970	19	Emilian O'CONNOR Justina CECIL	1933 1954
4	Patrick KILLALEA Mother Xavier CUNNINGHAM Assumpta SPEIGHT Padua HUGHES	1900 1903 1979 2007	20	Eugenie HILL Campion MUNDAY	1953 1968
5	Linus McGEEVER Livinus HOWARD	1948 1962	21	Madeleine BUCKLER Christine JORGENSEN	1986 2003
6	Peter McGINN Martin GINNITY Justinian COLLAERY	1913 1918 1942	22		
7			23	Campion DOHERTY Cecilia O'BRIEN	1910 1972
8	Mother Agnes SKEWES	2004	24	de Lellis TOOMEY Rosalie CONRY Louise RYAN Rosario DOYLE Patricia CARROLL	1888 1952 1952 1977 2008
9	Ursuline BRUTON Xaviera SULLIVAN Joseph BARRY Eileen SMITH Mother Marion CORLESS	1943 1972 1991 1998 2005	25	Francis Xavier FAY Canisius CARROLL Jerome O'REILLY Consilio RYAN	1942 1952 1962 2003
10	Borromeo BOURKE Celestine SHERIDAN	1935 1954	26	Aloysius MURPHY Elizabeth FLANNERY Philippine HUMPHREYS	1916 1941 2018
11	Evangelist RYAN	1948	27	Vincent de Paul MCKERNAN Carthage DOOLEY	1941 1959
12			28	Bernard GAUL Genevieve CAMPBELL	1903 2013
13	Ambrose BULGER Audry SATTLER	1945 1996	29	Marie HAREN	2017
14	Carmel CONSIDINE Paula BUTLER	1964 1984	30	Martina LONG	1910
15	Dorothea ADAMS Elizabeth COOPER	1894 1984	31		
16	Campion DOVE	1934			





## Sister Philip Maher

*“Jesus vita mea est tua.”*

*Philomena Anastasia Maher was born in Sydney on 15th January 1925, one of the three daughters of Philip and Elizabeth Maher. She died on Sunday 1st December 2002. Phil is survived by her sister Catherine, her numerous nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren.*

Phil was buried from Sacred Heart Church Darlinghurst on Thursday 5th December. Concelebrants were Fathers Brian Egan PP and Laurie Christie, Hospital Chaplain, both of whom paid tribute to Phil's outstanding generosity and commitment as 'Sister', 'community builder', 'friend', 'parishioner' and 'pastoral worker'.

In her Eulogy Sister Eleanor Macris said:

*“Phil was my friend from school days. Outwardly we were diametrically opposite characters but inwardly there was a deep seated bond. In our teen years I used to tease her about her bobby socks and wedged heeled shoes, while I was nearly always in school uniform. Phil always respected that I was a loner and did not expect much from me. We met up at holiday time. We were always planning our next holiday.*

*“Phil was a most generous, obliging and hard working Sister of Charity for over fifty years. Nothing was a trouble, if it was possible and sometimes impossible she would be there. She loved all her friends and acquaintances. She had more moves than the figures on a chess board.*

*She was a fine teacher in Sydney, Melbourne and Tasmania until she transferred to Pastoral Care work, where she was devoted to the dying at Sacred Heart Hospice Sydney and Mount Olivet Brisbane. It was fitting that she died in her beloved Sacred Heart Hospice where she helped so many to die peacefully. To her family she was a treasure.”*

Eleanor finished Phil's Eulogy by quoting an apt verse from Edward J Wright.

*As long as I can say  
I took a little of my time  
To do a little favour  
Share the blessings that are mine*

*As long as I can say  
I tried to show how much I care  
And when my help was needed  
I was willing to be there  
As long as I can truly say  
That even in the smallest way  
I brightened up another's day  
My day has been worthwhile.*



## Sister Maree Henderson



*"You are with me, Lord Jesus."*

*Patrice Marie Henderson, the only child of Stella May Lewis and Roger Urwin Henderson, was born in Kensington Victoria on 4 November, 1931. The family lived in Essendon and Maree's schooling was at St Therese's Primary and St Columba's College, Essendon.*

Maree attended St Philomena's, Moonee Ponds for advanced students and matriculated in 1948. After leaving school, she studied pharmacy and it soon became her occupation. Being an only child, Maree valued the relationship she had with her cousins and they kept in touch throughout her life. As was said about Maree ~ *when you became her friend, you were a friend for life.*

The Sisters of Charity welcomed Maree to the Novitiate on 2 February, 1954. She was given the name Joseph Therese but later changed to her second Baptismal name, *Marie*, but with the pronunciation and spelling as *Maree*. Maree was professed on 16 August, 1956 and, in August 2016, celebrated her Diamond Jubilee.

After her Profession of vows, Maree became a secondary teacher, and was posted to Bethlehem College Ashfield in 1957, specialising in Science. Maree's reputation as an excellent teacher has been applauded by her past students. They loved her enthusiasm and the constant patience she displayed. In 1960, she became the Science Co-ordinator at St Columba's, Essendon for thirteen years and then at Sancta Sophia College, Glenroy from 1974. During that time, she studied and gained her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Melbourne. In 1976, while living at St Columba's, Essendon, Maree took on a new role as Science Consultant for Sisters of Charity Primary Schools. Her enthusiasm in working with younger children and their teachers became infectious! She really made science *'alive'* and *'wonder-full'*, as she shared the awe and mysteries of Science. Maree enjoyed a well-earned time of Overseas Renewal in 1981.

From 1982 until 1989, Maree generously shared her wealth of Science knowledge through some specialised areas. She began some Educational Science Research, then did some Writing of Educational Science Resources for the Biology Association of Victoria and later became a Science Lecturer at Mercy Teachers College in Melbourne.

Maree's contribution to Science education was outstanding and we trust the gratitude of those with whom she ministered was made known to her.

With Sr St Jude Doyle, Maree and Jude began the Remote and Rural ministry in 1990. They would travel to outback New South Wales meeting the people and discerning needs. Together, they would prepare for stalls where they would raise money to assist country people in need. As Maree was a Medical Herbalist, this service was also available. The two sisters had a band of helpers who worked tirelessly on the stalls and at other times for the ministry for over twelve years.

In 2013, Maree, who had suffered from ill health throughout her life, moved to St Joseph's Village at Auburn. At the same time, some of our sisters were moving into Stella Maris at Cronulla and because Maree's relatives lived in that area, she asked if it would be possible for her to transfer to Cronulla. When a bed became available, Maree moved to Stella Maris in 2015. She continued a ministry to raise money for the needy by making lavender bags. Her handiwork was appreciated by all and, whenever she had a visitor, that person became a recipient of a lavender bag too!

When Maree returned to Stella Maris after a hospital admission for pain control, it was her last return. On December 1, she was taken out in a wheel chair to see the garden and enjoyed it greatly and was brought back to her room. With Sr St Jude by her side, she took her last breath. Her Mass of Christian Burial was at Cronulla and light refreshments at Stella Maris. A Rite of Committal was held at Sacred Heart Chapel, Rookwood. Although Maree knew so many Science wonders, we trust that she is now sharing in the greatest gift of seeing God face to face.



## *Sister M. Felix Thorburn*

*“Thy Will Be Done.”*

*Sister Mary Felix Thorburn was professed as a Sister of Charity in January, 1945 and spent sixty, of her sixty-seven years in religious life, ministering in the hospitals of the Congregation. Sister Felix was born in Lismore in 1919, to William Thorburn and Alice Kelly. The third of six children, Felix was christened Elizabeth Magdalen but at her entrance into the Congregation she took the name of Felix and retained that name throughout her religious life.*

Felix grew up on the family farm close to the border of Queensland and New South Wales. On completion of her secondary schooling Felix went to St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba as a trainee nurse. Then, having gained her Certificate as a registered nurse, Felix decided to become a Sister of Charity and entered the novitiate in July 1942. After Profession in 1945 she began her nursing ministry at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst.

For the next ten years Felix's moves took her to St Vincent's Hospitals in Melbourne, Auburn, Bathurst, Lismore and to Caritas Christi, Kew before being appointed Sister-in-Charge of the operating theatres at St Vincent's Melbourne. It was during her years in this position that Felix established her reputation as a skilled theatre nurse and a progressive administrator. In 1950 Felix had obtained her Midwifery certificate and in 1956 she gained her Diploma of Theatre Management from the College of Nursing, Australia.

With her coming, a new chapter in the history of St Vincent's commenced. Each development in medicine brought new challenges and after World War II medical graduates were returning home from England and America with high academic qualifications and with even higher expectations of the future of the hospital Felix, ever the professional, was ready for the challenge, instilling a high standard of discipline among doctors, nurses and allied health personnel. As early as 1957 the first Recovery Room was set up and soon after an Intensive Care Unit.

During the sixties and seventies the Department of Foreign Affairs asked Felix to assist in an aid project to train nursing personnel in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Several times during this period Felix visited hospitals in these countries to advise on operating theatre management and intensive care treatment.

After twenty-five years in Melbourne and two in Sydney. Felix moved to St Vincent's Launceston, where for the next twenty-two years her management and clinical experience were well used and much appreciated. When leaving Tasmania in 2006 to return to Melbourne Felix was honoured with an official farewell and many expressions of appreciation. In May 1995 Felix was invested as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) at Government House, Tasmania. The award recognized a lifetime of dedicated service as a pioneer in operating theatre and intensive care management.

Soon after returning to Melbourne, Felix became a resident at St Catherine's Aged Care Hostel and there, on the 1st December, 2008 the Australian College of Operating Room Nurses bestowed on Felix an Honorary Fellowship. This tribute must have been very special as it was arranged by some of the nurses with whom she had worked in the early days at St Vincent's, Fitzroy and was surely a testament of their loyalty and love for her. Sister Felix died the following day, 2nd December, 2008.

In remembering Felix as she lived out her 67 years as a Sister of Charity it is obvious that her commitment to her ministry was sustained by her personal commitment to God.



## Sister Mary Padua Hughes

*“All for Jesus through Mary.”*

*Sister Mary Padua Hughes was known around the Edgecliff and Darlinghurst areas as a great walker. After her death, one of the local priests referred to her warmly as “the walking nun.” However, what characterised ‘Paddy’, as she was affectionately known, was her great generosity and her willingness to help all in need.*

Sister Mary Padua was well known and appreciated by those who called in to the Edgecliff Convent for food because they knew that she was always generous to them.

Dolores Mary Hughes was born on 27 June, 1923 in Waverley, New South Wales, the second of four children. Her father was John Dillon Hughes of Queensland and her mother was Kathleen Estelle Barbara Jones of Sydney. Dolores had one brother, Denis and two sisters, Margo Lillicap and Gwen Moore. Dolores attended both Monte Oliveto Primary School and Secondary College.

Dolores entered the Sisters of Charity in 1943 from her parish of St Joseph’s in Edgecliff, New South Wales, as a qualified typist. She was professed as a Sister of Charity on August 28, 1945 and finally professed in 1948 at St Vincent’s Chapel at Potts Point. Sister Mary Padua worked as a volunteer at Matthew Talbot in her latter years. At times she helped at the canteen and at other times she helped the men. *Paddy* was well equipped for this task, often a very demanding one, as she was a trained nurse as well as a trained teacher.

After gaining her Teaching Registration in 1944, Sister Padua began her teaching career and worked at Ashfield and Katoomba. In 1955 she began her General Nursing Training at St Vincent’s, Darlinghurst after spending six years as a Hospital Admission Clerk at St Vincent’s in Melbourne and Sydney.

Nursing took Sister Padua to Bathurst, Darlinghurst, and Auburn in New South Wales and to Caritas Christi Hospice in Kew, Victoria. In 1982, Paddy took up clerical duties at Sacred Heart Hospice at Darlinghurst and remained there for seven years, serving during the rebuilding of the Hospice. From 1989 she was the Medical Records Clerk at Sacred Heart Hospice until 2000, at which time she became a volunteer.

Sister Mary Padua believed in giving her best to her ministry in the Congregation. In 1946 she passed four subjects in her Leaving Certificate and later a Geriatric Activities Course at Mayfield Centre, Melbourne, brushed up her shorthand with a Shorthand Speed Development Certificate at Riddell’s Commercial College and obtained a Medical Records Certificate at T.A.F.E. in Redfern.

*Paddy* was welcome wherever she went because she liked people and she was interested in everything. She read the daily paper from cover to cover. For many years she typed up the minutes of the ex-student’s meetings of St Vincent’s College, Potts Point. She loved clothes and enjoyed dressing well. In her young days she was a gifted ice skater. In her renewal year there was no London Bridge for *Paddy*! She set off to explore Australia, an excited adventurer looking around her country for six wonderful weeks!

Sister Mary Padua Hughes died on 4th December, 2007. May she rest in peace.



## Sister M. Agnes Skewes

*“By Him and with Him and in Him.”*

*Edna Skewes was born in the tin-mining town of Tingha, near Inverell, northern New South Wales on the 24th June 1909. Her father, Robert Northey Skewes, was part-owner and manager of one of the two big tin mines. His parents had come from Cornwall, while her mother Sarah Agnes Connell, had come from Co Donegal, Ireland. Edna was the youngest of seven children.*

When Edna was eight her father sold the property and they moved to Sydney on the beachfront at Clovelly. Edna received her primary education from the Sisters of St Joseph, and her secondary education at St Vincent's College, Potts Point, finishing in 1926. The following year she went *“across the garden”* and joined the Sisters of Charity at Bethania, now the Garcia Centre at Potts Point.

At the Novitiate the newly clothed Sister Agnes received her religious formation and teacher training. Following her Religious Profession in 1930, Sr Agnes did Junior Secondary teaching. Two years later she began her three years' study at the University of Sydney for her Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Qualified now for teaching senior Secondary subjects, Sr Agnes was sent to Victoria, where she taught at Catholic Ladies' College, East Melbourne and later, at St Columba's College, Essendon. Responsibility for running the Convent as Rectress was added to this teacher's workload at CLC, while at the same time she was Principal of each school. To further her Science attainments, Sister studied Physics, and then Chemistry, at the University of Melbourne.

After twelve years in Victoria, Sister Agnes returned to St Vincent's College in Potts Point, where she spent eight years in charge of the Leaving Certificate class, teaching English, Latin, French and Chemistry. Then in 1955, she suddenly found herself Superior General of the Sisters of Charity, a position she held for eighteen years. This was a period of rapid change in the Church, especially following Vatican II.

Being made Superior General in unpleasant circumstances before her silver jubilee was not the easiest task. Following someone as well-loved as Mother Alphonsus is always difficult. It took amazing courage for Agnes to open the Congregation to new ideas when a powerful rearguard had prevented the Congregation from following the updating attempted by Mother Alphonsus.

Agnes could have played it safe. Instead, she took the Congregation out of its narrowness by participating in worldwide assemblies of superiors general. She took the risk of sending Sisters to the missions and also for training to the USA and Rome. With her as superior general, the Congregation connected again with the Irish Sisters in a significant way. From the same zeal for looking at our origins, Agnes ordered that the records in Rome be searched to find what had really happened in 1847-1859 in Australia.

All this was possible because Agnes could listen to a viewpoint different from her own. The most striking example of how Agnes could surrender her own views was the work on the Constitutions. The ones we were using were those that had been done to satisfy the requirements of canon law in the early twentieth century. Aggiornamento asked us to rewrite Constitutions more in keeping with our origins. No one can know how many versions Agnes made and how willingly she listened to the suggestions of others on the committee and how she began again each time it was necessary, disregarding all the work she had done already.

Many of us saw, after her eighteen years as superior general, how to some extent Agnes has lost her own self and become totally absorbed in the role she had filled, so that life as an ordinary Sister was for a time difficult for her and everyone else. When you have been in charge for eighteen years, you want to see your initiatives continued.

Perhaps that adjustment was, in the end, one of her greatest achievements. At Potts Point, Agnes was happy to answer the door and phone and, more importantly, did these tasks with charm and grace. She was reluctant to leave the warmth of the Potts Point community for a nursing home, and it took time again for her to settle down there. When she did, she could appreciate the kindness of all the Sisters. Agnes died on the 8th of December, 2004 at Lewisham Nursing Home.



## *Sister Marion Corless*

*“Propter te, Jesu.” (For you, Jesus)*

*Sister Marion Corless was born on 27th February 1913 to Jack and Johanna Corless of Dulwich Hill. She commenced school at St. Vincent's College Potts Point in 1923, having been first to the Catholic primary school at Dulwich Hill.*

Sister Marion was a good student and excelled not only academically but also in her care and consideration of other students. Upon leaving school Marion worked for a few years and in 1933 entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of Charity, taking her final vows in 1939.

At the time of her profession she became Sister Mary Reparata, returning to Sister Marion after Vatican II.

Throughout the years, Sister Marion taught at St Vincent's, Potts Point, St Columba's College, Essendon, Mt St Mary's, Katoomba, Bethlehem College, Ashfield and St John's College, Auburn.

In 1973 she was elected to the position of Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity. She remained Leader for twelve years, holding the great respect of our Sisters in all ministries.

In 1985 and 1986 she was Director of Novices. In 1985 she was asked by Cardinal Edward Clancy to be the Associate Vicar for religious in the Archdiocese of Sydney, a position she held until 1993 when she was appointed Parish Co-ordinator at Blackheath.

During the years Sister Marion has been a great educator, friend and mentor to the many girls she taught at the various schools. No matter where her former pupils wandered, Sister Marion would find them and be there for them in their various journeys through life.

She has been an inspiration and an outstanding role model for all to try and follow. She had a deep love of God, the Sisters of Charity, her family and her alma mater.

In 1979 Sister Marion received an MBE for her dedication and life-long work in the field of education. In 2003 Pope John Paul II bestowed upon Sister Marion the Papal Honour of Croce Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice. Sister Marion accepted both of these awards with gratitude and humility.



## Sister Christine Jorgensen

*“To know Christ is all I want.”*

*Christine did her nursing training at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Then followed several years travelling overseas and working at St Pancras' Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London, time looking after Aboriginal children affected by leprosy at the Katherine NT Base Hospital, before returning to nurse in Melbourne, finally joining the staff at St Vincent's, Fitzroy.*

Deeply moved by the work of the Sisters of Charity, Chris entered the Congregation on 3rd March 1978 and made her final vows in 1986.

Bishop Hilton Deakin was the chief celebrant at Chris' Requiem Mass at St Luke's Church Blackburn South on 24th December 2003. Her brother Greg, delivered the Eulogy on behalf of Chris' mother, sister, brothers and their extended family. The following is an extract from Greg's Eulogy:

*“The book of Ecclesiastes states that life is measured not in years, but in good deeds. By that measure, Chris lived a rich, rewarding life, an extraordinary life, lived to the full. In many ways a heroic life. She always found it better to give, than to receive. She lived the words of the Peace Prayer of St Francis, her favourite prayer: “Lord make me an instrument of your peace.” In her last days she took great pleasure in hearing her nieces read those words to her.”*

Chris embodied the motto of the Sisters of Charity, *“Caritas Christi urget nos”* ~ *“The love of Christ impels us.”* Each Sister of Charity also has her own personal motto. Chris chose, *“To know Christ is all I want”*, from the letter to the Philippians.

Chris lived a wonderful life in the service of others. Chris' various ministries in the Congregation included nursing and nurse education at SVH Melbourne, Sacred Heart Hospice, Director of Mission at Caritas Christi and St Vincent Private Hospitals, Melbourne and Launceston.

Chris was involved as a Chaplain at the Queensland and Griffith Universities during which time she completed a Bachelor of Arts, Theology and Education. She helped set up 'Rosies', a program designed to help street kids on the Gold Coast. For a time she was Vocation Director for the Congregation. In 1995 she realised a dream and went to minister in El Salvador. Two years later Chris became Executive Director of Caritas for Victoria in which capacity she visited many overseas mission areas, including a time in East Timor for which she was awarded the Australian Government Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal.

Returning to Australia, she asked her order to allow her to work in East Timor permanently. She began Karidade Health, which established clinics in mountainous areas, visited sick and dying in their homes, ran a funeral service, and set up a Hospice in Dili National Hospital. Known fondly as Madre Chris, she personally helped purchase the coffins and assisted at the burial for the people she so dearly loved.



## Sister Patricia Carroll

*“Not my will, but thine be done.”*

*Sister Patricia Carroll was born in Hay, a country town of New South Wales, on the 12th April 1917, and died at the age of 91 after having given 62 years of her life as a Sister of Charity.*

Patricia was the last of ten children born to her parents, Michael James Carroll and Ellen Frances Stewart and was christened Jean Isabel. In later years she changed back to her baptismal name, Jean, but Patricia, her religious name, was the one she most often used. Patricia graduated from school with her Intermediate Certificate and for some years worked as a telephonist at the G.P.O. During this time she also became a Theresian.

To quote from the eulogy spoken by her nephew at Patricia's Mass of Christian Burial:

*“Growing up in Mullagong with a vibrant family life, Sister Jean experienced hardship and loss as well as love and faith. Like all the Carroll women, Jean had strength of character and conviction.”*

It was these qualities that Patricia brought with her to religious life when she entered the Novitiate in February 1947 and which we remember now as those that were so basic to her character throughout her life. After her Profession, in August 1949, Patricia was sent to St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst as a trainee nurse and gained her Nursing Registration in 1953.

Her first appointment as a qualified nurse was to St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba. That was the beginning of thirty-three years of nursing in our hospitals in Fitzroy, Bathurst, Darlinghurst and then back to Fitzroy where for eleven years she was Assistant Director of Nursing.

As a nurse Patricia was always keen to keep abreast with the latest medical and nursing practice.

To do this she read widely and was well respected by her colleagues for her efficiency and her thorough attention to detail in patient care. In 1974 Patricia became interested in Nursing Rehabilitation so in her usual way she set about qualifying herself in that field by gaining a Diploma of Geriatric/Rehabilitation Nursing at Concord Hospital.

In 1984 Patricia was able to take some time off work for renewal and during three months of overseas travel visited Rome, Ireland the UK and part of Europe. Her health had never been robust so in 1986 she retired from Nursing and for some years worked as a part-time volunteer at “Outreach”. Patricia was always very attentive to her friends and over the years, kept in touch with many of her nursing colleagues and Outreach volunteers with whom she had become friendly during her working years.

When in 2005, Patricia was in need of residential care, St Joseph's Village, Auburn became her home.

On Christmas Eve, 2008, Patricia died at Sacred Heart Hospice, Darlinghurst.

To borrow once again words spoken by her nephew in his eulogy:

*“Jean was a woman of faith with a true sense of kindness and interest in others, a woman of faith who daily tried to live in accordance with her commitment.”*

and we who have lived with her can testify to her fidelity to God as a Sister of Charity.





## Sister M. Consilio Ryan

*“Not my will, but thine be done.”*

*At the time of her death on Christmas Day Sister Consilio was the oldest member of the Congregation. Bishop David Cremin, an old friend from her Hurstville days, was chief celebrant at her Requiem in St John of God Church Auburn. Father Ron Harden PP at Hurstville and Father Ray Farrell PP of Auburn joined him on the altar.*

Bishop Cremin spoke of Sister's early life in Church Hill where she was born Theresa Mary Ryan on 9th November 1902, of how she applied for a secretarial position at St Joseph's Auburn and boarded at St Joseph's as the distance to travel each day was too far, then being told by the Mother Superior she should be a teacher and later that she should join the Congregation.

Bishop Cremin said she did this, entering the Novitiate of the Sisters of Charity on 18th January 1923 and was professed on 16th January 1926. He traced her many teaching appointments, which were predominantly in the Sydney area, teaching commercial studies, until she retired at Hurstville in 1972.

Sister Mary Consilio was the middle child of three girls born to Michael and Mary Ryan at Church Hill. The eldest daughter died in infancy and Consilio became 'big sister' to the baby, a role she cherished all her life.

I knew Consilio only in her latter years; there are many of her faithful ex-students here today who knew her when she was young. In the time I knew Consilio she grew in grace, wisdom, peace and mellowness.

Consilio must have been in her eighties when she went each week to Father's lectures on the Gospels where she wrote down almost every word in shorthand and then rewrote notes when she came home. Retirement did not mean that Consilio had called it a day for her own education, especially in her faith.

*The kiss of the sun for pardon  
The song of the birds for mirth  
One is nearer God's heart in the garden  
Than anywhere else on earth*

DOROTHY GUANEY



## Sr M. Philippine Humphreys

*“To serve Thee Jesus, is to reign.”*

*Mary Ursula Humphreys (known as Ursula) was born at Drummoyne on 30 August 1921, the younger of the two children of Florence Maude Sunquist and William Bede Humphreys. William (Bill), her brother was named after their father.*

The family moved from Drummoyne to Darlinghurst where Ursula began her schooling at the Sacred Heart School. She went on to attend St Mary’s Cathedral School and finally, St Vincent’s Potts Point where she gained her Leaving Certificate in 1939. Ursula, with some pupils from St Mary’s Cathedral School, including Sr Eleanor Macris, would sing on most Sunday mornings at the three Masses in the Cathedral!

From a small beginning, Ursula’s family grew, as Bill and his wife welcomed their family of five daughters and two sons and in time, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Each of her nieces and nephews and their children was very dear to Ursula throughout her life. When visiting her, we would receive an update on the family and hear the latest news of them. At her funeral, one of her nieces recalled, that *“as little children, we loved going into Aunty Ursula’s classroom to play. It was considered a treat! She always had unusual toys. Later we would enjoy the daintiest afternoon tea but were under strict instructions to only have one cake!”*

Since she first met the Sisters of Charity, Ursula felt a strong calling to become a Religious. She entered the Congregation on 2 February 1940 and began her Novitiate on 26 August 1940, a few days before her nineteenth birthday and was given the name ‘*Philippine*’. Because of WWII, the Novitiate was transferred to Villers Bret in Katoomba for safety reasons. Two years later, on 27 August 1942, Philippine was professed as a Sister of Charity.

Like other Novices wishing to become teachers, Philippine began her Teacher Training and gained her Teachers’ Certificate. She was a gifted Infants teacher and throughout the years from 1942 until 1982, countless boys and girls had a solid educational grounding from their devoted teacher. Her creativity and lovely singing voice were among the teaching assets she possessed.

Philippine began her teaching profession at Liverpool, then Brighton-Le-Sands, Katoomba, Darlinghurst, Carlton, Ashfield, Edgecliff, Clifton Hill, Hurstville, Mt Pritchard and Lewisham, revisiting some places.

Her final posting was in 1980 to St Francis School Paddington, and she retired from the teaching profession on 31 December 1981.

In 1982, Philippine moved to the convent at Concord West to begin a new ministry of working with young families in the Parish of St Ambrose. She worked hard at her new ministry, discovering ways and means of supporting and giving assistance to the young and their parents. The Parish Priest and Parishioners were grateful for such help. Philippine continued in this ministry for seven years and then had the opportunity of overseas renewal in April 1989 for three months.

When Philippine moved to St Joseph’s Village in Auburn in 1993, she began Diversional Therapy with the residents, teaching them to knit or crochet coloured squares to make knee rugs for the poor. She also spent much of her time, making rugs and crocheting borders for tea towels and hand towels to raise money for the Village. Each time she was visited, she would be sure to have a crocheting hook in her hand, getting ready for an upcoming stall! In addition, she used her sewing machine to do mending for residents, staff and Sisters, who needed a seamstress ~ some were very regular customers! Then there were the daily word puzzles from the *SMH* that she did with a residents’ group, as well as the weekly games of *Scrabble* with a partner or two!

Over the years, Philippine had dealt with many bouts of illness, which she bore with remarkable acceptance and courage. Finally, after ninety seven years of very productive life and seventy six years of faithful service as a Sister of Charity, Philippine died peacefully on 26 December 2018.

Her Mass of Christian Burial took place at St John of God Church, Auburn on 2 January 2019. As a testament to her many years of involvement at St Joseph’s Village, Staff, residents and present and former members of the Hospital Executive formed a long guard of honour from the Church.

*“After your life of giving, rest in peace, now Philippine!”*



## Sister M. Genevieve Campbell

*“Lovest thou me more than these difficulties.”*

*Sister Genevieve had been a Sister of Charity for 75 years when she died at Auburn on 28th December, 2013, aged 95 years.*

Lillian Agnes Campbell was born on 3rd September, 1918 at Stanmore, NSW, the first of two daughters of Henry and Sarah Campbell who had come from Britain to make their home in Australia. Lillian and her sister, Nancy were educated by the Sisters of Charity at Bethlehem College, Ashfield. Both daughters were good scholars and, in the year of her Leaving Certificate, Lillian was elected Captain of the College.

The year after leaving school in 1935, Lillian entered our Novitiate on 2nd February, 1936 at ‘Bethania’, Potts Point and on her Clothing Day in August that year, was given the name Genevieve. She made her Profession of Vows on 24th August, 1938 in the one hundredth year after the pioneer Sisters set out from Ireland to come to Australia. Genevieve trained as a teacher and after some experience in primary schools, taught secondary students in Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales. She specialised in French, Ancient History, Latin and Mathematics ~ a wide range of subjects to which she often added Choir Mistress and Organist. At St Vincent’s College, Potts Point she set up and began the Biology Department.

Over a period of thirty one years, while still teaching, Genevieve studied and gained a BA Degree from the University of Tasmania. In 1968 she went to Noumea for a short course for teachers in ‘Audio Lingual French’. At Monash University in 1970, Genevieve began a course in Librarianship. She gained an HSC qualification in Indonesian Languages because they were about to be added to the subjects for the HSC exam. Throughout her teaching career Genevieve always aimed at giving her students the best and they loved her for it. They appreciated the patient, gentle way she gave any extra assistance.

In 1972 Genevieve finished her ministry in the classroom and after further study

at the University of NSW, gained a Graduate Diploma in Librarianship and was appointed Congregational Librarian, a position she held for ten years. In 1985 she was appointed Secretary General of the Congregation and on completion of this ministry went for her overseas trip. On her return, Genevieve trained and graduated from the University of NSW as the Congregation’s first Archivist and set up and formalised the Sisters of Charity Archives. She loved her archives ministry and the staff with whom she worked. As Genevieve lived in Rockwall Crescent in close proximity to the Archives location, she was available to help and support the new Archives Manager after she completed her time as Archivist.

In November 2007, she became a resident at St Joseph’s Village at Auburn. As a new resident, she was a kindly helper to those at the Village. As her health deteriorated and in the last months of her life, the staff and residents were kindly helpers to her. She died on 28th December, 2013 at the age of 95.

Surely, our most lasting memories of Sister Genevieve will be her quiet, gentle graciousness, her beautiful face and smile, her soft voice and un-assuming manner. More than that, we will remember Genevieve as a Sister of Charity, sincere and steadfast in her commitment to God, her love for whom impelled her to rise patiently above life’s trials and difficulties. Thank you Genevieve for the example you have left us.

Her Requiem Mass was celebrated at St John of God Church, Auburn on 2nd January, the feast of St Genevieve. As well as family, Sisters, friends and many ex-students came to honour their memories of a loved teacher. We give thanks to God for Genevieve, a quiet achiever and faithful Sister of Charity. May she rest in peace.



## *Sr Marie Haren*

*"I can do all things in him who strengthens me."*

*Winifred Marie Haren was born in Ingham Queensland on 2 March 1930, the fourth child of Martin Haren and Winifred Lenore Digger. Known always as "Marie" she attended Mt St Michael's College Ashgrove for her secondary education and gained her Junior Certificate in 1946.*

Thus began her association with the Sisters of Charity, the Congregation which she entered in July 1952. Marie was professed on January 6 1955. Soon after she commenced general nurse training at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. On graduation in January 1959 she gained general experience as a Charge Nurse and then continued her studies completing Midwifery at St Vincent's Toowoomba in 1964 and Infant Welfare in Sydney in 1965. Then it was off to Melbourne to the College of Nursing to complete the Diploma in Nursing Administration (1966). Back to Sydney to complete the HSC at night school at Fort Street Girls School. Marie then commenced the Bachelor of Health Administration at the University of NSW as an external student. In 1970 Marie was appointed Director of Nursing at SVH Sydney.

In 1973 Marie was transferred to St Vincent's Toowoomba as Superior, Sister Administrator and Director of Nursing. She continued with subjects for the BHA which she completed in 1975. 1977 saw her back in SVH Sydney as Sister Administrator and undertaking an O/S study tour of hospitals with attendance at relevant international conferences to look at emerging needs in healthcare. These years were 1977-1986 were very challenging times with changes within the hospital in governance, the AIDS crisis and other major developments such as the move of nursing into Colleges of Advanced Education with impacts on both staffing and service provision.

Marie was a committed nurse and administrator always looking for ways to improve care and services and ever conscious of the Gospel imperative to serve the poor. Respect for person was her mantra wherever she ministered, be it for patient or staff member.

Marie attended Assumption Institute, Melbourne for a year's spiritual renewal in 1987 and later a course at Hawkstone Hall in the UK.

She appreciated these opportunities very much as she did her attendance at the CHAP programme at St John's University, New York in 1993 and 1994.

In 1988 Marie returned to SVH Toowoomba as Sister Administrator and later was missioned as the Congregational Representative to oversee the transition from Sister Administrator to CEO in accordance with the changes being implemented with the formation of Sisters of Charity Health Service. Within SCHS she was appointed as Director of Planning in 1994 and National Coordinator for Service of the Poor in 1996.

In 1997 Marie was appointed inaugural Chair of the Hawkesbury District Health Service and to the Board of Catholic Health Care Services. She resigned 31/12/97. In 1998 it was the role of Liaison Sister at St Vincent's Clinic Darlinghurst. Unfortunately, in 2000 ill health caused Marie to resign from full time ministry. However, as soon as she was able she became a volunteer at the Enquiry Desk at St Vincent's Public Hospital helping people as needed in her ever gracious way.

In 2009 illness, again, became her lot. Soon after her discharge from hospital Marie and her friend Rose Holman were blessed in being able to move into a Unit at the convent in Paddington which was ideal for Marie's care. She loved her home and the companionship it offered. She celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 2016 with family and friends and it was a joyous and memorable time. Family had always been important to Marie and she delighted in meeting her grand nephews, twins Jacob and Hunter soon after their birth, on Facetime. Thereafter a mention always brought a smile!

All in all, a blessed life for a beautiful and gracious lady, impelled by the love of Christ.

Marie died on 29 December 2017. May she rest in peace.



CARITAS CHRISTI URGET NOS

