



to those who are celebrating the anniversary of their

Religious Profession

in April and May

Sr Betty Comerford

27 April

Sr Thérèse English



CELEBRATING
75
YEARS



CELEBRATING
70
YEARS



*Sr Marie-Jean
Barthès*

4 May

CONGRATULATIONS AND EVERY BLESSING TO EACH OF YOU
Ursula and the Provincial Team

INFORMATION:

A video of the Cosmic Walk in Noddfa with paintings and music by Barbara is available on You Tube. Put the title *Cosmic Walk Noddfa* into the search bar.





BEREAVEMENTS

Our sympathy and prayers are with the following:

The **East American Province** on the death of **Sr. Nora Grace** who died peacefully at Marymount Convent on 8 February 2015. Nora was 84 years old and in the 66th year of her Religious Profession;

The **Sisters in Arrowsmith House** on the death of Sr Virgilius O'Donnell who died on 18 April at the age of 99 years and in the 81st year of her religious profession;

Sr Barbara Bailey on the death of her beloved brother **Barry** who died on 20 February. We remember his wife Carole and his children;

Sr Maeve Kelly on the death of her sister-in-law **Roisin**, wife of the late Leonard, who died on 20 February after a long illness;

Sr Bernadette McNamara on the death of her sister-in-law Renée (brother Joe's wife) who died on 6 March in Luton, the death of her cousin **Bradley** who died on 10 March and the death of her brother-in-law Jim Nippard (her sister Mary's husband) who died on 18 April;

Sr Constance O'Sullivan and her family as they mourn the untimely death of Mary Phelan (61) Connie's niece – eldest daughter of Peggy and Bob Phelan - who died recently and Bob, Peggy's husband, who died after a long illness, on 16 March;

Sr Thérèse English on the death of her sister-in-law Kitty who died on 12 March;

Sr Marguerite-Marie Lyng on the death of the baby of her nephew Patrick and his wife Marion three weeks before his arrival date;

Sr Regina King on the death of her sister Pattie Tracey who died on 29 March;

Sr Virginia Mullane and her family on the death of her brother Jim who died on Friday 10 April.

May they all rest in peace.



Vocations Sunday 26 April 2015.

In this year of Consecrated Life the Formation Team invite that you to recite the RSHM Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life for at least three days prior to the 26 April.

A number of communities and individuals sent in reports of their activities during the week of the 24 February 2015. Here is a flavour of what was done around the province:



Lisburn community made an extra effort to be more conscious of and visit some really poor people in the area. They also shared a Foundation Day reflection/prayer with some friends who share in their ministry.



Seafield, Arrowsmith and Penamenmawr communities made personal and community donations towards a money gift to distribute goods to needy families. Eleanor made this particularly real by bringing in the supermarket receipts for all the good vegetables she was going to distribute.

Kathleen's project: The Fare Share project, based in St. Philomena's Church Fazakerley, where Kathleen works, provides emergency food for those in need. Assistance is also given to anyone who needs debt advice or help to get back into work. Fare Share is a charity that aims to relieve food poverty and reduce food waste. Good quality surplus food that would otherwise have gone to waste is delivered to charity and community groups through Fare Share.

Eleanor's project. Between 70 -80 Asylum Seekers meet four days a week in the Presbytery of St. Anne's RC Church in Toxteth, Liverpool. English language classes, advice on housing & Home Office requirements is given as well as a hot meal cooked on the premises every day. Fr. Peter, the PP, has requested that the parish community donate fresh vegetables on a Sunday.

Anne Wells in Fazakerly continued to give English lessons and support to a young mother who was trafficked from her own country to Greece, held there for 4 years with 5 other women and used as a prostitute until she managed to escape and seek sanctuary in England.

Sr Mary Murray, Dunmurry community has many contacts with the elderly housebound and with many who are in four nursing homes in the Parish. The latter are people who have lost their homes and are now totally dependent on carers who come in four times a day to dress them, put them to bed and to prepare their meals. They all love a visit and their welcome and their patient endurance of a hard situation is inspirational.

72 Drumcondra Road community supported a cake sale in Karina's school to raise money for their library. St. Kinian's Primary School is in a very deprived area in Finglas. It was a joy to watch the children from different classes coming to buy their cakes and to visit Karina's class as her 7yr olds guzzled cakes. They also contributed 100 euro towards the educational psychological assessment of a child in the school.

When the **Barrow Community** met with the Extended Family they felt the need to focus on and be more aware of the scale of poverty around them, especially struggling families.

The main outcomes of their discussion and prayer were:

- Awareness – many more of us now have a clearer understanding of the real needs of people and a better appreciation of how the food banks work to meet those needs
- Donations – the group donated 68.2 kgs of food to the food bank
- Volunteers - several people 'signed up' to support the food bank with their quarterly supermarket collections



Agnes Hunt in Tallaght reported about a young homeless couple, Rachel and Joseph, known to the sisters in Tallaght for the past ten years... They were addicted to alcohol. In February, Rachel died of liver failure. She was 31. Two days afterwards, Joseph asked for a Mass for Rachel and many parishioners attended. Joseph was on his own though he had many friends in the parish church. It was touching when Joseph went to the pulpit and thanked everyone for their support over the past ten years. Joseph is alone now and sad and everyone misses Rachel.



Manor Park Community got involved in *Action for Affordable and Social Housing*. The famous Boleyn ground, former home of the West Ham Football Club, is set to be redeveloped as a “village” of 838 homes. Only 6% are earmarked as affordable and none as social housing though there are 15,300 families on the housing waiting list. Breda, Dorothy and Kathleen were part of a grassroots campaign who handed in a letter to the Council calling for the application to be rejected, as it did not provide sufficient affordable housing and no social housing.

Somain community had decided 2 "things" for the week of the Institute feast:



1. to deepen the thought (experience and reflection) of Père Joseph Wresinski (founder of ATD fourth world movement) through a recent book: L'homme qui déclara la guerre à la misère written by G-P Cuny.

2. to visit a family that they had "missed" at Christmas time. Cécile went to their home and then invited the two girls for a goûter at the community.



Ellen O'Leary, 70 Drumcondra Road community worked with volunteers preparing gifts for women. The women are invited to take what they need and their “modesty” is admirable. They have to be encouraged to take more of the “goodies” – their response is always the same - “I don't want to take too much as there may be another woman with greater needs than mine.” What an example of Christian living!

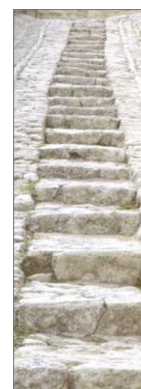


Myriam and Marguerite Marie in le Rheu, France.

Myriam, who works as a chaplain in the women's penitentiary in Rennes, and her team, developed a reflective journey leading up to Easter. They worked with the women to produce a large illustrated book to be displayed in the sanctuary of the prison chapel. It served as a visual support and a source of prayer inspired by the liturgy of the day. The impact of a visual aid and of ongoing support helped to give meaning and coherence to the journey. The women were involved in developing the content, books etc and brought the booklets to their cells.



A photo of the Chapel



Teresina O’Byrne – Grianan Community, Ferrybank: Sr Dolores Carroll initiated a knitting group for local women in the Ferybank area. Originally they knitted garments for needy families in Moldova. It became impossible to get these delivered because of war. The group then continued to knit scarves, hats and gloves for the homeless in the Simon community. Recently a special effort has been made to knit small garments for babies in Nigeria who used to be wrapped in newspaper. These are called “fish and chip” babies because in times past fish and chips were wrapped in newspaper! The group are also knitting chicks to hold Easter eggs to fund a local young girl who is going on mission to India. These are ongoing projects focussed on the poor and needy wherever they may be.



Sunflowers Meeting - April 2015 - Noddfa

Sunflowers naturally turn towards the sun. As ‘RSHM Sunflowers’ we had ample opportunity to do this as we gathered together in Noddfa. We were blessed with beautiful Spring weather and had the freshness and colour of Spring’s new life to bathe in.

Our group reflections centred around the theme of ‘Consecrated Life’. A creative prayer prepared by the Formation Team focussed us. From Abraham and our mothers in faith, through the tomb of Resurrection, to our present reality, we traced our common journey. Reflecting on what had initially inspired us and what keeps us going drew much richness and wisdom from the group. There was also sharing on the local and diocesan celebrations of the gift of Consecrated Life.



Mary Jo’s sharing on her visit to the UN, her engagement with Veronica and some of our own sisters and collaborators in New York and the UN, stimulated our reflections on justice issues. She recalled the Beijing document and work on women’s rights where progress is slow but ongoing.



Members of the group informed us all of the work being done in local areas in the Province. The Province JPIC Team also helped us to reflect more deeply and personally on prophetic and JPIC spirituality. It is inspiring to remember that each RSHM in mission is representing the whole and each is receiving and giving life according to her gifts.

There was plenty of opportunity for sharing of memories, news, chat and laughter, little outings and walks. Thank you to the Noddfa team for the wonderful hospitality. We look forward to next year.

Catherine Gough