

EXCHANGE - ECHANGE

PROVINCE DE L'EUROPE DU NORD * NORTHERN EUROPEAN PROVINCE

<http://www.rscm-pen.org>

January – February 2017

Happy 100th Happy 100th



Sister Máire-Bríd Mackey
6 February 2017

The staff in Mooncoin Nursing Home arranged to have a Thanksgiving Mass on Tuesday 31st January to honour Máire Bríd's 100th birthday. Fr. Larry O'Keeffe, PP in Mooncoin was the celebrant. It was obvious he was a regular visitor in the Home because of his kindly and patient way with the patients. It was a case of 'when God made time, He made plenty of it!'

Nine of us from Ferrybank were delighted to join in the celebration and some of Máire Bríd's family from Windgap were there. Mary (a past pupil of Ferrybank) and her nephew Tom and his wife Margaret. Máire Bríd was lovely....chatted/sang a bit during the mass but obviously was very happy.

After the mass we had a cuppa and a celebratory cake which Geraldine in Madonna House had made. There was a lovely atmosphere and Máire Bríd was so happy and seemed to recognise some of us who shared memories of being with her in school and in various communities in the province. It gave us and the family great joy to be with her and to see her so content. Once or twice she replied to comments that were made saying "that's right" or "thank you very much".

On Sunday 5th February more of the family will gather to rejoice with their "Aunty Brigie". That day is more convenient for the family rather than Monday 6th. We feel Tuesday was our day and Sunday is the family's day. A few of us will join with them. We give thanks for Máire Bríd's wonderful life of service to God and to education. We continue to pray with and for her during the remaining years of her life with us. On the 6th we will celebrate Mass in Madonna House for the occasion and have a celebratory lunch in Máire Bríd's honour.

Patsy Butler



*L to R standing: Sisters Catherine McCarthy, Clare O'Keeffe, Gwen Power Dolores Carroll, Freda McGrath Margaret Mary Morris, Nuala Mullins.
Seated: Patsy Butler, Máire Bríd and Teresina O'Byrne*

Foundation Day 24 February



*We wish all of you
a very joyful and blessed Foundation Day.*

With love and prayers

*Ursula Ellen
Mary Rowan Kathleen*



Congratulations to our five newly professed sisters in Belo Horizonte.



Mary, Aelita, Celine, Luisa, and Precious

You can view the Profession ceremony if you click on the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVjmUsjtmKg&feature=youtu.be>

Welcome
Back

Margaret
to the NEP!
Thanks for all you
have done for our
new sisters.



We send Sister Maire Convery our best wishes for her health and happiness as she returns to the Zambezi Region following her time in the NEP.



Thank
You

Dear Sisters, thank you so very much for all your prayers for my sister Kathleen. She, and the family, say a big 'Thank You' also. In fact Kathleen felt that she was 'buoyed up' and supported by all the prayers. Kathleen is in a rest period now having safely completed and survived the chemo and the radium therapy. In March she will meet with the oncologist to decide the way forward. Please keep up the good prayers.
Thank you. *Aline*

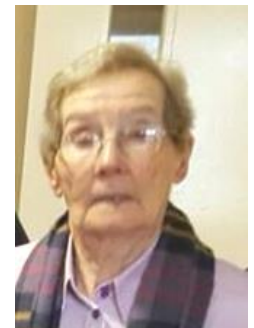
Sister Evelyn O'Reilly thanks everyone for their messages of sympathy when her sister Gerty died recently. *'Thank-you for having Masses offered for Gerty and for remembering her in your prayers. It was a great consolation to me and the family to know that she was being remembered in Prayer. We are consoled that her illness was short and that she did not have to suffer the disabilities which many stroke victims undergo.'*
Evelyn

90
YEARS
YOUNG

Nuala wishes to thank all who had Mass offered, and sent Magnificent Birthday cards.

She writes: *'I am suffering "an aftershock" at the realization I'm now 90!! I had a wonderful Celebration thanks to my Community in Madonna House, Grianán, and Castle Oaks Communities.*

Thanks also to Geraldine who provided a wonderful meal and Birthday Cake. Mass will be offered for your intentions. Love. God bless.' Nuala



The Community in Madonna House would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to all of you who attended Sister Gabrielle's funeral and those of you who sent Mass cards. Your presence and support are always valued especially at times of bereavement.

Sister Gabrielle O'Regan RSHM

Published in the *Cork Evening Echo* 28 January 2017

Sister Gabrielle O'Regan, a native of Kinsale, died on December 28, 2016, in Madonna House, Ferrybank, Waterford. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her brother, Fr Liam and to her nieces, nephews, of whom she was very proud. Gabrielle- Maura, to her family, was the third of seven children.



She was always very close to her family and them to her. Growing up in that lovely town by the sea, the boats and regatta were all home to her. Listening to her stories you felt you were there and knew it all yourself. She attended the local Mercy Convent Primary School in Kinsale, and later moved to the SHM Convent in Ferrybank for her secondary education.

Leaving home for boarding school was a great wrench but, gradually, she settled into life. Maura stood out as a born leader with a mind of her own, always friendly and approachable. Her sense of fun and hearty laugh were infectious. She loved life and enjoyed it. She was also a very caring young girl, quick to notice anyone else in trouble, and help she did.

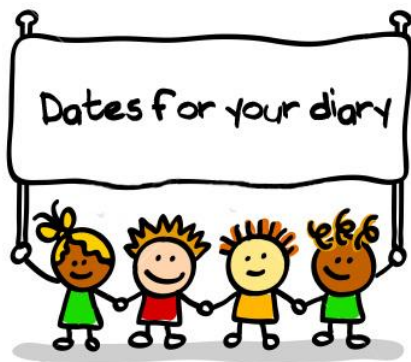
Having completed secondary education, felt the call to religious life. Her faith, always deep, helped her to make her commitment and so, in October 1947, she left home to join the Sacred Heart of Mary Sisters in Ferrybank. She did her novitiate training and then and then made her profession as a sister, taking the name Gabrielle. She trained as a teacher in Dublin and became a member of staff at the SHM School in Sandymount, Dublin, where her teaching ability and care for the children were very much appreciated by the staff and parents alike. But Sandymount had to lose her to Liverpool where she was missioned to take on the headship of a parish school caring for children and their parents as well as her staff.

After Liverpool, her next ministry was to Carlisle in the North of England. Here she became superior of the community for the next six years. Her next move was to London as a member of the Provincial Council - assisting the Provincial superior. Gabrielle, herself, was then appointed Provincial Superior and when that term of office was completed, instead of resting on her oars, she went to train in spiritual direction.

She always wanted to give herself to helping others, whether it was the lonely, the elderly or the destitute on the streets of Dublin - cooking dinners for those who had none, or helping others on their spiritual journeys through life. To her, everyone was a brother or sister. She was a great carer, with a very sensitive heart, who tried to fulfil her mission in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, when some of her contemporaries were still able to work, Gabrielle's health began to deteriorate until eventually it became necessary for her to retire to the SHM Caring Centre at Ferrybank, where she was well cared for until she died peacefully just after Christmas 2016.

Gabrielle was pre-deceased by her parents, John and Margaret, and by her sisters Nan and Mairead, and her brothers Neil, Fr Bertie and John. Her brother, Fr Liam, concelebrated a very moving, homely requiem mass for Gabrielle, gathering into one all of the O'Regan family, relations and friends, as well as the Sacred Heart of Mary Sisters present and the Carers. And how fitting it was at the end of the burial service he said, "I think now she deserves a clap". So we all clapped. Alleluia!!



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

27th February-12th March

During those two weeks join with friends, neighbours and communities to put **fair-trade** in their basket and take exploitation out.



EARTH HOUR 2017:- 25TH MARCH 8.30-9.30PM

Each year for earth hour, millions of people around the world come together in a spectacular lights out display to call for action to protect our brilliant planet. Join in and be part of the world's largest demonstration of support for action on climate change. This year is set to be the biggest yet as it is the 10 year anniversary of earth hour – so make sure you are part of it.



Update from Judith in Mexico

'Hola' from Guadalupe Community, Mexico. I am settling into my new surroundings slowly, slowly, as they say in Zambia, here in Mexico, despacito ,despacito! In many ways life here reminds me of Zambia so that has been very helpful for me. The very high altitude here takes getting used to so I have to pace myself accordingly. It is now the winter season here but as I write this the sun is shining , lovely blue sky and temp. about 24° , not too bad for winter! It can get quite chilly in the evenings and mornings but I welcome that also.

So far so good all is going well here, gracias dios (thanks be to God) The three sisters here, Virginia, Fidelia and Julia are very kind and helpful and look after me well. I am getting used to the tortilla –our daily bread ! lots of fresh fruit and a great variety of vegetables including Cactus which we had for dinner yesterday and it was very tasty.

The english classes are going well and my students are very enthusiastic. I take 2 sessions in the mornings and 2 in the afternoons so that keeps me busy along with preparation for classes. We also try to use as much english as possible during meal times. My spanish vocabulary is also increasing, a bonus for me!

The Sisters here asked me to send good wishes and prayers to all of you in the province. They are very grateful that I have come to help them and are interested to hear about our province. They also ask for prayers for the situation here with D.Trump as there is a lot of anxiety and uncertainty about.

That's all for now from Mexico. Thanks to all who have sent emails and texts, good to hear from you and feel connected. As I do not have a mexican sim card I cannot reply to the ordinary texts only to the *what's app* texts.

Goodbye for now and remember me in your prayers.

Love, Blessings and Peace to All.

Judith.

Many thanks again to those who responded to the appeal to contribute to the Exchange. Please continue to send in your contributions. They will appear in future issues of Exchange. In this Exchange we have news from Manor Park and Somain.

Greetings from Manor Park

As you know we have recently moved into our new home and are delighted to have arrived at last. We are particularly pleased about where we are situated because it has cut down on our travel time to Manor Park and we are also blessed with good transport links.

Each of us in the Community share in different ministries, Cafod, Women at the Well, SVP and Parish life, which bring us into contact with the vulnerable and the needy.



Parish Life

Our parish is mainly made up of Africans, Asians and a small group of Eastern Europeans, with a handful of English and Irish. Our numbers are large and as you can imagine we have a lot of young families. The work from day to day consists of visiting vulnerable families, the housebound and a Nursing Home. We are always aware that our main focus is to empower others to take leadership roles in the parish and to share responsibility for the various programmes such as R.C.I.A., Baptism and Confirmation etc. The deep faith and commitment of those who share in this work with us is a great encouragement and support.

The Diocese of Brentwood has involved every Parish in a programme to reflect on the way forward called, 'The Stewardship of the Gospel.' This involves looking at the parish, our resources, and how we can together build a stronger community in Manor Park.



At the moment we have a Housing Campaign going. This is an issue that affects a number of our parishioners. A group who have responsibility for bringing this forward are in contact with Newham Council, making them aware of the stories of bad housing, rogue landlords, high rents etc. We hope that these conversations will lead to change.

As a parish we are a member of London Citizens which challenges the Government on various issues.

Breda Byrne

Women at the Well

This is a drop in centre in King's Cross, dedicated to supporting vulnerable women.

We help women who;

- are involved in street based prostitution
- have problems with drugs and/or alcohol
- are homeless-rough sleeping
- are victims of sex trafficking
- are offending or are involved in anti-social behavior

Staff and Volunteers work together to provide a creative and supportive space based on Gospel values,



empowering the women to make choices to improve the quality of their lives. Our new Outreach Team, work with the Police in supporting trafficked women, and this aspect of our work is being developed more.

We are open Monday to Friday each week, during which time the women who come to us can access the support they need for their individual needs, away from the chaos of their daily lives. We offer a welcoming environment, where people can relax, and feel accepted as they are. Hot food is served every day, shower and laundry facilities are available for those who are homeless. Other services available during the week are Counselling, Massage, Acupuncture, Reflexology, Manicures, which many of the women are happy to avail of. We encourage participation in activities - Arts and Crafts, Sewing , Gardening and Cookery, and these can be relaxing and enjoyable, taking the focus off their problems for a short time. Sitting at a meal, or joining in the activities, conversation and interaction taking place helps to build trust.

As a volunteer, I am privileged and blessed to have the opportunity to journey with the women who come to us. My eyes have been opened, and my heart touched, as they share their hardships, pain and rejection, calling forth compassion. It exposes me in a very real way to the struggles of those living on the margins of society today. Only last week one of our women told me she was hungry, she had not eaten for over 24 hours, since her meal with us the day before. Listening to her, raised my awareness of the many things I take for granted in my life. I thank God for the ways this ministry touches my life, and enables me live out our charism “that all may have life”

Kathleen O'Donovan

Somain

This small group is called a **relay**. In our diocese, people in "relays" are attentive to the lives of people in their neighborhood and seek to create close bonds by joining people preparing for a marriage, baptism, confirmation, and people who are experiencing bereavement or illness. Our neighborhood has "lost" its church, then its chapel and we are far from the city center. The relay in which Cécile participates prays, shares the news and concerns of the neighborhood and seeks to encourage meetings between people (eg Christmas party).



Cécile in a meeting with (from right to left) Françoise (ATD volunteer) Marie Claude et l'abbé Paul (prêtre du Congo arrivé dans notre paroisse).



BEREAVEMENTS

We extend our sympathies to:

The sisters of the **EAP** on the death of **Sister Marjorie Keenan RSHM** 14 November 2016. Marjorie was 87 years old and in the 66th year of her Religious Profession

The sisters of the **Portuguese province** on the death of **Irmã Clara Pereira RSCM** 8 December 2016. Clara was 92 years old and in the 66th year of her Religious Profession

The sisters of the **NEP** and especially the community in Madonna House on the death of **Sister Gabrielle O'Regan RSHM** 28 December 2016. Gabrielle was 87 years of age and in the 67th year of her Religious Profession

The sisters of the **WAP** on the death of **Sister Gregory Naddy RSHM** 29 December 2016, at Regina Residence in Orange. Gregory was 98 years of age and in the 79th year of her Religious Profession

and the death of **Sister Catherine Quinn RSHM**, 30 December 30 2016, at Regina Residence in Orange. Catherine was 94 years of age and in the 76th year of her Religious Profession

Sister Françoise Wyckaert and her family on the death of her mother, Madeleine, 28 January 2017

May each of these rest in peace.

