

Exchange/Echange
Northern European Province
Province de l'Europe du Nord

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Greetings and best wishes for Foundation day.

We thank the Lord for all the many blessings we have received through our members and collaborators since 1849. We also remember those who inspired us and those we inspired.



May our presence continue to be a constant revelation of love and joy as was Mary's Woman of faith and hope.

The following is a letter from Brother Bernard, Belmont Abbey, Hereford to the Barrow community on learning that the community is closing.

Dear Sisters Pierre, Ann and Joyce,

This letter comes to you after hearing from Barrow of the eventual closing of the Convent of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary, later in September this year. This will come as a sad event; one which you three have been wondering about for some time now. I hope the closing will not bring too much upset, but it will give time to you and the local community to give thanks and praise for all that has gone before and now comes to fulfilment. I think that you must be thanked for being a strong praying presence within the changing community of Catholics in Barrow, in recent years. You have carried on the long tradition of your Congregation and even when numbers have fallen and age creeps on us you have "fought the good fight". Your names join those famous sisters who built up the R.C. community of Barrow. My own family talk of happy memories of teaching sisters and headmistresses! I know that there will be so many more who



will join you in thanksgiving to God and His Holy Mother for all that has been done and good examples given. I know myself that something did happen to me as an infant in your Prep. School, that left its mark to be

built on later in life ...how I can't say, but Thanks bit to God for it. For most people, these days, a kind of peacefulness and security seems to come with advancing years. But that is not really so for many religious men and women at this time. It seems to take longer for religious to reach a time of proper "retirement" and a place of quietness. Most religious keep going through thick and thin and this is a type of radical life-style that most would not associate with religious life. You are to be congratulated sisters, for your contribution to Catholic Life in Barrow during 120 years or so. Carlisle is not too far away for maintaining a link with Crosslands pupils etc.

So sisters, I hope this doesn't sound like a sermon, it is just my thoughts at hearing the news this morning. I really hope there will be commemorative services and occasions to celebrate your contribution. You deserve it.

May you enjoy your new home (eventually). I'll let the bishop and others say their thanks etc. Do not forget to have a good rest when you can. Wishing you every blessing and peace.

With prayers.

Brother Bernard



Joyce, Pierre, Moire and Anne would like to thank all who sent messages of concern, support and encouragement. Your prayers would be greatly appreciated during the coming months as they prepare to leave behind so many friends and cherished memories, but in the knowledge that while our missionary presence will no longer be part of the Barrow community that the years of service given to the people will be remembered for a long time.

BEREAVEMENTS

Sister Ester Guerra de Freitas who died on the 30 January in Fatima, 88 years old and 55 in religious life.

Sister Alice Maria Duarte who died on the 7th January 2018 in Rio, 84 years old and 62 of her religious profession

Sister Elizabeth Tuohy, EAP died January 16, 2018, 87 years old and in the 66th year of her Religious Profession.

Sister Laura Siebert, who died at Regina Residence in Orange, CA, on Thursday, January 4, 2018. 91 years old and in the 71st year of her Religious Profession

Sister Elizabeth McElroy, NEP, Arrowsmith House, who died on December 28th. Elizabeth was 93 years old and in the 74th year of her religious profession.



Sister Judith Penkert, NEP, who died on December 19th, 72 years old and in the 53rd year of her religious profession.

Pam, Rosaleen, Aídeen and Marlene (the Penkert family) deeply appreciate your overwhelming support during Judith's illness and death RIP.

Thank you to all who attended the funeral, sent Mass cards, prayers and encouragement to us during this very sad time. Mass has been offered for your intentions.'

Mass will be celebrated for Judith on February 25th at 12 noon in Huntstown Parish Church.

Daisy Lenihan, Sister Esther McCarthy's sister, who died peacefully on January 10th surrounded by her family.

Esther thanks all who had masses said, who sent cards and expressions of sympathy. Mass has been offered for your intentions

Mary Rossiter, the sister of Sisters Margaret Mary and Immaculée Morris who died on January 10th
Sister Margaret Mary and Sister Immaculée would like to thank all those who sent letters, sympathy, prayers and masses when Mary died. Your remembrance was much appreciated by the family.

Rory Murphy, Sister Celine's brother, who died peacefully in Arizona on 19 December.

Sister Céline expresses her gratitude to all who sent masses, prayers and messages of condolence.

Patricia Donoghue, niece of Sr. Evelyn O'Reilly, who died on February 8th.

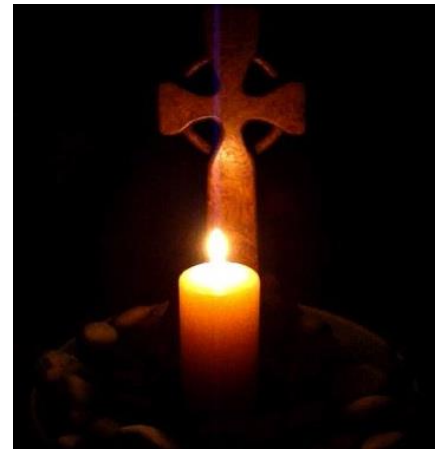
Sr. Evelyn and the Donoghue family appreciated kind expressions of sympathy received.

FATHER GEORGE BEGLEY'S HOMILY AT JUDITH'S REQUIEM MASS

We gather this am to express our sympathy to Judith's sisters Rosaleen, Pam, Aídeen, Marlene (who is in India and could not get home for the funeral), also to her nieces, nephews, the sacred Heart of Mary Sisters, her family, friends and colleagues. We also gather as a Christian Community to profess our faith in the risen Lord, because it is through that faith that each of us is promised eternal life and that's our hope and prayer for Judith today. Judith certainly took the motto 'Life to the full' to her heart. She had so many interests from teaching to walking, nature to travel and she certainly packed plenty into her life. Mt 25:31

Only 2 years ago we gathered in this very chapel to celebrate her jubilee with her and she was beaming. Judith loved the young and while she taught in England and Zambia, she really enjoyed teaching students recently in Mexico. In her early days she worked with the Aids Housing Fund where she was fondly known as Judy and that experience, along with the time she spent counselling in Domville House brought her vocation into sharp focus for her as she cared for the weak and vulnerable. I feel that because Judith didn't always have an easy life that she was able to

empathise with them and therefore was able to give them hope through her care and concern and she made many good friends while there. Judith loved to party and her kindness to others will never be forgotten. I know that she took part in the Croi Nua Programme, walked around Hartstown Park in training for the Camino, and returning to Zambia before her jubilee to meet up with friends and those she taught – 5 of the children she taught joined the seminary and some of them became Bishops. A young Sr. Beatrice put it so well. On hearing of Judith's death, she texted – I will miss her smiling face and voice of encouragement. While Judith didn't always have life easy and I suppose nobody does, she moved out of her comfort zone in order to care for others. She put the Gospel into practice by doing her utmost to serve God and her neighbour. Today we gather to bid her a fond farewell – hoping that she is now at peace – reunited with her late brother Gabe, and I think especially of Helen and Regina and all who have travelled ahead of her on the pilgrim journey. May those of you who loved her find comfort through the kindness and support of friends at this time.



EXTRACT FROM A TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH MCELROY AT HER FUNERAL 11TH JANUARY 2018

Sarah Elizabeth was born in Greencastle County Down on 25 February 1924 to Thomas and Mary, one of seven children: Henry, Phil, Vera, still living and Amelia, Cecilia and Patricia who are deceased. Henry has recollections of her being a bit of a tomboy when she was little, something she obviously grew out of. Her visits to her family were important to her and the family remember



her as being kind and helpful. Indeed, the words Henry and Home were frequently on her lips in her later days here in Arrowsmith. It is good to welcome today her niece Veronica, nephew Aidan and grandniece Laetitia.

Elizabeth was at school in the St Louis Convent and Belfast College of technology studying English, Geography and typing. And then the unexpected happened. She recalled how she was sitting at her typewriter and distinctly heard the words "Come Follow Me". The call was clear. It was a profound experience and she knew then what she had to do.

Elizabeth came to the RSHM Noviciate in Ferrybank in 1942 and after her first vows started her primary school teaching career, first in Seafield Prep and then, after college at Endlseigh Park Hull where she specialized in Art. She was in Rathmore and Lisburn for 17 years and we have here today Ursula who was taught by her then and Evelyn who was also in the community and teaching in Lisburn at that time. She came to Barrow in 1967 teaching in Chetwynde, Holy Family and St Mary's for a further 20 years. There are many sisters here who knew her from those days.

Elizabeth was always artistic and creative and loved nature. Many remember her wonderful classrooms "they were always a delight and up to date". Even today parents of the children she had in Barrow remember her very fondly and have sent messages and these flowers in appreciation.

Her creative talents are also remembered in the colorful garden that she tended in the Barrow community house. I remember well the brightly colored hanging flower baskets and boxes and am sure it is true. As one sister said, "it has never been the same since".

When she retired from teaching she engaged in various forms of pastoral work in Barrow, visiting the elderly, taking communion and especially accompanying people who were going through difficult times. She seems to have been a sensitive listener and had a real aptitude for one to one relationships. Someone wrote of her *I thank God for sending Elizabeth, she was like a grandmother to me, she helped me through the difficult years with her love, friendship, and kindness and brought me closer to the Lord she would kindly make me hot soup, a cuppa and cake and then we would have time to look at the bible and meditate on a passage.*

In 2009 she began to develop Dementia and came to Arrowsmith. Someone who knew her soon after she came wrote: *'I wandered lonely as a cloud', like this line of Wordsworth, Elizabeth, although somewhat solitary was happy in her own world and in the beauty of nature. It was good to have spent time with her as she gave expression to her imagination in wonderful drawings of birds. She needed quiet and space, a sanctuary, her own sanctuary to do this and never grew tired of it.* BARBARA BAILEY

EARTH HOUR 2018

Around the globe, millions of people and businesses, set aside an hour to host events, switch off their lights, and make noise for climate change action. Over the years, Earth Hour participants have helped make amazing things happen. From changing laws to funding solar-powered homes, volunteers have made a real, positive impact on our planet. This year Earth Hour is at 8:30pm on 24 March 2018

SHOW THE LOVE will be compiled into a short video The photos slideshow and shared online and via social media to send a message to policy makers that people are concerned about the impact of climate change and want them to take urgent action. You can also help those around the world whose lives are impacted by climate change by getting involved in the Lenten initiative #Jars4Journeys co-ordinated by Eco-Congregation Ireland, the Church of Ireland and the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland and Trócaire's Lenten campaign.

PRAYER FOR THE EARTH



Rev Andrew Orr, Chair of Eco-Congregation Ireland provided the opening meditation and prayer at a recent Irish Council of Climate Justice Workshop based on Genesis 2: 4-9, 15-17. You can read his inspirational [text in full on the ECI website](#). He offers the following prayer for the Earth:

Give us vision and new commitment to take up the challenges to which you call us, that in company with all created things we may sing the joy, the beauty and the glory That is creation's song. Amen.

A TRIBUTE TO MADONNA HOUSE

I am taking pen to paper, a tribute to write down,
To Madonna House, "Ere I go home to Piltown
I came here just one month ago, I had to stop and stare,
I found this place a haven of refuge, where everyone did care
God bless the carers and the laundry staff, the best ever seen
And also the lady who keeps Madonna House clean
But the soothing touch and friendly smile, the brightness in the eye,
Is a prayer that must go to heaven, to be recorded upon high.
God bless the friendly ladies, who serve out the meals.
They serve the food so fast, You'd think they were on wheels.
Special thanks to the good lady, who manages finances straight and fair.
And if needed she always has a moment or two to spare.
God bless the maintenance workers, we call on them every day,
For without their attention, our house would be in disarray.
All praise to our manager and sisters, give credit where credit is due,
They spare not their time or their devotion to teach us the right thing to do.
While the Suir, the Barrow and the Nore flow, and Waterford grass grows green,
May God maintain, preserve and sustain Madonna House as it is seen

The poem was written by Maura Connolly and recited at the Madonna House Christmas party. Maura is a part time nurse at Madonna House

NEWS FROM THE ZAMBABWE REGION

The Zambezi region is looking forward to the final profession of Joyce on Saturday, February 24, 2018, at Corpus Christi Cathedral in Chinhoyi. Let us remember Joyce in our prayers. Philippa will be joining the Zambezi region for this very special occasion.

BRIEF UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE, JANUARY 2018

The Zimbabwe Situation, though hopeful, remains quite precarious. There is a window of opportunity for the restoration of people's confidence in the system, but it is slowly closing as the events that led to this "New Dispensation" lack constitutionality and inclusiveness. The Church and Civil Society have a huge role to play in this recovery agenda as the root causes of the problems in Zimbabwe are of a moral and a human rights nature. The Zimbabwe Head of Christian Denominations and the Catholic Bishops Conference have issued a statement to unite and call upon all good willing people to take up their responsibilities. More involvement is needed to restore Zimbabwe to its former glory and to move forward for the good of all the people. The openness and expectation which have characterized these past few months will hopefully result in real reform on every level. Prayers are particularly helpful and very necessary as we move into the next few months of preparation for presidential elections. Thank you. (Margaret T.)



Sisters and staff at Arrowsmith House were happy to welcome Sister Mary Lamble from Carlisle and Sister Kathleen Hamilton from Fazakerly to the community. We wish them peace and much happiness in their new surroundings and we know that Mary and Kathleen will bring a newness to the Arrowsmith community.

The Madonna House Community is looking forward to the arrival of Sister Julia Trejo. Julia is Mexican and is one of the sisters that Judith went to Mexico to teach English to last year. Julia is coming to have an experience in a different culture and to perfect her English and by doing so will be able to contribute to the care of our sisters in Madonna. In April she will be going with Ursula and Kate to the Leaven for Mission meeting in Rome.



REQUEST

THE SUNFLOWERS MEETING IS FROM: April. 3 – 6

THE MILLENNIUM IS FROM: May 7 – 10

The Noddfa community would like to know in good time the number of sisters who wish to attend these meetings.

The next Provincial Council meeting will take place in Dunmurry from 22nd – 27th March.