

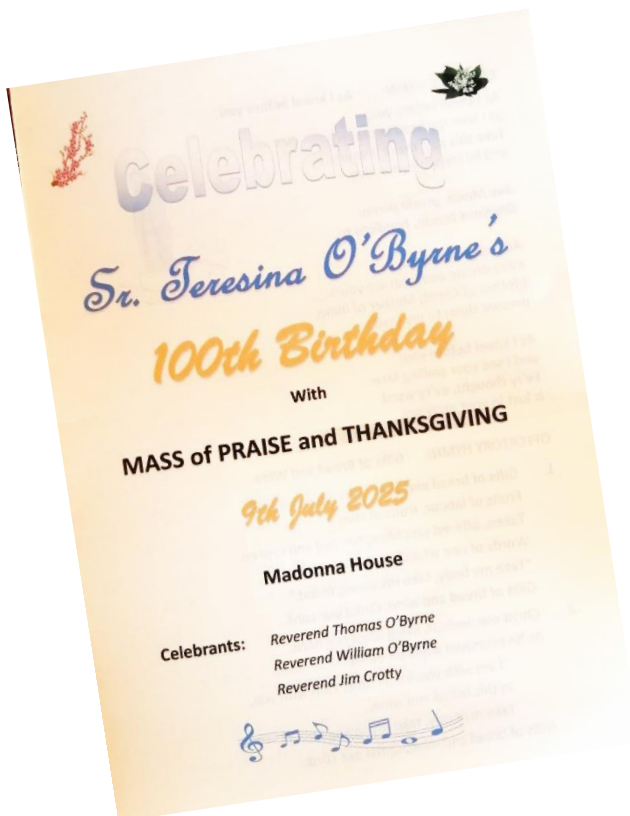


# NEA NEWS & VIEWS



## SPECIAL EDITION

JULY 2025



On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July there was a big celebration in Madonna House, Ferrybank.

Sister Teresina O'Byrne had reached the great age of 100 years!

The Staff in Madonna House and the Sisters in Madonna House, Grianán Close and Naomh Bríd had all, in their own ways, contributed to the preparations for the 'Big Day'.

Decorations, food, flowers, cards and gifts were planned and everything came together very smoothly on the day – due to the hard work and great generosity of many people.

Terry (known to her family as Phyliss) was joined by over 30 members of her family for the celebration of the Eucharist and for the beautiful meal that followed. We have happy memories of the day as you can see from the photographs that follow.

A couple of days before her birthday Terry received her letter and cheque from the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins. This was read out by one of her nieces before Mass.



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN  
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

04 July 2025

Sr. Theresa O'Byrne  
c/o Sr. Katherine Nolan  
8 Grianan Close  
Abbey Road, Ferrybank  
Waterford X91 WK82

Dear Sr. Theresa,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as you celebrate the hundredth anniversary of your birth on 9 July, 2025.

May I take this opportunity to join with your family and friends in congratulating you on this most joyous and significant occasion.

Throughout this past century you have witnessed remarkable changes to all aspects of our lives. In many ways, the world we inhabit today would have been unimaginable on the day of your birth. In so many other ways, however, the human condition remains the same and we continue with similar preoccupations, ambitions, worries, challenges and joys as those shared by countless generations before us. Yet it is the gift of our lives to try and make it better – níos fearr.

You have played your own important part in shaping and crafting the world we inhabit today, bringing your own energy, experience and wisdom to your work, family and community life. As President of Ireland, I congratulate and thank you for that important contribution.

As you celebrate this milestone birthday I hope you will be surrounded by the warmth of happy memories and secure in the knowledge that you continue to make this world a better place for all who love you.

Yours sincerely,

Michael D. Higgins  
Uachtarán na hÉireann  
President of Ireland

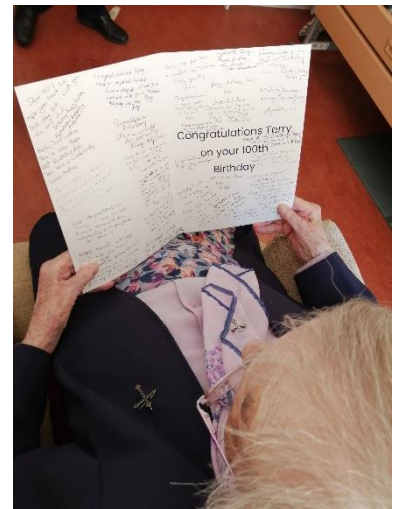




The day began by getting Terry ready in her style!

The Madonna House Staff presented her with an enormous bouquet of flowers and a card signed by everyone. She spent some time reading all the messages.

*Some of the Staff with Terry.*



It was a beautiful sunny day and Terry's family arrived to celebrate Mass. Two of her priest cousins and the local retired former parish priest concelebrated. The main celebrant, Fr Thomas O'Byrne, recalled some of Terry's history of service in the RSHM. She has ministered in Ireland, England, Scotland and in the place especially dear to her heart – Brazil! Terry was always passionate about issues of justice in all these ministries and encouraged all around her to be involved.

The extended O'Byrne family, the SHM Sisters and Staff assembled in Madonna House Chapel for the Eucharist.







Before everyone dispersed a photographer had been engaged to record the day for all of us. Photos were taken of Terry with the Staff, with the Sisters, with her family and with some visiting Sisters from the Little Sisters of the Poor from next door who joined us for the celebrations.



The Kitchen, Caring and Nursing Staff who were present for the big day.





The SHM Sisters who were able to join Terry for her birthday.



Terry's Family and the local parish priest (Fr Jim Crotty – seated) who celebrated with Terry.



Because of the large number celebrating the group had to use two areas for the festive meal. The family gathered in the Grianán dining area and the remainder gathered in Madonna House. Both of the areas were decorated in black and gold banners, balloons and table decorations.

All enjoyed a fabulous meal prepared by the ladies who cook every day for the Sisters. If anything it was above and beyond their usual standard, which is always very high! Terry's family provided a beautiful cake for the occasion and this was enjoyed by all.









