



Sr Carmel Callaghan

Motto: Fiat Voluntas Tua

Born: 20 April 1927

Entered Little Company of Mary: 4 May 1951

Final profession of Vows: 8 May 1957

Entered Eternal Life: 7 April 2023

Sr Carmel Callaghan - Monica was born in Liverpool on the 20th April 1927. She was affectionately known as Monnie to her family and was one of 9 children born to William and Margaret. She was the last of her siblings to enter eternal life.

She was educated by the Sisters of Mercy in Liverpool, eventually entering the Congregation. When she came to realise that the main ministry of the sisters was teaching she decided to leave as she had always desired to be a nurse. Sometime later Carmel was introduced to the Little Company of Mary and was attracted to our charism of caring for the sick and dying and in particular our prayer for the dying.

Carmel went on to undertake her Nurse training at Providence Hospital in Lancashire in 1948 and entered the Little Company of Mary in 1951.

Looking back on the life of Venerable Mary Potter the shared experience of them both was not lost on Carmel, as Mary Potter initially entered the Sisters of Mercy.

Carmel was in nursing ministry in Nottingham and Edinburgh and went on to be in leadership in both places. When she transferred to Liverpool, she enjoyed parish ministry in St Paul's Parish, West Derby, and then hospital chaplaincy at Broadgreen Hospital; she was much appreciated.

In 2009 Carmel travelled to Westcliff when her health became more challenging. She had a very active mind keeping up with world affairs. Reading and jigsaw puzzles gave her great enjoyment.

Her family were very dear to her and she was in constant touch especially with her younger sister, Vera, and with her nephews and nieces and enjoyed their visits. Vera died in 2022 and this was a big loss to Carmel especially as she was not able to attend the funeral. Happily, her nephew organised for the funeral Mass to be streamed and this was appreciated by Carmel as she watched with the community in Westcliff.

Carmel was down to earth, direct and immensely practical. She was also very kind and thoughtful with a big heart.

Her faith sustained her, and she had a great trust in God's Will for her. Her favourite hymn was "Father I place into your hands the things I cannot do...", and this hymn was requested for her Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilee celebrations, so it was fitting that we could sing it at her Funeral Mass.

The hymn spoke of the person Carmel was - placing into the Lord's hands the things she knew she could not do, what she had been through and the way she should go.

The last few months were difficult for Carmel as her health was deteriorating. The care staff were very supportive as she adjusted to declining health, helping her to navigate new limitations. She was uncomplaining and made colossal effort to attend Mass each day, attending the chapel for Exposition and her rosary beads never left her fingers.

Carmel longed to be with her Lord and thoughts of the last verse of her favourite hymn encouraged her - "Father I want to be with you, for I am one with you". She was able to let go of the things she could no longer do and died peacefully.

REST IN PEACE CARMEL

For the Westcliff Community