



Sr Eileen Finneran,sm

16/01/1930--- 2-01-2023

Eileen Finneran, born on 16th January 1930, in Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Co Galway, was the daughter of John Finneran and Eileen Fahy.

Kilkerrin was an Irish speaking area, where Irish language, culture, music and drama was nurtured.

Eileen attended the local Primary school in Curramore, later attended the Mercy Secondary school in Tuam and then progressed to Carysfort Teacher Training College in Dublin.

Even though all her education was with the Mercy Sisters, she entered the Marist Novitiate in 1953. Eileen was professed there, as Sr. Conan, on 18th August 1955, thus following in the footsteps of her sister, who was also a Marist Sister known as Sr. Aidan.

As a Primary school teacher, Eileen began her teaching career in St. Mary's Primary School Tubbercurry and served on the Staff there until 1968. She loved her teaching career and was particularly gifted with young children.

From 1968-1975 Sr. Eileen taught in the Marist Primary school in Carrick on Shannon. During this time, from 1973 - 1979 she launched into a new educational venture as a Learning support teacher sharing her time between the Marist Primary and the Presentation Brothers in the town. Eileen had great empathy for children who needed additional education support. Here she reached out to the Travellers, who as an ethnic group led a nomadic life and consequently regular school attendance was not the norm.

In 1979-1984, Eileen moved to the Marist Community in Bray, Co. Wicklow, where she resumed her teaching career in St. Fergal's school and also was involved in parish work which she enjoyed and found very fulfilling.

Eileen returned to Tubbercurry in 1984 to become Principal teacher (Headmistress) for six years. This gave her a great opportunity to cultivate among the children a great love of the Irish language, drama, and poetry. Many past pupils, at her funeral, recalled how she took them for extra Religion classes

on Saturdays, in preparation for the Sacraments of Penance and First Communion. Now almost forty years later, in a very different Ireland we are returning to the parish to supplement the need for re evangelization.

Eileen was very active in parish life too in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Children of Mary Sodality and many groups where she shared her knitting, crafts and gardening skills.

In 1990 Eileen went to teach in the Marist Primary school in Sundrive Road, Dublin, this time as a Home School Community (HSCL) liaison person. This new initiative was to encourage full school attendance by helping parents in supporting their children's education and also give them an appreciation of the value of education in improving their life style.

Eileen returned to Bray in 1994 and remained there doing parish work until 2012. Her memory began to decline so she returned to the familiar surroundings of Tubbercurry.

In January 2013 it became evident that Eileen needed full time care so she was placed in the loving professional care of the Staff of St Attacta's Nursing Home in Charlestown. Here she enjoyed ten years and was visited regularly by her family and Marist Sisters.

On December 30th, Sr Eileen health began to decline just a few weeks before her 93rd Birthday. On January 2nd, surrounded by Marist Sisters, her niece Eileen and family whom she dearly loved, and with the words of the Magnificat sounding in her ears Eileen passed peacefully to her Heavenly reward. Following her funeral mass in the Parish Church, Sr Eileen was laid to rest in the Sisters cemetery in Tubbercurry.

Rest in peace Eileen.

