

Sr Ann O Mahoney

1934 - 2023

Wis 3:1-9 The souls of the just are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace.



Those words clearly illustrate the life and death of our dear Sister Ann O Mahoney (Sr Finbar) who departed this life on October 13th, 2023.

Sr Ann was born on the 21st of May 1934 to Jeremiah O Mahoney and Bridie Donovan in Ballyourane, Caheragh, Drimoleague, Co Cork. It was here that she grew up in a loving caring family who nurtured the faith and belief that life was a gift and the presence of each one contributed to the whole. No wonder then that when the Marist Sisters visited her National school, Ann raised her hand when the image of life as a Marist Sister was mentioned.

She entered the Marist Congregation in 1952 and made her first profession 1954. Having spent a year in our Motherhouse in France, Ann answered the call to missionary life and joined our sisters in Merryland, Australia. Teacher Training followed in Woolwich. She took her Final Vows in Merrylands in 1958. From 1959 to 1984 she taught in Yasawa, Vatukoula, Lami, Nadi, Wailekutu, Varoka, in Fiji.

Ann excelled in all aspects of Academic life on the Missions. One highlight of that time was her work in Corpus Christi College, Lami, from 1971 to 1977. Here she worked with Fr Dan Aherne, the President of Corpus Christi College, training young teachers. He says that Sr Ann was the best educator he ever worked with.

In 1987 Ann was called to a new Mission in West Africa. This was a different mission, relatively new and lacking even the bare necessities. Ann entered wholeheartedly into this Unit, Farafenni was her first assignment and later Fajikunda. As Formator, Ann shared our Marist Spirit with many young women who are vibrant Marists in the vineyard of the Lord today.

It would be neglectful of me to forget Ann's great Communication skills. She kept up with her friends and was always a source of encouragement to those around her.

In 2000, due to failing eyesight, Ann returned to her native land much to the delight of her blood family and her Marist family in Ireland. However, her work was not yet completed. For the next seven years she managed Grosvenor Road Hostel in Belfast, a ministry of care love and respect.

Above all, Ann loved her family. One great sadness that stayed with her during her life was the death of her youngest sister Beth. She had looked forward to spending happy hours with her but that was not be. God had other plans. We were so happy that the Sunday prior to Ann's death she attended a wonderful family gathering in Beth's home surrounded by Beth's husband, their now grown up children, cousins and friends. Ann joined in the fun, dancing, singing, recounting happy memories and taking photographs. Three days later, as Ann was showing the photographs to her own Community she suffered a major stroke. She slipped away in hospital surrounded by Marist Sisters and the Hospital Chaplain on October 13th 2023.



Ar dheis De go raibh a h-anam dillies