

Sister Annie Enright

3rd January 1936 - 4th March - 2023



Annie was born to parents Julia and John Enright on 3rd January 1936 in Feenagh, County Limerick, Ireland. Having completed her primary school education in Kilmeedy and her secondary education at Saint Ita's Secondary School, Drumcolleher, Co. Limerick. Annie knew without a doubt that she was being called to dedicate her whole life to God as a Religious sister. When she came to know the Marist Sisters, her desire was confirmed and she entered Saint Brigid's novitiate, Carrick on Shannon and made her first profession of vows on 17th August 1954, receiving the name of Matthew, which she retained until in due time, she reverted to her baptismal name.

In 1957, Annie began her professional teacher training at the college of the Sacred Heart, Roehampton, London. Once qualified as a primary school teacher, Annie was enthusiastic and diligent in always giving of her best to the pupils and the schools where she ministered. She took a profound interest in children, their needs and in how they learnt. To this end, she engaged in various 'out of school' programmes; music, literacy, mathematics, science and last, but not least, Annie excelled at national folk dancing!

In preparation for '*life after school*' Annie engaged in two ongoing formation programmes: one at Hawkestone Hall under the direction of the Redemptorists and the 'Personal and Community Renewal Course' at the Mill Hill Institute, London. These stood her in good stead when her next phase 'on mission' took her to various parishes – Fulham, Grimethorpe, Walsall and Birmingham.

While Annie taught mainly in schools, she was always involved in the local parish; sacramental programmes; home visiting; RCIA and vocation work. She had a great devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes and Lourdes as a place of pilgrimage and healing. She frequently joined diocesan pilgrimages to Lourdes as a helper for the sick pilgrims.

Annie had time for everyone and the needs of the most deprived, the voiceless and the forgotten were a priority for her. She sought them out. The story is told that in winter time, on her way to school, she would take a filled hot water bottle to a poor lady she befriended and at the end of the day refill it for the night. Where there was a need, Annie tried to respond. She never counted the cost but gladly went the extra mile as witnessed in her work with migrants and refugees at the Cathedral Sanctuary in Birmingham.

Annie was a woman of peace and joy; an aura of contentment and prayerfulness which endeared her to all. In 2019, whilst still in Birmingham, her health began to fail; she became seriously ill and close to death. She requested to join the Villa Maria community where she would receive the care she needed from the devoted caring staff. At that time, she was given no more than three months to live. God had other ideas! Her mission was not over, and she would spend nigh on four more years of serious physical suffering without complaint.

She had good days and less good days; yet Annie was unfailingly gracious and courageous in bearing her burden of ill health. She was lovingly supported by the community, her beloved family and the staff of Villa Maria. When the parish priest, Father Jim, visited her a few days before her death, she was alert and happy to chat with him and to join in the prayers and the words of anointing. Having assured her that she was now ready to meet her God and that all was well, she jokingly enquired if he was awarding her a 'free pass' into Heaven!

Rest now in God's eternal peace, dear Annie!
May all you accomplished in Mary's name continue to bear fruit.



