



Sr Donal Moran RIP

January 1st 1928 – February 27th 2023

Requiem Mass: Celebrants Fr John O'Brien PP
Fr Brian Lawless PP
St Bernadette's Church, Clogher Road, Dublin 12

Sr Donal was born on the 1st January, 1928 in Boheroe, Elfin, Co Roscommon and was baptized Mary. She was the eldest of seven children, two boys and five girls. Her parents Daniel and Elizabeth Moran were teachers in local schools and that is where Sr Donal received her primary education. She next moved on to Marist Secondary School, Carrick on Shannon where she completed the Secondary school programme.

In 1945 Sr Donal entered the Novitiate in Carrick. After profession in 1947 she was sent to University College, Dublin to prepare for her teaching ministry. She followed 'Path to Rome' in her thesis for her Master's Degree. This was an exposition of the work of Hilaire Belloc, French born poet, historian and essayist. Donal took her place on the staff in Carrick on Shannon in 1955 and there she gave of the depth of her knowledge and hard work until 1966 when she was asked to take on the responsibility of principal in Tubbercurry. This was a time of great change in education. The new scheme of school transport was to give opportunity to all pupils to avail of secondary education and so reach third level education thus changing the culture of people. From being a school in which the majority of students were boarders within a year or two the proportion of day students increased and a new energy was evident.

Sister Donal had to deal with staffing problems and the need for extra classrooms when funding was scarce. She was very involved with work of the 'Board of Curriculum and Assessment syllabi'. Her insights were valued by officials. Her advice and recommendations can be traced on the new programmes, especially in Literature and Language of English. Her teaching of Christian Doctrine was thorough and was noted by third level colleges. By 1990, after a short time in Charlestown, Donal moved to Dublin, first to Raheny and then to Sundrive Road. Finally she moved to Kennilworth Square when she was appointed as Provincial. Then she had to face the problems of change for the congregation. She had a new facility provided for the sisters in Carrick on Shannon. She helped to negotiate the setting up of the new community school in Carrick and disposed of the old convent building. When all these changes were complete, Donal

retired to Bray in Co Wicklow where she became involved in the Social Services. She spent her time advising people, helping them to write letters and discover their entitlements. This was a great service which she enjoyed in her retirement years. It came to an end in 2017 when the Marist involvement in Bray was terminated. She then retired to Sundrive Road where in 2018 she suffered a stroke. Donal was taken into Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross. For the next three years, she was completely bed ridden and deprived of speech. Her death came on the 29th of February 2023 as the carers were settling her for the night.

Fr John O'Brien came from Clontarf to join in the celebration of Mass as he had promised when he left Bray. In his homily he summed up her life as a true witness to the Gospel. 'Ní bhéidh a leitèid arís ann' (her likes will not be repeated.)

Sr Donal was buried in Carrick on Shannon in the Marist cemetery there. Teachers and past pupils had gathered for the Salve Regina and final prayers.

‘They who instruct many unto justice
will shine like stars
for all eternity ‘ (Dan. 12:3)

May Sister Donal now reap the reward of eternal life in God's Kingdom.

