



## *Sr Aideen O'Connor RIP*

January 1<sup>st</sup> 1937 – November 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

Requiem Mass : *Marist Convent Chapel, November 4<sup>th</sup> 2024*

Celebrant – Fr Brian Lawless PP

Concelebrants – Fr Patsy Carolyn OMI

Fr Kevin O'Conor OMI

Fr Liam Griffin OMI

Fr Michael Morrissey OMI

Sr Aideen was Nuala to her family. She was born on New Year's day 1937 in Mantua, Co Roscommon, the home of her parents, Mordachy and Mary Anne O'Connor. They were a family of seven children, four boys and three girls. It came as a great sorrow when her parents died and left a young family. Aideen was just three years of age and her younger brother Joe, was eleven months. Their aunt and uncle had responsibility for their care and upbringing. They placed baby Joe with an aunt in Derry where he grew up and became a priest in that diocese. Mother Justine, Marist Convent Carrick on Shannon was consulted. She agreed to accept the three girls into the boarding school. Aideen was five years at this time. She was well cared for by sisters Colman and Rosarii for whom she had long and happy memories.

From then on the girls attended the primary school and later the secondary school in Carrick. Aideen took her Leaving Cert in June 1954 and entered the novitiate the following September. She was professed in 1956 which was followed by one year teaching in Tubbercurry. Her whole formation was Marist from the start. At this time the Marist Sisters were preparing to open a school in Dublin so some sisters were awarded places in Carysfort Training College, Dublin to prepare for this undertaking. Sr Aideen was among the group. The new school was opened in Clogher Road, Dublin in 1959. The group of eight sisters moved to Cambridge Terrace. Aideen taught in this school for twenty four years. Very often in later times she would speak of the difficulties of new beginnings.

In 1983 she was appointed principal in Carrick on Shannon. This was a big move for her. She made the transition successfully and managed in this position until her retirement in 1997. She was known for her care and concern for the children and her just and fair dealings with staff and parents. A well ordered and smooth-running school was left to carry on. Before she moved to another ministry she opted for a Sabbatical year in USA, 1997 to 1998. There she followed courses in Theology, Human Development and Modern Research. It was at this time in America that her sister Rita died. This was a sudden death and was a great shock to all the family. However Aideen completed her course and was ready to take up a ministry in Bray where the sisters were involved in education and parish work. Here, for nineteen years, she trained the choir, played the organ, filled in at the parish office and trained altar servers while also taking her responsibilities in her Marist Community.

The time came for the sisters to leave the ministry in Bray. Srs Donal and Aideen returned to Sundrive Road. Aideen found the place strange after such a long absence, so much had changed since her time there. She settled well in community. Her condition was painful. Arthritis troubled her. She had the courage to face a knee replacement which was successful. She took a short walk every day and watched TV, especially nature programmes.

In March Aideen developed a flu like illness. Antibiotics did not work so Sr Ann took her to St James hospital where she was diagnosed terminal. In July she was moved to Our Lady's hospice, Harold's Cross where she got special care. She was kept comfortable and free from pain. She was frequently taken to Mass. The sisters visited her every day. She was reconciled and peaceful to the end. Her death came suddenly as nurses were caring for her on the morning of November 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. She quietly breathed her last.

Sr Aideen's funeral Mass was celebrated in the Convent Chapel in Sundrive Road, followed by her burial in the Marist Cemetery at the convent in Carrick on Shannon. The number of people who attended the funeral Mass from Bray parish, Sundrive Road parish, and retired teachers from the school in Clogher Road, was an indication of the extent to which Sr Aideen inserted herself into each community in which she worked. In Carrick on Shannon local people waited and attended the burial.

May Sr Aideen now praise God with Mary the Blessed Mother of God and with the angels and saints. May she join in the singing of the heavenly choir as she did so sweetly on earth.

“Sing a new song to the Lord for He has worked wonders,  
His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.....  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of Our God.” (Ps 98)

