

SR. MAGDALENE QUINN -

1912-2010

RIP 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010

To-day we have come to say good bye to a wonderful lady Sr. Magdalene. Born in the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1912, she was Baptised Doris Mary Quinn. Doris spoke of her happy childhood days and her love of life. She described herself as somewhat of a Tom Boy. She loved swimming and dancing. She once told this story. She was waiting one evening for her then boy friend to call and take her to a dance. He was working in insurance. Mrs Quinn was anxious to cast an eye on him, so she answered the door, and said to him " is it my insurance money you want or my daughter?" He replied " I would like both please".

It was on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1931- 79 years ago that Doris crossed the Irish sea, and entered the Little Company of Mary in Hillingdon Middlesex, and on receiving the Religious habit was given the name Sr. Magdalene.

Magdalene completed her nursing training in St. Andrew's Hospital in Dollis Hill in London. She was an excellent nurse and brought to her patients great care, love and joy, both in St. Andrew's Hospital and St. Raphael's Hospital in Edinburgh. Some years later Magdalene was asked together with another sister to administer to the then Bishop of the Brentwood Diocese, Bishop Casey. This role she fulfilled with sensitivity, integrity and understanding. After 12 years with Bishop Casey, she moved to St. Gerard's Parish in Liverpool. The parishioners very quickly responded to her warmth and joy. She remained there until 1995 when she came to Westcliff.

Magdalene loved community life and would often be the life and soul of celebrations and feastdays. She had a sense of fun and a good sense of humour. She would often start off by saying " this is terribly funny" You knew then that you would be listening to an amusing story.. She had a very active mind, enjoyed reading and completing numerous word puzzles. She was a marvellous knitter. She would complete a garment in no time when most of us would still be casting on the stitches.

She lived our Charism to the full and had special devotion to Our Lady. She recited many rosaries during the day, and often at night when she was unable to sleep.

In 2006 she went to Lourdes in the Across Jubilee. When there, she was a wonderful witness to our Charism of praying for the dying, as she sat with a lady as she died, the day the pilgrimage was returning to England. As the years moved on Magdalene began to need more care and a move to Nazareth House needed to take place. She continued to keep her mind very active. She always maintained as much independence as she could, and endeavoured to do as much as she could for herself. She was interested in the welfare of the staff in Nazareth house and would give them little tips of advice when needed. She always came home to the convent for celebrations, and would return to Nazareth House with a 'doggy bag'. Magdalene died quickly and peacefully in Southend Hospital on 19<sup>th</sup> May, the way she would have wanted to go.

The Gospel reading for this Mass... "there are many rooms in my Father's House " was chosen as Magdalene often spoke of her concern that there might not be enough rooms for everyone. Magdalene now knows that there was a place prepared for her. She is now safe and secure in one of those many rooms, with the Lord she so generously served for 79 years.

Magdalene you will be greatly missed. But your joyful presence will remain with us always Rest in Peace

Sr. Vivien Jones for the Westcliffe community