

Sister Frances Rattigan – RIP 7 October 2011
Requiem Mass - 18 October 2011
Saint Teresa's Craigmillar, Edinburgh Scotland

FRANCES TERESA RATTIGAN WAS BORN IN CARRICK, BALLYMORE, COUNTY WESTMEATH ON 9th JULY 1936. SHE WAS THE YOUNGEST OF FIVE CHILDREN GROWING UP ON THE FAMILY FARM. FRANCES HELPED CARE FOR HER MOTHER WHO AT TIMES WAS IN POOR HEALTH.

FRANCES LEFT IRELAND FOR ENGLAND AND SUBSEQUENTLY ENTERED THE LCM IN 1962. WE BOTH TRAINED AS NURSES AND QUALIFIED TOGETHER IN 1969.

FRANCES MINISTERED AS A NURSE IN LONDON, NOTTINGHAM, AND EDINBURGH.

IN 1989 FRANCES SUFFERED A STROKE, WHICH AFFECTED HER SPEECH; MAJOR HEART SURGERY ALSO FOLLOWED A SHORT TIME AFTER. SHE MADE A REMARKABLE, ALMOST MIRACULOUS RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERED IN A CARE HOME IN EALING FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS FOLLOWING. FRANCES WAS ALSO A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER. FAILING HEALTH CAUSED HER TO RETIRE AND SHE MOVED TO EDINBURGH IN 2007.

FRANCES WAS GENTLE, LOVING, KIND AND COMPASSIONATE WITH A KEEN SENSE OF HUMOUR AND A QUIET STRENGTH. SHE REMAINED CLOSE TO HER FAMILY AND THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK WAS THE SUNDAY NIGHT PHONE CALL FROM THE 'BOYS' HER BROTHERS IN IRELAND. SHE REMAINED CLOSE ALSO TO HER SISTER, RITA – SISTER COLUMBA, A MERCY SISTER IN GALWAY.

AS FRANCES HEALTH DECLINED AND BECAME MORE FRAGILE SHE WAS ALWAYS SO LOVELY TO VISITORS, REMARKING TO MY SISTER, KATE – "I AM NOT SURE IF I AM SAYING THE RIGHT THING, BUT I ALWAYS TRY". NOT ONLY DID FRANCES TRY, SHE HAD GREAT AFFECTION FOR THE STAFF IN ST RAPHAEL'S CARE HOME, HER HOME SINCE JUNE 2009. SHE SIMPLY LOVED THEM AND THEY LOVED HER.

IT IS A GREAT TESTAMENT TO FRANCES THAT SHE PREPARED HER OWN REQUIEM AND WROTE DOWN HER WISHES AND HANDED ME AN ENVELOPE IN 2008. THE READINGS AND HYMNS WE HEARD AND SANG TODAY WERE CAREFULLY CHOSEN BY HER.

MAY HER DEAR SOUL NOW REST IN PEACE.

Sister Margaret Service LCM
UK Province