

SISTER PAULINUS KEATING LCM

Welcome and thank you for being present with us today to farewell Sr Paulinus Keating. We particularly welcome Sister's family; you have all been a very special part of her life's journey. Anastasia Marie Keating was born in Blackball over 90 years ago; her parents were John and Anastasia Keating and she was the 7th of their 10 children, 5 girls and 5 boys of whom all except her sister Eileen O'Connor are now deceased. We remember Eileen very especially today and know she will be with us in spirit and prayer from her Wellington home.

Following her secondary education with the Sisters of Mercy in Greymouth Stella, as she was known, worked for about 4 years as a saleswoman in Hay's limited in Christchurch. In the Managing Director's reference he writes Miss Keating was a dependable young lady in every respect, she was a good saleswoman and he regretted losing her. Stella left Hays to enter the Little Company of Mary Novitiate in Lewisham Sydney. She received the habit in 1941 and was given the name of Sister Paulinus. After graduating as an Australian trained Nurse and making her Final Profession in 1946 she returned to New Zealand.

Paulinus lived and nursed in LCM facilities in Wellington, Invercargill and Christchurch; she was an efficient ward sister and spent many years as a theatre sister. She held positions as Community Leader and was Matron of Calvary Hospital Christchurch. After retiring from nursing she was involved in Pastoral Care especially with the aged and infirm. She was small of stature but could make her presence felt! she was forthright, a spade was a spade but she was also very kind. Paulinus was a staunch pro life supporter; she was involved with Pregnancy Help in earlier times and regularly, until 10 days ago sent donations to the John Paul Centre for Life, The Jesuit Indian Mission and Mission without Borders. It became a joke that she received a lot of mail in long white envelopes; it was mainly from Mission without Borders sending grateful thanks and eliciting another donation!

Paulinus' faithfulness to personal prayer was obvious and she prayed for all those in need especially the suffering, the dying, her family, our staff, safety for travelers ... the list goes on and the Rosary beads were always close at hand. Paulinus was always a West Coaster make no mistake, the weather was always better in Grey than Christchurch "look it's sunny on the Coast" she'd say when the forecast was shown on TV. She played the piano and was an excellent dancer specializing in Irish Dancing – and we learnt last night ,the Sailors' Hornpipe! She loved to play cards and to watch the rugby with us; in fact as I mentioned last night we learnt that last Sunday night she was so keen to see the All Blacks/French encounter the nurses pushed her bed into the lounge at Princess Margaret Hospital! Oh dear, no wonder she suffered another heart attack some hours later!

A very special thank you to Eileen and all Paulinus' extended family, she loved you all dearly, regular visits from Julie and Maryanne gave Stella great pleasure especially as she became more frail and in need of support. Paulinus own words were: "I had wonderful parents and a happy life, I thank God every day for the gift of faith and my Religious Vocation. And thank you too Paulinus from your LCM family, for your faithfulness to our Little Company of Mary Mission and for being a special companion in our community for many years.

May you now rest in peace.