



Sr Mary Scanlon LCM died peacefully in Christchurch Hospital on Sunday November 19th Mary was born in Wellington in November 1930 she was the eldest of 4 children. Her father was a teacher and her Scottish mother was a skilled textile worker and homemaker, both parents were strong Catholics and practise of the faith played a major part in the family's daily life.

The following words are taken from Mary's personal profile:

I attended 9 schools in different parts of NZ, both Catholic and State due to my father's situation during the Depression and World War II. I enjoyed school and was a good student, displaying a love for poetic language and good spelling.

At an early age I showed concern for anyone who was ill, hurt or in difficulty and would run away from my Mother to speak to someone who seemed in need.

In 1945, when I was 15, the family moved to Greymouth, West Coast as war was coming to an end.

Grey Base Hospital was recruiting secondary school students to assist during holidays, as so many young women and men were away at the war; and my parents agreed, rather reluctantly, to let me join the ranks. We were taught basic skills, including some quite demanding tasks. I witnessed some horrific injuries in young men demobbed home and stood at the bedside of an elderly man as he died. It was a very good hospital, we worked 12 hours a day and I loved every minute.

This is the end of Mary's words.

When Mary graduated from school she gained a bursary and studied Arts at Canterbury University she also began part time work as a Nurse Aide at Calvary Hospital. Mary had always wanted to be a nurse and while working at Calvary she began to experience an inner sense to being called to join the Little Company of Mary. She entered the LCM Novitiate in Sydney 1949 and was Finally Professed in 1955, her motto was "All for Jesus through Mary."

Mary was a Registered Nurse and Midwife, a Registered Psychiatric Nurse and she graduated with a NZ diploma in Nursing Education. She nursed in Australia and LCM NZ Hospitals, was a nursing tutor for young Sisters in Wellington and worked in Mission Development with staff at Calvary Hospitals.

Mary was awarded the Queen Service Medal 2016 for her involvement at Mary Potter Hospice Wellington both with staff and as a Board member for many years. She was also on the Committee of Hospice NZ.

Mary suffered a number of serious illnesses during her life but always bounced back with new energy and determination. Her love of writing continued, she wrote many reflections over the years some are included in her book entitled "Mission of Love."

Mary lived our LCM charism daily; she was close to Mary the Mother of God and to our founder Mary Potter whom she wrote and spoke about often. Her life was impacted by these words from Mary Potter's book *The Path of Mary*:

"If you, after the example of Jesus give yourself to Mary, she will in return give you the power to give your new life to Jesus"

Sr Mary was drawn to walk beside and befriend the lonely and those with health needs. She loved living and ministering in the Nazareth community and being able to attend daily Mass here in the Chapel.

Until a few days before her death Mary was involved in various Residents' activities. Our warm gratitude to the Nazareth Sisters, Shona Lawson and the staff at Christchurch Hospital who cared for Mary. Her mission of love is finished, may she rest in peace

Sr Helena Kearns LCM, for the Christchurch Community