

### **Eulogy for Mary Dymphna Dineen**

As I stand here, as I usually do on these occasions I feel very inadequate speaking about my fellow sister, Dymphna was a role model and somebody I looked up to having known her since I was a school girl in Scarborough. Many of you here today or those watching via the live stream have known her for longer and some for a short time, but no matter how long you have known her, I am sure you will agree with me that she was a kind, caring and wise woman who touched many people's life's, in her quiet way, during her 75 years as a religious sister.

Sr Mary Dymphna was born Mary Teresa on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1931, to Bartholomew and Catherine Dineen, she was the third of their 4 daughters, all of whom have gone to the Lord (Margaret, Joan & Kay). She grew up in Ballymore, Kilbrittain, Co Cork and was always proud of her Irish roots.

In 1948 Mary Dymphna joined the Daughters of Mary and Joseph. She made her first vows on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1951 and her final vows on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1956. It was in 1956 that she and a number of sisters caught TB and she would often recall her time in the sanatorium, sitting on the veranda as cars arrived and wondering would it be another dmj, or remembering the sister who was not very good at giving injections, so they would disappear hoping that someone else would come along by the time it was there turn!

From 1951 until 1991 when she retired, an astounding 40 years, Dymphna was involved in education mainly teaching primary school children. Most of her teaching career was spent in Scarborough after moving there in 1961, initially she taught geography and RE at The Convent School for 4 years, then in Normanton Rise, and in 1969 she joined the staff of St Peters Primary school where she taught until she retired in 1991. She was a great teacher and during that time helped many pupils and their families in that quiet way of hers.

After retiring Dymphna attended a course in Pastoral Ministry In Dublin for one year, and upon returning to England joined the community in Middlesbrough where she worked as Parish sister in the parish of St Thomas More here she was involved in taking communion to the sick, visiting families and also visiting the hospital.

In the parishes of St Peters and St Thomas More, she is well remembered for her gentleness, care, and the compassion she showed to all. It was lovely to read the following comments about her:

- 'she was such a lovely lady, always with a ready smile',
- 'always kind, always gentle, and encouraging'
- 'she had an infectious laugh and was a friend to all.'

Dymphna also over the years enjoyed her visits back to Ireland to visit the family and from chatting with the family I know that they greatly enjoyed those visits, along with also visiting her in Scarborough and Middlesbrough over the years when she would take them on days out to see the North Yorkshire Moors, Whitby, Robin Hoods Bay and other sites!

Dymphna throughout her life took a real interest in the people she came into contact with. As one of our DMJ Associates wrote in a card, 'Sr Dymphna led a full and committed life, she was a sister involved in the joys and sorrows of all.'

In all that Dymphna has done she has truly lived out our charism of being an instrument of mercy. Our founder calls us to reflect the values of love, zeal, gentleness and humility in our daily lives, and I'm sure that all of us here today those, who lived with her, who worked with her, who have been helped by her, will recognise those values. I surely do.

Dymphna moved to the community here in 2017, as we sadly had to close the house in Middlesbrough due to lack of personal. It was a great wrench for her leaving the North after 56 years and I'm not sure she really ever did!! I know she kept in contact regularly with a number of people and this brought great joy to her.

I think her other joys were watching sport, especially the snooker and rugby, and being able to look from her room and watch the horses in the neighbouring field.

After a short illness, were she was beautifully cared for by the staff here, for which we thank them. Dymphna died peacefully on 20th February surrounded by love and with members of the Community. Dymphna had written these words with her funeral arrangements and I would like to share them with you 'I will be joining all my friends, Mam and Dad and my sister Kay, who told me she was going to heaven before she died.

Dymphna we know you are rejoicing in heaven. May you rest in peace, and rise in Glory.