

Fr Eddie Gubbins.

It was in Scarborough in 1982 that I first came in contact with The DMJ s'. They lived in Holbeck Hill on the South Cliff. Sisters Matthew and Dymphna and Mary John. They were a great source of support, and many a tasty and wholesome meal we shared over my 3 years in St Peter's parish. The Parish priest was Canon Donal O Byrne. They were extremely kind to him as well. When The Convent moved to Eastfield our friendship did not diminish. I continued to be a frequent visitor.

The Convent in Queen Street was then closed and was turned into flats for the elderly. The people of Scarborough often spoke of the enormous contribution of the Sisters to the education and formation of countless young lives of the families of the town.

Then when I moved to St Thomas More's, Beechwood, Middlesbrough, I was once again supported and ministered alongside the Ladies of Mary (DMJ's) in that wonderful parish. Sisters Margaret Mary, Anne, Mary McAvoy, Celia, Anna Mahony, Phil Lafferty.

My frequent visits to St. Thomas More's Primary School brought me in regular contact with Sister Anne Jordan who was in charge of the Nursery. Sister Dymphna's ministry in the James Cook Hospital is legendary. The Sisters took a very keen interest in the lives and struggles of the parish community. The Convent was open house for anyone who needed an oasis.

I recall the great Christmas dinners and the card playing by the log fire. Father McDonagh, the Parish Priest, was indeed a generous host.

I still see clearly Sister Margaret Mary setting off on her buggy to bring Holy Communion to the housebound, despite her own health problems as a result of her accident in Uganda.

We continue to be good companions on the journey of life. The DMJ s have been a constant in my life and ministry. Their friendship and encouragement has been, and is, greatly valued by me.

Eddie Gubbins