

Dear Mothers and Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

**Sr. Agnes O'Shea.**

**Glencairn 24\***



Sr. Agnes (Monica O'Shea), whose parents were Patrick O'Shea and Catherine Landy, was born Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 1930 at Garryricken, Kilkenny, Baptised Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> 1930 at Windgap. Confirmed at the same place by Most Rev. Patrick Colier D.D. Bishop of Ossory. She entered this Community on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1951 aged 21, was clothed December 16<sup>th</sup> 1951 and took the name of Sr. Mary Agnes. She made her Temporary Prof. July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1953.

For the first approx. 17 years of her life, Sr. Agnes worked in many different areas, including the Poultry Farm and kitchen. She also became involved in the Divine Office Chant, her love, knowledge and interest in which remained for the rest of her long life. In 1968 she was appointed Mistress of Novices, at a time of great change following Vatican II, and for 21 years she

trained and cared for the flood of novices who entered in those years; even those who left retained their affection and respect for her gentle care.

When eventually she was relieved of this burden, she assumed a great one, being elected as Abbess in 1995 for a 6-year term, and fulfilling this duty with her usual kindness, gentleness and compassion. She did not wish to be re-elected, but instead she became Guest Mistress and proved to be immensely popular to all visitors and guests. Greatly loved by all who knew her, community, relatives and her many friends, she suffered a stroke from which she made a good recovery and continued to attend the Divine Office, help with chant, respond to visitors, and sort breads in the Eucharistic Bread Dept. Always deeply prayerful and totally turned to God, she was exemplary in her living of Cistercian life for the 72 years of her vocation.

Devotedly cared for during the last years of her long life by Sr. Maria Therese, and all the Sisters, our beloved Agnes died very peacefully at 3.15 a.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023; the Abbess M. Marie being present.

May her beautiful, kind, gentle, always courteous and generous soul enjoy the Bliss of the Lord to whom she remained so devoted all her life.

We commend her to your prayers.

Thank you,

Abbess and Community of St Mary's Abbey, Glencairn