

**Marie Rogers RIP**  
**Funeral Mass**  
**Rathdowney Church**  
**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Marie Rogers (née Lynch), Whitebeam Lodge, Gortnalee, Rathdowney, Co. Laois. March 6th 2021. Peacefully following a short illness in the tender care of the nurses and staff of Aut Even Hospital, Kilkenny. Sadly missed by her loving husband Brendan and her children Samantha, Murray and Alex, sisters-in-law, Ina, Hillary and Pauline, Brothers-in-law Michael and Dermot, nephews, nieces and her many wonderful friends.

**Homily**

Marie spent the last weeks of her life at Aut Even Hospital in Kilkenny, Not far from the hospital is a little cemetery called St. Rioch's. In that cemetery there is a tombstone with the following inscription:

*Dear Stranger,*

*Pause as you pass by,*

*As you are now, so once was I*

*As I am now, so once you shall be,*

*So prepare yourself to follow me!*

A pithy little piece and somewhat sobering. But it serves to remind us that our life here on earth is perhaps best described in terms of a journey which we all undertake, a journey which, for people of Faith, has heaven as its ultimate destination, a journey where God is our companion and guide. It is a journey which has twists and turns, hills and valleys, rough roads and smooth ones too.

Probably more than most, Marie Roger's life could be described in terms of journey. Marie was born in Sligo on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 1943. Because her dad was a Bank Manager the family was destined to journey and so they criss-crossed the country from Sligo to Dingle, to Nenagh, to Kilmacthomas Co. Waterford, to Dublin, Having met you Brendan in Dublin you married 53 years ago this month and then settled in Kildare before retiring to the lush pastures of Gortnalee some years ago.

As I reflected back on the conversation I had with Brendan, Samantha and Alex yesterday afternoon a word came into my mind and that word was FRAME. As an accomplished artist Frames were something Marie paid some attention to. Somehow I suspect from the insights you shared with me about Marie, her life and her approach to life could not easily be confined or constrained by the boundaries of a frame. However I would like to use that word FRAME as way of celebrating Marie's life today. I use the word as an acronym as I think the letters within that word each point to a significant interest and priority in the life of the woman we honour with Christian burial today.

The first letter, the 'F' represents a big part of Marie's life because it is for Family, Friendship and Fun. In the notes you gave me Alex you said that in your mother's life 'There was never not time for catching up with friends and she had wonderful friends'. The greatest Fun happened when Family and friends came together to fill your home with good conversation, laughter good music and good food. For that capacity for friendship, for those wonderful friends and the wonderful memories created, we give thanks today.

The 'R' in Frame is there to represent Marie's love of reading and the 'A' of course speaks to us of her skill as an artist.

Recently I was reading various quotes attributed to famous artists. Two of those quotes struck a chord with me

To my mind a picture should be something pleasant, cheerful and pretty. There are too many unpleasant things in life as it is without creating still more of them.

— *Pierre-Auguste Renoir*

A true artist is not one who is inspired, but one who inspires others.

— *Salvador Dali*

As we honour Marie the artist today, we thank God for her giftedness and for the inspiration she has given and for the many beautiful and pleasant things both in her paintings and in her life that she has left behind.

The 'M' of course is there to reflect Marie herself her role as a Mother but also her love of music and her talent as a pianist. I'm not sure who it was that said: *A painter paints pictures on canvas. But musicians paint their pictures on silence.* " – (Leopold Stokowski ) Marie Rogers obviously had the gift to do both and so we give thanks today for the many wonderful memories she created for you her family and for her friends through her music.

The final letter in FRAME is 'E' and in Marie's life that 'E' represents her love of all things Equestrian. It reflects her love of Fox Hunting but also the joy she received from having passed on that love of horses and equestrian sports to you her family.

Conscious that there is much more to this valiant woman that we commend to mercy and love of God today, I can only hope that we have done some little justice to a life which has been filled with love, laughter and blessed with precious gifts and talents which she so generously shared.

Brendan, Samantha, Murray and Alex, I extend to each of you our sympathies today. The death of a spouse and a mother is difficult any day but in these times of restriction when we are deprived of so many gestures of love and support from our loved ones, it is even more unbearable. May God give you the support you need in these days. As

we take Marie who was so precious to you and many others from this church for burial let us remember that

we bury her body, but not her spirit;

we bury her hands, but not her good deeds;

we bury her heart, but not her love;

we bury her head, but not her memories

Marie. May your soul rest in Peace.