

Angela Campion RIP  
Reception of Remains  
Rathdowney Church  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Campion (Née Nolan), Angela Ellen, Ormsby House, Durrow and Rathdowney, Laois. May 17th 2021 in her 102nd year. Much loved mother of Michael, Miriam, Tadhg, Constance and Rita and sadly missed by her sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Predeceased by her husband Joseph and her sister Dr. Marie Nolan Hughes, Glengarriff.

I'm reminded this evening of a beautiful Welsh song called *We'll keep a welcome on the hillside*. As far as I understand this song was written back in 1940 during the Second World War when many young men were leaving the towns and villages in Wales to go to war and the song was to remind them that the people who stayed at home would "*keep a welcome on the hillside*" for them when they would return. Sadly many of those young men never did return. The words include the following lines:

Far away a voice is calling  
Bells of memory chime  
Come home again, come home again  
They call through the oceans of time

We'll keep a welcome in the hillside  
We'll keep a welcome in the Vales  
This land you knew will still be singing  
When you come home again to Wales

This evening in Rathdowney we keep a welcome home for Angela Campion. I'm particularly happy to welcome Angela home to this church which she was intimately connected with since before it was even built. Angela's contribution to the musical heritage and tradition of this community is beyond measure. Her love and talent for music was I understand there from her earliest childhood years when slipped out of

the house to go down to join the Ryan family at the Bakery shop on the corner of the square so that she could be part of their nightly music sessions. Her talent was further encouraged and developed by the St. John of God Sisters and later at Loreto in Kilkenny. When Angela returned here as a young woman to work with her dad she was in regular demand to play at all kinds of concerts and theatrical performances from Shakespearian Touring companies to Sonny McGrath's Band where she was the regular piano player, to fundraisers for the building of this church which is why her links to this building are there from the very beginning. Having returned from Southern California with her young family in the mid 1950's Angela and her husband Joe re-opened her father's original drapery and grocery business in Pound Street. But Angela also resumed her musical involvement with this community including being the organist in this church for many years.

So this evening I simply want to do three things. Firstly I want to welcome Angela home to her native parish but especially to this church where she will spend her last night on earth here in the presence of the Lord.

Secondly I want to acknowledge and thank Angela for how she used her God-given musical talent for the good of this community and particularly for the service she gave to this parish church.

Thirdly, on my own behalf and on behalf of the parish I want to welcome you her family home here also, Michael, Miriam, Tadhg, Constance and Rita and to extend our sympathies to you on the death of your beloved Mother.

**FROM DEDICATION**

**BY PATRICK MACGILL)**

“I speak of the old women  
Who danced to yesterday’s fiddle  
And dance no longer.  
They sit in a quiet place and dream  
And see visions  
Of what is to come,  
Of their issue,  
Which has blossomed to manhood and womanhood –  
And seeing thus  
They are happy  
For the day that was leaves no regrets,  
And peace is theirs  
And perfection.”

Angela, May that Peace and Perfection of Heaven be yours this  
night, and May you rest in Peace Amen