

Amelia Geraghty RIP
Funeral Mass
Rathdowney Church
Friday 6th October 2022

Amelia Geraghty (Bernes) No. 3 The Glebe, Rathdowney, Co. Laois. September 29th 2022. In the loving care of the nurses and staff of St. Vincent's Care Unit, Mountmellick. Sadly missed by her husband **Denis and family Deborah and Declan**, her brothers and sisters, grandchildren **Morgan, Mia, Luca, Keira, Ryan and Aiden**.

Anthony (son RIP) 2015

Brendan, (Noel and Ann thank you for all your help) Mick and Anthony Beatie and Bernie

Olive and Peter RIP

Ellen is Declan's wife and Eoin is Debbie's partner

Eimear Delaney and Mia: Readings

Prayers:

Symbols: Jackie Onasis doll, **Irish dancing statue**, Flowers

It struck me the other day that one of the sad ironies of Amelia's 78 years of life is that both the beginning and the end of her life has been marked by news headlines about war in Europe. Amelia Bernes was born in Dublin on the 22nd of March 1944. The Second world war was raging particularly across Europe. In Ireland it was known as The Emergency. In the weeks around Amelia's birth the Irish government started to introduce the rationing of electricity, something we are possibly threatened with again because of the current war in Europe. In the week before Amelia was born Great Britain banned all travel between Britain and Ireland. Ironically Amelia would go on to become a pen pal of and eventually marry a man who would join the British army and later work at the British embassy in Dublin. Another interesting irony perhaps that the week after Amelia was born the first Dunnes

Stores was opened in Ireland. I say ironic because Amelia's working life would be with Dunnes' biggest rival Tesco.

Amelia and Denis were married in Finglas west Church in 1967 and spent most of their married life in Dublin. When Debbie moved down here to Rathdowney they decided that they too would like to be closer to her and their grandchildren. The last few years of Amelia's life have been spent with Denis in Mountmellick where they have both been residents.

Amelia has died in these early days of October these early days of Autumn. Dead leaves are beginning to fall to the ground but they are not alone. The seeds of new life are also falling. As someone who loved gardening herself I believe Amelia would have understood well when Jesus talked of the grain of wheat falling on the ground, the seed being sown in the soil. The mystery of nature is that the wheat grain, the seed must first actually die in the ground before the new life comes from it. That mystery of nature provides the basis for our Christian understanding of death and resurrection.. Dying is part of living and a step along the road of on-going life. We are here today because it is Amelia's time to die. In the autumn of her life, she released her spirit to God; was received by his welcoming love and made ready for a new spring in God's life-filled presence forever.

I cannot speak with any knowledge or insight into Amelia Geraghty's faith or how she viewed her relationship with God or God's relationship with her. However, Debbie you spoke to me the other day of your mam's absolute love for her dogs. It reminded me of a little story I heard a few years ago and as we accompany Amelia on her final journey today, I will leave you with this which is Amelia's story today.

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room.

“Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.”

Very quietly, the doctor said, “I don’t know.”

“You don’t know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?”

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, his golden retriever sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, “Did you notice my dog? He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.

“I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing. I know my Master is there and that is enough.”

Amelia. May you rest in Peace