

EULOGY for Kathleen Elizabeth Daly

Written by Michelle McLeod, Delivered by Jenny Menzies

Sr. Kathleen,

Sr. Gonzaga,

Dickie, named by her father 'his little dickie bird'.

Dickie was the name that came to be affectionally known and used by all her family.

Dickie was born 10th August, 1926 in Tempe. She was the third in line in her family. She had an older brother, Gerald, who has passed away, and three sisters, who are still alive today – her older sister Noelene (Nola) and two younger sisters, Marie and Monica.

Dickie's parents were Michael & Kathleen Daly. Michael was born in County Clare, Ireland, and Kathleen was born in Australia. After they married they lived in Tempe and later moved to Summer Hill.

When Dickie was a young teenager her life and that of her siblings was to change dramatically when sadly her father died and a couple of years later their mother also passed away.

However, out of sadness came that unique Irish Catholic spirit of generosity. Her mother's sister, Alice, and her husband, Uncle Jack Connell, were about to offer an extraordinary gift of love.

Aunty Alice and Uncle Jack also had 5 children - Kathleen, Molly (who became a nursing sister with the Little Company of Mary), Eileen, Kevin and Jack. Kevin & Eileen are still with us today.

So with this large family already in place, Aunty Alice and Uncle Jack took the five Daly children into their small Dulwich Hill home. What a magnificent charitable act, suddenly raising 10 children! The stories I've heard over the years are of a house full of laughter, joy, love. In one small kitchen on any weekend Uncle Jack loved listening to the races on the radio, Aunty Alice always cooking something in the oven and 8 wonderful women chatting and laughing in the kitchen, and many long hours playing hopscotch or rounders with the boys.

Dickie attended primary school and walked every day from Summer Hill to St. Thomas's at Lewisham. She then attended high school at Bethlehem Ladies' College, Ashfield.

Later she headed off to St. Patrick's Business College. After College Dickie was successful in gaining employment in 1942 at the District Attorney's Office in Sydney. She held a prominent position there, as a lot of men were off fighting in the war.

As a beautiful young woman she had a wonderful life with her sisters and cousins, enjoyed many dances at the Navy Club and was also an accomplished tennis player.

The next chapter of her life began at the age of 20 when she answered her calling to enter the Marist Convent. For the next 70 years she devoted herself to God, Mary, the church, her role as a teaching nun and helping others.

During her time teaching she was posted in New Zealand, Gladstone in Queensland and was in charge of a Primary School in Victoria. One of her teaching roles was at Merrylands in Sydney. The Convent where she lived had magnificent grounds with beautiful gardens and well equipped rotundas. This gave her very large family a chance to catch up with each other at least once a month on a Sunday in a wonderful environment. All the cousins here today have very fond memories of these occasions. She also taught at Woolwich, which bordered the harbour - once again with magnificent grounds for us to enjoy.

During this time our families were lucky enough to have Kathleen come and stay with us over the Christmas break - an experience we all cherished.

Dickie will be remembered for her amazing memory, thoughtfulness and love. She never forgot a birthday. As her family grew from nieces and nephews to grandnieces and grandnephews she knew them all.

If any family member was having health issues Dickie was the first person everyone turned to. I am sure all her prayers and Masses for our families have been greatly appreciated.

She will also be remembered for her wonderful attitude to life. When asked, "How are you?" the answer was always "Tip top". Given any gift, her response was always, "Marvelous, marvelous!" or "Lovely, lovely". And if you ever gave her flowers, the response would be "Thank you so much. They will go on Mary's altar".

She will be sadly missed by us all. Love and peace to you now our wonderfully amazing Sr. Kathleen. You are truly in heaven now with your God. Bless you Sr. Kathleen from your very large and grateful family.