

## Sr. Mary Brendan Lucid

### Mary Lucid

Born:	Ballyheigue, Co. Kerry, Ireland	01 Nov 1919
Postulant:	Hastings, England	13 May 1936
Novitiate:	Hastings, England	18 Mar 1937
First Profession:	Hastings, England	19 Mar 1939
Perpetual Profession:	Hastings, England	19 Mar 1945
Died:	St. Anne's Convent, Sturry	15 Oct 2016



Sr. Mary Brendan was born in 1919 in the parish of Ballyheigue, Co. Kerry, a place that remained very close to her heart, and of which she was rightly proud. She was one of a family of three, with one brother and one sister to whom she was very attached. Her parents were William and Elizabeth Lucid (Callaghan).

Mary attended the local national school in Ballyheigue and later, as a boarder at St. John's Secondary School in Tralee, run by the Sisters of Mercy. It was there she first met the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions who had come to the school to speak to the girls about religious missionary life. What they said must have touched her heart, because Mary decided there and then that she would go with them. She went home the following weekend to discuss the matter with her parents, both of whom were ready to support her, but needed to find out more about the Congregation. Her father returned with her to the school, and met our Sisters. After a discussion with them, he was happy to give his daughter his full support. On 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1936, at the age of 17, Mary left home to enter the Novitiate in Hastings. Her father accompanied her to Dublin where she was to meet the Sisters and two other girls, before taking the boat to England. In writing about that day in later years, she said that when she was saying goodbye to her father she thought she would never see him again!

After Mary Brendan's First Profession, she was sent to our convent in Deal where she worked in the kitchen, cooking for the Sisters and boarders, a work she loved. Those were war years with strict rationing, but she excelled in producing delicious meals 'out of nothing'. Sisters who lived with her remember her as always positive, maintaining a happy face and ready sense of humour, during night sessions in the air-raid shelter (the cellar), or during the day, over pots and pans in the kitchen

After her Final Profession, Mary Brendan served in our convents in Chew Magna, in Limavady Northern Ireland and in Dublin from January 1952 to May 1953. At that time, the Archbishop of Dublin had made a request for a Sister, an experienced cook/caterer for his house in Killiney, Co. Dublin. Mary Brendan was chosen for this apostolate, and served there for sixteen years, winning the respect and affection of the Archbishop. He was full of praise for her skills as a cook, and admired her calmness, her generosity and her ever ready smile, and was quite visibly upset when she was given another mission.

Her new mission was in Cathcart Scotland where she offered the same loving service in the kitchen. In 1978 she was asked to go to Leyland for a few years and eventually returned to Wealdstone where she continued to use her gifts, both in the kitchen, and out of it, serving the Sisters, the visitors and the poor who came to the door for help. When the chores in the house were finished there was nothing Mary Brendan liked more than visiting the poor and the sick in the parish in which she lived. And she did it all with simplicity and humility. She was a shy person and did not find it easy to speak about herself. One of the most painful times in her life was the loss of her dear sister who died young, leaving two small daughters and a grieving husband. She suffered further distress later, when one of the little girls became seriously ill and died. Mary Brendan supported the little family in whatever way she could, especially by her prayer, and visited them whenever she was free to do so.

As the years passed, she began to feel the results of standing on her feet for long hours and in the 1990's she received complete replacements of both hips. This gave her a new lease of life. She continued her mission in Wealdstone, visiting the sick and taking on a new interest by preparing used stamps for sale for the missions. She moved to our convent in Beech Court Deal in 2000, and spent ten happy years there. As the ailments of old age increased she was lovingly cared for by the Sisters. When St. Joseph's Care Home Beech Court closed in 2010, she moved to St. Anne's Sturry where she endeared herself to the Sisters and lay staff who gave her wonderful care.

Mary Brendan's call to her eternal home on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016 was unexpected. She died as she had lived, quietly and without any fuss. Someone from her home parish, writing about her, said she had been born with "grace and gentility". It sums up her life.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 there was a double funeral in St. Anne's, for Sr. Mary Brendan and another Sister from St Anne's who had formed a close relationship with her in their last years. Both Sisters had died the same day. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Bradley, Chaplain of Beech Court Community. Relatives of both Sisters, together with Sisters from Beech Court and Wealdstone, came together to pay their respects. While there was a natural sadness, there was great joy in celebrating and thanking God for the lives of two faithful missionaries.

After the Mass the burial took place in Deal. May they now have eternal peace and joy in the presence of the God they loved and served so well.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control"

Galatians 5:22