

# SISTER MARGARET-MARY HUNTER

<b>Born:</b>	25 December 1937	Auckland
<b>Postulant:</b>	2 February 1961	Christchurch
<b>Novice:</b>	5 January 1962	Christchurch
<b>First Vows:</b>	6 January 1964	Christchurch
<b>Final vows:</b>	10 January 1970	Papakura
<b>Died:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Auckland



Sister Margaret-Mary was the eldest child of Maurice and May Hunter. She was born in Auckland and lived in the Point Chevalier district of Auckland.

She waited until she was 21 years old to join the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. She spent some time prior, working in the New Zealand Postal Service, a real test of her vocation. This testing would prove to be a strong trait in her life, a life of steadfast responding to the ongoingness of God's call and God's story in her life.

At her First Profession on 6 January 1964, she asked for the name Vincent after her aunt – Sr Mary Vincent de Paul. It would have been in January 2024, that we all would have been celebrating her Diamond Jubilee.

Loreto Hall was Margaret-Mary's training ground for her career in teaching which began in 1966. She taught in Catholic primary schools in Auckland, Cambridge, and Hamilton, where she was boarders' mistress at the same time. During this time, she professed her perpetual vows with Mary Maitland in Papakura. They both went on to teach at St Columba's School in Frankton, Hamilton. Mary recalls her being a very dependable teacher, who provided a very secure environment for her pupils.

10 years later, she was missioned to Sacred Heart College, Hamilton, continuing her boarders' mistress responsibilities. Those boarders would have a few stories to tell! Margaret Mary had been honing her commercial subject skills. With her meticulous attention to detail, she had high expectations of her students. There are many students who have been influenced by Margaret-Mary's brilliant teaching.

Three years after attending the Congregation Tertianship course in Rome, she was missioned back to Rome as Assistant General Secretary. This was in recognition of her skills in Shorthand/Typing, her determination to always do things "the right way" and to complete work to a very high standard. Several people have mentioned her ability to procure Papal blessings on request.

In 1992, Margaret-Mary became the Provincial Archivist in Aotearoa New Zealand. This was to be a passion of hers for the next 12 years. She developed archivist connections throughout the country and was highly thought of in this field of expertise.

In 2003, again in recognition of her expertise, she was appointed Hamilton Diocesan Archivist for the next 5 years. Her archival expertise assisted in the great love she had for her family history, the love of the Hunter clan information, and the relationships with extended family, friends, and Sisters she continued to maintain. Her ability to keep contact and to remember the intricacies of these connections was phenomenal. Her memory for people and their detail was evident as we spent time together preparing her invitations for her jubilee.

Those who have lived with Margaret-Mary over the years will remember her as a great baker and cook. While her own ill-health prevented her eating much of what she prepared, she took great delight in others enjoying it. We did find a big folder of recipes!

We cannot forget her other interests:

**Bowls:** She enjoyed both the competition and the friendship. There are photos of her in the number 1 whites – hat and all. She loved sport and enjoyed watching netball and rugby on tv.

**Crafts:** What an extraordinary talent for making toys or crocheting something special for that new arrival in the next generation! There was always something being made for someone.

**Irish Dancing:** From her days growing up in Point Chevalier, all things Irish captivated Margaret-Mary's heart. Over the years, in community, many an Irish jig was performed – hands still, back straight and her dainty feet in rhythm to the music.

Margaret-Mary took great pride in being a Pioneer Life Member. We can all recall that little badge she always wore on a jacket, along with her beret. This strong commitment was typical of Margaret-Mary who expressed her opinion on almost every subject and expected us to agree with her very often. When she made a stand about something, she did so – firmly!

She assisted Queen Margaret College in 1996 after a fire destroyed their archives. The irony of helping them so much came back to her when five years later, the Napier Convent was razed to the ground. This was devastating for all. The Sisters lost absolutely everything.

The retrieval of items from the Napier convent fire in 2001 has resulted in an original logbook from 1885 being recently returned to the Sisters.

In the Napier Convent fire in 2001, Margaret-Mary lost all her possessions including the original copy of her vows. With incredible resilience she set about re-building her family genealogy, information and possessions that were dear to her. Nothing would make up for that loss.

This same resilience served her well as ill health had been with her for many years. She had been through so much, but somehow when she was well, she was in good form. Her faith in her God, St Joseph, and Euphrasie Barbier, our Foundress, were her constant strength.

She attended Mass at St Joseph's Care Home chapel whenever she could. Look out if you phoned before Mass, "Don't you know we have Mass at 11 am!" It was very important for her. Very often her ministries there were Reader for the day in the Chapel, and caller for Housie for the residents.

She very often knew how to handle her health, and Lani, RN at the home, said, "We knew that when Sister rang the bell, it was urgent."

Margaret-Mary's death has been a shock to us all. Her passing means her Jubilee is being celebrated in Heaven, with her God.

In your Jubilee year, Margaret-Mary, we celebrate you, congratulate you and thank you. We, your Sisters, family and friends, send you into the heart of your God.

May you rest in the peace of your God.