



Sr Mary Gemma Fallins *1916 – 2009*

Our dear sister, Gemma, died peacefully in the early hours of the morning of Tuesday, 13 January, 2009 in the Uniting Care Nursing Home at Garden Suburbs.

Mary Josephine Fallins was born at Adamstown on 3 March, 1916. She was the fourth of five children of Patrick Fallins and Catherine Hill. Her two sisters, Kathleen and Aileen also became Sisters of St Joseph and were known as Sr M Felicitas and Sr M Justine. They, together with her two brothers, Vincent and Joseph predeceased her. The family is especially remembered for their musical gifts.

Mary Josephine entered the Sisters of St Joseph on 8 May 1935 and as Sr Mary Gemma was professed on 29 June 1938.

Gemma's first appointment was to Wingen where she taught music and attended to the house duties. She ministered at Cessnock, Denman, Lochinvar, Gloucester, Swansea and Wauchope before coming back to Lochinvar in 1952 where she helped in the Nursing Home. In spite of her body becoming crippled through a spinal disability she was ever ready to serve others and is remembered for her happy disposition and her beautiful smile.

In 1981 Gemma 'retired' and in the following years lived in community at Windale, Kilaben Bay and Swansea. She loved to visit the sick and the elderly in the local area. She was a great gardener.

In 1997, Gemma was one of the first residents in the new aged care facility known as St Teresa's Convent and later the expanded complex, Southern Cross Tenison Apartments. As Gemma became more frail and suffered a stroke she graciously accepted the move to nursing home care at the Uniting Care facility at Garden Suburbs where she has lived for the past three years.

Gemma has been an inspiration to us – in her acceptance of suffering and disability and in her generous caring and reaching out to those in need.

Please remember Gemma in your prayers
May she rest in peace.