

We are here today to bid farewell to a great Columban Missionary  
**Sr. Mary Rosari McTigue.**

We give thanks to God for her many gifts and talents. We celebrate too, her dedication to making the Mission of Christ better known especially in Cheju and Korea.

Her profession motto is “Jesus my God my all”. She lived this motto as a woman of prayer and a woman of deep faith.

Sr. Rosarii studied music at the Royal Academy of Music in preparation for a teaching mission in Burma. However, she was recalled before graduating, to be one of the founding members of the mission to Korea in 1955.

She accepted the will of God in her regard in all aspects of her life. Korea was still in ruins two years after the Korean War.

Sr. Rosarii helped to set up a hospital, a clinic and a convent. She managed and trained the staff as well as learning the language.

15<sup>th</sup> August 1962, at the request of Fr. P. J. McGlinchey, Sr. Rosarii spearheaded her second mission to the Island of Cheju, 90 miles from Mokpo. Joining her in the venture were Sr. Brid Kenny and Sr. Elizabeth Taaffe. The mission was to develop a primitive woollen mill in Hallim a small seaside town.

Sr. Rosarii had experience in the Foxford Woollen Mills which stood to her in this undertaking. At that time there wasn't any electricity, running water and no heating except a smoky oil stove. The objective was to provide a livelihood for the people of Cheju, especially women. The Sisters worked very hard.

Sr. Rosarii's many talents came into play. She designed beautiful coloured rugs and blankets, scarfs, ponchos etc. Before long eighty young women were employed in the textile areas.

Hallim Sweaters became famous in Korea. Three hundred women were knitting in their homes and earning money for the first time.

It was truly amazing to watch the wool from the sheep's back transformed into exquisite garments in a boutique in the chosen hotel in Seoul.

Sr. Rosarii had good marketing skills and found places to sell her high class goods. Hallim textiles became a national enterprise.

At that time there were many disabled young people in Cheju as a result of polio and tuberculosis. Rosarii always found a job suitable for each one's abilities, even winding yarn all day.

She developed a musical band and taught many of the workers to play instruments. The staffs were so proud to belong to the Hallim weavers. She received a grant from Germany for this project.

The late Fr. Ned Kelly requested her to go to China to train a community of Chinese Sisters in weaving. She taught them the skills and returned on

several occasions to oversee the project. She met Bishop Galvin's Sisters, a highlight for her.

Sisters from the mainland enjoyed wonderful vacations every year in Cheju. Rosarii made it a special time for us, she loved to see us enjoying ourselves. After the textile factory closed at 5.30p.m. She would come out in the car bringing out a lovely tea. We picnicked in the glow of the setting sun before going for the last swim of the day.

She loved young people, especially our own young Korean Sisters, and followed their progress on the missions. She loved her family dearly, especially her visits to Foxford and Knock. She is loved by so many people in Korea.

Sr. Rosarii retired to Magheramore in 1999, set up her studio in the basement where she painted scenes from her beloved Mayo and, of course, Wicklow. And again, surprise, she was appointed to a Community in London where she worked for eight years.

She soon settled in, singing in the Parish Choir, became a Eucharistic Minister to the housebound, taught guitar lessons, became a volunteer with St. Joseph's Hospice, did Line-dancing, took her turn at cooking which she did well, and made many friends.

Rosarii returned to Magheramore in 2009 where she resumed her painting and art-work, helping sisters with their mending, sewing on buttons for those of us not so good with the needle.

She watched every Football match, Rugby, Soccer and G.A.A. She knew every player, their strengths and weaknesses. It was rich to listen to her comments.

We had an email from Fr. McGlinchey a few days ago. He was praying for her, said she was never in hospital in her life and hopefully would come out of this illness.

This time last week Sister Rosarii suddenly became ill. Those of us close to her felt the final episode of her life had come.

The words of Cardinal Newman filled our hearts:

"May he support us all the day long 'till the shadows lengthen and evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done, then in His Mercy, may He give us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and Peace at the last." AMEN

By: Sr. Mary McHugh