



Mrs. Gretta McGuire

February 24, 2020

Gretta (Mary Margaret) McGuire (1931-2020)

Gretta McGuire (née O'Grady) died peacefully in Barrie, Ontario on Monday, February 24, 2020, surrounded by love and with her loyal daughter, Teresa, at her side. She was just two months shy of her 89th birthday.

She had been a loving wife to her husband, John McGuire, for 47 years, and was cherished by her four children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandson, as well as her many nieces and nephews.

She was the eldest of five children born to Mary and Frank O'Grady in Cong, County Mayo in the west of Ireland. While working in Salthill near Galway one year, she met a handsome young man named John McGuire. They married in 1952 and then sailed across the Atlantic to build a new life together in Canada and raise a family. In their early years together they moved around from Toronto to Ajax to Port Hope, settling back in Toronto for many years until they retired and moved to Barrie, Ontario. Though she became a proud Canadian citizen in the 1950s, when she spoke of "home" she meant Ireland, and she loved to go home to visit family when she could.

She had a curious mind, an open heart, a strong Catholic faith, a firm belief in the value of an education, and a natural talent as a teacher. She completed her education by going to night school while raising young children in Toronto. She went on to work in the Catholic School Board in Toronto for many years. She took real joy in teaching and reading to her children, her grandchildren, and her students.

She also had a talent for making Irish soda bread and scones, which she continued to do well into her final year, much to the delight of her many friends and extended family.

She is survived by her children Mary, Teresa (Shane), and John (Rina); her grandchildren Travis (Jeniece) Colleen, Sean, Allison, Ashley, Ian, Mia, and Liam and her great grandson, Jaxon; her sisters Catherine Glen, Bridget Gough and Ann Power; and that big

extended clan of McGuires into which she married. She is pre-deceased by her husband John, her daughter Bridgid (Bridie), and her brother John O'Grady.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. John Vianney Church, 13 Baldwin Lane, Barrie, Ontario on Saturday, February 29 at 11 a.m. The reception will follow the service in the church hall. Viewing will take place at Steckley Gooderham Funeral Home, 30 Worsley St., Barrie before the funeral from 9:00-10:30. Burial will take place at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Thornhill, Ontario.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to organizations that may help others. Online memories and condolences may be forwarded via www.steckleygooderham.com

Events

FEB **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

29

Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Home Worsley Street Chapel
30 Worsley Street, BARRIE, ON, CA, L4M 1L4

FEB **Funeral Mass** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

29

St. John Vianney Church
13 Baldwin Lane, BARRIE, ON, CA, L4N 2W1

FEB **Reception** 12:00PM - 01:30PM

29

St. John Vianney Church
13 Baldwin Lane, BARRIE, ON, CA, L4N 2W1

FEB **Interment** 02:30PM - 03:30PM

29

Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery
8361 Yonge Street, Thornhill, ON, CA, L3T 2C7

Comments



“ 11 files added to the album Memories Album



Teresa Hanchett - June 05, 2020 at 12:53 AM



“ I have heard many stories of this wonderful woman, so I offer my deepest condolences to all those who knew her. It is with comfort that she will be remembered of her love, compassion and kindness to those around her. I have no doubt you will all keep her memory alive in your every day.

My heart is with you.

Erin Hallett-Fabricius - March 06, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ I am so sorry Theresa to hear of your moms passing. Keep the memories of her close to your heart. Take care of yourself. Big hugs to you.

Janis Wehrle - March 01, 2020 at 04:45 PM



“ Teresa and family, we would like to share our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your mom. We will miss her at church. We will keep her in our hearts and prayers.
Steve and Christine Fontaine

Steve Fontaine - February 29, 2020 at 06:17 PM



“ Cathy Oreskovic sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Gretta McGuire



Cathy Oreskovic - February 28, 2020 at 12:44 PM



“ Dear Teresa, Mary, John and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Gretta was an integral and important part of our family, and Michael, Jocelyn, Alison, Ella and I will miss her deeply. She taught my girls how to write their names, paint and knit, and was always available and ready for a friendly chat on the phone or our visits. Her house was always a home to us, I was lucky to call her my friend as well as Aunt, and we will hold her forever in our hearts.

Love
Michael and Martina Paton

Martina Paton - February 28, 2020 at 11:25 AM



“ May 2019- Family birthday outing



susan gimera - February 28, 2020 at 10:38 AM



“ To all of Gretta's family, we want to pass on our sincere condolences and love from Yorkshire UK. .You are all In our thoughts and prayers
Love Bernadette Christodoulou (Cullinane family), Mario, Alex, Matthew and Fionnuala. XX

Bernadette Christodoulou - February 28, 2020 at 09:44 AM



“ It was with great sadness that we all have to say goodbye to Auntie Gretta. It makes me sad that we have to say goodbye to another family member and a little piece of our hearts are travelling with her on her final journey home. I offer my condolences to Teresa, Mary and John and families on the loss of your mom and grandma. It is never easy to say goodbye, but take comfort in all your happy memories. Be happy that she was surrounded by love and family on her final day and could peacefully go home.

With Love

Susan , Steve, Amanda and Declan Gimera

susan gimera - February 27, 2020 at 09:02 PM



“ Danny McGuire lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gretta McGuire



Danny McGuire - February 27, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Danny McGuire - February 27, 2020 at 04:31 PM



“ Mary, Teresa, John and extended family, our deepest condolences on the passing of your Mom, Auntie Greta. What a beautiful lady who always had such a big smile and made everyone around her feel so loved. I was lucky enough to be her godson and will always remember her scones and Irish sodabread. She loved sharing time with her family. Teresa thank you for making sure that your Mom did not miss any family events. Auntie Greta leaves an empty place in our hearts. Missing her Danny, Janice and family.

Danny McGuire - February 27, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ Both Imants and I send our deepest condolences to your family. Your mother will be greatly missed. She has a special place in my heart, all the conversations we have had over the years. Our families would always see each other over the weekends either at the cottage or at home. Your mother would always have Irish soda bread, it was always tea time. Your mother was a woman of strength, courage and dignity who loved her family.

Kathy Grotans - February 27, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ LeeAnne Hanchett lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gretta McGuire



LeeAnne Hanchett - February 27, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cathy Oreskovic - February 27, 2020 at 08:52 AM



“ Cathy Oreskovic lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Gretta McGuire



Cathy Oreskovic - February 27, 2020 at 08:47 AM



“ Like you for always,
Love you forever ♡



Eunkyung-Rina McGuire - February 27, 2020 at 07:56 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



John McGuire - February 27, 2020 at 07:50 AM



“ Dear John, Mom will never let you be alone...She's always by your side, Always Believe!!!

Cathy - February 27, 2020 at 09:27 AM



“ Like you for always,
Love you forever.



E.Rina McGuire - February 27, 2020 at 07:49 AM



“ Professor McGuire, please accept my deepest condolences for your loss.

Park CJ - February 27, 2020 at 12:01 AM



“ We are deeply saddened by Gretta’s departure from this life. We wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to her Children: John, Mary & Teresa and their Families; her Grandchildren: Travis & Colleen; Sean; Allison & Ashley; Ian, Mia & Liam; and her Great Grandson: Jaxon.

Gretta will be missed greatly by all who knew her.

Our thoughts, prayers and love are with all her Family.

With much love from,
Ann & John Power (Sister & Brother in Law)
Bridget & Robert Gough (Sister & Brother in Law)
Alison, Duncan & Rory (Neice & Family)
David, Emma, Sophie & James (Nephew & Family)
Andrew & Alison (Nephew & Neice)
Hilary Thorpe (Sister in Law)
Mary & Robert Inns (cousin & Family)
Anne Cullinane (Cousin)
Mona & John Byrne (Cousins)
Patrick & Mary O’Grady (Cousins)

Ann Power - February 26, 2020 at 11:58 PM



“Gretta was the first of five children born to Frank and Mary Josephine O’Grady: Gretta, John, Bridget, Catherine and Ann. They were born and lived in Knock House near Cong in County Mayo, Ireland, the family ancestral home of her Mother for generations. I was the youngest, so I have happy memories of my big Sister when the Family was all together in this rather grand house with its extensive farmlands. Gretta went to school locally in Cross, Co Mayo, until her teens, when she went away to boarding school in Castlebar, Co Mayo. After finishing her education, she did some holiday work in Galway City for a while. There she met a young man from Tuam in County Galway, John McGuire. They fell in love and eloped to Scotland where they were married in St Mungo’s Church in Glasgow. Gretta and John were keen to travel the world so they headed for America and finally on to Canada, where they settled in Toronto, which they loved. They had four children: Mary, John, Bridgid and Teresa. Life was good: Gretta and John created several successful business and enjoyed seeing their children growing up, becoming independent, getting married and having families of their own. Over the years, they loved to return to visit Family, relatives and friends in Ireland and England whenever they could. Gretta’s Parents sold the family home in County Mayo and moved to Castlerea, County Roscommon, with her two youngest Sisters, Catherine and Ann. It was here later that Gretta’s Children would meet up nearly every year with their Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and many Cousins. We were also able to keep in close touch by regular telephone calls, and Gretta was well able to master email in her eighties. Gretta had much happiness in her life, and some very sad times too. She lost her Father, Frank, in 1980; her Mother, Mary Josephine, in 1994; her Husband, John, in 1999; her Brother, John, in 2006; and tragically, her dear Daughter Bridgid in 2013 from serious illness. Gretta appreciated so much the love, help, support, visits and advice from all her Family, especially when she was living on her own. For example, she often told me that Teresa was like a “Guardian Angel for the past ten years” as she lived close by and was on hand at all times. She was so proud of all of her Family. Gretta is survived by three children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild. I will miss greatly her regular long calls to me here in England. Ann Marie Power (aka Hannah), youngest Sister.

Ann Power - February 26, 2020 at 11:32 PM



“ This is Beautiful!! So happy to know about her history! I am Teresa’s Best Friend AND YES SHE WAS MOM’S GUARDIAN ANGEL” Teresa is also my Guardian Angel!! She loves her mother with all her heart and did everything for her with ALL HER HEART! Thank you for Sharing

Cathy - February 27, 2020 at 08:45 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ann Power - February 26, 2020 at 11:23 PM



“ This was in Ann's garden in the UK 2006: Mary (Cousin), Gretta, Bridget and Ann.

Ann Power - February 26, 2020 at 11:26 PM



“ Lovely photo of you all. X

Bernadette Christodoulou - February 28, 2020 at 08:05 AM



“ Dear Teresa and family. You have our deepest condolences on the passing of your mother, Greta. Like the pictures here, she always had a smile. What a lovely lady. Your sisters in Christ. The St. John Vianney Catholic Women's League.

Poem. The Ship, by Charles Henry Brent
What is dying?

I am standing on the seashore.
A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze
and starts for the blue ocean.
She is an object of beauty and strength and I stand and watch her
until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud
just where the sea and sky come down to mingle
with each other.
Then someone at my side says: 'There! She's gone.'
Gone where? Gone from my sight that is all.
She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she
was when she left my side,
and just as able to bear her load of living
freight to the place of destination.
Her diminished size is in me, not in her;
and just at the moment when someone at my side says:
'There! She's gone,'
there are others watching her coming,
and voices ready to take up the glad shout
'There she comes!'
And that is dying.

susan mays - February 26, 2020 at 04:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cathy Oreskovic - February 26, 2020 at 10:34 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



JOHN COPPINGER - February 26, 2020 at 08:07 AM



“ My Grandma taught me so many things from reading and writing to baking and cooking, she was truly an amazing woman. She was so sharp and always had a poem up her sleeve. A cup of tea and a scone will always remind me of my Grandma. I have so many amazing memories with her and feel so blessed to have been her granddaughter.

Ashley - February 25, 2020 at 10:12 PM



“ I'll never forget Gretta watching my sister and I when we were younger and visiting her for lunch breaks and after school in high school, she always welcomed me with a cup of tea, she encouraged me while I was applying for Universities and cheered me on along the way. She was such a lovely and caring person I'll miss her dearly. Rest in peace

Alison Paton - February 25, 2020 at 09:22 PM



“ Our family would like to extend our deepest condolences. We're saddened to hear of Gretta's passing. She was a kind and loving woman who was a delight to be around, always with a smile on her face.

Rest in paradise,
Sasha and Phillan Hector

Sasha Hector - February 25, 2020 at 07:40 PM



“ We are all saddened to hear of Gretta's death. Gretta was a very special woman who loved her family dearly.
Mam thought the world of Gretta, she had a special place for her in her heart. She is going to miss her so much and their regular phone calls.
You should all be very proud of your amazing Mother/Grandmother, she will be a great loss to you all. Our deepest condolences to Mary, Teresa, John and Families.
Our prayers and thoughts are with you all at this difficult time.
Thank you Teresa for all the beautiful pictures you sent of your Mom. We will cherish them always, love from Mary, Tom, John, Rose, Chris and Families x

Chris Kelly - February 25, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ Dear Teresa, John and I would like to send you and your family our deepest condolences, may your Mom rest in peace

Marilynn and John Calleja

Marilynn Calleja - February 25, 2020 at 04:58 PM



“ So Sorry for the lost of a beautiful Lady.will not be forgotten.Great memories of her with she used to come to visit her brother.The tea and sandwiches would be made on our arrival.So kind and thoughtful always putting everyone first.Our condolences to all her family Geraldine Mike Ivan and Dylan.

Geraldine Connolly - February 25, 2020 at 03:08 PM



“ Dearest Mrs McGuire, You will forever have a special place in my heart! Thank you for all the great dinners! I was 16 years old and though I knew it all. You always had that one sentence for me that later came back to haunt me! If only I would have listened to the Wise like you! I am sorry I ate all the Scones that one time and didn't leave any for Mr McGuire for dinner! I know you weren't happy with me, but of coarse politely said it was alright! I couldn't stop myself! I've yet to have one elsewhere that even comes close to yours! Thank you for creating such a Beautiful Daughter who I am fortunate to have as a Best Friend and of coarse you also knew how special she is for you! I will miss you always, but have the wonderful Memories to keep you close to my heart forever! I can see the same smile in this pictures when I think of your Welcome above from all your Loved ones there! Until we meet again, enjoy your Eternal Life in Heaven. I know you will also be here on Earth with all your love ones to help them in this time of grief. Sending all my Love... Cathy Oreskovic (nee Malfara)

Cathy Oreskovic - February 25, 2020 at 10:51 AM