



Brenda Kathleen McGagh

July 16, 2022

On Saturday, July 16, 2022, Brenda Kathleen McGagh (nee McGarritty) age 86 and loving mother of 5 children & 12 grandchildren, passed away peacefully at Barnabus Medical Center in Livingston, NJ. Formerly of Cresskill, NJ, Brenda was born on June 2, 1936 in Rostrevor, Northern Ireland to Terence and Cassie (Catherine nee O'connor) McGarritty. One of six children, Brenda received her nursing degree from Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital in 1958 and worked in the healthcare field throughout her life. She left Ireland for New York City in 1960, and practiced nursing at St. Vincent's Hospital. Shortly after arriving in NYC, she met the love of her life, Patrick Joseph McGagh, and they were married on October 27, 1962 at the Church of St. Elizabeth. Brenda & Paddy started their family in Jersey City, eventually settling and raising their children in Cresskill, as dedicated parishioners of St. Therese of Lisieux Church.

Brenda's passions were healthcare, the Church, community service, and most importantly, her family and friends. She pursued multiple charitable endeavors throughout her town and the Church, and was always ready to offer a helping hand to anyone who needed it. A primary element of Brenda's life was the personal connection she had with each of her grandchildren, which was deep and will be everlasting. Brenda was an avid baker and seamstress, and loved teaching & sharing these talents with her children, and especially her grandchildren. There was nothing more delicious than one of Brenda's apple

tarts. Brenda was also a most devoted friend and was always at the ready to put on a kettle of tea, or pour a whiskey sour, and just sit and talk for hours. She treasured the simple moments, just as her loved ones treasured her. She will be dearly missed, and fondly remembered always.

Brenda stressed "Togetherness" for her family and her various communities. Yeats was a favorite poet, and we'll remember her by the related oft repeated lines of "Lake Isle of Innisfree" , "And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow, Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings; There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow, And evening full of the linnet's wings."

Brenda was preceded in death by parents Terry and Catherine, her husband Patrick, and her sisters Bronough and Molly. She is survived by her children Deirdre, Mary, Kevin, Patrick and William; her siblings Paula, Hilary and Ian; her grandchildren Gavin, Shaye, Patrick, Evan, Jack, Julia, Declan, Brendan, Isabella, John, Claire and Gino; many cousins, nieces and nephews; and her children in law Jennifer, Doreen, Susan, Andy and Steve.

A viewing will be held Tuesday, July 19, 2022 from 4-8 PM at Barrett funeral home in Tenafly, and services will be at St. Therese of Lisieux Church in Cresskill on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 10 AM. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Brenda's honor at the Office of Concern Food Pantry at St Cecilia Church, 55 West Demarest Avenue, Englewood, NJ 07631.

Cemetery Details

Interment Private

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 19. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home
148 Dean Dr
Tenafly, NJ 07670
(201) 568-8043
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Mass

JUL 20. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Therese of Lisieux Church
120 Monroe Ave
Cresskill, NJ 07626-1405
(201) 567-2528

Tribute Wall

AH

“ I was very saddened to hear of Aunt Brenda's passing. She was a beautiful lady. Always so welcoming, gentle and kind to me whenever I visited the McGagh home in Cresskill. She had a unique way of engaging with people, giving her full attention and making one feel special. I have wonderful memories of when she and Uncle Paddy would come to visit Grandad at our home in Piltown. Mum and Dad adored Aunt Brenda, and she held a special place in Grandad's heart. Family meant everything to Aunt Brenda. May she rest in peace. My deepest sympathy to Billy, Patrick, Kevin, Mary and Deidre and all your extended family. Fondly, Angela and family. xo

Angela Pak - Home - July 22, 2022 at 01:15 PM

CC

“ Lovely memories of Brenda, I would have brought mum ,Eileen McGarrity/Donnelly out to visit when she was over from Ireland.May she RIP .condolences to all family in USA and Ireland

Catherine cunningham - July 21, 2022 at 11:57 AM

TH

“ I have wonderful memories of Aunt Brenda (and Uncle Paddy-Joe) growing up. Brenda was always so full of warmth, and joy when she came to visit us, and Grandad, in Piltown, Co-Kilkenny. My father and mother were mad about her and there was great excitement in our house when the Americans came to visit. I also remember visiting Creskill when I came to New York and Brenda couldn't have been more welcoming; she made me feel so at home. Condolences to Bill, Patrick, Kevin, Mary and Deirdre and all the extended family. RIP Brenda. Love Teresa & family xxx

Teresa Hanrahan - July 21, 2022 at 07:09 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Kathleen McGagh.*



July 19, 2022 at 04:30 PM



“ *Brenda was one of my favorite people. As a child it was one of the few places my parents took us that I looked forward to visiting. There was never a time when you were at the McGagh home where you didn't feel welcome. Brenda (and Pat) always made us feel at home but more important you always felt that she valued your opinion and presence. I am very sad at Brenda's passing but I consider myself so fortunate to have had her as part of our family. Her quiet dignity and glint in her eye will remain a memory with me forever. Vicki and I would like to extend our condolences to the wonderful family, but more important, thank you for sharing Brenda with us over the years.*
Kevin and Vicki Dugan

Kevin Dugan - July 19, 2022 at 03:57 PM



“ *Brenda was a lovely woman, a great mother-in-law and one of the best grandmothers on the planet. Her kindness shone brightly. I will always be grateful she was in my life and the lives of my children, Claire and John. The entire Campbell family is praying for your family and send you our love.*

Karen McGagh - July 19, 2022 at 01:21 PM

AJ

“ Amy, Kerith, Klar, Min, & Ji purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Brenda Kathleen McGagh.



Amy, Kerith, Klar, Min, & Ji - July 19, 2022 at 01:15 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Kathleen McGagh.



July 19, 2022 at 09:46 AM

MJ

“ Donovans in Rockstown are sad to hear of Brenda's death. We have lovely memories of fun times spent in 70 Lexington Ave. Brenda together with Paddy made us always feel so welcome. All visitors from Ireland were sure of an invitation to Cresskill where they would meet all the relatives and have delicious food and fun. Brenda was so loyal to Rose and Alice visiting them frequently laden with homemade goodies and bagels. Condolences to Bill, Kevin ,Patrick, Mary, Deirdre and all the in-laws and grandchildren. May Brenda rest in peace.

Marie and Johnny - July 19, 2022 at 09:18 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Brenda Kathleen McGagh.*



July 18, 2022 at 10:44 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Brenda Kathleen McGagh.*



July 18, 2022 at 10:33 AM



“ *MCS & MCB purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Brenda Kathleen McGagh.*



MCS & MCB - July 18, 2022 at 09:03 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Kathleen McGagh.*



July 18, 2022 at 08:56 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Brenda Kathleen McGagh.



July 17, 2022 at 12:45 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Brenda Kathleen McGagh.



July 17, 2022 at 10:56 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Kathleen McGagh.



July 17, 2022 at 07:56 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brenda Kathleen McGagh.



July 16, 2022 at 03:06 PM