

Mrs. Hegarty Retires

Mrs. Hegarty had taught in St Mary's School for thirty-seven years. Everyone loved her. She was very kind and sometimes quite strict, but no-one minded because she was very fair and really loved the children. Now she was retiring. Everyone wanted to say goodbye and thank you.

On her retirement day, there was a special thanksgiving Eucharist in the church with all the children, parents and teachers. There were special prayers for Mrs. Hegarty, and her favourite hymns. Afterwards, everyone crowded into the hall and there were lots of speeches. Father Atkins told a story about when he had been a little boy in school and Mrs. Hegarty had taught him. Everyone laughed. He said he owed her a lot and gave her a bouquet of roses, her favourite flowers. One of the mums reminded everyone how Mrs. Hegarty had made St Mary's into a really good school. The parents gave her a camera because she was going to learn photography. Peter, from Year 6, made a speech wishing her happiness and because she likes bird-watching, the children gave her a pair of binoculars.

Mrs. Hegarty was sad to say goodbye. She thanked everyone for their kind and thoughtful gifts and explained that as she used each one, she would think of all the children, parents and staff. She said she would read through all her cards when she got home. She thanked everyone who had prepared the Mass and the party. It was a happy day. Everyone was pleased to say thank you to someone who had done so much to help other people.

- Q Why was Mrs. Hegarty thanked?
- Q How did different people say thank you to her?
- Q How do you think Mrs. Hegarty felt?
- Q Which way would you choose to say thank you?