

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Spring Poetry**
- **Mary Ward Week Booklets**
- **Raisin Jam Recipe and other surprises!**



Photographed by
Eoghan, aged 6

Warm Spring greetings from all in the Archives!

We hope you enjoy this newsletter which reflects on the booklets produced for Mary Ward Week and surprising discoveries in correspondence from Spain!

Spring is a time of wonder. Branches, especially of the ash tree, are gradually changing colour, forecasting the coming of this year's leaves. Gerard Manley Hopkins poetry draws us into the world of variety. The images of dappled, brindled things draws us to consider the unique creation of each plant, animal, person in our world. Each of us has her own dappled, brindled shade painted by God as he imaged our particular self. We have in our own meeting of each individual, the opportunity to discover ever new and changing shades of being. Our Archive gathering of your Personal Stories is creating a treasure store of your rich, dappled story. In Abbey House we have a poetry group which meets once a week. This is a source of richness, of remembering poems learned in our youth and an opening into ways of praying and seeing that we may not have explored before.

One website which offers a way into a new Spring, is that of the Jesuits in Creighton University, USA. By typing Gerard Manley Hopkins into Google search bar it will open for you many opportunities to explore his poems. We have been learning from Fr. Larry Gillick, S.J. You tube films can be shown on T.V screen by using laptop as DVD player.

Enjoy and share,

Kathleen

Pied Beauty

BY GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS

Glory be to God for dappled things –
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.



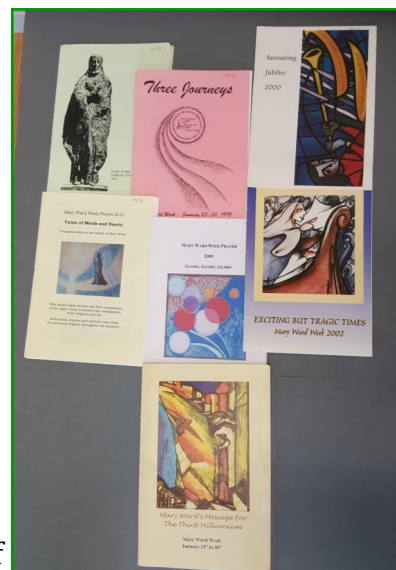
Source: *Gerard Manley Hopkins: Poems and Prose* (Penguin Classics, 1985)

A Review of 'Mary Ward Week' Booklets

At the close of the recent Mary Ward week, prompted us to look at our collection of material from previous Mary Ward weeks. The material produced to celebrate Mary Ward Week helps to explore the growing relationship between the two branches of Mary Ward's institute. The earliest Mary Ward booklet we hold is from 1995, produced by M. Annunciata Pak, IBVM; which reflected upon the Just Soul, "*this central spiritual experience of Mary Ward*", and "*unity of vision*" which clarified her mission "*as being formed in the likeness of Christ.*"

A historic meeting of the three General Superiors of the North American, Roman and Irish IBVM Branches were proposed for 1994 in North America; and in November 1995, Annuntiata Pak IBVM, Roman Branch, issued an invitation to the Irish and North American branches to '*join them as they reflected on the sources which gave the identity of Mary Ward's Institute.*' Noni Mitchell IBVM, Superior General welcomed the initiative, as an '*exploration together by the three Branches of what we share most deeply from Mary Ward's courageous response to God's call in founding the Institute.*'

The first Mary Ward booklet was shared in this spirit of cooperation, and explorations of common origins in 1995. Originally produced in black and white, the progression of the printing process to coloured illustrations captures vibrancy of the booklets and the expanse of the celebration of Mary Ward in this special week as the years progressed.



A selection of images of the booklets produced for 'Mary Ward Week'

In 2010, in a "*Union of Minds and Hearts*", the CJ and IBVM branches jointly produced their first Mary Ward Week booklet. Sr Mechtild Meckl CJ and Sr Marian Moriarty IBVM, reflected upon 2010 as the "*in-between year*" of the three years of celebration of Mary Ward (2009 – 2011).

"In-between times have their own special qualities – they are like bridges joining, like pauses suspending, and they are opportunities for look back with thanks and looking forward with anticipation.

In this in-between week of Mary Ward prayer we focus on the companionship and friendship that is at the heart of our charism and our spirituality. Companionship is about both being alone and being together in this call to follow Jesus in our particular vocation. It is about being called and going out – coming, blessing, serving and going again."

This collection continues to expand as we acquire copies of the booklets produced each year, reflecting the wider contribution from associates and friends of Mary Ward. The colour and vibrancy of the covers increase and bring alive the dynamic reality of Mary Ward for her global Institute.

A Recipe for Raisin Jam

“Now, I’ll tell you how to make the raisin jam”, a recipe for raisin jam is not perhaps what one would expect to find in the letters from IBVM (Loreto) Sisters trapped in Spain during the Spanish Civil War (1936 – 1939). This is one of the many surprises that are to be found in a wonderful collection of letters, postcards and telegrams from the Spanish and Irish born IBVM Sisters who were unable or unwilling to evacuate Madrid, Seville and Zalla in 1936.



The Spanish Civil War officially commenced on 17-18 July 1936, when a coup d'état led by the Spanish Republican Armed Forces, attacked government forces. In response the British Embassy in Spain immediately evacuated its remaining citizens, including many of the Irish born IBVM Sisters in Spain, including their Provincial Superior, M. Baptist Gibney IBVM. The Spanish born Sisters were not allowed to join the evacuation and some Irish born Sisters chose to remain with them in solidarity. Many of the evacuees were eventually brought to Loreto Abbey Rathfarnham, and thereafter engaged in a long and sustained correspondence with the Sisters who remained in Spain.

The Sisters lived outside the convents, in houses and apartments, disguising their identity as women religious and coming together occasionally for meals and constantly hoping for evacuation. The British Embassy offered protection to both the convent buildings and the Sisters, and perhaps as importantly, a vital source of communication, as letters and parcels were sent through the diplomats. A Loreto convent in Hertfordshire, England (St Alban’s) became a very effective Loreto parcel depot! Sorting post from Spain, relaying it onto Loreto Abbey Rathfarnham or indeed returning it to Spain, to family members and relatives living in hiding, the community in St Alban’s provided a life-line for the Spanish Sisters. Food parcels were a highlight!

Food in the cities, especially Madrid, was increasingly in short supply, there were often long queues for food rations and the diet was meagre and bland. Hence the need for raisin jam! For some, rice and garlic were daily staples, on one occasion potatoes were described as a banquet. Tinned soups, stocks, chocolate, tinned milk and coffee were sent and gladly received, on occasion the parcel was raffled amongst the Sisters, and letters are filled with descriptions of the most delicious coffee or warmed milk in a diet otherwise of rice and garlic. The food parcels were not always filled with the greatest insight, on one occasion “A loaf of bread from St Albans arrived ‘like a flower pot ready to bloom, all green and hard as stone, it was fed to a dog!’”



A postcard sent from Madrid in 1939. Note the stamp of the censor ‘CENSURADA’, and that of the ‘William J. Sturges, Madrid. Embajada Britanica’

Embajada Británica E-3 Madrid.
22 Oct. 1936.

Hope you got our last letters, p.c. and cable, we get yours regularly and enchanted to get them as we are always longing to hear from you. We are all well and bright. Had a letter from Patricia enclosing some from the hill and my sisters they are all well but of course longing to meet.

Will write in a day or two and cable tomorrow.

Lots of love from all to all, don't forget us and ask our best friend to keep us in mind. G.
(K&L 10/2/36)

Postcard from Madrid 1936

The Sisters eventually secured evacuation, through their own initiative through the Red Cross and the British military, reflecting their ingenuity and independence. The relief which greeted their newfound freedom was expressed by M. Gabriel Latorre IBVM, from Habas, Northern France:

"Today, even though it seems a lie, we've been here a week. It's peaceful and quiet, totally unlike our old life, it's like a dream. We're leading a life of great repose and I think that in a few days we're going to be completely replenished because this year was spent in the middle of so much tension that it has left us utterly exhausted."

This poignant, insightful and exciting collection of letters has recently been catalogued. Some of the letters present are in Spanish, and we were delighted to have Ben Hazard working with us since June to translate these. All are available in the archives, and to any Sister who wishes to read them.

For those who are interested the recipe for raisin jam is:

"The raisins are cooked and passed through a strainer. To that add for every quarter kilo of raisins one glass of apple juice and orange peel but it is better with apple juice."

For those who wish to try it out, be warned, *"I make very little because it doesn't have sugar and turns bad quickly and when it's past it the apple juice separates and thickens. I don't really like it and it isn't very presentable either."*



Postcard from Madrid 1936, directed to Ireland through the Loreto community in St Alban's England, but still subject to censorship