

# OBITUARY FOR FATHER BERNARD HAHESY

Father John Bernard Hahesy, known always as Father Bernard Hahesy was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 1927. His parents Michael & Alice lived on a farm at Waterford in Ireland.

He was one of 7 siblings, (placed in the middle of them) as his brother Michael quotes 3 in front and 3 behind. Only two have survived him, his brother Michael who lives at Kilsheelan in Tipperary, and a sister who belongs to the Sisters of Mercy order in Wexford her name is Sister Rosarii. The four who had gone before him were Tom Hahesy, P.J. Hahesy Rita (Margaret) Kenny, and Kitty (Katherine) Kirwan.

He has 5 nieces & 6 nephews, 9 grandnieces & 14 grandnephews, and it's so good to see a number here who are representing the family and have made the long journey from Ireland and Scotland.

Father went to a parish school and then onto Carrick on Shuir a secondary school run by the Christian Brothers. In fact, it was the very first one to be opened by them, and this was in Waterford. He then attended St. John's Theological College whereby he initially studied philosophy followed by his seminary training to become a priest. He was ordained on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 1952, and his parents had both been present at his ordination plus many members of the family. He would have celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year.

## **Parishes where he served included**

Newton Abbot - 1952

Keyham

Sidmouth

Chudleigh

Lyme Regis

Kinson

Peverell from 1986 until his admission to Nazareth House in 2018 because of declining health.

He was a good Pastor to those who walked with him, and he was generous to a fault to those in need, whether it was "Mary's Meals" a children's charity or those who belonged to the AA Alcoholics Anonymous which even resulted in several being received into the Church.

He had a great devotion to Our Lady, formed probably from his early years of always being ill and needing to spend a lot of time in hospitals. He was at one point very close to death, and he prayed to her, asking for a chance to be healed. After he had said this prayer, the local priest came and anointed him. Together they both prayed to Our Lady and from that moment his health improved. He has always attributed his healing to Our Lady's intercession.

He enjoyed sport and did play in his younger day's tennis, golf, and hurling. The latter being an outdoor game of ancient Gaelic/Irish origin. His own Hurley stick he kept, and even took it with him when he went into Nazareth House.

In March 2018 he was admitted to Nazareth House, and his health began to improve enabling him to sometimes catch a bus into town or going out with his 3 friends to the George Hotel in Crownhill for a roast dinner.

Unfortunately, the covid pandemic struck and the lockdowns that accompanied it were difficult times for Bernard as he did enjoy company and was always pleased to see you when visiting him. He wanted to know any news and he would even tell you news of any 'goings on' at Nazareth House, of which sometimes he would laugh whilst telling you.

He had told one of the carers that the happiest day of his life was when he became a priest and able to celebrate daily Mass which was precious to him. He did spend many hours in the Chapel at Nazareth House which must have helped him during the difficult and lonely times of lockdown.

His sharp mind and good memory were present right up to a couple of days before he died.

Father Bernard may you now share in the eternal bouquet prepared for you in the heavenly kingdom Amen.