

Tributes to Catherine



Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis
May she rest in peace

Dear Friends of Eco Congregation Ireland,

We are sad to let you know today of the death of one of the founding members of ECI, Catherine Brennan SSL. She had been the Catholic representative on the ECI committee since our foundation in 2005, and she was the driving force in so many of our activities. Her enthusiasm was unbounded, as was her persistence and drive to care for the environment. She was a constant source of encouragement, keeping in touch with so many parishes and places across Ireland. She recognised for early days the need for the churches to work together, and that care for God's creation was an ecumenical and intergenerational activity.

She was an inspirational educator for many years, in a number of the schools run by her order, the sisters of Saint Louis, and this inspiration continued in her retirement with young and old alike. Despite constant bouts of ill health, she seemed to work indefatigably, and each one of our committee meetings brought news of parishes beginning their journey or receiving awards. Just last week she was arranging for a gold award to be presented to Ballineaspig parish in Cork City. In many ways, Eco-Congregation Ireland is her legacy.

All of us who worked with her will cherish happy memories of her enjoyable company and companionship and constant smile.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Andrew Orr

David Heap - Very sorry to hear that news.

Betty Baker - Thank you! Such sad news Catherine has definitely left a legacy and a vision. May we act swiftly in her honour. Rest in peace Catherine.

Gabrielle Brocklesby - Very sorry to hear this. What about an obituary for her in the Times or Sunday Independent? This is an efficient way to give substance to her legacy amongst non-churchgoers.

Fr Joe Jones, Bonnybrook Parish - I am deeply sorry to hear of this news. Catherine was a wonderful lady and an inspiration to us all. Please extend my deepest sympathy to all the members of the ECI Committee as I know you have lost a very special part of what you are all about. May she rest in peace.

Kathie and Patrick Davey, SAGE, Shankill - Thanks, Andrew for passing on the sad news of Sr Catherine's death. We have known for a while that her health was fragile but she was not one to give in to it. We in Shankill owe her much for her generous encouragement and enthusiasm over the last number of years. We will be praying for her to be enjoying the reward of her labour's. May she rest in peace.

Justin Kilcullen - Thank you Andrew for conveying this sad news in such a moving manner. Catherine was a great friend to us in Shankill, encouraging us at every stage on our journey. May she rest in peace.

Diane Da Cruz - Sorry to read of the death of your friend Catherine Brennan, Louis Sisters. May she rest in peace and all her work for ECI grow stronger in all the parishes and congregations she encouraged.

Sr Claire McKiernan DC - Thank you Andrew for the email communicating to us the sad news of dear Catherine Brennan May she rest in peace. She gave me a lot of help and encouragement when I was connecting with Eco congregation and all those sentiments expressed in your email are so true. If there are details of her funeral Mass I would like to be informed if possible.

Revd Canon Elaine Murray - So sad to hear of Catherine's death. She was an amazing human being. I learned so much from her. My condolences to her fellow sisters & family.

Eleanor Maynard – Amen.

Sr Eileen Browne DC - May Catherine's gentle spirit rest in peace.

Ciara Feehely - May she rest in peace - she was a lovely person.

Sr Colette Kane OP, An Tairseach - I am truly sorry to hear that news. You have captured Catherine's commitment and dedication beautifully. She certainly was a 'driving' force, constantly present encouraging all to ecological conversion. We have our gold award hanging here in the foyer. I will remember her to the participants living with us for the ten week Sabbatical programme. This morning we will be planting a tree to celebrate equinox and also marks National tree week, I will remember Catherine in our prayers. As you say, may she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Margo Delaney - Sincere thanks for this notification, Andrew. May Catherine continue to bless the work of ECI from her new home with God.

Janet Maxwell - Thank you for that update about Sr Catherine Brennan's death. Will you be attending Catherine's funeral? If we need to arrange representation on behalf of the C of I could you let me know please?

Janet M Twomey - Thank you for letting me know. Sr Catherine was a great support to us recently in Carrigaline. May she Rest in eternal peace with the Lord.

Joe Furphy - Andrew - that is a wonderful tribute, every word of which I endorse. She was revered everywhere she went. Irish Christian environmental work will be the poorer without her.

Rob Fairmichael, Innate - Very sad news. I think I only met her a couple of times but she was a lovely woman with an infectious enthusiasm who it was always good to know was constantly working away for a sustainable environment. May she rest in peace and green garlands follow her.

Colm Hogan, Trócaire - Thank you for your email and yes indeed, very sad to hear of Sr. Catherine's death, God rest her. From my early days in Trócaire, I met Catherine at the Eco-Congregation meetings and she was inspiring to deal with and listen to. Catherine was not afraid of challenging the status quo and promoted all things which would make our world a better place to live. May she enjoy the rewards of all her work now and may her memory be a constant light to all who work for and care for the environment.

Patricia Gardiner - What a lovely testimony Andrew. May she rest in peace.

Mary Fitzgerald - May she rest peacefully.

Dr Darina McCarthy, Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh & Kilfenora - We are sorry to hear this sad news, and offer condolences to Sr Catherine's community, friends, and family. Thank you for letting us know. I will ask Bishop Michael to remember her in his prayers.

Marion Walsh LSU - Thank you, Andrew, for your all-embracing appreciation of Catherine Brennan SSL a prophetic witness surely for our day. Blessings and thanks again ... and also for your own special role in Eco-Congregation Ireland.

Nellie McLaughlin - It is indeed with deep sadness that we mourn the death of Catherine SSL, beloved colleague and inspirational activist. I had been talking with her on the phone just a couple of weeks ago and her enthusiasm was still as alive as ever even though her health was becoming ever more challenging.

Your letter embraced her life so beautifully Andrew – thank you. She lived and breathed ECI and no doubt her amazing spirit and legacy will continue to inspire us as we continue the great work. Sending love, support and blessings to all at this sad time. May Catherine rest in peace as she so deserves.

Sr Marian McGreal SSL - Thank you for that. She also worked with St. Louis Associates and we are saddened that she will no longer be with us. She is now enjoying her rewards.

Dean Eaton - Catherine truly was the catalyst for all that was good about Eco Congregation Ireland. So sorry to hear of her passing, she will be greatly missed.

Sally Roddy - Dear Andrew and the ECI team, on behalf of Viatores Christi, I would like to offer our condolences to all of you on the death of Sr. Catherine Brennan SSL. She was a tireless and inspirational leader and put all her energy into ECI. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis. ECI is an amazing legacy and a testament to her hard work and love of the environment. So many grassroot environmental groups have benefitted from ECI and continue to do so which is no doubt what Sr. Catherine would have wanted most. Thank you for letting us know the sad news about her death. With prayers for all those who are feeling bereft at her passing at this time. God bless.

Deirdre Lane - My deepest condolence. Mo chomhbhrón ort agus ar do mhuintir.

Lindsey Fielder Cook, Quaker United Nations Office - Thank you. The description of Catherine inspires us to live on in her spirit.

Gillian Armstrong - Thank you for keeping me up to date on Sr Catherine's passing and her funeral arrangements. I'm hoping to be able to attend tomorrow morning. I'm particularly delighted to hear of the plan to place the ECI Candle near her coffin, and hope very much that this will happen.

She was an exceptional and inspiring lady in so many ways, a wonderful advocate for God's Creation, and indomitable in spite of quite poor health. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hAnam Dílis.

Oliver McCrossan - I am very sorry to hear of Catherine's death , may she rest in peace. Her contribution to eco cong will be remembered. My best wishes to you and your team for the great work you do. Please continue.

Caroline Goucher, Westport – You are in our thoughts and prayers today – RIP Sr Catherine. It was her solely that has nurtured our and many faith communities to embrace the Eco-Congregation ethos and raise awareness n this space. May Catherine now rest in God’s peaceful and glorious garden(full of biodiversity).

Agnes Curley R.S.M Tuam - Deepest sympathy to Catherine's family, community, Eco Cong and friends on Catherine's leaving us for a tremendous award in her heavenly home. We had the pleasure of having Catherine here in Tuam before Covid to present us with an award for our efforts to help look after our Mother Earth and very recently Catherine contacted us about giving us a gold award for our further efforts in caring for our Planet .Rest in peace Catherine in the arms of your Beloved where I know you will be showered with many awards for your untiring efforts to care for all of His Creation that you knew was VERY GOOD.

Rev Trevor Sargent - I'm so sorry to hear of Catherine's passing. On so many levels, Catherine leaves an amazing legacy. May she rest in peace, and may her active working out of Christian faith in espousing a love of all God's creation continue to inspire all of us who seek to follow our Lord and Saviour.

