



## Obituary

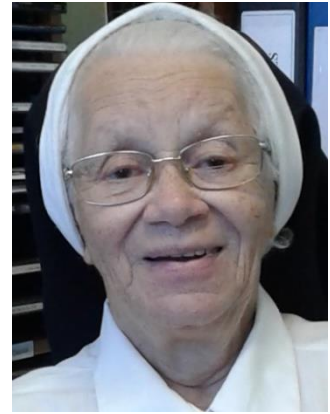
**Sr Melanie-Marie Green-Thompson**

**01.03.1941 - 06.04.2021**



"I have called you  
by your name,  
you are mine."

Isaiah 43:1



Sr Melanie-Marie Green-Thompson was born on 1 March 1941, at Ixopo in the Diocese of Mariannhill. Her parents were Ian Andrew and Winnifred Green-Thompson. She was baptized and named Elaine Winnifred. The Green-Thompsons had a special link with the Oakford Dominican Sisters because in 1896 a group of 9 children from this family was brought to Oakford to be educated by the Sisters. Sr Melanie-Marie's grandfather was one of them.

Sr Melanie-Marie was educated at St Theresa's Primary School in Sydenham, Durban and after leaving school began working to help support the family. She worked as a machinist in a clothing factory where she gained her dressmaking skills. In the last years of her life, she used her sewing skills to help sew and mend for the AIDS Centre in Ekukhanyeni. She had also worked as a doctor's receptionist and at the Lion Match factory in Durban as a packer before she decided to enter the convent.

In 1966 she spent a year in the Juniorate where she was given the time to make up her mind, but she thought that was not necessary because her mind was already made up! She became a postulant in 1967, a Novice in 1968, made first profession in 1970 and her final profession in 1973. She left her mark and touched people's lives wherever she went. She made deep friendships everywhere.

She worked as a housekeeper in Melrose House and at the Casa di Studio in Rome. Rome was the only place she looked forward to leaving. She found all those dull looking buildings and ruins depressing! She could not understand why they did not think of painting them in different colours. At Walsingham Girls' Hostel in Durban, where she supervised the kitchen, she got on well with the residents and staff. She was able to communicate well in Zulu, so the staff felt very comfortable with her. At Koinonia in Johannesburg, apart from supervising the kitchen, she also trained to

work with Christian Life Groups and enjoyed working with the young people who came for weekend retreats. She did training in pastoral work in Harare, Zimbabwe, after which she worked in the parishes of Ekukhanyeni, Oakford and Verulam where she made lasting friendships. In Empangeni where she worked as catechist and sacristan, she was touched by the struggles of some of the women in the parish and in the school. She encouraged them to begin saving small amounts of money each month and motivated them by joining with them in the saving scheme. At the end of the year, they had enough to pay the school fees and buy the children's uniforms!

Family and friends were a definite priority for her and communication was most important. When the news of her death reached her friends, there were many comments referring to her recent phone conversations with them. All of them were grateful for her prayers, her encouragement and her interest in how they were coping with what life had in store for them. This was her mission and she took it seriously, holding all these people before God in prayer and making sure to remind God to fulfil their needs.

She spoke to some of the Sisters about her fear of the Corona Virus and of the vaccine. However, on Easter Monday, when she had witnessed the interment of the ashes of three Sisters she mentioned how relieved she felt knowing what would happen to her remains after her death. She was so happy as she spoke to her sister Daphne and her cousin Gaynor that evening. Daphne believes she died of happiness. Her heart was so full of joy that it could not take any more.

We firmly believe that she is now where all God's loved ones deserve to be, enjoying the vision and the union of the God she so generously served in his people - Being welcomed into the Kingdom and enjoying the comfort of God's embrace. We know that she will intercede for our Congregation, for her family, friends and for all those whose lives she was privileged to touch.

May she rest in the presence of our merciful God.

*RIP*