

Rose McLoughlin



Civilian

16th July 1920 – 3rd August 1972

Rose McLoughlin was born in Munigh, she was one of nine children. In her early years she went to work in Learmount Castle as an auxillary nurse. She met her husband and they were married in 1950. In those days people didn't move far from where they were born, and she could see her home from the street where she now lived.

Rose went on to have eight children – four boys and four girls with little age gap between them. Three of her youngest sons were altar boys and this made her very proud.

In 1963 Rose and her husband had a chance to buy a local business in the village of Claudy. For our family this was about to be a huge change in our lives. During the next 9 years they both worked extremely hard.

At the time it was unusual for a woman to look for a bank loan. Rose wanted a better life for her family and worked very hard to succeed. Her plan was to buy another shop in another location. Being successful in the shop gave her the confidence to look at other ventures. She was a brilliant businesswoman.

In the early days Rose's husband stayed at home as the children were all very young, aged from 3 to 12. In the early days of the café one of her sons Mick would have travelled with Rose to Claudy as he was attending secondary school and he would have worked with her after school.

On Monday 31 July 1972 the McLoughlin's lives changed forever when the bomb went off outside the shop. On the Sunday night the family has been out at a dance, so the children were having a lie in, when the bomb went off, they hurriedly got dressed and ran to the shop. All 8 children witnessed the carnage on the streets of Claudy on that day as they ran to the cafe to check on our mother, images which never disappear from memory no matter the number of years which pass.

Rosemary one of Rose's daughters recalled visiting her mum in hospital and gave her rosary beads, she felt a slight movement when she spoke to her, Rose survived for three days but sadly passed away on the Thursday morning.