

SR MARIE MULPAS,sm

02/05/1937 – 26/07/2026

SMSM Chapel at Sainte-Foy-Lès-Lyon



Sr Marie was born on 2nd May 1937 in Belgium. She remained attached to her country. Arriving in France in 1960, she had never wanted French nationality. Today's celebration will therefore have a special connection to its country of origin, not least because Father Roger Lordong, who will be celebrating the Eucharist, is himself Belgian. Thanks to you, dear Marie, we are invited to widen our hearts.

When she joined the Marist Sisters in 1960, Marie had already opened her heart to others. Her family was, in fact, very small: her mother was an only child and her father had just one sister – Marie's godmother – who never married. Three children were born into the family: a brother who died young, a sister, Claire, who never married, and Marie.

Such circumstances might have led Marie to withdraw into herself. On the contrary, all accounts confirm that Marie's heart was open to everyone, and in particular to the little ones, to those whom we tend to overlook.

It was near here, in Sainte-Foy-lès-Lyon, that she entered the Novitiate of the Marist Sisters, and it was there that I met her two years later. I can still picture her just as she always was: serious, faithful, always ready to help, constantly afraid of doing something wrong, often apologising – one really did wonder why!

At the end of her novitiate, in 1964, she was sent to Saint Prix to the Massabielle community, where her role was to welcome visitors. She was also involved in catechesis in the parish.

In 1969, she was sent to Belley to care for the elderly ladies at the Bon Repos care home.

From 1971 to 1975: she did, however, return to working with young people at the Pensionnat du Rond-Point in Saint-Étienne, where she acted as a supervisor and taught catechism in the parish. But her calling was not to work with young people, who took too much advantage of her kindness.

From 1975 to 1989, she returned to Bon Repos, where she was put in charge of the retirement home.

In 1989, she was posted to Rue Sala in Lyon, and after a year's training, she worked as a care assistant at the Adélaïde Perrin care home, which cares for people with disabilities.

In 1999 she returned to Saint-Prix, this time to join the community at our Saint Joseph care home. As well as her work as a care assistant at the Saint-Prix care home, she naturally devoted herself to supporting the sisters in the community.

In 2010, when this community closed, Marie was appointed, along with Geneviève and Marie-Yvonne, to La Fare-les-Oliviers. These were three wonderful years during which the sisters forged close relationships and carried out a wide range of services for the local community and the parish. However, as their health began to decline, they had no choice but to leave this enchanting place.

Marie was then sent to another enchanting place, Toulon, where she once again began to render many services. She also became involved in the parish group which organised daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Finally, following the closure of the community in 2019, she arrived in Lyon with Sister Denise Jégonday and myself. There too, ever so discreetly, she put her talents to work in the service of others. Unfortunately, her health problems began to mount up: she was hospitalised several times at Saint Joseph and Fourvière, until it became necessary to consider a home suited, in particular, to her sight problems.

She was therefore admitted to the 'Les Girondines' care home in Gerland, where she faced increasing difficulties, but where she earned everyone's admiration through her acceptance of her health condition, her concern for others and also her faith. As the care home was secular, it was a real sacrifice for Marie to no longer be able to attend daily Masses and services. What's

more, as luck would have it, on several occasions, following medical appointments, she missed the only monthly Mass celebrated at the care home! Fortunately, Marie was not entirely deprived of spiritual nourishment. Our neighbour and friend Chantal would visit regularly, bringing her mobile phone so that Marie could listen to the Mass or the service from Tamier.

I can therefore testify that Marie, the first religious sister to be welcomed into the Girondines' home, was a witness to the faith. It is thanks to her that the communal TV now broadcasts the Sunday Mass. All the carers I spoke to after her death told me just how much of an impression Marie had made on them. I cannot help but quote Ahmed, the Muslim care assistant who was with Marie when she took her last breath. It was he who took care to play the hymns from her CDs for Marie. When he rang me to tell me of her death, he was keen to point out that he had placed Marie's rosary over her heart, knowing that every day she prayed with the rosary that was played from Lourdes.



So, Marie, you, a humble Marist sister wholly devoted to others, may Mary welcome you as you yourself knew how to welcome others. You, who, like Mary at Cana, were constantly concerned for others, you who were always ready to make sacrifices!

Finally, thank you for the little nod you gave me as you left us on my birthday. But also, as Ahmed said to me, 'What a lovely day to die – a Sunday!'

Marie-Thérèse Terra 29/07/2026