

195 SPRINGFIELD RD.,

BELFAST.

23/4/43

GOOD FRIDAY.

My own DARLING ONE,

This is my EASTER LETTER TO YOU. MAY YOU HAVE A JOYOUS ONE AND MAY OUR RISEN SAVIOUR HEARD OUR JOINT PETITIONS FOR A JUST AND SPEEDY PEACE SO THAT OUR CYUEL SEPARATION MIGHT END AND OUR LIFE TOGETHER COMMENCE.

I HAD A BEAUTIFUL LETTER FROM A NUN IN A PERPETUAL ADORATION CONVENT IN CANADA SHE SAYS "GOD, IT SEEMS, IS CEMENTING THE UNION OF HEARTS IN THE FIRE OF SACRIFICE AND SUFFERING, BUT IT IS A SIGN OF FUTURE BLESSINGS HOW TRUE THESE WORD ARE, YOU & I KNOW FULL WELL.

SOMETIMES I WONDER HOW YOU ARE REACTING TO YOUR IMPRISONMENT OR PERHAPS YOU DO NOT CONSIDER YOURSELF A PRISONER. HAVE YOU ENOUGH TO EAT, DRINK AND WEAR? I HAVE TRIED TO IMAGINE HOW YOU PASS YOUR TIME, YOU WHO LOVE YOUR WORK SO MUCH. HOW ABOUT GAMES? WHEN IS YOUR FIRST LETTER GOING TO ARRIVE?

FRANCES SPENT LAST TUESDAY WITH ME. WE HAD A SHORT WALK / AFTER TEA WENT TO SEE 2 RELIGIOUS PICTURES IN THE BROADWAY - LIFE OF ST. JOHN BOSCO AND PICTURE ON THE VATICAN. ROLAND CAME UP FOR SUPPER AND BOTH WENT HOME TOGETHER. THEY ARE EXPECTING THEIR FIRST BABY NEXT MONTH AND BOTH ARE

VERY HAPPY ABOUT IT. I HAVE GIVEN FRANCES YOUR
NEW ADDRESS SO YOU SHALL HEAR FROM HER SOON.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT I SPENT AT BEECHWOOD.

Philip Anne AND YOUR FATHER WERE THERE
AND WE FOUR CHATTED AROUND THE FIRE OVER
OUR TEA AND CHOCOLATE BISCUITS WHILE YOUR
OLD FOOTBALL BOOTS BURNED MERRILY UP THE
CHIMNEY!! THEY FILLED MY MIND WITH MANY
QUEENSDAY MEMORIES. WHY WAS I SO FOOLISH
THEN AND YOU LATER DEAREST FRANK? LOOK AT
ALL THE HAPPY YEARS WE HAVE ALLOWED TO PASS
US BY. WHY COULDN'T WE HAVE CONFIDED IN
ONE ANOTHER & TRIED TO UNDERSTAND. I BLAME
MYSELF AND YOU BLAME YOURSELF SO OUR

BEST FRIEND STEPPED IN AND HELPED WHEN
OUR PUNY EFFORTS FAILED. THANK GOD FOR
EVERYTHING - OUR JOYS AND OUR SORROWS.

Jo, MAIREAD AND I ARE GOING TO ST. JOSEPH
FOR SUNDAY, MONDAY AND TUESDAY SO I HOPE
THE WEATHER IMPROVES. MAMMIE & DADDY CELEBRATED THEIR
33 ANNIVERSARY ON APRIL 20th ON THE PREVIOUS DAY
MAMMY HAD HER 55th BIRTHDAY. WHEN WE ALL
PRESENTED OUR GIFTS & GREETING POOR MAMMIE BURST
OUT CRYING. THE EXPLANATION WAS MATTIE. WE HAVE
NOT HEARD FROM HER SINCE OCTOBER 1939. MAIREAD
WAS RECEIVED AS A DOMINICAN TERTIARY, THE
PREVIOUS DAY & IN THE HABIT SHE REMINDED
MAMMIE OF MATTIE.

YOU HAVE ALL OF ME INCLUDING ALL THE LOVE
OF MY HEART. ONLY YOU HAVE EVER HAD IT.
GOD BLESS AND COMFORT YOU EVER YOUR OWN
LOVING FILEER