

Spring Villa,  
195, Springfield Rd.,  
Belfast.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Feast of the Purification

My darling Frank.

Does Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> convey anything to you? Well, dearest it was this day one ago ago that you wrote your last letter to me - at least the last one I received. It has been a long time but thank God I have weathered the storm and surely there will be a letter from you soon.

Again it was on this day 10 years ago that Mattie entered the convent. We have had no direct communication with her since war was declared but indirectly we hear she is well and working away. I often wonder did she receive your letter?

Since I have recommenced work in the city, there is scarcely a free moment - I even work Sundays. Somehow work - the new type keeps me so busy that I have no time to worry and time how passes more quickly, thank God. The war will be over before I realize it!

My birthday proved to be a very uneventful one. Mamma & Mamead had gone to Killough for the few days (we had a high tea the day before they went off, in my honour). Mamead knit me a nice pair of mittens in fairisle pattern in red and blue. Josephine embroidered me 2 huckaback towels. Strangely enough these gifts were repeated in Mamma & Frances' gifts - Gloves & towels respectively. Daddie gave me a 10/- with which I purchased a sports silk scarf - You know the type with dogs & horses heads? After work was done on the 20<sup>th</sup> Jo & I had tea out, bought some sweets & went to the pictures. Arriving in about 9 p.m. she made a lovely tea of rasher & egg while I had a lovely hot bath & came down in my gown & slippers to enjoy it - my idea of heaven!! I thought of you a lot that day because somehow I felt you were thinking about me. Weren't you?

Our bottom drawer is growing apace. I have a large notebook in which I keep all my purchases & where they were got and what they cost - if presents from whom. Like the miser flouting over his money (horrible simile!!) I love



to look through my list especially at those articles which  
war makes hard to get. Josephine thinks I have a wonderful  
collection & says I can start up house anytime. Aint you  
pleased Frank? Sure what does it matter, even if we haven't  
everything, we have each other & our health. These with  
our trust in God will pull us through any difficulties.

Yesterday I plunged into buying a really lovely pair  
of shoes - navy blue Swede court shoes with insertions of  
red kid. When the lady (in Mc'Apees) asked what colour  
of suit I wanted them to go with - I said "the suit (still  
in the realms of dreams) must be selected to suit the shoes  
That reminds me of the joke about the beggar calling at  
a door to ask the lady for a shirt to sew his bottom  
(produced) on!! All at home are in love with the shoes but  
I won't wear them until you come home, so do hurry darling  
as I'm awfully keen to get a trick out of them.

Yesterday was my free day & Frances & I spent the  
afternoon in town & dined in the Grand Central! ho, we  
didn't fall into a fortune. I think the pair of us almost  
disgraced ourselves we laughed so much over old times.

Frances was full of the baby's trousseau and I was as interested  
as could be. She is looking remarkably well, thank God.

I am thinking of going over to Beechwood to-morrow.  
Philip being at home makes a wonderful difference to your  
father. He is no longer so lonely.

Our engagement ring had its first bath a few days  
ago and it twinkles nicer than ever. When am I going to  
be able to enclose a snap of it to you? If I were an artist then  
I could possibly draw it but then 1<sup>st</sup> impressions are sometimes  
lasting & I want you to love it as much as I do.

I had mass said last week for our joint intentions.  
Though I may not always say it I am praying away every  
day and every night for you - you are mentioned by name in  
our family rosary.

Won't you write to me soon darling? Just a wee note to  
say how you are and where you are. Do not worry for me.  
I am, thank God feeling fit & well but always with an ache  
in my heart to hear from you but more especially to see  
you and tell you for the first time that "I love you and  
always shall"

God bless you and Mary, on thro her  
feast give you all the help you need Your loving Eileen.