

Agnes Josephine O'Bryan (Sister Michelle)

Hannah Magdalene Sloan, a grand daughter of Peter Carrucan, was born in Clunes on 13th April 1889. She managed the family haberdashery shop until she married Michael O'Bryan who had been a geologist in Bendigo and mine manager in Tasmania. After they married, Hannah ran a grocery store in Middle Park. They subsequently had 3 children

Mary Veronica (Molly) (1911-2001)

Agnes Josephine (Bonnie) (1915-2007)

Kevin Joseph (1919-1987)

Of these three children, the two girls would become Catholic sisters.

Agnes Josephine, Bonnie to the family, also went to school at The Academy. After finishing school, she became an accountant and worked in the Office at "Young and Jacksons" (a well known hotel in the heart of Melbourne) with 33 men and one lady (the cook). She was friendly with the boss, even going to dances with him.

But Bonnie decided to enter the Mercy Sisters after her 21st birthday on the 19th March 1936. She trained as a teacher at Ascot Vale and taught in Mercy secondary schools for 60 years as Sr. Michael. She changed her religious name to Sr. Michelle after the Second Vatican Council.



1977 – Sister Michelle

Sr. Michelle taught Maths, Accounting, French, Geography, History and anything else that was needed. She had 98 pupils in Intermediate when she first started at the Academy College. In Shepparton her concerts were famous as she taught music, piano and organ, Irish, Scottish and Tap dancing after school and on Saturdays. When she had recovered from a stroke/ heart turn, she was moved to Seymour to tame the students with her love and care. She never used the cane even when faced with a challenge. When Bookkeeping classes changed to Accountancy Michelle went to Canberra to blaze the trail with her favourite subject. Kilmore and Tasmania also had the pleasure of her expertise.

She retired from teaching in 1972 and went to Canberra as Burser and Secretary to the newly elected and amalgamated Head house. While there she did a thirty day retreat and several Spiritual/Scriptural Courses which prepared her for giving Home-Retreats when she returned to Nicholson St.

Sr. Michelle celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1997 and retired again to Rice Village retirement Village where her books were not far away. She died in 2007.



Sr Michelle, Monsignor Bernie O'Regan and Sr Veronica