

HEART OF THE MATER

A look at the life-saving difference YOU make!

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025

Mary's Incredible Courage. Your Incredible Kindness...

At just 31 years old, Mary was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. A devastating diagnosis followed by eight rounds of chemo and a mastectomy. But through it all, Mary has had one constant — your kindness, giving her exceptional care, and hope when she needed it most...

You never know what life's about to throw at you, do you? At 31, Mary was flying high — a newly qualified solicitor, engaged to the love of her life, and planning on buying a house back in Mayo where she was born.

But life had other plans...

A lingering chest pain led Mary to a routine X-ray at the Mater. "Within 24 hours, I got the call — they'd found a tumour. I was floored. There was no family history, I was young and healthy. It just didn't seem possible."

Mary was diagnosed with stage 3 triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC).



"You could be the bravest person in the world, but when you're sitting there in that chemo chair — that's when the realisation hits that you're 'really' sick."

– Mary –

Mary's rare and aggressive form of cancer doesn't respond to common treatments.

The cancer was moving quickly, and so too did her dedicated team at the Mater — eight rounds of

Continues, over ➔



On page 3: Nurse Roisin has a special message for you...

"It's my world, I'm going to enjoy it... cancer is just living in it" — Mary

Continued from cover...

IV chemotherapy, fertility preservation, a mastectomy and lymph node clearance surgery followed. Yet even with all that, Mary's cancer spread.

"That was my darkest point," says Mary. "After everything I'd been through, after all the chemo, to find out the cancer had come back... stage 4. **I had my funeral planned. I wrote my will. I was preparing for the worst.**"

But Mary is still here. Still fighting. Still living...

Today, at 32, Mary is on oral chemotherapy, which she calls her "eternal chemo." It will never cure her cancer, but for now, it's keeping it at bay. After 14

months, her tumour is holding steady at 4-5mm.

Mary speaks with deep gratitude about the incredible care your kindness provided at the Mater, the moments of profound relief in her most fragile moments —

"The nurses on the cancer ward, they're your experts, your cheerleaders, your comforters, your shoulder to cry on. And my oral chemo nurse, Karen, works my treatment around my life."

Living life, with your help...

The heartbreaking truth is, Mary doesn't know how long she has to live. But with your kindness in her corner, she's determined to do just that... *live*.



"I'm going to live my life. This year, I married the love of my life, Glenn. I've gone on holidays, made memories. I value every moment, and I use it the best I can."

Mary's journey has been touched in so many ways by your generosity.

Your kindness brings comfort, relief, and helps provide the exceptional care that is giving Mary and others living with incurable cancer, the gift of precious time.

That means more birthdays. More memories. More ordinary, beautiful days. And for Mary, it means more adventures and many more cuddles with her little dog, Alfie. For these gifts, she is endlessly grateful to you.

"This is my world. I'm going to enjoy it," she says, smiling. "Cancer is just living in it."



For being there for people like Mary through thick and thin, joy and sorrow, no matter what the future holds... Thank you ♥

Your Hospital, A History:

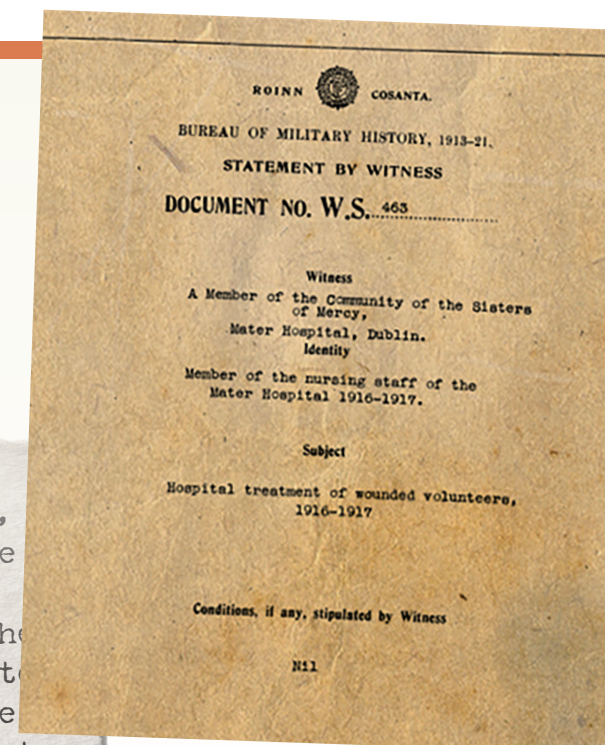
Candlelight, Compassion, and You...

It's Easter Weekend, 1916. Mater nurses, doctors, and surgeons are working around the clock to save and treat wounded soldiers. And once again, it was the good people of Ireland who rallied for The Mater and her patients...

This is an excerpt from the testimony of a Mater nurse working at the hospital in 1916.

Her name is unknown. But she gives her personal account of the dedication of her fellow Mater staff, determined to save as many lives as they could on that fateful week in 1916 —

"During easter week Mr Alexander Blaney, Surgeon, was on duty in the hospital. He never left it that whole week. He was operating day and night. There was neither gas nor electricity and he had to operate by the light of candles brought from the sacristy... we were instructed that patients with abdominal wounds should be brought straight to the theatre..."



The witness testimony of the unknown nurse was recorded in the Bureau of Military History

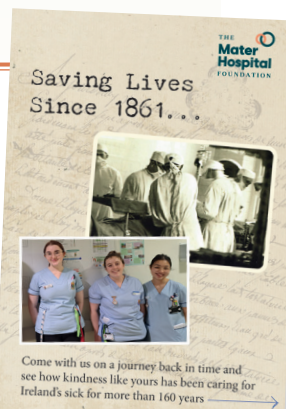
Countless soldiers and civilians alike were saved by the Mater that Easter weekend.

But when word spread that the Mater was running out of food, it was the good people of Ireland — *who faced hardships of their own* — who delivered bread, eggs, and other supplies to the Mater.

More than a century on, that very same spirit of kindness and giving lives on in you. Thank you for being the heart of our hospital, now and always.

Want to hear more about the history of your hospital?

Tick the 'YES' box on your reply form and we'll send you more about the history of your hospital and how you can consider a gift in your Will. **Thank you!**



Come with us on a journey back in time and see how kindness like yours has been caring for Ireland's sick for more than 160 years

A Heartfelt THANK YOU from Nurse Roisin...



Not too long ago, Nurse Roisin wrote to ask for your help to bring a much-needed ultrasound machine to the Mater's Emergency Department (ED)...

... and your kindness has delivered!

Thanks to you, the new ultrasound machine is fully-funded and will soon be up and running in the Mater's Emergency Department. For patients in pain, your kindness means diagnosis without delay, and treatment that same day.



"Your donations are so appreciated... having an ultrasound in the ED means that instead of patients — *who are often elderly* — having to wait days for a diagnosis, they'll get one within hours. Your kindness makes such a difference here, thank you!"

— Nurse Roisin —

Thank you for standing with our nurses every day!

Mater Nurses *Wish List*

If you've ever been cared for at the Mater, you've felt the kindness of our nurses yourself. Could you provide something large or small from our nurses' List of Wishes?



♥ Patient Dignity Packs – €50 (300 needed)

Some patients have no clean clothes or shoes to go home in. Your gift ensures every patient leaves the Mater with dignity and in comfort.

Supplies are low! Please help if you can...

♥ IV Drip Stands for Chemo Patients – €507 each (32 needed)

Long, exhausting hours of chemotherapy can make moving around difficult. These upgraded stands are safer and more stable, giving patients the freedom to walk and go to the bathroom while receiving treatment.

♥ Portable Heart Medication Pumps – €2,706 each (2 needed)

For patients whose hearts are failing, these pumps mean medicine can be administered in the comfort of their own home — meaning *dignity, relief, and less time in hospital!*

BIG WISH

Use the reply enclosed to donate, or go to materfoundation.ie/donate — Thank you!