

HEART OF THE MATER

A look at the life-saving difference YOU make!

AUTUMN 2025

How Your Kindness Gave Caoimhe Her Future Back...

At the start of the week, Caoimhe was finalising her wedding plans. By the end of it, she was fighting for her life. But your generosity puts the very best, life-saving tools and technology into the hands of our nurses and doctors. And as rare and deadly as her diagnosis was, your kindness was there with Caoimhe through thick and thin... thank you!

At 38 years old, Caoimhe had just started a new job and was only five weeks away from marrying her fiancé, Eoin. Put simply... she was too busy to be sick.

So even as exhaustion and breathlessness crept in, she kept pushing through. "I was sleeping all day. I couldn't walk from the bed to the sofa without gasping," she remembers.

Eventually, she knew she couldn't ignore her symptoms any longer, so she visited her GP, who told her in no uncertain terms —

"Get yourself to A&E, now."



"The Mater is such a special place... I don't think I could have had better care anywhere in the world."

— Caoimhe on her wedding day —

Things moved quickly once she arrived at the Mater. After multiple blood tests, two MRIs and a heart echo, the diagnosis came: 'Cardiac Amyloidosis' — an extremely rare

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On page 3: Our Cancer Nurses have a message for you...

For believing in the fundamental good of caring for people when they're sick... Thank you. ❤️

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and often deadly condition caused by a build-up of protein in your organs — it can even stop your heart from working properly. Caoimhe is the youngest patient we've ever diagnosed with the condition at the Mater.

"I had no idea how sick I was," Caoimhe says. "I don't remember anything about that night... my family was told I might not survive."

Caoimhe was admitted right away, and our specialists began planning her urgent care, including immediate chemotherapy to slow the disease's progression and manage the damage already done to her organs.

The road ahead wasn't an easy one. But thanks to you, she was in the safest hands, and she could feel it...

“

I'm so grateful to the Mater Hospital Foundation. From the echo machines used in my diagnosis to the chemo chairs I sat in for treatment... you made such a difference to my time in hospital — thank you!”

An 'In-Built' Kindness

Despite her serious diagnosis, Caoimhe says her prevailing feeling was one of safety — “I felt so safe at the Mater,” she says. “They moved heaven and earth to find out what was wrong with me. From the

doctors to the nurses, the porters to the catering staff, they have an in-built kindness... they couldn't do enough for me.”

Your love lives on every ward

It's your compassion and concern that makes the Mater what it is. And it's your generosity that blankets patients like Caoimhe in kindness through the most



frightening and fragile moments of their lives.

From vital diagnostic equipment, to chemo chairs, to the pull-out bed her fiancé, Eoin, slept on so he could stay by Caoimhe's side — all of this is only possible thanks to your kind support, and it all played a vital role in Caoimhe's long

road to recovery.

Although there is no cure for Caoimhe's condition, with regular checkups and continued care at the Mater, she's managing it.



Thanks to your generosity, Caoimhe has a future. And for the kindness you showed when she was fighting for her life, Caoimhe carries deep gratitude — for life, for love, for you.

Thank you!

Your Hospital, A History — Sister Catherine's Vision, 'A Hospital for All...'

In the 1800's Ireland is gripped by poverty and disease. Witnessing the suffering of people, Sister Catherine McAuley begins work on her dream for a hospital for the people. 164 years later, her vision lives on in every life you help save...

It's 1820, and the death rate in Dublin is the highest in all Europe.

If you were poor and you or your child became sick, your chances of survival were thin — it was as simple and brutal as that.

It was this injustice that Sr. Catherine McAuley made it her mission to change. Her vision was to open a hospital within walking distance of Dublin's tenement slums — "somewhere the sick and poor could go without having to know someone or pay money."



Sister Catherine and the Mater on the old £5 note...

Though she sadly didn't live long enough to see it open, the Mater threw open her doors in 1861 in accordance with Sr. Catherine's vision.

From the very beginning, the Mater has been powered by the extraordinary kindness

of the people of Ireland. And today, you continue that same spirit of generosity passed down through generations of caring hearts.

Thank you for keeping Sr. Catherine's vision alive, 164 years on. And for being the heart of our hospital, now and always.



Would you like to learn more about the history of your hospital and it's deep roots in the story of Ireland? Simply tick the 'YES' box on your reply form. Thank you!



Comfort, Care and 32 New Chemo Chairs!

Today, and every day, 60 people will come to the Mater for cancer-fighting chemo treatment. Now, thanks to your generosity, they'll be as comfy as they can be...

Not long ago, we asked for your help to replace our tired, worn-out, decade-old chemotherapy chairs.

And once again, *your caring heart answered...*

Thanks to your incredible compassion and consideration, **32 brand new and improved chemo chairs are now in use at the Mater.** Designed for comfort, they recline so patients can lie down, lift older patients to their feet, and provide comfort through treatment that can last between 4 — 10 hours!

From all of us here, and every patient who will sit in one of these chairs in the weeks, and years ahead...



Nurses Sandra & Martina, Cancer Ward

Helping to Heal Both Body and Mind

When you hear the words, “you have cancer,” — the impact reaches far beyond your body. Fear, anxiety, even depression can take hold. Because of you, cancer patients at the Mater get the psychological support to help them through...

“**Y**ou’re caring for the whole person,” says Sinead Lynch, Senior Psychologist. “It’s not just about treating the cancer — it’s about supporting everything else the patient is carrying. Their fears, their family, their identity.”

Led by compassionate professionals like Sinead, our Psycho-Oncology service — funded in part by kindness like yours — provides essential care to people living with cancer.

“

You think you’re going to be gone. I had my funeral planned. One of the best things the Mater did was refer me to Psycho-Oncology... it’s been so helpful.”

– Mary, Cancer patient

Every session... every caring word...

Your kindness helps cancer patients through their darkest moments with dignity, hope, and courage. Thank you!



To watch Sinead talk about Psycho-Oncology and the exceptional care you help provide to every patient here at the Mater, scan this code with your phone >>

