

HEART OF THE MATER

A look at the life-saving difference YOU make!

THE
**Mater
Hospital**
FOUNDATION

MAY 2026

“My Heart Stopped... I died for four minutes.”



One moment, Noel was out running with his club. The next, he was fighting for every heartbeat. Your life can change in the blink of an eye. But thanks to your kindness, and the expert care he received here at the Mater, Noel's heart beats on...

There's no such thing as a 'good time' to go into cardiac arrest. But as Noel says, "I couldn't really have picked a better time for it."

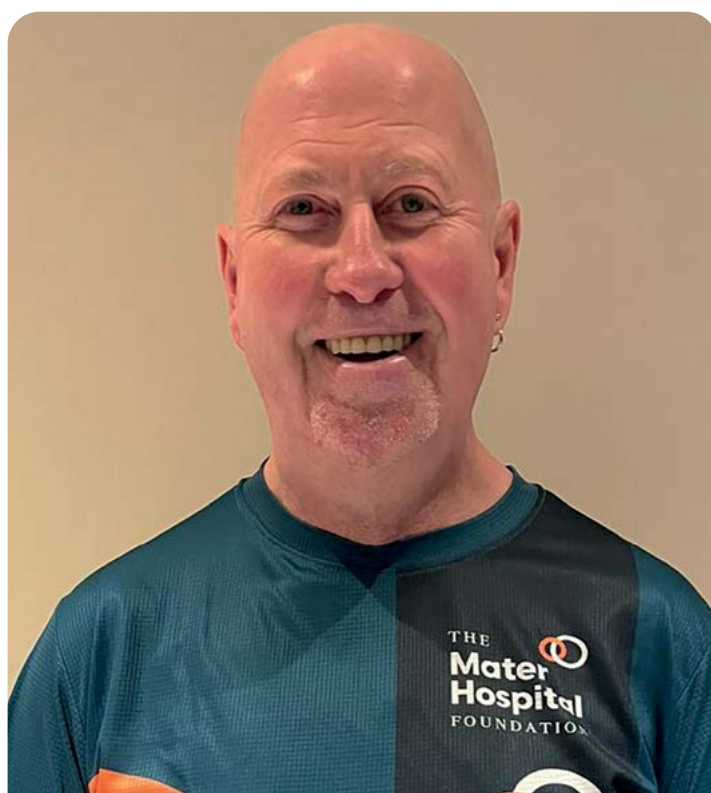
Because by pure luck, Noel was out with his running club in the company of a doctor and a nurse. And when he collapsed, he was within 50 metres of a defibrillator. Together, these heroes managed to restart Noel's heart for the first time.

But in the back of the ambulance, Noel's heart stopped again. "My heart stopped. I was actually dead. I died for four minutes."

A ticking time-bomb

At the Mater, doctors discovered that despite his healthy, active lifestyle, four of Noel's arteries were severely blocked.

Not long after, surgeons performed



Noel had no idea he was living with a genetic heart condition. Now, he and his girls are protected thanks to your kindness. Thank you!

quadruple heart bypass surgery to save his life. "I remember the cardiologist saying to me

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Inside this issue:
5,000 hearts and counting.
How you're saving lives at 'Heart House'...

For every heart protected. Every tragedy prevented... Thank you! ❤️

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afterwards — ‘we don’t know how you’re still alive,’ says Noel.

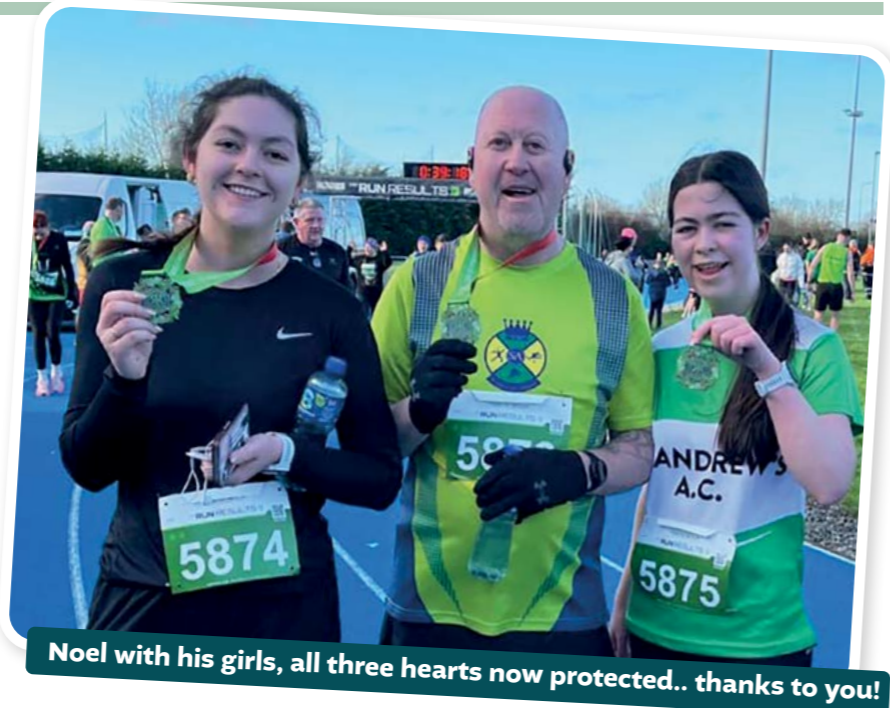
After tests, doctors discovered Noel had been living with a hereditary heart condition. Noel’s grandfather died young of a heart attack. Now he understood why.

Protecting hearts. Saving lives...

Step by step, with the help of the care and comfort your generosity provides, Noel began to recover from surgery and rebuild his strength.

But your life-saving kindness and care didn’t end there...

Because Noel’s condition is genetic, his two daughters were tested at the Mater’s Family Heart Screening Clinic (see page 3 for more). Noel says it’s a huge relief to know that he and his girls are now under the protection of ‘Heart House’.



Noel with his girls, all three hearts now protected.. thanks to you!

“There are times you go outside for a walk and see a wee bird and think ‘God, that’s amazing,’ and you’re so grateful to be alive. I’ve you to thank for that...”

‘Grateful to be alive’

Noel will never forget how close he came to ‘dying young’. And he’s filled with gratitude to everyone who helped him on his recovery journey — every surgeon, doctor, nurse, his Cardiac rehab team, and last but not least... **you**.

For protecting hearts, saving lives, and giving families like Noel many more precious years together... Thank you!

“When you save someone’s life, you don’t just save one life...” — Dr Joe Galvin



5,000 Hearts Protected, Thanks to You...

In 2007, your kindness helped set up Ireland’s first Family Heart Screening Clinic. Since then, 5,000 families have been screened and countless lives saved...

As a young cardiologist, Dr Joe Galvin began to notice more young people, some still in their teens, dying suddenly from cardiac arrest.

And behind many of these tragedies — genetic heart conditions, silently passed through families, causing heartbreak across generations.

“I wanted to set up a clinic to screen for these inherited conditions and prevent more young lives being lost, but I couldn’t get the funding,” he says. So he turned to the Mater Hospital Foundation,

and with your help, Ireland’s first Family Heart Screening Clinic was born. At Heart House, your kindness is helping:



- ♥ Detect hidden, genetic heart conditions...
- ♥ Give families answers after a sudden, devastating loss...
- ♥ Protect brothers, sisters, parents — and children...
- ♥ Prevent tragedies **before** they happen...

And as Dr Joe says, your kindness is life-saving — “When one person is diagnosed with a hereditary heart condition... It means an entire family is protected. Countless lives saved.”

Thank you!

Two More Grateful Hearts Still Beating, Because of You...

For every heart still beating, still loving, and still grateful for a second chance to keep living... Thank you!



Ray

“You’ve a hell of a heart murmur there, Ray...”

... that’s what Ray’s GP told him. Not long after, he discovered he had a congenital heart condition. Open heart surgery followed. “The Mater saved my life,” says Ray. Thank you for protecting hearts like his.



Martin

“I looked at the clock at 1:15. At 1:17... my heart stopped.”

After experiencing chest pains, Martin went to A&E. Within minutes, he went into cardiac arrest. Doctors acted fast — inserting a stent to restore blood flow to his heart. In his gratitude, Martin is running our 100-mile challenge to raise funds for the cardiac unit that saved his life. Thank you for every moment of life-saving care!

“You keep us safe... thank you!”

At just 13 years old, Alma's son Ben passed away suddenly. She discovered he'd been living with a rare, hidden heart condition. Worse still, Alma and her younger son Alfie are also carriers. This is how your amazing support keeps them safe...



When her son Ben died without warning, Alma was left searching for answers — *How on earth could this happen?*

And it was the Mater's Family Heart Screening Clinic that gave Alma the answers...

Our doctors discovered that Ben had a rare inherited heart condition, CPVT. Screening revealed Alma and her son Alfie have it too. And they've been under the expert care of the Heart House team for the last decade — **monitored, supported, and protected thanks to you.**

Nothing can bring Ben back. But Alma is grateful beyond words for the protection your kindness gives. Thank you!

“The Family Heart Screening Clinic is incredible,” Alma says. “I don't know what we'd do without them”

“**I can't put into words what your kindness means. You keep us safe... Thank you!**”

At 6'7", Alfie, now 18, towers over his Mam. But he's still Alma's baby, and she has more reason to worry than most —

“I'm nervous about sending him out into the world,” she says. “But I know, with the care we get from Heart House... he's safe. **Thank you.**” ❤️

Could you help young heart patients like Alfie stay safe?

So many young patients we meet don't fully understand their condition — or how to explain it to others. *And in an emergency, that can put them in grave danger...*

Will you give today and help create the Heart Passport — to protect young heart patients in a life-threatening emergency?

You can give young heart patients simple tools to understand their condition, communicate it clearly, and get the right care when it matters most.

Enclosed is a reply form and Freepost return envelope. Thank you!

