

HEART OF THE MATER

A closer look at the lifesaving difference **YOU** make!

THE
Mater
Hospital
FOUNDATION

AUTUMN 2026

You are an essential *backbone* of support.



*Your loving care is giving
Anne many small kindnesses.*

Three spinal surgeries in just two months. That's what the ever-positive Anne endured, after she was diagnosed with spinal scoliosis about three years ago. In the blink of an eye, **Anne went from being an independent working woman, to someone who today spends a huge amount of energy learning to navigate life in a wheelchair.**

Your kind-hearted support is lifting Anne up. Thank you for giving her the comfort and dignity she needs to stay positive during gruelling occupational therapy – to regain enough independence to live at home again.

Anne's first surgery had gone well, and she headed home for recovery. But a small fall at home **dislodged a rod and a bolt in her spine** and she lost sensation and function in her legs.

Within a few days, she was at the Mater, having emergency corrective surgery.



"I wouldn't have come anywhere else. There's nowhere else to go. There really wasn't. This is the place for spinal surgery."

- Anne -

Read on to see how you helped Anne...



On page 4:
a special 135 year
nurse-iversary message for you!

"I was never so relieved to be coming back to the Mater ... I couldn't speak highly enough." — Anne

Continued from cover...

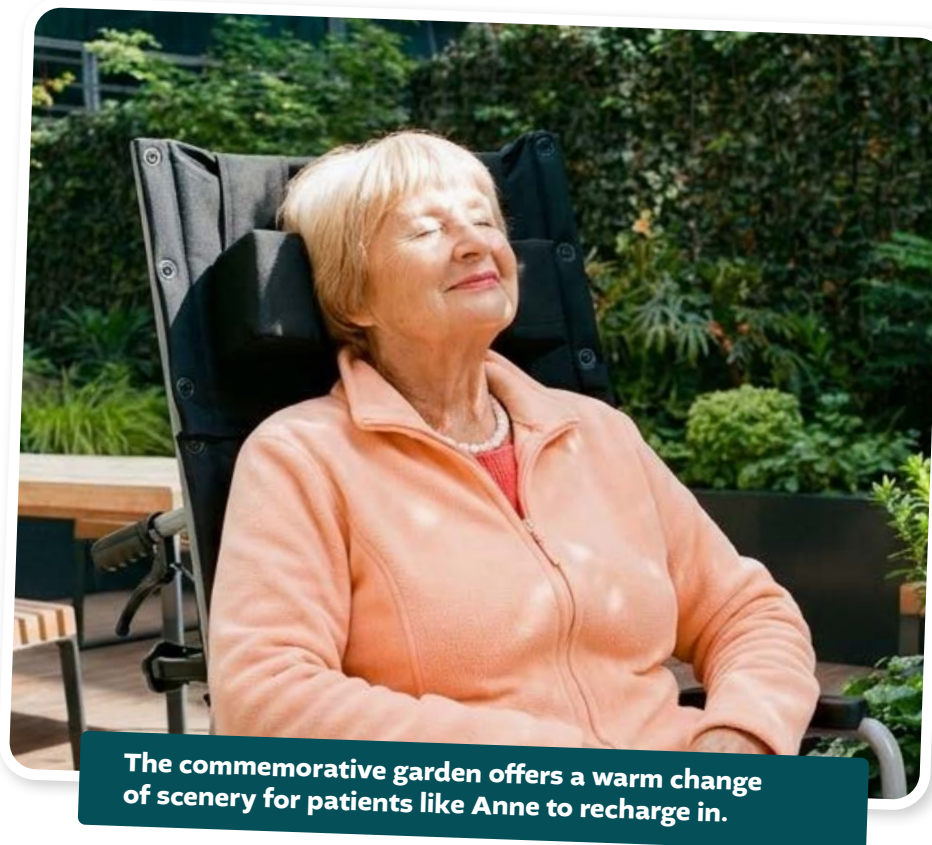
Now, Anne is spending her time in St. Agnes Ward, working with our compassionate spinal support team, learning how to manage a wheelchair and move herself about.

Anne dearly enjoys wheeling herself to the Commemorative Garden to enjoy some warm sun on her shoulders and a tasty bit of ice cream with her sister.

She is beyond grateful for the extra comfort of **special gloves that protect her hands** while wheeling – and special cushions to prevent sores from growing.

You give these little kindnesses – along with a big dose of hope – to Anne as she works so hard to get stronger and more independent every day.

Thank you for giving spinal patients extra comfort and dignity during some of their most painful and traumatic moments.



The commemorative garden offers a warm change of scenery for patients like Anne to recharge in.

Give Dignity and Hope

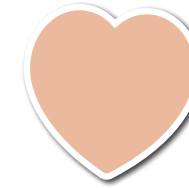
The Mater is a public hospital in the north inner city serving many marginalized communities in the area. **More than 1 in 10 people coming in our Emergency Department are homeless.** With your compassion and kind-hearted support, we can provide equality of care to everyone who comes through our doors.

Give a Dignity Kit for €50

Some patients arrive at the Mater with nothing but the clothes they arrived in. Many also have no family or friends who can bring in basic care essentials. You can help provide dignity and hope in the form of a kit packed with essentials like clean clothes and toiletries.



Your Loving Support in Action



How you're giving spinal patients the comfort and dignity they deserve.

Amber Murray is the Occupational Therapist at our National Spinal Injuries Unit. She shares a bit about these items **you recently helped purchase:**



RAZ tilt in space shower chair

"This chair means so much to patients who can't sit up on their own. Being able to sit up can feel less traumatising than lying down – and a bit more normal."



Wheelchair gloves and cushions

"Can you imagine how cold the wheel rims get in the winter? The gloves help to protect sensitive hands – and provide some extra padding too. The cushions are absolutely essential to prevent painful sores from forming."



Gooseneck phone holder stand

"You know how the young ones depend on their phones. It's heartwarming to see their smiles when they can connect with family and friends on video calls without having someone hold the phone for them."



Thank you!

Commemorative Garden

Many patients and family members, including Anne and her sister, love spending some quiet time in the Mater's Commemorative Garden. Created to honour those who lost their lives during Covid – it was funded in part thanks to your compassionate commitment and support of the Foundation.



"It's a little oasis in the middle of the city. It's unique. And it's wonderful."

- Anne

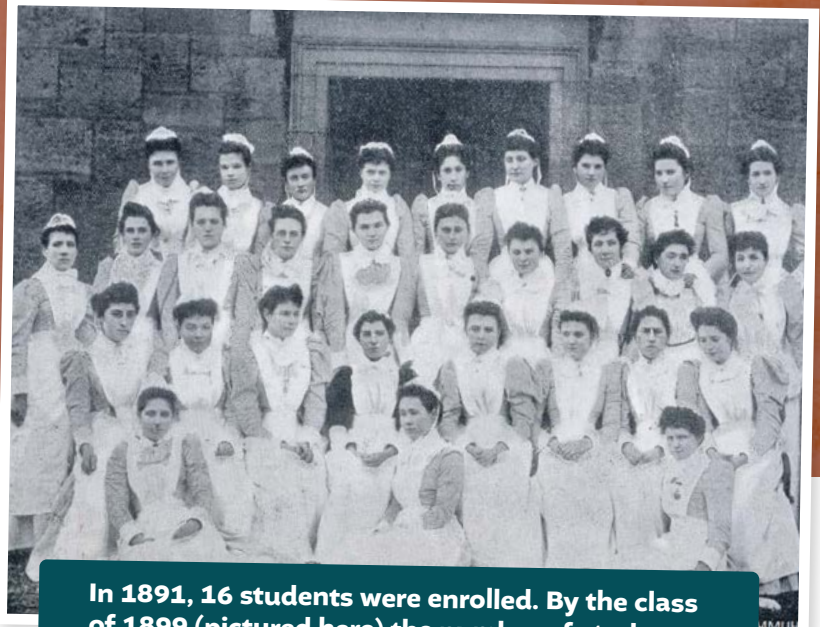


Mater School of Nursing Celebrates 135 years

A long tradition of training highly skilled nurses who care deeply about patients

While we're not sure the exact date the Mater School of Nursing was first founded, we do know the **first intake of students was 23rd November 1891**, almost 135 years ago!

Sixteen prospective nurses aged 19 to 32 years came to attend from across Ireland. Ten women



In 1891, 16 students were enrolled. By the class of 1899 (pictured here) the number of students had doubled!

finished the three-year course and went on to responsible positions as qualified nurses, with three of them going on to become matrons.

Today, approximately 360 nursing students train at the Mater each year.

Remembering Matt Davis:

Proud member of The Dickie Dip community.

Matt was diagnosed with stage 4 prostate cancer at the age of 45. (Most men don't consider getting tested until they are 50+.) Matt passed in April this year, but the vital treatment and support he received at the Mater allowed him to **spend five more precious years** with his wife and three boys.

Every year, Matt dipped in the cold Irish sea surrounded by his brothers in arms to raise

essential funds for the Mater. It was a moving testament to the strength of friendship and support that surrounds this event.

"The way I see it, if one person goes to get themselves checked after seeing us charge into the November sea in just a dickie bow, that could be a life saved – and that makes it all worthwhile."
- Matt



Thanks to all of you who participate, or support our Dippers. *This year's Dickie Dip will take place on November 7.* ❤️