

FMDM Early beginnings in IRELAND

Ballinasloe, co. Galway Ireland

Portiuncula Hospital

Portiuncula is one of the best-known acute general and maternity hospitals in the west of Ireland. In the early years, it was one of the few remaining voluntary hospitals left in Ireland, being owned by the FMDM sisters but funded by the Irish government.

Portiuncula Hospital started in 1942 as a small nursing home in two adjoining private houses. Building of the present Portiuncula hospital began soon afterwards and it opened in 1945 with 36 beds, acute general and maternity hospital serving both the public and private sector.

Portiuncula Hospital

Official Opening - 9th April 1945



Two Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood, Mother Margaret Keenan and Sister Bernard Rudden, opened a small nursing home in Mount Pleasant, Ballinasloe in February 1943.

Mount Pleasant 1943



In 1945 Bishop Dignan introduced the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood to Ballinasloe, where they built Portiuncula Hospital, which has been enlarged many times since and is now a general hospital under the Western Health Board.

Bishop Dignan, a dedicated social reformer then donated a gift of a site of land in Brackernagh to the Sisters and in October of the same year the foundation stone was laid for the building now known as Portiuncula Hospital. When the Hospital opened just before the end of the war in February 1945, the first patients were transferred from Mt. Pleasant by means of a baker's van, and the equipment followed on the greengrocer's horse and cart.

Further extension of the hospital took place in the 1950s and in 1956 its first nursing students, all FMDM sisters, graduated with a 100% pass rate. Portiuncula was championed by the late Sean McBride who acted as Chairman and served on the Hospital Management Committee until his death in 1988.

PORTIUNCULA HOSPITAL



Over the years there have been numerous and extensive developments throughout the Hospital. This includes the development of the Medical Services Block in the early 80's. In 2001 a new Theatre Suite, Intensive Care/Coronary Care Unit, Minor-Operations Room and Endoscopy Suite opened.

The Emergency Department was opened in 2008.

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS – BEAUFORT KILLARNEY



The home for severely mentally handicapped children is built on the farm of the late Denis and Mary Doyle of Whitefield by the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood.



On 26 October 1966, Bishop Moynihan laid the foundation stone for the Home named St. Mary of the Angels, for the Diocese of Kerry.

In 2005, due to lack of sufficient FMDM Sisters, the Home was handed over to the John of God Brothers.

FMDM Sisters

Bridie McMahon, Colmcille Sheils, Patrick Harte, Philip Kelly, Maura Birmingham, Maria Kett, Vera O'Neil.