Sr Barbara May csb died peacefully on September 22 at Cabrini Hospital, Malvern. Sr Barbara was in her 56th year of religious profession after joining the Sisters of St Brigid in 1960. She trained at Kildara College in Malvern, then spent five years teaching in Melbourne before moving to Kildare College in Traralgon. After Traralgon, Sr Barbara moved to Adelaide where she stayed for thirteen years. Following on from Adelaide, Sr Barbara arrived in Maryborough around twenty-six years ago. She taught at Highview College before being appointed as a Pastoral Associate to St Augustine's Parish, Maryborough.

Sr Barbara, whose caring and compassionate nature endeared her to all, was wholly dedicated to her life as a Brigidine. Her involvement in education across Victoria and South Australia showed this dedication as did Sr Barbara's work in pastoral and community ministry.

Sr Barbara will be greatly missed by her family, her Brigidine Sisters and in Maryborough. Her funeral was held in Maryborough on Tuesday, September 27 at St Augustine's Catholic Church.

e-News recently published a story on Sr Barbara's retirement from Maryborough, you can read this below for more insight into this particular time of Sr Barbara's life:

An era has come to a close as Sr Barbara May csb has officially retired from St Augustine's Parish Maryborough due to health reasons.

Being involved in many community events and charities, Sr Barbara first came to town in 1993 as a teacher, but quickly found herself working as a Pastoral Associate in the St Augustine Parish. The well-known identity was a tireless worker for the parish, organising children to receive the Sacraments including baptisms, as well as arranging weddings and funerals.

Sr Barbara's work wasn't just limited to the church as she was also involved in the community, having served as patron for Relay for Life as well as being a member of Maryborough Probus Club, Maryborough Cemetery Trust, St Vincent de Paul, The Coffee Group, as well as many others, which led her to be awarded Central Goldfields Shire Citizen of the Year in 2014. At the time Sr Barbara said, "I was really delighted to get it," she says of the Australia Day award. "I was very humbled. I didn't expect to come up on the stage because I knew there had been other people who had been nominated." With her involvement in a number of groups in Maryborough and surrounds, Sr Barbara said the award was also for them. "That's part of the award, for all the different groups I have worked in."

Sr Barbara's bright outgoing personality, together with her variety of interests allowed her to work successfully with people of all ages and with individuals, families and groups. She is both a good listener and communicator and was always there to help. As a selfless person, she was very generous with her time and always put other people's needs before her own. Sr Barbara's interests took her to various communities in the shire outside Maryborough — Dunolly, Bealiba, Carisbrook and Talbot — and to surrounding communities in Avoca, Tarnagulla, Moonambel, Redbank and Amphitheatre. Her astute understanding of people's needs helped her to relate well to others in a wide variety of situations, while her local knowledge assisted her to source support for those in need.

In her time with the parish, Sr Barbara who is now receiving care in the Brigidine Community in Malvern, lent support to many priests over the years. When the priests were unavailable, Sr Barbara would always take over their duties with capability and enthusiasm along with her unique sense of humour.

In the past, she has been a great support to families in times of personal tragedy, to members of the church as well as the community. Her strong sense of social justice saw her championing those most vulnerable in the wider community.

On Saturday, July 26, the St Augustine's parish and the wider community farewelled Sr Barbara with a Thanksgiving Mass, which was followed by a well-attended feast.

Article courtesy of the Maryborough District Advertiser