

## **Venerable Mary Potter 1847-1913**

### **Our Saint in waiting**

As of 7 February 2021, there have been 112,660 people die from Covid19 in the UK since last March. Many of these people have died alone in hospitals without the comfort of their loved ones. Some of them will no doubt be our own relatives or friends. Many will have died much sooner than they expected to, will have suffered greatly or will have been unable to have the time with family that they had hoped and expected to enjoy. What is so unusual about this pandemic is that it has touched everyone in some way either through loss and bereavement or from the fear of a disease that has ravaged the nation and indeed the whole world. Never has the work and charism of Mother Mary Potter with her care for the sick and the dying been so important as in our current time.

In 1877, the 29-year-old Mary Potter rented and lived in a derelict stocking factory in Hyson Green, Nottingham which became known as the Little Company of Mary. She faced much opposition from her family, her spiritual director as well as the local Bishop who eventually recognised and acknowledged her work.

Mother Mary herself had a strong empathy for the sick and the dying as she herself suffered from a congenital heart and lung disease which left her with frail health and later she developed cancer. Mother Potter ensured that all her Sisters were trained in nursing care and through compassion, care and prayerful presence, they became pioneers in care for the sick, with a specialism in palliative care. The work of Little Company of Mary has now spread to five continents.

Pope Leo XIII signed the Decree approving the Little Company of Mary and the Mother House was transferred to Rome where Mary Potter died in 1913. On 8<sup>th</sup> February 1988, Mary was declared Venerable by Saint John Paul II, the first of three steps towards Sainthood. On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1997, her remains were transferred to Nottingham to St Barnabas Cathedral and her cause for Canonisation is continuing.

Watch a short film about Mary Potter here:

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-derbyshire-22083321/nuns-gather-in-nottingham-to-honour-order-s-founder-mary-potter](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-derbyshire-22083321/nuns-gather-in-nottingham-to-honour-order-s-founder-mary-potter)

Learn more about Venerable Mary Potter and the Little Company of Mary here:

[www.lcmsisters.org.uk](http://www.lcmsisters.org.uk)

St Barnabas Cathedral:

[www.stbarnabascathedral.org.uk](http://www.stbarnabascathedral.org.uk)