



Philomena Connell

September 9, 1937 - April 28, 2026

Philomena Connell, 88, of River Edge, passed away peacefully at home on April 28, 2026. She was the beloved wife of Matt for 63 years. Loving mother of Julie Connell (Evan) and Colette Murray (Brian). Cherished grandmother (nana) of Sean Murray who she adored.

A native of Newtownforbes, County Longford, Ireland, she was the youngest of 8 children. Philomena moved to NYC in 1960 and worked in retail at Rockefeller Center. She and Matt met in NYC, married in 1962 and moved to their home in River Edge in 1970. Philomena had a deep faith. She was very active in many ministries at St Peter the Apostle and volunteered with Starfish and other organizations. She was a fan of the NY Yankees and would change the channel when they were losing or not winning by enough! She loved Irish music and dancing and danced for many years at the Bergen Irish hall. Philomena and Matt enjoyed many winters as snow birds in Largo, Florida and enjoyed spending time in Spring Lake.

Philomena is predeceased by her sisters Maggie, Tessie and Bridget and her brothers Michael Joe, Jimmy and Christy. Philomena is survived by her sister Julia and brother in law Mike Quinn. Julia and Philomena emigrated to the US and along with Matt and Mike, the four of them enjoyed great times together.

Philomena is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews in the US,

Ireland, England and Australia. Philomena and Matt made many trips to Ireland and technology allowed them all to stay connected in their later years. She was a kind and loving woman who will be missed by all who knew her.

Friends and family are invited to her visitation this Friday from 4-8PM at Volk Leber Funeral Home, 268 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, NJ. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday at 11AM at St. Peter the Apostle RCC, River Edge, NJ. Interment to follow at George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, NJ. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Peter the Apostle Church in her memory or to a charity of your choice.

<https://boxcast.tv/view/philomena-connell-funeral-mass-mhofm6ycqbnegoad7x8f>

Cemetery Details

George Washington Memorial Park

234 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 1. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
268 Kinderkamack Road
Oradell, NJ 07649
info@volkleber.com
<http://volkleberfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter the Apostle
445 5th Avenue
River Edge, NJ 07661

Tribute Wall

AS

“ Sincere condolences to Matt, Julie & Colette and extended family. We were blessed to have Philomena in our lives. She was a very special aunt, always so kind and gracious. I will always remember her for her kindness to me when I first went to NY. When I was feeling homesick, she would always say the right thing so I would feel better. On my weekend visits she would always have a welcoming smile. I know her sisters and brothers will welcome her with open arms in heaven as will the Connell family.

Her feet now rest, her dance complete, yet in your hearts she will keep the beat. With every reel and gentle sway, Philomena's memory will be with you every day. May she rest in peace.

Anne (Sharkey)

Anne Sharkey - May 13 at 11:52 AM

ER

“ Deepest sympathy to Matt, Julie and Colette on the sad loss of Philomena. A beautiful lady inside and out who inspired me many times during my life. It was always a pleasure to be in her quiet, calm presence when she came on family visits to Ireland throughout our childhood years and again when we went on visits to New Jersey. May your gentle soul rest in peace dear Philomena. Evelyn (niece)

Evelyn Redmond - May 08 at 10:52 AM

JE

“ Dearest Matt, Julie and Collette,
Sincere sympathy to you all on the sad loss of Philomena. She was a very warm-hearted, kind, caring Aunt with such a great sense of humour. As kids in Ireland we always looked forward to the visit from our relatives coming from America. Philomena loved the fact that we did Irish dancing in our family. She would love if we put our costumes on so she could take a photograph. As we grew older we grew our wings and started visiting the USA ourselves, which always included a visit with Matt, Philomena, Julie and Collette. Philomena loved to chat and hear all our news and our children were made to feel welcome as well. It always felt like home to home. Those fond memories will be treasured forever. We will keep you in our hearts, Philomena. May you rest in peace.
- Jean (niece)

Jean - May 04 at 02:20 PM

SM

“ Philomena was a small powerhouse in a quiet way. Leo and I extend our sincere and deep sympathy to her family. We have fond memories of living on Adams Ave, River Edge. The day we moved to CO, Philomena and Matt came across the street to wish us well. Told us to see Ireland as they knew it, meant to go ASAP. It was changing. Such memories she has left us.

Sandra McGarry - May 02 at 03:17 PM

FR

“ My deepest condolences to Matt, Julie, and Collette. I have such fond memories of Philomena growing up and into my adulthood visiting in NYC at Oldcastle, especially on Paddy's Day. She was a dear woman with a deep faith, a glowing smile, and a soft tone of peace that warmed the company she joined and every room she walked into. She will be missed.

Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers. Sending my love and gratitude for her kindness today and always. Bless you all.

Fiona Rooney

Fiona Rooney - May 01 at 10:40 AM

SH

“ To Matt, Julie and Colette, my deepest sympathy on the loss of Philomena, an absolute lady.

I remember fondly her smile and laugh, her kindness and generosity.

She made me feel so welcome in your home and I have lovely memories of my time in River Edge.

Of course Philomena was not the only person to welcome us, she had told the priest and community of our arrival!

She was like a Mother Hen. When we went to the shore with herself and Matt she produced sun block for me - I was not going home to my mother with sunburn - I was 21!

Surrounding the three of you with light at this very difficult time.

Sinead (Horgan)

Sinead Horgan - April 30 at 01:12 PM

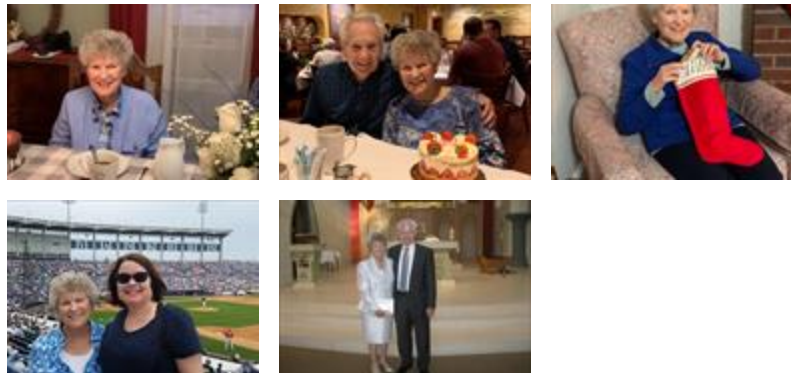
ER

“ Matt , Julie and Colette , I am so sorry to learn about the passing of Philomena. She was an absolute lady. She was such a loving , kind , caring and religious lady. I am soo sorry I can not be with you this weekend . But I will go to church on Saturday morning and light a candle for Philomena. I will be thinking of you all on this very sad occasion. God Bless you all. Eugene , Marion , Shaunna and Fiona.
🙏🙏🙏🙏

Eugene Rooney - April 30 at 10:50 AM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Volk Leber Funeral Home - April 30 at 10:02 AM

AR

“ Treasured Memories of a dear friend who was always a lady I remember your kindness and warmth whenever I met you whether it was in New Jersey Spring Lake or Florida They were always great times with yourself and Matt It was a pleasure to know you and. Until we meet again May God hold you in the palm of his hand Sincere Condolences to Matt Julie and Colette and to your dear Sister Julia

Angela Reilly - April 29 at 02:17 PM

PF

Philomena Connell a beautiful person inside and out .. Always a smile and a kind word word could boost your confidence in a second, Defined by her strong unshakable faith in God and man !! I will miss you and safe journey home .

Pete Fitzpatrick

Peter Fitzpatrick - April 29 at 05:47 PM

AM

Dear Matt, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your beloved Philomena. You were the loveliest of couples together. We always enjoyed the get-togethers in Florida where Philomena was a delight; always smiling and loved the Irish dances and the chatting.

So now Godspeed Philomena, may you sleep with the angels.

God comfort you Matt and your family.

Marie Austin

Austin, Marie - April 30 at 04:05 PM

AS

I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Philomena ! She was a lovely person and I always loved talking to her especially when I worked elections with her many many years ago . May she rest in eternal peace.

Andrea Schicj - May 03 at 02:39 PM