

Down Memory Lane.. at St John's Ivy St

Eileen Gaskell's story (now Bailey)

I transferred to St John's from St Mary's in 1945.

The first class I went into was Mrs Joan Thornton's, which is now the library.

The second class was on the top floor near the stage with Sr Mary Benignus, who moved with us in my third year at St John's. She was strict but fair.

In my final year we moved downstairs which is now the hall. There were 2 classes down there. Sr Mary Peter's and the one I was in Mr Arthur Mercer's. We always thought we had 2 teachers as Mr Mercer was at the front of the class and the head teacher Sr Mary Ignatius had her desk at the back of the class.

Some people thought she was too strict but the poorest children were always looked after by her.

I can still remember when I was May Queen (May 1945) and my dad was getting me ready, as my mum had died when I was 7. He told her I was ready but she begged him to let her help and tears were running down her face. So she was a big softy at heart.

My years at St John's were very happy.

My granddaughters are the fourth generation of my family to attend this wonderful school.