

9. Holman's,

Omagh

"Frank's Birthday.

My precious darling,

More than any

other day I have been with you every moment of to-day. It commenced with mass and Holy Communion in Omagh church at 8 a.m. Your mass was offered by Fr. McKenna of Cappagh at 9 a.m. I prayed so very very hard for my darling this day—I asked God not to let him change me and to make me more worthy of his great love. Before every class from 9.20 until 3.30 we offered our prayers for you and now the 4<sup>th</sup> has passed for another year. It has found us inseparably united. Thank God and His Blessed mother for this.

You cannot know of all the presents I wanted to give you this day. My inquiries on all sides met with no success. I did not want just anything. Only the very best must be given to my Frank. When war time restrictions are over

you will see what I mean. Have you commenced reading "The Robe"? I did not find time to write on it but I will. I must also write my letter of thanksgiving to the Mother of Perpetual Succour, so that it will be in Blonard before Thursday - the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of our Novena. Let us not make any real decisions until the Novena ends.

I know it was selfish of me to say I wanted to live alone with your darling. On thinking it over, perhaps God wants this sacrifice of us for all that He has given already to us. Should this be so we shall accept and make the best of it. Were you the father, I would like your Son to open wide his arms & welcome you into his home. Again we must always do the right thing whether it hurts or not.

Do not worry about me in planning where we live. What will help you most & help us find our feet is just what I want. My happiness is centred in you darling. I could be happy anywhere with you.

On passing under a ladder en route  
to school one afternoon lately the man  
aloft shouted good-humoredly "you'll  
only be married once, Miss" just as if  
I should ever contemplate marrying  
anyone else! They would give me nausea.

Hubert Ray - a dashing young  
captain - has just arrived on leave from  
Austria. The house is all excitement with  
the happiness of reunion. It makes me  
think of ours and all the happiness  
I have known since then. Thank you  
darling for it all. It is only you -  
of all the world - can make me feel  
so deliciously content & happy.

Gersey Lavanagh lunched with us  
in the midville to-day. He says we both  
saluted him in St. Man's Hall on Sunday  
last. I told him I didn't even remember. He  
says you were looking wonderfully well  
and he was right. Wasn't that the most  
marvellous concert we listened to? The  
years I sat there dreaming of the day  
when you would be at my side. Do you  
know it took a lot of will power to  
prevent me throwing my arms around you

and kissing you on Sunday night  
in the publicity of St. Mary's Hall.

Am I not a very bold hussy?

We scolded Gertrude about bungling  
the date of the dance (Newman). I long to  
go to that dance with you. We must go to  
some dance during the Christmas  
festivities - otherwise you will have no  
opportunity of seeing me in my black  
evening frock & it's a very pretty one.  
I know you will be coaxed to turn  
out to the Newman dance. Go darling if  
you want to and I'll make believe that  
I am dancing wacky dance with you.

Remind me to sing some selections  
from "Show Boat" during our High Town  
walk next Sunday "Only make Believe"  
& "Why do I love you" At one time I  
sang those songs over & over again. Now  
they are a reality and no longer  
"make Believe".

To-night at 8 I shall hold your  
hand very firmly in that Dentist chair  
To-morrow at 5 minutes past 6 I will  
be at the Melville to receive your  
phone call. We must be sensible and

take advantage of the cheaper rates.  
We have so much to do with our money  
go? So you had a date yesterday with

what was the date may I ask?  
I like the way you let me read Auntie  
Meg's letters! You have secured a very  
favoured niche in all their hearts  
darling. I am so proud, so very proud  
of you. Kathleen McLaughlin said on  
Sunday night after you had gone "She is  
a darling, Eileen and you are a  
lucky girl." How well I know this.

Did you enjoy your visit to  
Portaferry — and how is "your  
beautiful Violet?" I am very jealous of  
her, really!

To-morrow night I am going with  
Aileen to play solo in Smyths. They  
joined me at Lurgan on Monday morning  
but I slept soundly (rudely enough)  
from Dungannon to Omagh. Aileen is now  
sharing my bedroom (to give the returned  
Hubert a room) She says she envied me  
last night I slept so soundly.

To give my love to Father and Anne  
Perhaps Anne would like to go to the  
newman dance. Ask her. All my love goes  
with this letter. Forever your own Eileen.