



HOPE ENDURES

In times of challenges and misunderstanding, my mother would counsel, 'Do not forget, dear. You are a COYLE!' How little did I know then the importance of this knowledge. It was when exploring the family tree, that I discovered our family motto was one single word HOPE!

For me, HOPE was with me in the ups and downs of daily living that often left me depleted. I would take refuge in the chapel and again, I would hear in the silence, the words, 'Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. Trust in Me.....' I would sit with these words, feeling the deep personal message. I would leave restored

Now old age has overtaken me. This is a time of diminishing abilities. My reliance on self has disappeared, the senses often play me false. My limbs no longer obey my wishes.

When I was young, I had many easy made answers to life's questions. Now there are so many 'I don't know' responses. I am learning to live with Mystery.

Sometimes the personal God of younger years is less tangible. Where is my experience of God? It is in the beauty and resilience of nature, the breaking of dawn, the resurrection of Spring and the playfulness of baby birds. I feel at one with it all.

Yes. I hope because of my faith in Him in whom I have believed and this hope endures because of the mutuality of Love that prevails.

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