

The Silent Book by Bernadette T Wallis



An engrossing story, both deeply personal and historical, of the disappearing Australian-Irish sign language told through the experience of Bernadette's own Deaf family.

Bernadette Therese Wallis was a born hearing child to Deaf parents with her first language of communication as Australian-Irish Sign Language. From a Catholic family with a predominantly Irish heritage, Bernadette joined an Australian religious order, the Missionary Sisters of Service, which was founded by her father's brother, Father John Wallis in Tasmania in 1944. She then worked at the John Pierce Centre, where she worked in the Deaf community throughout Victoria in community work, advocacy, counselling and spirituality.

'A hearing child of parents who were both profoundly deaf, Sr Wallis has written an insightful history of her parents' childhood, education and family life, and then broadened her story to record the history of Catholic Deaf education.'

Over her 300 pages, we meet many heroes and heroines, and many of them are Catholic priests, nuns and brothers – quite a few of them Irish – and the wonder, to this reader, is that none of them have been canonised for the great work they did for the deaf community.'

Séan Ryan - Book Review: The Irish Catholic Online - Read the full article:
<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/signs-silence>



Sr Bernadette will be here on Saturday **1st July** and Sunday **2nd July** to meet you. You can buy her book(s) and ask her any questions.

