

Session 2 Drama I

(Narrator Speaks)Sarah now 82yrs lives with her daughter having reared 5 children with her husband who has since died. She often spoke of her own upbringing living on a farm in the west. Times were hard with little money for luxuries. While possessions were basic, morale among the family was strong. There was an appreciation of the land and what it produced with crops providing nourishment for the growing family. Evenings were spent around the hearth with discussion on the events of the day and some music crackling from the radio in the corner. Neighbours would call and help out on the land, eggs and butter were shared in return for other local produce. Of course there were problems encountered but the family stayed close and got through together.

Sarah – grandmother - played by Angela Mc Crosson

Katie – her daughter – played by Fiona Mc Donnell

Barry – Katie’s husband – played by Gerry Coyle

Rosie – their daughter (aged 14yrs) – played by Aoibheann Deighan

The scene opens with music: Faith of Our Fathers – it fades to quiet and then action.

Sarah – Katie, what Mass are you thinking of going to tomorrow?

Katie – oh Mum, sure you were there last week!

Sarah – I know Katie, but tomorrow is the feast of the Assumption and I told Rosie we might have lunch out after mass. She’s all excited.

Katie – Mum, I’ve told you before, you can’t just interfere and go behind my back with promises like that. You don’t realise just how busy I am. I’ve more to be thinking about just now than fitting in Mass for your benefit.

Sarah – It would be good for you to come too, Katie. I know it’s hard with all that’s going on but don’t forget about your faith.

Katie – What good will that do? I have to sort this out for myself. (enter Barry) Barry and I have our own way of rearing the kids. It was different for you – I don’t think God will punish me and anyway I have my own way to praying now.

Barry – Look Katie, there’s no problem – I can drop Nan and Rosie off on my way to the match tomorrow. Then maybe you could pick them up.

Katie – So you're not around tomorrow either. My God, you sneaked that one in handy. Meanwhile I'm left to sort everything out. The house, uniforms and dinner. I was working all week too, you know.

Barry – Look, give me a break, get off my back! A bloody game of football – are you saying I shouldn't go then – is that it?

Katie – Who ever thinks of me and what I might have planned? Look here Mum, you can say your prayers here at home. It just doesn't suit.

Sarah – The last thing I want is to cause trouble. I only want what's best for you both and the girls.

Katie – Best for us all? Bring God back into this home? Don't forget your faith? Don't you dare start preaching about faith in this house! Is it a mission you're leading?

Sarah - All I'm saying is don't forget your faith. You never know when you might need it. The Assumption was always a big day when I was growing up. I have lovely memories of my father taking off his hat as he entered the chapel. My mother wore her tweed suit and we would all squeeze in to the seat together.

Rosie – What's the Assumption, Granny?

Sarah – Your mother will explain!

Katie – Now, Mum, that's enough! All that Assumption stuff, did it really happen anyway? Tweed suits and hats, it's all in the past. It's Christmas and Easter in this house and the odd Sunday, if we're lucky and that will do us! What you do is your business!

Rosie – Words like Assumption, Immaculate Conception, Epiphany, Annunciation, they are very Churchy words. What do they mean anyway?

Katie – Rosie, cut that out! Surely your religion teacher explains all that!

Rosie – Sorry, Mum. I'm just a bit interested all of a sudden. We never talk about these kind of things when we are together or when Granny's not here.

Barry – The Assumption, as far as I know, is like the Resurrection and Immaculate Conception means Jesus had a clean soul, no sin, perfect, I think.

Katie – Just stop this please! What's got into you all. Now Mum, see what you started! I don't want you going round ramming religion and Mass down our throats, or Rosie's throat. The good old days, what was good about them!!!! Sure they had nothing else to think about anyway.

Katie breaks down and leaves the room. Barry and Rosie try to placate Sarah who is also shocked at what she has happened.

Barry – Granny, would you go easy on the religion please! Nothing against it myself, just not a priority at the moment and yes, my mother if she were alive would probably be none too

pleased at me. But it's a different time, I suppose.Katie's a bit touchy and she thinks your criticising her.

Sarah – Maybe I made a big mistake in moving in with you all. Unsettling the applegart! I never meant to cause you any trouble. I'm obviously getting in the way and there's be less friction if I was not here!

Barry & Rosie –NO!!!!!!!

Barry – Gran, we love having you here. Isn't that right Rosie?

Rosie – Yes, absolutely. We love having you here Granny, the stories about the old days and the sweets. Anyway. I'll go to Mass with you Gran. Perhaps you'll drive us into town, Dad?

Barry – Yes, of course. I think I'll forget about the match in the morning.

Rosie – We can go for lunch, Granny and we might have a look at the runners I was hoping to buy.

Barry – Sure I could go to Mass myself, just this once.

Rosie – And become a religious nut, Dad?

Barry – Perhaps. I'll take a look in at your mother.

BARRY GOES INTO KATIE AND THEY TALK.

Barry – are you OK Katie?

Katie – That woman, if she thinks things are the same today as they were thirty years ago.

Barry – It's difficult for her, Katie. She's just moved in and if she were back at home she would probably be going to Mass tomorrow or hear it on the radio. After all, she's 82.

Katie – Don't stick up for her! Did you hear the criticism she made? And you just let it sit in the air! She put me down as a mother because we weren't going to Mass, dismissed me, just like that.And you're forgetting that I was the one snookered into bringing her tomorrow. I'm under pressure with work and other commitments and there you are arranging things to suit yourself. I suppose your still going to that match in the morning?

Barry – I've arranged to drive her and Rosie. All for the peace! Anyway Rosie wants to get runners in town. It surprised me to hear Rosie react warmly to going to Mass with Gran? I began to wonder if we didn't do enough spiritually for Rosie.

Katie – Cut it out, Barry! Rosie can choose what she wants in her own time. Now, do you mind, I want to be alone.

BARRY LEAVES

