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Teen killed by nut allergy to be buried

Wednesday, December 06, 2006

By Ashleigh Wallace

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This is the pretty Belfast teenager who is due to be buried today after suffering a fatal reaction to peanuts.

This is the pretty Belfast teenager who is due to be buried today after suffering a fatal reaction to peanuts.

Jane McVeigh, a 17-year old student at Victoria College, died in the early hours of Sunday morning following a night out celebrating a friend's 18th birthday party.

After coming into contact with peanuts, Jane went into anaphylactic shock - an extreme form of allergic reaction to a particular substance. Despite frantic efforts by her friends and medical staff who tried to save her, her life was tragically cut short.

Hundreds of people are expected to attend her funeral today, which is leaving her Osborne Gardens home for Requiem Mass at noon.

The service is being held in St Brigid's Church on the Malone Road before she is buried at Roselawn Cemetery.

Last night, her parents John and Mary said they hoped the tragic turn of events would highlight the dangers of allergies.

The McVeigh's said: "We are utterly devastated by the loss of our wonderful, beautiful daughter and we do not want to see another family suffering what we are suffering.

"We urge all parents of children with similar allergies to be absolutely vigilant and aware of the life-threatening realities of this condition.

"It appears that this type of allergy is on the increase and is not well enough understood."

Jane's parents also issued a heartfelt thanks for the support their have received. They also thanked Jane's friends who battled to save her life during the early hours of last Sunday morning.

They added: "Despite very rapid medical attention, Jane's allergic reaction was so extreme that nothing could be done to save her life.

"No parent should have to bury a child. Jane's life held great potential and it is our wish that her death will lead to greater awareness of, and more serious attention to, this dreadful condition."

The family has requested donations be made to the Anaphylactic Society, care of Heaney's Funeral Home, 53 Patrick Street, Newry, in lieu of flowers.

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