

Drumlish's Service to the Church

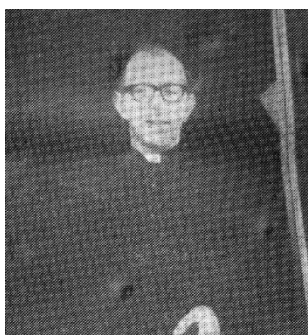


Above (left to right): Rev Michael Duignan; Right Rev. Msgr. Denis Duignan and Right Rev. Msgr. Francis Duignan.

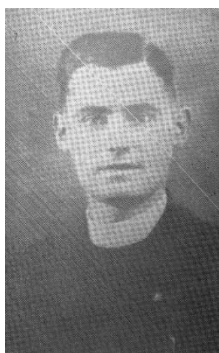
Rev. Michael Duignan, born in Kiltycreevagh, educated at Kiltycreevagh N.S., St. Mary's Moyne and St. Patrick's College, Carlow. Ordained for the Diocese of San Diego, California.

Right Msgr. Denis Duignan, born in Kiltycreevagh, educated at Kiltycreevagh N.S., St. Mary's, Moyne, St. Patrick's College, Carlow and Denver, Colorado. Ordained for Diocese of Missouri.

Right Rev. Msgr. Francis Duignan, born in Kiltycreevagh, educated in Kiltycreevagh N.S., St. Mary's Moyne and St. Patrick's College, Carlow. Ordained for the Diocese of Missouri.



Rev Gerard Healy, born in Clonelly, but later his family came to live in Creelaughta. Educated at Legga N.S., St. Mary's Moyne, St. John's College, Waterford. Ordained for the diocese of Wisconsin.



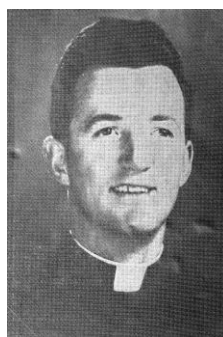
Right Rev. Msgr. Patrick Trainor, born in New York, his family came to Ballinamuck. Educated at Cortober N.S., St. Mary's Moyne and St. Patrick's College, Thurles. Ordained for the diocese of Florida.



Rev Patrick Whitney, S.P.S born in Barraghmore, educated at Drumlish N.S., St. Mel's College Longford and St. Patrick's College, Maynooth where he was ordained for the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois. With the permission of Most Rev. Dr. McNamee, he worked with Bishop Shanahan in West Africa. With his cousin, Msgr. P. J. Whitney, he was one of the founder members of St. Patrick's Missionary Society in 1932. He travelled widely, promoting the Society. He secured, what is now known as St. Patrick's College, Kiltegan as a gift from John Hughes.



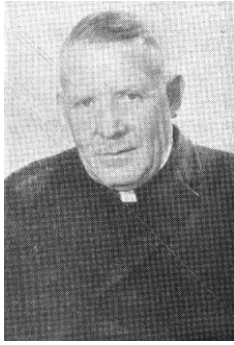
Very Rev. John Keville – the builder of the Church, was born at Annaduff, Co. Leitrim in 1852. He was educated at the local N.S., Latin School, Mohill. He was ordained in St. Patrick's College Maynooth on 3rd February 1877. He replaced Fr. Tom Conefrey as P.P., Drumlish on 1st March 1900. He died on August 13th 1929 and is buried near the entrance to the Church, where there is a tombstone to his memory.



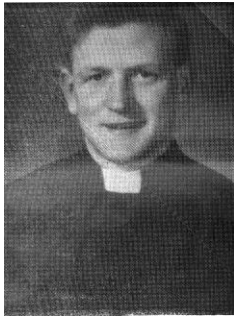
Rev. Niall Meagher, born in Drumlish, educated at Gaique N.S., St. Mel's College and All Hallows College, Dublin. Ordained for the Diocese of Sacramento, California.



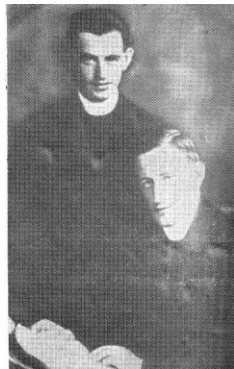
Rev. Arnold Meagher, born in Drumlish, educated at Gaique N.S., St. Mel's College and All Hallows College, Dublin. Ordained for the diocese of Sacramento, California.



Rev. Bernard Hughes, SPS, born at Breanrisk, educated at Drumlish N.S., Mungret College, Limerick and St. Patrick's, Kiltegan. Ministered in the diocese of Calabar.



Rev. Joseph Black, born in Drumlish and educated in Drumlish N.S., St. Mel's College and All Hallows College, Dublin. Ordained for the diocese of Oregon, U.S.A.



Rev. Anthony Canning, P.S.M. Born in Cloone, but later his family came to reside in Derawley. He was educated at Drumlish N.S., Pallotine College, Thurles and Rome. Served in St. Mary's Star of the Sea, Hastings.

Rev. Patrick Canning, P.S.M. was born in Cloone, came to live in Derawley, was educated in Drumlish N.S., and Pallotine College, Thurles. Ministered in SS Peter and Paul, Anwell St., London.

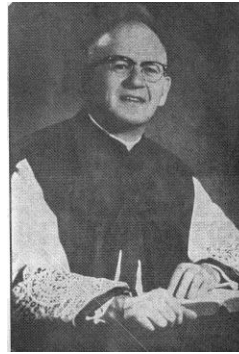


Rev. Laurence Brady, born in Drumlish, educated at Drumlish N.S., St. Mary's Moyne, St. Mel's College, Longford and St. John's College, Waterford. Ministered in St. Alphonsus for the Archdiocese of Glasgow.

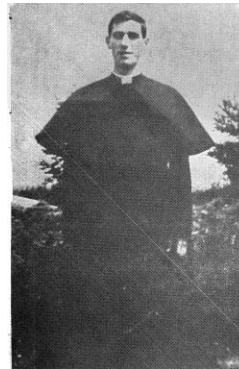


Rev. Sean Sorahan, born in Fardrommin, educated at Fardrommin N.S., and St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny. Served as Chaplain with the Royal Australian Air Force in Vietnam.
Rev. Daniel Sorohan, O.M.I., born in Fardrommin,

educated at Fardrommin N.S., St. Mary's Moyne and Oblate Scholasticate, Piltown, Co Kilkenny. He has preached missions in Ireland and abroad and became Pastor in Jersey.



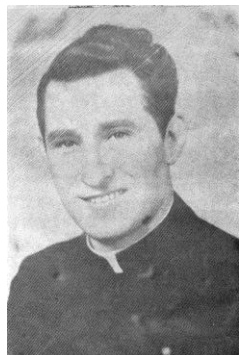
Right Rev. Msgr. John Reynolds, born in Gaigue, educated at Gaigue N.S., St. Mary's Moyne, St. Mel's College, Longford and St. John's College, Waterford. Became Pastor in Des Moines, Iowa.



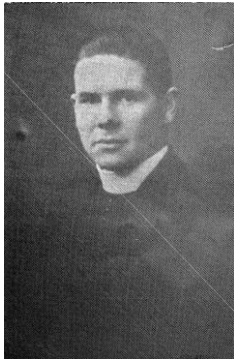
Rev. Patrick Masterson, born at Creelaughta, educated at Fardrommin N.S., St. Mary's Moyne and St. John's College, Waterford. Ordained for the diocese of San Augustine, Florida.



Rev. Thomas O'Toole, born in Gaigue; educated at Gaigue N.S., St. Mary's Moyne and St. Peter's College, Wexford. Ordained for the diocese of San Diego, California



Rev. Peter Duignan, born at Derawley, educated in Drumlish N.S., St. Mary's Moyne, St. Mel's Longford and St. Peter's College, Wexford. Ordained for Baker Diocese, Oregon.



Rev. Thomas Burbage, born in Drumlish, educated at Drumlish N.S., Franciscan College, Multyfarnham, St. Mel's College and All Hallows College, Dublin. Was ordained for the Archdiocese of Birmingham.



Rev. John Lacy, born in Drumlish, educated in Drumlish N.S., St. Mel's College, Longford, Oscott College, Birmingham. Ordained for the diocese of Birmingham.



Rev. Patrick Mollaghan, born at Cartron, educated in Drumlish N.S., St. Mel's College and St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. Ordained for the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois. Served as P.P. Aughavas.



Rev. Francis McCormack, born in Greagh, educated at Drumlish N.S., St. Mary's Moyne, St. Mel's College, Longford and St. Peter's College, Wexford. Ordained for the diocese of Baker, Oregon.



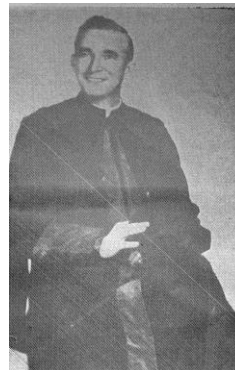
Right Rev. Msgr. Stephen Kane, born in Drumlish, educated at Drumlish N.S., St. Mel's College, St. John's College, Waterford and St. Louis Seminary, Iowa. Served as Chaplain with the U.S. forces and later as Pastor in Des Moines, Iowa.



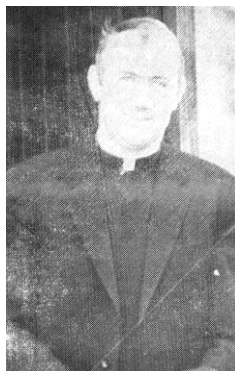
Rev. Michael McGovern, born in Drumlish, educated at Drumlish N.S., St. Mel's College and St. John's College, Waterford. Ministered in Linlithgow in the Archdiocese of Edinburgh.



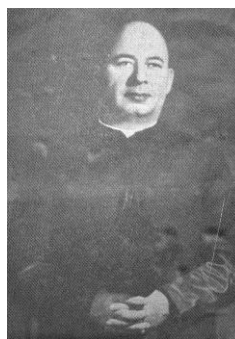
Very Rev. Canon Bernard McKenna, born in Gaigue, educated at St. Mary's Moyne and St. Patrick's College, Carlow. Served in Heddington, Oxford for the Archdiocese of Birmingham.



Right Rev. Msgr. Terence Lennon, born in Kilmahon, educated in Dooroc N.S., St. Mary's Moyne and St. Peter's, Wexford. Ordained for the diocese of Louisiana



Rev. T. P. Cullen, born in Drumlish, educated in Drumlish N.S., St. Mel's College and Clonliffe College, Dublin. Ordained for the Archdiocese of Dublin.



Right Rev. Msgr. Bartholomew Kane, born in Drumlish, educated at Drumlish N.S., St. Mel's College, All Hallows College, Dublin and Louvain. Served as Pastor in Des Moines, Iowa.



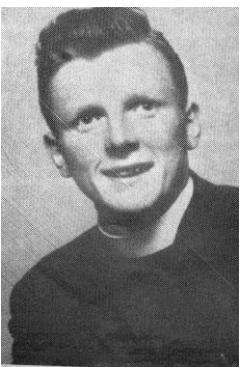
Rev. Thomas S. O'Connor, born at Gaigue, educated at Gaigue N.S., St. Mel's College and Oscott College, Birmingham. Ordained for the Archdiocese of Birmingham.



Rev. Patrick J. Kiernan, born in Lettergonnell, educated at Gaigue N.S., St. Mel's College, Longford and All Hallows College, Dublin. Ordained for the diocese of Oregon, USA.



Rev. Edward Burbage, born Drumlish, educated at Drumlish N.S., St. Mel's College, Longford, All Hallows College, Dublin and Oscott College. Ordained for the Archdiocese of Birmingham.



Brother Sebastian (Eamonn Davis) Marist Brother. Born in Kiltycreevagh, educated at Gaigue N.S., Our Lady's Hermitage, Athlone. Taught in Marist College, Sligo.



Sr. Winifred (Rosaleen Trainor), born in New York, educated at Cortober N.S. Served as a member of the Holy Family Community, Johannesburg.



Sr. Clare (Brigid Lenihan) born in Gaigue, educated at Gaigue N.S., and served as a member of the Nazareth Community, London.



Sr. Benignus (Bridget Mollaghan) born in Cloonmacart, educated at Drumlish N.S. A Sister of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas.



Sr. Eileen Meagher, born in Ballinamuck, educated at Gaigue N.S., a member of the Sisters of Humility. Taught in Des Moines, Iowa.



Sister Laure des St. Ambroise (Elizabeth Quinn, Gaigue), born at Gaigue, educated at Gaigue N.S., a member of Les Petits Soeurs de Pauries.



St. Patrick (Mary Duignan) born Derawley, educated at Drumlish N.S., a Sister of Mercy in Gravesend, Kent.



Sr. Joan (Kathleen Ward) born Kiltycreevagh, educated at Kiltycreevagh N.S., a member of the Sacred Heart Community. Served at the Sacred Heart Novitiate, Rearsby, Leicestershire.



Sr. Alberica (Brigid Sheridan), born in Drumlish, educated at Drumlish N.S., a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Brooklyn, N.Y.



Sr. Xavier (Kathleen Duffy), born Lettergullion, educated at Gaigue N.S., a member of the Sisters of Mercy Community, Ballymahon.



Sr. Agnes (Kathleen Mollaghan) born at Cartron, educated at Drumlish N.S., a member of the Mercy Community at Burnley, Lancashire.



Sr. Teresa (Gretta Smith), born in Drumlish, educated at Drumlish N.S., a member of the Grace and Compassion Community, Heathfield, Sussex.



Sr. Aloysius (Brigid Duignan) Kiltycreevagh, educated at Kiltycreevagh N.S., a member of the Sisters of Mercy, Gravesend, Kent.



At the rededication of Drumlish Church – left to right:
Rev. Fr. O'Grady, C.C., Ballinamuck; Rev. Fr. F. Gray, C.C., Drumlish; Most Rev. Dr. Cahal B. Daly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmancois and Rev. Fr. Butler, P.P., Drumlish.

MOST REV. DR. WILLIAM O'HIGGINS



One of Drumlish's most distinguished sons was Most Rev. Dr. William O'Higgins, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois between 1829 and 1853. In fact he was one of the most noteworthy prelates who ever ruled the diocese. He was an eminent scholar, a capable administrator and a holy man who exercised no small influence on the people and

public affairs of his generation. He was born in Barraghbeg on the 1st August, 1794. He was educated at home by his mother and by a travelling classical teacher. Later he attended a number of hedge schools and one of them it is commonly held was the forerunner of the now St. Mary's, Moyne. In 1812 he began his studies for the priesthood at the Picpus Seminary, Paris. The years he spent in France were very eventful ones. In his diary we read that after

the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo he met in Paris “Malachy McGarry and Peter Creegan from Drumlish, Owen O’Reilly from Monaduff and an O’Reilly from the rocks of Bohey.”

On the 20th September, 1817, William O’Higgins was ordained a priest. For three years he was a Professor in the Irish College in Paris. Then he travelled through Europe and he finally came to Rome where he obtained the highest academic distinctions that could be obtained.

In 1826 he returned to Ireland. He was appointed a Professor in St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth and three years later, in 1829, he succeeded Dr. McGouran as Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois. On a number of occasions he was the representative of the Irish bishops on the Continent and in Rome. It was due to his ability and diplomacy that the Burses for the education of Irish students on the Continent and in Maynooth College were retained.

From the beginning it was his dream to provide the diocese with an ecclesiastical Seminary and a Cathedral. On the 19th May, 1840, he laid the foundation stone of the present St. Mel’s Cathedral. By 1846 the walls, pillars and the entire masonry were finished. Only the roof remained to be done, but then the famine came. The potato blight spread hunger and death. It was ten years later before the Cathedral was completed but Dr. O’Higgins didn’t live to see it finished. On the 3rd January, 1853, he passed to his eternal reward while still a comparatively young man.

Thus passed a great priest, a great patriot and a great Irishman. He was an ardent supporter of Daniel O’Connell and a life-long friend of “the Lion of the West” Archbishop John McHale of Tuam. The principles he lived by and the ideals he fought for lived on. He was a granduncle of Canon John, Fathers Tom and Matt Conefrey and a great-granduncle of Fr. Peter Conefrey. His remains are interred in the vaults of the noble Cathedral he founded.

THE LAND WAR

Anything about Drumlish would be incomplete without mentioning the Land War and Fr. Tom Confrey. The details of this episode which took place between 1881 and 1891 are recorded for us in a book by Fr. Confrey himself.

The said story is quite a familiar one. The seasons are not too good and the crops are bad; there is no money to pay the rent, the process server comes to the door and a little later the family is evicted.

Fr. Confrey in his book says that in 1882, three hundred families are evicted from within a radius of three miles around Drumlish. The people would not

give in lightly. Things came to a head. The people, called by the Church bell ‘and armed with guns, scythes, reaping hooks, pitchforks and ashplants openly met Lord Granard, his process servers, bailiffs and the redcoats in Drumlish.

Under the leadership and guidance of Fr. Confrey an open battle was averted. Both sides were ‘said and led’ by him. The local people eventually won and were allowed to retain their homesteads at reduced rents.

ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH BALLINAMUCK

St. Patrick’s Church, Ballinamuck is on the site of an old thatched Church which was built about 1834. A couple of years later this humble little church was heroically defended by the curate, Fr. Moran. King Harmon evicted all the families around and levelled their homes to the ground. The Church was about to be pulled down when Fr. Moran stepped forward and dared anyone put a finger on it. The redcoats got afraid and withdrew, so the Church was spared.

Later on, however, the people felt that a more substantial and lasting house of God was needed. Immediately before the famine years they built stone walls around the old cabin church but they were unable to roof them. In fact it was many years later—the 1860s—before the Church was roofed. A local, Mr. Hogan, was living in Dublin and he went to Bianconi (the man who put the first coaches on the roads of Ireland) who donated the price of the roof—40. The timber of the roof was pine and it was shipped from Archangel in Russia.

This Church lasted nearly 100 years. The present Church replaces it and is built on the same site. Beside the main door there is a plaque to the builders—the Rev. James Butler, PP., and the Rev. Lawrence O’Grady, C.C. It was blessed and dedicated by Mast Rev. Dr. McNamee on October 8th, 1961. The sermon was preached by Rev. John Corkery, M.A., St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth. The architect was Mr. Freddie Browne and the contractors were Ledwith Bros. It is a Church of great beauty ‘and artistic merit. The altar and tabernacle were designed by Mr. Browne and were made by Harrison’s of Dublin. The sanctuary windows depict St. Patrick lighting the Pascal fire at Slane. The crosses of the stained glass windows down the aisle are all different and unique. They are replicas of the old Irish crosses in Clonmacnois. The stations of the cross are modern in design; the figures are wrought in polished limestone. Towards the back of the Church there is a beautiful statute of Our Lady sculptured in Carrara marble.

Extract: *Drumlish Remembers*, compiled and published by Fr. F. Gray, 29th June 1969