



The Bicentenary Edition of the  
ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE  
**RECORD**



# The Bicentenary Edition of the ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE **RECORD**

EDITED BY DENIS BERGIN

Editorial Board:

Monsignor Thomas Maher, College President 1976-1983;  
Fr. Martin Campion, College President 1983 - ; V. Rev. James Brennan D.D, P.P.;  
Mr. Frank McEvoy; Fr. Michael Ryan; the late V. Rev. Daniel Collier (d. 1983).

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# A MESSAGE FROM HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II



The Holy Father sees the Bicentenary of the foundation of St. Kieran's College as a moment of heartfelt thanksgiving to God the father from whom every good endowment and every perfect gift comes down (cf. Jas 1:17), for the innumerable benefits to the Church in the Diocese of Ossory, in the rest of Ireland, and throughout the world, made possible through the dedicated service of all those connected with St. Kieran's in its two hundred years of history.

In a special way His Holiness's thoughts go to the staff and students of the Diocesan Secondary School and of the Major Seminary. The Holy Father prays for an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that all may be confirmed and strengthened in their faith, a faith that has been aglow at St. Kieran's for two hundred years of intense commitment to the ecclesial task of educating future priests and of preparing responsible Catholic laymen, a faith that in so many parts of the English-speaking world has become a beacon lighting the path to salvation. In this regard he recalls St. Paul's words to the Romans: 'I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you

because your faith is proclaimed in all the world'.

His Holiness wishes his words to reach past pupils of St. Kieran's who are engaged in the various forms of priestly ministry throughout the world. May the celebration of the Bicentenary be a source of inspiration and joy to them all and may it be seen by the whole people of God, especially the young, as a living and joyous testimony of the extraordinary and incalculable value of a life of dedicated service to the Gospel of Christ.

The Holy Father also greets the past pupils of St. Kieran's College and their families and blesses them in their continued fidelity to the principles of Christian life and human solidarity handed on to them during their years at the College.

To one and all, to the teachers and students, to the past pupils, to the beloved Sisters of St. John of God who have given devoted service to the College for many years, to the benefactors, to the people of the diocese, and to all those taking part in the bicentennial celebrations, the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF OSSORY MOST REV. LAURENCE FORRISTAL

It is a privilege to write the foreword for the Bicentenary Edition of the College *Record*.

St. Kieran's College, being a genuine educational establishment, has been the scene of much activity since the *Record* last appeared in 1977. Where you have youth or the search for knowledge, life is never dull. This life is fittingly recorded in this publication.

However, two events overshadowed all others in the past seven years; the death of Bishop Peter Birch and the celebration in 1982 of the Bicentenary of the foundation of the College in 1782. These, too, get suitable mention.

Bishop Birch was known to generations of St. Kieran's men. He was in the College as a student from 1925 to 1930 and as a member of the staff from 1938 to 1953. He was associated with it as Bishop from 1962 until his sudden death in March 1981. He was keenly interested in the welfare of the College and of its students. The new Seminary Building is testimony to his concern for priests in the Church of to-day. Apart altogether from his concern for the College, he was well-known at national level as a deeply concerned man who fought tirelessly for practical Christianity and social justice. I trust that St. Kieran's men will never forget him in their prayers. I also trust they will find 'space' for a prayer for his successor.

The Bicentenary Celebrations were truly

magnificent: they did justice to a College that was two hundred years old. The presence of the President of Ireland and the Cardinal, together with other dignitaries of Church and State and distinguished guests and past pupils, acknowledged the great contribution the College has made to the Church and to our country in its time.

Since the Bicentenary, Father Tommy Maher has become Monsignor Maher, the extremely active Parish Priest of Mullinavat, and Father Martin Campion is now President of the College. I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Father Tommy for thirty years of excellent service to the College, to the diocese and to the Catholic Church. I am sure everybody will join with me in wishing Father Campion well in the onerous task that lies ahead.

In the letter to us for the Bicentenary, Pope John Paul II thanked the College for 'two hundred years of intense commitment to the ecclesial task of educating future priests and of preparing responsible Catholic laymen'. The same task faces us to-day, perhaps even in more daunting terms, as we face the third century of the College's life and the third millennium of Christianity. Our predecessors had faith and courage. I am certain that, despite the materialism of our society, the same faith and courage are to be found to-day. I am equally sure St. Kieran's College and its pupils, will, with God's help, always remain faithful to its 'ecclesial task'.

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# A MESSAGE FROM MONSIGNOR THOMAS MAHER COLLEGE PRESIDENT 1976-1983

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The first issue of St. Kieran's College *Record* appeared in the 174th academic year of the College. This issue, coming in the 200th academic year, has by that very fact been a more challenging undertaking than any of its predecessors. It would take an entire volume to do justice to the inspiring celebrations of the Bicentenary which were so generously supported and deeply appreciated by all living alumni of the College. It was the stuff of which memories are made. Hopefully this volume will help perpetuate those memories.

The College *Record* has to chronicle the ordinary as well as the extraordinary events. Ideally, every student in whatever capacity he partakes in College life should have his own niche, even if by name only, for today's reporting is tomorrow's history. In this matter the present issue has a more difficult task. Whereas the earlier issues appeared biennially, it is now six years since the last issue.

In a publication such as this there is a predictable inevitability about events to be recorded. One event, however, not in that category is the death of our late Patron, Bishop Peter Birch — an event which broke on us with shattering suddenness. As Historian of the College he was the most knowledgeable individual on all aspects, current and historical, of College life. His interest was deep and genuine, and he was very generous towards the College *Record*. It is sad, though true, to say that the College has to report the loss of its greatest friend in this,

perhaps the most memorable edition of the *Record*. I am glad to say that his successor, Bishop Laurence Forristal shows every sign of continuing that deep interest in and care for St. Kieran's.

It gives me great satisfaction to be able to tell you that all editors of past College *Records* have agreed to act on an editorial board for this issue, putting their cumulative wisdom at the disposal of the Editor-in-chief. Regretfully the editor of the first issue (1955-56), James Maher of Mullinahone has long since gone to his eternal reward. More recently Fr. Dan Collier who edited the 1960 issue has been called home by the Lord he served so well.

To these and to all who helped in any way, I wish to express the gratitude of the College. To all who laboured with such dedication to make the ideals we all had for the recent celebrations come to a most satisfying and fruitful reality, unqualified credit and gratitude are offered. To all who were part of the simple though significant events of the years recorded here, St. Kieran's says thanks and wishes you all God's blessing and success in the years ahead.

To our readers goes the kindest wish that you may have moments of happy reading and reminiscing as you turn the pages that follow, in whatever occupation, in whatever country you may be.

Finally may I make my own the words used by James Maher in greeting to the readers of the first College *Record*. *Go gcúití Dia sibh go léir.*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

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The St. Kieran's College *Record* has never had such an onerous task in the 27 years of its existence as it has had in charting the historic events in the life of the college itself and the Diocese of Ossory over the past three years.

Only once before has it had to record the passing of a bishop of the diocese; in its very first issue, and on two occasions since, it has recorded change in the holding of the office of President; and it has never had to report the celebration of any significant anniversary in the college's own existence.

To have to deal with all three such developments in the space of a single issue is testimony to the extent of the transition that has affected St. Kieran's over the past few years. At the beginning of its third century, it has a new patron, a new president and a new spirit, the latter a result of the year of remembrance, revival and prayer that celebrated 200 years of education and formation.

The pages that follow attempt to capture that spirit — mainly in photographs, but in words as well. The Bicentenary Report is followed by a Bicentenary Review, in which the articles all have a strong Bicentenary connection but maintain the tradition of literary and historical endeavour estab-

lished in previous editions of the *Record*.

The College Report section attempts to bridge a recording gap of six years; it gives only a mention to some important developments in academic life, and has none of the leavening provided in previous years by the essays and contributions of the students themselves.

'From the Dioceses' owes whatever comprehensiveness it has to the efforts of Fr. Bernard Canning and of three members of the editorial board — Fr. Dan Collier (now sadly deceased) and Fr. James Brennan, both former editors of the *Record*, and Fr. Michael Ryan, whose involvement has been indispensable and who has contributed information and contacts for every section of the issue. Another former editor, Frank McEvoy, has contributed extensively and guided the course of the editorial effort in the subject area of literature.

To them, to the Presidents and Bursars whose co-operation and encouragement has been essential to the advancement of the project, and to the other contributors and production personnel who have seen these pages safely into your hands, a warm and sincere thank-you.

*Denis Bergin*



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## SAINT KIERAN'S COLLEGE RECORD

# BICENTENARY REPORT

### THE PLANNING STAGE

## Worthy of the past, inspiring for the future

The inaugural meeting of the St. Kieran's College Bicentenary Planning Committee was held at the college in February 1981 to decide on the broad outlines of the celebrations and the thinking behind them. Bishop Birch, who had called the meeting and presided over it, ended the discussions with his own view of the significance of the Bicentenary celebrations: 'I hope that whatever we plan will be worthy of those who have gone before us and an inspiration to those who will come after us'. He was to die suddenly three weeks later, but his words and the spirit they communicated remained with all those who were involved in planning and supervising the many activities and occasions that made up 'Bicentenary/1982'

When the committee met again the following autumn, the new Bishop of Ossory, Dr. Forristal, was in the chair with the College President, Father Tommy Maher, as Vice-Chairman. A series of sub-

committees was established from among the college staff and past pupils, and each sub-committee took responsibility for a separate aspect of the celebrations (see list below). This arrangement proved very satisfactory.

One of the main purposes of the Bicentenary celebrations was to thank all those who had maintained the academic and spiritual traditions of the college over two centuries, and so made the achievement of a bicentenary possible at all. That theme of thanks was to be expressed in the liturgies that took place throughout the year — in the St. Kieran's Day Mass for the present staff and students of the College; in the special celebrations surrounding Ordination Sunday in June; in the World Reunion of Priests in August, and the Lay Past Pupils' Reunion in September, when priests and laity would gather around the Altar of Thanksgiving to commit



*Clerical members of the staff of St. Kieran's College and resident priests who were involved in the planning of the Bicentenary celebrations: front, left to right: Rev. Martin Campion, Dean of Seminary; Rev. John Delaney; Monsignor Thomas Maher, College President; V. Rev. Patrick Duggan; Rev. Seamus McEvoy, Headmaster, Secondary School; Rev. Michael Ryan, Layside Teaching Staff and Secretary to Bicentenary Committee; back, left to right: Rev. James Murphy, Diocesan Catechetical Team; Rev. Fergus Farrell, Seminary Teaching Staff and author of Bicentenary History; Rev. Thomas Norris, Seminary Teaching Staff; Rev. Patrick Comerford, Layside Dean; Rev. Nicholas Flavin, Layside Teaching Staff; Rev. Noel William Dalton, Seminary Teaching Staff; Rev. James Dollard, Seminary Teaching Staff; Rev. Noel Maher, Catechetics Teacher, Vocational School; Rev. John Crowley, Social Services Director and Seminary Teaching Staff; Rev. James Cassin, Seminary Teaching Staff; Rev. Patrick Bollard, Layside Dean; Rev. Seamus Henry, Layside Teaching Staff; and Rev. Daniel Bollard, Seminary Spiritual Director.*

themselves anew to the living of the Christian life in their different vocations – a purpose and an aim integral to the motivation of the original founders of St. Kieran's, and to the patrons, presidents, deans and professors who had guided its fortunes and its progress since then.

Bishop Birch would have appreciated how pageantry, entertainment, sports, the arts and personal contact were planned to come together in a total experience that would celebrate every aspect of college life.

He would have been particularly happy with the attention given to planning for education in the future through the two seminars arranged under the heading 'Principals and Teachers at Work', conducted by Brother Herman Lombaerts of the Lumen Vitae Institute, Brussels, for participants from all of the post-primary schools of the diocese.

Information would also be an important concern throughout the Bicentenary Year – to encourage active participation in the events themselves and to use the occasion to promote an awareness of the history and role of St. Kieran's College in secular and seminary education.

Father Fergus Farrell, a priest of the diocese of Ossory then completing his studies for a Doctorate in Sacred Scripture in Rome, was given the task of preparing a concise history of the college that would have equal appeal to the St. Kieran's past-pupil and to the ordinary reader with an interest in local history. A team of past editors of the St. Kieran's College *Record* were invited to collaborate in the production of a special issue of the publication that would provide a lasting souvenir of the events then at the planning stage.

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## The Bicentenary Committees

### GENERAL COMMITTEE

**CHAIRMAN:** Most Rev. Laurence Forristal;  
**VICE-CHAIRMAN:** Rt. Rev. Monsignor Thomas Maher, College President;  
**SECRETARY:** Rev. M. Ryan.

### SUB-COMMITTEES

**CATERING, ACCOMMODATION AND GENERAL FACILITIES:** Revv. James Crotty, Patrick Comerford, Noel Maher;

**FUND RAISING:** Monsignor Thomas Maher, Revv. Martin Campion, John Crowley;

**LITURGY:** Revv. James Cassin, Daniel Bollard, William Dalton, Maurice Burris;

**RENEWAL DAY FOR PRIESTS:** Revv. Thomas Norris, James Cassin, Patrick Bollard;

**SEMINAR ON EDUCATION:** Revv. Seamus McEvoy, Seamus Henry, James Murphy, Noel Maher, Nicholas Flavin;

**RESEARCH AND PUBLICITY:** Revv. Michael Ryan, James Dollard, Fergus Farrell; Messrs Dermot Healy, Tom Brett;

**PAGEANT, PLAY, ENTERTAINMENT:** Revv. Martin Campion, Seamus McEvoy;

**BICENTENARY HISTORY:** Rev. Fergus Farrell;

**ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE RECORD:** Editor: Mr. Denis Bergin; Editorial Board: Mr. Francis McEvoy, V. Revv. Daniel Collier, James Brennan, Monsignor Thomas Maher, Rev. Michael Ryan.

### BICENTENARY PAST PUPILS COMMITTEE

**Chairman:** John Kilroy.

**Vice-Chairman:** Jim Delahunty.

**Secretary:** Nickey Brennan.

**Committee:** Paddy Kennedy, Nickey Purcell, Joe Lambe, Michael Moore, Eoin Wallace.

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### LAYSIDE PAST PUPILS' REPRESENTATIVES

Pre 1937: Paddy Kennedy;

1938-1939: Fr. Mark Kirwan, Martin Crotty;

1940: Joe Walsh;

1941: Nickey Purcell;

1942: Frank McEvoy;

1943: Eamonn Breen;

1944: Joe Lambe;

1945: Fr. Michael Noonan;

1946: Tom Vaughan;

1947: Fr. John Delaney;

1948: Canice McEvoy;

1949: Brian Kenealy;

1950: Tom Ryall;

1951: Martin Morrissey;

1952: Fr. Eamonn Foley;

1953: John Kilroy;

1954: Bob Walsh;

1955: Ted Carroll;

1956: Denis Carey;

1957: Tom Carroll;

1958: Dick McEvoy;

1959: Fr. Michael Ryan;

1960: Jim Delahunty;

1961: Denis Bergin;

1962: Fr. Larry Wallace, Fr. Noel Maher;

1963: Denis O'Shea;

1964: Donie Walsh;

1965: Michael Moore;

1966: Paul Kinsella;

1967: Fr. Maurice Burris;

1968: Dick O'Shea;

1969: Nickey Brennan;

1970: Ger Freyne;

1971: Tom Doheny;

1972: Jim Walshe, Frank Holohan;

1973: J.J. Kavanagh;

1974: Walter Holohan;

1975: Richard Burke;

1976: Dominic Bolger;

1977: Anthony O'Connor;

1978: Martin Tobin;

1979: Eoin Wallace;

1980: Liam O'Grady;

1981: Ger Brophy.

There were special booklets to be prepared for each of the major celebrations, a new college anthem to be composed (secondary teachers Peadar Barrett and Jim McAuley undertook the task in conjunction with seminarian Gerry Cleere), special music to be written for some of the liturgies, and a wide range of souvenirs crafted for sale to visitors to the college during the Bicentenary year — a calendar in wall-hanging style incorporating the Bicentenary crest, a copper etching of the college buildings mounted on a wooden frame; a selection of drawings of the college to be made available in postcard format; Callan-made glass with the Bicentenary crest incorporated in the design; and scarves, ties and tee-shirts too.

Arrangements were made for the broadcast of Sunday Mass from the college by RTE on a number of occasions during the year, and the national radio service also indicated that it would be preparing a documentary on the history and achievements of St. Kieran's.

In the run-up to the individual celebrations the co-operation of the local press would be sought for reportage and pictorial coverage. Special articles on the college and its history were prepared for publication in magazines such as *The Word*, *Africa*, and *The Far East*.

Sport would be an important aspect of the celebrations and the connections between St. Kieran's and the GAA were emphasised from the beginning with plans to hold the Annual Congress of the Association in the College in April. Golf competitions and hurling matches were also scheduled to take place.

The arts were also to be incorporated into the Bicentenary celebrations, with drama, art exhibitions, and miscellaneous 'happenings' planned. A special cancellation for letters posted in the College was arranged with the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, who also benefitted from the massive mailing of invitations to St. Kieran's past pupils throughout the world.

A particular responsibility of the Planning Committee was the sending of invitations to the dignitaries of Church and State, including bishops throughout the world associated with the college, who would grace the various events, culminating in the September reunion, to which the President of Ireland, the Cardinal Archbishop of Armagh and the Papal Nuncio would be invited.

In all of this, the Catering Committee and staff under Fr. James Crotty would have a mammoth task in arranging hospitality for a projected total of between 3000 — 4000 guests during the Bicentenary year.

Finally, the college buildings themselves were to be improved in anticipation of the influx of visitors, with a new administration area created under the college chapel and a replica of the original New St. entrance of 1836 rebuilt at the main Callan Road entrance.

The celebrations are now part of history and a happy memory for all concerned. Some may ask 'Does anything still remain?' The call of God, running through the liturgies, to live the Christian ideal *le Cúnamh Dé is Chiaráin Naofa* remains. If we try sincerely to do this, the planning and organising will have all been worthwhile.



Above: Monsignor Maher welcomes Michael Hickey, the first student to pass through the reconstructed New St. entrance of 1836 now in position beside the Callan Gate. Left: a selection of Bicentenary souvenirs.



*Bishops Forristal and McKiernan, with Monsignor Maher and past members of the college staff, lead the participants in the Concelebrated Mass which formed an important part of the celebrations of St. Kieran's Day 1982*

## A traditional time of celebration

St. Kieran's Day, a traditional time of celebration in the college that bears his name, took on a special significance in 1982, when it was made the focal point of the participation by present and past staff, and present students. The Planning Committee had expressed the purpose of the occasion thus: 'That the feast of St. Kieran be a happy and prayerful occasion for priests, teachers, seminarians, students, parents and former members of the staff, lay and clerical.'

The day began with an assembly of the student body on the front lawn of the college, where they were addressed by the President and where the national flag was raised above the college gates by a colour party of FCA soldiers made up of St. Kieran's students. A midday lunch for all of the students was held in the gymnasium.

At 2.30 p.m., a concelebrated Mass was held in St. Mary's Cathedral, at which the Bishop of Ossory, Dr. Laurence Forristal was chief concelebrant. Among the principal concelebrants were Most. Rev. Francis McKiernan, Bishop of Kilmore and Chairman of the Episcopal Commission on Education, representing the entire Irish Hierarchy; Monsignor James Carey, Vicar General of the

Diocese of Ossory; Monsignor John Holohan, Archdeacon of the Diocese and the only living former president of the college; Monsignor Thomas Maher, College President; Rev. Martin Campion, Director of the Seminary, and Seamus McEvoy, Headmaster of the Secondary School; and former staff members V. Rev. Gerard Canon O'Sullivan, P.P. Ferrybank; John Canon Kennedy, P.P. Callan; Patrick Grace, P.P. Inisgioge; and Timothy O'Connor, P.P. Glenmore.

Music for the Mass was composed by Rev. Maurice Burris and Rev. Liam Rowe of Dublin, and congregational singing was led by Rev. Seamus McEvoy. At the Communion, Anthony McAuley, a student of the college and son of staff member Jim McAuley, played a tenth-century air used by Irish monks on the continent and later adapted for use in Gregorian Chant.

The lessons were read by John Collins, a long-serving member of the layside teaching staff, and James Brennan, a student of the layside. The psalm was sung by Michael Flannery, and a student from each class read the Prayers of the Faithful, which included prayers for the students and the staff of the college, and deceased past pupils and teachers.



The Offertory Procession at the Mass highlighted every aspect of the college's work. The work of the hands was represented by a woven banner featuring the college crest and made by students in the secondary school art classes. The work of the mind was represented by two books written by former St. Kieran's students — the late Bishop Birch's *History of St. Kieran's College* and Tom Kilroy's *The Big Chapel*. Pastoral work was represented by a large illustration of the college surrounded by the names of the world regions in which St. Kieran's priests are ministering. A hurley and a ball, carried by a lay student, underlined the importance of sport in the life of the college. The care of places of worship and of the sick within the college itself was represented by the Sisters of St. John of God, Srs. Gregory and Carmelita, who carried a stole and a vial of medicine in the procession.

After the Communion, Eddie and Kay Keher read a prayer on the vocation of parenthood and a prayer of thanks to the teachers of the college on behalf of all parents, past and present. Mr. James McAuley added some words of Christian commitment to the teacher's role in the formation of youth.

Rev. Martin Campion, Dean of the Seminary, read a special message from Cardinal Casaroli, Secretary of State at the Vatican, on behalf of Pope John Paul II. In the message, the Pope expressed his good wishes for all of the events throughout the Bicentenary year, and prayed for 'an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit on your gathering so that all may be confirmed and strengthened in their faith, a faith that has been aglow at St. Kieran's for 200 years of intense commitment to the ecclesial task of educating future priests and of preparing responsible Catholic laymen, a faith that has in so many parts of the

English-speaking world become a beacon lighting the path to salvation'.

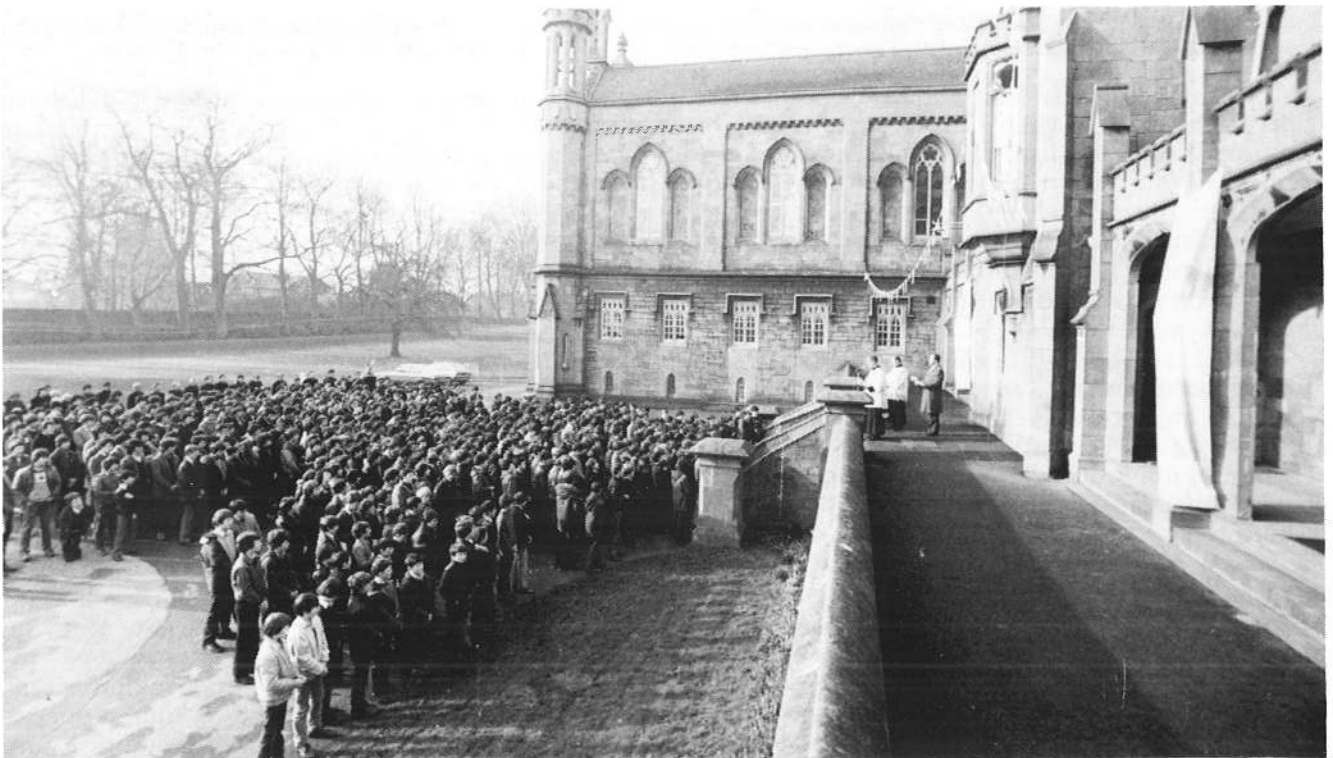
In his sermon at the Mass, Bishop Forristal said that Ireland had changed radically in the social, cultural, political and economic areas over the past 200 years. St. Kieran's had played its part in producing some of those who had helped to achieve these changes.

'There are so many things that we take for granted that those who went before us struggled to make possible for us. This college, which has survived in the multiplicity of changes over the past two hundred years, still has men of wisdom and foresight at the helm. They are guided by their faith. They know that 'the winter has passed' and that we can move out into the clear light of spring and summer.'

Among the attendance at the ceremonies and at the reception that followed were the Church of Ireland Bishop of Ossory, Rt. Rev. Noel Willoughby and Mrs. Willoughby, and Rev. R. Cooper, representing the Methodist Church, as well as the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Tom Crotty (whose family have long connections with St. Kieran's) and members of the Corporation.

Bishop Willoughby was also among the speakers at the dinner held later in St. Kieran's College, at which Mr. Eddie Collins, Minister of State at the Department of Industry and Energy, represented the Minister for Education, Mr. John Boland, who was unavoidably detained.

Bishop Willoughby and Mr. Collins both paid special tribute to the late Bishop Birch and his role in establishing a vision of education and Christian commitment that had inspired thousands both within the diocese and outside it. Bishop Willoughby also thanked the President of St. Kieran's for the kind offers of assistance following the recent fire at Kilkenny College.



*Layside and Seminary students of St. Kieran's College assemble in front of the main building for the official opening of the Bicentenary celebrations at the college on St. Kieran's Day March 5th. 1982*



*Top: The final tableaux in the Bicentenary Pageant, showing the seminarians who provided the commentary and vocal performance and college students representing the professions and trades. Bottom left: Bishops Forristal and McKiernan enjoy the performance with former dean Fr. Timothy O'Connor and Monsignor Maher. Bottom right: The group of traditional musicians who provided background and solo music during the pageant, including members of the McAuley and Carrigan families with Liam Lalor, Gary Lynch and Jim Maher, photographed with Frs. Campion and McEvoy.*

In his speech, Mr. Collins said that the achievement of St. Kieran's College was not to be measured merely by lists of people, however distinguished, who had graced its halls by their presence. 'It has been much more extensive and much more profound than that, in terms of significant input to the overall educational system of Ireland.' He mentioned in particular the facility-sharing agreement with the City Vocational School, and the unique record of St. Kieran's in the area of sporting achievement. The facility-sharing he described as 'an excellent example of the maximum utilisation of scarce resources and of the avoidance of wasteful duplication. Whatever may be our view of the separate origin and development of the secondary and vocational systems in post-primary education, I think we must all agree today that there is need of the greatest possible co-operation between them if we are to serve not only the education needs of our pupils, but also the developing needs of our society in a rapidly-changing world.'

'The approach to examinations adopted at St. Kieran's when it was founded pose a number of interesting and topical questions for us today. Then there was an emphasis on oral examination,

in some instances conducted in public. Now there is a call for a return to new modes of examination including orals, practicals and various forms of assessment. In education, as in so many other areas of human endeavour, the age-old questions are ever new and ever call for fresh answers in the context of changing circumstances.'

Bishop McKiernan, Chairman of the Episcopal Commission on Education, congratulated the college on its achievement of consistent academic standards, the provision of pastoral care and guidance to its pupils and the encouragement of a deep faith. The college had shown an ability to respond to change and meet new challenges.

Afterwards the guests were entertained to a performance of the Bicentenary Pageant, surely the first dramatic presentation at the college to feature the headmaster and a member of the St. John of God Sisters in acting roles (Fr. McEvoy took the part of W. B. Yeats; Sr. Gregory appeared as herself). Based on the historical development of St. Kieran's against a background of contemporary historical happenings, it featured readings from college documents and tableaux based on the Rising of 1798, Catholic Emancipation and the events of Easter Week 1916.



# BICENTENARY ROLL-CALL

## COLLEGE STAFF 1981-82



*Back Row (left to right): Mr. M. Kirwan, Mr. A. Sheehy, Rev. F. O'Fearghail, Mr. N. Cashin, Mr. D. Philpott, Rev. J. Cassin, Rev. D. Bollard (Spiritual Director), Rev. J. Crotty (Bursar).*

*4th. Row: Rev. J. Crowley, Mr. W. Bolster, Rev. N. Flavin, Rev. P. Bollard, Mr. J. Carew, Rev. S. Henry, Mr. B. Clarke, Mr. M. Dermody.*

*3rd Row: Rev. P. Comerford (Dean), Mr. R. McEvoy, Mr. W. Roche, Mr. A. Anglin, Rev. M. Ryan, Rev. J. Dollard.*

*2nd Row: Mr. J. Lambe, Mr. T. Looby, Mr. T. O'Murchu, Mr. T. Lanigan, Mr. P. Cullen, Mr. M. O'Dwyer, Mr. S. McGurran, Rev. W. Dalton, Mr. J. McAuley, Rev. T. Norris.*

*1st Row: Miss C. Kelly, Mrs. C. Wilcox, Mr. P. Barrett (Vice-Principal), Rev. S. McEvoy (Principal), Rt. Rev. Msgr. T. Maher (President), Rev. M. Campion (Rector), Mr. J. Collins, Mrs. M. Dermody, Miss M. Meany.*

### A REMEMBRANCE OF FORMER STAFF MEMBERS

*During the liturgy on St. Kieran's Day, March 5th. 1982, special mention was made of the staff members who had passed to their eternal reward from the foundation of the college to the present day. At the Mass, and the reception and dinner which followed, places of honour were reserved for those priests who are former members of the college staff and who are now on pastoral assignments in Ossory and elsewhere, as well as those who are in retirement. A number of lay former staff members were also present as well as the relatives of long-serving staff members who have died, including Mr. Joseph Koss and Mr. Pádraig Mac Suibhne. We record here the appreciation of all students for the efforts of their teachers, past and present.*

# BICENTENARY ROLL-CALL 1981-82

## FIRST YEAR I

*From back, left to right*

*O. Costello, R. Conway, J. Brennan, E. Butler, E. Cooney, M. Cowhig, E. Carrigan, N. Comerford, D. Butler.*

*E. Butler, K. Blackmore, K. Conroy, Paul Byrne, J. Crosby, J. Conroy, J. Curry, P. Byrne, S. Cahill.*

*J. Dunne, J. Dowling, D. Cousins, P. Breen, A. Dempsey, T. Brennan, T. Crotty, M. Casey, C. Cody, M. Butler.*



## FIRST YEAR II

*From back, left to right*

*J. Harte, T. Holden, J. Healy, K. Flood, S. Hopgood, N. Doheny, D. Fitzgerald, P. Holland.*

*J. Dalton, M. Dowling, M. Fogarty, S. Hyland, M. Hayes, B. Delahunty, P. Hennessy, J. Harrison, M. Flannery, D. Gorey.*

*J. Finnane, P. Durnan, P. Dalton, F. Dunne, P. Gleeson, R. Dooley, D. Kelly, A. Johnston, M. Hickey, B. Daish.*



## FIRST YEAR III

*From back, left to right*

*E. Mulrooney, D. O'Carroll, J. Lennon, E. Maher, M. Muldowney, J. O'Brien, P. McGurran, J. Morrissey, A. Melzard.*

*J. Murphy, R. O'Connell, A. McHugh, M. Kennedy, J. Kehoe, M. Kehoe, M. Murphy, J. Lennon, C. McCarthy.*

*J. Martin, J. Murphy, I. McDonald, C. McHugh, P. Lawlor, F. McEvoy, N. Morrissey, R. McEvoy, B. Keogh.*



## FIRST YEAR IV

*From back, left to right*

*G. O'Brien, P. Gorman, E. Rhatigan, A. Smith, S. O'Neill, M. J. Sheridan, D. Rafter, J. Teehan, P. Whelan.*

*M. Ragget, E. Waters, P. Roberts, D. Roberts, J. O'Shea, D. O'Connor, R. Walsh, E. Phelan.*

*L. Phelan, G. Roche, P. Young, K. Wall, D. Rhatigan, J. Walsh, R. O'Connell, P. Ryan, N. Teehan, D. Phelan, D. Power.*



# BICENTENARY ROLL-CALL 1981-82



**SECOND YEAR I**  
From back, left to right.

T. Corr, B. Carey, S. Byrne, E. Cullen, M. Cantwell, J. Bennet, J. Cuddihy, N. Brett, P. Brickell, F. Curraoin, J. Carrigan, A. Byrne, D. Carroll, P. Coyne, T. Condon, A. Coyne, D. Bergin, T. Buckley, N. Carrigan, K. Bergin, N. Delahunty, D. Blackmore, P. Bergin, D. Coyne, B. Cody, N. Carrigan, K. Conway, A. Clohosey.



**SECOND YEAR II**  
From back, left to right.

R. Gorey, W. Fitzpatrick, P. Hehir, P. Dalton, J. Hennessy, M. Duffy, P. Heffernan, O. Holohan, J. Hazel, J. Feehan, T. Hughes, G. Delahunty, J. Dooley, R. Hyland, S. Johnston, B. Foley, D. Dowling, L. Deevey, C. O'Dwyer, J. Gannon, C. Hayes, T. Hayes, C. Fitzgerald, J. Holohan, G. Fitzgerald, E. Holland.



**SECOND YEAR III**  
From back, left to right

A. Lawlor, D. O'Dwyer, C. O'Sullivan, T. O'Neill, M. O'Neill, P. Murphy, P. O'Brien, N. Murphy, R. Mansfield, M. O'Connell, T. McGuinness, M. Muldowney, A. McGuinness, E. Keher, T. Lawlor, W. McCormack, C. Lawlor, N. Morrissey, J. Langton, C. O'Neill, W. Lennon, J. Millea, B. Mullans, M. MacCarthy, R. McGarry, J. Manning, P. Kenny, N. McLoughlin.



**SECOND YEAR IV**  
From back, left to right

C. Rafter, T. Whelan, J. Rhatigan, A. Young, D. Purcell, W. Wallace, J. Rowe, P. Phelan, D. O'Keefe, J. Phelan, H. O'Carroll, B. Phelan, O. Shine, P. Prendergast, L. Rice, N. Rowe, R. O'Shea, H. Sheehy, M. Roberts, B. Phelan, P. Parle, M. Tynan, J. Power, L. O'Neill, W. Phelan, C. Reid, D. Ryan.



# BICENTENARY ROLL-CALL 1981~82

## THIRD YEAR I

*From back, left to right*

*C. Cummins, R. Cousins, M. Brennan, T. Brett, P. Campion, N. Brophy, P. Donnelly, G. Delaney.*

*B. Cassidy, N. Duggan, T. J. Bryan, R. Brickell, P. Carroll, J. Corr, C. Carrigan, N. Breen, J. Brennan.*

*J. Britton, D. Cody, A. Bergin, M. Casey, E. Campion, W. Dwyer, J. Byrne, A. Butler, P. J. Aylward, R. Coll.*



## THIRD YEAR II

*From back, left to right*

*T. Kenny, R. Kelleher, E. Holohan, T. Kelly, D. Howe, J. Holohan, P. Lennon, T. Drea.*

*D. Egan, J. Dillon, P. Kehoe, P. Foley, A. Hoban, A. Fitzpatrick, M. Grogan, J. Drea, A. Kenny.*

*M. Kinsella, L. Hennessy, C. Farrell, D. Gilmartin, S. Kelly, L. Keyes, R. Grant, J. Faul, P. Gormley, D. Hogan.*



## THIRD YEAR III

*From back, left to right*

*F. McEvoy, P. Nolan, J. Moore, T. Lennon, K. Murphy, T. McCluskey, A. Lynch, L. Lalor.*

*M. Lyons, N. McDonagh, D. Lahart, P. Morrissey, M. Manning, M. Murphy, A. McCarthy, M. Lawlor.*

*M. Noonan, P. Mackey, B. Moore, T. J. McEvoy, P. Maher, P. McGrath, F. Morrissey, E. McPhillips, P. Murphy, J. Larkin.*



## THIRD YEAR IV

*From back, left to right*

*A. O'Carroll, P. Purcell, E. Walsh, J. Purcell, R. Weymss, T. Phelan, W. Tynan.*

*D. O'Dwyer, J. Walton, P. Roche, P. Ryan, K. Phelan, M. Phelan, J. Walsh, G. Slattery, M. Slattery, F. Somers.*

*T. Roberts, J. Smith, J. Phelan, P. Thornton, T. Walsh, M. Woodgate, F. Roche, E. Rice, M. Treacy, T. Ryan.*



# BICENTENARY ROLL-CALL 1981~82



## FOURTH YEAR I

*From back, left to right*

*W. Cowhig, M. Dwyer, J. Caserly, C. Dowling, J. Dunphy.*

*M. Byrne, M. Connolly, E. Byrne, V. Corcoran, J. Dowling, T. Delahunty.*

*A. Barry, M. Campion, N. Brophy, P. Bergin, P. Burns, K. Conway.*

*W. Deevy, D. Curraoin, E. Dunne, P. Cody, W. Brett, F. Cahill, E. Costello.*



## FOURTH YEAR II

*From back, left to right*

*P. Dowling, G. McQuinn, D. Flood, T. McEvoy, K. Leahy, E. Horan, N. McGrath.*

*J. Donohue, P. Dwyer, N. Keenan, C. Kelleher, M. Healy, J. Holmes, C. McCreery,*

*J. Kearnes, P. Hoban, B. Hickey, W. Leydon.*

*T. Farrell, J. Fitzpatrick, G. Ferris, E. McDonald, E. McEvoy, M. Hennessy.*



## FOURTH YEAR III

*From back, left to right*

*D. O'Neill, P. Morrissey, M. O'Neill, B. O'Neill.*

*W. Larkin, T. Molloy, M. McInerney, J. Manning, T. J. Moore, M. O'Connor.*

*R. O'Carroll, P. O'Connell, T. Moore, S. Monahan, W. O'Neill, M. Meally.*

*S. O'Connor, R. Murphy, P. Murphy, P. Monahan, K. O'Connor, J. O'Regan, J. McAdams.*



## FOURTH YEAR IV

*From back, left to right*

*P. Roche, M. Reynolds, B. Treacy, U. Moran, P. Ryan.*

*W. Power, G. Morrissey, D. Stallard, C. Rainey, P. Wall, R. Tobin.*

*B. Parle, R. Pesce, E. Morrissey, D. Treacy, M. Ryan, S. Power.*

*J. Walsh, W. Purcell, P. Nolan, J. Quigley, P. Nicholls, C. Poyntz.*

# BICENTENARY ROLL-CALL 1981-82

## FIFTH YEAR I

*From back, left to right*

G. Brophy, P. Drohan, M. Dowling, A. Devlin, S. Cahill, T. Brennan, T. J. Byrne, J. Bergin.

G. Connolly, L. Costelloe, J. Fitzgerald, M. Dunne, M. Delahunty, T. Drea, J. Collins, P. Doherty.

P. Farrell, P. Delaney, F. Dalton.

J. Brennan, D. Burke, K. Devane, B. Farrell, D. Crowley, M. Brennan.



## FIFTH YEAR II

*From back, left to right.*

T. McPhillips, M. Gannon, G. Kelleher, B. Kehoe, O. Lawlor, K. Fleming, T. Kelly.

R. Healy, J. Jackman, T. Lennon, D. Hughes, A. Moore, D. Keogh, L. Meany.

S. Hogan, A. McAuley, J. Murphy, F. Mahon.

E. Gormley, P. Hickey, J. Kearns, J. Kelly, R. Galster, P. Lennon, B. Fogarty.



## FIFTH YEAR III

*From back, left to right.*

L. Whelan, D. Walsh, M. Phelan, P. Treacy, L. O'Grady, R. Murphy, M. O'Connell.

R. Nolan, T. Walsh, F. Sheehy, M. Purcell, P. Tynan, M. Phelan.

M. O'Farrell, K. Ryan, J. O'Toole, M. O'Carroll, F. O'Dwyer, J. Whyte.

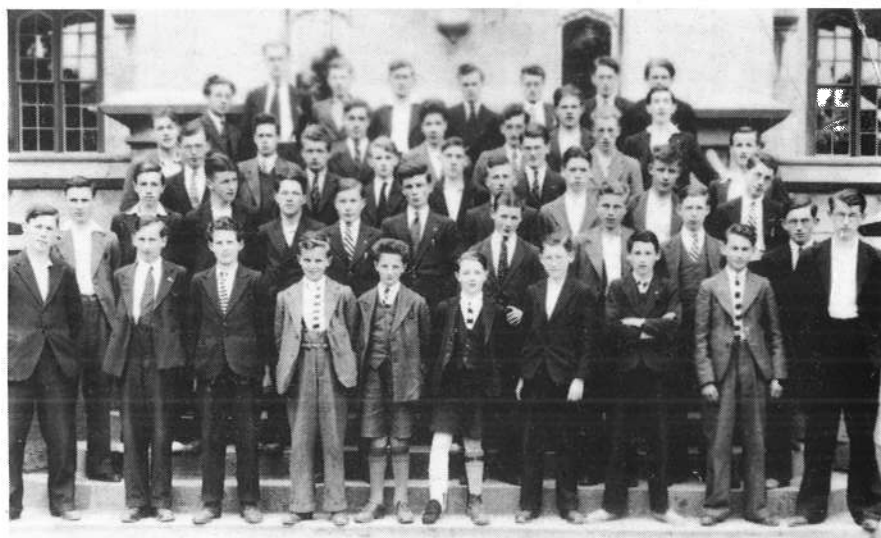
N. Parle, J. Troy, N. Whelan, A. O'Brien, J. Tobin, T. Nolan.



## A 1930s ROLL CALL

Front row (l. to. r.): Denis O'Sullivan, John Ryan, Stephen Hawe, Patrick Hartnett, James Brennan, —, Richard Ryan, Patrick Brennan, Patrick Fennelly. Row 2: John Woods, Peter Dwyer, Patrick Costelloe, Matthew Delaney, Gerard O'Sullivan. Row 3: John Hegarty, Martin O'Malley, —, James Lawler, Brian Scott, William Harney, James Byrne, Dan Mullan, Dan Collier.

Row 4: Michael O'Grady, Philip Brennan, John G. Murphy, Bernard Brady, Joseph Brennan, Patrick Moran, Sean Collier. Row 5: Joseph Comerford, M. J. Gaughan, Patrick Phelan, Martin Phelan, Richard Gorey, Patrick McCarthy. Row 6: John Martin, Michael Bergin, Edward Staunton, —, Patrick Lyng, Gerard Lambert, —, —.



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# The Year of the Fly

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A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE ST. KIERAN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS  
BY PEADAR BAIRÉAD, VICE-PRINCIPAL, ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE

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## INTRODUCTION

The title for this random collection of thoughts, ideas and memories of St. Kieran's Day 1982 derives from a tale told in my childhood about Ciarán Chléire. It refers to his three pets, the cock, the mouse and the fly. The cock roused him in the morning. The mouse saw to it that he stayed awake and the fly guided his weary eye along the shimmering lines of his Psalter.

But let's proceed.....

## ST. KIERAN'S DAY 1982

'The time has come the Walrus said  
To speak of many things,  
Of shoes and ships and sealing wax,  
Of cabbages and kings.'

I have wanted to use that quote for a long time, but failed to find a suitable setting for it. Finally however, it seems to be the correct opening to what I hope will be an interesting, varied, and personal account of St. Kieran's Day 1982.

This is the day the Lord has made.

The day when we begin to ring down the curtain on two hundred years of St. Kieran's as an educational initiator and life-force among the men of Ossory, and at the same time set the stage for the launch into its next century.

## RUSTLING LEAVES

Some fifteen Kieran's Days have passed since I first entered this hallowed seat of southern learning. I entered by the Callan Gate on a bright chill September day; a host of rustling leaves told their welcome. In one windshield look I took in the wide expanse of lawn as it rolled up to a dignified and peaceful facade.

It was love at first sight, a love that has grown with the passing years.

## FRATERNAL GREETINGS

I have come from the far-west, from the ancient Kingdom of Erris and from the Church of Lir's White Swans to the Church of the Deer-Folk, and bear fraternal greetings. Of Norman extraction, my people, more Gaelic now than the Gael. After long sojourn in Connaught I find myself at home among the men of Ossory.

I first heard of 'Ciarán Chléire' as I stood, a wide eyed child, at my mothers' knee. Perhaps I was conscious of that story, deep in the sub-conscious,

as I eyed the classic proportions of St. Kieran's College for the first time, some fifteen years ago.

I speak of many things, as I try to express the thoughts that well up within me in this fifth day of March 1982.

## SEEK THE ROOTS

Time presses. Time passes. Time hastens by.

And as we stand here on the threshold of history, before we enter the third century of St. Kieran's pilgrimage, it seems right that we should pause to cast a cold eye back and down the hungry years.

We seek answers to a few basic questions, ere we continue our launch into the known unknown.

Search out our beginnings then.....

In 1782 Doctor Troy, a bishop of faith and vision, taking the law at its word, founded a School to educate the men of Ossory.

First bishop in Ireland to take advantage of the Relief Act of 1782 to give a Catholic education to young Irishmen. Young men who would lead the people of Ossory on their harsh pilgrimage towards religious, national, and social fulfilment.

The acorn sown, struck roots.

The college thus founded has been watched-over and patronised with caring love by a line of caring Bishops.

## WHITHER NOW?

Next question.....whither now?

We must now take stock before we re-dedicate ourselves. We must remember three words.....Education, Catholic and Irish. We must make all things new, and fill up whatever is wanting in those three foundation concepts.

With our own Bishop Forristal then, with Bishop Troy's successor, we fix our eyes on the year 1782 and say our thanks to the Ossory folk of this day. We get their message across the chasm of the years. Committed now to Kieran's household we forward gaze, where God's finger writes 2082. We salute the men of Ossory who will assemble then in this place, in our stead.

We say to them.....courage.....pass on the good news. We too passed this way on our date with destiny. A trinity of words remain to link our diverging and exploding centuries....Education, Catholic, Irish.

Make them new. Fill what is wanting in them.



Now with glasses raised, let us enter Kieran's House to continue our Pilgrim way.....  
To St. Kieran's, God bless it.  
May its shadow never grow less.

#### A BRIGHT DAWN

The morning of March 5th 1982 dawned bright and clear. To most people it was just an ordinary Friday morning. For me, however, this was the big occasion, the start of the bicentenary celebrations in St. Kierans College. Early astir therefore, Sunday best, and on the road in right good time.

There was a chill nip in the early morning air, a nip that sharpened and heightened my awareness. There was a certain magic in the very air I breathed. The universe was sacramental.

I entered by the Callan Gate, noting work in progress on the special bicentenary entrance, hard by the main gate. This special entrance would be an exact copy of the New Street entrance to the St. Kieran's of 1836. I approved of the efforts to date.

Students and teachers were already entering their classrooms, rather ahead of time, one might have said.

#### WELL-SHINED SHOES

The observant would have noted a certain eagerness in the movement of scholar and pedagogue, and he might also have noted the absence of books and briefcases. Even the unobservant would have noted the well-shined shoes, the well-apparelled bodies and neatly groomed hair. This was no ordinary day in the life of St. Kieran's.

This was the day the Lord had made.

Its like would not come again for five-score years. The very stones of the building seemed to be aware of this sense of occasion. The early morning classes were short-lived however, and soon the students, led by their teachers, began to make their hushed way towards the front lawn, there to assemble at pre-arranged points. Quietly, efficiently, the exercise was carried through to completion. Over five hundred students marshalled by over thirty teachers ranked like the young Fianna on the lawn.

#### MORNING LITURGY

The old prayers were prayed, *Pater, Ave* and *Gloria* in the tongue of the Gael. A moving Oration. The Angelus. The rhythmic clip of marching feet.

A small party of green-clad soldiers marched towards the Callan Gate. The green-clad youths were Kierans boys, the officers in charge were also of our household. Orders were given. A liturgy followed. And there in the early morning sun, the tricolour rose, fluttered, and burst above our gates.

Loud cheers and enthusiastic applause greeted the national colours. And as our colour party marched back to the College, the student body was dismissed. To the fields of play. To games indoor. Of chess and cards and draughts, or humble town walks. A pleasant and memorable morning for staff and students alike.

Well begun is half done or '*Tús maith leath na hoibre*' Midday saw an orderly and smart movement of staff and students to the new gymnasium

where a meal for all suddenly materialised. It was a meal of substance and sustenance, enjoyed and lingered-over by all.

So ended the first segment of the day. The celebration of the body, one might say.

#### TOWARDS BURRELL HALL

The second segment began at 14.30 hours. This was the spiritual celebration.

That hour saw student body, teachers, clergy, Mayor and dignitaries, together with representatives of the various organisations active in the city in one congregation assemble to celebrate Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral.

This was a fitting site for such a celebration, for it was on that site St. Kieran's College began its Messianic pilgrimage two hundred years ago. No lofty towering mass of Gothic graced the site at that time, instead a spacious and dignified building known as Burrell's Hall. It was there the seed was sown in faith. There the root was struck.

So as I looked around the imposing interior and noted how full the cathedral was, I felt that Dr. Troy would have approved. We had traced our origins, the roots were bared, and as '*Lorcan Osraí*' entered his Cathedral, Laurence Forristal, successor of Dr. Troy and head now of Kieran's household, was greeted with loud and sustained applause. *O tempora, O mores!*

#### ROME SPEAKS

A letter from John Paul II was read, and duly applauded.....

'Tiocfaidh do phárdún ón bPápa  
Is ón Róimh anoir  
'S ní sparálfar fíon Spáinneach  
Ar mo Róisín Dubh'

All in all a very fine, full, and inspiring liturgical happening. I felt spiritually renewed, fulfilled and refreshed. From the cathedral we returned to the College where a magnificent banquet awaited us. Present at this banquet, which was hosted by Monsignor Thomas Maher, President of St. Kieran's College, were Bishop Laurence of Ossory and Bishop McKiernan of Kilmore, a Minister of State, Bishop Noel Willoughby and his gracious wife, as well as the Rev. R. Cooper, representing the Methodist community. These visiting churchmen were received in fraternal embrace. '*Mór idir inné agus inniu*'.

Present also were representatives of various families whose links with St. Kieran's spanned the generations. There were teachers past and present, clerical and lay. Students from the Ecclesiastical side. The gathering was graced and given a quiet dignity by group of Sisters of the Order of St. John of God, whose sterling service to St. Kieran's waxed back through the polished corridor of the years.

I will not try to give a punch by blow account of the meal, suffice it to say that the happening was organised by the Rev. Bursar, Fr. James Crotty of St. Kierans College.

The final chapter of the day's saga began at eight.

## ON WITH THE PAGEANT

I was fortunate to get a good seat forward in the College Theatre. The Pageant was on.....

It was back to the roots again, back to the origins. Interesting documents, the fruit of hard work by our researchers were read and woven into the tapestry of our College. Much of the work was done by way of mime and dance, song and script.

I enclose here for the *Record* some of the shining lines:

### PAST SHADES

The heady days of Rising and Revolt  
Now past. The flood recalled.  
And so time's river flows  
In calmer mood serene  
While trembling Peace  
On tiptoe, treads  
Its timorous ways.

St. Kieran's head-high,  
Recalls its own.  
McDonagh and Skeffington.  
James Stephens too.  
So let the pipes of war  
Lament their doom.  
They strode our Halls,  
And here their shades endure.  
Let's quote a verse  
From poet's pen,  
To lament the fallen few.

*'He shall not hear the bittern call  
In the wild sky, where he is lain,  
Nor voices of the common birds  
Above the wailing of the rain*

The College river now flows clear,  
And gentle Bishop Birch  
Explores its depths,  
Straight back to its source.

## A TRIBUTE

But on this day,  
Let's raise our glasses high  
To yearful Nicholas Moore,  
Whose priesthood spans  
The honoured three score ten,  
*Beatha agus sláinte*  
*Beannacht agus Bua*  
We wish him many days,  
His *Alma Mater* greets him  
In fond embrace  
*Céad Fáilte romhat abhaile.....*

### FINAL CURTAIN

And so it goes. The words coming to life on the stage before our very eyes. I'll quit while I'm ahead, with a final tribute to St. Kieran's students.

Let now our '*Sláinte*' loudly ring,  
As we honour them by right,  
Our gentle academics  
Who spear the words in flight.  
Kierans lads have done us proud  
These sixty years or more,  
In all the fields  
Where effort yields  
Success and honest store.  
In Church they wear  
The honoured cloth,  
In commerce too they shine.  
The laurels won  
In far-flung fields  
We now salute,  
And place them in our shrine.  
God bless these sons of Kieran,  
We bear them in our minds.

Speechs, curtain calls, lingering congratulations were laid on, like butter on boxty. It was a day of days. Let the Irish language sum it up in one sentence.....*Ba lá dár saol é.....*

## An Anthem for Saint Kieran's

*Words by Peadar Bairéad*

Through life's many hazards,  
Through life's busy days,  
We, Kieran's household,  
Will follow his ways.  
Through work and through study,  
Through play and through prayer,  
We carry his message  
Of love and of care.

— Chorus —

We follow St. Kieran,  
The wide world through.  
Let's cheer for the Old School,  
St. Kieran's *Abú*.

The vision there fostered  
By Noreside so fair,  
We'll cherish forever,  
Where ever we trail.  
For God and St. Kieran,  
We'll strive and we'll bend,  
From Ossory's homeland  
To Earth's grassy end.

So here's to the Old School,  
Where ever you are.  
To the College that shaped us,  
Let's follow its star.  
The Winter is past now  
Let's unite and sing,  
Both Clerics and Laymen  
Let's till for the Spring.



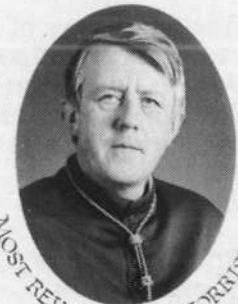
**St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny**

**Ordination Class**

**Trinity Sunday, 1982**



HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II



MOST REV. LAURENCE FORRISTAL  
 BISHOP OF OSSORY



REV. THOMAS MAHER  
 PRESIDENT



REV. LORCAN AISNEAN  
 OSSORY



REV. BRIAN QUINN  
 RAPHOE



REV. CHRISTOPHER NELLIGAN  
 DOWN & CONNOR



REV. WILLIAM PEOPLES  
 RAPHOE



REV. JOSEPH M. GLOVER  
 DOWN & CONNOR



REV. NOEL BRESLIN  
 RAPHOE



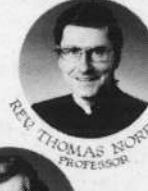
REV. MARTIN CAMPION  
 RECTOR



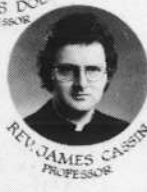
REV. DANIEL BOLLARD  
 SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



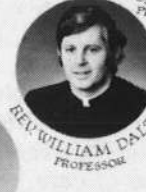
REV. JAMES DOLLARD  
 PROFESSOR



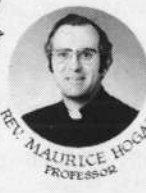
REV. THOMAS MORRIS  
 PROFESSOR



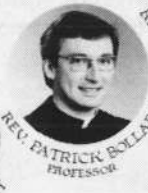
REV. JAMES CASSIN  
 PROFESSOR



REV. WILLIAM DALTON  
 PROFESSOR



REV. MAURICE HOGAN  
 PROFESSOR



REV. PATRICK BOLLARD  
 PROFESSOR



REV. JOHN CROWLEY  
 PROFESSOR



REV. JAMES MURPHY  
 PROFESSOR



**"As the Father sent me, so I am sending you"**

ON 20:21

Lafayette, Dublin.

# Celebrating the theme of vocation

The ordination of Fr. Lorcan Moran for the home diocese of Ossory in St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday June 6th, 1982 acted as a focus for the theme of vocation in the Bicentenary celebrations (five other members of the ordination class in St. Kieran's College were ordained in their own dioceses or parishes – Fr. Christopher Nelis and Fr. Joseph Glover in Down and Conor, and Frs. Brian Quinn, Noel Breslin and William Peoples in Raphoe).

The ordination of a single priest for Ossory in the diocesan cathedral served as a symbol of the modern sense of vocation and the role of St. Kieran's College. Vocation to the secular priesthood is now more community-oriented, with the student priest involving himself in pastoral work in the community during his training, and returning to his own diocesan or parish community for ordination.

## ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE SEMINARIANS – BICENTENARY YEAR 1982



### FIRST AND SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

From back, left to right

David O' Kane (Derry), John McGlinchey (Donegal), James Doherty (Derry), Patrick Donnelly (Cavan), Martin J. McKenna (Tyrone), Sean Brennan (Kilkenny), Paul Jacob (Kilkenny), Edward McCullagh (Antrim), Brendan Dunphy (Laois), Joseph O'Donnell (Donegal), Sean Gallagher (Donegal), John Rooney (Dublin), Simon Treacy (Kilkenny), Kieran Maguire (Donegal), Kieran O'Grady (Kilkenny), Patrick Ward (Donegal).

Sean O'Neill (Kilkenny), Patrick J. Sagens (Donegal), Michael McGowan (Derry), Martin Tobin (Kilkenny), Patrick Conroy (Westmeath), James Sweeney (Donegal).



### THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH YEAR STUDENTS

From back, left to right

John Downey (Derry), Michael O'Sullivan (Donegal), Peter Muldowney (Kilkenny), Anthony O'Connor (Kilkenny), Patrick Thornton (Louth), Anthony Devlin (Antrim), Seamus Byrne (Tyrone), Martin Delaney (Laois), Gerard Cleere (Kilkenny), Patrick Buckley (Kilkenny), William O'Riordan (Cork), Paul Fitzpatrick (Carlow), James McAllister (Down), Richard Scriven (Kilkenny).

John Forbes (Derry), Fergus Quinn (Derry), John Creegan (Dublin), Daniel Doherty (Donegal), Richard Marnell (Kilkenny), Francis McEvoy (Laois).

But the historical significance of that Sunday in early June, and the moving liturgy at St. Mary's Cathedral, is part of the heritage that was being honoured throughout the Bicentenary year, and this connection was emphasised by the Bishop of Ossory, Most. Rev. Dr. Laurence Forristal, in his pastoral letter.

Ordination Sunday as many of us knew it, with the weeks of exciting build-up and the pageantry of the blessings by the newly-ordained on the lawn in the afternoon, is gone forever. But the sense of vocation and of consecration that it exemplified has not been lost – only changed in its manifestation.

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## **Bishop Forristal's pastoral letter**

### **FAITH AND DEDICATION**

'St Kieran's College, which is at once Ireland's oldest Catholic Secondary School and its oldest Major Seminary, this year celebrates its two hundredth birthday. In this short letter, I wish to reflect on the role of St. Kieran's as a major Seminary.

'When Bishop Troy, one of my predecessors as Bishop of Ossory, founded St. Kieran's in 1782, he was making an act of faith. The latter part of the eighteenth century did not seem to be a favourable time for such a venture; but he and his close collaborators, Father John Dunne and Father James Lanigan, both destined to be Bishops of Ossory, were men of great faith. We are indeed fortunate that, as was said in the message from the Holy Father last March on the occasion of the opening of the Bicentenary Celebrations, this faith has 'been aglow in St. Kieran's for two hundred years of intense commitment to the ecclesiastical task of educating future priests.

#### **CHRIST'S INVITATION**

'The priesthood and the Seminary both presuppose faith. The road to the Seminary begins with an act of faith. It is only by faith that one will answer 'yes' to Christ's invitation, 'Come follow me.' This was true of the first seminarians, the apostles. It is likewise true of seminarians today.

'In the Seminary that faith is challenged, tested and strengthened by prayer, study and community living. The proper training of future priests is so important for the life of the Church that the concerned Bishop will spare no effort in preparing priests, already ordained, for the arduous task of guiding young men to the priesthood.

'Let us thank God for and pay tribute to all those priests, members of the Seminary staff, who for close on two hundred years have by their dedicated service done so much for the Church.

'During its lifetime St. Kieran's College must have given thousands of priests to Ossory, to Ireland and to the Universal Church. At present more than seven hundred priests are ministering in various parts of the world: over one hundred in Ossory, a smaller number in other parts of Ireland and more than five hundred outside Ireland. We must always thank God that he has been so good to us.

#### **A DEBT OF GRATITUDE**

'Here in Ossory we must be particularly thankful for the zealous priests who over the years have served and who continue to serve their people with such generosity. Due to their apostolic endeavours we have an exemplary diocese. To them, we all owe an immense debt of gratitude.

'As we celebrate its two hundredth birthday, let us take courage from the fact that St. Kieran's College has, with God's help, a bright future. This year forty-nine young men have been preparing there for the priesthood: fifteen for Ossory, twenty-nine for six other Irish dioceses and five for dioceses in England and the United States of America.

'This month six students will be ordained to the priesthood: three for the Diocese of Raphoe, two for the Diocese of Down and Connor and one, Lorcan Moran, from St. John's Parish Kilkenny, will be ordained today in St. Mary's Cathedral for the Diocese of Ossory.

'As we pray for all these young men, particularly for those who will soon be ordained, let us constantly thank God that so many of our young people are still prepared to give a generous response when Christ calls them to leave all things and to follow him in the priesthood. Certainly they have been given the ability to appreciate what the Pope, in the letter already quoted, calls 'the extraordinary and incalculable value of a life of dedicated service to the Gospel of Christ.

#### **DEDICATED SERVICE**

'The priesthood is not just a service; it is a whole life of dedicated service. To many it may appear an impossible deal; to those young people with faith it is a reality. It is a service dedicated to the Gospel of Christ – a service motivated by a firm faith.

'Parents, realising that a vocation, or an invitation to the priesthood, demands an answer grounded in faith, must surely make their homes homes of faith: homes where the love of God and of our neighbour is lived and taught by word and example. Such homes have frequently been called the real seminaries of the Church. Without them, seminaries such as St. Kieran's College would soon be empty.

'The Church faces many great challenges today. But it is not a time for despair or despondency. Christ has promised to be with us always. The Church must bring the message of the Gospel of Christ to the people of every age. This message is valid for every age including this age in which we live. Let us pray to God that we will have priests who are prepared to bring the Gospel to the people of this age, since they are the only people committed to our care.

'May Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church, help us in our task of bringing Christ to a world that needs him.

'May God bless you.'

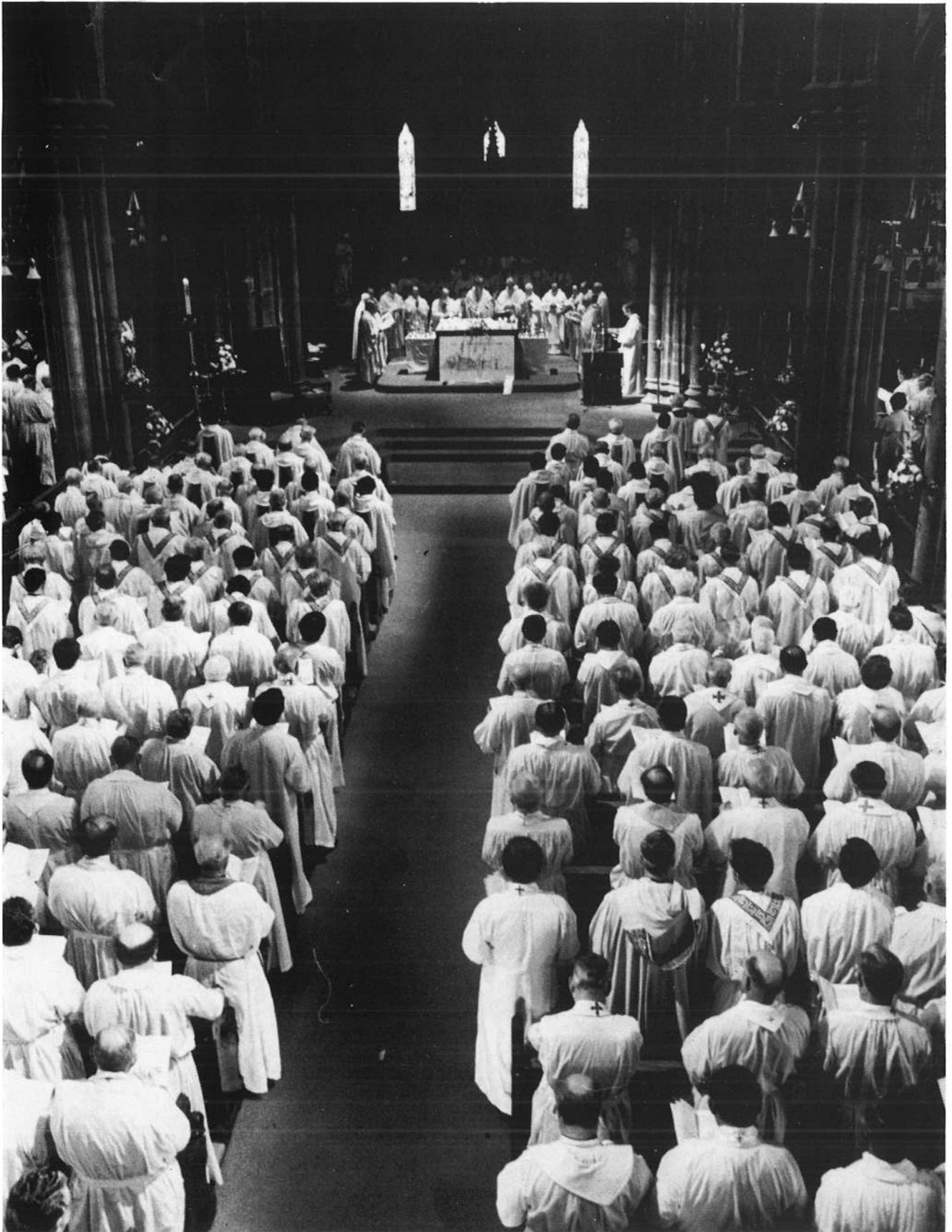




SAINT KIERAN'S COLLEGE RECORD

**BICENTENARY  
REPORT**

**THE WORLD REUNION  
OF PRIESTS August 16-18**



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# 'CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM'

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## THE PLANS

Planning for the August event began early in 1982. A Committee of three, Fr. Tom Norris, Fr. Paddy Bollard and Fr. Jim Cassin, were detailed to handle the preparations.

The first task of the Committee was to engage a director to co-ordinate the spiritual aspects of the Reunion. Eventually all agreed on Most. Rev. Joseph Cassidy, Bishop of Clonfert.

Early on it was decided that the Reunion should be an occasion for a renewal of priesthood and not simply a time to exchange memories and pleasantries. It was to be a time to cement friendships with the great High Priest as well as with one another.

The choice of Bishop Cassidy proved to be a crucial factor in the eventual success of the Reunion. Bishop Cassidy is gifted with extraordinary powers of communication. He also has a deep respect and admiration for priests. These two attributes coupled with an ability to see reality with the eyes of a poet made him a great 'hit' with the priests. Indeed, tapes of his talks are now all over the world and are still listened to with eagerness to seek to recapture again the spirit of the days of Renewal.

## THE THEME

In the months before the Reunion the Committee visited Bishop Cassidy in Ballinasloe to determine a theme and to decide on a dynamic for the meeting. All were in agreement that this Reunion should affirm the value of the Catholic priesthood. This could only be achieved by emphasising the relevance of priesthood for the Church and the World of to-day. So with this in mind the theme, 'Citizens of the Kingdom', was chosen as a title.

The laity had a role to play in this Reunion because the priesthood is a service for them. They were therefore asked to come along and give their reflections on priesthood to the Reunion and then enter into discussion with the priests on the relevance of priesthood for themselves as the Church. A group of lay people were invited to a preparatory meeting. There the nature of their role in the Reunion was explained and assistance was given to them to help prepare them. A priest co-ordinator was appointed for each small group of priests, and he kept in touch with the lay person who would speak to his small group. In this way serious preparation was undertaken from an early stage.

To ensure maximum participation in the days of Renewal a wallet was prepared containing rites of the various functions and readings, and other material; this was given to each priest on arrival.

## THE GATHERING

The Reunion began on Monday, 16th August, with a talk from Bishop Cassidy. On this evening 200 priests were gathered from all over the world. In the words of Bishop Cassidy, 'by their presence they were a marvellous manifestation of the diversity and unity of the priesthood'. The Bishop went on to tell the gathering that they were 'hand carved by the Father, lovingly shaped by the Spirit out of the seasoned priesthood of the Son – the Lord's motley, the Spirit's diversity, Mary's variegated brood' and the humorous word, 'Dad's Army'. The Reunion had begun and the attention of all was focused. We now looked forward to an event which would give an impetus to the priesthood of all gathered for the Reunion.

Shortly after the introductory talk all gather-







*Bishop Forristal, assisted by Rev. William Dalton, Master of Ceremonies, received gifts from representatives of the assembled priests during the Mass of Thanksgiving at the World Reunion – each gift symbolised an aspect of the priestly mission (clockwise from top left): books, representing learning; a stole, representing the sacramental role; a boomerang, representing the missionary role of many St. Kieran's priests; and a container of breads, representing the Eucharistic role.*

ed for exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The theme of this service was 'Christ our Light'. Fr. Maurice Bartley from Hallam Diocese, England, was president. In word, song and prayer 200 priests came to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament to give thanks 'for the light, for the call which we have heard and accepted and the ministries in which we have served his people' all over the world. To symbolise the work which St. Kieran's priests have accomplished in spreading the light of Christ throughout the world, five priests from various parts of the world lit a candle from the Paschal Candle, placed the lighted candle on a stand before the congregation.

## THE MASS

The second day of the Reunion began enthusiastically with another talk from Bishop Cassidy. Have priests become victims of obsolescence? Are they relegated to the past like the town-criers – the lusty bell ringers of bygone days, their roles eroded by modern technology and the laity come of age in the adult Church? No. Bishop Cassidy reminded us all that priests are specially chosen, each called by name. This call from God, this choice means a special responsibility for priests. He must be in his life what he proposes to his people. The priest is a full blooded citizen of the kingdom. He is a picked man, stamped forever by ordination and different from the laity. He is a responsible man, a serving man, a medicine man, a provocative man, a pastoral man, but not an obsolescent man. He is called to be a teacher, minister and servant of word

and sacrament. He must be a preacher of the Word of God in which he is steeped. He must be an administrator of the Sacraments of which he himself is a recipient. He is faced by an overwhelming task, to bring all together as one in the kingdom. He must never forget that Christ is at the centre of his actions and, therefore, he, the priest, can never completely fail. The priest is called to do his best and let Christ do the worrying. The Bishop sent us away from the talk to reflect on our ministry through the Word of God with the following words:

'You are called. You are called to a specific and indispensable vocation. You are called to realise the Kingdom through word, through sacrament and through service. Christ builds in spite of us. But we can build through the Sacraments if we are receivers as well as dispensers, if we celebrate the Eucharist not just at the altar, but in our lives'.

Gathered together in small groups following the Bishop's talk priests shared their priestly lives and in that way gave flesh to the talk they had just heard.

In the afternoon the lay group spoke to the priests on the meaning of priestly ministry for them. The highpoint of the afternoon was the Liturgy of the Eucharist at which all the priests concelebrated and in which the lay people participated. It was a moving moment in the Reunion. The priests were reminded that their role was indispensable for the Church and their ministry of perennial value. The words spoken earlier by the Bishop took on a particular poignancy:

'a priest is a picked man thrown up by the faith, not by the votes of the community'.

The theme of service was picked up in the Eucharistic Celebration. The main celebrant, Dr. Cassidy, after the reading of the Word, called the priest to service – a service which demanded a complete denial of self in the likeness of Christ who gave himself for the salvation of others. The call to service asks us to change our life-style, our attitude and our work for our parishioners and make of them a service for salvation.

'We must not be the victims of formalism or ritualism, but the integral priest who makes word and sacrament real in service'. Ideally we must be in our lives a service of compassion and spend ourselves for the Gospel.

At the Offertory, gifts were presented. The traditional group, Osrai, gave the Liturgy an Irish ethos which enhanced what was already a most memorable occasion.

Later in the evening the assembly gathered once again for exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The president was Monsignor Dever, Archdiocese of Miami. This time was spent in union with the whole Church interceding with the Father through the Eucharistic Christ for his grace and favour. Five priests (from New Zealand, U.S.A., England, Ireland and a missionary society) were asked to lead the assembly in prayer. Each identified needs of the Church in his particular area as he saw them and placed these needs before the Lord. In this way all prayed together for one another. Thus the second day of the Reunion concluded.

A message from Pope John Paul II greeted the third and final day of the Reunion. At a celebrated Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral, the Pope's message was proclaimed. His Holiness prayed 'that this gathering may be a source of inspiration and joy to all (the priests gathered), and that it may be seen by the whole People of God, especially the young, as a living and joyous testimony of the extraordinary and incalculable value of a life of dedicated service to the Gospel of Christ'.

Bishop Forristal, the main concelebrant of the Mass, was joined by Mgr. Maher, the President of the College, bishops, or their representatives, of all dioceses where St. Kieran's priests work and by

## AUSTRALIAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE

St. Mary's Cathedral,  
Sydney. N.S.W. 2000  
Australia.

Rev. Fr. Thomas Maher,  
President,  
St. Kieran's College,  
Kilkenny.  
IRELAND

Dear Father Maher,

The Australian Hierarchy; at their May, 1982 Meeting, unanimously voted to send a message of congratulation and gratitude to St. Kieran's College on the occasion of its Bi-Centenary.

It is my pleasure, Father President, to implement this resolution.

The links between St. Kieran's and the Church in Australia are numerous and precious. That to this geographically distant land the College has sent so many and such wonderful ministers of Word and Sacrament is not only a reason for profound gratitude on our part but also a cause for joy to the College which has so exemplarily manifested its active concern "for all the Churches".

At the celebrations in August this year the College, as it surveys the two hundred years of its history, will be justified in noting, with joyful thanks to God, that it has produced, in many parts of the world - including Australia - abundant and enduring fruit.

Congratulations to St. Kieran's, as it celebrates its Bi-Centenary. Every blessing to the President, the staff, the ex-students and students, as St. Kieran's sets out from this milestone on a new phase of its pilgrimage in the service of Christ and His Church.

I remain,

Yours sincerely in Our Lord,

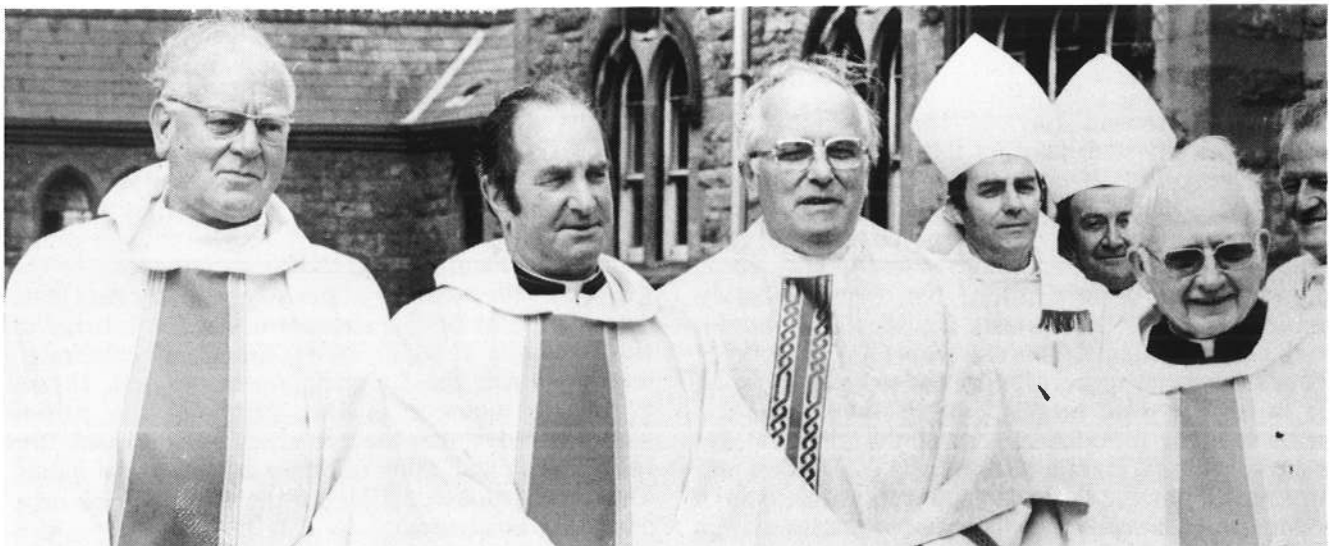
*+ James Edward Freeman*

Archbishop of Sydney  
President,  
Australian Episcopal Conference

*A letter from the Australian Episcopal Conference wishing the Bicentenary celebrations well, and thanking the college for its contribution to the Church in Australia. This was one of many such letters received from hierarchies.*

the gathering of priests at the Reunion. On the third and final day of the Reunion attendance had grown to 400 priests – all past pupils of the College.

In his welcoming words Bishop Forristal gave thanks for the gift of faith given to us all and kept alight at St. Kieran's. He welcomed all and prayed that St. Kieran's continue to serve the Church as well as it has done in the past.



# VISITORS' BOOK

# Ireland

*OSSORY: Liam Barron, 1970; Patrick Bergin, 1946; Daniel Bollard, 1972; Patrick Bollard, 1978; Patrick Bollard, 1933; Thomas Bowden, 1937; James Brennan, 1943; John Brennan, 1939; Patrick Brennan, 1955; Maurice Burris, 1977; Martin Campion, 1963; Kieran Cantwell, 1981; James Carey, 1935; John Carey, 1941; Dan Carroll, 1980; Michael Carroll, 1935; James Cassin, 1972; Liam Cassin, 1973; Martin Cleere, 1981; Dan Collier, 1942; Sean Collier, 1941; Sean Collier, 1950; Martin Comerford, 1932; John Condon, 1981; John Coonan, 1970; James Crotty, 1966; John Crowley, 1978; Patrick Dalton, 1967; William Dalton, 1973; William Daly, 1940; John Delaney, 1962; James Dollard, 1967; Martin Drennan, 1968; W. Dunne, 1920; Laurence Dunphy, 1961; Patrick Duggan, 1965; Fergus Farrell, 1974; Patrick Farrell, 1970; Paul Fitzgerald, 1962; Nicholas Flavin, 1975; Brian Flynn, 1963; Eamonn Foley, 1971; Joseph Gallivan, 1942; Frank Greene, 1938; Frank Grace, 1952; Patrick Grace, 1948; Percy Grant, 1951; Patrick Guilfoyle, 1980; Seamus Henry, 1961; John Holohan, 1940; Peter Hoyne, 1961; Jerry Joyce, 1964; John Kearns, 1935; Donal Kelly, 1963; John Kenny, 1936; John Kennedy, 1936; Mark Kirwan, 1947; John Lalor, 1968; Joseph Langton, 1965; John Loughry, 1939; Philip Madigan, 1940; Noel Maher, 1970; Thomas Maher, 1947; Thomas Marnell, 1939; Lorcan Moran, 1982; Pascal Moore, 1970; Barney Mullen, 1941; Thomas Murphy, 1967; Seamus McEvoy, 1960; Richard Nolan, 1943; Thomas Norris, 1969; Michael Norton, 1970; John O'Brien, 1949; Timothy O'Connor, 1951; Andrew O'Dwyer, 1940; Eamonn O'Gorman, 1981; Dominic O'Hanlon, 1941; Laurence O'Keefe, 1980; John O'Rourke, 1930; Tom O'Toole, 1981; Garrett Phelan, 1939; Richard Phelan, 1962; Denis Purcell, 1966; Frank Purcell, 1978; Michael Purcell, 1942; William Purcell, 1981; Robert Raftice, 1958; Edward Rhatigan, 1959; Jackie Robinson, 1973; John Ryan, 1944; Michael Ryan, 1967; Brian Scott, 1942; Laurence Wallace, 1970; Donal Walshe, 1966; James White, 1932;*

*ARDAGH & CLONMACNOIS: Sean McKeon, 1976; Hugh Turbitt, 1974;*

*CLOGHER: John McKenna, 1961;*

*CLONFERT: Dan O'Donovan, 1975;*

*DERRY: Michael Canny, 1981; Andrew Dolan, 1971; John F. Forbes, 1974; Eddie McGuinness, 1980; Frank O'Hagan, 1973; Desmond Polke, 1976;*

*DOWN & CONNOR: Sean Emerson, 1980; John Fitzpatrick, 1960; Joseph M. Glover, 1982; Stephen McBrearty, 1981; Oliver McStravick, 1965; Patrick McWilliams, 1967; Edward O'Donnell, 1976; David White, 1974.*

*DROMORE: Francis Brown, 1974; Gerard Conway, 1956; Francis Kearney, 1968; John Kearney, 1968; Oliver Mooney, 1969; Brendan McAteer, 1968; Michael O'Rourke, 1935;*

*DUBLIN: Denis Bergin, 1954; Michael Connolly, 1956; Niall Nolan, 1980; Patrick Wallace, 1955;*

*KILDARE & LEIGHLIN: Patrick Breen, 1954; Thomas Donohoe, 1939;*

*KILMORE: John Maguire, 1956; Paddy O'Sullivan, 1961*

*MEATH: Noel Horneck, 1974; Terry Toner, 1975*

*RAPHOE: Noel Breslin, 1982; Charles Byrne, 1981; Noel McGrath, 1980; William Peoples, 1982; Brian Quinn, 1982;*

## LAYSIDE PAST PUPILS

*ST. COLUMBAN'S, NAVAN: Eamonn Horgan, 1953 (Japan); John Dunne, 1951; Laurence Ryan, 1960 (Philippines); Percy Walsh, 1959 (Italy).*

*ST. PATRICK'S, KILTEGAN: Patsy Foley, 1968 (Kenya); L. Forristal, 1961 (Nigeria).*

*OTHER IRISH DIOCESES: Michael Mullins (Waterford, 1970); Michael Kelly (Cashel 1973);*

*ORDERS: John Masterson (1979, Rosminian); Neil Driscoll (1965, Jesuits).*



# VISITORS' BOOK

# Britain

*ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON: Seamus Hester, 1963; James Kenny, 1945; T. J. Lynch, 1953; Benedict O'Shea 1972.*

*BIRMINGHAM: Patrick Browne, 1974; John J. Clancy, 1940; Thomas Foynes, 1936; William Lyons, 1947; Michael O'Meara, 1947;*

*BRENTWOOD: John F. O'Sullivan, 1936;*

*CLIFTON: Bart Collins, 1942; Thomas Lane, 1949; Jerry O'Brien, 1946; Michael O'Sullivan, 1956;*

*HALLAM (ENGLAND): Maurice Bartley, 1967; Gerard Harney, 1965; Michael O'Sullivan, 1938;*

*HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE: William Bennett, 1954; John F. Brady, 1954; Donal Burke, 1966; Thomas Burke, 1960; M.J. Campion, 1975; Dominic Carey, 1946; Richard Cass, 1954; Thomas Cass, 1951; John Clohessey, 1973; Martin Deegan, 1957; Thomas Dollard, 1952; Seamus Doyle, 1967; Cornelius Horan, 1953; Michael Hussey, 1949; Michael Keoghan, 1955; James Lennon, 1960; John Meagher, 1974; Seamus McGivern, 1962; P.J. McKenna, 1945; Donal O'Brien, 1954; Phil O'Brien, 1950; Patrick O'Connor, 1954; John O'Gorman, 1952; Anthony Owens, 1962; Noel Phelan, 1952; Thomas Power, 1952; Vincent Sheahan, 1936; Thomas Shore, 1956; James Walsh, 1928;*

*LANCASTER: V.J. Farrell, 1965;*

*LEEDS: Frank Carroll, 1966; Patrick Hennessy, 1971; Thomas Keating, 1981; Patrick Keoghan, 1974; James Leavy, 1970; John B. Murphy, 1954; Michael O'Sullivan, 1938;*

*LIVERPOOL: Partick Breen, 1947; Kevin Brennan, 1946; Daniel Cadogan, 1946; Michael Coleman, 1945; Michael Hopkins, 1936; Hugh Mulcahy, 1933; Patrick O'Sullivan, 1947; William O'Sullivan, 1947;*

*NOTTINGHAM: John Lally, 1967; Patrick Lynch, 1975; Thomas McGovern, 1970; Timothy O'Sullivan, 1961; Joseph Phelan, 1963; Patrick Shee, 1947;*

*PLYMOUTH: Walter Costello, 1938;*

*PORTSMOUTH: John D. Dwyer, 1944; Joseph Murtagh, 1933;*

*SALFORD: Emmett Dagens, 1958; Ed. Dorrington, 1958; Thomas Hourigan, 1930; Patrick Keane, 1960; Robert Morrow, 1959; Patrick McIntyre, 1960; Aiden O'Reilly, 1959; John Rowan, 1966; James Ryan, 1955; James Tubman, 1960;*

*SHREWSBURY: Joseph Cahill, 1952; William Doyle, 1954; Richard Dunphy, 1952; Denis Herlihy, 1957; John Lennon, 1959; Kevin Molloy, 1950;*

*SOUTHWARK: Andrew Desmond, 1943; Patrick Fitzsimmons, 1956; Patrick Flanagan, 1941; Joseph Gill, 1960; John Naughton, 1965; James Nolan, 1962; John O'Donoghue, 1962; William O'Riordan, 1947; John O'Shea, 1958;*

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*For list of prelates attending, see special items on pages 31 and 32.*

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## SCOTLAND

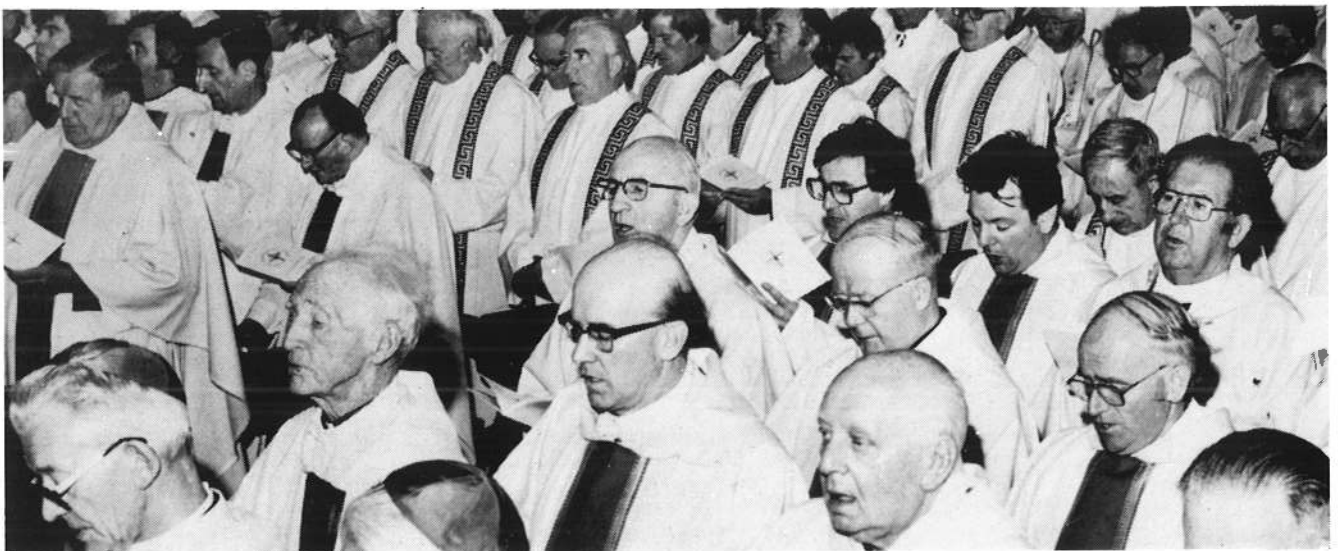
*EDINBURGH: James Brennan, 1945; Charles Kelly, 1941; Gerard Lynch, 1944; John McGeown, 1938; John McHugh, 1935; Peter McKeon, 1935; Michael McNulty, 1936; Kevin Rafferty, 1959;*

*GALLOWAY: Nicholas Murphy, 1945;*

*GLASGOW: Donal Burke, 1966; Richard Dunne, 1945; Patrick Gilmartin, 1926; Michael Keating, 1954; Thomas Murphy, 1948; Joseph McElholm, 1948; Michael O'Connell, 1940; Robert Kane, 1942; Nicholas Rowan, 1947;*

*MOTHERWELL: James McGlinchey, 1959; John B. Healy, 1954; Thomas Fehilly, 1942; John Gillen, 1939; Bernard Keenan, 1930; Patrick Moss, 1950; Sean O'Shea, 1949;*

*PAISLEY: Gerard Brennan, 1958; B.J. Canning, 1956; Patrick Crean, 1950; James Keenaghan, 1954; Matthew Provost Kinsella, 1938; Felix McCarney, 1954; Thomas Nolan, 1954; Michael Teehan, 1928;*





# VISITORS' BOOK US/Australia/NZ

ALBANY: James Hayes, 1966.

ATLANTA: Liam Tuffy, 1970.

BAKER: Henry Beegan, 1958; Matthew Crotty, 1944; Noel Hickey, 1967; Cornelius Kiely, 1967; John F. Phelan, 1941.

BILOXI: George Murphy, 1966.

BOISE: Martin F. Hughes, 1944; Nicholas Hughes, 1944; Patrick Phelan, 1940.

CHEYENNE: Thomas Sheridan, 1964.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Thomas Davis, 1968.

DAVENPORT: P.V. Duggan, 1931; James Quinlan, 1928.

FORT WORTH: Martin Brophy, 1979.

JEFFERSON CITY: Richard Cronin, 1960; Patrick Dowling, 1982; Ralph Keyes, 1967.

LOS ANGELES: Thomas Doyle, 1954; Sean B. Flanagan, 1959; Kieran Marum, 1943; Phillip McKiernan, 1928; Cornelius Phelan, 1959.

MIAMI: Martin J. Cassidy, 1957; William Dever, 1965; Michael Hourigan, 1966; Timothy Lynch, 1971; John A. Skenan, 1952.

MOBILE: Thomas J. Cullen, 1952; Michael Mc Guinness, 1952.

NATCHEZ JACKSON: Donal Gallagher, 1965.

NELSON: Ian Cooper, 1958.

ORLANDO: Terry Farrelly, 1950; Irvine Nugent, 1954; David Page, 1958.

PROVIDENCE: Sean Maher, 1966; Willie Joe O'Neill, 1965.

SACRAMENTO: Charles Brady, 1955; Vincent Brady, 1967; Andrew Coffey, 1949; Nicholas Duggan, 1962; Ed. J. Kavanagh, 1948; Patrick J. O'Neill, 1947; Patrick O'Rafferty, 1953; Nicholas Phelan, 1952; Joseph Vereker, 1958.

SALINA: Thomas Keoghan, 1928.

SAN ANTONIO: Maurice Dillane, 1963; Sean Garrett, 1964; Eugene O. Nee, 1964; Patrick J. Palmer, 1948; Thomas Palmer, 1958.

SAN BERNADINO: Brendan O'Sullivan, 1957.

SAN DIEGO: Hugh Curneen, 1957; Michael Drennan, 1965; (Jesuits) Thomas Healy, 1959; Jeremiah Murphy, 1942; Francis Pattison, 1958; Thomas Prendergast, 1956; Donal Sheahan, 1960.

SAN FRANCISCO: J. Kenny, 1929; J. Ryan 1970.

SAN JOSE: J. B. Dermody, 1934; Jim Walsh, 1969.

SEATTLE: Thomas Delahunty, 1954; John J. Horan, 1956; Seamus Laverty, 1968; Denis Lovett, 1959; Des McMahon, 1960; Edward Norris, 1955.

ST. PETERBURG: P.J. Clarke, 1972.

ST. AUGUSTINE: Dan Cody, 1962; William C. Mooney, 1968.

WASHINGTON D.C.: Vivien Lockman, 1967; Desmond Murphy, 1957; Peter Sweeney, 1961; Canice Treacy, 1952.

## AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

ADELAIDE: Thomas Daly, 1934; Sean McGearty, 1958; Patrick Walsh, 1933.

AUCKLAND: Patrick O'Reilly, 1938.

BANBURY: Stephen Kelly, 1945.

LISMORE: Eddie Crowley, 1951; Edward Gallavan, 1952; William O'Brien, 1942; Edward O'Gorman (Frank), 1951; Daniel Troy, 1940.

PALMERSTOWN NORTH: Patrick Cooke, 1960.

PERTH: James Corcoran, 1963; Thomas Gaine, 1957; Robert Healy, 1949; Denis Lenihan, 1944; James Mullins, 1949; Sean Sorahan, 1944.

PORT ELIZABETH: John Kenny, 1930; Matthew McManus, 1935.

SYDNEY: John J. Kelly, 1947.

WELLINGTON: Nicholas Moore, 1912 (see photo).



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# FACES FROM THE PAST

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*Fr. Bernard Canning, a regular recorder of the ministry of St. Kieran's priests in Scotland, gives a personal account of his participation in the World Reunion of Priests.*

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Hospitality and welcome seemed to be the key notes to the whole Bicentenary celebrations. One truly felt that one had come home again to St. Kieran's. It was a delight to meet the staff, a thrill to renew the lasting bond with one's former professors, to whom one is indebted for so much, and a great joy to meet one's class-fellows and contemporaries possibly for the first time in over twenty years.

What amazed most people was the extent of the preparations and the work entailed in the minute arrangements. Organisation was superb; nothing seemed to be left to chance.

A 'League of Nations' impression was effectively created by the fine display in the college precincts of flags of the nations where St. Kieran's priests laboured over the past two hundred years. To see the Irish National colours flying side by side with the Papal Flag was a particular delight for a Northern heart, something often not fully appreciated by those who take such a sight for granted!

To meet the Sisters of St. John of God – some back specially for the celebrations – brought its own memories. Gone was Sister Mary Chrysostom whom one expected to appear any moment with that massive bunch of keys that must surely

out-clang Peter's keys in Heaven! Still going strong, however, was Sister Gregory flying through the chapel, practising her usual 'custody of the eyes' but missing nothing and seeing more than she seemed to see! She had her special, warm and personal welcome for each priest remembering each one's name. Sr. Mary Fabian was her usual kind and charming self, looking younger than ever despite the 'mod' habit. As usual these good Sisters continue to project the laudable image of being people who receive in themselves the fullness of love and communicate this gift of God to others as they have done to generations of St. Kieran's students.

## DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The day of recollection based on the theme 'Called by Christ to bring Christ to the World' and preceding the actual celebrations provided all with a much-needed shot in the arm. It helped to re-ignite those lofty ideals that St. Kieran's ever engendered in the souls of her countless priests down the years. All participants will be ever grateful to bishop Joseph Cassidy of Clonfert for his truly inspiring talks. Many admitted that they got more out of those talks than they did from many a retreat.

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## Cullohill: a school deserving of honour

A parish that has given more than 50 religious vocations to the world in the past century is surely worthy of special mention; when most of these vocations involve past pupils of a single primary school, then there is reason for a more significant honouring.

Such an honouring took place during the World Reunion of Priests in August, when ten former pupils of Cullohill Boys' National School gathered to exchange reminiscences and pay tribute to the man who had guided the early steps of many of them in learning – Mr. Patrick Rhatigan N.T., now sadly deceased (his son Seamus is now principal at the school).

The group included the Apostolic Nuncio to Rwanda, Archbishop Thomas White, and Rev. Edward Rhatigan, C.C. Clough and formerly Dean at St. Kieran's College, who is one of three sons of Mr. Rhatigan who became priests (the others minister in San Diego and Edinburgh respectively and could not be in Ireland for the celebrations, as was the case with a number of other past pupils).

Included in the photograph below are (left to right, seated) V. Rev. Daniel Collier, P.P. Mulli-

navat (died Easter 1983); Archbishop White; Rev. Martin Deegan, Hexham. Standing: Rev. John Lalor, C.C., Thomastown; Rev. L. Dunphy, Adm., St. John's, Kilkenny; Rev. J. Cahill, Shrewsbury; Rev. E. Rhatigan, C.C., Clough; Rev. Tom Delahunty, Seattle; Rev. J. Dollard, C.C., Templeorum; Rev. John Dunne, Dalgan Park



The 'work-shop' sessions were really marvelous. A particularly pleasing aspect was the involvement of some former students of the lay side and obviously now responsible members in their various parishes. It was most impressive to hear them say what they expect of priests in the present-day world. It gave one hope for the future of Ireland to realise that such young men are playing an important role in the community at large.

#### ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

The flood-lit St. Mary's Cathedral presented its own spectacle and significance on the eve of the celebrations. It had witnessed the ordination of so many St. Kieran's priests and was, aptly, built on the first site of the college itself. It must surely hold a special place in the hearts of St. Kieran's College Priests.

Nostalgia is not strong enough to describe the feelings of the 420 plus priests and the many bishops who entered its sacred precincts for that memorable Bicentenary Mass. One felt secretly proud to see St. Kieran's College priests wearing the mitre such as Archbishop Thomas White of Sabiona and Papal Nuncio to Rwanda; Bishop James Monaghan, Auxiliary of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh and Bishop Robert Healy, Auxiliary of Perth.

One is necessarily confined to his own generation of staff and students and that particular era of the college's history. Faces from the past began to come into view....Bishop Patrick Collier.....Canon Patrick Dunphy.....Canon Gabriel Loughry.....Msgr. Richard Lowry.....Father Patsy O'Farrell.....one's class fellows or contemporaries now gone to God or perhaps lost in the mist but still charitably and touchingly, if poignantly remembered as they were in the Bidding Prayers of the Mass that day.

Despite the wonderful and delightful arrangements for the Mass somehow one half expected to see Herr Joseph Koss appear any moment and strike up his famous and stirring *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus* and to hear the organ vibrate throughout the cathedral. He was there. He had to be.

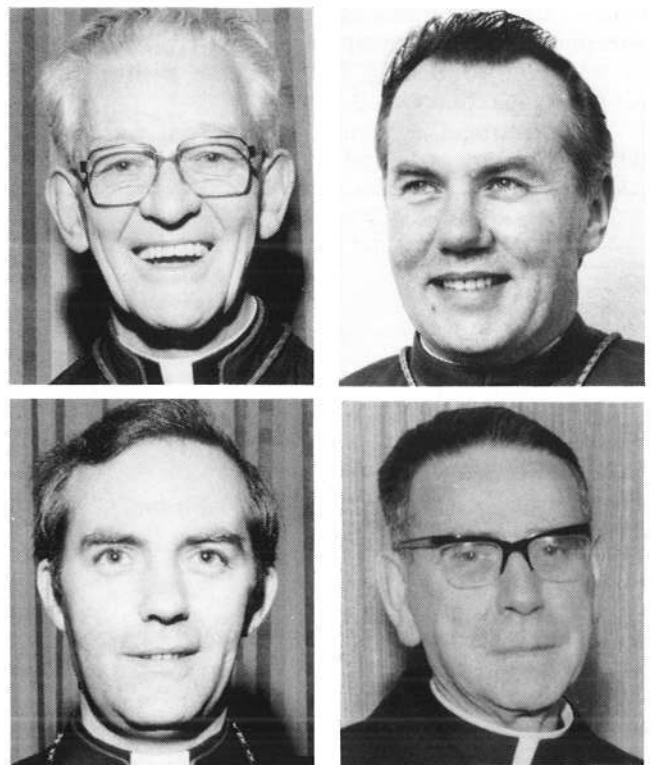
One thought of the thousands of people who sat in those pews at ordinations down the years – the good fathers and mothers whose hearts were filled with joy as they witnessed their sons being raised to the priesthood and who so generously gave those sons to God and the service of the Church throughout the English-speaking world. One felt they were all there again in that cathedral at the Bicentenary Mass. The great doctrine of the Communion of Saints had become a tangible reality in St. Mary's that day. They too were praising God in Heaven that their many sacrifices had not been in vain but on the contrary contributed much to the progress of the Church wherever their priest-sons of St. Kieran's laboured.

As with everything connected with the celebrations, the arrangements for the liturgy could only be described as impressively superb. One wanted to hold on to the euphoria of the great celebration. Once more was re-lived that never-to-be-forgotten procession down the cathedral aisle after ordination to the strains of Koss's *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus* which now assumed a new significance as one's heart filled with joy and one's eyes with tears at the realisation that one was at last a priest of God and a priest for ever. Again as one left the Cathedral one felt oneself instinctively muttering the prayer: Thank God for St. Kieran's College.....Thank God I am a St. Kieran's priest.....Thank God I am part of its history.....May I ever prove worthy of it.....

#### REPRESENTATION FROM SCOTLAND

In proportion to the number of St. Kieran's priests in Scotland – sixty – it might be contended that Scotland was the best-represented country at the celebrations, with an attendance of over 20 priests led by three bishops – Bishop James Monaghan, Auxiliary of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, himself an alumnus of the college; Bishop Vincent Logan of Dunkeld and Bishop Joseph Devine, then Auxiliary of Glasgow and now Bishop of Motherwell. Monsignor Matthew Provost Kinsella VG of Paisley represented Bishop Stephen McGill of Paisley.

No more worthy member of the St. Kieran's priests in Scotland could have been picked than Fr. Michael McNulty to light one of the five candles at the opening of the Spiritual Renewal, representing the five continents where St. Kieran's priests work. Who could have replied more ably to the address of welcome at the Bicentenary luncheon by Bishop Forristal than Father Nicholas Murphy of Saltcoats? He traced in his own style the work of St. Kieran's priests throughout the English-speaking world in general and their efforts in Scotland in particular, proudly recalling that of the six Irish seminaries supplying priests to Scotland, St. Kieran's has given the biggest number of about 140 over the past 150 years.



Clockwise from top left: Bishop Monaghan, Auxiliary of Edinburgh; Bishop Devine, now of Motherwell; Provost Kinsella of Paisley; Bishop Logan of Dunkeld



## EPILOGUE

After the sumptuous reception at the Rose Hill House Hotel, the toasts and speeches, there was further hospitality provided at the college itself. There was amusement for some but concern by others about what was tactfully termed 'a missing emblem'. One felt it somewhat ominous to be asked if the knew anything about its whereabouts!

As darkness fell that memorable evening the college chapel provided its own memories. In the silence back came one's students days.....the count-

less graces received within its hallowed walls.....the uplifting retreats.....the sermons preached there including one's own first efforts.....the solemn High Masses.....the solemn Benediction on Ordination Sunday and the echoes of the *Te Deum* and Joseph Koss's special arrangement of the *Magnificat*.....

The empty stalls only challenged one to try to fill them with faces from the past. There was, however, something still unchanged – the flickering sanctuary lamp in the stillness of the sanctuary reminding one as in the past of the Presence of the Eternal High Priest.....

## Prelates from across the world

Thirty prelates representing hierarchies and individual dioceses across the world gathered at St. Kieran's for the concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving that was the highlight of the World Reunion of Priests. The prelates were led by three with special St. Kieran's connections: Archbishop Thomas White, Apostolic Nuncio to Rwanda; Bishop Robert Healy, Auxiliary of Perth; and Bishop James Monaghan, Auxiliary of Edinburgh.

Irish bishops present included Bishop Cassidy of Clonfert, who had directed the Days of Recollection for the reunited priests; and Bishops Lennon (Auxiliary of Armagh); McCormack (Meath and Secretary to the Irish Hierarchy); McKiernan (Kilmore) and Hegarty (Raphoe).

England was represented by Bishops Murphy-O'Connor (Arundel and Brighton); Gray (Shrewsbury); McGuinness (Nottingham); Henderson (Auxiliary of Southwark); Wheeler (Leeds); Moverly (Hallam); Swindlehurst (Auxiliary of Hexham and Newcastle).

From America came Bishop Thomas Lyons, Auxiliary of Washington D.C.; and from Australia, in addition to Bishop Healy, came Bishop Myles McKeon, Auxiliary of Bunbury.

Among the Monsignori present were many who had been ordained at St. Kieran's, as well as

Monsignor Gerard Sheehy, Dublin Regional Marriage Tribunal; Monsignor Joseph Hammell, former vice-president of Maynooth College and now P.P. Birr; and Monsignor Christopher Creede, representing the Bishop of Brentwood.

Doyen of the Monsignori was undoubtedly Monsignor Nicholas Moore, 96-year-old pastor in Masterton, New Zealand, and member of a Kilmoganny family with long associations with St. Kieran's (his brother, Canon Philip Moore, died as parish priest of Ballyragget in 1961; two other brothers, also deceased, ministered on the English mission, and two sisters were also in religion – Sr. Paschal Moore died in Kilkenny in 1976 at the age of 90).

Monsignor Moore's round-the-world trip to take part in the Bicentenary celebrations made national news – and so it should. The man is still hale and hearty and a regular participant in pastoral and social activities in his parish.

Born on September 17th. 1887, Monsignor Moore entered St. Kieran's at the turn of the century, and was ordained there in 1913; more than 1000 people attended the celebration of his Diamond Jubilee in 1973, and this year he celebrates the 70th. anniversary of his ordination. May he reach the 100 mark with ease! Fad saol duit!



### PERTH WINS BUT HEXHAM DOMINATES GOLF COMPETITION

An entry of 85 played in the special golf competition held during the World Reunion of Priests. Shown are (l. to r.): Fr. Martin Campion; Fr. Billy Bennett (second, 37 pts.); Fr. Seamus McEvoy, organiser; Bishop Healy, Perth; Fr. Corcoran, Perth (winner, 38 pts.); Fr. Dick Cass, Hexham (fifth, 35 pts.); and Fr. Willie Doyle, Shrewsbury (fourth, 35 pts).

Fr. Harry Ryan of Hexham was third with 36 pts. giving the diocese three of the first five places; Ossory's honour was saved by Fr. Percy Grant and Fr. Pat Duggan, who took seventh and eighth places respectively.

## THE GATHERING

On Friday September 24th. 1982, St. Kieran's College threw open its gates to all past pupils of the Layside in what was the climax of the Bicentenary celebrations. It was a climax that recognised the significance of all of the other events that had gone before, but the sheer force of numbers (estimated at almost 2000), and the presence of the President of Ireland, the Cardinal Archbishop of Armagh, and the Apostolic Nuncio underlined the special importance of this final gathering.

The close relationship between secular and clerical education that had dominated the development of St. Kieran's as lay college and seminary was reflected in the numbers of priests attending the social functions and concelebrating the Mass on Sunday afternoon – members of the college staff, priests of the diocese, priests of other dioceses and missionary orders who had begun their secondary education at St. Kieran's and had then gone on to receive their seminary education at the college or in other colleges in Ireland and abroad.

The September celebrations were the culmination of months of planning and organisation carried out by a committee of past pupils elected by a larger group representing each class group from 1937 onwards (the Intermediate Certificate class was taken as the 'base'; classes before 1937 were represented by Patrick Kennedy, since, regrettably, deceased).

The committee was headed by John Kilroy, member of a leading 'St. Kieran's' family that

also includes businessman Paddy and professor and playwright Tom), with Kilkenny hurler (and Avonmore computer specialist) Nickey Brennan as secretary. They led the effort to trace every one of the 3000 pupils who had passed through the college in living memory, and supervised the issuing of 2500 advance letters and over 2000 invitations.

The programme organised by the committee for the three-day 'festival' began with a performance of the pageant specially written for the Bicentenary and produced by Fr. Martin Campion. An art exhibition by past-pupil James Manning (now deceased) was opened on the same evening.

Saturday brought the full force of the invasion – there was golf and a hurling match to cater for those with a sporting bent; a reception hosted by Chairman Kilroy in the college gymnasium; and Bicentenary banquets at the Newpark and Rose Hill hotels.

On Sunday, those early enough to catch a festival of music and sounds in the college theatre were well rewarded for their effort; after lunch, the gymnasium was once again the focal point for the special Mass of Thanksgiving and this was followed by a reception hosted by the College President for all those present – a mammoth undertaking overseen by bursar Fr. Jim Crotty, and involving a meat salad, wine, dessert and coffee for almost 2000 people spread over every section of the college, from Theology Halls to Glass Hall.



### A WELCOME FOR 2000 PAST PUPILS

Mr. John Kilroy, Chairman of the Past Pupils' Bicentenary Committee, welcomes guests to the special reception hosted by the Committee in the gymnasium at St. Kieran's College, flanked by the College President, Monsignor Thomas Maher, the Bishop of Ossory, Dr. Laurence Forristal, and Fr. Michael Ryan, Secretary of the General Committee for the Bicentenary.

In his address, Mr. Kilroy thanked all those who had supported the event with their presence and their donations, and thanked especially those who had travelled specially from abroad to be present.

Throughout the college, there were special exhibitions and presentations; apart from the showing of work by a past student, the work of present students of the college, produced under the direction of art teacher Mrs. Charlotte Wilcox, was also on display. In the new study hall that was formerly St. Gerard's Dormitory, an exhibition of photographs, old newspaper clippings, programmes, books and trophies was mounted, and this included a collection of books written by former students of St. Kieran's (see 'Books and Writers' in the Bicentenary Review in this issue).

A 24-page programme carried words of welcome from Bishop Forristal, Monsignor Maher and John Kilroy and contained a detailed schedule of events, team line-outs, a map of the college and

a listing of souvenirs available at the special gift centre set up in the former 'Shambles'.

An information centre was located in the former Senior IV classroom, now a staff room and this was manned continuously to register and advise visitors and to distribute tickets and badges.

A rota of committee members and class representatives did duty as stewards and car-park attendants throughout the reunion days, and despite inclement weather, the final major event in the Bicentenary celebrations could be described as an unparalleled success. This was a view that was uniformly held by the thousands who streamed out of the familiar buildings as the evening closed in, and left to return to homes in Kilkenny, Dublin and further afield.



The President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery, and the Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, Most Rev. Joseph Carroll, are greeted by Rev. John Duggan (left) and Monsignor Maher (right).



Past pupils James, Maurice, Patrick and Kieran Troy, from Lucan, Co. Dublin, related to Bishop Troy who as Bishop of Ossory was responsible for founding St. Kieran's College.



Mr. John Wilson, second from left, staff member on the layside 1947-50 and Minister for Transport shares a joke with Dr. Martin O'Donoghue, Minister for Education; former Taoiseach Mr. Jack Lynch; and Mr. Liam O'Leidhin, Secretary, Department of Education.



Distinguished visitors to the reunion were (left to right): John O'Neill, Mullinahone; Jim Bourke, High St.; Frank McEvoy, Hebron Road; Sean J. White, Dublin (formerly of Durrow), the well-known broadcaster; and Paddy Kilroy, Dublin (formerly of Callan), a leading businessman.

A special hurling game played during the reunion week-end saw a team of St. Kieran's Past Pupils (including Brian Cody, Eddie Keher, Mick Crotty, Christy Heffernan and Nickey Brennan), defeat a Kilkenny team built around Noel Skehan, Matt Ruth, the Henderson brothers and Dick O'Hara, by 0-18 to 2-10.

In golf, the special competition was won by Andy McEaney, seen here being presented with the trophy by co-past-pupil and club captain Ray Cody (on left), with Seamus Burke, second, on extreme left. At back are (l. to r.): Fr. Eamonn Foley, sixth; Michael Kelly, third; Fr. Frank Grace, best gross; and Fr. Seamus McEvoy, competition organiser and headmaster, St. Kieran's College. College President Monsignor Maher is seated, extreme right.



# THE MASS



*President Patrick Hillery leads the guests at the Concelebrated Mass during the Lay Past Pupils' Reunion on September 27.*

On Sunday September 26th. 1982, the President of Ireland headed an impressive guest list invited to participate in a Mass of Thanksgiving held in the college gymnasium and concelebrated by Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, the Apostolic Nuncio, the Bishop of Ossory, nine other bishops from Ireland and Scotland, and eighty priests, all of them past pupils of the secondary school and/or seminary at St. Kieran's.

Also present were the Minister for Education, Dr. Martin O'Donoghue; a former Minister for Education and former member of the lay-side staff (1947-50), Mr. John Wilson T.D.; former Taoisigh Mr. Jack Lynch and Mr. Liam Cosgrave; representatives of state and local authorities and institutions, teaching organisations, the Christian Churches and religious communities in the area, and former members of the staff and student body at the college — a total in excess of 1200.

The readings were done by John Kilroy and Nickey Brennan of the Past Pupils' Committee; the Prayers of the Faithful were read by Mr. Nicholas Cashin of the teaching staff and Commdt. Martin Bates, past pupil; and sacred music was provided by the St. Mary's Cathedral Choir under the direction of Mr. John O'Neill, with soloists Fr. Seamus McEvoy and Gerry Cleere. The organist was Miss Joy Bibby, and other music was played by the folk group Jerpont.

At the Offertory, gifts representing the following areas of life were presented: farming; retailing, medicine, draughtmanship, community service; teaching; the priesthood; the arts; sports. At the Communion, an act of fidelity was read by representatives of past and present students.

The historic links between St. Kieran's and Clear Island were represented by the presence of three islanders — Liam O'Loidean, Cecilia O'Drisceoil, and Maire O'Drisceoil — in the Offertory procession; also present were James, Maurice, Patrick and Kieran Troy of Lucan, relatives of Bishop Troy of Ossory, under whose episcopate the college was founded.

In his homily Cardinal O'Fiaich reminded all present that St. Kieran's was the first seminary to be opened in Ireland after the penal days, and had a missionary outlook from the beginning. 'A country that is not missionary is not fully a part of Christ's church at all. A country that loses its urge to preach the Gospel abroad will soon lose its urge to preach it at home.'

Noting that St. Kieran's had taken 150 years to complete its original building plans, the Cardinal warned against defeatism. 'We must sometimes be prepared to labour earnestly in a cause which some future generations will bring to fruition, to sow a seed among the young and tend the delicate shoots so that others can reap the harvest.'



*Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich delivers his homily at the Mass, with Archbishop Alibrandi, the Papal Nuncio, and Bishop Forristal in the background; and a view of the priests, past pupils of the lay-side and the seminary, who concelebrated the Mass.*



# THE MEMORIES

From the evening of Friday September 24th. 1982, the unmistakable atmosphere of a free day or the eve of a seasonal holiday enveloped St. Kieran's College. Except that in this case, the crowds were moving towards the college, and not away from it to see mythical aunts in hospital, or to suffer the haircut that set one free for the rest of the day 'down town'

There were some new gates through which to return to the 'Alma Mater' – and a completely new street that had taken half of the former college farmyard with it and ended forever the gloom of that adventurous trail between the college and the Desert Hall. A kind of concrete spaceship had landed on the Junior Pitch, bringing with it the inevitable car park. The old garden wall, a favourite spot for taking the sun on a free day, was gone too, replaced by a gymnasium building that can handle everything from Solemn Masses to Smithwicks-drinking past pupils.

For some of us, the Bicentenary had begun much earlier than these September days. Sometime in the winter of 1981, it had been suggested that we leave wives and families and warm firesides for a large draughty room in St. Kieran's with a couple of clerics at the head table, and the company of men from Coolcullen and Listerlin and Gathabawn and Tobernabrone. Exactly the kind of situation, in fact, that we had left decades ago in order to seek out wives and families and warm firesides.

But we went, and we counted heads, and we filled out lists, and we tried to remember names

and could only remember nicknames, and we wondered would anyone come to the celebrations at all, or if they did come, would they wreck the place. We discussed how former professors would be divided on the night of the banquet so that every student who wanted to communicate with them would be able to do so – someone came up with the idea of a Professormobile, in which these great men would tour the hotels, receiving honour at every stop. Somehow or another, this idea wasn't followed up.

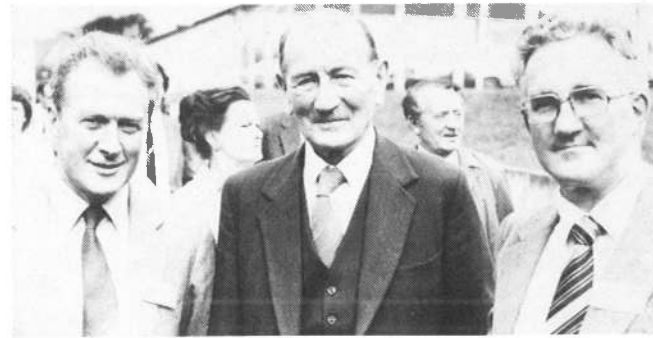
We thought about restoring some of the rooms to the state in which they were left by students 20 years ago – people might be put off if 'The Shambles' wasn't 'The Shambles', we thought. In fact, it turned out to be a souvenir shop on the day – very off-putting, but only a little less than having the chapel stairs open out into some kind of stately-home-type passage with dark panelling and an office for the President.

An office for the President? Couldn't they keep that fine custom of the long march to the top corridor with expulsion staring you in the face? What do you mean, no need to march anymore? A lift? You must be joking!

The final plans were made, however, and thousands of good-living ex-Kieranites opened their post one morning to find that the college they had attended (even if only for a short period), and which they had completely forgotten about in the meantime (and it about them), was now 199 years old. It was throwing a party, and wanted



Three of the five O'Neill brothers (four of them doctors) who attended St. Kierans: Frank, Lucan; Hugh, New Hampshire USA; and Eugene (died 1983), with Martin O'Carroll.



William Meagher, Ballycallan (centre) who left St. Kieran's in 1915, with James Holohan, Urlingford (1950) and Frank McCluskey, Ballycallan (1950).



Seamus Pattison T.D. M.E.P. with classmates from 1953-4: Bob Walsh, Thomastown; Mattie Doyle, Mooncoin; Jim Comerford, Byrnesgrove; Bob Wallace, Stoneyford and Donal Tully, Slieverue.



Members of the 1947 Intermediate class: Jim Somers, Callan; Fr. John Delaney, Rathdowney (now C.C. Lisdowney); Michael McCabe, Johnstown, and Paddy O'Shea, Freshford get together after 35 years during the layside reunion.



them there.

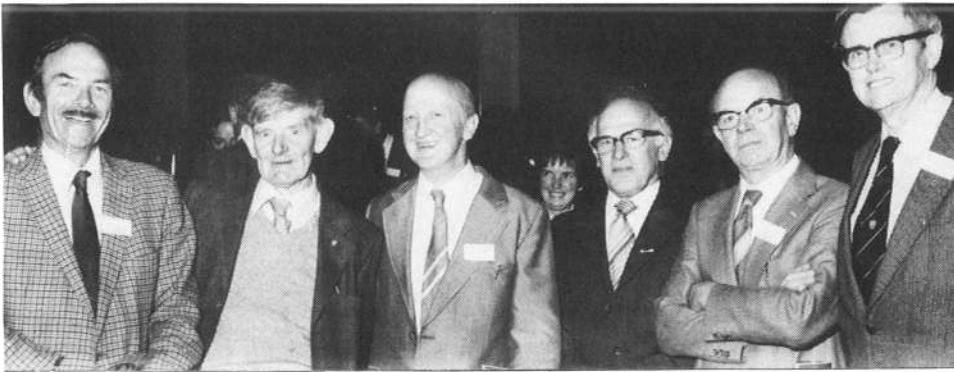
They came all right. In their Peugeots and Datsun Sunny Sentras. With their wives, many of whom could be seen in the early morning hours in the Newpark Hotel saying 'Oh, for God's sake, of course I realise what these fellows mean to you. And stop crying like that.' They examined the brass engravings of the college crest and the sparkling glass likewise festooned, at give-away prices (here, I'll throw in a free Bicentenary tie, and what about a wallhanging for the wife?).

We and they found that, basically, the

place hadn't changed much. It still smelt pretty much the same. The toilets did too – well, the senior ones anyway. There was a new pavilion, we were told. Since when? What happened to the old ones, with their terrifying jump-taps (more terrifying still if you were viewing them from below in the course of a ritual ducking). And the tuck boxes, were they gone? Pity. It would be interesting to find if the fellows who always had fresh apple tart on a Sunday after a call were enjoying equal good fortune in the real world.

*Continued on page 40*

## ROLL-CALL FROM THE PAST



*CLASS OF 1937/8: John Murphy, Gowran; Michael Gorman, Ballyragget; David Cormack, Killenaule; Brendan Kealy, Ardee; James Moore, Kilmoganny; Sean Ryan, Windgap; Seamus McEoin, Conahy*



*MIXED GROUP (1937-49): Front (l. to r.): Brian Kenealy, 1949; Tom Walsh, 1942; Seamus McEoin, 1937; V. Rev. Mark Kirwan, 1937; Kevin Hughes, 1937; Kevin Lynch, 1935.*

*Rear: Paddy Murray, 1949; James Manning, 1945; John Mitchell, 1942; Liam Drea, 1943; Martin Curran, 1939; Paddy O'Carroll, 1937; Martin Bates, 1943; Richard Molloy, 1943; and Sean McGrath, 1944.*



*CLASS OF 1954: Front (l. to r.): Michael Bowden, Lisdowney; Patrick Barry, Wicklow; Rev. Dick Phelan, Glenmore; Sean Lawlor, Ballyragget; Liam Fitzpatrick, Lisdowney; Joe Mooney, Castlecomer*

*Rear: Bob Wallace, Stoneyford; Noel Maher, Monasterevan; Stephen Randals, Kerry; John Fitzgerald, Stoneyford; John Walsh, Thomastown; Paddy Crotty, Ayrfield.*

## ROLL CALL FROM THE PAST

**CLASS OF 1955:** Front (l. to r.): Ted Carroll, Lisdowney; Michael Ryan, Inistioge; Pat Cahill, Kilkenny; Fr. Martin Campion, Gortnahoe; Dick Holland, Tullaroan; Martin Duggan, Cullohill.

Rear: Michael Bowden, Lisdowney; Billy Julian, Freshford; Seamus Malone, Kilkenny; Michael Carroll, Lisdowney; Sean Murray, Borrisoleigh; Paddy Mahony, Kells; Jim Walsh, Inistioge; Liam Hinchy, Kilkenny.



**CLASS OF 1957:** Front (l. to r.): Gay Murphy, Newmarket; Christy Leahy, Kilkenny; Tom Tierney, Borrisoleigh; Paddy Fitzmaurice, Kilkenny; Tom Carroll, Gowran.

Rear: Michael Brannigan, Kilkenny; Michael Wall, Kilkenny; Seamus Dowling, Dunmore; Andy McEaney, Kilkenny; Paddy Holohan, Ballyragget; Eddie Keher, Inistioge; Eddie Phelan, Dunbell.



**CLASS OF 1958:** Front (l. to r.): Martin Kehoe, Callan; Gay Brannigan, Kilkenny; Philip O'Brien, Sheestown; Tom Coyle, Kilkenny; Tony Drennan, Ballyragget; Martin Treacy, Clara; Seamus Campion, Clara.

Rear: J. J. Maher, Jenkinstown; Ollie Conway, Kilkenny; Noel Sheridan, Stoneyford; Jim Healy, Clara; Jim Mahony, Kells; Frank Cooper, Kilkenny.



**CLASS OF 1959:** Front (l. to r.): Fr. Martin Drennan, Piltown; Gerry Flynn, Kilkenny; John Murphy, Kilkenny; Jerry Hogan, Kilkenny; John Loughnane, Borrisoleigh.

Rear: Pierce Freaney, Inistioge; Vincent Kelly, Kilkenny; Brendan Maher, Kilmanagh; Fr. Pat Comerford, Mooncoin; Michael Grant, Mooncoin; Ollie Ryan, Inistioge.



**ROLL CALL FROM THE PAST**



**CLASS OF 1961:** Front (l. to r.): Noel O'Brien, Bennettsbridge; Garrett Power, Waterford; Michael Fennelly, Ballycallan; Vincent Curran, The Rower; Sean Cahill, Kilkenny; Michael Corcoran, Galmoy; Brendan McCann, Kilkenny; Matt Quinlan, Roscrea.

Rear: Pat Delaney, Rathdowney; James Brennan, Ballyouskill; Jarlath O'Dwyer, Urlingford; Paschal Norton, Gortnahoe; Kieran Dollard, Kilkenny; Paddy Carroll, Lisdowney; Mick O'Malley, Rathdowney; Denis Bergin, Fr. Ml. Mullins, Carrick; Tom Holden, Stonyford; Tom McDonald, Piltown.



**CLASS OF 1962:** Front (l. to r.): Ray Dollard, Pat Staunton, Paddy Brennan, Liam Quinn, Fr. Michael Norton, Seamus Murphy, Fr. Larry Wallace.

Centre: Liam Holland, William Dunne, John Moore, Fr. Paschal Moore, Brendan Byrne, Desmond Byrne, Colm O'Shea.

Rear: Ian Kennedy, Liam Rice, Richard Dunphy, Tom Mooney, Gerry McIntyre, Denis Parsons, Fr. Walter Dunphy, Peter Long, Mick Donohue, John Dunne, Liam Duggan.



**CLASS OF 1963:** Front (l. to r.): Richard Teehan, Freshford; Eddie Bolger, Cullohill; Frank Power, Coon; Billy Tobin, Johnstown; John Lacey, Michael Hennessy, Ballyragget; Martin Howley, Mooncoin.

Rear: Denis O'Shea, Kells; Ber Butler, Danesfort; Noel Deevy, Jenkinstown; Liam Dunne, Callan; Larry Dowling, Kilkenny; Martin O'Neill, Dunnamaggin; Kieran Dooley, Freshford.



**CLASS OF 1964:** Front (l. to r.): Paddy Hughes, Johnstown; Ray Cleere, Kilfera; Sean O'Farrell, Wicklow; John Clifford, Ballinakill; Jim Kavanagh, Greenhill.

Rear: Tom Phelan, Pike-of-Rushall; Fr. Jim Cassin, Thomastown; Seamus Downey, Conahy; Jim Flynn, James's Green.



Continued from page 37

Somebody had taken away all the ditches and walls around the place. When you went out by the old bicycle shed, you could see for miles — all kinds of unsavoury things like housing estates, factories and the like. Was there no privacy any more? How could anyone enjoy being in St. Kieran's if there was no longer any mystery, any challenge about the outside world? Fennessy's was the last great retreat before life, the final sorting out of the personal priorities, the ultimate gathering of real friends (I found a picture of our Leaving Cert. class sitting on improvised benches at the bottom of Fennessy's in the sun, gazing on the makings of a perfect free day, and with some of us reading high class literature like *The Word*. Wouldn't we give anything for that kind of happiness again? Wife says 'No'. This kind of thing was introspective and chauvinistic).

It was good to come back. We passed the dish down the table at the banquet to people earning £5000 a year more than ourselves. We talked about Kytellers (the well known night-club at the bottom of Fennessy's), and Cool Egan, and Pat Delaney singing 'The Pub with No Beer) after lights out in the Desert Hall, and Buddy Holly records in the Big Study on wet Wednesdays, and Great Deans We Had Known.

We had grown a bit in the meantime, but in many ways we were helpless still in the face of the emotional bondage that affected us whenever we looked around us and saw that great mass of people, many of whom had sworn they would never darken the doors of St. Kieran's again, all talking and laughing and pointing and sharing. I don't know how you viewed it, Rt. Rev. Mons. and Rev. Fathers, but we think it was a success. Oh, and thanks for the party.

SAINT KIERAN'S COLLEGE RECORD  
**BICENTENARY  
REPORT**

## EDUCATION SEMINARS



*Teachers from schools throughout Kilkenny who attended the seminars organised in conjunction with the Bicentenary celebrations, photographed with Br. Herman Lombaerts of Brussels, who conducted the seminars, and Bishop Forristal. The seminars dealt with the integration of Christian formation with the secondary school curriculum.*



## SAINT KIERAN'S COLLEGE RECORD

# BICENTENARY REVIEW

FR. FEARGHUS Ó FEARGHAIL

## A long way from the wine cellar..

On September 19, 1792, two priests from the city of Kilkenny, Fathers John Dunne and James Lanigan, secured a house called Burrell's Hall from Ann Carpenter for 14 years, at a yearly rent of £22.15s. The house, an old 17th century mansion, stood on the site of the present St. Mary's Cathedral and faced St. James's Green.

Two weeks later, the lease was signed and soon afterwards a prospectus sent out 'To the PUBLIC'. In this house, on January 13, 1783, in a city long famous for its schools, the first Catholic college in Ireland since the relaxation of the Penal Laws opened its doors to students thirsty for learning. The long Winter of discrimination was past. A Spring full of hope had dawned. And the biblical motto on the college crest *Hiems Transiit* (Winter has passed) stands as a permanent reminder of this historic moment.

The Relief Act of 1782 had made this possible, enabling Catholics to set up schools on taking the Oath of Allegiance and obtaining a licence from the Protestant Bishop of the diocese. Dr. Troy, then Catholic Bishop of Ossory, took immediate advantage of the new situation, and with the help of his two able and zealous priests, who were to be his successors in the See of Ossory, he set an example which the rest of the country gradually followed.

The school was intended especially for those destined for sacred orders, but it prepared students for all walks of life: English grammar, writing, arithmetic, French, Latin and Greek were on the original curriculum. So, too, were geography, mathematics, ancient and modern history, 'in short, every branch of useful and polite literature on the most improved plan'. The 'strictest care would be taken to inculcate religion, and form a taste for virtue and purity of manners'.

The fees were relatively high – £20 a year for boarders, exclusive of washing, and £4-11s. for day-boys. There were to be quarterly examinations, a solemn distribution of prizes and but one vacation.

All the respectable Catholics of Ireland who were educated at home were to be found there, wrote one of the first pupils. There were rebels there, too. And one of its early pupils, John Henry Col-

clough, was executed for his part in the Rebellion of 1798. Another, Philip Hay, was tried and acquitted.

It took over fifty years for the Academy, as it was called, to find a permanent home. In 1789 it moved to a house near St. Canice's Cathedral which is now occupied by the Loreto nuns. Here, ecclesiastical studies began in modern Ireland.

From its earliest years, many of its students came from the North of Ireland, thus establishing a link that has lasted to the present day.

Dr. Andrew Fitzgerald, its first professor of philosophy, provided a link with Kilkenny College, where he had received his early education.

### FAMOUS STUDENTS

Lay and ecclesiastical students studied side by side for close on 20 years in the Old Academy. John Banim (author) was a student here. So, too, were Theobald Mathew, the Apostle of Temperance, who won the medal for good conduct in 1806, and Laurence Renehan, later to become President of Maynooth College.

Growing numbers caused the ecclesiastical students to move to Maudlin Street in 1811. But only some of its 150 students from many parts of Ireland found accommodation in the house. The rest were boarded out in the city. The first stirrings of a missionary spirit were to be felt here as priests left for Newfoundland with the fishing fleets that called regularly at Waterford harbour.

Three years later the students moved to more spacious surroundings in Birchfield, just outside the city. Here, for the first time, it was called St. Kyran's College. Missionaries went from here to Newfoundland, Canada, the United States and Australia.

The lay students, meanwhile, stayed on in the Old Academy and returned to Burrell's Hall in 1817. From its halls went forth the 'Callan Curates', Fathers Matt O'Keeffe and Tom O'Shea, who founded the 'Callan Tenants' Protection Society' in 1849, and did sterling work for tenants' rights.

The foundation stone of the present Gothic style building was laid in October 1836, and three



years later lay and ecclesiastical students were together again under one roof. St. Kieran's College had at last established a permanent home. Work continued on the building right through the harsh years of the Famine, but lack of funds caused it to cease in 1849.

The original plan would remain incomplete for over a century. Difficult times were in store for the seminary over the next 20 years. But it survived. And, as in every generation, the college had its luminaries: Fr. Healy, author of *The Antiquities of Kilkenny*, and Dr. Wattie McDonald, long time professor at Maynooth college.

#### MORAN WING

During his 12 years as Bishop of Ossory, Dr. Moran left a deep imprint on the life of the college. The Moran Wing completed the original design on the east side. The grounds were extended and athletics began to figure prominently in college records. The Ossory Archaeological Society was founded in the college; the college museum was set up, and a new crest adopted. The seminary took on a definite missionary aim and sent a stream of priests throughout the English-speaking world.

Among those influenced by the learned Bishop's ardent interest in history was one pupil of the time, William Carrigan. He wrote *History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*, recently republished (see p.117), arguably the finest diocesan history in Ireland. A distinguished visitor to the college in those years was Mr. Gladstone, whose wife had some of the art of handball explained to her by a student during her trip.

The turn of the the century brought memorable successes in the academic line. It also brought to the staff two men, Thomas McDonagh and Francis Sheehy Skeffington, who were later to achieve national fame. Hurling, rugby and handball were the games played in those years. Rugby was the only one played on a competitive basis. But under Fr. Doody, Gaelic games came into their own and the college won the first unofficial hurling All-Ireland in 1909. The War of Independence did not pass unnoticed. British soldiers paid 'visits' to the college, and on one such 'visit' a student, James

Butler, was arrested and detained at Woodstock for a day or two.

Additions were made to the college to cope with growing numbers of students in 1905, 1933 and in 1958, when the original design for the front was at last completed. Missionaries continued to go forth in ever-increasing numbers and two successive presidents of the college, Fr. Collier and Dr. Staunton, became Bishops of Ossory and Ferns respectively.

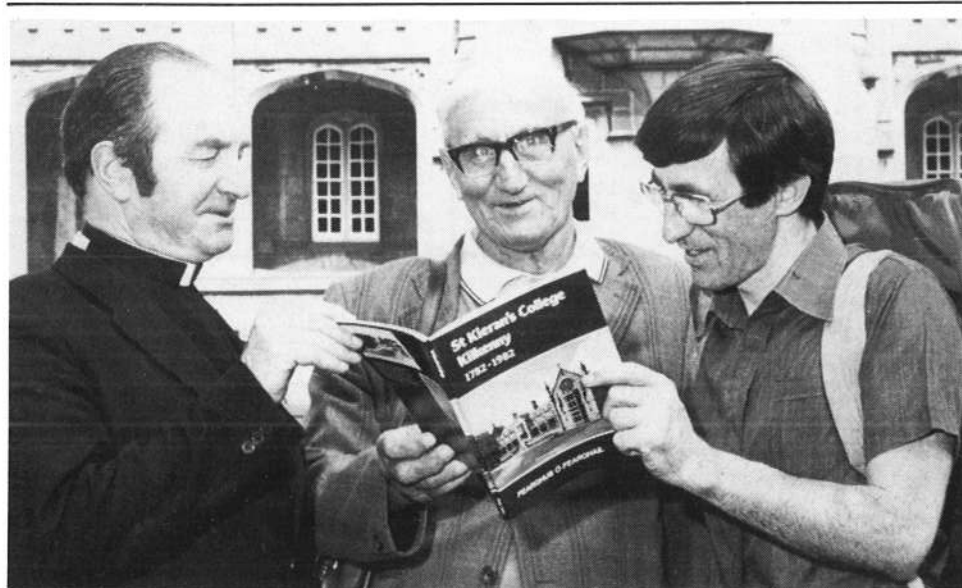
#### NEEDS

The episcopacy of Dr. Birch, past pupil, past professor and college historian, witnessed many developments in the life of the college. New seminary buildings were constructed during the presidency of Canon Holohan and ecclesiastical studies were reorganised. The number of students had decreased, but there is an upward trend in this, the Bi-Centenary Year, with 49 students to join the over 700 priests from the college scattered throughout the world preaching the Word of God. Major changes have also taken place in the secondary school with the revolution in secondary education. Numbers have increased dramatically, from 333 students in 1965 to 517 in 1982.

Co-operation with the City Vocational school, which began in 1966, has developed during the Presidency of Fr. Tommy Maher into a unique working relationship which merited the recent praise of the Minister for Education. A new complex of buildings owned by the college and the local V.E.C., and completed in 1980, provides a full range of academic and technical subjects to meet the needs of the pupils in both schools.

The college has come a long way from Burrell's hall and its wine cellar, which was its first schoolroom. Its original curriculum has changed beyond recognition.

But its students continue to distinguish themselves in all walks of life; in the service of the Church; in politics; in business; in the professions and in the arts. St. Kieran's can look forward confidently to the third century, now beginning, and to furthering its own unique contribution to education in Ireland. The Winter is long past. The Spring is full of life and hope.



Fr. Fearghus O'Fearghail sees his finished work for the first time on his return from Rome when College President Monsignor Thomas Maher presents him - and his father - with one of the first copies off the presses.

Fr. O'Fearghail is a native of Johnstown and was educated there and at St. Kieran's College. He studied for the priesthood at Maynooth (taking his B.Sc. and M.Sc. there) and in Rome, where he was ordained in 1974.

He took the degrees STL and LSS at the Gregorian University and the Biblical Institute respectively, and is currently working on his DSS.

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# ...and some unfinished business

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St. Kieran's College must occupy a special place in Clio's heart. True, well-known local devotees of hers like Bishop Moran or John Hogan never studied in her halls. But over the past two hundred years the college has sent forth a succession of men who have rendered invaluable service not only to the institution, but also to the diocese and to the country in their dedication to the prophetic truth. The study of Irish history, both sacred and secular, could be said with Fr. Nicholas Murphy, the colourful president of the college from 1873 to 1875, to be 'a plant indigenous to the soil of Ossory'. The college has certainly benefited as a result. Dr. Matthew Kelly, Fr. Daniel Brennan and Fr. Nicholas Murphy did sterling work in recording the early history of the college. And in the second century of its existence there were the invaluable contributions of Canon Carrigan, Fr. Edward Dowling and his brother Dr. P.J., Bishop Birch and Fr. T.J. Clohosey.

The college-based Ossory Archaeological Society, founded in 1873 by Bishop Moran, gave the impetus to the first published account of the history of the college, that of Fr. Nicholas Murphy. It was published in 1875, and republished in 1882 to mark the first centenary of the school's foundation. The centenary of the present building in 1936 offered another occasion for a college history. On the initiative of Bishop Collier, past pupil, professor and president of the establishment, Fr. Dowling and his brother, beginning in 1935, gathered a great deal of information on the college and its past pupils, information that is still of great value to any student of the history of the college. In 1941, at the bishop's request, and at very short notice, Fr. Dowling published an important, if little-noticed, article in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record* in which he argued persuasively for the date 1792 (not 1793 of Fr. Nowlan's famous letter) as the date on which ecclesiastical studies began in the college. It was to Fr. Peter Birch that the honour fell of producing the centenary history of the college – the first full length treatment of the topic. It appeared in 1951, and it saw the development of the college in the broader area of the history of education in Ireland. The *College Record*, which grew out of Dr. Birch's work, was published for the first time in 1956, and occasional student publications like *The Mirror* and *Vinculum* provide valuable contemporary records of student life and thought. The bicentenary celebrations presented another opportunity for the updating of college history, and a short history was produced by the present writer. But given limits imposed by time, format, and the purpose of the work, much had to be omitted or cursorily treated. There is still plenty to occupy the student who is interested in the history of his *alma mater*, much that could help to fill the pages of future editions of the *College Record*.

## ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Not much, for instance, is known of the early architectural history of the college. Many are

probably unaware that the steps approaching the entrances to the east and west wings were not part of William Deane Butler's original design for the building. About Butler himself, little is known. The college appears to be the earliest building of any consequence designed by him, but that same year (1836) he won first prize of fifteen guineas from the Royal Dublin Society for plans and estimates for farmhouses and cottages. He later designed St. Mary's Cathedral in Kilkenny, and the much-admired church of St. Cronan in Roscrea. The tower, which appears on the original plan of the college as something of an optional extra (see St. Kieran's College, 1782-1982, p.44), is the most obvious omission. Its design was later used for St. Mary's Cathedral which was begun in 1843 while work on the college chapel was in progress.

Thirty years later, a man whose name is synonymous with the Gothic revival in Ireland, George Coppinger Ashlin (1837-1931), considerably modified Butler's plan. The Cork-born architect, a pupil and later a partner of Pugin's son, Edward, designed or remodelled countless churches and convents throughout the country, and his ornate style had a major influence on Catholic ecclesiastical architecture in Ireland in the latter part of the 19th century. Under his aegis, the front of both wings were faced, steps leading to a new entrance were introduced in the east wing, breaking the monotony of the long wall in front of the cloister. These alterations and the design of the Moran wing decided the future shape of the west wing which was completed only about eighty years later. One casualty of the new plans was the 1836 side entrance facing New Street. Another aspect of the original plan that was left unfinished for many years was the projected main entrance under the chapel. Only for the bicentenary celebrations was the original plan eventually respected.

## A CONTENTIOUS SUBJECT

Land is always an interesting, if often a contentious subject. An account of the land owned by the college could be written with the aid of deeds and account books in the college archives. Grantsthorpe, for instance, the land on which the college now stands, appears to have changed hands in the Cromwellian forfeitures. It then, it seems, passed through marriage to the Warden family, the family of Henry Flood, the famous member of the Irish parliament. In 1759, under a lease of lives renewable for ever, it was leased by Warden Flood, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland and M.P. for Callan from 1727 to 1760, to Thomas Butler, a member of the Butler family of Kilkenny. The lease was renewed in 1802 by the widow of Henry Flood M.P. This land was leased in turn by the Butlers, and in 1836 it was procured by 'Dr. Kinsella and others' as a site for the college. It was purchased as a Fee Farm Grant in 1874, and now to be bought outright. On a 'lighter' note, the college archives contain a sharp exchange of letters between Fr. Nicholas Murphy, then parish priest of Kilmanagh, and Dr.

Doyle, president of the college, over dues to be paid on the college's Ballyhendricken land which lay in Fr. Murphy's parish. The sum of £2 was paid yearly.

A great deal of material has been gathered together on past pupils of the college, particularly on the clergy. The Carrigan MSS contain much valuable information on the priests of Ossory up to about 1890. Fr. Dowling gathered a great deal of information on those who went abroad as missionaries, especially to North America and Australia, much of which was published in the *College Record*. But there is still much to be discovered about the missionaries who carried the light of faith to far distant lands. Histories of other colleges, like the forthcoming work on the first fifty years of All Hallows, and histories of other dioceses will hopefully provide information on St. Kieran's men who worked outside the diocese. A recent work on the Catholic Church in Hawaii, *Faith in Paradise*, tells of the missionary work there of Fr. Robert Walsh, a past pupil of Burrell's Hall.

It is difficult to trace the subsequent careers of lay pupils or teachers who have achieved notoriety in later life, although some, like Denys Scully and Thomas McDonagh, have been treated at different times in college publications. Information continues to come to light on past pupils. Most recently, in a Thomas Davis lecture on Radio Eireann, it was pointed out that James Stephens, the Fenian leader and a pupil of Burrell's Hall the year before it closed, became a member of Marx's International while in London, even if for reasons more nationalistic than ideological.

#### FOND REMEMBRANCE

Books can also tell a tale, particularly books in which students inscribe their names, or express their innermost thoughts (whether on teachers or subjects), compose doggerel verse, appeal for remembrance or note important events for posterity. One entry in a copy of Demosthenes' *The Embassy*, contains information which is of great significance to followers of the college's hurling fortunes. What could be classed as the first Colleges All-Ireland took place on 27 March 1909 in Dungarvan, when St. Kieran's beat the Munster Colleges champions, St. Colman's, Fermoy, by 4-5 to 2-8. Canon William Dunne is the source of information for this game, along with a lengthy report in the *Kilkenny Journal*. Canon Dunne recalled a return match later in the year in St. Kieran's. But it is the entry in Demosthenes' work that informs us of the date, 2 May 1909, and the score, 3-8 to 1-5 in favour of St. Kieran's.

Another interesting point about inscriptions used by students is that the more recent ones reflect the sad but widespread decline in the study of the classics in Irish schools.

For whereas one could meet an appeal for eternal remembrance couched in golden Latin or Greek syllables not many years ago, nowadays not even the English tongue can clothe with at least a semblance of learning the hackneyed and pathetic appeals of the hard-pressed modern-day Classic-less student.

Books belonging to professors, as in the case of Peter Byrne's, often contain learned marginal

notes. Other books, as, for example, the museum's copy of David Rothe's *Hibernia Resurgens*, contain marginal notes which may come from the author. The last words that John O'Donovan wrote are to be found in a copy of O'Keenan's narrative of the journey of the Earls to Rome in 1607, a work for which he was partly responsible. A scripture commentary by Maldonatus contains the signature of Bishop Phelan of Ossory (1669-1695), and other books have the signatures of John Hogan, once Mayor of Kilkenny, Bishop Patrick Francis Moran, Canon Carrigan, and so on.

The unwritten and at times unwriteable history of the school, handed down by word of mouth, often improved with the telling, often difficult to sift through for the truth, holds a fascination for all. Incidents from the McNamara and Collier eras are still recalled. So too are strikes over food, brief excursions from the college for a variety of reasons, as well as 'heroic deeds' performed against would-be-appropriators of a neighbouring brewer's ale. Jousts with the deans, freely told with relish, and incidents involving this or that teacher over the decades are often to be heard.

More suitable for the printed word, perhaps, would be the documentation of the changes in dress – from caps to jeans to cords; or the way in which instruction on the facts of life was imparted by different deans; or the changing patterns of films of the video era compared with those of the period of that extraordinary machine handled with incredible dexterity by a headmaster of long ago. There is still material to fill the pages of a *College Record* of future years. And there is material, too, for some kind of informal *blatt*, be it the *Mirror* or *Vinculum* resurrected, or some other publications, to provide a forum for the ideas, the protests, the dreams of the present generation of students, clerical and lay. For the publication of material from the Carrigan MSS, and other material that has come to light in recent years, the projected *Archivium Ossoriense* of sixty years ago could again be taken seriously. In any case, there is plenty to occupy the devotees of Clio for years to come.

#### A CONCLUSION

To conclude this jumble of musings, permit me to express a deep debt of gratitude to a number of people regrettably omitted from the acknowledgements of the bicentenary history, and especially to Colm O Cochlain for his beautiful sketches, to Sr. Celine for hers, and to Michael O'Dwyer and Michael Dermody for their considerable help in matters historical. Apologies to the very reverend and learned parish priest of Thomastown for the entirely accidental but no less regrettable excision of some fifteen years from his distinguished professorial career in St. Kieran's. Apologies, too, to James Forristal of Callan and to His Lordship of Ossory for putting them under a 'dash' with an 'e' instead of on their own with an 'i', in the index. Apologies to the readers for other errors and inaccuracies that may have crept into the narrative, and for the inevitable lacunae. Finally my thanks to the understanding and stoically patient bursar who loosened the college purse strings for such an adventurous project.



MICHEÁL Ó DIARMADA

## Trasna na dTonnta go Cléire

Tá smúit ar an aimsir. B'fhíor d'fhear na teilifíse aréir nuair a d'fhógair sé go mbeidh an brú aeir go híseal ar fud na tíre. Feicim caipíní de chuid Leeds agus Manchester United ar na buachailli agus anoracanna de gach saghas. Ní fheicim caipín píce den bhréidín ar éinne ach orm fein. Boscaí móra lán den uile saghas bia ag teacht ón geistin. Is cuma faoin aimsir — beidh go leór le n-ithe againn ar Oileán Chléire, ach go háirithe.

Táimid ar ár mbealach faoi dheireach. Tá bus breá nua fuinn agus Johnny Campion i mbun stuirach. Ó go bhfóire Dia orm, tá teip den cheol miotalach faoi lán seoil taobh thiar díom — cuirfidh se le bainí mé. Ach is suailceach an comrádaí taisteil é Nioclás O'Caisin. Cristín, Máire agus Máirín, tá siad go gealgháireach. Tá Micheál O'Ciardúin lán de spleódar. Tá an t-Athair Mac Aoidh Bhuí ag ligint a scíth agus nach bhfuil sé tuillte aige tar éis an t-ullmhúchán a dhéanamh. Táimid ag brath go mór ar Thomás Ó'Murchú, mar is é Tomás an t-aon duine orainn a leag a chos riamh ar cheantar dúchais Chíaráin Naofa.

Sea, Naomh Cíarán, Cíarán Chléire agus Cíarán Saighir, Cíarán an Chloigin, Cíarán an naomh a raibh na hainmhithe féin umhal dó, (cé gur dhein an sionnach iarracht a bhróga a chreimeadh). Cíarán, an chéad easpag ar Osraí; nach bhfuil ár gcoláiste stairiúil tiomnaithe dó? Nach mithid dúinn aghaidh a thabhairt ar Chléire agus ár scéal a ínsint do phobal Chíaráin ar an oileán sin?

Giorraíonn beirt bóthar' a dúirt an Gobán Saor fadó. Bhuel déanfaidh leathchéad an-ghiorrúchán air agus iad ag canadh d'aon ghuth. Giotar no dhó le cloisint. Amhrán meidhreach ón ábhar Sagarairt Dick Scriven, bailéad fada ó Uinseann Ó'Corcoran agus *Ar Éirinn ní neosfainn cé hí*, ar an bhfíor sean-nós, arís is arís eile ó bheirt mhuinteoir nuair a thagann lagú gutha ar na daoine óga.

Siulóid ghairid fán gcathair i gCorcaigh. Ar aghaidh linn go tapaidh go Droichead na Bandan áit a bhfuil corabhéile ós ár gcomhair san Hide Out. Tá se tirim anois ach scamail bhagracha ar íor na spéire. Nach é seo Dún na Seadh cois farrage ach ní bheidh an bád ag scoladh go dtí a leathuair tar éis a cúig.



‘Seo chugainn í’, ‘Naomh Cíarán’, breachta uirthi. Castar an seiplíneach orainn, an t-athair Liam Ó’hÍcí agus cuireann sé na failtí geala romhainn. Criú an bháid ag spailpeach Gaeilge. Timpeall seacht míle de thuras farraige le déanamh againn. ‘Trí cheathrú uair an chloig agus beimid ann’ a deir Conchubhar Ó’Drisceóil. An fharraige ina clár ach níl radharc againn ar Chléire fós. Déanaimíd iarracht *Trasna na dTonnta* a chanadh ach tá dordán buan an innill ag buachaint orainn. ‘Féach ar Chléire anois’ arsa duine éigin. D’aon aonta iompaímíd go léir i dtreó thír na tairngreachta, chun lán ar súl a bhaint aisti. Sleasa an chnoic breac le títhe ceann slinne. Anois feicim an seipéal ar íor na spéire, carraig árd ina seasamh go dána thall ansin. Gréasán de pháirc-eanna beaga glasa. Buí an aithinn go fáilteach anseo is ansiúd, ach níl aon chrann le feiscint. Go tobann nochtann an ghrián í fein chun aoibh an ghéire a chur ar an bhfarraige mhín réidh. Táimíd ag druidim le Chíaráin agus tá na gluasteáin ag déanamh ar an gcé cheana fein.

### GLEO AGUS GLEITHEARÁN

Gleo agus gleithearán ar an gcé – malaí tais-til, malaí codalta, malaí VG. ‘Fág na boscaí móra go dtiocfaidh an tarracoir’.

‘Timpeall leathmhíle uainn ata Brú an Óige’. ‘Tá muíntir Chléire ag brú isteach sna volkswagens agus ag déanamh ar an mbaile.

‘Ó féach ar Thobair Chíaráin agus nach é sin Gallán Chíaráin taobh leis’. ‘Deirtear go bhfuil sé ar an ngallán is sine in Éirinn’. ‘Sea agus an Chros greannta go soiléir ann’. ‘Teampall Chíaráin atá thall ansin agus an reilig timpeall air’.

Ach ní tráth oilithreachta atá ann anois agus ár bputóga ag geónail leis an ocras.

Seacht bhfrioctán ag gíosaíl ar an ngas. Fear agus gan de chúram air ach na hionúine a mhíonghearrach. Múinteóirí go fuadrach ag dáileach bia. ‘Caithfidh gach duine a chuid fein den obair a dheanamh’. ‘A Shéamais, beir ar na tuailí sin’. Ní ro-shásta atá Séamus, ach níl aon dul as aige.

‘Bíodh gach duine ar ais sa bhrú roimh a haon deag’.

Castar Conchúr Ó Donnchadha orm. Tá an-chuid seanchais aige faoi Chíarán Naofa. Tá íonadh air nuair a chloiseann sé nach mbíonn eirí amach mór i gCill Chainnigh Lá le Cíarán. Lá saoire eaglasta a bhíonn ann i gCléire ar an gcúigiú lá de Mháirta. Scéal aige faoi bhean Mheiriceánach a raibh radharc na súl cailte aice. Bhí teipthe ar lucht leighis aon rud a dhéanamh di. Tar éis di uisce ó Thobar Chíaráin a chur ar a súile bhí said slán arís. Tá traidisiún ann freisin gan tae a dhéanamh den uisce ó Thobar Chíaráin.

Ní ag caint go meafarach atáim nuair a deirim gur dhuisíomar le ceadscairt an choiligh (bantam). An bricfeásta caite, fleascanna taé agus ceapairí ullamh againn agus buailimíd bóthar. An ghrián ag taitneamh go suaire agus radharcanna niamhracha ós ár gcomhair. An dtabharfaimíd faoin Teach Solais nó faoi Dhún an Oir, faoi Stocán na Mionnan nó Faille an Phréacháin? Fonn iascaireachta ar dhaoine eile.

‘Bhfeidir go rachaimíd ag snámh níos deanaí’. ‘Cén fáth nár thógas ach an t-aon scannán liom do mo cheamara?’

Cuairt ar an seipéal. Feicim an plaic mar bhúanchuimhne ar an Athair Risteárd Ó hAllmhurain a fuair bás ar an deichiú lá d’Eanáir 1918. Risteárd a thríall ó Chill Chreagáin in Osraí chun freastal ar mhuintir Chléire. Ní raibh sé i ndán dó tréimse fhada a chaitheamh ina dteannta mar cailleach é in aois a shé bhliain is fiche. Bhí an-mheas ag an daoine air. Ba mhian leo é a chur ar an oileán ach ní mar sin a tharla mar tá an t-Athair Risteárd ina luí lena mhuintir féin i bparóiste Móin Chuinn cois Siúire.

Tá an-áthas go deo ar Bhean Uí Dhrisceóil bualadh linn. Bean grámhar, bean atá Gaelach go smior. Tá sí ag cur ceisteanna faoi Mhuintir Uí Dhuigáin ón Monster House. Nablanta ó shin bhíodh an-chuid éadaí ag teacht tríd an phoithe go Cléire on Monster House. ‘Níor ghá dúinn bheith ag dul go Sciobairín in aon chor’, a deir sí.

Tá Oileán Chléire timpeall trí mhíle ar fhad ach níl sé thar míle ar leithead. Timpeall ácra talun atá sna páirceanna, a bhfuil claitheacha dána deadhéanta timpeall orthu. Gamhna den phór Hereford is mó a fheicim agus iad ag diúl na mbó. Feicim tarbh den phór céanna ach níl cead a chinn aige. Dar ndóigh ní bhíonn aon trácht ar A.I. ar oileán mar seo. Roinnt de na páircíní, tá siad imithe chun fian-tais, ceal saothrú. Ceapóga borba prataí anseo is ansiúd. Ag tús na haoise seo bhí breis agus míle duine ina gcónaí ar Oileán Chléire. Timpeall 160 duine atá ann i láthair na huair. Ach tá misneach ag na daoine anois nach raibh acu 20 bliain ó shin. An t-Athair Tomás O Murchú a thug an spreagadh do na daoine. Ghriosaigh sé iad le rud a dheanamh ar a son fein agus meas a bheith acu ar a dteanga dhúchais. Anois tá uisce reatha sna títhe, tá ginteoir leictreacais dá gcuid féin acu, tá comharchumann gníomhach ann, agus tá breis is scór paiste ag freastal ar an scoil náisiúnta.

### SEAN-LEAGAN DEN ÁIVÉ

Tá sé de phribhléid agam ceann a chur ar an bPádrín Páirteach taobh le Tobar Chíaráin. Tá roinnt mhaith de phobal Chléire tagtha inár measc don ócáid. Fan anois! Nach é sin an sean-leagan den Aivé atá acu agus mise i dtaobh leis an leagan caighdeánach. Ach ní mor an ceataí duinn é sin mar ta Naomh Cíaráin ag faire orainn sa chlapsholas.

Maidin Domhnaigh agus beidh Aifreann ar a deich. Ní mór dúinn brostú leis an mbricfeásta.

An cóngar chun an teampall is an timpeall chun na reilige, a deirtear. Ghabhamar an cosán agus thar na strápaí agus bhaineamar amach an seipéal. Aifreann comheiliúrtha, an tAthair O’hÍcí agus an tAthair Mac Aoidh Bhuí á léamh. An chantaireacht, an scriptúr agus guí an phobail – faoi mhuintir Osraí a bhí na curaimí sin. Chruthaigh siad go maith, cé go raibh roinnt díobh faiteach go leor agus iad i láthar phobal Gaeltachta. Ina sheanmóir rianaigh an t-Athair Mac Aoidh Bhuí, stair Choláiste Chiaráin agus léirigh sé an ceangal a bhí ag Osraí le Cíarán Chléire.

Tá sé ag druidim lena trí a chlog agus tá an bagáiste go léir dá lóidail ar an Naomh Cíarán arís. Tá an uain go haoibhinn. Scaoiltear an téad agus táimid ag seoladh amach on gcé. An tAthair O’hÍcí agus a phobal ina seasamh ann ag croitheach-slán linn. Ní leor deireach seachtaine ar Chléire in aon chor ach caithfimid bheith ar ais ar scoil amárach ar a naoi a chlog.



# ZOUNDS!

Perhaps ten-thirty on a Sunday morning after a night that ended for many revellers a mere six hours previously was not the most judiciously-chosen hour to present a programme of cultural content. Had it borne the label 'This programme will not damage your health' it might have attracted a bigger audience to the College Theatre but those who put in an appearance showed by their applause and laughter that they enjoyed entertainment of a high order.

Tom Lyng, a pupil in the transition era when the United Kingdom gave way to the Irish Free State, described in mordant fashion many ecclesiastical figures of the time, some of whom still hankered for the Union Jack, like the 'Pope of Ossory', son of an R.I.C. sergeant, who introduced rugby to St. Kieran's, and whose only creative work was an article written in pencil – so that it could be easily erased – which proved to his own satisfaction that Shakespeare was an R.C. Another was a curate who supplied three shoddy statues for the parish church and three hunt horses, for he loved to rub shoulders with Lady McCalmont, and who said that de Valera was typical of his name, an airy devil.

All Tom's characters, it must be said, were left unnamed, but so vivid were the portraits that they were easily identifiable, e.g. the Camross President (nick-name 'Give him Six') whose lesson in sex education to the students was summed up in the phrase, 'They are worse than yourselves', and who as bishop pronounced the plain chant at Urlingford Gregorian festival to be 'very plain'. A classic story of the same bishop deserves recording in print:

At a confirmation ceremony in Muckalee a buxom young wench from Baurnafean proved at the inquisition to be very deficient in answering the catechism. The parish priest ('Willy the Liar' and 'Sweet William' were his conflicting sobriquets) whispered to the bishop, 'My lord, this girl does not know the catechism but she has all the essentials'. The bishop beamed through his thick glasses at her frontage and remarked. 'She may have the essentials for some other sacrament, but not for confirmation'.

No wonder the next performer, Richard Hogan, sighed that it was difficult to follow such an entertainer, before singing to his own guitar accompaniment the ballad 'The Home I left behind'.

Then Fergus Farrell told the tale of the Lost Heart of the Liberator. This, as absorbing as a good detective story, revealed how Daniel O'Connell's legacy – his soul to God, his body to Ireland, his heart to Rome (the terms of this legacy seem to have been couched, not by the great man himself, but by his chaplain, Fr. John Miley) – has gone awry in the third clause. When the Liberator died by the soft Ligurian sea on 15 May 1847, his heart, refused in St. Peter's, was deposited in St. Agatha's Church, then in the custody of the Irish College. When Charles

Bianconi visited Rome in 1851 he was mortified to find that no monument had been erected to O'Connell, so he commissioned one – the inscription being composed by John Henry Newman. Above the marble slab was a niche to hold the silver casket holding the relic. In October 1926 when the Irish College changed residence the O'Connell memorial was also moved, but in the niche there was no silver casket, no heart. A solution to the puzzle was postulated by Fergus Farrell, but in case the intriguing tale should appear eventually in print, we will not reveal it here.

Next followed a delightful rendition on the piano of *Impromptu in A Flat* by Schubert played by Walter Dunphy, Society of the Divine Word, home on holiday from the Japanese mission.

This humorous quatrain by Patrick Kavanagh:

Irish poets open your eyes,  
Even Cabra may surprise;  
Try the dog tracks now and then,  
Shelbourne Park and crooked men.

occurred in a profile of that great poet by Leo Holohan, his friend of twenty-one years, which was read by the late Leo's nephew, Patrick Holohan. Once Leo visited the very sick poet in Baggot Street Hospital and Paddy indicated in disgust the display of statues and rosary beads around the ward: 'The Catholic Church is in a bad way if it depended on that lot. Matter of fact, only for Mauriac, Waugh, and myself and a few others, it would be done for'.

Yeats, whom Kavanagh was parodying above, provided one of the ballads sung by Maurice Burris, *The Song of Wandering Aengus*. This is the poem that begins:

I went out to the hazel wood  
Because a fire was in my head  
and ends:  
And walk among long dappled grass,  
And pluck till time and times are  
done  
The silver apples of the moon,  
The golden apples of the sun.

Maurice also sang Percy French's *Little Bridget Flynn*.

His rendition of the songs has since been heard at least twice on Kilkenny Community Radio, the whole programme of Zounds! having been recorded by John Quinn of K.C.R.

Frank McEvoy's piece co-incidentally was also about Patrick Kavanagh, although like Tom Lyng he left his protagonist nameless. This graphically described a poetry reading Kavanagh once gave to Kilkenny Literary Society when, by insult and

scorn, he was bent on showing up the awful pretentiousness of provincial life. The talk was greeted with volleys of laughter, but it was only in retrospect that the actual occasion was humorous.

At the concert which opened the Bicentenary celebrations two evenings earlier, Michael Brennan had sung a ballad of his own composition called 'Amalgamation' on the theme of the campaign to unify secondary education in Kilkenny. Its sentiments were calculated to explode any self-esteem the week-end festival might have generated in the breasts of Kieranites. Here are some of the verses:

We said in 1808, we'd amalgamate  
If the local hedge school let us,  
But to our surprise those girls and boys  
Said they'd have more fun in the hedges.

You may boast about Kieran's men  
who went out  
To mission field and ghetto,  
But forget not all who just went over the  
wall  
To amalgamate with the Loreto

Well in '74 we had a go once more  
To find a school that won't shirk us,  
The local Tech said 'Sure, what the heck  
We always wanted to join a circus.'

Tom Kilroy read from Chapter 2 of his highly-acclaimed novel *The Big Chapel*. This describes Nicholas Scully's train journey between Kildare railway station and Kilkenny during which he carries on a biting conversation about Papal Infallibility with a cattle-jobber from Waterford. The dialogue sets the self-questioning, priggish student in conflict with the coarse-grained cattle dealer and is a microcosm of the whole novel. The underlying humour, not evident in a casual reading, was brought into focus by Tom's dramatic delivery of the chapter.

Finally, Sean J. White, in a talk originally given on radio, painted a warm and affectionate picture of Professor Peter Byrne (The Old Grey Mare) which portrayed him to the life. Sean finally read another piece, first heard on 'Sunday Miscellany' which reviewed in favourable terms the previous issue of the *College Record*. May he say as much about this one!

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SEÁN J. WHITE

## 'The last time I saw James Joyce'

The year 1782 does not sound exactly the best year to found a Catholic boarding school in Ireland but that is what Bishop Troy did, and we all know the consequences. He took advantage of a chink in the bigoted armour of the Penal Laws, a half-hearted Catholic Relief Act passed by Grattan's Parliament, and without even apparently fulfilling the pedantic conditions attached (they included an Oath of Allegiance and a licence from the local Protestant Bishop) he founded at Burrell's Hall an old town house in James's Street, Kilkenny, the school that was to become St. Kieran's College, the first Catholic college in Ireland since the Penal Laws.

That is why St. Kieran's men everywhere, those who could get to Kilkenny during the past year, and those who couldn't, celebrated two hundred years of the school's existence, a longer life than most of the famous English public schools, in 1982.

It is forty-two years ago since I myself, a country lad in short trousers, entered that impressive Gothic edifice on College Road to become a humble first year but nevertheless a St. Kieran's man. I had little idea at that time of all the famous St. Kieran's men who had gone before me. John Henry Colclough, the Wexford country gentleman and rather reluctant leader in 1798, had been a student there. He was tried and executed in Wexford with his equally-reluctant colleague Bagenal Harvey. Philip Ray, who was also tried but escaped execution, was also a St. Kieran's man. Fr. Theobald Mathew, the temperance advocate, was a student there. Not sur-

prisingly he is recorded as having won a prize for good conduct. John Banim the novelist, one half of the famous O'Hara family team, was also a pupil there.

The most vivid memory I have of the school is of the teachers, dedicated scholarly and humane men who set a standard of study and scholarship that even cowed us treacherous adolescents. St. Kieran's seems to have been lucky in its teachers even from the beginning. In its first decade it had Dr. Fitzgerald a Dominican professor of Philosophy from Lisbon who had himself been educated at the old Protestant foundation, Kilkenny College, the school of Swift and Congreve and Berkeley. 'His hair while it was perfectly white,' a pen picture of him tells us, 'was made additionally so with hair powder, which he used in profusion, and which occasionally fell over the collar of his brown surtout coat; his eyes were dark, his nose was large; he took considerable quantities of rapee snuff, his mouth was small and expressive, his complexion was rather swarthy...his manners were extremely polished.' He left St. Kieran's in 1800 to go to Carlow as professor. He later became President there until his death in 1843.

There were memorable teachers in later days too – Thomas McDonagh, the poet and patriot, and Francis Sheehy Skeffington. The man who connected my generation with theirs was Peter Byrne who started teaching with them there in 1900 and was still a vigorous teacher in my time in the 1940s.

St. Kieran's was always proud of its eight-

eenth century foundation date, and though it was a school, called itself a 'college' – its classrooms were 'class halls', its teachers 'professors' with a small p. The only one that merited a capital was The Professor – Peter Byrne).

For those times he was a remarkable looking figure. A portly middle-sized man, he wore his white hair in waves to his shoulders, his suits were black and very well cut, his shirt was white and his tie black – a final exquisite touch, his socks were black *silk*. The ensemble was crowned with a broad leaved black hat. There was a parody of clerical splendour about him, secularised by his collar and tie.

He taught Greek and French. In his deep, almost booming voice he conjugated Greek verbs, quoted bits of Homer about the rosy fingered dawn and the wine, dark sea.

'*Thugather kalos to eidos*' he would proclaim, a maiden beautiful as to form, and he would glare comically behind his gold rimmed pince-nez to suppress our adolescent giggles. His slightly risqué way of teaching dead languages was part of his great charm. Once at Crewe, when his train was passing another, a rustic ex-pupil from south Kilkenny stuck his head from the other train and rather puzzlingly hailed his former mentor with one of his favourite phrases: *kalee hey guney* – 'the woman, she is beautiful'.

He taught by anecdote and example and above all by irony; 'If you want your vocation fostered, think of Saint Aloysius or look at me.' His rubicund face and reputation for scholarly potations added to the fun of the suggestion. I can now see him wandering down the front walk, stopping groups for a chat, carrying what he himself described as a huge tome under his arm. It was Liddell and Scott's larger Greek Lexicon.

'I acquired this volume, laddie,' he would graciously explain, 'in a bookshop in Lexington Avenue in New York – the spine was a little shaken and as you can see, I have repaired it with this large strip of surgical plaster!' Lexington Avenue ... New York ... the great world opened before us!

His French class, which unfortunately I did not join until my last year in school, was an education in European politics, the pleasure spots of post-war Germany and the vagaries of human existence picked up in his travels.

'The last time I was in Corsica, laddie, was in 1917. On the quayside in Bastia I saw a chappie hauling huge hunks of timber. I asked him where they were going and he said 'to Italy' – Italy he explained was 'de-boise', 'woodless'. Bois a wood, de-boise-woodless'.

So the enchanting lessons went on with such promising beginnings as 'The last time I rode a horse, laddie, was in Russia in 1919' or 'I was sitting on the deck of a cruise ship in the Gulf of Mexico, correcting some Greek exam papers when they arrested me as a spy.'

Most of the anecdotes were about his travels, little about his background. The literal minded who attributed his customary suit of solemn black to his being a spoiled priest and invented stories about his walking out of the sacristy in Maynooth before ordination were wrong. That was his brother, who later wrote a pleasant book of poems called *The*

*Light on the Broom* and was a professor at University College, Galway. Peter never mentioned his own background or his schooldays. Neither did he mention the names of the numerous scholars he corresponded with, or his writings, if there were any – I still don't know.

The curtain was lifted for me a fraction on one of my last visits to him. He was ill, lying in his bedroom in a small hotel, in John's Street. On the bedside table was a proof copy of Ronald Knox's New Testament. It had been sent to him for criticism or comment. His only reference to this surprising fact was to roundly denounce the nuns – the Benedictines of Stanbrook or whoever they were, for their carelessness in filling up the Customs form. He had to pay 12/6d. duty.

One acquaintance the Professor never mentioned to me was James Joyce. I had to read it myself in 'The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man' years later. There it is, plain as day, on page 318 of the Cape edition.

'The calling of the roll began, and the responses to the names were given out in all tones, until the name of Peter Byrne was reached – a deep base note in response came from the upper tier, followed by coughs of protest along the other benches.'

Now why did the professor never begin a story with 'The last time I saw James Joyce was in Trieste .....'?

#### A GENUINE EUROPEAN

If Peter Byrne was European by inclination, we also had a genuine European in our midst. Those who learned the piano or the violin in the St. Kieran's of my time were regarded as effete and perhaps not altogether right in the head and so got a fool's pardon. Our total vandal attitude to music was reserved for the choir class. The class was held once a week on Saturdays and for some reason I now fail to grasp all the senior school were taught together seated at their desks in the long study hall.

The unfortunate man burdened with the task of teaching this far from mute but malicious mob of one hundred and twenty or so was a cultivated and decent German from some civilized town like Kassel. He was a fine organist and conductor and a dedicated teacher. His talents were wasted on a mob who, while he was conducting *Silent O Moyle* at one end of the room, would burst into a jazzed-up *Tantum Ergo* at the other. We had cast him in a wartime role out of the Beano comic, expecting him to roar 'Donner und Blitzen' or some other 'Sieg heil' expletive. In fact he was a mild man and a liberal and his only retort in his still-accented English was some schoolboy-delighting witticism like 'you should all be shot with a shovel' or 'I'll stab you through the heart with a blacklead brush'.

The next most impossible task set to any of our mentors was to impart the principles and practice of elocution, taught by a precise priest with a resounding voice, whose neatness offended us so we cruelly dubbed him 'The Pom'. His voice and his efforts to get us to reproduce his faultless, and, it must be admitted, somewhat Anglicised vowels were deeply resented. With accents flat as our native plains and hardly a 'th' to our names the list of

broad 'aw' vowels he had drawn up and insisted we would repeat brought us to the verge of mutiny. 'Father, vault, castle, wall' he would intone and we would follow him flat-footed and flatter-voiced like lame ducks.

With all those St. Kieran's men of the past I feel a sense of communion at this Bicentennial time, with my senior Jim Gibbons who sat on my right in the study hall and lent me his Webster's Pictorial History in moments of boredom, with my present

esteemed bank manager, Michael Phelan, who sat on my left, with the shades that have gone – Peter Byrne linking us to Thomas McDonagh and back through Dr. Fitzgerald to poor unfortunate John Henry Colclough, not forgetting Fr. Mathew.

I hope he won't mind if I raise a glass from time to time and repeat, with Solomon, '*Hiems Transiit* – the winter has passed', and, as he goes on to say, 'the voice of the turtle is heard in the land.'

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FRANK MULDOWNEY

## never a bit of brass..

'Hiems transiit' – Winter has passed – said the script on the gate at the College Road. The dayboys passed in and out under it, slightly proud we knew what it meant, and from 2A on, could comment on the Latin grammar. So we straightened the black-and-white tie and went on in at the bell.

Five to seven, first study; eight to ten, second study; *seven* days a week! Remember? Class 9 to 12; 12.30 to 3; *six* days a week. (Sunday 'twas only 9.30 – 11.30). One thing we really learned was how to learn. How to consider something carefully and to prepare it well for next day – is there any one of us who has not found that bit of discipline useful in later life?

Standards were high and much was expected of us. All classes felt this, but maybe the Inter Class of '44 felt it just a little more than most. What a challenge to be with them, when always there was some 'hot shot' who knew more than all the rest about his subject – remember Paul Crotty at Greek? Frank White at Maths? Des Walshe at English? And Joe Lambe drawing cartoons for light relief?

Frank White, of course, had other interests apart from Maths. He was an avid reader, and his favourite scientific journal was – 'The Beano'. He would occasionally look at 'Hotspur' or 'Dandy' – but always come back to 'The Beano'. Then there was Paddy Kilroy also reading - the *Financial Times*. John Kinsella and Mick Holland had more ordinary pursuits, like which of the dayboys would smuggle in a bar of chocolate before study (this was during the war, of course, when chocolate was survival). I think it was then the dayboys came of age and gained recognition from the 'bossy boarders'. It was nice to be entrusted with their obsequious pleas – and their money – and to return like Santa Claus with a bulging raincoat pocket.

Meeting so many here this evening after nearly forty years is a very great pleasure, but how much more a privilege to have with us our own Latin professor, Canon Jack Kennedy.

He is the sole survivor of a dedicated group of men including Peter Birch, Ned Wall, Joe Dunphy, Tom Brennan, Ned Costelloe, Paddy McSweeney, Charles Sandvoss, and Dick Lowry. I remember also Herr Joe Koss, who taught us music, but *only* strings. The violin or cello you could have, but never a bit of brass or wind. When Fr. Con Sherin taught me in secret how to blow a clarinet, the said Koss reluct-

antly admitted it to the orchestra for a St. Kieran's night concert – and later remarked in obvious surprise 'Christ, you blow that in tune!'

To men like Canon Jack Kennedy I say on behalf of all of us here a simple 'thank you' for those years.

Now of course there were things other than study and the school orchestra. About half way through my time in Kieran's, there arrived on the scene from Blackrock College a chap called Paddy Reynolds. He had a totally new concept about the delicate subject of girls – that you could talk to them! We had learned to shuffle past them in High Street with red faces buried in the black and white scarves; but Reynolds used to get off the bike and actually engage them in conversation! So the new concept was born; all shyness disappeared, and the *dayboys* were really in the ascendancy now. (There were no girls walking round Fennessy's field).

Then too we had Rugby football as a secret extra-mural sport, played in the Kieran's black and white jerseys (the only ones we had), but under the label of 'Kilkenny Rugby Club, Second XV'. Even then, we got round The Ban! On the social scene, the combination of Rugby, tennis and hurling demanded an occasional dance, which in turn demanded music, and so MacNamara's Band was formed. Nothing very classical about this; merely waltzes, foxtrots, and especially 'Coming Round the Mountain' – in C – the only key we knew. Eugene O'Neill and Martin Crotty were the great instigators, and Eugene especially had an aura of musicianship which the rest of us envied.

We eventually had invitations to *outside* events – mostly the Mental Hospital and St. Joseph's Orphanage who seemed to appreciate our brand of hill-billy. On one occasion we played for a dance in Freshford and got *paid* – thirty shillings a head – at a time when ten bob was a fortune!

Life in Kieran's was a varied thing then – mostly work, but sport and music were important seconds. From what I have seen this week-end, our current students are just as inventive, and one senses also that they are just as full of self-confidence and initiative as we were encouraged to be. Let no one say our teachers were repressive; the truth is they got as much fun out of our doings as we did ourselves. Under Monsignor Maher and his men, I hope it will long continue.

TOM LYNQ

# TRANSITION

On entering St. Kieran's in 1925, a new lay student wouldn't notice any transition changes as he himself was in a transition trauma, especially as in those days a barrack-jail syndrome was pandemic. But, in hindsight, one can view transition ranging from examination tricks to delf and the thickness of heels. I am aware that the Editorial Board would prefer snidelights on the full range to stay in one's private archives for another sixty years. A very much pruned reflection therefore on only dress and leisure options.

The tone of the transition from U.K. to Free State was very high-lighted by a U.K./R.I.C.-oriented President being replaced by a soft-spoken Celtic scholar, who devoted all his leisure to researching the life and works of Celtic scholar, historian, lexicographer and topographer, Kilkennyman John O'Donovan. Fr. Aylward's great work has been the standard source material for O'Donovan scholars ever since.

In 1926, Fr. Charlie Cullen, returned emigrant from Australia, and with the emigrant's feel for nationalism, suggested that the 'layside' stage Padraig Pearse's 'Íosagán', to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Easter Rising. The only time that Fr. Pat Collier (later Bishop) ever smiled at a student was during the Íosagán rehearsals. Íosagán was the last gesture towards nationalism and the first and last layside stage effort in my time. The new-fangled Inter. Cert. now ousted all else.

Cork-Kieran culture dominated Ossory until Jerpont. Maybe the fostering of hurling in transition Kieran's was in deference to Munster culture that continued in G.A.A. and War of Independence par-

ticularly through Corkmen Liam McCarthy and Sam Maguire. Few Kiernians are aware, however, that Kieran's pre-transition rugby was first 'tried' in Muckalee, as vouched by the late Tom Hoyne. He confirmed that Henry Webb used to join in 'kick-the-ball-home' matches between Conahy and Muckalee chapel (not 'church' in those days), the Muckalees meantime maintaining cover assaults on the Conahes. When Webb returned to college at Rugby he tried the same trick with their football and the trick so appealed to Rugby footballers that they originated rugby football.

During the transition years football was more usual among St. Kieran's newcomers, and they had to be initiated into hurling. And, sure, why not? Isn't 'camán' philologically related to pre-historic Cuchulan's 'Iorgaine' and to the 'drive' in the Tain itself. And, lest we be accused of being parochially pre-historic, be it known that hurling was practised internationally in the Middle Ages!

Boys' dress during the transition years often bore the idiosyncrasies of parish tailor and boot-maker craftsmen. The Dean had more motives than uniformity for promoting a college black skull-cap and black-and-white zebra tie. The boys had many reasons for rejecting the innovations, particularly the cap. The Dean countered the opposition by deriding the voluminous vernacular head-gear as a 'sunshade'.

In one photographic record of the time, a young teenager is facially somewhat obscured by the 'sunshade' but is otherwise amply identified by the zebra tie (a future bishop, perhaps?).



## VARIATIONS IN LEISURE AND DRESS

Top left: Junior Football Team, St. Kieran's, 1926; the author is centre, back row and Fr. John Kennedy is on front right; above: convincing evidence of the playing of hurling in Chile in 1646 (from a history printed in Rome at that time), and designated 'chucca'; extreme left: cast of 'Íosagan' with Fr. Collier and the author (centre back); and a future bishop of Ossory wearing the famous 'sunshade' in St. Kieran's in 1926.

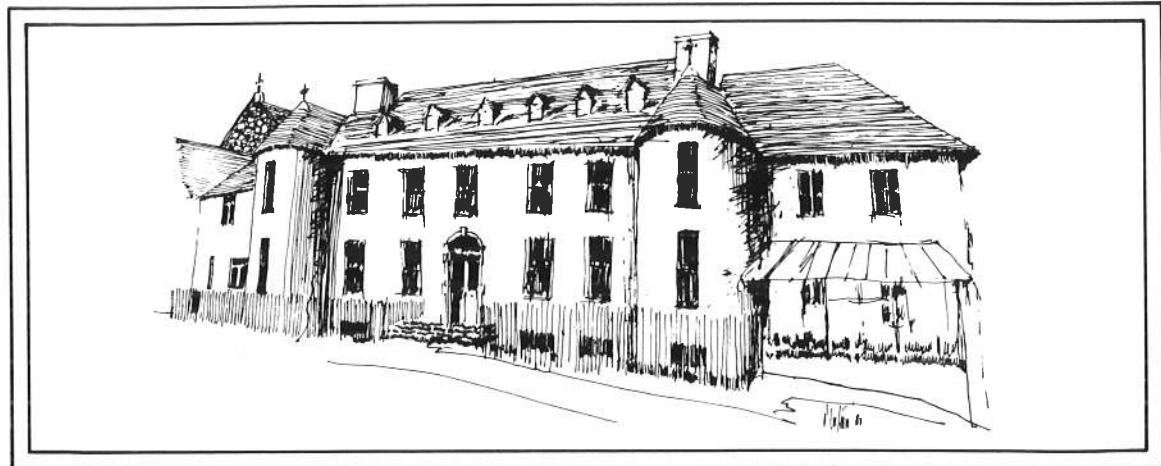


# A St. Kieran's Portfolio

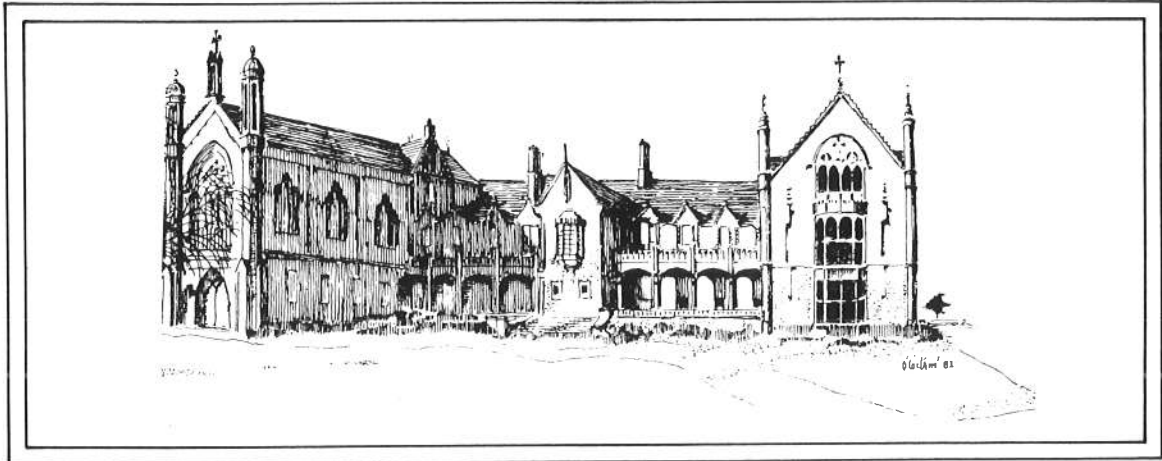
*DRAWINGS BY COLM O'COCHLAIN*



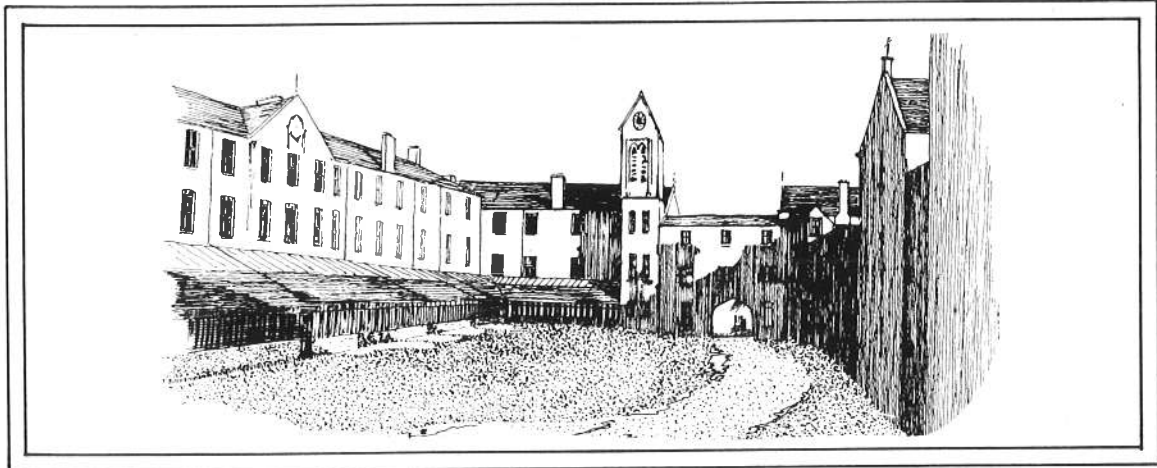
*BURRELLS HALL 1782-89; 1817-39*



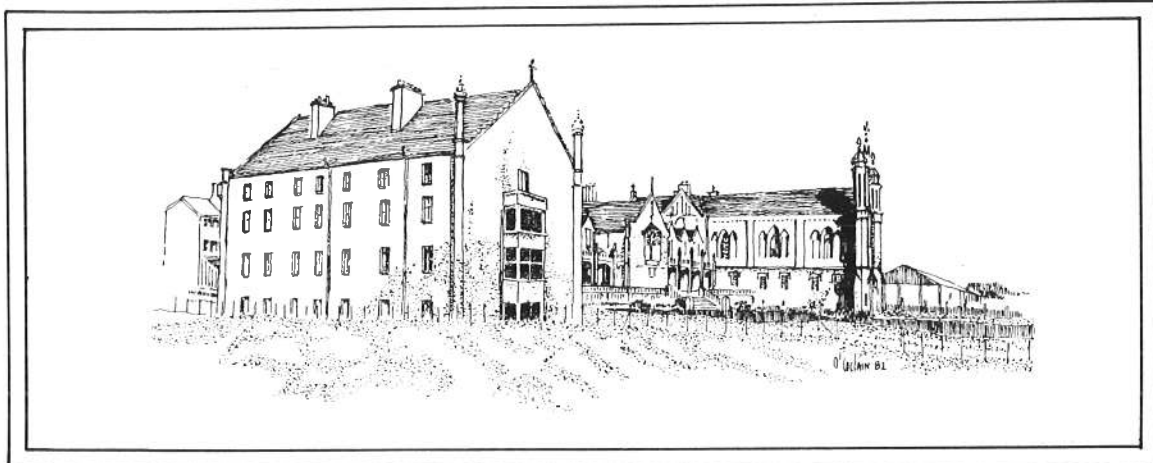
*THE OLD ACADEMY 1789-1816*



*A PERMANENT HOME 1836*



*THE DOODY AND STAUNTON WINGS, 1907, 1933*



*THE 'NEW' WING 1958*

## Going back to the roots of tradition

It takes faith and hope to celebrate a bi-centenary (or any other centenary, for that matter). It is because we believe in our past and its achievements that we celebrate, and it is to seek direction for the future that we scan the past. In this day and age it is fashionable to go back to one's roots, not in the spirit of *'laudatores temporis acti'* but to draw from the sources the pioneering spirit that created the institution in the first place. The Church has been doing this in our time in order to renew itself; it is natural for St. Kieran's to do the same, as a Church institution, for the sake of its own renewal, drawing from its living tradition what has been good and successful and noting carefully the mistakes and the failures. This is where the hope comes in. All those who are concerned about the College want it to continue with a renewed sense of purpose and an energetic pursuit of well-defined aims. They hope that the insights gained from the reflection on the past will serve this purpose. It was, therefore, a very happy inspiration that led to a day of renewal for the assembled priests as part of their celebration. This was to prepare for the future in the light of the past.

### AN UNUSUAL MODESTY

The first gain from the Bicentenary was surely that it opened up the history of the College for so many people. What Bishop Birch wrote in introducing the first issue of the *College Record* is all too true: 'as a College it is very modest about its achievements'. While we learned (and taught) all about the growth of the Roman Republic and the Punic Wars, and many other wars too, we scarcely referred to the history embodied in the living institution of which we are part. We now know that this was a rich and varied history and there is no excuse for neglecting this area of history in the future. We already had Bishop Birch's scholarly work; something more popular was needed and Fr. Fergus Farrell has splendidly filled that need. I hope it will be widely used in the College in the future. But these official histories, with their select bibliographies and learned references do not tell the whole story. There is a vast body of College lore that lives in the collective memory of past students; that is what gives the living pulsating fortunes or misfortunes of teachers and students. This is colourful, funny often, pathetic, even heroic at times. It reminds us forcibly that the College always has been the living people who inhabit it.

We could not celebrate a centenary were it not for the dedication of so many great priests and teachers who carried on the tradition. As we pay tribute to the achievements of such people we do not deny their mistakes and failures, but their overall commitment to the development of the College has been outstanding and they must be given their full credit. I can speak only for my own time, an important time though, for it was then that the im-

petus was given which brought the College to where it is to-day. Bishop Collier and Dr. James Staunton (subsequently Bishop of Ferns) launched the College into the modern era. Bishop Birch carried the work further with his great educational vision, even if that was never fully realised.

From the thirties the College was fortunate in the men who lived and taught there. I think of priests like Fr. Richard Lowry, subsequently Parish Priest of St. Canice's and Vicar General. His span there must have been a record; his work-load was prodigious, his dedication complete, and his success was great. In fact he over-worked with the result that his health suffered. No centenary celebrations could fail to remember Fr. T.J. Clohosey, the recorder of the traditions of the College, who prepared the way for the centenary celebrations and who would have given anything to have been present at them. Fr. Patrick O'Farrell, was an adornment of the staff – erudite, cultured, scholarly, musical, an outstanding moral theologian and faithful disciple of St. Thomas Aquinas. The influence of these men was wide and deep. I mention these as an example of the kind of men who carried the College on to bicentenary. There were many others. And we must record it too, the contribution of the great lay members of the staff such as Mr. Eamonn Costello, Mr. Padraig McSweeney, Mr. Charles Sandvoss (who between them gave almost one hundred years service), Mr. William Darcy.

There were those who deserve to be remembered for their contribution to the cultural life of the College. Fr. John Byrne produced the annual Shakespearean play and introduced us at an early age to that world of drama which has enriched our lives; he gave the foundation of elocution to unwilling boys who were afterwards deeply grateful. Mr. Joseph Koss, long-suffering but utterly dedicated, gave us the rudiments of music and let us hear for the first time the music of the masters. The march from 'Judas Maccabeus' will always evoke memories of him while his own arrangement of *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus*, happily still used in the Cathedral, will be his lasting monument. Fr. Sherin, with his suave manner and wide knowledge and expertise, carried on both the dramatic and musical tradition. In more recent times the stage productions of Fr. John Duggan, in lighter vein, gave many hours of enjoyment as well as helping lay-boys face the public and 'speak the speech trippingly on the tongue'. These cultural streams should continue to flow.

### CLASSICAL STUDIES

There is one area in which the College can be said to have specialised and achieved outstanding success – the field of classical studies. I am sure there was not the equal of Peter Byrne in any secondary school in the country; indeed he would have graced any university for erudition, philological expertise, and wide-ranging knowledge of the classical authors.

He made the ancient world (and the not-so ancient, too) come alive. Although some mothers presented their boys in September with the stipulation that they did not want them to learn 'dead languages', all did learn them, and while not many aspired to be Benjamin Jowetts, they caught something that enriched their minds. Peter's great satisfaction came one day on a railway platform, when he was hailed by the greeting '*Kalee hey guney*'. It was not quite the equivalent of the '*Shalom*' or '*Ave*' but it brought home to him that something of the classics had stuck. He felt rewarded. His greatest reward was to follow the success of his most outstanding pupil and perhaps the best classical scholar St. Kieran's ever produced – Dr. William Meany, now Professor of Ancient Classics at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. In the field of classics, three teachers will be fondly remembered – Canon John Kennedy P.P., Callan and the late Fr. Edward Wall and Fr. T.J. Brennan. I will be forever grateful for the knowledge of Latin and Greek which they gave me and I know many others who feel the same. It is part of the change in attitude to Latin and Greek in our secondary schools and universities by pioneering a new course of Classical Studies, and getting it accepted by the Department, in which many of the values of the former course are preserved.

#### A LITTLE WORLD

Of course, teachers alone do not make up a College and there would be no College without the pupils. The lay-side with its boarders and day-boys was a little world in itself. It was always interesting, with its dramatic moments now and then, its problems, the intrigues, the rivalries in class and on sports-field, the endless ingenuity in outwitting the Dean. It is at this level that the real history of St. Kieran's was lived out. After years of living with it one would be surprised at nothing that boys can come up with and one got an endless lesson in human psychology, in perversity and goodness, often mixed in the same individual. Yet, when I met so many who had returned in September to celebrate I could not help being happy at the development and the maturity that had grown with the years, the evident goodwill of so many and the genuine pleasure they felt at this extraordinary reunion. I felt all the heartbreak was worth while. And there is one aspect that was once again obvious – the success of so many of our 'average' students. Time and again I had noticed this but it was never as clear as on that week-end. I think it is their success that gives the greatest cause for satisfaction.

With St. Peter's College, Wexford, St. Kieran's is unique in Ireland in having a secondary school in the same campus as a Seminary. The inter-action between the two departments has been a happy one. Lay-boys have always been fascinated with the unknown world of the 'cleesies'; in the infrequent times when they got a chance to see classpieces, they were intrigued by the motto *Eunte docete omnes gentes* – and its meaning must have inspired many of them to do what it said. Then when they read down the various captions they read about Boise, Idaho and Providence and Perth and Wellington and realised for the first time that the College had a world-wide outreach. I wonder what other institution in Kilkenny or indeed in the whole

country can boast of such a world-wide influence dating back over two hundred years. The presence of so many priests and bishops from all over the world testified to this empire of ours. And the pastoral training which the seminarian prefects on the lay-side received has helped many to understand young people and to guide them as they did, when they carried out what they felt at the time was a drudgery.

There is a tide in the affairs of an institution just as in the affairs of men. There have been high points and low points. I suggest that one of the high points in the history of the College was the decade, 1960-70. I do this to show the power of renewal which the venerable institution contains within itself. The seminary was being renewed by the application of the principles of the Vatican Council and the new seminary buildings were planned and built, happily preserving two important phases in the history of the College – Birchfield and Burrell's Hall. Unfortunately, the numbers of seminarians began to fall towards the end of the decade. On the lay-side the numbers reached a record level. New courses were introduced, the standard of studies was high and many students achieved success. For the first time the College had a full-time playing pitch, a new pavilion, an enclosed handball alley and the new gymnasium was planned. The decade began with the winning of the new 'Croke Cup' (1961) and was followed up by many successes later in the decade. Perhaps the most important feature of this decade was the fact that at least ten of the present priest members of the staff came from that period. Any institution that takes itself seriously must make provision for its continuation. I feel that was happening in the sixties, and the College of to-day is the beneficiary.

St. Kieran's was founded as a Catholic College, with a Catholic ethos. Perhaps its format was derived from the English public school system; into this format a Christian formation was inserted. I feel that the two do not mix easily. Perhaps a more original system should have been devised which would be more in keeping with the Catholic principles of education. This is a task for the future – to define clearly the spiritual priorities and to pursue them with the dedication of the men of the past. A formation in Christian living that takes account of times past, and, drawing on the reservoir of experience, is coupled with a keen awareness of the needs of the present day – this will enable St. Kieran's to meet the needs of the future.

There are six of us, priests of the Diocese, who have each given at least twenty-five years of service to the College; we helped to keep it going for one-eighth of its history. It was worth the effort and time and we felt this during the Bicentenary celebrations more than ever before, as we saw the enduring results of our efforts. I said that the celebration was an act of hope. If it was worth remembering the two hundred years that have gone; it is surely worth the effort to continue. It is the hope of all those who have been associated with it in the past that it will grow, with its aims well-defined and adequate resources for the achievement of these aims. A new century has begun auspiciously. May it be blessed by God with the same success that we have been celebrating. *Floreat atque crescat.*



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# BOOKS AND WRITERS

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## AN IMPRESSIVE NEW COLLEGE HISTORY

*St. Kieran's College Kilkenny, 1782-1982.* By Fearghus O Fearghail. Published by St. Kieran's College. Printed by the Wellbrook Press, Freshford. 1982. 128 pages. Illustrated.

The Bicentenary of St. Kieran's College in 1982 has been celebrated in many ways, but in none more fittingly than in the publication of this new and up-to-date History by a priest of the diocese of Ossory, a Scripture scholar turned historian for the occasion. It obviously complements and completes the previous work by the late Bishop of Ossory, Dr. Peter Birch, which was published in 1951, but it is a different kind of book, both in content and presentation.

The presentation, to begin with, is in the modern style of history books, with a nice balance between narration and interpretation, and with a skilful use of illustrations to enhance and explain the text. While it has this popular style of presenting its material, it is a scholarly book, marked by painstaking research and by critical handling of its sources.

Amongst the new sources used in this history are various archives including those of the Vatican, and Propaganda Fide in Rome, those of Ossory, Cashel and Maynooth in Ireland, and those of Sydney in Australia. This wide research has enabled the author to throw more light on several areas of the college's history: the founding of the first school of its kind in 1782 at Burrell's Hall (aptly illustrated by the *Notice to the Publick* which came from the Cashel diocesan archives); the beginning of ecclesiastical studies at the Old Academy (the second home of the college), which Father O Fearghail convincingly argues to have taken place in 1792, thus making it also the first seminary opened in Ireland after the Penal Laws; the growth of the seminary, with its early missionary orientation; the decline in the numbers of the same seminary (now in its present site, and then known as St. Kyran's College) from about 1845 (shown from the Maynooth archives to have been due partly to the May-

nooth grant but also to an excess of priests in the diocese of Ossory); and the extensive treatment of Dr. Moran's influence on the college, drawing on the archives of Propaganda Fide and the Irish College in Rome, as well as the archives of Sydney archdiocese where Dr. Moran's papers and his diary are preserved.

With all this new material, and with the updating of the story to the present, we can take this work as the definitive History of St. Kieran's, despite the author's modest disclaimer in his preface. The chronological layout of the chapters, giving the main phases of the story, makes it easy to follow; the full index makes reference simple; and the bibliography at the end should satisfy the curious and the scholarly alike. While Dr. Birch's book tended towards a more academic treatment of educational theory and practice in the development of the college, Fr. O'Fearghail's follows a straight narrative line and uses a broader sweep that embraces all aspects of its history through the two centuries of its existence. The stories of the two colleges, lay and ecclesiastical, are neatly dovetailed, and due place is given to their non-academic, their sporting and artistic activities. It was by no means all work and no play in a college which did make its mark in the academic world!

The illustrations, distributed between pictures, diagrams, maps and documents, add a further dimension to this new History of the college; the captions to the illustrations are themselves neat capsules of information on the margin of the text; the numerous line-drawings (mainly from the pen of Colm O'Cochlain) help to capture the architecture and the atmosphere of the college buildings and their surroundings; the attractive full-colour cover completes the artistic appeal of the book.

As an example of book-production, this bicentenary history, designed and printed by the Wellbrook Press, would rank high by any standards; it is indeed, a worthy souvenir of a great occasion and will hold its place for many a year in the new century of the college's history. J.B.

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## A model of research and organisation

*Irish-born Secular Priests in Scotland 1829-1979.*

By Rev. Bernard J. Canning. Published in 1979 by the author at St. Laurence's Greenock. XXV + 460 pages. Illustrated. Price £15.00.

This Bicentenary issue of the *College Record* is an appropriate and an opportune one for a salute to the St. Kieran's priests who have made a notable contribution to the Catholic Church in Scotland, and to their faithful recorder, Fr. Bernard Canning, whose book will preserve their names for future generations of priests in that country and in this.

Fr. Canning has for long been a devoted and meticulous chronicler of the lives and work of St. Kieran's priests in Scotland, as past issues of the *College Record* testify. This book is an extension of that kind of research to cover all the priests from Ireland, wherever trained and ordained, who have gone to various Scottish dioceses within the century and a half spanned by the book. In this respect it is surely a valuable source-book for the history of Catholicism in that country, especially from the Irish angle.

We may be excused a little boasting in the present circumstances if we recall (as noted in the book on p. 399) that St. Kieran's College, after

Maynooth, has given Scotland the greatest number of volunteer priests – 138 to the date of this book.

Fr. Canning's book is a model of research and organisation. Part I gives an introductory survey on the Irish priest in Scotland (a disappearing race, we are told), his problems (e.g. the barrier of bigotry), his work as a pastor in general, his special achievements (e.g. in education and social welfare), his initial recruitment in the various Irish seminaries.

The main body of the book (Part II) is in dictionary form, listing all the essential facts about each Irish priest in alphabetical order, often embellished with additional notes or quotations from Scottish sources. There are 1335 such brief biographies in all.

Part III contains various appendices relating to such particulars as the geographical recruitment (in Ireland) and distribution (in Scotland) of all those priests, numbers of priests on loan from Irish dioceses, founders of parishes, builders of churches, chaplains to the Forces, Irish colleges and seminaries (with useful historical notes on the major ones, such as St. Kieran's). There is an extensive bibliography and a full index. Midway through the book is a block of illustrations, including some familiar faces

from the ranks of St. Kieran's priests in that honourable company.

This book will be an essential work of reference for anyone interested or involved in the Catholic Church in Scotland. It will be of particular interest to our own past pupils there, and their contemporaries here. In years to come they will be reaching for Canning to establish a fact or to solve a dispute.

J.B.



Bishop Stephen McGill of Paisley receives a copy of 'Irish Secular Priests in Scotland' from the author.

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*The article printed below was prepared by the late Bishop Peter Birch for a Kilkenny yearbook. He had mentioned before his death that it might be reproduced here.*

# The Callan Curates

In celebrating the centenary of the death of Michael Davitt, it has not always been recognised that Davitt sought not only security of tenure, but something more – unrestricted individual ownership. This was a new concept in Irish thinking.

I want to say a few words about two Ossory priests who, I think, inaugurated the whole idea on which Davitt built his thinking and his movements.

These priests were Fr. Matt O'Keeffe and Fr. Thomas O'Shea (1813-1887), curates in Callan. Fr. O'Keeffe certainly, and probably also Fr. O'Shea, suffers from being confused with the Fr. Robert O'Keeffe, parish priest of Callan some years later, who carried on a feud with the authorities of the diocese and achieved much notoriety.

Michael Davitt himself paid tribute to Frs. O'Keeffe and O'Shea; 'In 1849 two Catholic curates, to their eternal credit, be it recorded, founded a tenant organization..... They started 'The Callan Tenant Protection Society' with a platform of fair rents, tenant right and employment. This small association was the beginning of the movement for land reform which merged later into 'The Tenant League of North and South'. (*The Fall of Feudalism in Ireland*).

Gavan Duffy wrote: 'Local oppression was exposed (by the Society), the principles of a permanent remedy were debated and a constant reliance on the invincible justice of their cause taught the trampled multitude. The example was contagious'. (*The League of North and South*).

The minute book of the Society (still preserved) shows that the spread of the movement was rapid and immediate in the neighbouring counties and all over Ireland. They show the distances the two priests were prepared to travel to meetings to publicise their work and to encourage others to follow Callan's example. They also show how people travelled great distances on foot to attend tenant meetings. There was obviously great urgency and enthusiasm, much of it generated by the example and the experience of Callan.

The numbers of evictions were reported regularly. These are staggering. In 1850, for example, '280 houses were levelled to the ground within a circuit of 6 miles around Callan'. This meant that 1080 individuals were made homeless in a single year. It was not always the landlord who evicted. In May, 1851, a member reported 'the extermination of 8 families and the demolition of their homes in the neighbourhood of Ballycallan by the agent of the trustees of the Evans Charity'. These two are typical of the many small entries. The holdings were for the most part tiny – six or seven acres as a rule.

Evicted families had only two alternatives: they went into the workhouse or emigrated. In July 1851, statistics of the Callan workhouse were presented. The average number in the house was 2000. During the previous 9 months 455 died there. 'This would carry away the whole pauper population of

the Callan Union Workhouse in three years', the report adds. Some idea of the standards of food may be deduced from the fact that the inmates got meat as a treat on Christmas Day. It was refused in 1851. Incidentally, the workhouse was supported from poor law rates. These were paid by tenants only, not by landlords or agents.

There was also, of course, emigration. In December 1851, Fr. O'Shea wrote in *The Nation*: 'The returns of emigration from the Irish ports between the months of March and October last inclusive will exhibit the astounding number of 270,000 souls'. And this was some years after the potato famine.

Naturally the Callan curates were not popular in high places. In 1859 the Earl of Desart, one of the chief evictors in the area, called them anti-Christian and ministers of Satan. It is interesting to find the charge of communism laid against them in 1850. I would like to know what it connoted then.

On the other hand the movement was supported by Kilkenny Corporation in 1850, the first body in Ireland to do so. Many others followed. Many of the Catholic bishops gave it their blessing and sent representatives to meetings. Priests everywhere helped. The Bishops Council of Thurles spoke of the awful duties of poor law guardians and pointed out that their first duty was to look after the poor.

These are just a few items from this interesting original source document. The feelings of the time, and one we might think about, was put by a widow. Bridget Keating, evicted by the Earl of Desart. 'Though now without land', she wrote, 'I will pray for the prosperity of the Tenant Protection Society. There will be other widows and other orphans, and I hope through your generous exertions there will be a law to protect them'. That was June, 1857. There was a law eventually – much of the credit must go to the Callan curates.



*Thomas, John, James, Kevin, and Brendan Hughes, all students of St. Kieran's College, and great-great-grandnephews of Fr. O'Shea, photographed here with their parents, Kevin and Evelyn Hughes, and Evelyn's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Walton, nee O'Shea, (centre front) of Cappahayden, Callan, a grand-niece of Fr. O'Shea.*





## COLLEGE REPORT

# MONSIGNOR MAHER ENDS TERM AS COLLEGE PRESIDENT

In August 1983, the appointment of Monsignor Thomas Maher as parish priest of Mullinavat put the finishing touches to that chapter of the College's history marked 'The Bicentenary'.

The man who had guided the college, its students, its staff and its past pupils through the long planning process, and who, as College President, had greeted almost every visitor personally during the Bicentenary year, was now resuming the pastoral ministry that had started in Dublin almost thirty-five years earlier, and that had been interrupted by twenty-eight years of service to his Alma Mater as teacher, dean and President.

Monsignor Maher was born in Gowran, Co. Kilkenny and received his secondary education at St. Kieran's College, where his talent for hurling was quickly put to use in helping to maintain supremacy in the Leinster College's Championship (they won five-in-a-row, their second time to achieve this, during this period).

In 1941, he went to Maynooth College, but continued his association with Kilkenny hurling, featuring on the senior team that lost to Tipperary in the 1945 All-Ireland final. However, on his ordination in 1948, he recalled later, 'I made up

my mind that Croke Park was one place priests should not be — I don't mean in the stand but on the field'. His first pastoral appointment, was on loan to the Archdiocese of Dublin, and he took up duty in St. Agnes Parish, Crumlin. From helping the parish team he went on to coaching a Dublin minor team which actually managed to beat Kilkenny, and to becoming involved in what was the first attempt at national coaching organised by the GAA at Croke Park.

In 1953, he was recalled to Ossory and to St. Kieran's, where he taught for a year before returning to Maynooth to study for the Higher Diploma in Education. In 1955, he returned again to St. Kieran's where he had been appointed Junior Dean, a position he held for three years.

Meanwhile in 1957, he had accepted an invitation to coach the Kilkenny senior hurling team, then trying to put an end to their longest run of defeats in All-Ireland competition for more than twenty years. His success in 1957 and over the next twenty-five years, has become legendary. Much of that success, however, was due to his involvement in the selection and training of the St. Kieran's senior and junior hurling teams;



*Left: Monsignor Thomas Maher receives a presentation of an engraved clock from Mr. Peadar Bairéad, Vice-Principal, on behalf of the staff of the secondary school at St. Kieran's College in appreciation of his involvement as staff member since 1953 and President since 1973. Right: Fr. Martin Campion, who has succeeded Monsignor Maher as President.*

# COLLEGE STAFF 1983

*V. Rev. Martin Campion* PRESIDENT

*Rev. Patrick Comerford*  
DEAN OF SEMINARY

*Rev. Daniel Bollard*  
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR IN SEMINARY

*Rev. Martin Cleere*  
DEAN OF SECONDARY SCHOOL

*Rev. Nicholas Flavin*  
HEAD MASTER

*Mr. Peadar Barrett*  
VICE-PRINCIPAL

*Rev. Michael Ryan*  
SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

*Rev. Noel Maher* BURSAR

*Rev. P. Bollard*

*Rev. Michael Ryan*

*Rev. Thomas Norris*

*Rev. James Cassin*

*Rev. William Dalton*

*Mr. William Bolster*

*Mr. Nicholas J. Cashin*

*Rev. Nicholas Flavin*

*Rev. Fearghus O Fearghail*

*Rev. Maurice Burris*

*Mr. John Collins*

*Mr. Alfred Sheehy*

*Mr. Peadar Barrett*

*Mr. Bernard Clarke*

*Mr. Michael Dermody*

*Mr. James McAuley*

*Mr. Richard McEvoy*

*Mr. Tomas O Murchu*

*Mr. Patrick Cullen*

*Mr. Michael O'Dwyer*

*Mr. Denis Philpott*

*Mr. James Carew*

*Mrs. Charlotte Wilcox*

*Mr. Joseph Lambe*

*Miss Christina Kelly*

*Mr. Thomas Looby*

*Mr. Seamus McGurran*

*Mr. Arthur Anglin*

*Dr. Thomas McIntyre*

*Mr. Thomas Lanigan*

*Mr. Daniel O'Connor*

*Mr. S. Knox*

*Miss Maureen Meany*

*Miss Bernadette Ann Wemyss*

*Miss Miriam G. McElroy*

*Mr. Neil Connolly*

here he was able to develop the skills of future Kilkenny stars like Eddie Keher, who was one of his early recruits to college and county teams.

From 1958 onwards, Fr. Maher taught Mathematics on the lay side at St. Kieran's. In 1973, he was appointed to succeed Canon John Holohan as President on the latter's appointment as P.P. Rathdowney. From then on, Fr. Maher involved himself in every aspect of educational and recreational life in the college and outside it, taking a special interest in the affairs of the Vocational Education Committee, of which he was a member, and of Macra na Feirme.

He was one of the prime movers in the development of the joint St. Kieran's/City Vocational School facility in what had been the 'junior pitch' to generations of Kieranites, and the success of the venture, which is unique in Irish education, owes much to his skilful mediation between all of the statutory and professional interests involved.

The college gymnasium, which came into use in the early years of his presidency, allowed him to promote what he saw as the rightful role

of St. Kieran's in offering sports facilities both to its own students and to the young people of Kilkenny in general. He personally supervised the allocation of facilities to the various sporting and leisure groups who sought them, and he also took responsibility for the many courses and special events which took place in the gymnasium and associated buildings — ranging from transcendental meditation to the counting of votes in the elections to the European Parliament. He was particularly proud that the last major event to be held in the gymnasium apart from the Bicentenary celebrations was the Annual GAA Congress under a Kilkenny President, Paddy Buggy.

Honoured by the Pope with a domestic prelature in the college's Bicentenary Year, Monsignor Maher carries with him to his new appointment the best wishes of all of those who knew him as colleague, as dean, as teacher, as president and as friend. The people of Mullinavat are lucky to have as pastor a priest with a deep sympathy for every aspect of their lives — whether in the farming, the industrial, the sporting or the spiritual environment.

## New President is 'true son' of St. Kieran's

As 37th. holder of the title of President of St. Kieran's College, Fr. Martin Campion, who was appointed to succeed Monsignor Maher in August 1983, is one of the few 'true sons' of St. Kieran's to have held the position in this century.

With his predecessors Canon McNamara (1911-1919) and Canon Loughry (1956-73), he shares the distinction of having received his full

secondary and seminary education within the walls of St. Kieran's; like these predecessors, he came to the honour from deanship (he had been director of the seminary since 1971).

Born in Graiguewood, Gortnahoe, Thurles in 1938, Fr. Campion was educated at Graigue National School before entering St. Kieran's in 1952. He went on to seminary studies in 1957

and was ordained by Bishop Birch in 1963 — with Fr. Brian Flynn (now Administrator of St. Patrick's, Kilkenny) he was the first Ossory priest to be ordained by the new Co-adjutor.

In the same year, he was appointed curate in Castletown, Co. Laoise, an assignment he combined with a chaplaincy to the De La Salle College and Novitiate there. A year later, he was appointed curate in Conahy, and in 1966 Bishop Birch sent him to the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, from which he graduated with a Diploma in the following year.

He was then appointed to the staff of St. Kieran's College, where he taught Speech, Homiletics and Pastoral Theology for the next fifteen years. He was also involved in the production of plays and entertainments.

An experienced broadcaster and commentator, he has made his talents available to the community through his participation in local entertainment of the blind and of the disabled (he has been director of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes for more than a decade).

Fr. Campion takes on the challenge of the next century in the history of St. Kieran's College with the benefit of experience and the advantage of youthfulness on his side, both in his own regard and that of his staff (surely the youngest ever to have served at one time in the college's history) and he takes to his new responsibilities the good wishes of all St. Kieran's past and present pupils.

#### **FR. JAMES CROTTY LEAVES FOR MISSION ASSIGNMENT IN PERU**

Father James Crotty, who had been bursar of the college since 1971, left for a mission assignment in Peru in September 1983.

A native of Kilkenny city, Fr. Crotty was educated at St. Kieran's College from 1955, when he entered the laity, to 1966, when he was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral by Bishop Birch.

He was curate in Tullagher from 1966 to 1967, and this was followed by a year at Strawberry Hill Teacher Training College in London, where he studied music. From 1968 to 1971, he was curate in Thomastown.

During his twelve years as administrator of buildings, catering and maintenance services,

he achieved a complete modernisation of facilities to cope with the expanded role of the college as secondary school and community centre. The kitchen areas were renovated and modernised, and a chef appointed to supervise preparation and serving of food, which was reorganised on a semi-self-service basis. A matron/housekeeper was appointed and living quarters for house staff were modernised.

During his time as bursar, Fr. Crotty was involved in the building of the new college gymnasium, the classroom block and administrative offices for the secondary school (operated in conjunction with Kilkenny VEC) and the improvements to the college carried out in advance of the Bicentenary celebrations. These celebrations also made exceptional demands on the college's catering facilities, as did the hospitality provided after the funeral of Dr. Birch and the installation of Dr. Forristal; all of the demands were handled smoothly and efficiently by Fr. Crotty and his staff, with whom he had an excellent relationship.

We wish him well in his new life.

Fr. Noel Maher has been appointed Bursar of the College in succession to Fr. Crotty. A native of Kilmanagh, Fr. Maher studied at St. Kieran's (1959-64) and the Irish College, Rome, where he was ordained in 1970. Following two years on loan to the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, he was appointed curate in Mooncoin in 1972. He spent the year 1977-78 at the Mount Oliver Catechetical Centre in Dundalk, and on his return to Ossory was appointed Catechist in the City Vocational School, and in 1979 given the added responsibility of Chaplain to the Orthopaedic Hospital. He combines these positions with his new responsibility for the administration of the College's buildings, services and staff.

#### **OTHER STAFF CHANGES**

On the departure of Mary Meaney, who had been secretary since 1974, to join the Irish Sisters of Charity (see 'In the News'), she was replaced by Mary Little, who became Mary Martin on marriage in Summer 1983.

As we go to press, we have received news of the sudden death of William Gannon, Holdensrath, Kilkenny, who had been on the cleaning staff of the laity since 1970. May he rest in peace.



Two college employees with a total of almost 70 years service between them are (left), Mr. Tommy Clarke, carpenter, seen putting the finishing touches to the panelling in the new entrance/administration area, the woodwork for which was carried out entirely by himself; and Mr. Ned O'Neill, a member of the college farm staff since 1951.

# Approaching a century of caring

If there was a time in the past when St. Kieran's lacked the refining influence of the Sisters, then there had to be a very good reason – and there was; while the college was established in 1782, the Sisters of St. John of God were not founded until nearly a century later in 1871.

The Sisters' first House was founded in Wexford by Bishop Furlong of Ferns and Sister M. Visitation Clancy, a native of Ossory, with a Rule in which it was clearly stated that their apostolate was not to be confined solely to hospital work, but was to embrace an apostolate to schools which included, besides teaching, the care of students in colleges and seminaries.

In 1886 Dr. Abraham Brownrigg invited the Sisters to his Diocese of Ossory and among the Sisters of the Wexford foundation who responded to the invitation was Sister M. Josephine Pillian, who was appointed to serve in St. Kieran's College. Later when Sister Pillian became Novice Mistress she brought her novices to minister in St. Kieran's; at this time the Sisters did not reside in the College itself but in their own convent home immediately opposite the College entrance.

During the great influenza epidemic of 1918 the Sisters, and particularly Sr. M. Canice Kelly, had the demanding task of nursing many of the College staff and students back to full health. Among those cared for at this time was Dr. James Staunton who was destined to become President of the College and later Bishop of Ferns. Dr. Staunton never forgot those who had cared for him at this time; later he proved to be a staunch friend and patron of the Sisters of St. John of God.

## PERMANENT RESIDENCE

It was only a matter of time before the Sisters were invited to take up permanent residence in St. Kieran's and Sister M. Austin Gilbride was appointed to care for the sick on a more regular and residential basis. In 1930, during the presidency of Dr. Staunton, Bishop Collier of Ossory requested the establishment of a fulltime community of three Sisters to live and minister in the College. In 1931, the first resident community, made up of Srs. M. Camillus Horgan, M. Perpetua Leahy and M. Alacoque Geraghty was established. The wide range of duties allocated to these sisters meant that the efficient running of the College was heavily dependent upon them – one Sister acted as general house-keeper, taking care of the chapel, sacristy, the oratories and the house in general; a second Sister functioned as a cook and supervisor in the kitchen and refectories while a third Sister was given charge of the infirmaries and the adjoining dormitories.

Down through the years the successors of these Sisters have maintained faithfully their commitment to the staff and students of St. Kieran's. Their number has included such dedicated members as Sisters M. Fabian Dunne, who spent eighteen years of unbroken service in St. Kieran's; M. Chrysoptom Gahan, who served fifteen years in the College; and M. Baptist Carney, who had the distinction

of serving in the College on three different occasions and in two different capacities over a period of several years.

In 1971 when the St. John of God Congregation celebrated its Centenary, St. Kieran's was proud to be represented at the celebrations by Sisters M. Winifrede Barrett and M. Gregory Ryan.

Although the number of lay-students has increased in St. Kieran's during the 1970s, there was a noticeable drop in the number of ecclesiastical students. This, and the fall in the number of novices entering, meant that the St. John of God Congregation had to review and curtail their Sisters' outside commitments. So it was that during this decade the number of Sisters in St. Kieran's was reduced to two.

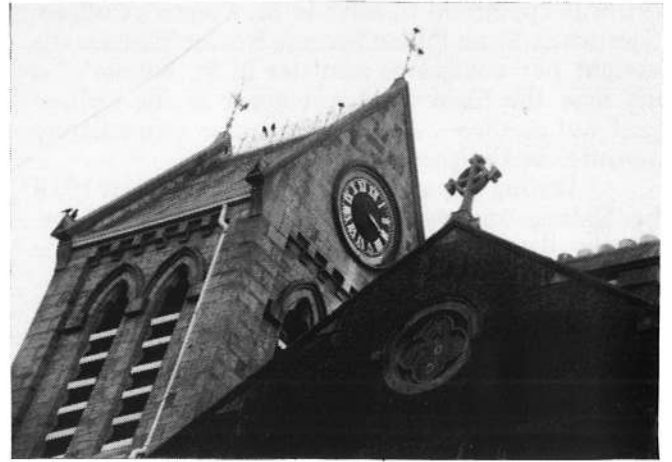
At this very special time for St. Kieran's, we have been recalling much of its past and remembering many of the people who have been associated with the College over the years. Let us not forget all those Sisters of St. John of God who contributed so much throughout the years through their example, dedication and loving concern. May God reward them all and long may the St. John of God Sisters continue to grace St. Kieran's College with their presence.



*Sr. M. Gregory Ryan (seated), a native of Moyne-Templetuohy, Co. Tipperary, who has been a member of the St. John of God community in St. Kieran's College at three different times (including from 1965 to date) with Sr. M. Carmelita Walsh, the present Sister Infirmarian at the College.*



## LAYSIDE REPORT



*A view (top) of the classroom block at St. Kieran's College which is part of a facility jointly developed and managed by the College and Kilkenny VEC. Another view (bottom left) shows the relationship between the new building and the Theatre/Refectory wing of the college; the clock tower (bottom right) above 'The Arch' looks down on old and new.*

# Extended facilities allow wider subject range to be offered

The single biggest development to affect the layside occurred in 1978 when a new classroom building opened its doors to the senior classes of St. Kieran's. It meant an end – and a welcome end – to the 'pre-fab era'. The new building, which is jointly managed by St. Kieran's and Kilkenny V.E.C., involves added facilities for both St. Kieran's and the City Vocational School. In the St. Kieran's section, there are specialised rooms for Languages, Music and Technical Drawing, as well as general classrooms for all fourth and fifth-year students. St. Kieran's pupils also have the full use of adjacent instruction areas for Science, Art, Woodwork and Engineering in the City Vocational School under this unique co-operative arrangement.

The facilities, which were designed by Kilkenny architect Colm O'Coilain and constructed by Matthew Wallace Ltd. of Wellingtonbridge, allow students at St. Kieran's to avail of a much wider

range of subjects (particularly in the practical areas) than was previously the case, although co-operation with the City Vocational School has been a feature of academic activities for a good number of years.

At the same time, a number of other curricular developments have taken place independently of those generated by the extended facilities. The St. Kieran's teachers who pioneered Classical Studies as a secondary school subject in the 1970s were happy to see their work come to fruition when the subject took its place on the curriculum for the Intermediate Certificate (the first examination took place in 1983).

Since 1981 pupils have been taking Computer Studies as a subject and this department is being extended at the moment. St. Aloysius' Dormitory is being converted into a computer centre and equipped with a network of nine computers. A Geography Room is also being provided.

Since the last issue of the *Record*, Cultural Studies has been introduced for the junior classes to increase their awareness of the world around them and to help them use their leisure in a constructive way. Activities to be undertaken by students in the coming year include local history, chess, drama, traditional music, home improvements, speed reading, guitar-playing, German conversation and numismatics.

During 1983, the combined course in Physics and Chemistry is being phased out and a course in Applied Mathematics introduced.

St. Gerard's Dormitory has been converted into a study hall for boarders and day pupils. They are supervised by the Layside Dean, and members of the teaching staff.

At the beginning of the 1983-84 academic year, the total number of pupils in St. Kieran's College is 562, the biggest number ever – a great omen at the beginning of a new century.

### FR. McEVOY APPOINTED PARISH PRIEST

After serving on the secondary school staff at St. Kieran's for 23 years, eight of them as headmaster, Fr. Seamus McEvoy left the college in 1983 on his appointment as P.P., Lisdowney.

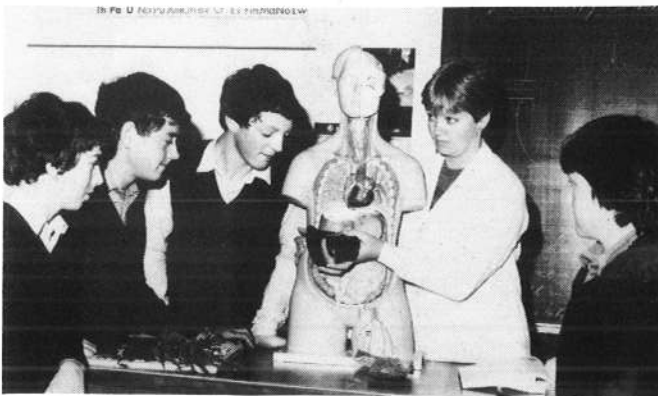
A native of Kilesmeestia, Borris-in-Ossory, Co. Laoise, Fr. McEvoy came from a family with extensive St. Kieran's connections – his brothers Richard and Oliver were also educated there, and Richard has been on the staff of the secondary school since 1969. Fr. McEvoy took a B.A. in Classics at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, where

He joined the staff of St. Kieran's in the same year, but returned to Maynooth in the following year to study for his Higher Diploma in Education. In 1962, he took up a permanent position on the college staff, and in 1975 succeeded Fr. Joe Delaney as Headmaster.

A noted musician and thespian, Fr. McEvoy was responsible for a wide range of musical and dramatic activities within the college and outside it. He was a regular producer with the New Theatre Group, of which he was a founding member, and was responsible for directing and leading choral singing on a number of important diocesan occasions. He had the distinction of being the first headmaster of the St. Kieran's to appear in an acting role on the college stage when he played the part of W. B. Yeats in the special pageant produced for the Bicentenary.

To Fr. Seamus McEvoy fell the task of bringing St. Kieran's through its greatest expansion in decades, with the commissioning of the new classroom block and the integration of studies with those of the City Vocational School. His talents and experience in this area will not be totally lost to the community, as he has been appointed Chairman of the Board of Management of the new community school venture in Freshford, established in buildings formerly occupied by the Mill Hill Fathers' secondary school.

All those who have benefitted from his advice and counsel over the years, and those who fondly remember the 'assloads of Greek' learned in a single day during his time as a teacher, will wish him well in his new pastoral assignment.



The modern classroom block opened at St. Kieran's in 1978 in use: (top left): Fr. Nicholas Flavin, newly-appointed headmaster of the secondary school, with some of his pupils at the computer; (top right) Mrs. Charlotte Wilcox, art teacher, supervises activities in the Art Room; (bottom) Ms. Maureen Meany and Mr. Bernard Clarke demonstrate biology and physics in the Science Hall. The new building also includes facilities for languages, music and general education.

## FR. NICHOLAS FLAVIN APPOINTED AS HEADMASTER

*Fr. Nicholas Flavin* replaces *Fr. McEvoy* as headmaster. A native of Rossinan, Mullinavat, *Fr. Flavin* moved to Kilmacow with his family in 1957. He received his secondary education at St. Kieran's (1963-68) and studied for the priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, where he took his B.Sc. (1971), B.D. (1974) and was ordained in 1975. After a further year of study for his Higher Diploma in Education, he joined the staff of St. Kieran's in 1975 as teacher of Mathematics, Science and Religion and is currently responsible for implementing a new curriculum development that involves Applied Mathematics and Computer Studies.

*Fr. Flavin* is an accomplished athlete and is involved in the organisation of athletic training and competition at local and national level.

*Fr. Martin Cleere* has become Dean of the layside in succession to *Fr. Pat Comerford*, who has been appointed Dean of the Seminary. A native of Foulkstown, Co. Kilkenny, *Fr. Cleere* was educated at St. Kieran's College, from where he was ordained to the priesthood in June 1981. He spent two years ministering in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin (as C.C., Ballyfin) before his present appointment.

*Fr. Michael Ryan*, who has been on the staff of the layside as teacher of Religion since 1975, has been given additional responsibility for counselling and spiritual direction with the title of School Chaplain. *Fr. Ryan* acted as Secretary to the Bicentenary Planning Committee during 1981-2.

Others who have joined the staff of St. Kieran's since the last issue of the *Record* are:

*Christine Kelly*: Irish, History, Geography 1978 -  
*Fr. Maurice Burris*: Assistant Dean 1978-80; Mathematics and Religion, 1982 - .

*Michael Kirwan*: First lay Catechist 1981-82.

*Miriam McElroy*: Catechetics, English 1982 - .

*Ann Wemyss*: Irish, French 1982- .

*Daniel O'Connor*: French, Mathematics 1982 -

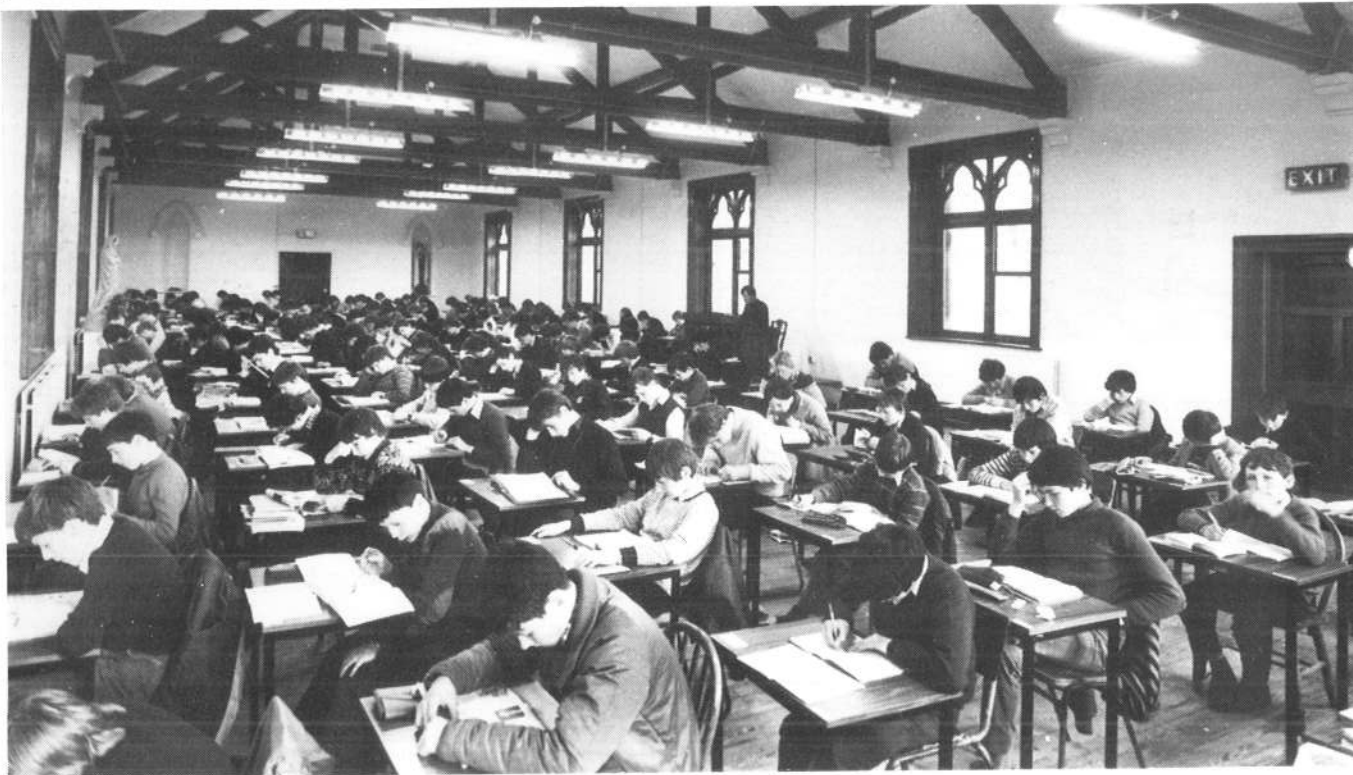
*Neil Connolly*: Accounting, Maths 1983.

## INTER-STAFF MARRIAGES

Under a heading that we feel has never before appeared in a college publication, we are happy to record the marriage of staff members *Michael Dermody* (1968 - ) and *Mary O'Brien* (1969-83) which took place in June 1980. *Michael* is a native of Crowbally, Mullinavat and *Mary* is a native of Nenagh. They have settled in Bennettsbridge.



MR. and MRS. MICHAEL DERMODY



*Students at study in the former St. Gerard's Dormitory, now converted into the main study hall for the college and supervised by the Dean. Day students must now pay for the privilege of studying in the college at night - an interesting development in the light of past students' attitudes to study! The new hall was first used for Leaving Certificate exams, 1982.*

## DEPARTURES

*Fr. Liam Cassin*, who had been Assistant Dean on the lay side since 1973, departed from the college in 1978 on appointment as C.C. Callan.

*Fr. Seamus Henry*, who had taught Science at the college for almost 20 years from 1963, was appointed curate in Ballyragget in 1982. A native of Kil-

kenny City, he was son of Mr. James Henry, who taught at the college from 1957 to 1959 (see Obituaries). Ordained in 1961 in Maynooth, where he took his B.Sc. and Higher Diploma in Education, he spent a year as C.C. Durrow before his appointment to the college staff.

*Mr. Seamus Knox*, who had taught Mathematics, left the college staff in 1983.



*The first group of St. Kieran's students (from Fourth Year 1981-82) to receive Diplomas in Computer Studies photographed with their teachers and the College President at the presentation.*

*From back, left to right Mr. Alfred Sheehy, Mgr. Thomas Maher, Rev. Nicholas Flavin, Mr. A.J. Anglin.*

*Thomas J. Moore, Thomas Molloy, Niall Dowling, Michael Quinn, Michael Reynolds.*

*Anthony Barry, Richard O'Carroll, Charles McCreery, Michael Campion.*

*Desmond Foley, Liam Larkin, Liam Power, Nicholas McGrath, Noel Brophy,*

*Peter Monohan, Peter Nicholls, Thomas M. Moore, Enda McEvoy, Richard Murphy, Michael Hennessy.*



*ABOVE: The St. Kieran's College Chess Team which won the Schools' Championship in 1982 with their coach, Mr. Tomas O'Murchu: left to right: John Harte, Emmet Cooney, Fergal O'Dwyer, Thomas Hayes. Ar dheis: An t-Uachtaran, Monsignor Tomas O'Meachair, ag bronnadh Corn na Gaeilge ar Phadraig O'Donghaile don scoil-bhliain 1982-83.*



### MESSAGE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II TO THE YOUTH OF IRELAND

*When I look at you, I see the Ireland of the future. Tomorrow, you will be the living force of your country – you will decide what Ireland will be. Tomorrow, as technicians or teachers, nurses or secretaries, farmers or tradesmen, doctors or engineers, priests or religious – tomorrow you have the power to make dreams come true. Tomorrow, Ireland will depend on you.*

*When I look at you assembled around this altar and listen to your praying voices, I see the future of the Church. God has his plan for the Church in Ireland, but he needs you to carry it out. What the Church will be in the future depends on your free co-operation*



# OBITUARIES

## MR. WILLIAM ROCHE

On Friday September 30th 1983 everybody associated with St. Kieran's College was shocked and saddened to hear that Billy Roche (38), a teacher on the lay staff, had died suddenly in the early hours of that morning.

Born at Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, he was a graduate of U.C.D. with a B.Comm., H.D.E. and a Diploma in Public Administration. He joined the teaching staff of St. Kieran's in 1970 and taught Mathematics, Commerce and Accounting.

Billy was a prominent member of the Labour Party and had served on its Administrative Council for some years. He was also a keen numismatist.

Those of us closely associated with Billy as a colleague will keenly miss his presence in the staff-room. He was always to the fore in discussion and argument – particularly in defence of his political views. Whatever the topic Billy was always courteous and sincere in his assertion of his views or in search of truth. It is still hard to accept the fact that his lively contributions on all topics are no longer part of his life in St. Kieran's.

His dedication as a teacher was well known. His reputation as a great family man serves to remind us of the loss which has been sustained by Una and her four young children. To them we extend our sincerest sympathy. Ar dheis De go raibh A anam. R.Mc.

## A PUPIL'S APPRECIATION

Teachers and pupils of St. Kieran's College suffered a grievous loss through the sudden death of Billy Roche. May he rest in peace. The reaction of pupils was one of disbelief, without warning he was snatched from his family and friends.

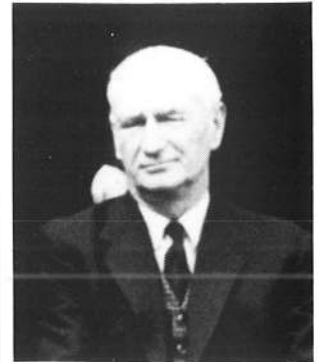
An air of gloom and sadness hung over the school that Friday morning. For once, there was a silence, a respectful silence. The six hundred pupils and teachers who gathered in St. Mary's Cathedral for the celebration of the Requiem Mass will long remember the solemnity and poignancy of that occasion.

His pupils will remember his outgoing personality and sense of humour which he never hid from them in the classroom. No matter how technical the subject matter of class he never missed a chance to relate it to everyday situations, often giving examples from his own family life to show the way they solved everyday problems. He strove with great dedication to prepare each one of us not only for the examination at the end of the year but in a very real way for life after school too.

On Sunday 2nd October 1983, in our hundreds, we stood in silent tribute as his remains were carried from St. Patrick's Church for burial in Foulkstown Cemetery. The Autumn rains were falling as we bade farewell to one who was our teacher and friend.



Mr. B. Roche



Mr. P. Mac Suibhne

## An tUASAL PÁDRAIG MAC SUIBHNE

Bhí brón mór ar íarscoláirí Choláiste Chiaráin nuair a léigh siad go raibh Pádraig Mac Suibhne tar éis bás a fháil ar Lá le Pádraig 1980. Bhí Pádraig ar fhoireann teagaisc an Choláiste sna blianta 1931-1974. Go deimhin níor chaith éinne tréimhse chomh fada sin ag múineadh ann. Gaeilge, Stair agus Treolaíocht na habhair a bhi aige. Nuair a d'eirigh sé as an phost, bhronn a chomh-múinteóirí eitseal an choláiste i gcopar air.

Scoláire ab ea Pádraig, a raibh an-chuid léite aige. Ba bhreá leis comhrá stuama a dhéanamh. Bhí sé tugtha don Ealaín agus dhein se roinnt mhaith pheinteála. Bhí sé thar a bheith dílis don chultúr Gaelach.

Críostaí maith agus fear uasal ab ea Pádraig Mac Suibhne. Tá sé curtha san ait ab ionmhain dó fein – i gCorcaigh cois Laoí. Suaimhneas sioraí dá anam dílis. M. O'D.

## MR. JAMES HENRY

Mr. James Henry, who had taught briefly at Kieran's from 1957 to 1959 after a career as teacher and headmaster of the City Vocational School, died at the grand old age of 93 in November 1983.

A native of Sligo, his contribution to the development of education in Kilkenny was immense, and he was associated with every significant initiative taken to foster occupational and adult education in the city for more than 50 years. His son, Fr. Seamus, maintained the contribution to knowledge and science at the college, 1962-82.



S. Cleere



P. Foskin



B. Mahon

Three recent students of St. Kieran's College died tragically during the last few years. Sean Cleere, a second year pupil at the college, died on March 12th, 1980 after a long illness. He was 12½ years of age, and a brother of Fr. Martin Cleere, now Dean at the college. Two past pupils died during the summer of 1983: Brian Mahon of Archersgrove (1970-75), a veterinary surgeon, was killed in a car accident near Fermoy on May 28th. and Paul Foskin, Mullinavat (1973-78), a final-year architectural student, died after a long illness on 20th, August 1983. May their young souls rest in peace and may their families be consoled on their tragic losses.

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# PHOTO EXTRA

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Because the publication of the Bicentenary Edition of the College Record occurs in the second half of 1983, two new classes of students will have entered the Layside since the recording of the class groups present in the college on 5th. March 1982, whose photographs appear in Bicentenary Rollcall on pages 12 to 16 of this issue. We publish below, therefore, photographs of the first year classes of the academic year 1982-83 (entered September 1982) and 1983-84 (entered September 1983) as well as a photograph of the Leaving Certificate Class of 1980-81 (entered 1976).

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## LEAVING CERTIFICATE CLASS 1980-81



Back Row (left to right): Patrick Walsh, Nial O'Toole, David Cowhig, Patrick Treacy, John Walsh, Liam Lalor, Paul Corcoran. Row 9: Brian Kenealy, Joe McGloin, Patrick Tynan, Francis O'Hara, Seamus Cahill. Row 8: P.J. O'Neill, Paul Butler, Simon Treacy, Sean Butler, Francis O'Carroll. Row 7: Frank Flood, Oliver Dooley, John Dooley, Jonathan Broggy, Richard Trayer. Row 6: Thomas Byrne, Patrick Cahill, Padraic Keane, Thomas Marnell, Anthony McCluskey, Sean Brennan, Jim Carrigan. Row 5: Charles Purcell, Paul Dundon, Sean Nolan, James O'Connor, Niall Murphy. Row 4: Patrick Leydon, Thos. Dooley, Thos. Farrell, David Power, Seamus Byrne, James Walton, Frank Wall, Eamon Lawless, Declan McCraith, Peter Stallard, John Cuddihy. Row 3: Kevin Ryan, Michael O'Connor, Patrick G. O'Neill, Richard Hayes, John Campion, James Pheran, Sean Murphy, Donal Morrissey. Row 2: Donald Egan, Eamon Delahunty, Vivian Walsh, Shane Lowry, William Kirwan, Kevin Hughes, Martin Brennan, Peter Dore, Paul Hogan. Front Row: Rev. S. McEvoy, Paul Phelan, Eoin Wallace, John Denny, Rev. T. Maher, Tom O'Carroll, Denis Foley, Shane Egan, Rev. P. Comerford.  
Absent: Gearoid Brennan, Phillip Cassidy, Francis Gorey, Paul Howe, Paul Kavanagh, Stephen Lysaght, Thomas McQuinn, John Morrissey, Dermot Noonan, John O'Brien, Brendan Reidy, John Reynolds, Paul Rigney, Colman Ryan, Christopher Young.

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## FIRST YEAR CLASS 1982-83



David Coughlan, Raymond Brophy, Dominic Bradley, Anthony Canny, Kieran Cantwell, Owen Costello.

Alan Brett, Declan Byrne, Richard Cashin, Andrew Casey, Adrian Connick, Alan Boyle, Michael Corr.

Patrick Byrne, Patrick Brennan, John Cahill, John Beale, Paul Brett, James Conroy, John Brennan, Michael Cullen.

Ian Crosby, John Cleere, Martin Buckley, Alan Aylward, Joseph Butler, Garret Brennan, Peter Birch, William Carroll.

FIRST YEAR CLASS 1982-83 *continued*



John J. Holohan, Barry Gleeson, Thomas Dooley, Laurence Fenlon, Mark Dreeling, Mervyn Holden.

John Guidera, Declan Furlong, Sean Greene, Paul Fahy, Declan Forristal, Robert Daish, Brendan Hughes, Gregory Holden.

Patrick Dalton, James Doheny, John Gavin, Cathal Duffy, Karl Dillon, James Hoban, Niall Holohan.

Michael Fitzpatrick, Shane Henderson, John Harrison, John Holohan, Geoffery Drea, Michael Hurley, John Dowling, Thomas J. Gormley.



Cornelius Murphy, Thomas Mahon, Thomas Lanigan, Cornelius Houston, Barry Hazel, Francis McInerney.

Kevin Hogan, Owen Meade, Michael Lawrence, Gavin Kearney, David Minogue, Robert Kenny, Francis Manning.

Patrick Keogh, Sean Moore, Charles Murphy, Richard Kearns, Daniel Lenehan, Laurence Hennessy, Fintan Kenny, David Lanigan.

Partick Larkin, Canice Lambe, Thomas Mahony, Michael Leacy, Stephen Lawlor, Sean Kenny, Michael Keane, Leo Mahon.



Francis Whelan, Richard Neill, John Powell, Richard O'Connell, Richard O'Brien, James O'Neill.

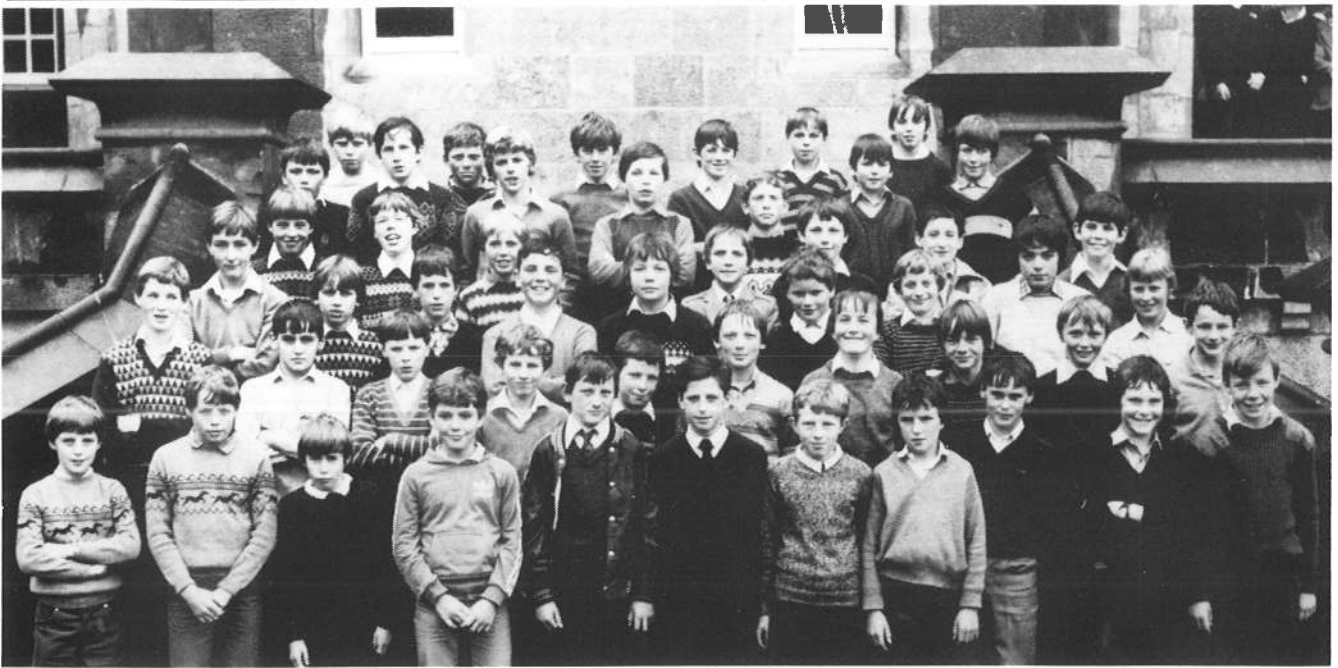
Brian Skehan, John Connell, Patrick O'Neill, Ronan O'Dwyer, John O'Neill, Alan Rainey, Declan O'Donnell.

Clayton O'Driscoll, William Malone, John Ryan, Ja James Phelan, Tomas Dwyer, Edward Walsh, Kieran Walsh, Kieran Reynolds, Edward O'Gorman.

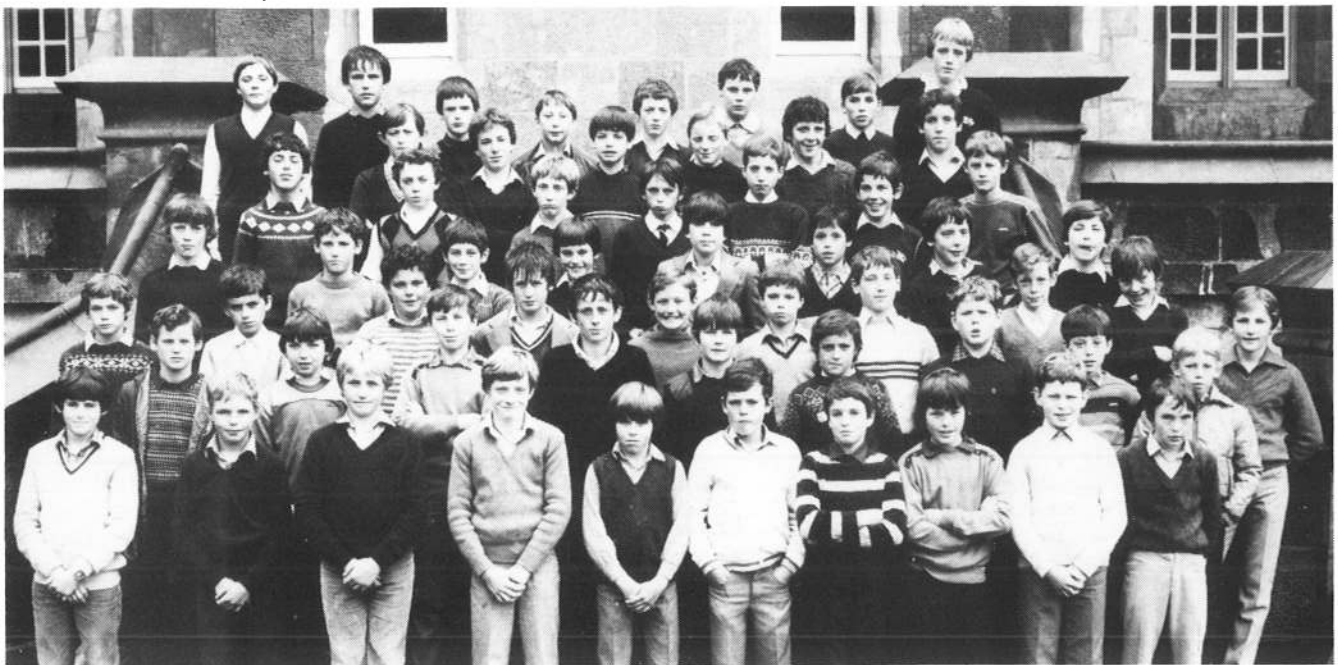
John Murphy, David O'Connell, Sean O'Shea, Robert Murphy, Stephen O'Brien, Evan Stewart, Brendan Phelan, Brian Ryan.



FIRST YEAR CLASS 1983-84



Back Row (left to right): Kieran Drea, Frank Gowan, Timothy Carpenter, Robert Dillon, Charles Carter, Denis Carey.  
Fifth Row: Denis Delaney, James Coogan, Shane Doyle, Eamonn Dooley, Peter Gowan, James Byrne, Daragh Butler.  
Fourth Row: John E. Doyle, Philip Fennelly, Vivian Fennelly, Mark Grant, Seamus Fogarty, John Gannon, James Gough, Patrick Galvin.  
Third Row: William Dawson, Sean Doyle, Richard Bowen, William Cullen, Eamon Byrne, Denis Doyle, Richard Davis, Damien Donnelly, Declan Dundon.  
Second Row: Conor Campion, Denneth Dowling, John Comerford, Aidan Gleeson, Raymond Butler, Alan Buckley, Kieran Conway, Keith Daly, Michael Brannigan.  
Front Row: Denis Dunphy, Robert Cody, Niall Durnan, Paul Brennan, Shay Bookle, Stephen Byrne, Brian Dunne, Michael Brennan, Richard Dooley, James Cashin, Colm Deasy.



Back Row (left to right): James O'Brien, Mark O'Brien, John Rice, Paul Jordan, William Whelan, Patrick O'Neill, Brendan McEvoy, Thomas Moloney.  
Sixth Row: Ivan Lawlor, Adrian Ronan, Canice Kenealy, Ian Kennedy, Patrick Healy, Denis Reynolds.  
Fifth Row: Joseph Phelan, Matthew Millet, Patrick Neary, Patrick Young, Edward Teehan, David Moore, Shane Hayes.  
Fourth Row: Rory O'Donnell, Sean Morrissey, Nigel Leydon, John Power, Kieran McEvoy, Simon O'Dwyer, Brian O'Neill, Brendan Walshe.  
Third Row: Harry Shine, Francis O'Connor, Brian McGrath, Bernard Renehan, Joseph Teehan, Edward Taylor, Michael O'Sullivan, Thomas Nolan, Richard Healy, Patrick McCluskey.  
Second Row: Patrick Maher, Shane Johnston, Michael Slattery, Oran Hennessy, Michael Sheil, Brian F. Walsh, Sean O'Shea, Seamus Phelan, James (J.J.) Reddy.  
Front Row: Daragh Kirwan, Charles Meagher, Bryan Walsh, Thomas Shefflin, Fintan Ronan, David Stapleton, Richard Phelan, Brendan Wall, John O'Dowd, Owen Moore.

# LAYSIDE SPORTS

## G.A.A. Results 1979-83

1979/1980

Junior Football	Wexford C.B.S. 6-8	St. Kieran's 1-3
Juvenile Football	Newbridge P.B.S. 1-5	St. Kieran's 1-0
Junior Hurling	St. Peter's 6-10	St. Kieran's 1-5
Juvenile Hurling	St. Kieran's 12-7	Birr C.S. 0-2
Juvenile Hurling Final	St. Peter's 4-3	St. Kieran's 3-5
Senior Hurling	Birr C.S. 2-17	St. Kieran's 1-2

1980/1981

Junior Hurling	St. Kieran's 2-5 Good Counsel 2-8	Good Counsel, 3-2 St. Kieran's 1-4
Juvenile Hurling	St. Kieran's 5-4	Good Counsel 3-0
Juvenile Hurling	St. Kieran's 6-4	Birr C.S. 1-3
Juvenile Hurling Final	St. Kierans 5-3	Kilkenny C.B.S. 3-2
Senior Hurling	St. Kieran's 3-2	Good Counsel 0-2
Senior Hurling	Birr C.S. 1-9	St. Kieran's 0-6

Senior Handball Doubles Champions Paul Rigney and Tom Dooley

1981/1982

Juvenile Hurling	St. Kieran's 5-1	Birr C.S. 0-1
Juvenile Hurling	St. Kieran's 3-2	St. Peter's 1-0
Juvenile Hurling Final	St. Kieran's 1-4	Kilkenny C.B.S. 1-4
	St. Kieran's 3-3	Kilkenny C.B.S. 0-2
Junior Hurling	St. Kieran's 0-9	St. Peter's 0-6
Junior Hurling	St. Kieran's 7-10	Birr C.S. 0-0
Junior Hurling Final	St. Kieran's 5-10	Kilkenny C.B.S. 2-5
Senior Hurling	St. Kieran's 2-11	Birr C.S. 1-5
Senior Hurling	St. Peter's 0-12	St. Kieran's 0-6

1982/1983

Junior Hurling	St. Kieran's 5-5	St. Peter's 0-4
Junior Hurling	St. Kieran's 1-11	Kilkenny C.B.S. 0-8
Junior Hurling Final	St. Kieran's 3-8	Birr C.S. 3-7
Senior Hurling Hamilton Cup	St. Kieran's 2-17	St. Flannan's 0-2
Senior Hurling	St. Kieran's 3-7	St. Peter's 1-8
Senior Hurling Final	Kilkenny C.B.S. 3-13	St. Kieran's 1-13
Juvenile Hurling	St. Kieran's 2-4	Birr C.S. 1-1
Senior Hurling	St. Kieran's 3-7	St. Peter's 1-8
Senior Hurling Final	Kilkenny C.B.S. 3-13	St. Kieran's 1-13
Juvenile Hurling	St. Kierna's 8-9	St. Peter's 1-1
Juvenile Hurling Final	St. Kieran's 2-4	Birr C.S. 1-1



*ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE WINNING TEAMS 1982-83*



*HAMILTON CUP WINNERS 1983*

*Back Row (left to right): Liam Egan, Tim Phelan, Ger Morrissey, Robert Tobin, Nicky McGrath, Willie Dwyer.  
Middle: Seamus Power, Pat Carroll, Niall Brophy, Eamon Keher, Martin Healy, Tony Byrne, Tomas McCluskey, James Quigley.  
Front Row: Fr. Pat Comerford, Noel Brophy, Kevin Leahy, Pat Dwyer (Capt.), Monsgr. Thos. Maher, Mick O'Neill, Eamon Morrissey, Thos. Farrell, Mr. Nicholas Cashin.  
Missing: Tommy Lennon, Walter Purcell.*



*LEINSTER JUVENILE CHAMPIONS 1983*

*Back Row (left to right): Adrian Connick, Domic Bradley, Anthony Smith, Damien Rafter, John Crosby, Fr. Farrell.  
Middle: Ricky Cashin, Kieran Wall, Matt Casey, Richard O'Neill, Paul Fahy, John Gavin, Geoffrey Drey.  
Front Row: Jim Conroy, Nicky Morrissey, Monsignor Maher, Kevin Conroy, Fr. Bollard, Declan Forristal, Padraic Larkin.  
Missing: John Teehan Capt., Donal Carroll, Patrick Dalton.*

**ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE JUVENILE, JUNIOR AND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS 1980-1982**

**ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE  
JUVENILE TEAM  
LEINSTER CHAMPIONS  
1981-2**

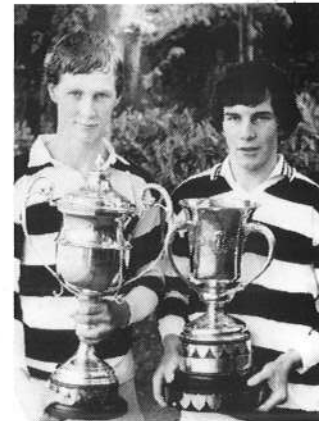


Rows from back, l. to r.:

*Nickey Comerford, Mark Duffy, Donal Carroll, Anthony Smith, Philip Murphy, James Langton, James Holoohan, Cathal Fitzgerald.*

*Michael Kehoe, Sean Cahill, Brian Phelan, Shane O'Neill, Pat Heffernan, John Crosby, Patrick Bergin.*

*Photo left: Three brothers who played on three championship teams in 1982: (l. to r.): Christy Dwyer, who was on the Juvenile team which won the Leinster Championship; Pat Dwyer, a member of the Senior team; and Willie Dwyer, a member of the Junior team which also*



*Photo right: 1982 Leinster Championship winning captains – Shane O'Neill (Juvenile) and Seamus Power (Junior) with the cups.*

**ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE  
JUNIOR TEAM  
LEINSTER CHAMPIONS  
1981-82**

Rows from back, l. to r.:  
*James Moore, Martin Healy, Tommy Lennon, Niall Brophy, Eamonn Keher, Pat Hoban, Tony Byrne, Thomas McCluskey.*

*Pat Carroll, Patrick Foley, Willie Dwyer, Thomas Farrell, Seamus Power (Capt.), Tim Phelan, Eamonn Morrissey, Walter Purcell, John Feehan, Michael O'Neill, James Quigley, Pat Ryan.*





ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE  
SENIOR TEAM  
1981-2

*From back, left to right*

*Eamonn Morrissey, Tommy Lennon, Michael O'Carroll, Owen Lalor, Jim Bergin, Niall Brophy, T.J. Byrne, Martin Healy.*

*Seamus Power, Kevin Leahy, Pat Dwyer, Tony Devlin (Capt.), Tony Byrne, Kevin Ryan, James Moore, Pat Hoban.*

*Nicky McGrath, Ger Morrissey, John Kearns, Tim Phelan.*



ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE  
JUVENILE TEAM  
LEINSTER CHAMPIONS  
1980-81

*From back, left to right*

*Tony Coyne, Diarmuid Purcell, Niall Brophy, Matt O'Neill, Eamonn Keher, Philip Murphy, Pat Heffernan.*

*Lorcan O'Neill, John Feehan, Pat Carroll, Patrick Foley (Capt.), Tony Byrne, Jimmy Walton, Des Kilmartin, Jim Smith.*

*John Larkin, Tommy Roberts, Christy Dwyer, John Millea.*

*Absent: John Barry.*



ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE  
SOCCER TEAM

DEFEATED FINALISTS  
KILKENNY SCHOOLS  
SOCCER CUP 1983

*From back, left to right*

*K. Trayer, R. Brickell, C. Kelleher, C. O'Sullivan, J. McAdams, E. McPhillips, C. Rainey, N. Keenan, E. Campion, T. McPhillips.*

*R. Kelleher, K. Leahy, J. Smith, M. McInerney (Capt.), D. Lahart, A. Bergin, K. Conway.*



# SEMINARY REPORT

Two major developments have dominated the recent history of the seminary at St. Kieran's College – the dramatic increase in numbers over the past three years (see table overleaf) and the departure of Fr. Martin Campion, who had introduced many significant changes in priestly training during his eleven years as seminary director. Those who have begun or finished their priestly training under him will wish him well in his new position as President.

Since the last *Record*, ordinations from St. Kieran's have been as follows:

1977: Daniel Delaney (Ossory).

1978: Francis Purcell, John Crowley (Ossory); Tadhg Mullins (Salford).

1979: No student ordained.

1980: Daniel Carroll, Patrick Guilfoyle, Laurence O'Keeffe (Ossory); Gerard Convery, Edward McGuinness (Derry); Sean Emerson (Down & Connor); Noel McGrath (Raphoe)

1981: Martin Cleere, Eamonn O'Gorman, Kieran Cantwell, William Purcell, John Condon (Ossory); Stephen McBrearty (Down & Connor); Michael Canny (Derry); Thomas Keating (Leeds).

1983: John Creegan, Richard Marnell (Ossory); John Forbes (Derry); Daniel Doherty (Raphoe); Francis McEvoy (New Orleans).



*1st YEAR SEMINARIANS 1982*

*Back Row (left to right): Anthony McGilloway (Derry), John Cairns (Derry), Eamonn Kelly (Donegal), Patrick Baker (Derry), Andrew Kingsberry (Down), Troy David Powers (California, USA), Patrick Dunne (Donegal), Martin McKenna (Tyrone), Donal McCafferty (Donegal), Gerry McCoy (Antrim).*

*Front Row: Denis Quinn (Donegal), Pdraig Mulhaire (Mayo), Fergus McMorow (Down), Paul McDaid (Donegal), Oliver Maher (Kilkenny), Val Treacy (Offaly), Liam Campbell (Donegal) Liam Maskey (Antrim), Charlie Thompson (Antrim).*



*FIRST YEAR SEMINARIANS 1983*

*From left to right: Thomas Canning (Derry), Pius Gallagher (Derry), Gerard Dunne (Carlow), John Gilmore (Antrim), John Butler (Kilkenny).*

**TABLE SHOWING SEMINARY ENROLMENT LEVELS AT ST. KIERAN'S 1970-83**

Year entered	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Irish Diocese	3	6	7	6	10	8	6	7	5	9	8	11	17	5
English Diocese	2		2	1	1	2						1	1	
American Diocese	1				1			1	1	1		2	1	
Total	6	6	9	7	12	10	6	8	6	10	8	14	19	5
Took year out during Training			1					2	1	2		1		
Departed the Seminary	3	3	6	5	5	3		1	1	2		5	2	
Ordained	3	3	3	2	7	7	6	5	Yet-to be ordained					

**NEW SEMINARY RECTOR APPOINTED**

The new Seminary Rector is Fr. Pat Comerford. A native of Mooncoin, he received his secondary and seminary education at St. Kieran's, where he was ordained in 1967. After pastoral assignments in Castlecomer and Tullaherin, training in communications and catechetics in Canada and at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., and a period as member of the Diocesan Catechetics team, he returned to St. Kieran's in 1975 as teacher of religion and became Dean on the lay-side in 1977. During recent years, he also served as visiting curate in Windgap.

Other appointments to the seminary staff since the last issue of the *Record* are:

Rev. Fearghus O'Fearghail: Sacred Scripture 1979-1980 and 1982 - .

Rev. William Dalton: Canon Law, Liturgy 1980- .

Rev. Patrick Bollard: Psychology 1981 - .

Rev. Daniel Bollard: Spiritual Director 1978 - .

*Rev. James Dollard*, a member of the college staff since 1971, was appointed C.C. Templeorum but remains as visiting lecturer in Church History, the subject he had previously professed at the college. A native of Cullohill, Fr. Dollard was ordained at Maynooth in 1967 and did post-graduate studies in Rome.

*Rev. Timothy O'Connor*, who had spent 26 years in St. Kieran's as teacher, dean and spiritual director, was appointed C.C. Coon in 1978, and later P.P. Glenmore. A native of Kilmanagh, he was educated at St. Kieran's College and Maynooth, where he was ordained in 1951. He joined the staff of the lay-side in St. Kieran's in 1952 and in 1958 was appointed Junior Dean, a position he held until 1973. He was then appointed Spritual Director of the Seminary, a position he combined with counselling duties on the lay-side.

*Rev. Martin Drennan*, who had professed Sacred Scripture from 1975, departed from the college in 1980 on his appointment as spiritual director to the students of the Irish College in Rome, where he had been Director of Studies from 1971 to 1973.



**ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE  
KILKENNY**

**WINNERS OF INTER-  
SEMINARY SOCCER  
LEAGUE 1983**

*Shown is the team which defeated St. Patrick's, Kiltegan 3-0 to win the Cardinal O'Fiaich Perpetual Trophy:*

*From back, left to right  
F. McEvoy, S. Byrne, B. Dunphy, P. Fitzpatrick, S. O'Neill, V. Treacy, E. Kelly, P. Baker.*

*J. Kearns, C. Thompson, J. Rooney, R. Marnell (Capt), K. Maguire, D. O' Kane, J. Forbes.*



# The late Rev. E. McDonagh C.M.



I was the first college priest to meet him as he came among us like a Melchisedech on that August afternoon in 1964 for he had every appearance of a high priest and we knew nothing about his background, family or person. We were, likewise, an unknown quantity to him; Gradually, the truth

unfolded. He had come to take up the position of Spiritual Director in the Seminary – he would be the first resident religious Director – and he had no previous experience in this field although his Congregation had long been specialists in it. He had been in his element as Parish Priest in St. Vincent's Sheffield where he had spent most of his priestly life, finding his posting to Cork the previous year a hard separation from all that he had been used to. Now he was given a more daunting assignment to a new field, among unknown colleagues, in isolation from his confreres in his Congregation, at a time of turmoil and change in Seminary life. True to his character he set about the task with energy and verve and he wasn't long in establishing himself.

Those of us on the staff who had the benefit of Vincentian Spiritual Directors in Maynooth eagerly welcomed his appointment knowing the blessings it would bring. Soon he felt accepted and welcome and there began a love relationship with the College which he never lost. He got down to the task of preparing himself for his work, reading widely in current theology and spirituality and by a prayerful regular life. He consulted the students and discussed his 'conferences' with them in small groups. With his wide pastoral experience he had much to give young men in training for the pastoral ministry; and his intimate knowledge of priests and their needs gave him a sympathy and deeply caring attitude towards the future priest. He had made St. Vincent's in Sheffield an open house for the diocesan priests of Leeds and he made his first acquaintance with St. Kieran's through the alumni he met there. He spent several of his College summer vacations in the U.S. learning about the pastoral life there and once again forming acquaintances among St. Kieran's alumni. He helped when he could in city parishes and in some country ones too. He became very involved in the Christian Family Movement in the city. Thus, in spite of his disclaimers, he was well equipped for the formation of future priests and many grateful clients will testify to his success in that respect.

He became an integrated member of the College familia, always a striking figure, with his dominating presence, his mop of white hair, his good humour and his characteristic chuckle. We never got to know much about his own family background – except for two members: 'The Admiral', a priest brother, of the diocese of Leeds and chaplain to H.M. Navy and 'The Ambassador', his brother who was Ireland's distinguished ambassador in Bonn. The disclosure of these two led to much happy banter at table which he relished. Through him we got to know a lot about the Vincentian Fathers, got to know many of them personally and respected them for their priestly qualities. Fr. Ned was a true Vincentian, always referring to his fellow-Vincentians as his confreres (an eloquent term) and returning frequently to his base, St. Joseph's, Blackrock, Dublin, to maintain the necessary contact. I always felt that his presence with us gave us a new insight into College affairs for he saw things in a different light from the confined mentality caused by in-breeding. I always found his views and his judgements stimulating and helpful.

He spent eleven years with us. Priests and students would agree that he enriched the College during those years. Towards the end of that period he felt that a new man with a fresh outlook was needed and he began to long for change. So, he bowed out with characteristic humility on his part in 1975, but not without genuine regret on all sides. He was appointed a superior in St. Mary's Lanark, Scotland in the diocese of Motherwell. He was back again in charge of a parish. I visited him there and we discussed the renovation of the fine church and talked about his friends in St. Kieran's and elsewhere. He was happy in his new post. Soon, however, he was to endure pain and sorrow. While in Scotland again, in September 1979, I made a special point in calling to see him, to offer him whatever support I could; he had aged but the old love of fun and hospitality were still there. It made me sad to think that he was suffering deeply. How glad I was to have made that visit, for within three weeks he was dead! I was the last Ossory priest to have met him. It was fitting that Bishop Birch went over to his funeral for it was his idea in the first place to get a Vincentian Spiritual Director and he was accompanied by Mgr. Maher, Mgr. Holohan, Fr. Rhatigan and Fr. Crotty representing a College staff – past and present – grateful for the memory, and anxious to pay their respects to one whom they had known for only eleven years but which seemed to be a lifetime. May he rest in peace.

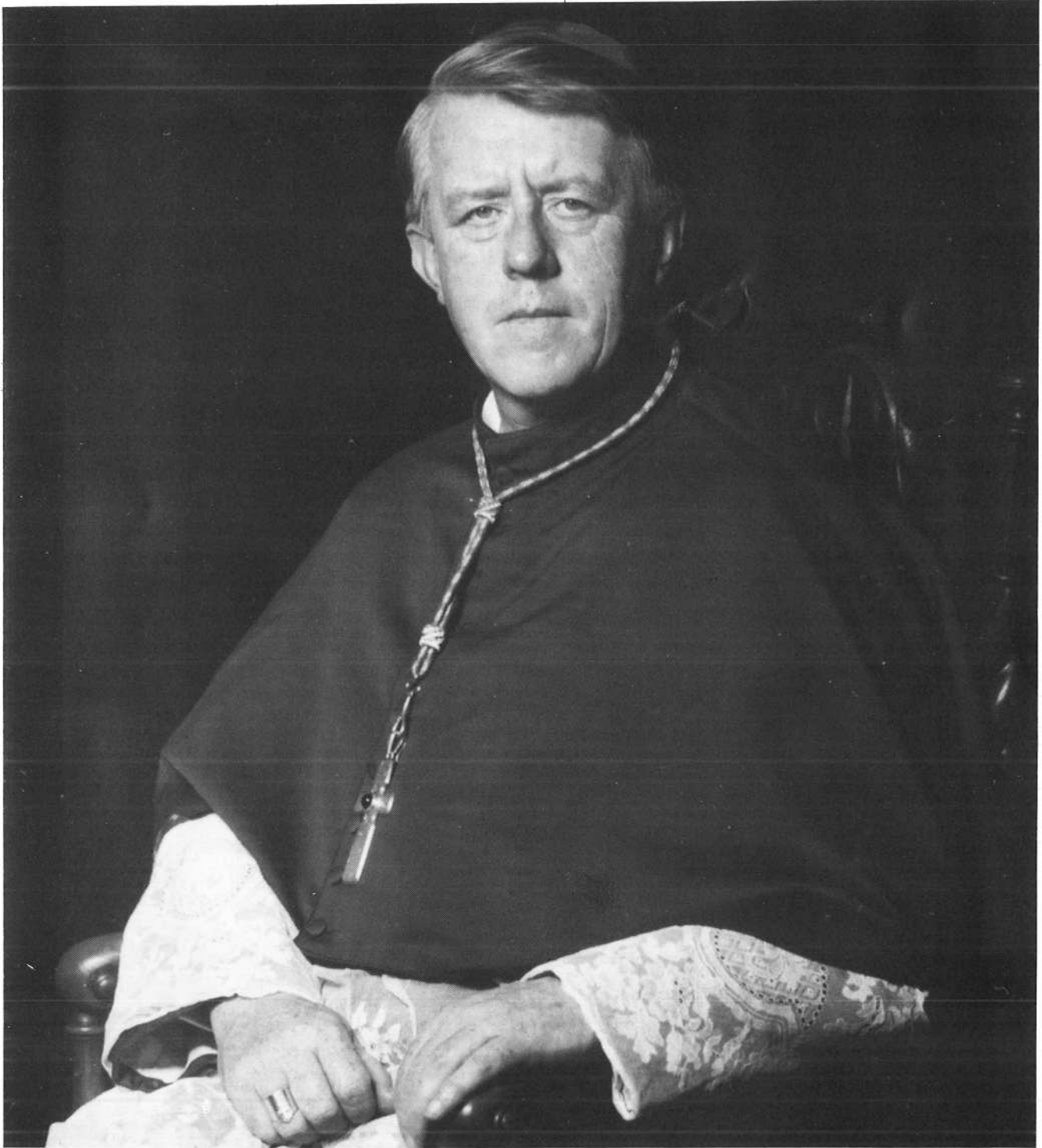
T. O'C.

## MESSAGE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II TO SEMINARIANS

*The Catholic faith of Ireland today was linked, in God's plan, to the fidelity of St. Patrick. And tomorrow, some part of God's plan will be linked to your fidelity – to the fervour with which you say 'Yes' to God's word in your lives. By God's grace, you will understand more and more every day how God requires and accepts your fidelity as a condition for the supernatural effectiveness of all your activity. The supreme expression of fidelity will come with your irrevocable and total self-giving in union with Jesus Christ to his Father.*



**SAINT KIERAN'S COLLEGE RECORD**  
**FROM THE DIOCESES**



**BISHOP LAURENCE FORRISTAL**  
Installed as Bishop of Ossory September 13th 1981

# A NEW BISHOP FOR OSSORY

In choosing a successor for Bishop Peter Birch of Ossory, Rome could not have known of the views of an old Thomastown parishioner, who on reading speculation in the *Kilkenny People* about the likely candidates, was heard to observe: 'Sure why are they talking about making a bishop out of someone when we have our own ready-made bishop.'

By July of 1981, the Pope had come around to this way of thinking himself, however, and the announcement was made: Laurence Forristal, a native of Thomastown and an Auxiliary Bishop to Archbishop Dermot Ryan of Dublin since 1980, was to be the new Bishop of Ossory.

An accident of fate had swept away the young Laurence Forristal from the familiar surroundings of Kilkenny to the midland fastnesses of Roscrea for his secondary education, and on to service as a priest of the Archdiocese of Dublin. But he could still claim on the day of his appointment that he had made more good Kilkenny hay, and cheered on more good Kilkenny hurling teams, than many a cleric who had travelled the familiar St. Kieran's College route. And he boasted that he knew every priest of the diocese of Ossory by sight as well as the precise location of every church with the possible exception of two or three.

Of the eighteen bishops who served the Diocese of Ossory over the past 300 years, he was only the eighth native Kilkennyman, and the third native of South Kilkenny; the last South Kilkennyman, Edward Walsh, had been appointed 135 years before, and since then only Bishop Peter Birch could

support the Kilkenny hurling team with the fervour of a county native.

Laurence Forristal was born at Jerpoint, near Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny on June 5th, 1931, the fifth of nine children of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Forristal. He was educated at local primary schools; at Mount St. Joseph's, Roscrea; at Holy Cross College, Clonliffe, where he studied for the priesthood; at University College, Dublin, where he took the degree Bachelor of Philosophy (1953) and Higher Diploma in Education (1957); at Propaganda Fide in Rome, from which he graduated with his Licentiate in Sacred Theology (1956); and at the Gregorian University in Rome, from which he received his Licentiate in Canon Law (1960).

Ordained in Rome on December 21st, 1955, he alternated periods of postgraduate studies in Dublin and Rome with appointments as chaplain to Sion Hill Convent, Blackrock and Killester Vocational School. During his period of postgraduate studies in Rome between 1957 and 1960, he worked at the Roman Rota, the Vatican's Marriage Tribunal.

In 1960 he was appointed an Assistant at the Chancellery of the Archdiocese of Dublin and for seven years he combined this assignment with chaplaincies to St. Vincent's CBS School, Glasnevin, and High Park Convent, Drumcondra, and week-end duties at Corpus Christi Parish, Drumcondra. In 1967, he received his first full pastoral assignment as curate in Raheny, and



*Dr. Laurence Forristal arriving at St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny on September 13th, 1981 for his installation as Bishop of Ossory, accompanied by (l. to r.) Revv. John Lalor C.C. Thomastown, Lorcan Moran, and Tom O'Toole.*



*A view of St. Mary's Cathedral during the installation of Most Rev. Laurence Forristal as Bishop of Ossory, showing the assembled guests, the consecrating and concelebrating prelates at the rear of the altar, and the clergy (in white) in left aisle.*

seven years later, he was made administrator of the new parish of Rivermount, on the banks of the Tolka River in northwest Dublin. Here he served almost 10,000 parishioners, over a third of them of primary-school-going age, and his early efforts at developing facilities for worship, education and community activities were rewarded with appointments as parish priest and vicar general in 1977, at which time he was also raised to the dignity of Domestic Prelate by Pope Paul VI.

In late 1979, he was appointed Titular Bishop of Rotton and an Auxiliary Bishop to Archbishop Dermot Ryan, who consecrated him (and another new auxiliary, Bishop Brendan Comiskey) at St. Andrew's Church, Westland Row, on Sunday January 20 1980.

His native diocese and his native county were well represented at the ceremony, not only by his own family (two brothers and a sister still live in the county) but by Bishop Birch; Very Rev. Michael O'Carroll P.P. and Rev. John Lalor C.C., Thomastown; Rev. P. Fitzgerald, St. Canice's and Rev. J. Forristal, St. Brigid's College, Callan; representatives of the Sisters of Mercy, Thomastown; and three local T.D.'s, Mr. Kieran Crotty, Mr. Liam Aylward and Mr. Tom Nolan.

Bishop Forristal took over the administration of a section of the Archdiocese of Dublin that included 22 parishes on the south-west of the city (covering the rapidly-expanding areas of Tallaght, Clondalkin and Blanchardstown), and 17 parishes in the less-developed areas of west Co. Dublin, west Co. Wicklow and south Kildare; in fact, his remit stretched beyond the town of Athy (which is in the Archdiocese of Dublin) to within eight miles of the north-eastern extremity of the parish of Clogh in the diocese of Ossory.

His appointment as Bishop of Ossory meant that he would be responsible for roughly the same number of parishes (43, as against 39 in Dublin) but with only a third of the population (70,000 as against about 200,000).

It was Archbishop Dermot Ryan who once again performed the ceremony that was to make that of Laurence Forristal the 75th. recorded name in the list of successors to St. Kieran of Saighir over the past 1400 years.

The theme of the installation ceremony at St. Mary's Cathedral on September 13th. 1981 was taken from the motto adopted by the bishop for his coat of arms on his appointment as auxiliary just 20 months before: *In fide et caritate*, 'In Faith and Love'.

The official programme for the ceremony explained the thinking behind this and behind the decoration of the coat of arms itself:

'The two great virtues of Faith and Love are mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer of today's Mass, where we read 'Strengthen in faith and love your pilgrim church on earth'. In the second lesson in the Mass of Installation, St. Paul, writing to Timothy, urges him to 'follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.'

'We find in the Bishop's coat of arms references to his patron saint, his place of birth and his family. The lion symbolises St. Laurence O'Toole, the two arches on the crest represent Jerpoint Abbey, which stands close to his place of birth in the parish of Thomastown. The spear on the black background is taken from the Forristal family crest.

'At the centre of the coat of arms is the Cross of Christ, a symbol of reconciliation, the bringing together in unity with Christ of all people in faith and love. As a successor of the Apostles,



Bishop Forristal receives directly from Christ the mission of gathering together the people of God in the Diocese of Ossory, nourishing them on the Word of Christ and making them holy through the administration of the Sacraments, a task he takes up with the assistance of his fellow-workers, the priests.'

The Apostolic Nuncio, Dr. Alibrandi, who had assisted at Dr. Forristal's ordination as Bishop, now joined in concelebration with twenty-one other bishops, including Bishop James Lennon, representing Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, and Archbishop Thomas White, a priest of the Diocese of Ossory in the Diplomatic Service of the Vatican and at that time Apostolic Nuncio to Rwanda. The Archbishops of Cashel and Tuam joined the Archbishop of Dublin as principal concelebrants.

Also present were three of the five remaining auxiliary bishops of Dublin; Bishop Lennon of Kildare and Leighlin; the bishops of Raphoe, Kilmore, Elphin, Galway, Killala, Achonry and Limerick; the co-adjutor bishops of Cork and Clonfert; the retired Bishop of Achonry; the Bishop of Shrewsbury, England, Dr. Gray, and the Abbots of Roscrea and Moone.

Among the guests were the President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery, and Mrs. Hillery; Mr. Jim Mitchell, Minister for Justice, representing the Taoiseach, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald; representatives of the main Christian churches led by the Church of Ireland bishop of Ossory, Rt. Rev. Noel Will-

oughby (a special Hour of Prayer for the new bishop had been held in St. Canice's Cathedral during the previous week); representatives of religious orders, political parties, local authorities, state institutions and diocesan organisations; and more than 200 priests from Ossory, Dublin and elsewhere. Special places were reserved for the brother, sister, sister-in-law, nephews and niece of the late Bishop Peter Birch.

The ceremony began with the presentation of the new bishop to the Chapter of the Diocese by Archbishop Dermot Ryan. In the greeting procession that followed, representatives of the clergy, the religious orders and each of the parishes of the diocese took part, led by the attending Bishops, the representatives of other Christian churches, Monsignor Carey (Vicar General) and Monsignor Holohan (Archdeacon) and including Revv. Paul Fitzgerald, St. Canices; Michael Canon Carroll P.P. Thomastown; James Murphy, P.P. Tullaherin; L. Forristal, Kiltegan (cousin); William Canon Dunne, P.P. (retired), Kilmacow; Patrick Bergin, C.C. Errill; Thomas Maher, President, St. Kieran's College; James Murphy, St. Kieran's College; Martin Drennan, Spiritual Director, Irish College, Rome; Francis Maher, C.C. Templorum; Martin Cleere, C.C. Ballyfin, Co. Laoise (ordained for Ossory 1981).

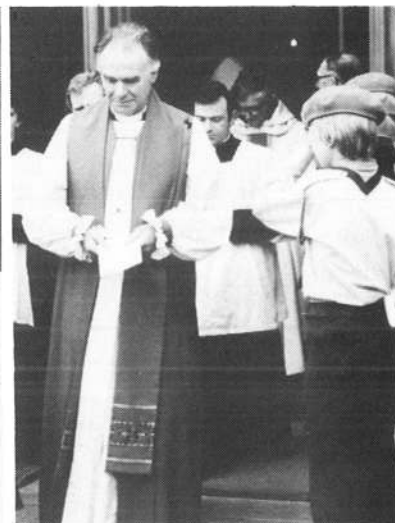
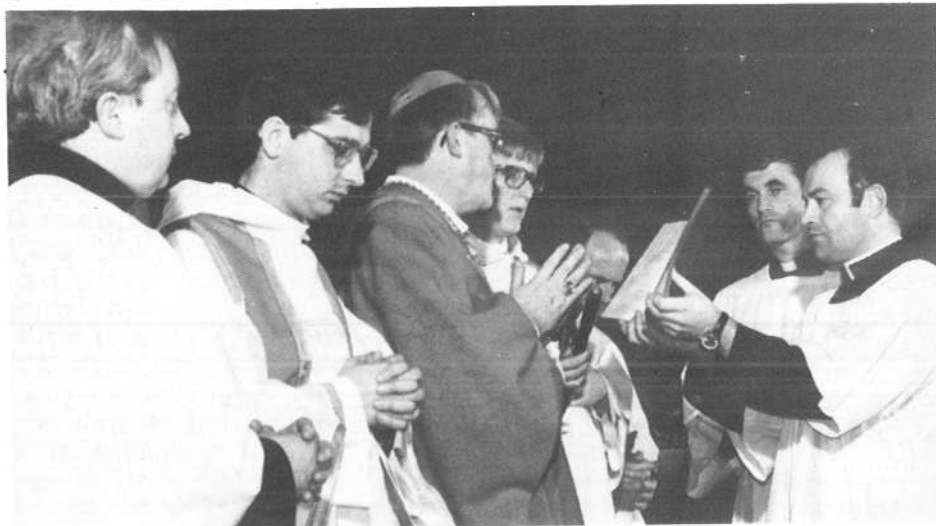
In his address to the congregation, Archbishop Dermot Ryan said that Ossory had given Bishop Forristal to Dublin for 25 years and now they were returning him with his reputation en-

### THE LITURGY OF INSTALLATION



The liturgy at the installation ceremony included the reading (left) by the Vicar Capitular, Monsignor James Carey (assisted by Rev. Maurice Burris) of the Papal Bull of Appointment and the response (below left) of the new Bishop, who prayed for the success of his ministry and for his people. The Church of Ireland Bishop of Ossory (and of Cashel, Ferns, Leighlin and Waterford), Rt. Rev. Noel Willoughby (below right) led the guests from the other Christian churches at the ceremony.

The Offertory procession at the Mass included representatives of the professions, crafts and industry, of sport (Ger Henderson presented a hurling ball) and of the disabled (represented by pupils of St. Patrick's Special School). Water from the well of St. Kieran at Saighir (Seir Kieran), Co. Offaly, and a collection of poems relating to the folklore of Ossory were also presented.







*Bishop Laurence Forristal gives his first public address to the priests and people of Ossory in a homily in which he asks for their support in the new responsibilities that he will have to undertake as bishop of 'this ancient and vibrant diocese'.*

hanced and enriched by pastoral experience.

'He has accumulated a wealth of academic, administrative and pastoral experience which is now happily at the disposal of this diocese.

'The sadness of Dr. Birch's passing has been relieved by the knowledge that he was a good bishop who had shared the anxieties and concerns of his people. In seeking to lighten the burdens they carried, he invited them all to share with him and with one another the charity of Christ.

'By contrast the dominant note in today's ceremony must be one of joy. There is, however, a touch of sadness for a small but representative group present here.

'I myself belong to that group. I speak of what one might call the Dublin delegation. We are of course glad that Ossory is acquiring such an excellent bishop, but we are sorry to lose him in Dublin.

'You gave him to us in the first place. The experience he has had in the intervening period will provide a large return on your investment of nature and grace during those early years when he was born, grew up and was educated amongst you, the people of Ossory, whom he is now called by God to serve. May his work bear fruit a hundred-fold in the shared dedication, in faith and love of all the people in the diocese.'

In his own address, Bishop Forristal welcomed and thanked all of the special guests, including the President of Ireland, for their presence. He welcomed also his fellow bishops, twenty of whom were concelebrating Mass with him, and mentioned in particular Archbishop Thomas White, Apostolic Nuncio to Rwanda, who was his contemporary in Rome, and Bishop Gray of Shrewsbury.

He also thanked all those who had helped to make the occasion possible through their involvement in planning, stewarding, and the music and liturgy for the day itself. He thanked too his

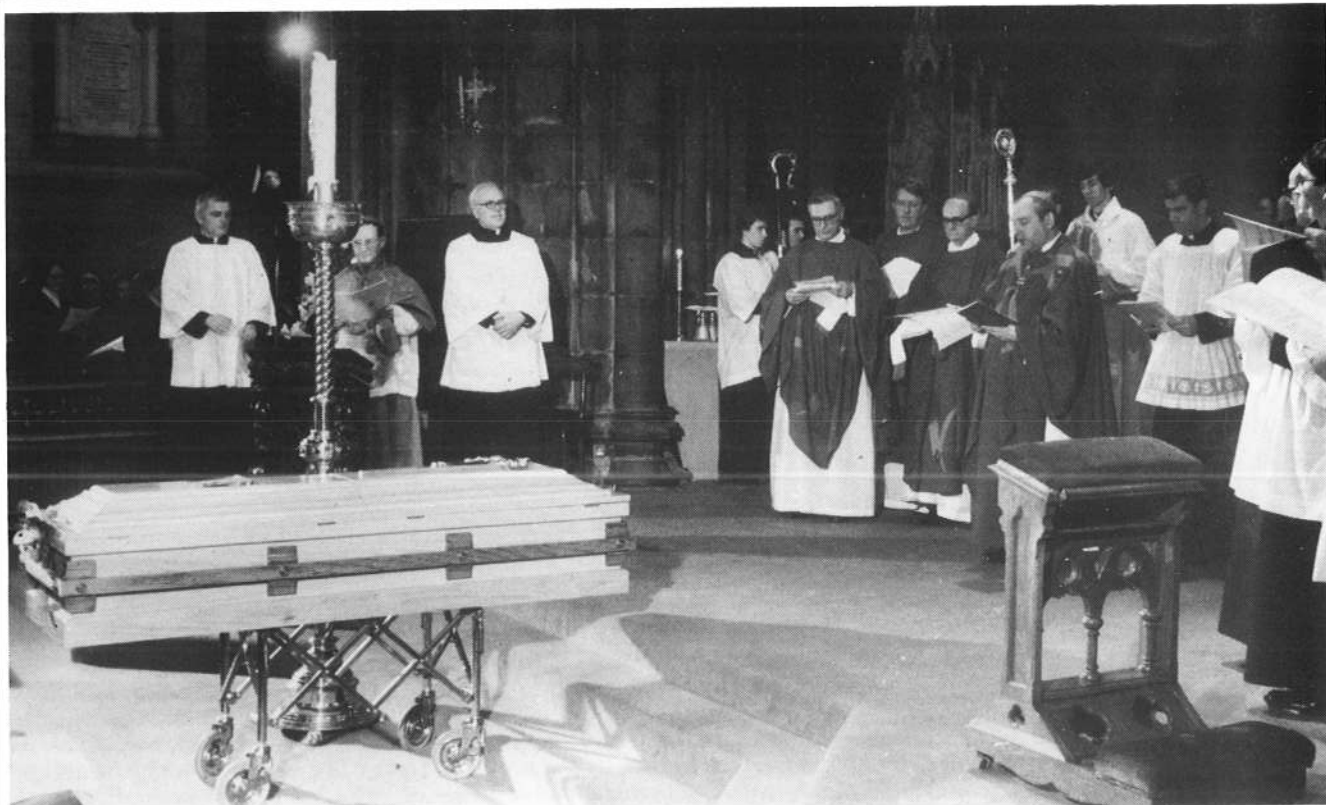
colleagues in the Archdiocese of Dublin; 'I have spent many happy years in Dublin. I don't think I could have been happier.'

He thanked too those who had organised an Hour of Prayer in St. Canice's Cathedral during the previous week; 'that was indeed an extraordinary sign of Christian friendship and unity. May it be a sign that we will continue to work and pray together.' His acceptance of the office of bishop of 'this ancient and vibrant diocese' was a cause of rejoicing to many; to him it was the assuming of a great responsibility in which he would need the help of his clergy. 'Like Moses, I too feel like crying out for help. These will be my closest collaborators for the rest of my days; working together, and united in prayer and our common priesthood, we will strive to make the Church a sign of salvation to the people of Ossory.'

Prayers of the faithful were read by a nurse, a social service worker, a relative of the new Bishop and Mr. Paddy Buggy, President-elect of the GAA, among others.

Music was by a specially-assembled choir of 150 trained by Mr. John O'Neill, with lead singing by Deirdre Dunne, Fr. Seamus McEvoy and Gerry Cleere, a seminarian at St. Kieran's College. Informal music was provided by Thomastown Folk Choir and the traditional group Osrai. Presiding at the new Cathedral organ was Miss E. Gowan, B. Mus.

The Organising Committee for the event had the new bishop as chairman, with Monsignor Carey as vice-chairman, Ann Lalor as secretary, and other responsibilities as follows: Fr. Tommy Maher (general co-ordination); Fr. Jim Crotty (catering); Fr. Michael Ryan (protocol and invitations); Fr. Jim Cassin (liturgy); Fr. Pat Duggan and Fr. Charlie Kelly (cathedral arrangements). The meal at the college was served by a staff of 40 drawn from both St. Kieran's and Kilkenny Colleges, under St. Kieran's matron, Maura Dowling.



*Cardinal O'Fiaich prays over the coffin of Bishop Peter Birch following the Solemn Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.*

## IN MEMORIAM

# Bishop Peter Birch 1911-81

On Saturday March 7th, 1971, at just after four in the afternoon, Bishop Peter Birch of Ossory was found dead in the garage beside his house at Sion Road, Kilkenny, the lawnmower he had been using still with its engine running beside him.

The shock and sense of loss that followed the first stirrings of rumour, and then the nationwide announcement of his sudden death was palpable at every level of the country's and the diocese's life. From leading national politicians to the simple poor of Kilkenny, the death of Peter Birch meant the loss of a friend, or a mentor, or a provider, or a leader.

In the 18½ years that he had been a bishop, he had brought to his native diocese an energy and a motivation of change that was akin to that of Pope John XXIII in its unexpectedness and its implications. Those who have sought to explain it in simply human terms have been forced to admit that the facts of his life as student, priest and teacher gave no inkling of the resources he was to have at his command as bishop, or of the effects that his ministry was to have on the priests and people of his diocese and of much further afield.

But the facts deserve mention and for the record, Peter Birch was born at Tullowglass, Jenkinstown, in the north of County Kilkenny on

September 11th, 1911. He came from a farming family and was the eldest of the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Birch. The second youngest in the family, a boy, was mentally handicapped, and this was to prove an important factor in his eldest brother's commitment to the care and education of the handicapped during his episcopate.

Peter Birch began his education at Clinstown National School on May 15th, 1916, in the wake of the Rising of Easter Week. His teachers were John O'Shea, a member of a well-known family of teachers from Ballyouskill who had come there as Principal in 1886, and Joseph Dowling.

Ten years later, at the beginning of September 1925, Peter Birch entered St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, with whose history he was to be bound up in one way or another over the 55 years that followed.

A new President, Rev. Patrick Collier, had been appointed in that same year (he had been Professor of English at the college from 1911 to 1921). Under his direction, preparations were made for the most radical change to be attempted in Irish education — the introduction of a revised curriculum for the Intermediate Certificate, which would now reflect the emphases

proper to a new state proud of its culture and its heritage of language and tradition.

Apart from the changes in the academic pace of St. Kieran's, and the President's emphasis on results and discipline, there were other less momentous developments to divert the student body; a contemporary, Tom Lyng, has written a short piece on the dress codes and leisure pursuits of the time in this issue of the *Record*, and the Bicentenary history of the college lists some more – the boring of an artesian well, the provision of electric light, and the arrival of the first professorial motor car.

The learning environment of the time, and the teachers who gave it its unique character, have also been extensively chronicled in the *Record* by Noel Moran and James Delehanty, both of whom attended the college between the years 1923 and 1928. Peter Birch himself was to write most affectionately about Fr. John Byrne, his history teacher, and Fr. James Ryan, his English teacher. He would also write an extended and moving obituary of the man who had come to the college as President in 1928, and who would, as Bishop of Ferns, give support and counsel to his former student on the latter's appointment to the see of Ossory thirty-four years later – Dr. James Staunton.

In a photograph taken in 1926 of the entire layside (numbering just less than 100), Peter Birch appears as a junior student in a group that was to produce 33 priests. No less than fifteen would serve in the diocese of Ossory, twelve of them in the episcopate of their young contemporary

The future bishop's relationship with his priests was therefore based on long years of personal contact that began in the classhalls and recreation areas of St. Kieran's. When, in 1930, he went to St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, he came to

know better some of those who had preceded him at St. Kieran's, but who were to be colleagues and collaborators during his later assignments as teacher and bishop – men like Edward Wall and Joseph Clohesey.

During his time at Maynooth, Peter Birch was considered to be a better-than-average student but one who kept to himself, often pursuing topics (like the relevance of agriculture to the pastoral role of the priest) that seemed a little ahead of their time. His only consolation in this respect may have been the similar interests of a classmate who was to achieve in his own way a social revolution as radical as that which Peter was to achieve later – James McDyer, a student of the diocese of Raphoe, and later curate and parish priest of Glencolumbkille (the two men were, incidentally, born within ten days of one another).

Like all Maynooth students of the time, he had little contact with the outside world except at holiday time, but two major events of the time must have made a considerable impact – the Eucharistic Congress of 1932, and the 1935 Congress of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland, which took place in Kilkenny and had as its theme 'Social Problems in Ireland', an unconscious presaging of Kilkenny's future contribution in that context.

#### BEGINNING OF MINISTRY

Peter Birch was ordained for service in the diocese of Ossory on June 20th 1937 and spent the year after his ordination taking courses for the Higher Diploma in Education, which he received in the following year. Dr. Collier then assigned him to the teaching staff of St. Kieran's, where he took up duty in the summer of 1938.

He came to St. Kieran's at a time of transition; within months of his arrival, the then Presi-



ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE  
Layside Students 1926

Listed here are priests who served or are serving in the diocese of Ossory (d = deceased)



1. Cornelius Sherin
2. Gabriel Loughry (d.)
3. Garrett Brennan (d.)
4. Michael O'Carroll
5. Peter Birch
6. Joseph Dunphy (d.)
7. Thomas Brennan (d.)
8. Patrick Nugent (d.)
9. Patrick O'Shea
10. Daniel Carroll (d.)
11. Michael McGrath (d.)
12. John Kearns
13. John Kennedy
14. John Kenny
15. John Carey

dent, Canon Staunton, had been elevated to the bishopric of Ferns, and Fr. James Ryan had taken over as President.

The group of professors who made up the college staff at that time were to form a core that students who graduated from St. Kieran's into the 1960s would recognise as substantially 'theirs': William Darcy, Paddy McSweeney and Fr. T. J. Clohesey (who had all been there from 1931); Frs. T. J. Brennan (from 1937) and John Kennedy (who joined the staff in 1939 alongside Ned Costelloe).

A number of those who had been on the staff of the college during Peter Birch's student days were still there – Charles Sandvoss, who had come to St. Kieran's in 1909, and would not retire until 1950; Peter Byrne, entering the last decade of a 27-year teaching career at the college that had begun in 1900 and would end (following two early interruptions) with retirement in 1947; Joseph Koss, educator in music since 1912 (he was to spend a total of fifty years in that

capacity); and Fr. John Byrne, who had joined the staff in 1925 and would continue as teacher of history until 1943.

Others who had joined the staff in the late 1920s and 1930s, included men like Fr. Pat O'Farrell and Pat Rowe, Fr. Richard Lowry, Fr. Ned Wall and the brothers Frs. Pat and Joe Dunphy.

By 1938, the College itself was thriving; laity enrolment had more than doubled within a period of 10 years (to a total of 242 students; 111 ecclesiastical students were enrolled). The new capitation grant system had underwritten the physical development of the college – the Staunton Wing had been completed in 1934. The war years brought hardship for teachers and students alike, however, and only the efforts of men like Canon Hayes, who established Muintir na Tire at about this time, brought any hope of victory in the less publicised but equally vital war for economic survival in rural Ireland. Peter Birch's outlook on this issue is well demonstrated by his contribution

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## AN ACADEMIC WARY OF INTELLECTUALS

Arriving from a secondary school whose English teacher was passionately addicted to his subject, it was my good fortune to enjoy the equally enthusiastic sway of Peter Birch, the professor of English in St. Kieran's College. Let it be confessed right away that those who were not interested in Shakespeare found his classes uncongenial, and his mien at times bore that he-who-is-not-with-me-is-against-me expression. However, for devotees of English litt. his classes were a pleasure. While he had obtained his Master's degree on the theme of the revolutionary element in Shelley's poetry, perhaps that study had set up an alienation from the Romantic School, for the poets he quoted with most praise, perhaps beyond their capabilities, were those of the Anglo-Irish school, like Samuel Ferguson, Mangan, MacDonagh and Francis Ledwidge.

One week, Peter set us an essay on the Arnoldian theme 'The Phantasmagorical World of Novels and Opium'. A pupil nowadays could flood pages on the subject of drugs and the creative impulse, whereas we had nothing to sniff except the arid pages of Thomas de Quincey.

On the Wednesday half-day Peter would cycle out to his home in Tullowglass. Cycling was a hobby, and he was largely responsible for having a cinder track laid down in St. James's Park which is now given over to greyhounds. Another pastime was bee-keeping, and summer evenings would find him sloping down by the laurel hedge at the top of Fennessy's field with solar topee, veil and smoker to remove honey sections from the thrumming hives. This was a hobby he enjoyed to the end, and when he became bishop he located an apiary at Sion House.

While there was nothing of the impresario in his nature, he was organiser of the annual series of pageants in Stallard's Theatre, under the banner of Fides Productions. The purpose was less the provision of spectacle than to inculcate moral and religious values in a popular mode. Popular they were,

for the theatre was always packed to the doors, a condition the Longford Players must have envied as they beheld the sparsely-peopled benches in the same theatre on their periodic forays to Kilkenny.

Peter's social conscience was manifest early in the formation of a study circle in the C.Y.M.S. Hall, with Fr. Kieran Joyce, Adm. St. Mary's as spiritual adviser. Out of this grew the workers' library located in Ozanam House (now the Agricultural Credit Corporation building, Parliament Street). This somewhat 19th-century concept was hardly a huge success, possibly because of the sparse collection of books it managed to acquire. However, the movement led to the formation of a Social Science Course under the aegis of U.C.D., to which Professor Alfred O'Rahilly gave his benediction in an introductory lecture. This was the first such course formed in the provinces, and it still continues under the auspices of the Vocational Education Committee.

As a priest he was the antithesis of the Father O'Flynn type of clergyman – except in his passion for Gaelic games and culture. He was a man of contrasts, an academic wary of intellectuals, a frail man whose impulse was to drive himself to the limits of his constitution, a solitary man who enjoyed seeing people in a social milieu.

When Bishop Collier set him the task of writing a history of St. Kieran's College, he said good-bye to the classroom for a year. Using an individual establishment as a framework, he hung on it the history of education in Ireland over a century and a half.

He departed from St. Kieran's in 1953, and while I had gone long before then, the vision of him coming down the stairs to take class with the expression on his face indicating that there was nothing else he would prefer doing is still fresh in my mind.

*Frank McEvoy*





*Photograph taken for inclusion in 'St. Kieran's College' by Rev. Peter Birch and showing the staff and students of the college in 1951. On Bishop Collier's right is V. Rev. Patrick Dunphy, College President. At rear are (left to right): Rev. Joseph Dunphy, Rev. T. J. Clohesy, Rev. John Reidy, Mr. Pdraig Mac Suibhne, Rev. G. O'Sullivan (now P.P., Ferrybank), Rev. T. J. Brennan, Mr. William Darcy, Mr. Edward Costelloe, Rev. J. Kennedy (now P.P. Callan), Rev. P. Birch, Rev. Noel Sandvoss, Mr. John O'Neill, Mr. Joseph Koss, Rev. William Meany (now Professor of Classics, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth), Dr. William Phelan, Rev. Edward Wall.*

to the Seventh National Rural Week of Muintir na Tire, held at St. Kieran's College in 1944, on the subject 'Education and Agriculture'.

The poetry of Shelley (a thesis topic on which he secured his M.A. in 1941) and the history of St. Kieran's College, which he completed during a 'sabbatical' in 1950-51, were other research interests to preoccupy him during these years. His invaluable and pioneering work on the development of the Irish education system in the 19th. century which he incorporated in the college's official history won for him a Doctorate in Philosophy from the National University of Ireland.

In the same year, Fr. William Meany, a teacher of Classics at St. Kieran's since 1947, was appointed to the staff of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. Two years later, Dr. Peter Birch took the same path on his appointment as Professor of Education and Lecturer in Catechetics in 1953. (A predecessor — 1932-48 — in that post, Rev. Martin Brennan, was President of St. Patrick's College, Carlow, during the time that Dr. Birch was writing his history of St. Kieran's and had helped him with the research for it; this Castlecomer-born cleric, later appointed a Monsignor and parish priest of Edenderry, Co. Offaly, died on the day after Dr. Birch in March 1981).

In Maynooth, Peter Birch was out of his element. It was fifteen years since he had left it and he had little taste for the formalities observed in the administration of the national seminary. He lived as simple and isolated a life as he could there, comforted somewhat in the early years by the presence of some familiar faces from his former layside classes in St. Kieran's among the student

body there. He tried also to maintain his contacts with Kilkenny, mainly through the charitable organisations in which he had taken such an interest during his time there. But he also made new contacts, through the Legion of Mary and other Dublin-based societies, to provide him with an outlet for his need to discuss, to encourage and to be involved in the practical works of charity. A Maynooth colleague of the time is quoted as saying: 'He was always concerned, always 'missing'. I mean that in a good sense — with all kinds of people who needed help. He was that way inclined. Anything he did, he followed up to the end. He never counted the cost.'

In later years, he would sometimes mention a mysterious journey or a secret project undertaken during those years to follow up a hunch about a person in trouble, to seek out some piece of vital information for an article, or (in one case) to find the source of what he considered anti-Christian propaganda.

During his time at Maynooth, he had the opportunity to think and read at length about the problem of the development of the Irish Church, and in a private letter written in 1961 (and quoted in Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy's book 'Who Should Care?') he identified three negative factors — lack of leadership, lack of ideas, and lack of lay involvement. Within a year, he was to be in a position to do something about all three.

Leadership had become an issue in the worldwide church with the proclamation of the Second Vatican Council by Pope John XXIII. One of the first undertakings for a new co-adjutor bishop of Ossory would be the representation of



his ailing bishop at the Council. It was a duty, incidentally, that had already been done by another auxiliary bishop – Peter Birch's classmate William Conway, who would succeed John Cardinal Dalton as Archbishop of Armagh in early 1963, and would lead the Irish Church through the implementation of the Council's decrees. It is not too much to suggest that the Spirit that guided Pope John XXIII in the launching of the Vatican Council was still present when the list of preferred candidates for the co-adjutor bishopric of Ossory came across his desk in June 1962, and when he placed his mark against the name of Petrus Birch, wherever it came on the list.

The announcement of Dr. Birch's appointment was greeted in Ossory with rejoicing. But his former colleagues at St. Kieran's and his former collaborators in Kilkenny's charitable organisations were by turns elated and apprehensive; their friend faced his new task with the acknowledged handicap of an almost pathological shyness. His confidant and co-worker Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy summarised the problem thus: 'Dr Birch was not, by personality or temperament, the type of man who might have been expected to get things going in Kilkenny. Never a glad-handing extrovert, his enormous capacity to provoke admiration, affection and even discipleship had never been sufficiently under his conscious control to merit the description 'charm'. On social occasions (which he avoided wherever possible) his shyness appeared as a baffled grimness. He had a fierce mistrust of comfort, and gave the impression of a man fighting his own self-sufficiency on moral grounds, in the belief that people matter, and that they must be talked with, inspired and pushed. He commented once in an interview with a woman's magazine: "I'm no good with people. I can talk to anyone who comes to me but I find it very difficult to go out and meet people. I'm very poor at that. It's a weakness and I acknowledge it".'

But none of these problems were reflected in the smiling face of the newly-consecrated Titular Bishop of Dibon as he emerged from St. Mary's Cathedral on the morning of Sunday September 23rd, 1962, with his consecrator, the Apostolic Nuncio, Dr. Sensi, and co-consecrators Bishops Staunton of Ferns (making what was to be his last public visit to Kilkenny) and Keogh of Kildare and Leighlin; he smiled too as he hosted a reception at St. Kieran's College after the ceremony, and as he was driven around the gaily-decorated streets of the city parishes later that same day.

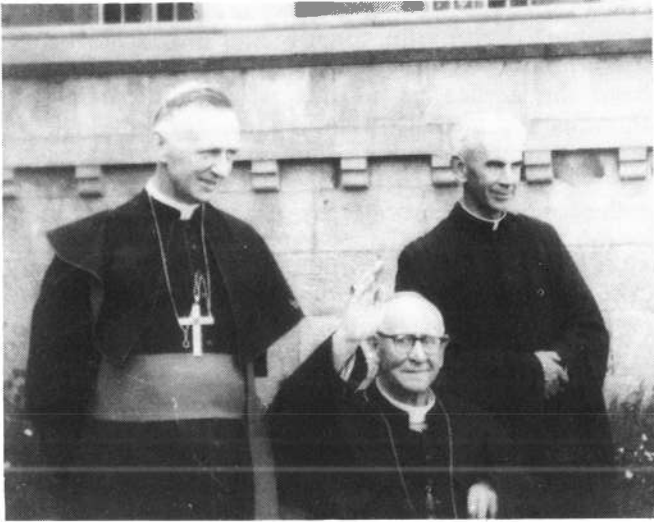
Over the next twenty years, that same smile would be at its most natural and its most radiant when he was in the company of those he loved most – the handicapped, the underprivileged or the disadvantaged. He gave, and they responded, in terms of simple and uncomplicated devotion. He lost all of his shyness in his contact with them, and in his championing of their rights. Towards the end of his life, he wrote: 'We have the weak ones in our society, the little ones to be embraced and served; they bring out in us the soft strongness of the Saviour and the love and understanding of Mary'. They certainly brought it out in his own case.

His championing of the rights of the underprivileged and his unremitting call for Christian commitment to them was to reveal an unusual gift for motivating others. He wrote himself 'As a bishop, I was in a position to be, if not a leader, then a figurehead. As a bishop (those whom I approached about involvement in the social services) felt that they owed it to me to go along with me, and without saying it, they showed that they pitied me in anticipation and were waiting for the collapse of the effort as most of them had been disillusioned too often in the past'

Sr. Stanislaus takes up the point. 'He was not only an 'ideas man', but a man with the capacity to interest those who half-comprehended or half-resented his idea in trying it out, for good or



*At Bishop Birch's consecration at St. Mary's Cathedral on September 23rd, 1962 were (l. to r.): Most Rev. Dr. Sensi, Apostolic Nuncio and chief consecrator; President de Valera; the new bishop; An Taoiseach, Sean Lemass; and the Archbishop of Cashel, Dr. Thomas Morris. Bishop Staunton of Ferns and Bishop Keogh of Kildare and Leighlin were also there.*



*Ordination Sunday at St. Kieran's College, 1963: Bishop Collier, on his last official visit to the college, photographed with his co-adjutor, Dr. Birch, and Canon Gabriel Loughry, College President; and Bishop Birch after he had performed his first ordination of Ossory priests – Frs. Martin Campion (now College President) and Brian Flynn (now Adm., St. Patrick's).*

ill ..... despite (his) self-confessedly untactful way of broaching some of his ideas, despite the fact that many saw them as peculiar, unworkable or just plain outrageous, there was always a strong body of volunteers willing to try out even the most outrageous of them ..... what surprised many was that the motivating force should have been the personal charisma of Peter Birch. For a long time it had lain dormant in the sotto voce lecturer and in the (then) chain-smoking introvert. But the charisma was there, and as he put it himself "in a sense it was a dream – but dreams are important".

By his own admission he was shocked by what he termed 'the cloud of depression that seemed to have settled over Kilkenny' in 1962; 'it was quite frightening to one coming in from outside' (he added, characteristically, that while unemployment and lack of confidence in the future were part of the reasons for this, it could also be attributed to the fact that Kilkenny had not won an All-Ireland for some time).

His answer to the challenge posed by this situation has been amply documented by himself and others, most notably in 'The First Decade', published in 1973 as the official record of the early development of Kilkenny Social Services; and more recently by Sr. Stanislaus in 'Who Should Care?', published shortly after his death as a more scientific analysis of the background to the Services' achievement.

Perhaps Bishop Birch's greatest legacy to the organisation which he founded and patronised was its ability to survive without him; in communicating his own vision and commitment, he had ensured that the vision and commitment of others were respected and encouraged so that the unique network of Christian caring would be maintained and expanded.

His achievements in the other areas of his pastoral ministry were no less impressive because they were less publicised. He merged lay and priestly efforts in the service of the poor and the disadvantaged wherever he could. He developed the abilities of his priests to meet the special needs of their people through training in Ireland and abroad – in catechetics, in the care of the young and the

old, in communication, in the sacred sciences. He introduced the Cursillo movement, organised the 1977 Pastoral Conference to review every aspect of Christian life and worship, founded Peace in Christ to provide a location for group retreats, supported the renovation of the Cathedral and its organ as well as of parish churches and community facilities.

He was in many respects a conservative, particularly in his dogmatic theology and his support of traditional social and moral values. But he was liberal in his openness to new ideas and new methods of preserving the more worthwhile of the old ones; and he was exceptionally notable in his perception of the present and future needs of the disadvantaged.

Imbued from the outset with the spirit of Vatican II, he asked for more than he could ever reasonably get from his priests and his people. In his early meetings with his clergy, he was impatient with those who could not share his vision or assessment of the urgency of pastoral and social needs. But it is true that he also had a tremendous respect for those priests whom he saw as living out, or struggling to live out, the ideal of the priesthood; and he was devastated by the early loss of colleagues and friends (like Dean Richard Lowry, Father Ned Wall and Fr. Joe Clohesey) on whom he had relied for support and advice in the early days of his episcopacy. He missed the informal company of his fellow-priests, something that he had enjoyed immensely during his time at St. Kieran's College; his new position created a communications barrier that only a few had the resources (and in some cases the courage) to breach.

With his people, he was seldom able to master those simple conventions of human contact that must be observed before any widespread conversion to new goals or new awareness can be attempted. He knew that he avoided them when he should have made the effort to meet them and talk to them – after confirmation ceremonies, at official openings, on public occasions (perhaps his attitude was affected by what happened on Ordination Sunday in 1963 when he made an impressive entry to the college grounds in his episcopal pur-

ple, cape and all; within minutes he was surrounded by an admiring throng who formed a circle, on their knees; he was obliged to go from person to person, allowing each to kiss his ring. He was the picture of unhappiness, until he was rescued by an observant dean).

His relationship with St. Kieran's College was friendly and supportive, but not overbearing. He had a continuing interest in the layside from his years as a teacher there, and on his first visit to the college after his consecration, he arranged to interview each of the final year students, giving an individual assessment of career prospects and possibilities for further education. (On the same visit, incidentally, he was greeted by the seniors of the house with a bouquet of flowers, a gesture that startled and amused him).

He also had a vital concern for the quality of education for the priesthood in the diocese and this was reflected in the range and depth of post-graduate studies undertaken by members and prospective members of the seminary staff at his request. At his death, he had assembled an unusually young and competent staff whose training had kept pace with advances in theological, scriptural and pastoral research and thinking.

His regard for the college can be seen in his consistent support of reunions of its priests in Ireland and abroad (he had been guest at the 1981 Scottish Reunion just a few days before he died) and in his delight at visiting St. Kieran's priests on his occasional trips further afield (as during his visit to Australia in 1976).

He looked to the future of St. Kieran's with a mixture of idealism and practical wisdom that was certainly no less intriguing for being a few decades premature (his occasional statements on the subject were often forced by a telephone call from a local newspaper with a few columns to fill; this gave rise on one memorable occasion to a headline: 'Seminary will not close; black

priests to the rescue'). The layside he saw as becoming a combination of large day-school and small hostel, where young people would eventually have the advice of a team of psychologists and therapists skilled in planning for the new age of leisure (or, more realistically, unemployment).

As early as 1976, he was planning how the college could celebrate its Bicentenary; he died within a month of the first planning meeting in 1981, but his vision of what the Bicentenary should mean and how it should be celebrated remained with the organisers throughout the year that followed.

In his later years, he saw St. Kieran's particularly as an important part of the diocesan ministry to youth, a ministry that he saw in a new light following the visit of Pope John Paul II to Ireland. Bishop Birch had begun his episcopacy with the spirit of Vatican II illuminating his path; he ended it in the afterglow of an event that he clearly regarded as the most momentous to have occurred in Ireland since Catholic Emancipation – or even before. Writing about it in *The Furrow*, he said: 'The impression I have is one of great joy, of expectations exceeded, of rich hope, of joy and unity. The Pope came to us as a pilgrim – that strong, determined, confident man saw deeper into our souls than we do ourselves. That should give us confidence to search our souls in a spirit of faith to find in ourselves what he saw. If it is not there, then we owe it to him to try to put it there.'

The Pope's visit, therefore, brought together all the elements needed for a 'conversion' of his people that would have realised Bishop Birch's most heartfelt hopes as a pastor: '(The Pope) put it to us to show the world, that judges by results, how Christians live in love, endeavour, faithfulness and happiness. It is a tall order, but my God, what a thrill it is to hear it, and it explains, I think, what he meant as he stressed the old truths. We are to love them and live them,



Bishop Birch (left of centre with dark-rimmed glasses) at the place in which he found an everlasting source of inspiration and consolation – Lourdes. Here he concelebrates Mass with Ossory priests during the annual diocesan pilgrimage – on his left is Fr. John Hoynes, himself disabled, and one of the many in whose suffering the late bishop shared during this event.



*Bishop Birch (second from left) appears to be about to wipe a tear away as he stands among his fellow bishops at Shannon awaiting the departure of Pope John Paul II following his historic Irish visit; and (right) the Bishop listens as Town Clerk Donal O'Brien reads the proclamation of his Freedom of the City, conferred by Mayor Tom Martin (centre) in 1980.*

but in a manner that will convince the men and women of today.'

The Pope's visit was also a deep personal and spiritual experience for the bishop himself, and he was not afraid to admit it: 'His call for care, for strength and gentleness, came out in so many places that I am not ashamed to say there was often a lump in my throat and tears of happiness in my eyes. Pope John Paul understands happiness and loneliness; obviously he has lived both. I heard and saw the same tears and smiles as mine in all sorts of people. I saw people being transformed before my eyes.'

It was, in a way, the consummation for which he had devoutly wished and worked for an entire lifetime. All his praying, all his thinking, all his writing – and all of the media exposure he had received, sought and unsought – had been with the aim of provoking some form of transformation in the Irish people, some enormous change of heart away from the single-minded pursuit of materialism that would provide the resources to solve the problems of poverty of mind and body that he saw all around him.

He would not have been the least bit envious of the ability of John Paul II to achieve in a few days what he had been trying to accomplish for years. He would have preferred, in many ways, to have avoided the task altogether. But he felt so deeply about the issues involved, and had such an immense appetite for new ideas, new solutions of his own and others (some of which he embraced with an enthusiasm they did not deserve) that he could not resist the opportunity to seize a bastion of traditional power for the revolution he espoused. As he often said himself, his impact depended on the contrast between the colour of his radical opinions and the colour of his episcopal garments.

Those opinions had as much to do with the nature of Christian worship as they had with social service, and in his thinking and writing, he never separated the two concerns. Had he lived to retirement, he hoped to live simply in a small house in his own native area, or perhaps with one of the small caring communities that he had helped to establish around the diocese. Once he talked about setting up a small contemplative community, where prayer and simple work would be integrated.

In the end, he died on a day when he had combined his usual after-lunch prayer in his private chapel with a spell of office work and a spot of

gardening. These in a way tell more about him than all that was written on his ideas and his achievements. He had faults, and pre-occupations, and hobby-horses, but he recognised them for what they were, and apologised for them when he could. But he also had a simplicity of mind, a need and a capacity for friendship, a delight in traditional things (like hurling, and neighbours from home) and an intense spirituality that set him apart. In one obituary, his friend Sr. Stanislaus was quoted as paraphrasing one of his favourite aphorisms: 'The kind good morrow from the lips of friends; a handshake from the heart; the word of courage when the old back bends; and the certainty of the Mass when I depart'.

At his funeral, the then leaders of Church and State came to pay tribute – the President of Ireland, the Taoiseach (Mr. Haughey), the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Fitzgerald, and the former Minister of State at the Department of Social Welfare, Mr. Cluskey, who had often sought the late bishop's advice on policy matters. Of the members of the hierarchy present at the funeral, only two had been present at his consecration – Bishop John Ahern of Cloyne, ordained priest the year before Bishop Birch in Maynooth, and Archbishop Morris of Cashel. These two, with Bishop Philbin (soon to retire as Bishop of Down and Connor) were the only members of the hierarchy to have held office at the time of their departed colleague's appointment as Co-adjutor Bishop of Ossory twenty-odd years earlier. Yet one did not think of him as of the older generation of bishops. Perhaps this was because he did not think that way himself; one religious correspondent wrote of him: 'Of course he was a blessed nuisance, of course he was a maverick, a special kind of ecclesiastical gadfly'. But he was constructive in his criticism and never more so than when, in concluding his article on the Papal visit to Ireland, he left some other words worth considering. Writing about the visit of Pope John Paul, he said: 'We need some one of our own to lead us in Ireland. The person I am hoping for must be steeped in our culture and our faith, a lover of our history, our earth. We can be sure of one thing; if our Irishness does not produce one, something else will – something destructive, iconoclastic. Please God, John Paul will help him or her to surface, and as he called out so much co-operation, cheerful service far beyond what we could have hoped, he will call readiness to follow in hope.'

*Denis Bergin*



# A FINAL FAREWELL FROM DIOCESE AND NATION

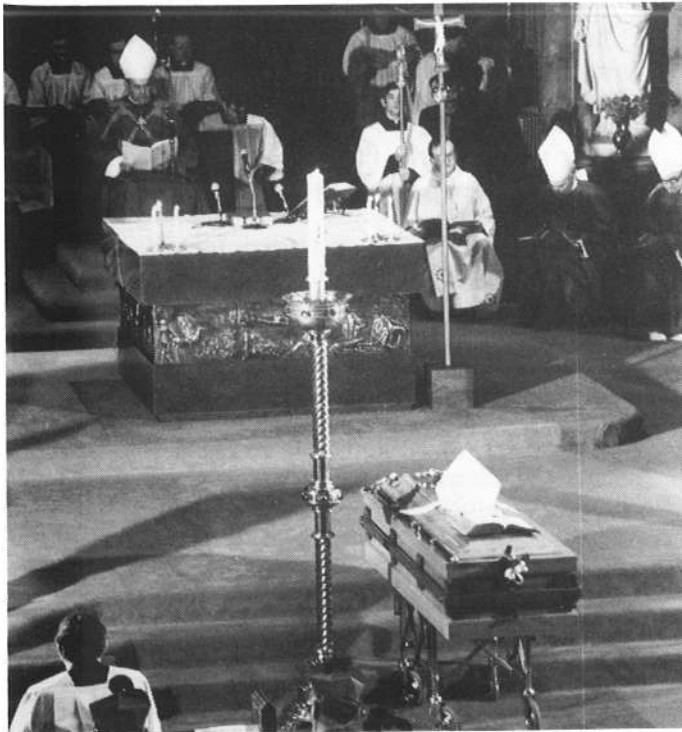
The late Most Rev. Peter Birch, Bishop of Ossory, was interred in the grounds of St. Mary's Cathedral in a simple coffin after a simple funeral – both at his own request. There was no lying in state, although many came to pray while his remains rested, in a closed coffin with his mitre and the Word of God resting on it, in the Cathedral where he had been consecrated and on which he had lavished great care and attention. The sanctuary that formed a background to this scene had been renovated under his guidance and that of his Administrator, and now blends the most modern of imagery with the most stately of backgrounds. An unexpected legacy had allowed him to commission a new organ for the cathedral; it would not be in place.

The cortege from his house on the evening of Sunday March 8th. was led by the seminarians of St. Kieran's College; an estimated 15,000 people – a number equal to the entire population of Kilkenny – lined the streets or followed the procession to the cathedral.

On Tuesday March 10th., the President of Ireland (below left), the Taoiseach, Mr. Charles Haughey T.D. (top, opposite), the leader of Fine Gael, Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald (below, right with Mr. Frank Cluskey and Mrs. Mairin Lynch, wife of former Taoiseach Jack Lynch) and local politicians and public representatives led the distinguished guests at the final ceremonies.

Every charitable organisation and every public





institution in Ossory, and many beyond, were represented and his sorrowing family (brother, sister, sister-in-law, nephews, nieces) and close associates (including his secretary, Miss Ann Lalor, and his collaborator in Ossory Social Services, Sr. Stanislaus) grieved quietly as the entrance him bade them 'Bear patiently the cross of grief and pain, Leave to thy Lord to comfort and cheer thee.'

His fellow-bishops were there in strength, all of them but two or three his juniors in the hierarchy, two of them his Maynooth classmates (a third classmate was the late Cardinal Conway, whose friend and successor, Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, was chief concelebrant at the Funeral Mass).

After the moving liturgy, the bishop's remains were carried by members of the Diocesan Finance Committee to their last resting place. Cardinal O'Fiaich said the last few prayers over the grave and the coffin was lowered. Those of us who remembered the brightness and the happiness of his consecration day a little more than 20 years ago, and the great promise of his youthful episcopate, reflected sadly in the overcast conditions of this March day on how he would have wanted us to feel. Despite the sadness and the sense of loss, despite the knowledge that there will never be another like him, the answer, we knew, was that he would expect us to feel hopeful. His era was ended. It was time for a new approach, new skills, a new style of leadership. He would be with us all the way.





# OBITUARIES

## V. REV. JOHN REIDY

To many a St. Kieran's student who experienced the benevolent deanship of Fr. John Reidy between 1946 and 1951, it may have seemed that the man was a timeless institution.

But it was not his style to stay anywhere longer than his prodigious skills of organisation and motivation were needed, a fact that must have been apparent to the diocesan powers that allowed him to minister to nine different communities during his 36 years of priesthood.

Born in Bennettsbridge, he studied at St. Kieran's from 1930, when he entered the secondary school, to 1941, when he was ordained for the diocese of Ossory. After five years on loan in Hexham and Newcastle, he was recalled to take up the position as Junior Dean in the college, an assignment he combined with that of trainer of senior hurling teams, one of which won a first All-Ireland Colleges Championship for St. Kieran's in 1948.

From 1951 onwards he served as curate in Dunammaggin, Ballycallan, Mooncoin, Rosbercon and Tullogher, where he was appointed administrator in 1973. He was made parish priest of Camross in 1975, and two years later achieved the distinction of training the local club team that won the Leinster club championship.

A generous and capable pastor, he endeared himself to all whom he served. In the year before he died, he accompanied Fr. Maher to America for a priests' reunion, and his address to the gathering on that occasion showed his humour, his simplicity, and his insight into the pastoral mission that he carried out so well. His death, in June 1977 at the early age of 60, left a gap in the ranks of the beloved pastors of the diocese.

## REV. JOHN HOYNES

John Hoynes was born on 5th August, 1916 at Ballybrahee, Glenmore. After his primary education in the local school he went to St. Kieran's College and then to Maynooth where he was ordained in June 1942.

His first appointment was temporary curate in Cullohill from July 1942 to June 1943. Like most of his contemporaries, he was then sent on loan to the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, where he served at St. Anthony's, Walker, Newcastle-on-Tyne, until his recall to Ossory in November 1949.

On his return he supplied for about a year in his native parish and was then appointed curate in Callan towards the end of 1950. It was while there that the malady which was to remain with him for the remainder of his life first manifested itself. Despite the best medical attention in the British Isles, which Dr. Birch very kindly procured for him, the disease was not cured, but it was contained at the expense of immobilising his left arm. For a while he was forced to give up parochial work and take

on the chaplaincy at Belmont Hospital. However, after some time he was able to return to Callan and remained there until his transfer to St. Mary's Cathedral in 1967.

He served as curate at the Cathedral until 1972 when he was made Administrator, a post he held until 1974.

Once again his health forced him to relinquish parochial duties and this time he went as chaplain to Aut Even Hospital. His final appointment was to Bennetsbridge, where he was sent so that he could have the almost constant medical attention which he needed from a very dedicated medical friend. The end came on 10th January, 1978 and he returned to his beloved Glenmore to rest with his parents.

Almost twenty-five years of his priestly life were spent in pain and suffering. He once said that he understood perfectly why dangerous tablets should never be left beside a patient in pain. Not only did he bear his cross patiently, but he never lost his great sense of humour or his penchant for playing practical jokes. He was loved everywhere he went. A huge man, six and a half feet tall, he was as gentle as a child.

*D.C.*



*V. Rev. John Reidy*



*Rev. John Hoynes*

## V. REV. JAMES CARROLL

The late Fr. James Carroll was born in Coolkerry, Rathdowney in the year 1913: having attended the local school, he entered St. Kieran's College in 1927. He studied for five years in St. Kieran's and in his last year he played full-back for the College hurling team which won the Leinster final. He went to Maynooth on a Leix Co. Council scholarship in September 1932 and was ordained in June 1939.

He went to Los Angeles on a temporary mission; he was loved there for his zeal and understanding by rich and poor alike. He was recalled to his home diocese of Ossory in May 1948.

In Ossory he served as Curate in Ballycallan, Gathabawn and Templeorum and lastly as Parish Priest in Urlingford where he died in May 1978.

Fr. Carroll was a priest of very high standards and a Christian gentleman who would not stoop to anything mean or low. He was an avid reader who could retain and expound his knowledge with clarity and conviction. He could be critical but it was always in the best interest of the Church. In commenting on changes in the diocese, he would wonder how many of them were made for spiritual motives.



By the dignity of his manners he graced the sacerdotal character and by the faithful discharge of all the duties of his sacred office he fully realized the high ideals of a true priest of God.

He didn't enjoy robust health for a few years and weighed down with this cross he followed in the footsteps of his master very closely: even in the twilight of his life he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and shortly after his return he was called to the Holy Land above, having nobly walked in the footsteps of Christ on earth. *M.J.P.*

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#### V. REV. WILLIAM O'KEEFFE

*Canon William O'Keeffe died as Parish Priest of Castlecomer in January 1979. Born in 1898 at The Rower, Kilkenny, he was educated at St. Kieran's College (his recollections of his days there were published under the title 'Memories of St. Kieran's 1909-1914' in the Record 1968) and for the priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.*

*This extract from an appreciation by Tom Lyng, a fellow past-pupil at St. Kieran's and a former primary school teacher in Castlecomer, appeared in the local parish magazine Deenside.*

I do not know what the signature of the late Parish Priest of Castlecomer would convey to an expert in handwriting, but I, who knew Canon O'Keeffe well, could read the handwriting from the man rather than the man from the handwriting. The lettering is tidy, non-uniform, not fussy, rather small and the 'O' of 'O'Keeffe' is particularly small.

In his native Rower, a place of deep faith and the abiding ruralism of Coolhill, he would have been Willie Keeffe. The assumptive 'O', which really stems from a birth certificate for examination purposes, could appear to rise from a successful graduate course in Maynooth with higher maths, and a gold medal in classics and so it was interpolated with modesty, almost reluctance.

After St. Kieran's, and Maynooth (1915 – 1921) Fr. O'Keeffe spent ten unforgettable years in Liverpool and was then recalled to Kilkenny where he divided a quarter of a century between the parishes of St. Patrick's and St. John's. Missionary Liverpool and conservative Kilkenny had taken him far from the hot-bed days of 1916 and 1919 and had geared him to moderation in living, in sport, in argument and particularly in theological argument, but there was no moderation in the simple piety that grew from several generations of mothers in the Rower and that remained unsullied with him till he died. That piety was particularly noticeable in his devotion to the Blessed Virgin, to religious festivals and to Lourdes. In 1971 the golden jubilee of his ordination was marked by Concelebrated Mass at the Lourdes grotto.

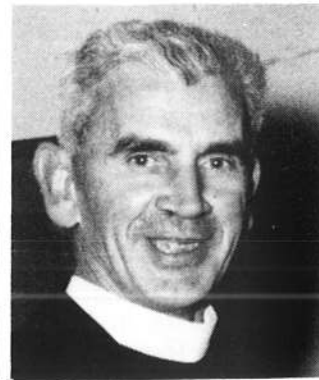
During his twenty years in Castlecomer Canon O'Keeffe accommodated himself to the levelling influences of T.V., Volkswagen, tractor and school bus. He saw a centuries-old industry go and new industries grow.

I think that his piety and aesthetics kept him a little unaware of changing church attitudes. He would scarcely accept that the John Popes were

made by parishes rather than vice versa. Nevertheless the Canon weathered the changes by having developed within him the caution of Paul and the twinkle of John long before we were enabled to notice these qualities in John Paul II.



*V. Rev. Wm. O'Keeffe*



*V. Rev. Gabriel Loughry*

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#### V. REV. GABRIEL LOUGHRY

Gabriel Canon Loughry died on 28 August 1979 on his way to his niece's wedding. He must have got some warning as he had pulled into the side of the road and passers-by thought at first that he was sleeping.

Gabriel Loughry was ordained in St. Kieran's College in 1933 and was sent to Rome to do a degree course in Theology. This he did in the Gregorian, the only university in Rome that laid on a course to suit ordained candidates coming from a purely seminaristic background.

Having got his S.T.L., he returned to the diocese not as might have been expected to academic pursuits but instead to extended pastoral experience in Newmarket, Rosbercon and St. Canice's before being moved to St. Kieran's College as Senior Dean and Professor in 1947.

In due course on the sudden passing of Canon P. Dunphy, he donned the mantle of President at Easter 1956 and served with distinction in that capacity until 1964 when he moved to what was to be his last resting place, the pleasant and picturesque village of Inistioge.

True to the best apostolic tradition, he was a keen fisherman, who thoroughly enjoyed a successful day's fishing. While not altogether averse to descending as occasion demanded to the humble worm to outwit the lordly salmon, he always did so with a certain feeling of guilt, and would have preferred the more clinical and aristocratic fly, especially when employed with the greased line technique. It goes without saying he tied his own flies, salmon and trout, an indication of the true maestro.

The only indication the writer had that he was suffering from 'a heart condition' was a remark he made not long before he died about how hard it had become to plod back up the hill to the car with or without a fish, but particularly in the latter case. He was dead before the meaning dawned on us.

In his latter years he suffered from a form of ear trouble that was only partially relieved by the wearing of a hearing-aid. It put paid to his enjoyment of music – a loss he keenly felt.

He had the privilege accorded to few of being 'an observer' at the opening session of Vatican II, representing the diocese of Ossory in place of the aging Dr. Collier.

As we ask your prayers for one who has fought the good fight and finished the course may we ask his prayers for ourselves, especially for those of us who have not too long to wait before being called to follow. M. O'C.

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#### V. REV. DANIEL DEAN HUGHES

The best known priest in South Kilkenny for over forty years, Dr. Hughes was born on 13th November 1903 at Woodsgift in the parish of Urlingford and died on 28th October 1981 as Pastor Emeritus in Mullinavat.

After his early education at Johnstown N.S. and St. Kieran's College, he studied Philosophy and theology at the Irish College, Salamanca, where he was ordained in 1929 and where he procured his doctorate in theology.

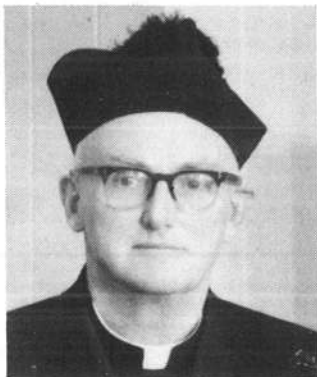
On his return to the Diocese he taught in the Seminary of St. Kieran's College from 1930-37. He served as curate in Mooncoin from 1937-43 and in Slieverue from 1943-62 before being appointed Parish Priest of Mullinavat, a post which he held from 1962 to 1979, when he resigned.

However, he continued to work in the parish as assistant to his cousin, Fr. Daniel Collier, with the title of Pastor Emeritus, up to a few months before his death. He was appointed Dean of Ossory in 1975.

His greatest memorial is the new church in Bigwood, which incorporates the best liturgical ideas of Vatican II and which has proved highly successful for the active participation of the faithful in the Mass and other liturgical functions.

He was a man of many parts who enjoyed life to the full but above all else, he was a priest totally dedicated to the work of the Church. All his life he was involved in the religious and secular education of youth. Slieverue Vocational School and Mullinavat Secondary School for girls were both due to his initiative. While in Slieverue he made the acquaintance of the Legion of Mary and this organisation became the great love of his later years. He considered it the best lay organisation in the Church and left three flourishing Praesidia after him in Mullinavat.

During the last four years of his life he



V. Rev. Dean Hughes



V. Rev. James Murphy

endured ill-health, which he bore with tremendous Christian fortitude. Courage and determination which were always his outstanding virtues stood him in good stead at the end. D.C.

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#### V. REV. JAMES MURPHY

When James Murphy passed from this life in October 1981 he had spent ten years in Tullaherin as Curate and ten years as Parish Priest. He arrived in Bennettsbridge in 1961 from Glenmore, where he had spent four years following his transfer from Clara, a parish in which he made many life long friendships during his eleven-year stay. After ordination in Maynooth in 1939 he had spent three years in Hexham and Newcastle, and on recall to his native diocese served in Urlingford 1943-46, Clara 1946-1957, and Glenmore 1957-61.

There are many monuments to him in the 'Bridge - a new church, a community hall, a parochial house, other material improvements to the parochial fabric, but the community spirit which created them is his greatest achievement.

This spirit he inspired and nourished through sacramental life, by the sensitivity of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the creativity of the Cursillo movement, and the dedication and discipline of the Legion of Mary.

His Christ-like humanity was particularly evident in his care of the unmarried mother. A founder-member of the Ossory Adoption Society in 1963, 'for a long time he was social worker, adviser, placement officer, paediatrician, the lot' in the words of his life-long friend the late Bishop Birch.

Fr. Jim loved company, enjoyed his game of cards, had a marvellous sense of humour, 'could sing until the birds came up' (his song books receiving the care of his coin collection) and family memorabilia. His interests ranged from bee keeping to the classics - the latter he taught as a visiting lecturer from Clara at St. Kieran's where he had received his own secondary education.

However Muckalee was his real Alma Mater. He belonged passionately to her. Early home and school education was received there, from his own mother, to whom he was very attached - following the untimely death of his father who was the local creamery manager.

There was joy and zest in living his priestly life, rejoicing with people in brighter times and showing sympathy with a heart full of feeling. Much of this spirit lasted right to the end, even though the cross of suffering was laid heavily upon him.

His final Mass, offered at Tullaherin, was fittingly a Mass of Thanksgiving. Though breathless in body and flustered of mind, because of the chronic onset of diabetes, his introduction to that Mass was an unforgettable ten-minute hymn of praise for all things and especially the rich mercy of God. J.J.

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#### V. REV. PATRICK NUGENT

Patrick Nugent was born in Rathdowney, Co. Laois in 1909. He was educated in the local primary schools, St. Kieran's College and Maynooth where he was ordained in 1934. He served in turn in the

parishes of Castletown, Urlingford and Clara until 1946 when he was transferred to Bennettsbridge.

The younger priests of the diocese remember Canon Nugent as the parish priest who always spoke to them and left a lasting impression of kindness and approachability. As a young priest in that glorious summer of 1959 I experienced those qualities at first hand when he welcomed me into his house as the assistant priest in Tullaherin. Father Paddy wasn't a man of expensive tastes or habits yet there was a quality in his hospitality which was outstanding. I, a stranger, was at home. All his visitors, cleric and lay, could say the same. He introduced me to a parish liturgy where people who were household names throughout Ireland were very prominent among the many participants in the Eucharist. He was a community builder and gave people a sense of belonging to their parish. He recognised real hurling potential in young people and dreamed of moulding them into All Ireland players. For him hurling was a trade to be learned, a skill to be perfected, a talent to be exploited: as teacher-trainer he accepted no half measures. His intense desire for excellence on the hurling field was part of his wonderful appreciation of God's gifts. Those who saw him walking through the fields to visit his parishioners may not have known his great love of nature. There was too a playful element in his character which few would suspect. I remember well his enthusiastic encouragement to his lifelong friend, Fr. Jim, to cross over to Burke's Island on the Nore during a fishing trip, while both of us suspected that the water was too deep for waders. Fr. Paddy's suppressed laughter and another's groans tell the tale.

In 1960 he was appointed to Cullohill and four years later became parish priest of Aghaboe. In 1976 I had the good fortune to work once again with the new Canon Nugent, he in the autumn of his life, I the middle-aged curate. I came to a parish where the churches in Clough and Ballacolla had been simultaneously renovated in an exquisite manner under his direction with the help of Fr. John Carey and faithful parishioners. Here in this historic area of the diocese, Canon Nugent re-established contacts with the Bishop and people of Salzburg, where, 1200 years ago, St. Virgilius or Fergal, Abbot of Aghaboe, became bishop and built their first Cathedral. This was in keeping with his abiding pride in all things Irish and his admiration for Ireland's missionary work, ancient and modern.

The Canon died on December 29th. 1981 after a long illness. His was a gentle sensitive soul; to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven. *E.R.*

#### V. REV. JOHN MALONE

Father John Malone was a priest of the type known in an earlier Ireland as the Sagart Aroon, the kindly, simple, friendly, dedicated father of his flock. Like the good shepherd he was ordained to be, he knew his people, and they knew and loved him.

Conservative in his beliefs, he was always tolerant of human weakness, a kindly Confessor full of charity to his penitents. His piety was deep, genuine, traditional: he loved the Mass, the Rosary, Benediction, but found it difficult to adjust to the new forms of religious practice.

Unworldly and unselfish, he lived simply and enjoyed the ordinary things of life with relish. His fund of anecdotes, his infectious chuckle at the humorous side of things, his amiable character, made him a welcome figure in all kinds of company, clerical and lay. He was himself, in his own house, the soul of hospitality.

His long service as a Diocesan Examiner of Religion in the diocese of Ossory endeared him to generations of school children who knew him as a benevolent examiner who drew the best out of them while he laughed heartily, but kindly, at their more absurd answers. There was something childlike about the man himself, in fact – the simplicity of a saintly character, as one may confidently say of him now.

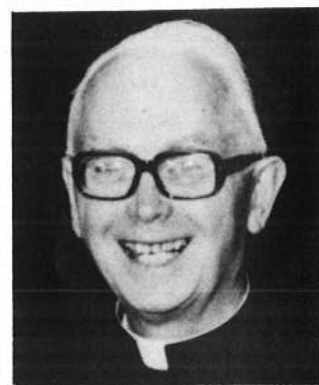
To his fellow priests he was always a good comrade as well as a good example; to his curates he was understanding and helpful at all times; to the Church he was a faithful and loyal member of its priesthood. Surprisingly, to those who knew him well, there was a hidden fire, a vehement streak of patriotism, beneath that mild exterior, but this was tempered by a genuine feeling for the land of Ireland, its people, its folklore, its literature. He loved to recite its ballads and sing its songs. If he had another Irish prototype, it was Father O'Flynn of the popular song.

His travels as a Diocesan Examiner gave him a wide knowledge of the diocese of Ossory, its people and its priests, but he reserved pride of place always for his native area of Muckalee.

For the record, he was educated at the National School and the Presentation Convent, Castlecomer, and at St. Kieran's College, where he was ordained on 7th June, 1931. His first post was as an assistant C.C. or substitute in Gathabawn; then he went to Liverpool for two years (1931-32). Returning to Ossory, he served as Diocesan Examiner of Religion from 1933 to 1952. After that he was successively Curate in Clough, Ballacolla (1952-58), Administrator in St. Patrick's, Kilkenny (1958-61), and Parish Priest in Ballyragget (1961-82). He was made a Canon of the diocese on 5th March, 1975. He died on 16th. February 1982. *J.B.*



*V. Rev. John Malone*



*V. Rev. Dan Collier*

#### V. REV. DAN COLLIER

Paul writing to Timothy says, 'I charge you to preach the word, to stay with this task whether convenient or inconvenient – correcting, reproving, appealing –

constantly teaching and never losing patience' (2Tim. 4:2). This text is an apt summary of the life of Fr. Dan who was called to his eternal reward on Easter Sunday morning 1983. As a priest he devoted his life with zeal, dedication, fidelity and patience to handing on the faith. Absolute loyalty to the Church and her teaching was a hallmark of his life. He had a strong faith nourished by his love of the Mass, deep devotion to Our Lady and frequent re-reading of the life of St. Theresa of Lisieux—The Little Flower.

Fr. Collier was born in Cullohill, Co. Laoise in 1916. He received his early education at Cullohill N.S. and St. Kieran's; he was sent to Rome to study for the priesthood. He graduated from the Lateran University with the degree B. Ph. The outbreak of the Second World War prevented him from completing his theological studies there. He returned to Ireland and read theology at St. Kieran's. Ordained a priest for the diocese of Ossory in 1942, his first assignment was in Gateshead, England. Seven years later he returned to Ossory and served as curate in Aghaboe, Durrow, Rosbercon and Mullinavat where he became P.P. in 1979. His long association with St. Kieran's saw him as spiritual director to lay-students, religion teacher (1969-'71), editor of the *College Record* in 1958 and 1960 and co-editor of this special Bicentenary issue.

He was known the length and breadth of the diocese and beyond for the seventeen years (1952-'69) he spent as Diocesan Inspector of schools. In the field of religious education he was a pioneer in his time, successfully launching 'the salvation history' approach to communicating the Christian message. He was a recognised expert on that phase of catechetical development and lectured widely to priests and teachers on the subject. He was highly respected by teachers and pupils alike for the kindness, patience and thoroughness he showed on examination day. Numerous school children were recipients of the special '*Duais i mo mhála*' which he always bestowed for an exceptionally good answer.

He was keenly interested in history both national and local; in the Irish language, music and culture. He was a priest, scholar and gentleman who lived a simple ordered life. *Go dtuga Dia solus síoraí dá anam dhílis.*  
P.C.

#### V. REV. MICHAEL PHELAN

Fr. Michael Phelan P.P. Slieverue, died at St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire on the 4th June, 1983. He ministered in Slieverue as its first Parish Priest after it was separated from Ferrybank and set up as an independent parish in 1970.

Fr. Michael was a native of Gowran, where he was born in 1914. He studied at St. Kieran's College and was ordained on 11th June 1939. He was to spend the first nine years of his priestly life on loan in the Diocese of San Diego. When he was recalled he was appointed as curate in Hugginstown. In 1964 he was transferred to Kilesmeestia and went to Castletown as curate for two years in 1968.

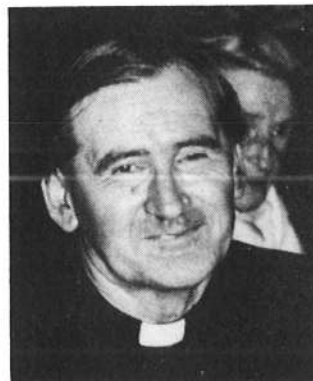
Michael was by nature a person of quiet disposition but with a warm heart. Although a man of fine physique he did not participate in student games, preferring the role of spectator. He enjoyed

in particular funny incidents in these games and recalled them later with evident pleasure but always in a kindly way.

He was a much loved pastor who knew his people, young and old alike. It is in Slieverue among these people that the best tribute to his priesthood will be found.

May he rest in peace.

J.B.



THE LATE  
V. REV. RICHARD RYAN

The Diocese of Ossory lost one of its most popular priests when Fr. Dick Ryan died on 7th. September 1983. After ordination in St. Kieran's in 1942, he ministered in the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese for six years. Returning to Ossory he served in Castlecomer, Kilmacow, Rosbercon, and was appointed Administrator in St. Patrick's in 1971.

Always quietly spoken and unassuming, Dick was held in the highest esteem by priests and people. He had a keen interest in horticulture, antiques, coin collecting and golf. His swing on the golf course was as gentle as his personality in the presbytery. He suffered a severe stroke in May 1977. When confined to a wheelchair he gave the greatest witness of his priesthood. Loss of speech did not affect his serenity and he accepted his illness as part of his vocation. Thanks to the generosity of his excellent housekeeper Mary, he was able to continue his ministry in St. Patrick's until Easter 1982. The presbyteries of the Diocese, the hospitals of Kilkenny, and the houses of the 'Village' were all richer for his presence. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.*  
B.F.

*In celebrating the Bicentenary of Saint Kieran's College, we are particularly conscious of all those whose names have appeared in this section of the Record over the past 27 years, and of the many who went to their eternal reward before there was any publication to note their passing. May they rest in peace. Beati mortui qui in Domino moriuntur.*



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## AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

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### OBITUARIES

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#### AUCKLAND

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##### V. REV. EDDIE BURKE

The death on May 23rd. 1977 of Fr. Eddie Burke, a member of a well-known Rose Inn Street family in Kilkenny city, came as a great surprise to his colleagues in the diocese of Auckland, his parishioners in Mount Wellington, and his relatives and friends in Ireland.

Educated at Kilkenny C.B.S. and St. Kieran's College, he was ordained in 1939, and set sail for New Zealand on December 8th. of the same year in the company of three other Kilkenny priests — Fathers Gormley, McAlister and Purcell.

Fr. Burke was first assigned on loan to the Archdiocese of Wellington, but returned to Auckland in 1943, where he was appointed successively to St. Heliers, Ellerslie and Otahuhu. Ohura was his first assignment as parish priest, and this was followed by Ruawai and finally Mount Wellington.

His colleague Fr. Gormley said of him: 'Fr. Eddie was a quiet, amiable and likeable person with a dry sense of humour. In his younger days, he was a good sprinter and excelled in Gaelic sport.

'In later years his health declined and he underwent major surgery. He suffered quietly without complaint. He doggedly continued his parish duties and never failed his people. To them he was always friendly, approachable, reliable.

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#### BALLARAT

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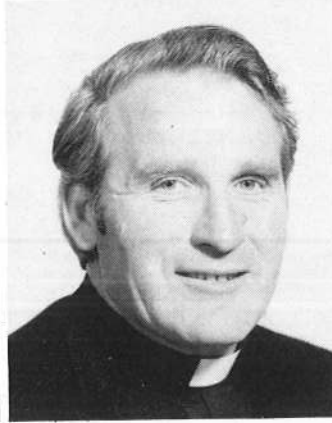
##### V. REV. CORNELIUS HEALY

The last link between St. Kieran's and the diocese of Ballarat, Australia, was severed on 21st. May 1981 with the death of Fr. Cornelius Healy.

A native of Kerry, Fr. Healy was ordained in St. Kieran's on June 9th. 1929 and ended a long and fruitful pastoral career as parish priest of Donald. To his sister and other relatives in Kerry, we send our deepest sympathy.



V. Rev. E. Burke



V. Rev. J. Dermody

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#### PALMERSTON

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##### V. REV. JOSEPH DERMODY

His many friends in Kilkenny and his colleagues and parishioners in the diocese of Palmerston North, New Zealand, were shocked at the news of the death of Fr. Joe Dermody, which took place suddenly as he watched a hurling game at Nowlan Park during the course of a holiday in Ireland on 30th. July 1983.

A native of Freshford, he was educated at St. Kieran's College from 1947 to 1958, when he was ordained for the Archdiocese of Wellington. His visit to Ireland was to mark the Silver Jubilee of his ordination.

He served in a number of locations in the Archdiocese before moving from Stratford to take charge of St. Francis's Parish, Marton, which was to become part of the newly-created diocese of Palmerston North, in 1975. He planned to begin work on a new parish church on his return there after his holiday.

Bishop Forristal presided at the concelebrated Mass for his funeral in Freshford.

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#### ROCKHAMPTON

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##### V. REV. WILLIAM McALISTER

On 30th. April 1982, Fr. William McAlister, a native of Kilkenny and the last priest to be ordained at St. Kieran's for the diocese of Rockhampton, died in his parish at Marian, Queensland.

Ordained in 1939, he left for the Antipodes in the company of Frs. Phil Purcell, Eddie Burke, and Charles Gormley.

Of his early assignments, his happiest days were spent in the northern area of the diocese, around Mackay. In 1959 he was recalled to Rockhampton itself and appointed administrator at St. John's Cathedral, a position that carried important diocesan responsibilities as well.

His heart, however, was in the north, and he gladly accepted an appointment as parish priest of St. John's, Walkerston in 1965. After three years there, he was given charge of the rapidly growing parish of St. Joseph's, North Mackay.

His twelve years in North Mackay must surely be ranked as the most significant in a very fruitful life. His major accomplishment was the building of the new St. Joseph's Parish Church; but he reserved his best efforts for his people, counselling and encouraging them in what were turbulent times for the Church.

His dedication to his pastoral duties was too much for his health and in late 1979 he had the first indication of heart trouble. He recovered well from this mild coronary attack, but accepted a transfer to the quieter parish of Marian in 1980. Here, a little over a year later, he was to die, the motive force of his life — his unswerving faith in God and in his Church — enduring to the last.

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## ENGLAND

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### OBITUARIES

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#### ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

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##### V. REV. THOMAS M. PURCELL

Very Rev. Thomas Purcell, a priest of the Diocese of Maitland for 35 years, died in Albany, New South Wales on December 20th. 1978 after taking ill at Perth during a visit from England, where he had ministered since 1968. He was buried at Singleton, where he was parish priest from 1951 to 1968.

A native of Owing, Co. Kilkenny, he was educated at Mount Mellary and St. Kieran's College, where he was ordained for the diocese of Maitland in 1936. His 35 years in Australia were outlined by Monsignor George Flatley in a panegyric preached at his Funeral Mass, concelebrated by 50 priests with the Bishop of Maitland presiding:

'Fr. Purcell's ministry in the Maitland diocese began in November 1936 when he was appointed assistant priest at Raymond Terrace. This priestly ministry of his, from first to last, was marked right through by an intense consciousness of his responsibilities as a priest. Whether as curate, administrator or parish priest, he cared for the welfare of his people with a zeal and anxiety which at times left himself drained of all strength.

'After Raymond Terrace, Fr. Purcell came to Maitland for a long appointment at the Cathedral, then for some time he administered Muswellbrook parish: he was first assistant in Hamilton when, in 1951, he was appointed by Bishop Gleeson to succeed Fr. Pat McCormack as parish priest of Singleton

He ministered happily here for fifteen years until ill-health caused by his experience in a bush-fire caused him to consider a move away from the area. Once again Providence took a hand, and Bishop Cashman of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in England offered Fr. Tom a parish in his diocese should he decide to resign from Singleton and the Maitland diocese. In 1967, against all his natural feelings, Fr. Purcell was guided by his worried conscience and resigned from this parish. For the last eleven years he has been in charge of the parish of Leatherhead, Surrey, in Bishop Cashman's diocese.

'When in recent months, his serious and painful illness made him think of his oncoming death and the unavoidable question of burial, Providence guided him back to Australia in what turned out to be the final weeks of his life, and found him his last resting place in the warm earth of his adopted country, amid the priests and people he always reckoned were his own.'

A concelebrated Requiem Mass was also held at Owing where the chief celebrant was Fr. Frank Purcell C.C. Rosbercon, a nephew, and the other concelebrants included Ossory priests from the late Fr. Purcell's ordination class and representatives of St. Kieran's College.

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#### HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE

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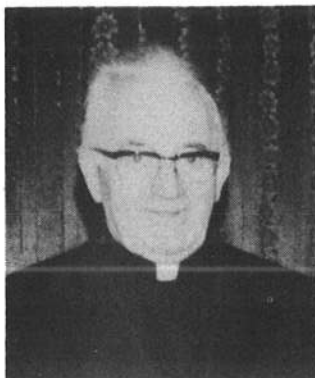
##### V. REV. PATRICK LACEY

Patrick Lacey was born in 1906 in Ballymartin, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny. His education began in the local primary school and continued at St. Kieran's College from where he was ordained priest on June 8th 1930. Fr. Lacey had chosen to minister in the Dioceses of Hexham and Newcastle. His first assignment in England took him away from his adopted Dioceses of Barrow-in-Furness where he was a curate for a brief two months. Subsequently, he was appointed to St. Anthony of Padua's Parish, Newcastle-on-Tyne. His next appointment was twelve years later to St. Bede's Parish, Denton Burn, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Eight years at St. Bede's was to conclude a twenty year period in Newcastle. Later Canon Lacey remarked that these were tremendously happy years during which 'I spent practically all my time parish visiting'. Canon Lacey's first love was always his people. As a pastor he constantly visited the people and urged his assistants to know and love the people. His deepest desires were to feel for and with the people and to bear their burdens.

The next thirty years of Fr. Lacey's life were spent ministering to the people of Hartlepool. In this developing industrial town he founded two new parishes. While the building of St. Thomas Moore's Church and presbytery were in progress Fr. Lacey lived in a flat over a pub where he celebrated Mass for his parishioners on Sunday. St. Thomas Moore's Church was dedicated in 1953. Shortly afterwards Fr. Lacey was building again. This time he was beginning the new parish of St. John Vianney (dedicated in 1961). 1962 saw Fr. Lacey parish priest for a third time in Hartlepool. The years of the council were exciting years for St. Joseph's Parish. The parish priest was anxious to implement the new theology emanating from the Fathers who were gathered in Rome. Once again, Fr. Lacey listened carefully to Rome and to his people and discovered the way ahead. During his pastorate at St. Joseph's he renovated the church to meet new liturgical norms, he built a parish centre and a new presbytery. The council reminded us that the church is the people and the involvement of the laity is not an optional extra. Consequently St. Joseph's parish had a well-coordinated plan which attempted to give all parishioners responsibility for the parish. The education of the young is a major concern for the Catholic Church in England. Canon Lacey was anxious to provide schools in his parishes and while at St. Joseph's he was instrumental in the development of English Martyrs Comprehensive School.

A special concern for Fr. Lacey was hospitality. All were welcome and many came to visit. He had a great love for his curates whom he took care to welcome, and nothing pleased him more than a chat over a drink at the end of the day. Fr. Lacey was associated with St. Kieran's Past Pupils Union for thirty five years, first as secretary and from 1955 - 1980 as president. In 1970 Fr. Lacey was

nominated Canon of the Chapter of Hexham and Newcastle Dioceses. He was Dean of (St. Hilda's) Hartlepool from 1968 – 1980. All of these honours rested lightly on his shoulders. They simply served to highlight a man dedicated to God and the service of his people. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam. J.C.



V. Rev. Patrick Lacey



V. Rev. John Guerin

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## SALFORD

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### V. REV. JOHN GUERIN

A native of Borris-in-Ossory, Laois, he was son of Edward and Mary Guerin, his father being the principal of Kilemeestia School. He was born on 22nd June, 1920 and after his education at the local school, went to St. Kieran's College where he was ordained on 8th June, 1944, for Salford Diocese.

There he served in a number of parishes which included St. Joseph's Blackburn, St. Kentigern's Fallowfield, St. Catherine's, Didsbury and St. Stephen's Droylesden.

In 1961 he was appointed full-time chaplain to St. Pius X Secondary School and later chaplain to Sedgley Park Training College, Prestwick. While at St. Stephen's he also acted as diocesan chaplain to the young Christian Students. His experience in schools and his success with young people made him an obvious choice for the newly-created post of Diocesan Director of Vocations, to which he was promoted in 1966 and raised to the rank of Papal Chamberlain.

In 1969 he was appointed Parish Priest Langho and ministered there until his death on 2nd January -1982. He is buried with his parents at Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny.

His contemporaries in St. Kieran's will remember him for his bright, cheerful manner, but perhaps best of all for his parts in the Shakespearian plays produced by Fr. John Byrne. Gentle by Nature

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### REV. KIERAN KEHOE

Fr. Kieran Kehoe, who was ordained in St. Kieran's in 1938, ministered for some forty years in the Diocese of Leeds. He retired home to Kilkenny in poor health some years ago. He died on 30th August at Aut Even Hospital, Kilkenny.

While he spent the greater part of his life on the English Mission, this never lessened his love for Muckalee, his native parish and, in particular,

and refined in his tastes, he was a student, a most pleasant companion and, as a priest, a successful communicator with his people. D.C.

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## SOUTHWARK

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### V. REV. PATRICK FLANAGAN

Canon Patrick Flanagan, Parish Priest of the Church of the English Martyrs for the past 12 years and Dean in the Archdiocese of Southwark, was ordained in St. Kieran's College in June 1941. Just a few years ago he was elected President of the St. Kieran's Priests' Reunion in succession to another great St. Kieran's man, the late Canon Patrick Lacey.

The remainder of this obituary is part of the homily preached at the Requiem Mass in the Church of the English Martyrs, Streatham, on May 18th 1983 by his brother priest in the Archdiocese, Canon John McNamara:

'He was a man of great piety in the finest sense, untouched by sanctimoniousness and an unostentatious holiness – profound, simple and manly.

Many was the time, one would knock at his room late at night to be invited to enter and if you slipped in quickly you would catch him on his knees with his head in his arm chair, saying the rosary. A quiet example to those of us who knew him.

He knew he was ill. He had not illusions. He was far too wise. He was grateful for the respite which medical science had done for him recently, but he knew well that the call from his Lord would not be delayed indefinitely. His going was sudden, sudden but not unprovided. The setting was perfect for him, among classmates, colleagues, friends, priests, all.

He is to be buried in Ireland but he will not be gone from us. We commend him with confidence and gratitude to the loving father, to Christ the high priest and to the Saints, that he may find mercy which is the hope of all of us. With reverence and thanks we pray for Canon Patrick Flanagan, man and priest, that he may rest in peace. Amen'.

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### REV. PATRICK HARTNETT

We regret to have to record the passing of Rev. Patrick Hartnett, a priest of the diocese of Portsmouth who died in February 1983 as P.P., Grayshott, Surrey. A native of Coon, Castlecomer, he did his secondary course at St. Kieran's from 1931 to 1936

the family home there.

Mgr. Gerard Spelman, who represented the Bishop of Leeds, Rt. Rev. Gordon Wheeler, was chief Concelebrant of the funeral Mass. The Bishop of Ossory, Most Rev. Dr. Forristal presided. Fr. Kieran was laid to rest in the family grave with his parents and brothers. This was his most cherished wish. May he rest in peace.

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# SCOTTISH MISCELLANY

BY FR. BERNARD CANNING

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It is now more than twenty and nearer to thirty years since most of the Scottish Dioceses have had new priests from St. Kieran's College. 'Natural wastage' is taking its toll of the remaining sixty priests on the Scottish Mission. Since the last issue of the *St. Kieran's College Record* in 1977 the St. Kieran's fraternity in Scotland has lost thirteen members through death, and at least three through retirement.

Of course what is true of St. Kieran's is also true of other Irish seminaries where Scotland is concerned. In very recent years there has been a slight 'revival' with St. Patrick's College, Thurles, providing some priests for Paisley Diocese albeit some of them were Scots-born and had been sent to complete their studies in Thurles. One should like to see a similar 'revival' provided by St. Kieran's.

It is impossible to assess the work of the St. Kieran's priests in Scotland. A complete record could be provided only by God himself since most of their work is necessarily unknown, unseen and confined to the realm of the supernatural.

*(Editor's Note: Fr. Canning, who has edited this section of the College Record with unfailing comprehensiveness and accuracy, has recently produced Irish Secular Priests in Scotland, the definitive work of its type, which is reviewed on page 56).*

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## DUNKELD

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### NEW CANON APPOINTED

Hailing from Grange, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, Canon John Connolly was ordained priest for Dunkeld in 1952. Apart from short periods in Perth and Newport-on-Tay, he has spent most of his priesthood in the various parishes of the city of Dundee, and built St. Leonard's Church, dedicated in 1975.

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## GALLOWAY

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### OBITUARIES

#### V. REV. JAMES MANNING

The diocese of Galloway lost one of its few remaining St. Kieran's priests with the unexpected passing of Rev. James Manning, pastor of St. Sophia's, Galston, Ayrshire, on October 15, 1980, a few days after returning from Lourdes.

Born November 29, 1919 in Lispole, Co. Kerry, and educated at St. Brendan's College, Kilmarnock, he studied for the priesthood at St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, and was ordained June 10, 1945.

Concerning his decision to serve in Scotland, the writer of his obituary in *The Catholic Directory for Scotland* says:

'We thank God that he had decided to be a priest in Scotland, in the Diocese of Galloway. Thus he joined the ranks of dedicated and well-behaved priests who were to leave their native land as Patrick had done, to serve God in another country. Scot-

land can never be sufficiently grateful to Ireland for the steady flow of good men who came over to help restore the faith in our land. The sheer immensity of their contribution emerges in a recently published book *Irish-born Secular Priests in Scotland 1829-1979* and among the many proud names of Irish apostles is that of James Manning.' (*op cit* 1981 pp 399-400)

He gave sterling service as assistant priest in Kilmarnock, Irvine and Auchinleck. At the age of thirty-three he was given his first parish, Newton Stewart. He administered that parish for five years then was transferred to St. John's, Castle Douglas. He was appointed to St. Sophia's, Galston, in 1965, and for fifteen years he quietly and efficiently ministered to the good people of that parish.

He was quiet by nature, humble and modest; and one came to love him for it. He was good company on the occasions when the clergy came together, but he did not set much store on excessive fraternising. He seemed to prefer to be in his parish, working, reading and visiting. His people always knew he would never be far away. He was efficient, and when a priest is truly efficient, it is because he can draw on the resources of his own deep life of prayer. Father Manning was at home in prayer; he loved his daily Mass; it was there that he derived the grace to be so priestly at all times. And if he always looked so neat and tidy this was merely a reflection, an outward expression, of his well-ordered mind and soul.

His deep and undiminished love for Our Blessed Lady was a source of spiritual strength to him, and the recitation of the Rosary was an essential part of his daily prayer. This same love for Our Holy Mother took him to Lourdes several times and his last pilgrimage said a lot. He cannot have been feeling well when he set off. Maybe he knew more than others dared to guess. Perhaps he went to the Grotto of Lourdes to say goodbye. In effect it was to be only a very brief *au revoir*.

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#### REV. MICHAEL O'CARROLL

Michael Carroll was born on July 7, 1892 at Seskin South, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny, and baptised in St. Brigid's Church, Lisdowney. He received his early education at Lisdowney School and decided to try his vocation as a Christian Brother. Accordingly, he entered the novitiate at Marino, Dublin, and was duly professed, his name in religion being Brother Albert. As a Christian Brother, he taught for a time in the O'Connell Schools, Dublin.

Deciding that his vocation was to the priesthood rather than to the religious life, in 1917 he began his training at the seminary attached to the Cistercian Abbey of Mount Melleray and transferred the following year to St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny. He was ordained priest on June 8, 1924.

Arriving in Glasgow that year, he was appointed to St. Mary's, Abercromby Street, where he was to remain until 1928, when he was transferred to St. Mary's, Paisley. In the following year, he



returned to the city, where he joined the staff of St. Mark's, Carntyne, which was, at that time, linked with St. Paul's, Shettleston, as a united charge, producing its own difficulties. After five years working in the East End of Glasgow, Father O'Carroll was appointed chaplain to St. Mary's Industrial School, Kenmure, Bishopbriggs, which was in those days in the care of the De La Salle Brothers. He was to spend six years in this highly specialised, and at the same time, highly rewarding, apostolate. In 1940 he went to St. David's, Whiterigg, Lanarkshire and two years later returned to Renfrewshire to St. John's, Barrhead.

After five years, in 1947, he was appointed to West Kilbride, Ayrshire, as its first parish priest, St. Bride's having been until then a chapel of ease to Saltcoats and Ardrossan. There he was to spend the remaining twenty-seven years of his active priestly life, and it was there that, as a result of the division of the Archdiocese of Glasgow which came into effect in 1948, he became a priest of the Diocese of Galloway. For all those years, he laboured to bring the people entrusted to him to God and God to them. On the occasion of his priestly golden jubilee in 1974, which also marked his retirement to Ireland, his parishioners paid tribute to him for 'having given himself wholeheartedly, zealously and unreservedly in the interests of his flock'.

Bishop Joseph McGee of Galloway described Father O'Carroll as a man of great charity who practised what he preached. The diocese was losing a devoted priest, he said, and it was a matter of deep regret that he was leaving West Kilbride. Father O'Carroll was not only one of the priests of his diocese, he went on, but also a friend.

Father O'Carroll spent the four years of his retirement at Clonakilty, Co. Cork, where he was devotedly cared for by the sisters at St. Paul's Convent, Bushmount. There on July 21, 1978, a fortnight after his eighty-sixth birthday, he passed to the Master, whom he had so faithfully served, first as a religious, and then, for fifty-four years, as a priest. His mortal remains await the resurrection in the graveyard of the church of St. Brigid, Lisdowney, where he rose from the waters of baptism to newness of life.

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## GLASGOW

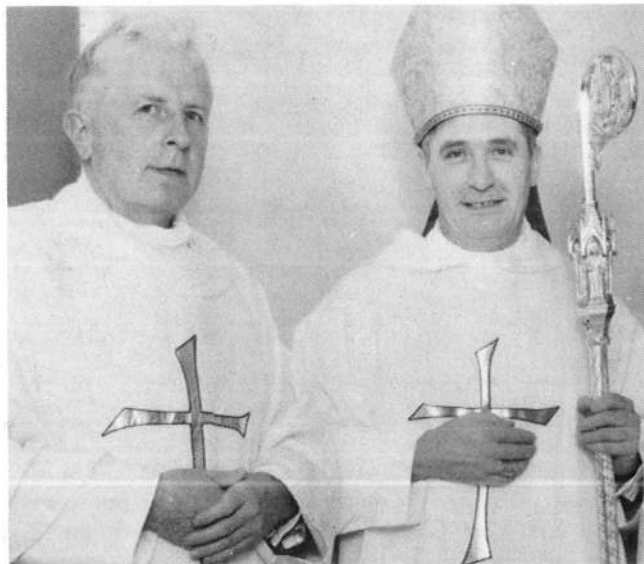
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### ARCHDIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS

Two members of the St. Kieran's ordination class of 1948 have been appointed to Archdiocesan posts – Rev. Joseph McElholm in 1979 as chaplain to the Catholic Men's Society and Rev. Donal Burke in 1980 as Spiritual Director to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, succeeding Bishop Charles Renfrew, Auxiliary Bishop of Glasgow.

### NEW CHURCH AT BISHOPRIGGS

Archbishop Thomas Winning consecrated the new Church of St. Dominic, Bishopbriggs in 1977, marking the completion of a major project undertaken by Fr. Michael O'Keeffe, who was ordained in St. Kieran's in 1948 and who is one of six priests ordained in that year for this diocese.



*Archbishop Winning of Glasgow with Fr. Michael O'Keeffe at the opening of the new Church of St. Dominic in 1977.*

## OBITUARIES

### REV. MICHAEL J. O'SULLIVAN

Racy of the soil and hewn from the rock of West Cork – born in Rosscarbery in 1902 – he inherited a native manliness; the manliness of the sturdy farmer who works against odds, the manliness that struggles for rights and fights injustice, the manliness of the sportsman. He had a certain toughness and rock-like resilience which both in him and his family was tempered by humour, humility, gratitude to God, love of Christ and his Blessed Mother, a contemplative outlook which saw the passing scene of the world in proper perspective over against the everlastingness of the world of God.

He was ordained priest on June 9, 1929 in Kilkenny for Glasgow. For seventeen years he endeared himself to the people of Newton – years covering the Depression. Through it all he exhibited the ideals of the priesthood. He spent another six at St. Constantine's, Govan. There again, people with the instinct of the Faith saw in him a true priest, a man without guile, a priest to the fingertips.

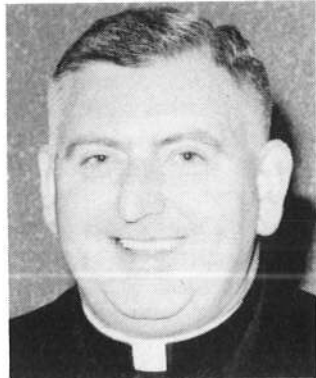
In 1951 he became pastor at Renton. There he spent the last twenty-three years of priestly activity until failing health forced his retirement to St. Paul's, Clonakilty. In Renton, his reputation grew, embracing the whole Vale of Leven from Loch Lomond to Dumbarton. Father Michael was known, loved, admired and sought. There he saw a tangible materialisation of his work in St. Martin's new church solemnly opened by the late Archbishop Scanlan on December 13, 1970. Yet he was the first to realise that the Church is not just made of bricks and mortar, but is God's people growing in Christ into a building not made with hands, eternal in Heaven. To this purpose he prayed, lived and worked. In the words of St. Paul to Timothy he was 'a workman that needed not to be ashamed rightly handling the work of the truth'.

He retired in 1974 to his native Cork to spend the last three years of his life with the Sisters of Paul the Apostle, Clonakilty. In a farewell gesture the people of Renton honoured him. They addressed

him as a 'noble scion of the Celtic race, the product of the faith of generations – a faith purified in the dark night of persecution and emerging with Catholic emancipation (1829) in a great flowering throughout the world.' He died September 10, 1977 and was buried in Clonakilty.



Rev. M. O'Sullivan



Rev. D. McMenamin

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#### V. REV. PATRICK CONWAY

Canon Patrick Conway was born on August 15, 1899 at Drumheel, Virginia, Co. Cavan. He went to St. Finian's College, Mullingar, and he completed his studies for the priesthood at St. Kieran's, Kilkenny.

At that time, the Archdiocese of Glasgow included Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire. His first appointment was to St. Mary's, Paisley in 1928. There he worked zealously for eleven years. He was then appointed curate to St. John's, Port Glasgow. His priestly life was never far removed from the industrial din of the River Clyde. Returning to the city, he was appointed curate to St. Mary's, Abercromby Street.

In his student days, he played football for the County Cavan team, which was the greatest honour in Gaelic athletics in every age, even to the present day. He was gifted with the further Celtic culture, of being an excellent player of traditional music on the violin. These attributes were great assets in the diligent work performed for the youth of St. Mary's Parish. He spent hours supervising leather-craft and the finished products helped to make funds for further entertainment. He visited every family, sharing their joys and sorrows. In 1949, he became parish priest of St. Conval's, Pollock. He spared no sacrifice in his endeavour to form a new parish and raising the funds necessary for a new church and presbytery. At the same time, he enriched the lives of all who came into contact with him. This power of organisation and undying energy must have influenced his appointment to St. Luke's, Ballater Street, where a well-established parish still lacked a church.

One could enumerate the many facets of his noble character, his conviviality, his hospitality and kindness, yet one could never convey the complete man. He was appointed an honorary canon in 1967. He hoped his now declining health would not deprive him of his greatest wish in providing a church, a monument of architectural beauty, an honour to the priests of the past, a focus of the love and gen-

erosity of the people of the Gorbals, a new home where Christ could dwell amongst them. This was not to be and he retired in 1969 and returned to his birthplace to spend the remainder of his life in prayer and preparation for his last journey to his eternal home.

He died December 28, 1977 and was buried in Maghara churchyard at the foot of Brucehill.

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#### V. REV. JOHN MARTIN

'If a priest is to be judged by the impression he makes on the whole community around him, then Fr. Martin earned full marks during his 50 years in the City of Glasgow. And he had a very special place in the affections of his own people,' commented the *Scottish Catholic Observer* on March 23, 1979 announcing the death of Fr. John Martin.

A native of Gowra Co. Cavan, he was ordained priest in St. Mary's Cathedral in 1929 and died a few months short of his golden jubilee. The *Scottish edition of the Universe* gave extensive coverage to his death:

'Half a century ago when the Cavan-born priest, fresh from ordination in Kilkenny Cathedral, arrived in Glasgow, the scene of his future priestly labours, he was assigned to the city centre parish of St. Patrick's, Anderston.

'This was Fr. John Martin's first contact with the kind, and poor but loyal Catholics of St. Patrick's. He was one of seven priests who staffed this populous parish. The people lived mostly in those days in the dull grey tenements....

'And he ended his career as he had started it 50 years earlier – at St. Patrick's, where he had been parish priest for the last few years.'

He gave quiet but outstanding service to the Church in Glasgow archdiocese.

In his early days at St. Patrick's – he remained for 20 years – he was at the beck and call of the people in his poverty-stricken district. These were the days when the help of the priest was sought at every turn.

He was chaplain to the girls' guild.

'In 1949 he left to become the first parish priest of the newly established parish of St. James' Crockston and the people of Anderston were so affected by his departure that when they invited him back for a 'thank you' presentation, they held the event on the city's biggest public auditorium – St. Andrew's Hall.

Five years later he went to St. Joseph's, North Woodside Road, and in 1962, he became parish priest of St. Teresa's, Possilpark, another big and important parish.

When all the old Anderston tenements disappeared to make way for the new roadway, St. Patrick's lost much of its Catholic population.

The area became a quiet one from a parish point of view. It was there that an ageing Fr. Martin was happy to spend the remainder of his days.

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#### V. REV. GEORGE AYLWARD

Eight years after he retired from St. Philomena's, Provanmill, Glasgow, to Ireland, Canon George

Aylward died at Waterford at the age of 82 on July 20, 1981.

Canon Aylward was born at Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny. He studied for the priesthood at St. Kieran's College and was ordained for the Archdiocese of Glasgow in 1925.

His first twenty years in Scotland were spent as assistant priest at St. Margaret's, Johnstone. He was then given charge of St. Palladius', Dalry, in Ayrshire, where he was for two years.

The rest of his priestly life was centered in the city of Glasgow. For three years he was at St. Simon's, Patrick. In 1950 he moved from the west to the east side of the city having been appointed parish priest of St. Philomena's. He remained there until he retired to Ireland in 1973.

The deceased priest was made a Canon of the Glasgow Chapter in 1967, when the parishioners took the opportunity of praising him publicly for his magnificent work at Provanmill, his concern for the sick, the aged and the poor. 'To you could be applied in truth – the apostolate of the visiting priest'.

The funeral took place at Mullinavat.

#### V. REV. D. McMENAMIN

Not only did the Church in Glasgow lose a dedicated priest, but the St. Kieran's body of priests in Scotland lost a faithful and true friend with the death on November 25, 1981 of Father Donal Mac Menamin, pastor of All Saints, Barmulloch. In 1942 he entered St. Kieran's College. Following his ordination in 1948 at the hands of Bishop Patrick Collier he was accompanied by five of his ordained class-fellows on his first journey to Glasgow to begin his missionary career. On his last journey to his native Co. Tyrone they once again accompanied him and carried his mortal remains shoulder-high to his grave in the churchyard of the parish where he had been baptised some 57 years previously – the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

His first three years in Scotland were spent at St. Ninian's, Knightswood, before he went to Cardonald, where he became a very well-known figure, spending 23 of his 33 years in the priesthood in their midst.

In 1974 he was appointed parish priest of St. Nicholas in the east end of Glasgow and two years later he was transferred to St. Martin's, Renton, where he was for four years before going to Barmulloch.

His visitation of his people, his care of the sick, his concern for the lonely and troubled and his friendship with his friends were a shining example.

His celebration of Mass and his administration of the Sacraments were an edification to his congregation. He enjoyed his priesthood and often referred to it that under God 'he would never have missed it'.

It was a well known fact that his friendship was loyal and lasting, with a special bent for the exiled sons and daughters of Tyrone and Donegal. Anyone coming from the homeland calling on Father Donal always received a *cead mile failte*.

It was a great joy for him to meet anyone from home. Irish people in Glasgow have lost a lov-

ing priest and true friend.

In parishes where he served, he was much loved and revered. He mingled with everyone, had a few sporting interests and made hosts of friends who admired and looked up to him. His priesthood was full and dedicated one. His motivation was his love of God with deep devotion to the Holy Eucharist, the Holy Spirit whose symbol badge he always wore, and his unbounded confidence in the care and concern of Our Blessed Lady.

In his homily Archbishop Thomas J. Winning of Glasgow, paid him this tribute. Taking as his theme, the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount, he said, 'if you are poor in heart, practise what you preach, and even pushed around because you are a priest, these are the true qualities that will prevail. Father MacMenamin was a man that Christ was talking about in the Beatitudes'.

May his soul have eternal peace in the company of the Virgin Mary and all of the saints with whom he undoubtedly enjoys the rewards of Heaven.

#### V. REV. ROBERT G. O'KANE

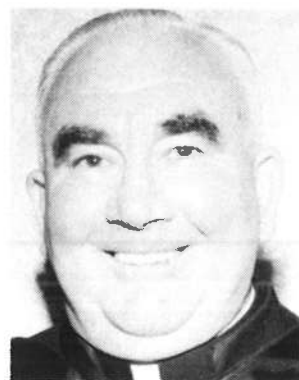
County-Derry-born Father Robert O'Kane was ordained from St. Kieran's at St. Columb's College, Derry by Bishop Neil Farren for Glasgow on June 21, 1942.

He spent his 41 years entirely in Glasgow City parishes, serving as Assistant at St. Anne's from 1942 to 1949; St. Luke's from 1949 to 1951; St. Conval's, Crockston, from 1951 to 1952 and Our Lady & St. Margaret's, Kinning Park, 1952 to 1976.

In 1967 he was appointed Parish Priest to St. Joseph's, North Woodside Road where he ministered until 1972, when he moved to the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Maryhill Road, Glasgow.

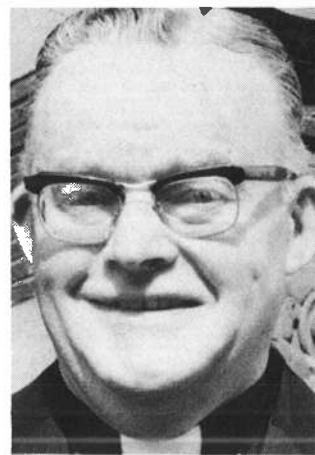
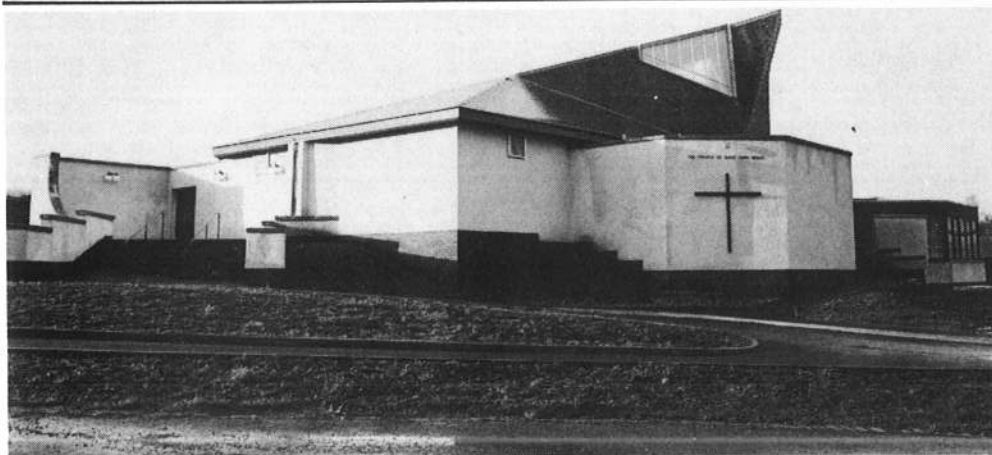
A very staunch St. Kieran's priest, he was a regular attender at meetings of the Scottish Union and was one of the 60-strong Scottish delegation at the World Reunion of Priests held as part of the St. Kieran's College Bicentenary celebrations in 1982.

Although he took an active part in the programme on that occasion, he was not to see another such gathering. He died suddenly on May 5th, 1983 and was buried in the parish churchyard in his own native Kilrea. May he rest in peace.



Rev. R. O'Kane

*Fr. John McGeown, a priest of the diocese of Edinburgh who did part of his studies for the priesthood at St. Kieran's and part at the Scots' College, Rome, died in Ireland on 16 December 1977, aged 71. He was a native of Lanarkshire, and had spent his boyhood in Edinburgh before coming to Kilkenny. May God rest his soul.*



Left: Church of St. John Bosco, Erskine, built by Fr. Patrick J. Crean and opened in 1979. Right: Msgr. John Gillen, V.G.

### NEW VICAR GENERAL APPOINTED

The Bishop of Motherwell, the Rt. Rev. Joseph Devine, has announced that he has appointed the Very Rev. John Canon Gillen as his Vicar General.

A native of Movice, Co. Donegal, the Rt. Rev. Mgr. John Canon Gillen, as he is now styled, was born 14 May 1916, educated at St. Columb's College, Derry and studied for the priesthood at St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny. He was ordained priest on 11 June 1939 in St Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny, and began his ministry in St. Mary's Paisley, moving to St Augustine's, Coatbridge, the following year. In 1943 he was transferred to St Joseph's, Glenboig, in 1950 to St Columba's, Viewpark, and in 1953 to All Saints', Coatdyke.

In 1956 he was appointed parish priest of the newly established St Teresa's parish, Newarthill. Having built a church and presbytery and consolidated the new parish, he moved in 1969 to Our Lady of Lourdes parish, East Kilbride, transferring finally in 1974 to St. Columbkille's, Rutherglen.

In 1978 Bishop Francis Thomson named Rev. Gillen a Canon of Motherwell Cathedral chapter.

He has served on various Motherwell diocesan bodies and is currently a member of the finance board.

### RETIREMENT OF CANON BERNARD KEENAN

On October 8, 1982, Canon Bernard Keenan left St. Cuthbert's, Burnbank, Hamilton, where he has been parish priest for 17 years.

At the age of 77 he retired to the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor at Raheny, Dublin.

A native of County Monaghan, Ireland, Canon Keenan has the longest record of service given by an assistant priest at St. Joseph's, Balntyre, serving there for 21 years, from his ordination in 1930 until he became parish priest at St. Mary's, Longriggind.

Eight years later, he was parish priest at St. John's, Uddingston, and in 1965 he went to Burnbank.

While in Longriggind, Canon Keenan overcame building restrictions to give the people – and

God – a new church. This building has been superseded by a more modern one better suited to the liturgical changes introduced by Vatican II. It was opened at Caldercruix by Bishop Thomson on the same day that Canon Keenan told his people of his plans to retire.

The people of Hamilton paid tribute to Canon Keenan when he was made a Canon in 1969, and again at his Golden Jubilee.

Further testimony to the affection as well as the esteem in which St. Cuthbert's people hold him was provided at his final Mass on the eve of his departure to Ireland.

### NEW CHAPLAIN FOR GLASGOW UNIVERSITY

Father Michael J. Conway (1963) of Motherwell Diocese was confirmed in 1979 in his appointment as chaplain and parish priest of Glasgow University Catholic Chaplaincy. He was first appointed assistant chaplain in 1977 and had been acting chaplain for several months. Following some curacy appointments for the period 1963-1970 he undertook post-graduate studies leading to BA and M.Sc. Not only is he the first St. Kieran's priest but the first Irish priest to hold this chaplaincy post. He succeeded Bishop Joseph Devine on his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of Glasgow and now his own local Ordinary as Bishop of Motherwell.

### OBITUARY

#### REV. CHARLES DOHERTY

Father Charles Doherty was born in Derry on October 31, 1933. He was educated at St. Columb's College, Derry, then St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, where on June 2, 1957, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Motherwell. His first appointment in the Diocese of Motherwell was as assistant priest of St. Mark's, Rutherglen, 1957-1961. From 1961-1965, he served in Holy Family, Mossend. It was at this time that he chose to take up missionary work in Peru, South America which was to engage his energies from 1965 until 1968. Following this period, he spent the year 1968-1969 in Rockledge in the Diocese of Orlando, Florida.



Returning to the Diocese of Motherwell, Father Doherty was appointed to St. Columba's, Viewpark, where he was assistant priest from 1969-1973, and to St. John the Baptist's, Uddingston, from 1973 to 1976. He then went back to Ireland, where in the Diocese of Elphin, he worked during the years 1976-1978. Again he returned to Scotland serving from 1978-1980 in St. Mary's Hamilton, and then in St. Peter's, Hamilton, from 1980 until his sudden death on April 23, 1982 in Donegal.

Father Doherty, during his years of service with the Diocese of Motherwell, was known to be a friend to all entrusted to his care. His pastoral ministry was characterised by kindness and a genuine generosity with his time and energies, and the assistance he so readily gave embraced both the spiritual and the material needs of his people. With his ability at organising parish events and functions, his pastoral care extended to the social needs of his people, nourishing the bonds of community among those he served, and fostering the spirit of ecumenism within the area which he worked. As an immediate result of his organising abilities, all charitable organisations could find in him a ready champion of their causes.

He possessed that quality which must be primary to the priest character – an approachability which endeared him to those who sought his council and who detected in his warmth of personality, that dedication which singles out the man who is truly about his Master's business. His popularity among both the priests and lay-people who knew him bore eloquent witness to his concern and love for people. His untimely death at the age of 49 years was a shock to those with whom he served in the Diocese of Motherwell, and caused profound sadness among those to whom his service had meant so much.

Requiem Mass, at which the Bishop of Derry, Edward Daly, presided, was celebrated in St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry; Bishop Francis Thomson of Motherwell together with priests from the Dioceses of Motherwell, Paisley and Derry and the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, were among the concelebrants.

He was buried in Derry City Cemetery.

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## PAISLEY

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### OBITUARIES

#### V. REV. JAMES M. LILLIS

'Thank God for the life of this good priest, for his family who gave him to the Church and for those Irish priests who have served the Church so faithfully in Scotland in the past,' said Bishop Stephen McGill of Paisley in his homily at the funeral Mass of Co. Clare-born Canon James Martin Lillis who died January 22, 1979 aged 73.

In his opening remarks Bishop McGill paid tribute to the work done in Scotland by Irish priests like Canon Lillis who worked for almost 50 years as a priest in the West of Scotland but added that they were no longer coming to Scotland; Paisley had none since 1960.

The Bishop outlined the Canon's life from his early days at St. Flannan's College, Ennis, St. Mary's College, Galway and his seminary days at St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny leading to his ordination to the priesthood in St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny on June 9, 1929. He spent the first 10 years of his priesthood as assistant at St. Bride's, Cambuslang before being transferred to St. Laurence's, Greenock in 1939 at the beginning of World War II. His early years at St. Laurence's were to see all the horrors of war but Father Lillis was to be for his people a great source of strength and comfort and especially for the sick, injured and those who lost dear ones at the Front. At the height of the Greenock Blitz in 1941 he and his fellow priests were trapped for some time in the debris of the blitzed and burning St. Laurence's Church. An observer of the time, said the Bishop, commented that Father Lillis 'when released displayed heroism of a high order and would be remembered in Greenock for his kindness to the sick and troubled and for his tireless energy, the keynote of his character.'

Bishop McGill recalled Father Lillis's work in his first parish of Howwood and Lochwinnoch from 1950 to 1959 when he built the Church of our Lady of Fatima in the grounds of church of Christ the King, Howwood in 1951 and began the monthly vigil services each summer which continue to draw hundreds of people each year.

On succeeding to St. Fergus's parish, Ferguslie Park, Paisley, in 1959, he undertook a vast programme which included the establishment of many parochial organisations. His work was for the good of the whole community of that area as seen in his identification with the Christian Tenants' Association which had three candidates returned to Paisley Corporation. He was responsible for bringing the Little Sisters of the Assumption to Ferguslie Park, a further indication of his concern for people. He was keen to build a new church but his health was then beginning to deteriorate and he moved to St. Charles', Paisley, where he was to spend the last ten years of his life.



Rev. C. Doherty



V. Rev. J. Lillis

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#### V. REV. DENIS REEN

On the evening of Friday, October 10, 1980, God called Father Denis Reen very suddenly at the age of 54. Death had seemed so far away, or so we all thought, yet it struck like a thief in the night. He

had been home in Ireland to visit his aged mother the week before, having just previously celebrated the centenary of his parish, St. Joseph's, Clarkston.

A native of Knockagree, Mallow, Co. Cork, Father Reen was educated in the Capuchin-Franciscan College, Rochestown, Co. Cork, and studied for the priesthood in St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, where he was ordained for the Diocese of Paisley in June 1950.

He spent the first fifteen years of his priesthood as assistant at St. Fergus', Paisley, where he played an important part in the development of the parish, then in its infancy. His work there was zealous and untiring, especially in his concern for the boys of the area, many of whom remember, with affection and gratitude, the guidance they received from him in their formative years.

In 1965 he was transferred to the old established parish of St. Margaret's, Johnstone. Here again people with an instinct of the faith saw him as a sincere and true priest with a deep understanding of human nature, that brought much consolation to many.

In 1968 he moved to the Holy Family, Port Glasgow, a parish founded by another St. Kieran's priest, Canon Joseph Sweeney in 1946. That he endeared himself to the people there was evidenced by the coach load of former parishioners who attended his Requiem Mass. While in Port Glasgow he was instrumental in securing the services of several teachers, from Ireland, to help alleviate the acute shortage of Catholic teachers in Renfrewshire. He visited several convents in Ireland and England and it was due to his persuasiveness that the Loreto Sisters, Sacred Heart of Mary Sisters and the Ursuline Sisters established houses in the Diocese of Paisley.

In 1973 Father Reen was appointed parish priest to St. Joseph's, Clarkston, where he became considerably involved in the campaign for a Catholic secondary school in the area. Having recently cleared the debt on the new church, he had turned his attention to providing the parish with a hall. The people of Clarkston found him a very attentive and devoted pastor.

In his homily Mgr. Matthew Kinsella, VG of Paisley, said Father Reen had given 'his all' for thirty years to the diocese. Wherever he laboured, he gave 'his all' to the people there, to the youth, to the schools, to education and to the various committees on which he served. He liked a challenge and always rose to it when it came his way.

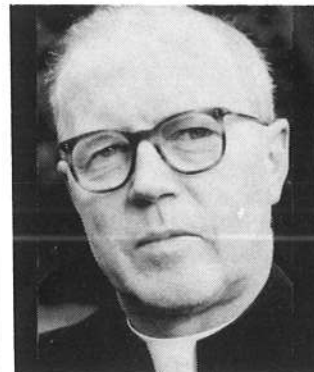
Father Denis Reen was a very sincere man, quiet and unassuming. He was always proud to be known as a St. Kieran's priest. He loved to be in the parish working as a priest. In every parish where he served, he came to be respected as a dedicated priest who helped all with faithfulness and affection. He loved God, and because he loved God — he loved God's people. Those former parishioners of St. Fergus', St. Margaret's and Holy Family, who attended his Requiem in St. Joseph's, were a living testimony to the truth expressed in Wisdom 4.

'Length of days is not what makes man honourable, nor number of years the measure of life. Understanding, this is man's grey hairs — untarnished life, this is ripe old age.'

Father Reen's remains were interred in his native Knockagree, Co. Cork. In all his thirty years in Scotland, he had never missed an opportunity to go back home, where he had received his faith and his vocation. The sod of his native parish now lies on all that is mortal of Father Denis. May he rest in peace.



*V. Rev. Denis Reen*



*V. Rev. Michael Teehan*

#### V. REV. MICHAEL TEEHAN

The bell was tolling over the hillside of Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny, on December 7, 1982 as the mortal remains of Canon Michael Teehan, retired parish priest of St. John's, Barrhead, were borne from the Church of the Assumption, where he was baptised almost 80 years previously, where he received his First Communion, was Confirmed and said his first Mass in 1928, following his ordination in St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny. He was laid to rest in the adjoining churchyard beside the priests who served the area from the early 19th century.

The church, opened in 1826, three years before Catholic Emancipation, was packed to capacity for the Requiem Mass offered by Bishop Stephen McGill of Paisley with about 20 concelebrants. Bishop Laurence Forristal of Ossory presided in the sanctuary and in the pews were about another 50 priests and several nuns mainly from Aut Even Hospital, Kilkenny, where Canon Teehan spent the last years of his priesthood as chaplain after retiring from the active ministry in Scotland. Paisley diocese was represented by nine priests besides Bishop McGill.

The parish school choir led the music and rendered several pieces in Irish. The cantor was Rev. Seamus McEvoy, headmaster of St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny.

In his homily Bishop McGill spoke of the qualities that distinguished Canon Teehan — his transparent sincerity and simplicity; his sense and appreciation of the priesthood, his soothing influence at all times, calm and unruffled. He possessed the gift of true and sincere friendship and not only carried his priesthood with dignity but lived it in close imitation of his Divine Master for the benefit of the souls entrusted to his care.

The Bishop recalled the remarkable coincidences in the life of Canon Teehan and another Kilkenny priest, Rev. James Purcell. Father Purcell was associated with the building of the first St. John's Church, Barrhead, in 1841 while Canon Teehan replaced it 120 years after with the new St. John's

dedicated in 1961. Both had previously served in St. Mary's, Hamilton, and St. Mirrin's, Paisley. Fr. Teehan and Father Purcell were but two of the 140 priests given to Scotland by St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny and he was pleased to avail himself of the opportunity of publicly expressing thanks for all those priests and St. Kieran's College have done for the Church in Scotland.

On leaving St. Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley, after a curacy of 19 years to assume his first charge at St. Conval's, Linwood, the *Glasgow Observer* of November 25, 1949 commented:

'The qualities that had distinguished Father Teehan during his [St. Kieran's] College days and later in the priesthood [were his] transparent sincerity and simplicity. He had been an example and inspiration to his colleagues.... Father Teehan had always proved to be a soothing influence at all times, calm and unruffled. He possessed the gift of true and sincere friendship....carried his priesthood with dignity and in close imitation of his Master...'

He died December 4, 1982 at Aut Even Hospital, Kilkenny.

## ST. ANDREWS & EDINBURGH

### NEW CANON APPOINTED

Canon Michael O'Connor of St. Andrews and Edinburgh has been promoted to the Cathedral Chapter of his Diocese.

A native of Brosna, Co. Kerry, he was ordained for the diocese in 1935 and has served in Stirlingshire, Fife, and in West and Mid Lothian; he became pastor of SS. John Canius and Nicholas, Bronxburn, West Lothian in 1967.

### RETIREMENT OF MGR. PATRICK QUILLE

The retirement of Monsignor Patrick Quille occasioned extensive publicity and widespread tribute in the Archdiocese he had served so well. Michael Fallon wrote in the *Catholic Observer*:

The priestly formation of Patrick Quille of Duagh, Co. Kerry, took place at the colleges of St. Michael's Listowel, and St. Kieran's, Kilkenny. After ordination in 1936, he crossed to Scotland to serve at Bonnybridge, Bathgate and St. Andrew's, Edinburgh. He graduated in Arts and went to Oxford to study Sociology.

After eight years as parish priest of St. Peter's, Moringside, he succeeded Mgr. John Breen as Administrator of St. Mary's Cathedral.

He maintained and enhanced the high level of liturgical observance first introduced by the late Mgr. Patrick McGettigan, with every encouragement and assistance given to Arthur Odlum and other leaders of the Cathedral choir which went on to win and maintain a European reputation.

A major consideration was the fabric of the cathedral building. The old Theatre Royal site adjacent, an eyesore after the latest of its series of fires, was eventually purchased and, with the encour-

agement and support of Cardinal Gordon Gray, the Monsignor embarked on a £400,000 restoration and extension scheme which was completed shortly before the celebration of the centenary of the Scottish Hierarchy in 1978.

Monsignor Quille's outlook and interests have stretched far beyond the confines of the cathedral. He became a national figure in the Church, giving many years of valuable service to the Catholic Truth Society of Scotland and as Governor of the Catholic Press Office.

His successor, Monsignor O'Grady, put it thus: 'Above all, he will be remembered for his great kindness and ability to relate easily to everyone. He is irreplaceable.'

### RETIREMENT OF V. REV. MICHAEL MCNULTY

The Church in Scotland and St. Kieran's priests suffered an irreparable loss when Father Michael McNulty retired in 1981 to Ireland after 45 years of dedicated and outstanding priestly service to the Archdiocese of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh, and to the Scottish Union of St. Kieran's priests, of which he is a former President.

Before leaving Blackburn where he was pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes for almost thirty years, Father McNulty performed a service for posterity with his absorbing history of his former parish. It is worth noting that this was the first parish in Scotland to be dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. The influx of workers for the British Leyland factory hurried on the building of the new church in 1961.

He has had a long and distinguished priesthood. A native of Fintona, Co. Tyrone, he served at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh and St. Patrick's, Lochgelly, before being made parish priest first at Selkirk and then at Whitburn and Blackburn.

He was elected in 1977 as the successor to the late Canon Joseph Byrne as president of St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, Scottish Union. He served for many years as secretary of the British Union of St. Kieran's priests.



St. Columba's, Bathgate, built by Fr. Liam Healy, and dedicated in 1978, shown here on the occasion of the meeting of the Scottish Union in 1982 during Concelebrated Mass

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# UNITED STATES

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## BAKER, OREGON

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### FORTY YEARS IN THE NORTH-WEST

Celebrating forty years of missionary activity in this north-western diocese is Monsignor John Phelan, who became a Domestic Prelate in October 1980. A native of Tullowglass, Jenkinstown, Monsignor Phelan was educated at St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, from where he was ordained in 1941. He spent a year as a chaplain to the Irish Army, and a further year on loan to the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, before leaving for the United States in 1943. His colleagues in Baker diocese include Monsignor Matthew Crotty, a native of The Rower, who was ordained in 1944, and Fr. Richard Conway, a native of Castlecomer.

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## DAVENPORT, IOWA

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### STICKING AROUND AND SEEING A LOT!

Retiring in time to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of his ordination in Ireland, Father Patrick Duggan spoke at the August Reunion of 1981 about pioneering days in the Mid-West diocese to which he had given loyal service, mentioning the Irish bishops of the area who had carried out their duties on horseback. The FBI (Foreign-born Irish!) had 'stuck around and seen a lot', he said, all 34 of them (five had been from St. Kieran's). Fr. Duggan now resides at St. Kieran's College.

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## OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK

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### MINISTERING IN HISTORIC TERRITORY

*Fr. Liam O'Doherty writes from Sacket's Harbour, New York:* Since I last wrote, Monsignor Francis Maguire — who had been a lay student of St. Kieran's at the beginning of this century — and a Priest at the Alamo in Texas in 1916, died. This leaves two Kieranites in this vast border Diocese of Ogdensburg. Fr. Patrick J. O'Reilly, who was ordained in St. Kieran's at the same time as myself (Pentecost Sunday 1965) and who spent eight years in the Diocese of Paterson in the State of New Jersey, is now



*Fr. Liam O'Doherty (left) relaxing with Fr. Pat O'Reilly — both are serving in the same corner of upstate New York.*

Administrator of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist in LaFargeville, N.Y.

In 1979, I moved from St. Ann's, Regis Falls, to Sackets Harbour, a little country town beside Lake Ontario on the shores of the Great Lakes in upstate New York. Sackets Harbour is one of the oldest incorporated villages in the country, and once had 12,000 troops stationed here at the time of the 1812 conflict that established the American-Canadian border. Visited by three U.S. Presidents, and the resting place of generals, the community is now headquarters for a 30-mile long parish that has two churches — St. Andrew's here in Sacket's Harbour, and Our Lady Queen of Peace at Henderson, about ten miles south of here, where we have a large summer holiday community — averaging 600 at each of four Masses on the week-end!

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## SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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### FROM THE NEW TO THE OLD

From founding new parishes in 'greenfield' situations, Monsignor Patrick O'Neill has had to come to terms with a parish that is more than 125 years old! Founded by the Dominicans in 1855, St. Vincent's Parish, Vallejo, on the western side of Sacramento city, was given over to the care of secular clergy in 1967; in 1974 the Dunamaggin-born Fr. O'Neill was appointed its second secular pastor. In 1980, he presided at the celebrations of the parish's 125th birthday.

This assignment followed earlier experience in the parishes of Truckee, by Lake Tahoe, where he was responsible for building Our Lady of the Snows, an award-winning church; and St. Ann's, Meadowview, where facilities for worship, education and community activities had to be established for a new parish area.

Monsignor O'Neill, who was ordained in St. Kieran's in 1947, was made a Domestic Prelate in 1979.

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## SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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### A GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATED

A Mooncoin-born Monsignor who has been pastor of the same parish in the Archdiocese of San Francisco for almost 30 years, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination in 1979.

Monsignor John Kenny, pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Belmont, was born in Cussane, Carrigeen in 1905 and ordained at St. Kieran's in 1929. He had served in three parishes in the San Jose and Oakland areas before he was appointed to his present parish as pastor in 1954.

Relatives and friends from Ireland travelled to be with him for the celebration, and also present were many St. Kieran's priests working in that area, including three from Mooncoin.



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# UNIONS, REUNIONS AND JUBILEES

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Group taken at the Church of Christ the King, Glasgow, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the St. Kieran's Scottish Union in 1981, showing (seated): Monsignor Thomas Maher, President, St. Kieran's College; Bishop James Monaghan, Auxiliary of St. Andrews and Edinburgh; Bishop Stephen McGill of Paisley; Archbishop Thomas J. Winning of Glasgow; Bishop Peter Birch of Ossory (who was to die suddenly just a few days after this photograph was taken); Bishop Francis Thomson of Motherwell; and Father Michael McNulty, President of the St. Kieran's Union in Scotland.

## Golden Jubilee of Scottish Union 1931 ~ 1981

One of the biggest reunions of recent years of St. Kieran's College Kilkenny priests working in Scotland, took place on March 2, 1981 at the church of Christ the King, King's Park, Glasgow. It was the golden jubilee of the formal establishment of the St. Kieran's College Scottish Union.

Bishop Stephen McGill of Paisley, Bishop Francis Thomson of Motherwell and Bishop Peter Birch of Ossory joined Archbishop Thomas J. Winning of Glasgow and about forty priests in concelebrated Mass. In his introduction to the liturgy, Archbishop Winning said the Mass was one of thanksgiving to Almighty God for the work of the priests of St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny throughout Scotland in the past fifty years.

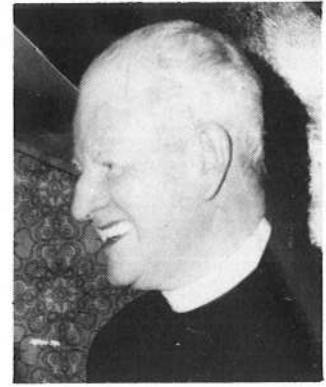
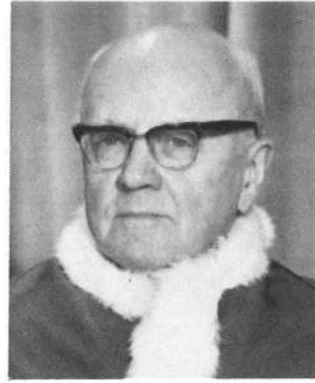
In his homily Rev. Joseph McElholm, parish priest of Christ the King, himself a former student of the college, said the St. Kieran's Scottish Union was formed that its 'priests might help and encourage one another in their zeal for the salvation of souls; that they might be a source of strength to one another in the problems each had to face and that their annual declaration of loyalty to the college which had sent them forth, might remind them of the need to be ever loyal to God for Whom they worked and to His immediate representative for them on earth, their bishop. The years have shown that the union succeeded in its aim. The numbers are smaller now than fifty years ago but the loyalty to *alma mater*, to earthly superiors and to God are stronger than ever....'

At the annual general meeting immediately after Mass and preceding the lunch, union president

Rev Michael McNulty, Our Lady of Lourdes, Blackburn, conveyed a message from Cardinal Gray who had left for Rome that morning, which read: 'I should love to have been present at this function if only to have availed myself of the opportunity of thanking the wonderful priests who have worked in Scotland after their formation in St. Kieran's.'

At the luncheon Rev. Nicholas Murphy, Saltcoats, proposed the toast of the Hierarchy and assured them of the continuing loyalty and devotion of St. Kieran's priests in Scotland. Replying to the toast Bishop Stephen McGill said the Bishops of Scotland were conscious of the great work and dedication of St. Kieran's priests and thanked them for it. He concluded by asking the College president, Very Rev. Thomas Maher, to send more of his students to Scotland. Rev. Charles Kelly, Armadale, proposed a joint toast to St. Kieran's College, Bishop Birch and college president Father Maher. He traced the history of the college, the first to be opened in Ireland after Penal Days as indicated by its motto *Hiems Transiit* – Winter has Passed, – in 1982. He recalled that the first St. Kieran's priest was Rev. James Purcell the first parish priest of St. John's, Barrhead 1841-1845 and it was another St. Kieran's priest Canon Michael Teehan who built the second St. John's Church, Barrhead in the 1960s.

Rev. Thomas Maher president of the college replying to the toast, said: 'the college authorities were conscious of the strong ties with Scotland and hoped that as many as possible of those serving in Scotland would come for the bi-centenary celebrations next year'.



*Pioneers of the Scottish mission from St. Kieran's and former presidents of the Scottish Union of St. Kieran's priests: (left to right): Canon Michael Phelan, a native of Templeorum, Co. Kilkenny, ordained at St. Kieran's in 1877, parish priest of St. Mary's, Dundee 1886-1909 and builder of St. Patrick's, Dundee – he became the first St. Kieran's priest to be made a Canon of Dunkeld Cathedral Chapter on its establishment in 1895; Canon Michael Downey, a native of Jenkinstown, Co. Kilkenny, who was ordained in St. Kieran's in 1921 for the Archdiocese of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh and who was the first President of the Scottish Union from 1945 until his death in 1955; Canon James Harold, ordained in 1922 for the same diocese, and who served as President of the Union from 1956 to 1972 (died in retirement in Ireland, 1973); and Canon Joseph Byrne, also ordained in 1922 for St. Andrews, who served as President from 1972 to his death in 1977.*

## A diminishing presence in Scotland

Of the six colleges in Ireland – apart from the ill-fated St. Mary's Seminary, Youghal and the equally ill-fated Scots College, Rockwell – which supplied priests to Scotland on a permanent basis in the past 150 years St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, holds the record in having given about 140 priests to the various Scottish dioceses, the largest number next to St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, which has had at least 505 priests serving in Scotland mainly on a temporary basis.

For years around the Feast of St. Kieran, March 5, Kilkenny priests have gathered informally. In March, 1931 the St. Kieran's College Scottish Union was established retaining its informal character and it was not until 1945 that a formal executive was elected.

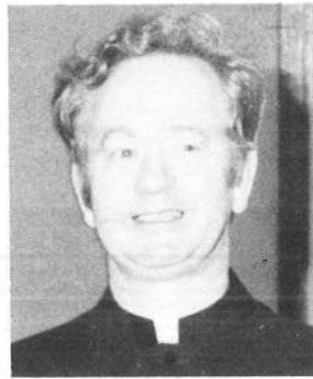
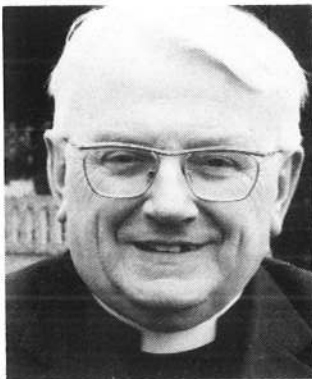
By its golden jubilee it had had four presidents, Canon Michael Downey, Kilsyth 1945-1956; Canon James Harold, Musselburgh, 1956-1972; Canon Joseph Byrne, Kirkcaldy, 1972-1977 and Father Michael McNulty, Blackburn from 1977. There had been only two secretaries in the fifty years, Canon Patrick A. Sheridan, St. Eunan's, Clydebank, until 1961 and Father Bernard J. Canning, St. Laurence's, Greenock. There were four treasurers, Father Patrick F. Casey, Penilee; Canon

John Gillen, Rutherglen; Father Patrick J. Crean, Paisley; Father James Keenaghan, Houston.

At the 1983 re-union at St. Conval's, Linwood, Father Joseph McElholm, Glasgow was elected president in succession to Father Michael McNulty who retired to Ireland over a year previously and was named an honorary President of the Union. Fr. Thomas Nolan was elected secretary replacing Fr. Bernard J. Canning who had held the post for 21 years. Fr. Gerard Brennan became treasurer in place of Fr. James Keenaghan. From the beginning it was agreed that the annual meeting alternate between the East and the West of Scotland, and to this day that arrangement holds.

With retirements and death, membership of the Union has fallen in the past 25 years from over 100 to 58 in Scotland and 9 in retirement in Ireland and elsewhere. The last priest from St. Kieran's to come to Scotland was Fr. Eugene O'Sullivan, St. Fergus', Forfar, in 1972.

Of the 58 serving in Scotland at the time of the Union's golden jubilee, Motherwell had 16, St. Andrews and Edinburgh and Glasgow had each 14, Paisley 8, Dunkeld 4 and Galloway 2. Since then even those small numbers have diminished with death and retirement.



*From left: Fr. Michael McNulty, Fourth President of the Scottish Union (1977-1983) and now Honorary President; Fr. Joseph McElholm, current President of the Union (1983 – ); and members of the Scottish Union photographed during their 1982 meeting, which took place at St. Columba's Parish, Bathgate, where Fr. Liam Healy (1956) was the host.*

# Jubilarians lead annual reunion celebrations

While the World Reunion of Priests at St. Kieran's during the Bicentenary celebrations of 1982 dominated the planning of reunions over the last few years, the annual events held at the college in mid-August have continued, with Golden and Silver

Jubilarians taking a special place in the concelebration of Mass and the festivities which follow.

In 1980, the celebrations featured a Diamond Jubilarian – V. Rev. William Dunne, retired Parish Priest of Kilmacow. Canons John O'Rourke



**PRIESTS' REUNION, AUGUST 1981**

*Priests ordained at St. Kieran's College in 1931 and 1956 after they had concelebrated a Jubilee Mass at the College in August 1981: In front (from left): Rev. Bernard Canning (Paisley); Rev. John Duggan (Ossory: ordained at Maynooth); V. Rev. John Malone (Ossory: golden jubilarian; deceased); Most Rev. Laurence Forristal, Bishop of Ossory; V. Rev. Patrick Duggan (Davenport; golden jubilarian; retired); Rev. Thomas Shore (Hexham & Newcastle);*

*Behind – Rev. Anthony Timlin, San Diego; Rev. John Maguire (Kilmore); Rev. Liam Healy (Edinburgh); Rev. James Shea (Wichita); Rev. Patrick Fitzsimons (Southwark); Rev. Michael Connolly (Hexham & Newcastle).*



**PRIESTS' REUNION, AUGUST 1983**

*Group pictured after the concelebration in August 1983 of a Jubilee Mass by priests ordained at the college in 1933 and 1958. In front, from left to right: Rev. Martin Campion, President, St. Kieran's College; Rev. Scan McGearty, Adelaide; Very Rev. Patrick Bollard PP, Lisdowney (golden jubilarian); Bishop Laurence Forristal; Rev. James Reddy (Washington DC); Rev. Eamon Lyng (San Diego); Rev. Michael Dermody (Sacramento).*

*Behind – Rev. Edward McPhillips (Hexham and Newcastle); Rev. Gerard Brennan (Paisley); Rev. Robert Raftice (Ossory); Rev. Thomas Palmer (San Antonio); Rev. Tobias Vereker and Rev. Joseph Vereker (twin brothers who are ministering in Sacramento); Rev. John O'Shea (Southwark); Rev. Philip O'Carroll (San Diego).*

and Cornelius Campion, who celebrated their Golden Jubilees at the same time were unable to be present because of illness.

At the same time, the college was host to priests who had been ordained at St. Kieran's for the English mission, when the English Union celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its formal establishment at Windermere in the presence of the former President of the college and recently-appointed Bishop of Ossory, Dr. Patrick Collier. An informal union of St. Kieran's priests in Britain had met informally between 1911 and 1916 and was revived by Fr. Hugh O'Connor in the late 1920s. The revival was so successful that by the early 1930s, the English and Scottish-based priests had their own separate and thriving Unions – the Scottish Union celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1981.

For 35 of its 50 years, the English Union's presidency had rested lightly on the shoulders of Canon Pat Lacey of Hexham and Newcastle, and he presided with his usual good humour over the St. Kieran's gathering in 1980. Regrettably, he

was to die within a few months.

One of the strengths of the English Union has been the continued support of the priests of the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, which has a special relationship with St. Kieran's (in 1956, for instance, the diocese had 47 ex-St. Kieran's priests in permanent service) and Ossory (many Ossory priests served for a time there in the 1940s).

Canon Lacey was particularly proud that his adopted diocese should have had nine St. Kieran's priests celebrating their Silver Jubilee together in 1979, when Bishop Birch and Fr. Tommy Maher, College President, joined in the concelebrated Mass to mark the occasion (a total of 13 priests of the Hexham diocese were celebrating their Silver Jubilee at that time).

The St. Kieran's priests involved were: Fr. Bill O'Gorman, Kerry; Fr. Dick Cass, Callan; Fr. Sean Conaty, Cavan; Fr. Pat O'Connor, Kilkenny; Fr. Donie O'Brien, Mullinavat; Fr. Bill Bennett, Johnswell; Fr. Dermot O'Connor, Kerry; Fr. Pat Magner, Cork; Fr. John Brady, Longford.

## Ossory Golden Jubilees



Three 'beloved pastors' of the Diocese of Ossory were feted by their parishioners on the achievement of their Golden Jubilees as priests. In 1982, V. Rev. James Canon White, since retired as P.P. Kilmanagh, who was ordained in St. Mary's Cathedral on May 29th. 1932, was joined by his family and the Bishop of Ossory (photo, top) for a celebration, while his classmate, Dean Comerford of Freshford, was presented with a framed address by John Connery and Teddy Ryan (above) during his tribute. Finally, Patrick Canon Bollard, who was ordained in 1933 and is now retired as P.P., Lisdowney, had the assistance of his nephews, Frs. Dan and Paddy Bollard, both on the staff of the college, during his Golden Jubilee celebration in 1983.





## An Archbishop from Ossory for Africa and the world

News of the elevation of Monsignor Thomas White to the rank of Archbishop, and of his appointment as Apostolic Nuncio to Rwanda, was greeted with joy in St. Kieran's College, where he had studied on the layside; in Durrow, where his family had lived for a number of years up to the early 1950s; in Cullohill, where he had attended national school; and in the west Laois and west Waterford areas from which his father and mother had come.

Educated at the Irish College in Rome for service in the diocese of Ossory, he was invited to join the Vatican Diplomatic Service following his ordination in 1956, and served in the Papal representations in Kenya, Guatemala, Colombia, Switzerland and Taiwan (where he was Pro-nuncio) before his first appointment as Nuncio.

One of five Irishmen in the Church's ambassadorial ranks, Archbishop White has recently been transferred to Ethiopia, where he represents the Vatican in its relationships not only with the state itself, but also with the important Organisation of African States, which has its headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Writing about his involvement in Vatican diplomacy in *The Durrow Review*, Archbishop White detailed the sequence of events which has resulted in his present position. 'I was considering my vocation in my final year at St. Kieran's, when, on the recommendation of Dr. Birch (then Professor of English at the college), I was cast as a potential successor to Dr. Patrick O'Farrell, who was suffering from ill-health, as Professor of Canon Law. That, strange as it may seem, was the only capacity in which I could serve my diocese at the time – the diocese of Ossory was 'closed' to those who wished to become secular priests, with the only exceptions being made in the case of those who seemed suited to becoming members of the staff of St. Kieran's.'

Sent to Rome to study for this future assignment, he remained in regular contact with Bishop Collier 'who wrote some twenty-five letters to me over those years, all of them on grey aerogramme forms with a fine mixture of blacks and reds in the typing – he used black when writing about what might be called general matters



Archbishop White photographed by his brother Liam at the Irish College following his consecration in Rome and (above) presenting a Papal medal during his time in Rwanda.

but never failed to change down to red for all references to financial or academic affairs. Little was said about my future position. It was only sometime later, when I received a mournful aerogramme, without the faintest touch of the familiar red type, that I realised that my destiny had been decided in a somewhat spirited exchange of letters with Rome, in which he had eventually yielded on the matter of my becoming a Vatican diplomat.'

His immediate reaction to his first assignment as Nuncio proved to him that he had not escaped the *mal africain*, 'the desire to return which, from the time of Scipio, has affected all who have spent an extended period in this vast sleeping giant of a continent, with vast but ill-distributed natural resources, a tremendous manpower pool and a conscious culture, something we of other civilisations are losing all the time. My reaction also echoed some of the motivation behind my original decision to study for the priesthood – I had planned at first to put myself forward for the African mission'

On visiting an African bog, the Archbishop

wrote, 'for all the unfamiliarity of the equatorial *marais* five thousand feet above sea level, the springiness of the banks underfoot and the unmistakable tingle in the nostrils instantly triggered a total recall of the days of the 'Emergency' in Ireland, when we understudied our late father's efforts to turn county council workers into turf-cutters in the bogs around Clonmeen.'

His present assignment in Ethiopia brings Archbishop White into contact with a nation of almost 30 million people in a strategic area of north-east Africa with about half of the population professing Orthodox (Coptic) Christianity. The Ethiopian capital contains more than 100 official representations, involving a heavy round of diplomatic duties for the Vatican's Nuncio.

The Archbishop maintains regular contact with Ireland, where he has a home on the south side of Dublin, and was one of the distinguished visitors to St. Kieran's College during the World Reunion of Priests as part of the Bicentenary Celebrations in 1982.

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## CARRIGAN'S HISTORY OF DIOCESE RELAUNCHED

A historical work long sought after by people both inside and outside the diocese of Ossory, and long out of print, is now freely available again as a result of an enterprising venture by two Kilkenny firms. 'The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory' by Fr. William Carrigan C.C. was relaunched at a reception in Shee's Almshouse in March 1981.

The original edition of Carrigan's work was published in 1905. It has been long out of print and was commanding prices of up to £250 per set on the secondhand book market. The new edition is the result of a joint venture involving Roberts Books, a Kilkenny firm of antiquarian booksellers, and Wellbrook Press, the Freshford-based printing and publishing house.

'*The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*' is regarded as one of the most authoritative and detailed works of its type. It represents a life-work of dedicated field-work and research by its author, a parish priest who spent most of his pastoral life in self-imposed poverty as curate and parish priest of Durrow in Laois until his death in 1924.

William Carrigan was born at Ruthstown, near Ballyfoyle, Co. Kilkenny in 1860 to a farming family of eleven boys (another of whom also became a priest) and two girls. He was educated at St. Kieran's College and at Maynooth, and was ordained for his native diocese in Kilkenny in 1884.

After two years on the teaching staff of St. Kieran's College, he held curacies at Ballyragget, Conahy (1891), Templeorum (1893), Rathdowney (1895) and Durrow, where he lived in self-imposed poverty for 27 years, first as curate from 1897, and, from 1909, as parish priest.

He was appointed Diocesan Historian in 1890, and apart from his *History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*, contributed to many learned journals. In addition to his election to membership of the Royal Irish Academy, he was honoured with a special Papal Doctorate of Divinity in 1906.

The four volumes of *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*, include:

a 250-page review of the civil, social and church history of Kilkenny city, its three Catholic parishes, and its post-Reformation antiquities in both traditions.

a 109-page history of the ancient and medieval kingdoms and civil divisions of the present counties of Kilkenny and (west) Laois;

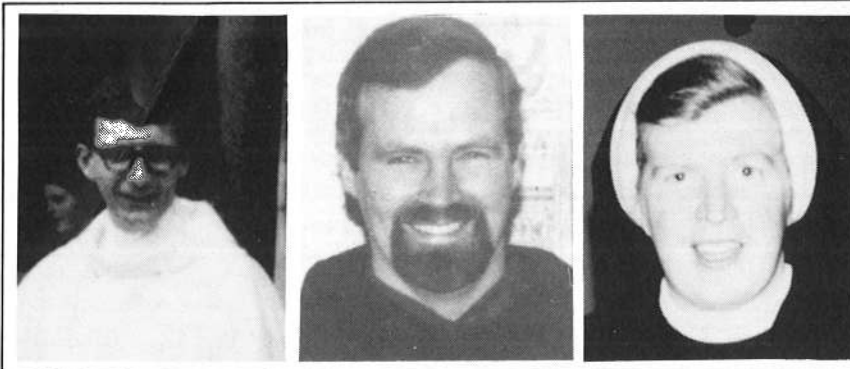
a 200-page study of the bishops and canons of Ossory since the time of Saint Kieran, with brief lives of Kilkenny born churchmen of note in other dioceses and countries;

a detailed survey of the antiquities, traditions, clergy, and notable residents of each of the 37 rural parishes in the Diocese of Ossory, with measurements and descriptions of almost every medieval church and castle, readings of all pre-1700 inscriptions on sepulchral monuments and grave-slabs, and translations and interpretations of townland names.

The 1981 facsimile edition also contains a new introduction of John Bradley, a Kilkenny-born lecturer in Archaeology in UCD, with a brief biography and a photograph of Canon Carrigan, as well as a list of his published work and a bibliography covering all of the principal publications of Ossory interest since 1905.

The first edition of Carrigan's work was published by the Dublin firm of Sealy Bryers and Walker in 1905; the cost (1300 for 1000 printed copies, 750 of them bound) was borne by the author, who never fully recovered his expenses from subscriptions.

Bishop Peter Birch, who had encouraged and facilitated the project, died before he had completed the special foreword to the new edition. He had another connection with the project too – his sister-in-law is a member of the Carrigan family and was present at the launch reception together with other representatives of the family.



Left to right: Fr. Paddy Dowling (Layside 1957-62) who was ordained in Kilkenny in July 1982 for Jefferson City after study in the U.S.; Br. Eddie Dowley who completed his secondary education at St. Kieran's in 1963 and who was farm manager at the college from 1978 to 1982 – he was professed at the Capuchin Friary in September 1983; and Sr. Mary Therese Meany, professed as a Sister of Charity in September 1983, and secretary at the college 1974-81.



Left: Rev. John Brennan, P.P., Conahy, receives the David Feldman Trophy for the the best overall exhibit at the 1982 Stampa exhibition in Dublin from Mr. Terry Leyden, then Minister of State at the Department of Posts and Telegraphs; right: a break in the filming of 'Kevin's World' by RTE in St. Kieran's – the clerics in the background are obvious extras!

## The Dean is busy; the Governor understands



Sean J. White has had what he calls a multi-valent career since he left St. Kieran's College just over 30 years ago – 'a career that started in teaching – at Catholic University Schools, UCD and Maynooth, and then proceeded through journalism, broadcasting and public relations back to the teaching business.

The particular groves of Academe of which Sean is now head groundsman flourish in Dublin 4, where Thomas Prior House, part of the Royal Dublin Society's complex, accommodates the School of Irish Studies, a charitable non-profit-making trust founded in 1969 to fill a gap in the Irish education system. It caters for university students from abroad who wish to spend a 'junior year' or a single term specialising in Irish studies as part of their undergraduate studies. Most are from American or Canadian universities and colleges. The staff is drawn mainly from UCD and Trinity College, with a panel of guest lecturers that includes Benedict Kiely, Mary Lavin, and Justin Keating.

'At the School', Sean told us, 'the students follow courses in their own area of interest from a fairly wide menu of Irish topics. They can study Yeats, Joyce, Beckett, the Irish drama, contemporary Irish poetry, the short story.

'In history there are courses available ranging from Celtic and Viking Ireland to the present day including a course (alas, too popular!) on the Northern Ireland crisis. Political science students may study how Ireland is governed or how it relates to the E.E.C. There are courses on folklore, archaeology and Irish art, and willing students are introduced to the Irish language in elementary courses.

'As dean, I am chief academic and executive officer of the School of Irish Studies and I report to a board of governors which is made up of a group of academics, businessmen and public figures. Our present chairman, is Paddy Kilroy, chairman of the Gowan Group. He is also, incidentally, a former pupil of St. Kieran's.

'A great Rathdowney man born 300 years ago who was at school in Kilkenny College with Swift and Congreve greets me every morning in the person of his bust as I come in the front door to my office – he is Thomas Prior, a founder member of the Royal Dublin Society, after whom our headquarters building is named.

'I would like all St. Kieran's men to know about the School of Irish Studies, particularly those who live abroad who may have children, or friends with children, interested in studying in Ireland. For fuller information they can write to me or if they are passing they are always welcome to call in. Then they can get the answer to the classic question Fr. Joe Clohosey always asked us in his dryly humorous way to illustrate the Spoonerism – 'Is the dean busy?'

## OBITUARIES

We regret to record the deaths of the following past pupils of the layside at St. Kieran's College (some of whom had taken an active part in the planning and organisation of the Bicentenary celebrations):

*Martin Crotty*, one of Kilkenny's leading businessmen, and representative of his class (Inter 1939) in the planning of the Bicentenary celebrations, died in 1983. A member of the family firm of M. Crotty & Sons Ltd., he was noted for his charitable work in the city.

*Paul Crotty* died in Derry in 1982 following a career as a medical practitioner in that city and in England. He was educated at St. Kieran's and UCD,

where he qualified in 1952. He was brother of Mr. Thomas G. Crotty, County Registrar, Kilkenny.

*John Duggan* of Boolyglass, Hugginstown, died in February 1982. A member of a well-known South Kilkenny farming family, he was educated at St. Kieran's College and later served for 30 years on the staff of Miloko Ltd., Carrick-on-Suir. He was brother of V. Rev. Patrick Duggan of the Diocese of Davenport, USA now retired in St. Kieran's.

*Con Kenealy* died in March 1981 after a short illness, at the age of 49. A journalist of national reputation, he came from the famous Kilkenny family of journalists and printers, and worked in the family's *Kilkenny Journal* for some years

### The late Eugene O'Neill: a youth remembered



A chance encounter in Don Roberts' bookshop in Kieran Street during the Bicentenary celebrations was my first meeting in almost 30 years with Eugene O'Neill.

This impressive figure, prophetically white of beard and dressed in the height of European fashion, had me stumped for just a moment. Then I noticed the unchanged keen intelligent blue eyes: 'Eugene!'

There were gaps to fill. We had known each other as schoolboys in Durrow where he lived with his grandparents; Charlie Warner his grandfather was a World War 1. ex-officer, a generous lively man who lent us his books, told us stories of the past war and gave us strategic pointers on the one that was in progress.

My memories of Eugene mostly attach themselves to long hot summers when we swam in the Erkina and the Nore with his uncle, Tim Ryan, a kindly elder brother to us, his younger brother Desmond also one of the gang and Bertie Finnermore, now the Rev. Albert Finnermore, headmaster of Dundalk Grammar School. There were also epic bicycle rides to Kilkenny, Roscrea, Abbeyleix and all around the midlands. Mostly though, there are memories of swopping and borrowing books and it was typical that my re-discovery of him should be in a book-shop where Don Roberts was filling up crates at his command.

We exchanged letters since and they were mostly about books and we had arranged to meet with him and his wife Hanne (who was also in Kilkenny that day) in Germany in June.

Then in Easter week the shattering news came that Eugene had died of a heart attack. Our recent meeting, our letters and our plans makes the whole thing more poignant.

When we met that day he talked little of his bright career in medicine and in business. In St. Kieran's he was a keen, if somewhat mutinous student. His disagreements with the College authorities were about student dances and a proto-pop group named 'McNamara's Band'. He took a good medical degree at the College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians.

After graduation he worked in his uncle Frank Warner's practice in South Shields near Newcastle upon Tyne and later in a number of hospitals in the North East of England. In 1969 he began work as a civilian consultant with NATO in Germany. He managed the unusual feat of joining the German medical professionals in 1976 and achieved high medical posts in German hospitals notably as a surgeon and anaesthetist at the Florence Nightingale Krankenhaus in Dusseldorf. He also became director of medical research for an international pharmaceutical firm, Duphor. During his German years he married Hanne Friedrich-Engleander, the very dynamic lady I met in Kilkenny who runs an important international news agency, Laenderpress, in Dusseldorf.

Eugene was still very occupied with his Irish medical background. He frequently visited the College of Surgeons & Physicians and was to get his fellowship there this year. He was also much absorbed in his German medical career. But the subject that brought light into his eyes was talk of Irish history and literature. He had done a considerable amount of research into aspects of O'Neill family history and had acquired an impressive Irish library. In Germany, he was President of the Irish-German Society and his friend the Irish Ambassador to Germany, Robin Fogarty, was present at his funeral.

Having only met Eugene again I feel personally deprived at his sudden death. My sympathy goes out in their loss to his wife Hanne, his two sons and their daughter, to his father and all his brothers and sisters. He was an out of the ordinary man of whom St. Kieran's College can be proud.

Sean J. White



after leaving St. Kieran's College. Later he moved to the *Irish Independent*, where he was sports correspondent, and where he was responsible for extensive coverage of colleges' GAA affairs. Pre-deceased by his wife, he left a son and a daughter, and his brothers Brian and Louis, both in Kilkenny.

*Patrick Kennedy*, who had been responsible for co-ordinating the contact with past pupils who were in St. Kieran's up to 1940 for the Bicen-

tenary celebrations, died in 1983 shortly after he had retired from a long career in teaching. He wrote about his experiences on a teaching assignment in Zambia in the *Record*, 1968.

*James Manning*, who had also taken an active part in the planning of the Bicentenary celebrations, and who exhibited his paintings as part of the September events, died in 1983.

*Charlie McCreery*, another of Kilkenny's leading businessmen, and member of an established city family, died at the early age of 52 in 1983.

## A TRIBUTE TO TWO LITERARY SONS OF ST. KIERAN'S

The death within three months of one another of Pdraig Puirseal and Leo Holohan removed from the Irish literary scene two men whose achievements had never been given the attention they deserved – even though neither of them would have wished it to be otherwise.

Leo Holohan, who died in mid-June 1979, was a civil servant by calling, but his literary activities, and his friendship with men like Patrick Kavanagh, Anthony Cronin and Brendan Behan underlined his qualities as savant and critic.

Born in Ballylynch, Thomastown, he was educated at Stoneyford National School and at St. Kieran's, where he had a distinguished academic career, culminating in the award of first place in Ireland in Greek in the Leaving Certificate.

He entered the Civil Service in 1942, and spent his entire career there, most of it in the Department of Social Welfare.

He produced a large number of articles and plays in English and Irish (in which he was fluent), and was an authority on the work and times of George Moore and Canon Sheehan. He also contributed to radio broadcasts, and was responsible at one stage for a dramatisation of one of the races won by 'The Tetrarch' during that horse's spectacular racing career.

Racing and hurling were Leo's two major passions in his leisure time, although he had an interest in other sports as well (he had been a handy cricketer as a boy) and was always present at the major coursing events in his native county. The Holohan family have long associations with greyhounds and have run a successful kennels at the home place for many years.

A companion of Patrick Kavanagh's through good times and bad, he accompanied him on the poet's visit to Kilkenny to address a meeting of the Kilkenny Arts Society, and was invited by the *Irish Times* to write Kavanagh's obituary.

A gentle and unassuming man, he never lost contact with his childhood friends and combined his affection for his native place with the ability to communicate at every level of Irish literary society. Thomastown, Dublin and points in between and beyond, are the poorer for his untimely passing.

Pdraig Puirseal came from a family with connections in both the north and south of the county – his father, Richard Purcell, was a native of Ballyouskill who became principal of Carrigeen National School in Mooncoin, where his son was educated.

After a fine academic career in St. Kieran's, he went on to U.C.D., where he took his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in English with first class honours. His subsequent career combined his unusual talent for literary endeavour with a passionate interest in Gaelic games. His mastery of these two diverse interests was first manifested when he combined the positions of auditor of the Literary and Historical Society and vice-president of the hurling and football clubs at U.C.D.

As sub-editor in the *Irish Independent*, and later features editor and G.A.A. correspondent in the *Irish Press*, he produced millions of words on the theory and practice of the national games, in reports on matches, in background articles for publications all over the world, and even in books – ranging from the Guinness Book of Hurling Records to 'Hanrahan's Daughter' a work of fiction with a strong hurling theme set in a south Kilkenny village (he wrote three other novels as well).

Married to a former camogie star, and with a sister (Mary) who has carved a special niche for herself as a writer of biographies of the saintly and the famous, he maintained a wide contact with all those people and institutions that had influenced him in any way – from his own local community in Mooncoin to the G.A.A. Club at U.C.D. to the journalists and writers who had been his colleagues and companions over the years and with whom he looked forward to enjoying his retirement. He died with only a few months to go to that retirement.

He will live on in his books and in the memory of the millions who have read his reports day after day, year after year, in his chosen newspaper. His death in the wake of Kilkenny's 21st. All-Ireland victory meant that he left this earth with only the happiest of memories of the sport that he had made into a science, only stopping short on the right side of obsession. May God rest his fine soul.

AMICUS

