

150th Anniversary 1869-2019



Faith of our Fathers

Celebrating the 150th Anniversary
of St Nicholas' Church in Churchtown







Anniversary Mass

150th Anniversary

St Nicholas' Church, Churchtown

24th June 2019 at 7.30pm

Chief Celebrant

William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne

Concelebrants

Fr Robin Morrissey, PP, Churchtown-Liscarroll

Fr Stephen O'Mahony, PE, Churchtown-Liscarroll

Fr Gerard Coleman, PP, Castlelyons

Fr Bill Conway, PE, Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois, USA

Fr Michael Madden, PE, Diocese of Cloyne

Fr Tom McDermott, CC, Cobh Cathedral

Canon Donal O'Mahony, PP, Charleville

Organist

Louise Roche



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Parochial House
Ballyadam
Churchtown
Mallow
Co Cork

24th June 2019

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the building of St Nicholas' Church in Churchtown. It is an auspicious occasion during which we look back in awe at how the community and clergy in Churchtown were able to assemble the resources to build such a wonderful Church in the 1860s.

As you will also see reading the history in this booklet, not only did the people of Churchtown see the opening of St Nicholas' in 1869 but in the same year the people of Liscarroll laid the foundation for St Joseph's. This was all under the guidance of Fr William Tuomey and a wonderful achievement for the people of the United Parish of Churchtown – Liscarroll.

Today, we especially remember all who attended this Church over the last 150 years and all who volunteered in its various ministries. Our Church has been a place of solace for many and long may that continue.

It is a great privilege for me to be your Parish Priest but especially for the year in which we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of St Nicholas' Church.

Today, we look forward with hope that our parish community will continue to worship in our parish Church as our forebears have done for generations.

God Bless you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin Morrissey". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive script.

Fr Robin Morrissey



Cloyne Diocesan Centre
Cobh
Co Cork

24th June 2019

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

It is a great pleasure for me to concelebrate Mass here in Churchtown today in honour of the 150th Anniversary of the opening of St Nicholas' Church in 1869.

The completion of St Nicholas' Church in 1869, in living memory of the Great Famine, was a wonderful achievement for the people of Churchtown. Of course, Catholic Church history in Churchtown goes back much further, most likely to the 5 and 6th Centuries or almost 1,500 years. Indeed, written records show that in the 12th Century Bruhenny – as Churchtown was called – was one of the 10 prebendaries or divisions in the Diocese of Cloyne.

As your Bishop I want to say how pleasing it is to see your Anniversary Church Committee putting in place such a fine programme of events in honour of the 150th Anniversary of the opening of St Nicholas' Church and that Churchtown Heritage Society should produce such a fine booklet to honour the occasion.

On my own behalf, and on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese, we wish you well in your Anniversary celebrations.

With every good wish and blessing.

+ William Crean

William Crean
Bishop of Cloyne

St Nicholas' Church 1869 - 2019

Calendar of Commemorative Events

Sunday 28th April 2019 – 11.30am Mass - 150th Launch

A special plaque setting out a short history of St Nicholas' Church was unveiled by Denis J Hickey after 11.30am concelebrated Mass on Sunday 28th April 2019. The plaque was commissioned by the Church 150th Committee and prepared by Churchtown Heritage Society. See page 73.

Friday 17th May 2019 – 7.30pm – First 150th Concert

Special Concert organised by the Church 150th Anniversary committee. See page 75.

Monday 24th June 2019 – Bishop's Mass

Bishop Crean concelebrates Mass as the main event for the 150th anniversary. See www.churchtown.net for a report on the occasion.

Saturday 24th August 2019 – 8.00pm – Second 150th Concert

Parish launch of the Shandrum Ceili Band CD entitled '*The Boss Murphy Musical Legacy*' at 8.00pm. This event is presented with the compliments of Churchtown Heritage Society and Shandrum Ceili Band to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Nicholas' and also in recognition of National Heritage Week. See page 77.

Sunday 8th December 2019 – Mass at 11.30am – Closing

Closing Mass dedicated to St Nicholas and unveiling of outdoor history plaque. See www.churchtown.net for a report on the occasion.

Parish Pastoral Council

President: Fr Robin Morrissey PP. Chairperson: Joanne Casey.
Secretary: Oonagh Kellegher. Team members: Jane Colgan,
Colette Collins, Helen Daly, Marie Fitzpatrick and Pat O'Driscoll.
This first Parish Pastoral Council was inaugurated in October 2016.

150th Anniversary Working Committee

Rosario Buckley, Chairperson, Fr Robin Morrissey PP,
Rosemary O'Flaherty, Alice Simcox and Gerry Murphy.

Early Catholic Church in Ireland



432 – 795 AD

The credit for the spread of Christianity is dated from the time of St Patrick. From 461 there is some evidence of a diocesan form of Church organisation but the common form of Church organisation was based on monasteries. This was the period of the 'Island of Saints and Scholars' as it was from Ireland that Christianity was rekindled on the Continent of Europe following the Dark Ages after the Fall of the Roman Empire.

796 – 1014 AD

The Norse invasion began in 795 and influenced negatively the Irish Catholic Church until 1014 and the Battle of Clontarf. The Norsemen were responsible for the destruction of the monasteries and the general decline in the Irish Church.

1015 – 1200 AD

After the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 there was a revival in learning and Armagh and Clonmacnoise flourished. By 1152 and the Synod of Kells the Irish Diocesan church re-organisation was largely completed and Cloyne was a recognised Diocese. The Anglo Norman invasion took place in stages during the 12th Century and Norman clergy became prominent as is evidenced on the Pipe Roll of Cloyne in relation to Churchtown by the early 13th Century.

The Diocese of Cloyne



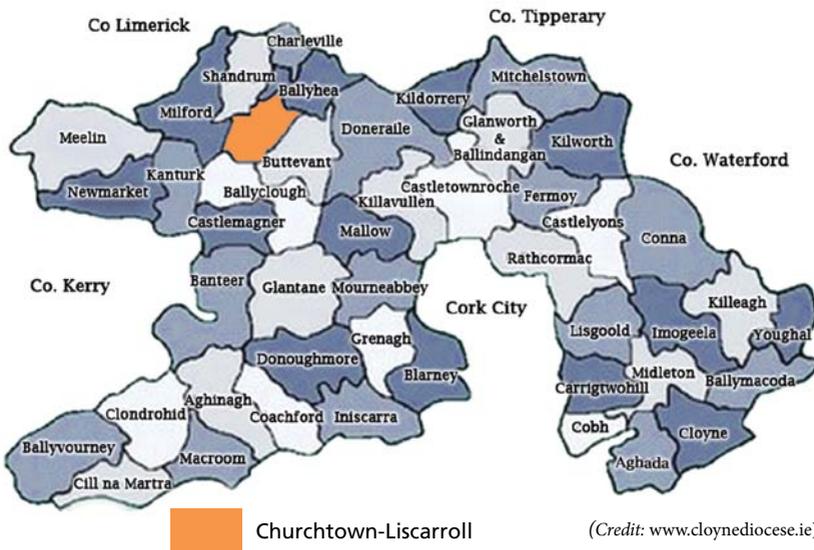
The monastic district of Cloyne became the Diocese of Cloyne under the new arrangement of the Synod of Kells in 1152. The boundaries of each Diocese were drawn at Kells and it then became necessary to establish the exact boundaries of each parish. The parishes of Ireland were assessed for a Papal Taxation in 1291 and as a result an almost complete list of the parishes of the Diocese of Cloyne is available, dating from that time. At present there are forty six parishes, many of which are unions of smaller ancient parishes. They are grouped into five deaneries. Cloyne is part of the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly.

15th – 18th Century

Both the Diocese of Cork and Cloyne were united, under Bishop Jordan Purcell, by Papal Decree in 1429. When a vacancy occurred in 1747 they were separated and bishops appointed to both dioceses. Bishop John O'Brien was appointed to Cloyne and was also given responsibility for the Diocese of Ross. Ross was separated from Cloyne in 1850.

In 1652 Cromwell's conquest of Ireland was complete and persecution of Catholics followed. In 1698 Catholic Bishops, Vicars General, Deans, Jesuits and Monks were ordered to leave the country. The practice of religious devotion at Holy Wells and Mass Rocks, for the most part, was widespread. Catholic priests were required to register under the Penal

Map of the Parishes of the Diocese





Cobh Cathedral (Credit: Fr Tom McDermott)

Laws and many who didn't do so celebrated Mass at Mass Rocks in the open or well concealed spots while scouts watched. Clerical students went secretly to the Irish Colleges on the continent and newly ordained priests were obliged to enter secretly on their return to Ireland. The Irish College at Toulouse was virtually a seminary for the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. It was suppressed in 1789.

19th Century Onwards

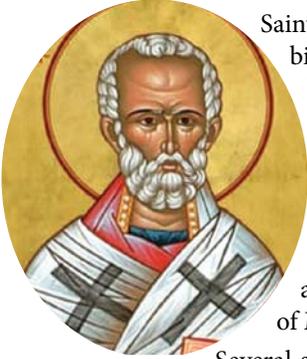
The 19th and 20th centuries witnessed great progress, with convents, monasteries and schools being founded in many parishes. Numerous priests, religious women and men went to work in all five continents. The great age of Church building dawned shortly before 1800 AD. Saint Mary's Church, Youghal was built in 1796, and gradually new parish churches were built in every parish in the Diocese. The ruins of churches and monasteries, the Holy Wells and Mass Rocks to be found throughout the diocese are a testimony to the faith and devotion of the people through the centuries.

Religion and devotion flourished and missionary activity continued under the pastoral care and guidance of Bishop J McCarthy 1874-1893; Bishop R Browne 1894-1935, Bishop J J Roche 1935-1956, Bishop J J Ahern 1957-1987; Bishop John Magee 1987-2010 and Bishop William Crean 2013 to the present.

Today, the Diocese of Cloyne stretches over most of the county of Cork, with the exception of the city and west Cork. Its 46 parishes run from Mitchelstown in the north-east to Rockchapel in the north-west, from Macroom in the south-west to Youghal in the south-east.

Credit: "Diocese of Cloyne 2002 AD - A glimpse of our Christian Heritage" and www.cloynediocese.ie

Saint Nicholas of Myra



Saint Nicholas of Myra c. 280 – 343 AD was a Christian bishop who provided for the poor and sick. He was born in Patara, a land that is part of present-day Turkey. After his death, the legend of his gift-giving grew and eventually St Nicholas transformed into the legendary character of Santa Claus.

St Nicholas lost both of his parents as a young man and reportedly used his inheritance to help the poor and sick. A devout Christian, he later served as bishop of Myra, a city that is now called Demre.

Several sources state St Nicholas is believed to have died on December 6, 343. Over the years, stories of his miracles and work for the poor spread to other parts of the world. He became known as the protector of children and sailors. He was a popular saint in Europe until the time of the Reformation in the 1500s which turned away from the practice of honouring saints. St Nicholas, however, remained an important figure in Holland.

The Dutch continued to celebrate the feast day of St Nicholas on December 6th. It was a common practice for children to put out their shoes the night before. In the morning, they would discover the gifts that St Nicholas had left there for them. Dutch immigrants brought the legend of St Nicholas, known to them as Sint Nikolaas or by his nickname, Sinterklaas, to America in the 1700s. The name St Nicholas went through many transformations in America: Sinterklaas became Santa Claus, and instead of giving gifts on December 6, he became a part of the Christmas festival.

St Nicholas' tomb in Myra became a popular place of pilgrimage. Because of the many wars and attacks in the region, some Christians were concerned that access to the tomb might become difficult. The Italian cities of Venice and Bari vied to secure Nicholas' relics. In the spring of 1087, sailors from Bari succeeded in spirited away the bones, bringing them to Bari, a seaport on the southeast coast of Italy.

An impressive church was built over St Nicholas' crypt and many faithful journeyed to honour the saint who had rescued children, prisoners, sailors, famine victims, and many others through his compassion, generosity, and the countless miracles attributed to his intercession. The Nicholas shrine in Bari was one of medieval Europe's great pilgrimage centres and Nicholas became known as 'Saint in Bari'. To this day pilgrims and tourists

visit Bari's great Basilica di San Nicola. Through the centuries St Nicholas has continued to be venerated by Catholics and Orthodox Christians. By his example of generosity to those in need, especially children, St Nicholas continues to be a model for the compassionate life.

*Credits: (1) The Biography.com website at www.biography.com/people/st-nicholas-204635
(2): www.stnicholascenter.org*

A Prayer to Saint Nicholas of Myra

O good St Nicholas,
you who are the joy of the children,
put in my heart the spirit of childhood,
which the gospel speaks,
and teach me to seed happiness around me.

You, whose feast prepares us for Christmas,
open my faith to the mystery of God made man.

You good bishop and shepherd,
help me to find my place in the Church
and inspire the Church to be faithful to the Gospel.

O good Saint Nicholas, patron of children,
sailors and the helpless,
watch over those who pray to Jesus,
your Lord and theirs,
as well as over those who humble themselves before you.

Bring us all in reverence to the Holy Child of Bethlehem,
where true joy and peace are found.

Amen.

Credit: Originally published in December 2014. Copyright © The Catholic Company. All rights reserved.

Bruhenny Explained



The ruins of the original pre-Reformation church in Bruhenny graveyard

Churchtown is a translation of Baile an Teampuill, the former ecclesiastical name of the parish, and that in turn was in substitution for the older, non-ecclesiastical name of Brú Thuinne, ‘The Royal House of the Low Lands’. All three names are found together in an extract from the Patent Rolls of Henry VIII, quoted by Brady, vol. II, p.72: “1545, February 10. James Roche is presented to R[ectory] Ballintemple als. Broghenny als. Churchtown”.

Since 1591 the old Irish name has been Anglicised Bruhenny and has given rise to several absurd speculations. Brú or brúgh, a large house or palace, is certain, and for the second term we have the ‘authority of O’Brien (Dictionary, p. 65) who identifies the place as ‘the marshy part of Orrery in County Cork’, making it equally certain that we have here the genitive of the common word Tonn, low-lying land, pasture land.

Source: Journal of the Ivernian Society. Vol. VI - October 1913 to September 1914, Cork, Guy and Company Ltd. 1916, p. 48.

Grove White Publication 1911

In the years 1906 to 1915 Colonel James Grove White collected four volumes of local history and folklore in North County Cork. Pages 176 to 187 in Volume 2 which was published in 1911 refer to Bruhenny / Churchtown. There are considerable references to Churchtown Church history with multiple references to information gleaned from the Pipe Roll of Cloyne.

The Catholic Church in Churchtown

Our recorded Church history in Churchtown goes back 800 years and gives the village its name. For instance, we know from *Rotulus Pipae Clonensis* or the *Pipe Roll of Cloyne* that in the 13th Century the village was described as 'Bruhenny alias Baile an Teampaill alias Churchtown'.

The Pipe Roll of Cloyne was a medieval document that gave an insight into the system of land ownership within the diocese of Cloyne. It was discovered in the Registry of St Colman's Cathedral in the middle of the 19th Century. There are multiple references to Bruhenny and Churchtown in this ancient document.

In 1291 Bruhenny Roman Catholic Church was located in the graveyard in the centre of the village. This was 250 years before the Reformation took hold in Ireland and the establishment of the Church of Ireland. It would not have been until the very late 1500s that Bruhenny Church became a place of worship for Church of Ireland parishioners. Some of the remains of Bruhenny Church still exist and the graveyard of the Church contains both Catholic and Protestant graves.

At some point after the Reformation – most likely around 1600 – the loss of Bruhenny Church in the village and the later enactment of the Penal Laws meant the Catholic congregation worshipped in the houses of Catholic gentry or at Mass Rocks. As the majority of people in the country remained Catholic, an underground church developed and the people sheltered and supported priests.

As the Penal Laws were relaxed in the late 1700s / early 1800s the Catholic church congregation built a church at Annagh – probably in the 1770s. Annagh was a smaller village three kilometers north of Churchtown village where a flax industry boomed in the late 1700s but flax production went into decline in the early 1800s as did Annagh village which is now in ruins.

Plans for the construction of the present church of St Nicholas began during the incumbency of Rev David O'Leary (1839-1859) and presumably halted during and until immediately after the Great Famine (1845-49).

The Cork antiquary John Windele (1801-65) writing in 1851 noted that 'Churchtown has one of the few thatched chapels now in the diocese [of



The Cross from Annagh Church now located at St Nicholas' Churchyard.

Cloyne]'. It is this reference and a letter from parishioners to the Bishop dated June 7th 1860 that tell us that parishioners were unhappy with progress on the new Church as the thatched chapel was far too small for the congregation.

Father O'Leary was the driving force in the planning and development of the new St Nicholas' Church and in this regard he placed a tender advertisement in the Cork Examiner on 15th March 1858. Fr O'Leary died a year later on 25th March 1859 and so never saw work begin on the Church. Fr O'Leary was replaced by Fr William Tuomey who on 5th April 1860 placed a second advertisement this time in the Cork Constitution newspaper seeking tenders for the building of St Nicholas'. The plans and specifications were available from Donegan's, 5 North Mall in Cork.

The new St Nicholas' was built during the second half of the 1860s and replaced a simpler and smaller thatched structure on the same site. It is believed that stone from the church at Annagh was used in the perimeter wall of the new church and, of course, the original Annagh Church Cross may still be seen in the grounds of St Nicholas' Church.

NOTICE TO BUILDERS.

THE NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHURCHTOWN.

PERSONS desirous of contracting for the Erection of the above CHURCH, may see the Plan and Specification at the office of the Architect, Mr. JOHN HURLEY, Victoria Terrace, Cork; and at the Rev. DAVID O'LEARY'S, P.P., Churchtown.

Sealed Tenders to be sent in and addressed to the Rev. DAVID O'LEARY, P.P., on or before the 20th day of March, 1858.

The Committee do not bind themselves to accept the Lowest or any Tender. (829)

*Tender - Cork Examiner,
15 March 1858*

TO BUILDERS.

THE NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHURCHTOWN, DIOCESE OF CLOYNE.

PERSONS desirous of Contracting for the Erection of the above CHURCH may see the Plans and Specifications at Mr. DONEGAN'S, No. 5, NORTH MALL, Cork, on and after the 4th day of APRIL, 1860, between the hours of 11 and 2 o'clock.

Sealed Tenders to be sent in and addressed to the Rev. WILLIAM TWOMY, P.P., Churchtown, on or before the 11th day of April.

The Rev. Mr. TWOMY will not be bound to accept the lowest or any Tender. (1480)

*Tender - Cork Constitution,
5 April 1860*

Catholic Parish Priests

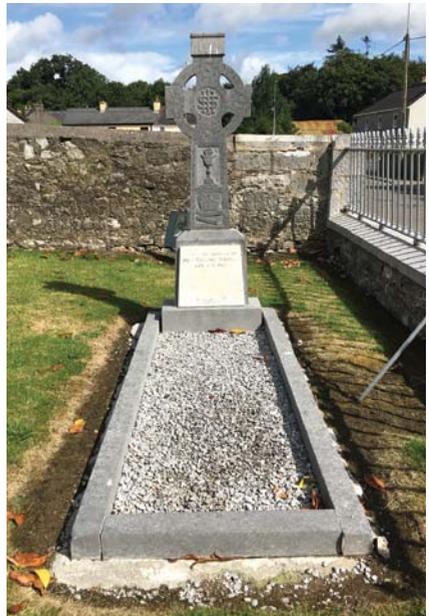
This record of Catholic Parish Priests is reproduced largely from The Annals of Churchtown which was published in 2005 by the Churchtown Village Renewal Trust now succeeded by Churchtown Heritage Society. The original research was carried out by Denis J Hickey.

While our research is far from complete earliest ecclesiastical records from the Pipe Roll of Cloyne (Rotulus Pipae Clonensis) tell us that in 1291, more than 200 years before the Reformation began in the early 1500s, that “at Bruhenny Church, 100 yards east of the town, Robert Cheusner was presented to the vicarage by Odo de Barry”. Later John de Barry Clarke was presented by Thomas O’Holan who was appointed rector in 1311 and we find Vide Cahirultan in possession of the rectorship of Brothing (Bruhenny) in 1384. Reverend Donald O’Mongayn is recorded as the parish priest 1418. We have no further Roman Catholic records until 1704.

Even though the Reformation started in 1517 and Henry VIII declared himself Supreme Head of the Church in 1534 we can assume it would have taken many decades for Bruhenny Church to be taken over by the Church of Ireland. We could speculate that it must have happened during the Plantation of Munster, some years before 1600?

The next record of a Catholic Priest in Churchtown is that of Reverend Daniel Daly, listed as resident in Lisgriffin, who replaced Donald O’Mongayn in 1704. The year 1714 saw Reverend Maurice Brown as pastor. Reverend John O’Brien was Parish Priest from 1730 to 1750; he was known as An Sagart Dubh because of his dark complexion and he was a renowned Gaelic poet. He was succeeded by Reverend William Joyce, who, following his transfer to Ballyhea in 1761, was succeeded by Reverend Edward Dwyer.

Kilbrin-born Reverend Maurice Hallihan held the post from 1763 to 1767 and his successor was a Franciscan, Reverend Denis McAuliffe, who remained until 1775. Reverend Pierce Mansfield was



The grave at St Nicholas' of Fr Edmund Irwin who was born at Annagh and died in 1965.

incumbent in 1775-98. He is buried in the family plot at St James' Church of Ireland, Mallow; strangely, the inscription on his tombstone reads, '9 years of Churchtown and Liscarroll', even though he was the incumbent for 13 years.

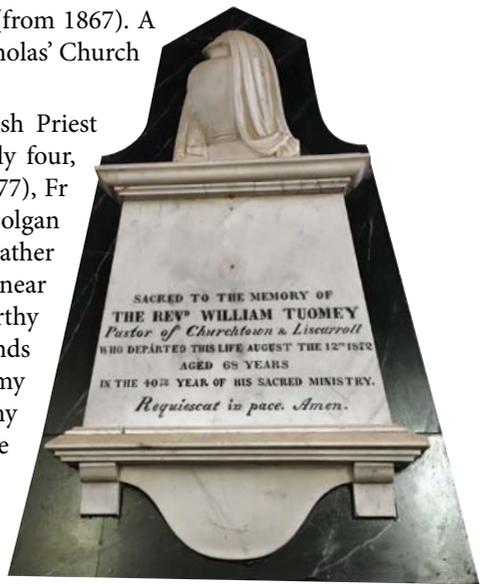
Reverend William Norris, who remained until 1812, succeeded Reverend Mansfield. In 1812, the Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths was begun in the parish by the Reverend Daniel O'Brien. He remained for some 26 years. Reverend O'Brien and Sheriff Crofts prevented the houses in Churchtown village from being razed by Colonel Gough's command from Buttevant during the 'Burning' of Churchtown in 1822 following the murder of four policemen in the RIC Barracks.

In 1837 Father O'Brien was replaced by Fr David O'Leary. Father O'Leary who would have been a driving force in the planning and development of St Nicholas' Church died on 25th March 1859; a marble mural in St Mary's Church, Buttevant, marks his burial place. Father O'Leary's curate was Father Daniel Falvey. Father Falvey was transferred to Buttevant in 1841 and Father Patrick Purcell briefly replaced him. The next curate was Father Daniel Freeman, transferred from Killeagh in 1842. Father William Golden, who came as curate in 1843, died in Churchtown of 'Famine Fever' in 1847.

Father William Tuomey, who also built the present church in Liscarroll, was Parish Priest from 1859-1872 and had as curates Fr David Cashman (1862-67) and Fr Cornelius Cashman (from 1867). A marble tablet inset in the wall of St Nicholas' Church marks Father Tuomey's resting place.

Reverend Charles McCarthy was Parish Priest from 1872-1878; he saw three, possibly four, curates in the parish – Fr Cahill (to 1877), Fr Timothy Lenihan (1877-78), Fr Philip Colgan (1878) and Fr Savage (1878-84). Father McCarthy's family purchased lands near Granard for parish use. Father McCarthy built the parochial house on these lands and his frequent references to it as 'my castle' gave the name CastlemacCarthy both to it and the surrounding area. He is buried in Liscarroll Church.

Father McCarthy was followed by Reverend James Barry as Parish Priest; he died in 1891 (the year in which a second curate was appointed and



The plaque in St Nicholas' Church to Reverend William Tuomey.

took up residency in the Liscarroll end of the parish). Father Barry's curates were Fr Savage (to 1884), Fr David Williams (1884-87), Fr Patrick Murphy (1887-89) and Fr Bartholomew O'Keeffe, DD (1889-91). Reverend Timothy O'Keeffe (1891-1901) was the next Parish Priest; his curate was Fr Michael Ellard. Reverend Eugene O'Connell – the pastor destined to have the briefest stewardship – arrived in July 1901 and left to take up parochial duties in Kanturk in September 1902.

The shortest reign was followed by the longest one – that of Father Pierce McSweeney. He was a keen gardener and was known for his spectacular show of antirrhinums each year. An elegant limestone cross marks his grave in St Nicholas' church grounds, inscribed with the words:

Erected by the people of Churchtown and Liscarroll in memory of their beloved pastor, the Very Reverend Pierce McSweeney, PP. He presided over them with gentleness and zeal for 23 years. Revered and mourned by his flock.

He died in 1923 in the 84th year of his age and 55th of his sacred ministry.



List of Curates :—

- Rev. David Sheahan, 1838 to 1862.
- Rev. David Cashman, 1862 to 1867.
- Rev. Cornelius Cahill, 1867 to 1877.
- Rev. Timothy Lenihan, 1877 to 1878.
- Rev. Philip Cogan, 1878.
- Rev. Father Savage, 1878 to 1884.
- Rev. David Williams, 1884 to 1887.
- Rev. Patrick Murphy, 1887 to 1889.
- Rev. Bartholomew O'Keeffe, D.D., 1889 to 1891.
- ¹Rev. Michael Ellard, 1891 to 1896.
- ¹Rev. Timothy O'Callaghan, 1891 to 1904.

¹ A second curate was appointed in the year 1891. He resides in the Liscarroll portion of the parish.

N.B.—There is no authentic information of the exact period or stay of some of the curates in the parish; however, before inserting the dates, some of the principal inhabitants of the parish have been consulted, and the dates inserted as given by them.

Record of Catholic Curates in the Parish from James Grove White's publication.

Father McSweeney's curate in 1911, according to the Census of that year, was Reverend Michael Whelan, who had succeeded Father Eugene McCarthy in 1904. Father Daniel Foley, who became Parish Priest in March 1925, had as curate Fr James Roche (who was to return as Parish Priest in the 1940s). Father Foley was born in Coolcaum, a first cousin of the Irish nationalist and Archbishop of Melbourne, Daniel Mannix (1864-1963). For many years, Father Foley was driven on his priestly duties by his jarvey, Gerry, and when the latter died the priest used a fixed-wheel Raleigh bicycle. A diminutive figure, Father Foley possessed a fine singing voice. On his visits to the school he conducted the children as they sang and he usually obliged with two of his favourites – 'Annie Laurie' and 'The Bonny, Bonny, Banks of Loch Lomond'.

Father Foley was a relative of Tom O'Brien, owner of a village pub and shop. On several occasions, Father Foley's enthusiasm for music led, according to ex-pupil John Browne, to the pupils leaving school as late as six o'clock. In his role as patron of North Cork GAA, Father Foley frequently threw in the ball at the commencement of hurling matches. He was buried in Liscarroll on 27th March 1945 and his Month's Mind was held in the schoolhouse in Churchtown, now the Community Centre. Father Foley's successor was his former curate, Father James Roche.

Father Roche was fortunate to have as his curate Father Martin Cusack. Father Cusack was a wonderful singer and during his time in Churchtown

he encouraged the formation of the Churchtown Dramatic Society, through whose efforts much-needed repairs to the roof of the church were largely financed. Father Roche, in one of his last parochial duties, officiated at the opening of the new school in 1947.

Father James Cotter was the next Parish Priest (1947-53). He had at one time been chaplain to the British troops in Ballyvonaire. He drove a



St Nicholas' Church nicely illuminated at dusk on 21st May 2019. The Celtic Cross in the foreground marks the grave of Fr Edmund Irwin.

(Picture credit: GMM)



The Marble Altar at St Nicholas' Church.

black car, with registration number ZB 2494, and he would alert the village to his approach by sounding the horn twice as he came to Hickey's Hill (also called Kerry Lane). Fr Cotter is remembered as a lovely easy-going man.

In the very late 1940s (possibly), a contractor removed the entire old slating on the church roof – known as 'kings' and 'queens'— and replaced them with modern slates. The original church slates now roof a well-known castle in County Cork. In later years, Ned Dorney carried out roof and other major maintenance repairs on St Nicholas' Church.

Father Cotter threw the switch that officially brought electric power to the village in 1949. Altar boys enjoyed serving Mass for him. Fr Cotter was followed by Fr James J Savage. Father Savage acquired a horse named 'George' which he rode to sick calls and to the stations. 'George' was stabled at the rear of his house. Father Savage then graduated to a motor bike on which he – and the frightened Altar boy – had some near death experiences en route to the Stations!

Father Savage had a wonderful singing voice and was always a popular turn at the



Fr Daniel J O'Callaghan, PP 1977 to 1984



Fr Patrick J Twohig, PP 1985 to 2001 presenting Paddy McMahon, on his retirement as postman in 1987 with a new TV from the people of the parish.

Dramatic Society's concerts. A talented preacher, he was much in demand at surrounding churches and at retreats. Father Savage was the last to reside at the curate's house in Churchtown village. The property was later acquired by the Gaffney family.

Reverend Philip Mortell was Parish Priest from 1953-62, followed by Dr Matthew Twomey from 1962 until his retirement to Kanturk in 1977. Reverend Daniel J O'Callaghan ministered from 1977-84 and he was followed by Reverend Donal O'Driscoll, who remained until 1985. Historian and author, Reverend Patrick J Twohig, was Parish Priest from 1985-2001.

Coachford-born Reverend Stephen O'Mahony, was appointed Parish priest in 2001. His first curate was Fr Stephen Cummins, who was succeeded in 2003 by Fr Tom McDermott, a native of Charleville. Fr Tom was transferred to Inniscarra in 2013 and Fr Stephen O'Mahony retired. At the same time the Diocese decided not to appoint a Curate and so Cloyne born Fr Robin Morrissey was appointed Parish Priest of Churchtown and Liscarroll in 2013.



Fr Tom McDermott was Parish Curate from 2003 to 2013.

Name	Years	Further details
Donald O'Moygayn	1418 –	
Daniel Daly	1704 –	Resident in Lisgriffin
Maurice Brown	1714 –	
John O'Brien	1730 – 1750	Buried at Carrigdownane
William Joyce	1750 – 1761	Transferred to Ballyhea
Edward Dwyer	1761 – 1763	
Maurice Hallihan	1763 – 1767	Buried at Kilbrin
Denis McAuliffe, OFM	1767 – 1775	
Pierce Mansfield	1775 – 1798	Buried at St James' in Mallow
William Norris	1798 – 1812	
Daniel O'Brien	1812 – 1838	Buried at Kilgrogan
David O'Leary	1838 – 1859	Buried at Buttevant on 25th March
William Tuomey	1859 – 1872	Buried Churchtown on 12th August
Charles McCarthy	1872 – 1878	Buried Lisscarroll on 10th April
James Barry	1878 – 1891	Buried Lisscarroll on 25th December
Timothy O'Keefe	1891 – 1901	Buried Lisscarroll on 9th June
Eugene B. O'Connell	1901 – 1902	Transferred to Kanturk
Pierce McSweeney	1902 – 1925	Buried Churchtown on 28th February
Daniel Foley	1925 – 1945	Buried Lisscarroll on 27th March
John Roche	1945 – 1947	Transferred to Newmarket
James Cotter	1947 - 1953	Transferred to Kildorrery
Philip Mortell	1953 – 1962	Transferred to Newtownshandrum
Matthew Twomey, DD	1962 – 1977	Retired
Daniel J. O'Callaghan	1977 – 1984	Retired
Donal D. O'Driscoll	1984 – 1985	Transferred to Cloyne
Patrick J. Twohig	1985 – 2001	Retired
Stephen O'Mahony	2001 – 2013	Retired
Robin Morrissey	2013 –	

Griffith's Valuation

The total area of the church grounds is given in Griffith's Valuation (1851) as 1 rood and 8 perches, and places a nominal rent of £10 10s 0d upon it (the church, school and cemetery were exempt from rents). Griffith's Valuation was carried out ten years before St Nicholas' was built and so these grounds would have been where the thatched Church was located possibly in the same location as the current Church.



St Nicholas' Choir on Sunday 7th April 2019: Left to Right – Alice Simcox, Ann Fehin, Eileen Scott, James Roche, Louise Roche, Russ Harris, Fr Robin, Rosario Buckley, Rosemary O'Flaherty, Esther Quinn, Mary Jo O'Sullivan and Mary Murphy. Choir members Mary Barry, Helen Daly, Willie Relihan and Catherine Sheahan were unavoidably absent on 7th April.

St Nicholas' Church Choir

Churchtown choir was widely recognised as an excellent choral group. During the 1940s, it comprised of both adults and children. Nora O'Keeffe was the accompanist on the harmonium. In the 1950s, the choir consisted almost entirely of schoolchildren, who were accompanied on the harmonium by their teacher, Margaret Wall. Since Vatican II, a choir has supported the liturgy in St Nicholas' Church. Organists included Ellie Mary O'Keeffe and in recent years Rosario Buckley and Louise Roche.

St Nicholas' Sacristans

Sacristans associated with the church included Kate McCarthy, who lost her 25 year-old son Michael during the First World War. Devoted to her work, Kate's apparent omnipresence in the church was legendary; on one occasion the Diocesan Examiner, seeking confirmation of our Lord's Perpetual Presence in the Tabernacle, asked a local pupil, 'Who never leaves the



Kate McCarthy, Sacristan of St Nicholas' Catholic Church c.1948.

church?’ Quick as a flash came the answer, ‘Kate Carthy, Father’. Kate was the recipient of the Benemerenti Medal from the Vatican for over 40 years’ devoted service. Hannie ‘Booney’ O’Sullivan followed her in the post of Sacristan. ‘Birdie’ Flynn followed Hannie and she was succeeded, in turn, by Bridget Flynn, Nan Fisher and Eileen Scott. The Sacristan in 2005 was Julia Coleman. The Sacristan in 2019 was Patricia Crowley.



Birdie Flynn, Sacristan, at the 'old' altar at St Nicholas' Church.

St Nicholas' Church Artifacts

The marble Holy Water font in the porch of the church was the gift of Mr and Mrs David Creedon of Ballynaboul; the Baptismal font was donated jointly by John Flannery, Churchtown, and the world famous race horse trainer Vincent O'Brien, Clashganniv House; the Stations of the Cross were the gift of Dr Mary Cowhey of Churchtown House. The Confession boxes were replaced in the late 1940s with a pair manufactured by local carpenter, Paddy Flynn. Patrick 'Condy' O'Mahony regularly repainted the statues in the church up to the 1940s.



The Holy Water Font



Above: The Baptismal Font.

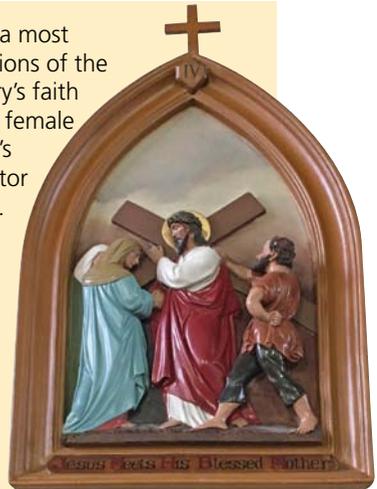
*Right: one of the two
Confessionals in St Nicholas'
manufactured by local carpenter
Paddy Flynn.*



Dr Mary Cowhey of Churchtown House was a most respected member of our community. The Stations of the Cross in St Nicholas' are a testament to Dr Mary's faith and benevolence. She was one of the first two female students admitted to University College Dublin's Medical School in 1898. She qualified as a doctor in 1905, establishing a Practice in Churchtown.

Churchtown elders fondly remember Dr Mary for the care and attention she lavished on all her patients especially people with no means to make payment. In her later years, she heard Mass in the Sacristy of St Nicholas' Church as did Miss Lulu Purcell of Burton Park.

Dr Mary's mother Bessie was the first woman owner of an Irish Derby winner when her horse 'Loch Lomond' won the 1919 Irish Derby on 19th July. Her father, James, had died less than a year earlier. A headstone in Kilgrogan cemetery which reads 'The Cowhey family of Annagh and Churchtown House' marks the resting place of Dr Mary Cowhey of Churchtown House.



Source: The Annals of Churchtown © 2005

St Nicholas' on National TV

On April 3rd 2011 Fr Tom McDermott celebrated Mass live from Churchtown broadcasting to a large audience of viewers around Ireland and on the internet from RTE 1, with a special focus on Trocaire's Lenten Campaign. Fr Tom was reported at the time in *The Corkman* as follows: "It's great for our village in Churchtown to be able to support Trocaire's Lenten Campaign through this Mass on Sunday. I've seen the work Trocaire does first hand and how vital it is for the families and communities supported by Trocaire. It is great to see the parish of Churchtown-Liscarroll coming together as a community to support Trocaire's important, lifesaving work and to remember the people in the developing world". Ina Burke is the current Parish Trocaire representative.

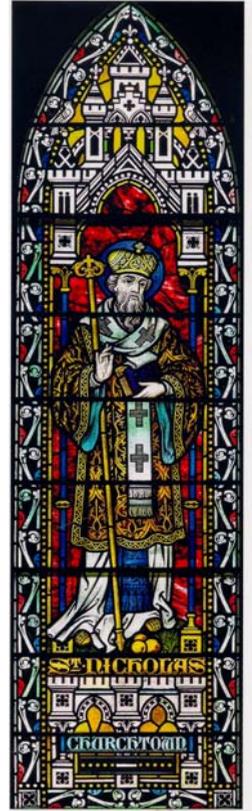
The Mass Rock

The Penal Laws attempted to control the activities of Catholic priests through the issue of a licence. The law prohibited both the saying and the hearing of Mass offered by 'unlicensed' priests. Many clerics, unwilling to compromise their priestly vows, refused to register and went 'on the run'. In an effort to circumvent the law, Mass was celebrated at secret locations on a specially blessed portable slab of rock.

Various stratagems were adopted to ensure that the Mass site was not divulged to the authorities, the most common being the seemingly innocuous query to a fellow Catholic, 'Were you at the Rock, and did you see my love there?' If the answer was 'Yes' to both queries, it was safe to proceed there to hear Mass. If, however, the answer was 'No' to the second part of the question, it meant that the authorities had discovered the location. The old Irish song, *An raibh Tú ag an gCarraig?* ('Were you at the Rock?') relates such an event. A Mass Rock is preserved in the Garden Field of Guiney's in the townland of Clashelane.

The Mass Walk

The 'Mass Walk' was an established right of way through the fields that was used by country people on their way to and from Mass (it also tended to be used by schoolchildren on their way to and from school). Two of the



The Church Window in St Colman's Cathedral, Cobh dedicated to St Nicholas and Churchtown.

most widely used Mass paths in the parish were the one from Clashelane which ran through Páirc na Locha via the quarries to Carrigeen na gCat and exited at Ballyadam; and the one from Walshestown which brought the walker through Leap, the Bog Field and through an oak screen before negotiating a stile at the corner of Beechinor's Field and continuing across the Well Field (formerly an orchard and subsequently renamed Peter's Paddock), along the Lower Walk and exiting close to Burton Lodge gate, before continuing along the Burton Road to St Nicholas' Church.

St Nicholas' Technical Specifications

Saint Nicholas' Church in Churchtown is a freestanding gable-fronted church having a four-bay nave elevation, one-bay chancel to west, and Priest's entrance porch and sacristy to the southern elevation. The roof is pitched artificial slate with ashlar limestone bellcote having cast-iron bell and cut limestone cross finial, and cast-iron rainwater goods.

Snecked roughly-dressed limestone walls, with stepped cut and rubble stone plinth, and with tooled cut stone buttresses to corners of church proper. Carved limestone holy water stoups to gable-front. Roughcast rendered walls to chancel and smooth rendered walls to sacristy extension. Pointed arch openings with chamfered stone surrounds, having leaded stained glass to windows. The east window is five-light.

The main entrance in gable-front with a cut-stone order arch with dressed stone voussoirs, cut-stone hood-moulding, and double-leaf timber battened doors with decorative cast-iron strap hinges. There is a flight of limestone steps to entrance. Tudor-arched door opening to porch with cut-stone surround and timber battened door with step. Pointed window flanking porch door has latticed window. Marble reredos, altar, rails and baptismal font to interior. Gallery over entrance end of nave. Arch-braced timber A-framed roof, arch feet being borne on limestone corbels. Graveyard to side. Snecked tooled limestone boundary walls and piers with decorative cast-iron railings, double-leaf and pedestrian gates to site.





One of two inset carved limestone water fountains at left and right of the entrance arch to St Nicholas' Church.

The elevations of St Nicholas' church are greatly enlivened by its rich limestone construction, contrasted with the ashlar limestone bellcote, window surrounds and quoins. Its arch-braced roof is typical of churches of the period and the marble altar furniture are of artistic interest, as are the fine carved stoups to the gable-front. Situated in a small graveyard on a slightly elevated site in the landscape, the character of this church and its surroundings has changed little since the mid-nineteenth century. It forms a pleasing focal feature in the local community.

These technical specifications are reproduced from the book, An Introduction to the Architectural Heritage of North Cork (2009), ISBN 9781406421767.

St Brigid's Well

St Brigid's Well in the townland of Mountbrigid in Churchtown is the scene of an annual pilgrimage on 1st February, the Feast Day of Brigid, Patroness of Ireland. It has been suggested, however, that both the well and surrounding townland are actually dedicated to another Brigid, sister of St Colman, Patron of the Diocese of Cloyne. Our local St Brigid is believed to have been born at Ardskeagh in Ballyhea and her Feast Day is actually on 6th March. Her brother, Colman, who was converted by St Brendan in about 570 AD, had a monastery at Kilmaclenine (Cill Mac Lenin or 'church of the son of Lenin'), also in Ballyhea, the ruins of which are still



The shrine at St Brigid's Well at Mountbrigid.

extant. According to the Book of Munster, Mac Lenin (born c. 522) of KilmacLenine was a bard baptised by St Brendan, who christened him Colman. Colman went on to found the Church of Cloyne.

The ancient ash tree that stood by St Brigid's Well, known as Biddy's Tree, was brought down by a severe storm in January 1973. No effort has been spared by the parish's local committee in providing ease of access for the many that pause for prayer at this ancient site.

Right: St Brigid's Shrine in St Nicholas' Church.

Below: The plaque at St Brigid's Shrine in St Nicholas' Church.



Páircín na Cille

Páircín na Cille, as the translation reveals, is "little field of the church" at Mountbrigid. This was also an alternative burial grounds used in bygone days as a result of Church rules not allowing burial of unbaptised infants in consecrated graveyards. Cillín burial grounds were also used to bury some adults. It was also used in times of famine, particularly during the Great Famine. There are a number of Cillins in Churchtown including one at Leap.



The Cillín memorial at Mountbrigid.

Churches in Churchtown



The private oratory at Burton Park.

Burton Park Oratory: there is a small private oratory in the main house which was used by generations of the Purcell family. This oratory was approved by the Vatican as a place where Sunday Mass observance could be fulfilled. This Chapel includes wall memorials to members of the Purcell family who died in the Great War and thereafter.

Bruhenny Church: the ruins of the old pre-Reformation Church in Bruhenny graveyard in the village are still standing. This would have originally been a Church of Rome and listed in Papal Taxation documentation dated 1291. Bruhenny Church was in ruins in 1615 and abandoned by 1694 when a new Protestant church was planned.

Granard Church: interestingly, Granard, a townland placed in Churchtown by Moland in his 1702 survey, now forms part of Liscarroll but in ancient times Granard was a parish in its own right with a Church and Graveyard. Both Catholics and Protestants are buried in this ancient spot. Granard Gaels is a most appropriate name for the combined Churchtown and Liscarroll Juvenile GAA Club.

Kilgrogan: Cill Grogan or 'Church of Grogan'. Kilgrogan is listed as both a parish and a townland within the Churchtown District Electoral Division. The townland encloses a cemetery occupying one-third of an acre. Within

the cemetery, which is surrounded by a two-foot thick limestone wall, the outline of an old church or monastery (or both) may still be traced through its remaining stone. The building is measured as 30 feet by 24 feet. Tradition has it that in olden times the monks here worked in close harmony with the monks of Killabraham; and Killabraham is clearly visible on a hill to the northwest. Killabraham translates as Church (Cill) of the Brothers (Bráthair).

Maryfield Church: this new Church of Ireland was approved by an Act of Parliament in 1710 which sanctioned the building of a church at 'Maryland' located a quarter of a mile to the west of Churchtown village. Today, the site of this church is located at the south-eastern end of the GAA grounds. The building was consecrated in 1715 and was called Maryfield Church, capable of accommodating a congregation of 300 people.

Maryfield Church of Ireland survived for 179 years. Construction commenced in 1715 and it was built in several stages until it finally acquired its cruciform shape. With tower and chancel later added, the church was not finally dedicated until 1792. The dedication stone was embedded inside the west wall and is today retained at St John's Church of Ireland in Buttevant, with which Bruhenny was later amalgamated. Maryfield Church was, however, demolished in 1894. The stone from Maryfield was sold to a road contractor and the beech trees were felled; the monies raised were used to repair the wall around the old Bruhenny church in the village. In the spirit of ecumenism between Christian communities we welcome our Church of Ireland neighbours and friends to St Nicholas' Church.



Chalices in St Nicholas' Church

There are four chalices in St Nicholas' Church. The main chalice is an outstanding sacred vessel and its inscription reads:

“Presented to Rev. Daniel Foley P.P. Liscarroll as a token of esteem by the Parishioners of Cloyne. Aug 1925.”

This chalice was presented to Fr Foley by the Parishioners of Cloyne. Fr Foley served in Middleton, Cloyne and Killeagh before he came to Churchtown-Liscarroll where he served as PP from 1925-1945.

The other three chalices are dedicated to individuals and are inscribed as follows:

- (1) *Memory of Anthony Rubino;*
- (2) *In Memory of Margaret O’Connel*
(as inscribed);
- (3) *In Memory of Mary Comer.*



Catholic Population of Churchtown in 1766

*Prepared on 26th March 1766 by Charles Perceval, Church of
Ireland Rector of Churchtown.*

Maurice Hallahan (reputed Popish Priest)	Widow Body	John Sheehan
Dennis McAuliffe (a reputed Friar)	Philip Dunnagan	Cornelius Connel
Patrick Doolin	Thomas Kelly	William Coleman
Daniel Dawly	Maurice Quinlan	Connor Bryen
John Dunnagan	James Flemmming	Laurence Guinnee
Redmond Welsh	Widow Holmes	David Welsh
Edmond Ahern	James Daw	Patrick Quinlan
Martin Bawn	Widow Franklin	William Sheehan
John McAuliffe	Richard Conron	John Garvey
William Welsh	Patrick Hanrahan	John Fitzmaurice
John Noonan	Edward Harns	Timothy Rierdon
Cornelius Coughlan	Edward Roach	Micheal Rierdon
John Neil	James Malloy	John Keefe
John Coleman	Widow Crotty	Michael Coughlan
Widow Geran	Laurence Kelly	Daniel Rierdon
Florence McCarthy	John Sullavan	Andrew Sheehan
Daniel Flinn	Patrick McGrath	Robert Magner
Nicholas Body	John Hays	Daniel Callaghan
David Supple	Thomas Egan	Timothy Callaghan
Widow Quin	Daniel Mahony	Patrick Bryan
Peter Fowlow	John Bourk	John Egan
Richard Saunders	John Malloy	Morgan Bryen
James Welsh	John Sheehan	John Morrissy
William Sheehan	Abraham Hartly	Henry Grady
Dennis Sullivan	Owen Keefe	Patrick Dougherty
	Malachy Sullavan	John Hassett
	Laurence Kenedy	James Supple
	Widow Gorman	Denis Murphy
	Widow Fowlow	Thomas Bolan

Thomas Coughlan	Matthew Sheehan	Edmond Howard
Maurice Kirby	Patrick Croneen	Thomas Fitzmaurice
Richard Griffin	Timothy Connell	James Guinnee
Dennis Ward	Margaret Tranane	Edmond Croke
Patrick Welsh	John Bluet	John Leo
David Welsh	Timothy Callaghan	Michael Shanahan
Alice Barry	Daniel Sullavan	David Welsh
Michael Croneen	Humphrey Courtney	John Doody
John Guinnee	James Lane	Michael Hallahan
John Dennahy	Francis Loow	Daniel Doody
James Casey	Daniel Healy	Denis Cockran
James Fowlow	Thomas Bruder	Richard Dillon
William Welsh	Connor Callahane	Widow Frawley
David Kenahan	Timothy Kirby	Roger Grady
Widow Duggan	John Callaghan	Widow McCarthy
Simon Givin	Connor O'Connor	Edmond Barry
Elenor Sullavan	Michael Hannan	Patrick Sullavan
Edmond Glover	Laurence Dougherty	Matthew Nagle
James Crofts	William Kelly	James Grady
Widow Connell	Michael Sheehan	Patrick Bryen
Thomas Fitzgerald	Edward Fitzgerald	Darby Noonan
Michael Kent	Timothy Connors	John Hannagan
David Kenedy	James Regan	Florence McCarthy
Dennis Kenedy	Thomas Barret	John Murphy
Patrick Fitzgerald	Thomas Sheehan	Miles Sweeney
Mary Welsh	James Dunnagan	John Hedegan
Widow Sullavan	John Lenane	Conner Conner
Widow Hanrahan	Dennis Kockrane	Widow Flemming
Daniel Dawly	William Linn	James Malone
Charles Dawly	John Mahowney	Richard Kavenagh
John Regan	Stephen Hogan	Arthur Boles
John Carthy	James Barry	Moses Mahony
Daniel Bonnaham	David Roach	James Webb
John Reilly	William Lenahane	Maurice Dawly
Walter Tobin	Michael Linn	Thomas McCormick
John Barret	Timothy Croney	John Sheehan

John Mullane	Patrick Dondon	Garret Brown
William Hederman	Widow Shinigg	John Kane
Widow Roach	Connor Collins	William Higgins
Widow Grant	John Boles	John Hannan
Patrick Barry	Widow Carthy	Edmond Hallahan
Timothy Callaghan	Dennis Coleman	Denis Murphy
Timothy Coleman	Maurice Noonan	Robert Crone
Patrick Carthy	Conner Sheehan	John Buckley
William Lynch	Patrick Higgins	Conner Lennahan
Patrick Bourk	John Quinlan	John Hudner
John Kelly	John Crowley	Francis Hudner
Widow Barry	John Barret	Dennis Sheehan
John Buckley	David Roach	Cornelius Connor
Owen Egan	David Welsh	Daniel Bohily
Edmond Pigot	Owen Fagley	Robert Quishin
James Sheehan	Widow Welsh	Darby Collins
William Barry	Edward Molowney	Daniel Connell
David Neilan	James Campbell	Darby Conner
John Garvan	Hugh Deady	Darby Sullavan
Connot Tasnane	Thomas Barry	Patrick Harrah
Richard Grogan	Widow Toomy	Darby Bradly
Bryen Begly	Thomas Barry	David Quishin
Timothy McAuliffe	William Welsh	Conner Bradly
James Croneen	John Connel	Timothy Bryen
John Bryen	Thomas Smyth	Matthew Fitzpatrick
Connor Bryen	Jeremiah Field	Dennis Callaghan
Widow Carthy	William Norman	Timothy Sullavan
John Byrn	Honour Connel	Darby Coleman
Edward Byrn	John Hourahan	Darby Carthy
Stephen Byrn	Timothy Callaghan	David Collins
John Allen	Edward Murphy	William Sullavan
Daniel Carthy	Robert Brown	

The 1860 Petition to the Bishop

On Thursday June 7th 1860 parishioners presented a petition to Bishop Dr Keane seeking to be allowed a second Mass on Sunday because the (temporary) thatched church was too small to accommodate the congregation for a single Mass. The petition was successful and the parish was allowed the extra Mass some little while later. Viewed through 21st Century lenses the petition is set out in surprisingly strong terms, as follows:

The Right Revd Doctor Keane, Lord Bishop of Cloyne,

May it please your Lordship, We the undersigned parishioners of Churchtown are obliged most reluctantly to complain to your Lordship of the injustice done us in not giving us two Masses as was promised by your Lordship's predecessor the late Right Reverend Doctor Murphy (at least during the building of our new Chapel), and we most respectfully refer your Lordship to the Reverend D. Sheahan, our present curate, for the accuracy of this statement.

If your Lordship had an opportunity of seeing how we are circumstanced the male portion of us having to hear Mass in an open yard, while the females are crushed together in an adjoining room where there is no opportunity of knowing how the Holy Sacrifice is offering up, we feel satisfied your Lordship would require to have the two Masses given, which would remedy these grievances we complain of.

Furthermore my Lord we consider when our new chapel will be built, we still have a just claim on having the Masses continued as this parish constitutes more than half the united Parishes of Churchtown and Lisscarroll in extent and population, and that we contribute two-thirds of the priests' income which makes us submit to your Lordship the reasonableness of our demand, more especially as ours are almost exclusively dairy farms varying from Twenty to Seventy cows from which cause it is quite impossible that our servants can hear Mass at all at the hour appointed, half past ten o'clock.

If the duty be considered too much for two Clergymen we most respectfully request your Lordship to send another curate as we intend for the future to Contribute to the Support of our Clergy

*only in proportion to the share of their Mission our parish receives.
Hoping your Lordship will consider our request reasonable, we
subscribe ourselves your Lordship's dutiful and dedicated servants.*

Churchtown, June 7th 1860.

Signed by:

*Patrick Roche, P. Cowhey, John D. Cowhey, William Roche, Francis
Cowhy, Michael O'Brien, William Thompson, William Connor,
William Duane, Gerald Fitzgibbon, William Murphy, Nathaniel
Simcox, Patrick Brown, Daniel Murphy, Patk. Callanan, John
Coughlan, Maurice Sheehan, Garret Fleming, James Binchy, Michael
Binchy, Callaghan Sullivan, James Roche, Martin Barry, John
Cuillinugh, Thomas Cowhey, Michael O'Sullivan.*

The petition was successful and the parish was allowed the extra Mass
some little while later.



Burton Park

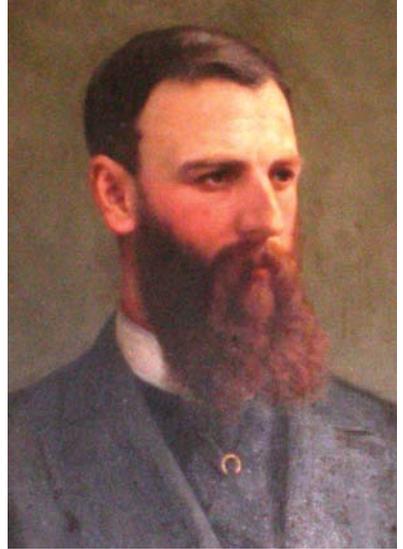
The official conversion – or return – of the Purcell family of Burton Park to the Catholic Church some 200 years after Cromwellian times was the work of John Purcell's brave young Catholic widow Anna Moore Dempsey from Kildare who had married her Protestant husband on 14th May 1850. John Purcell, who was born in 1801, died on 5th January 1853 and thereafter Anna sought – against much opposition – to bring up their two children in her own Roman Catholic faith.

Opposition included an ex parte Court Hearing (that is one where Anna was not represented) in the Roll's Court in Cork on Wednesday 1st June 1859 where an attempt was made to prevent the raising of Anna's children – Mathew John and his sister Eliza – as Catholics. This 1859 Court Hearing was not alone as there had been a previous one in 1854 and a later one occurred in 1874, two years after Anna's death. By this time Eliza also had died, aged sixteen, in 1867.

The Court report of the 1859 Hearing was published in the *Cork Examiner* of Friday evening 3rd June 1859 and the petition charged that Anna Purcell was a zealous Catholic who had the children baptised in the (Catholic) Church in Churchtown. Counsel stated that since the filing of the petition Mrs Purcell had removed the minors to France. The Judge came across as reasonable in his pronouncements and even though he did rule against Mrs Purcell she held her ground and over time her wishes were fulfilled.

Anna ensured that her son Mathew John, who had been born just weeks before his father John died, received a good Catholic education as he was sent to the well known Benedictine boarding school at Downside in Somerset and later studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. No doubt both institutions influenced him greatly. Anna Purcell died in 1872 and her commitment as a young widow in the 1800s to her Catholicism is most noteworthy.

For the record Mathew John was baptised on 16th November 1852 in St Nicholas' Church by Fr David Sheahan who was a Catholic Curate in



Portrait of Mathew John Purcell

Churchtown from 1838 to 1868. There is no record of Eliza's baptism in St Nicholas' registers.

Mathew John Purcell eventually inherited Burton Park and later married Anne Marie Daly of Daly's Grove, Ahascragh, County Galway on the 29th August 1882. Four of his wife's brothers were Jesuits and her eldest sister Mary was also a member of a religious order, all of which must have further copper-fastened his commitment to Catholicism. Mathew John and Anne Marie had nine children including Raymond, who died on 4th July 1928 and Charles Francis, who was killed in action in WWI on 15th September 1916 and both are commemorated in the Oratory at Burton Park.

In recent memory Burton Park was inherited by John Ryan-Purcell (1928-1991). John Ryan-Purcell continued the Purcell tradition of involvement in community affairs and he was a driving force in the formation of, and later an active member of, *Muintir na Tíre* and its successor, the Community Council (now Churchtown Development Association). Burton Park is now owned by John's wife Rosemary Ryan-Purcell and the main house, yard and part of the lands are leased to the mental health charity *Slí Eile*.

Burton Park's Oratory is approved for Sunday observance by the Catholic Church. See "The Annals of Churchtown" and "In Memoriam" at www.churchtown.net/publications/ for further information on Burton Park and the families with which the property is associated. Please note material in this publication supersedes the information on Mathew J Purcell in the published version of "In Memoriam" (but the online version of the publication is now updated).

Credit: Photographs of the 1919 Purcell wedding and additional research provided by Claudia M Reidy, descendant of Anita Mary Purcell. See also Claudia M Reidy, 2010, Marriage Settlements of the Ryans of Ballyviste and Scarteen. MA (Local History) dissertation, University of Limerick.

Anita Purcell's Wedding in 1919

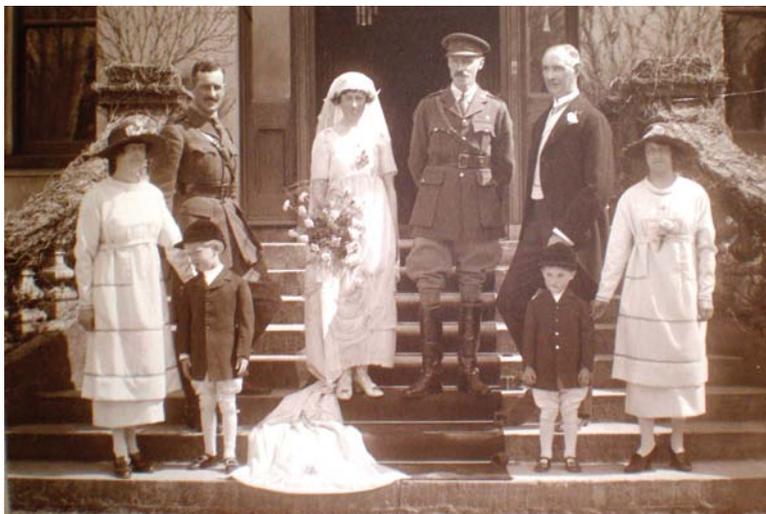
One hundred years ago on 24th April 1919 Anita Purcell (1887–1975) of Burton Park married John J Ryan of Scarteen, Knocklong, Co Limerick in St Nicholas' Church in Churchtown. Her details are recorded in the 1958 edition of Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland as follows:

Anita Mary (Purcell), m. 24 April 1919, John Joseph Ryan, D.L., J.P., M.F.H., eldest son of Major-Gen. Thaddeus Richard Ryan, of Scarteen, Co. Limerick (see that family) and has issue, two sons and two daus. He d. 16 Dec. 1954.

Right: guests arrive at St Nicholas' Church on 24 April 1919 for the wedding of Anita Mary Purcell to John J Ryan.



Below: John J and Anita Ryan with their bridal party at Burton.



Just married and heading to Burton Park for the wedding breakfast. The wedding ceremony normally took place about 11 o'clock and after the breakfast the couple and their guests would have socialised and viewed the wedding presents which would be arranged in a drawing room or such.

Typically, after a couple of hours the bride and groom changed into their 'going away' outfits and were seen off on honeymoon by everyone – and that was it!



Coghlan Family Wedding

The earliest video footage or 'moving pictures' we have of St Nicholas' is an amateur film made in colour in 1949 by Bill Coghlan who had emigrated from the townland of Annagh and lived in Beaver County, Pennsylvania in the USA. Bill was District Attorney for Beaver County. He was married to Elizabeth Sheedy whose father was from Knawhill in Lisscarroll.

Bill and his wife Elizabeth returned home in July/August 1949 – sailing from New York – to attend his niece Mary's wedding in St Nicholas' Church on 4th August. Bill's niece was Mary Coghlan of Annagh who had qualified as a pharmacist and was working in Dublin. She was marrying Dick Murray who was from a Dublin family of builders. The wedding was performed by Bill's brother Fr Matthew Coghlan who was also based in the USA. The wedding witnesses were Patrick Murray and Elizabeth Mary Coghlan who were the groom and bride's siblings.

Thursday 4th August 1949 started as a bright mild day which was perfect for the wedding ceremony in St Nicholas'. Later in the day it was a bit cloudy and there may have been some light showers but this did not deter the guests who attended the wedding breakfast at Coghlan's of Annagh from enjoying a great day in Churchtown.



Rev Matthew Coghlan

*The Happy Couple – Mary Coghlan
and Dick Murray*

Kate McCarthy, Sacristan



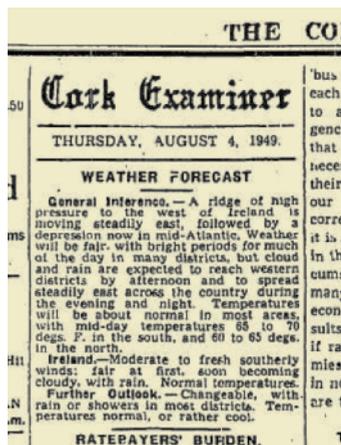
Elizabeth Sheedy Coghlan

Bill Coghlan

Patrick Coghlan, Annagh

On his visit Bill filmed Churchtown village and Liscarroll Castle as well as parts of Cork City. Most interestingly from our viewpoint, he filmed the huge congregation coming out of Mass on the Sunday before the wedding. A huge number of men and women were thronging out of St Nicholas' and were all literally 'in their Sunday best'. There was also a small number of women in traditional shawls including the Sacristan Kate McCarthy. Bill also filmed the crowds at the Church for the wedding on 4th August and this included wedding guests and locals who went to view the 'style'. Unfortunately the footage is somewhat blurred in places but this video archive still serves as a wonderful reminder of times past in Churchtown and a lovely wedding on a summer's day in August 1949.

The Coghlan family of Annagh, Lynch family of Cregane, O'Connor family of Burton and Flannery family of Egmont and the village were all connected by marriage and so the wedding included many members of these families.



Wedding weather: Cork Examiner, 4th August 1949



Lil Costelloe

William and Marguerite (Constant) O'Connor, Burton

Michael Lynch, Cregane

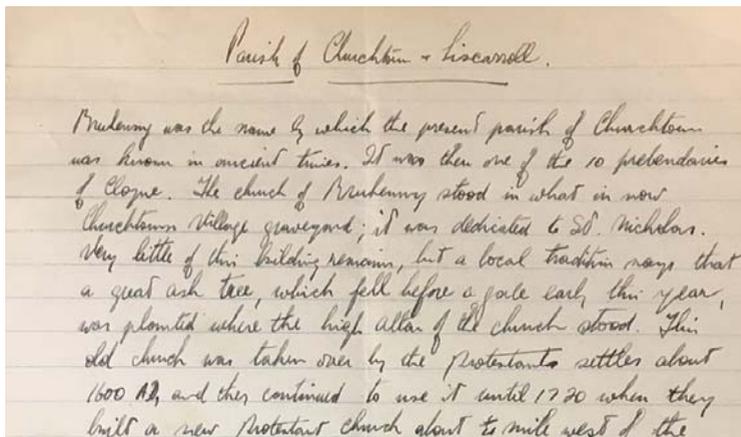


John Flannery

Mary Doyle in her mother's arms

Hanna Relihan in her mother's arms

Fr Cusack's Parish Report 1940s



Fr John Roche was Parish Priest from 1945 to 1947 when he was transferred to Newmarket. His Curate was Fr Martin Cusack who prepared an undated handwritten historical report on the Parish which is preserved in Cloyne Diocesan Centre in Cobh. This report was most likely written in 1946 and it records Fr John Roche as the Parish Priest at the time. In his report – reproduced below exactly as written – Fr Cusack states:

“Bruhenny was the name by which the present Parish of Churchtown was known in ancient times. It was one of the 10 prebendaries of Cloyne. The Church of Bruhenny stood in what is now Churchtown village graveyard, it was dedicated to St Nicholas. Very little of the building remains but a local tradition has it that a great ash tree, which fell before a gale earlier this year was planted where the high altar of the church stood ...

“ ... the Catholics hunted from Church and home gathered at the fringes of the local bogs, especially Annagh Bog to the North of Churchtown. About the middle of the 17th Century they built another church on the Southern side of Annagh ¹.

“Signs of the foundation may still be seen on the Northern side of the Churchtown - Charleville (Black Road) about 50 yards beyond Annagh Bridge over the Awbeg River. Another relic of this Church is

¹ Other records in Cloyne Diocesan Centre propose that 1661 is the date for the building of the Church in Annagh and 1837 as the date for the building of the first thatched Church where St Nicholas' Church now stands.



The gate and cross at Irwin's farm which are the original gates into Annagh Church according to Fr Martin Cusack's 1940s report. Denis J Hickey recalls these gates being repaired and treated for rust at his grandfather's forge.



the iron gate at the entrance to the farm of James Irwin. He says that it was this gate which led to the Church at Annagh. The people who dwelt on the northern side of the bog came to Mass by a raised bank running north-south through the bog and still known as the Mass Bank.

“Gradually the Catholics returned to Churchtown Village, the village of Annagh and its linen industry declined and once again a church was built at Bruhenny on the site where the current church stands; this happened about 1770. It was a small building and was thatched, one of the last of the thatched chapels. A man who died 5 years ago remembered as a child playing in the straw when it was being taken down. There are also in the Church grounds at present two holy water fonts and an iron cross embedded in an apex stone ...

“In the townland of Granard there are also the remains of an old church. It was the parish Church of Lackeen, mentioned in the Pipe Roll (of Cloyne) having a prebend belonging to the See of Cloyne.

“Under the Act of Registering Popish Clergy” of 1703 six priests from the Buttevant area were registered. One Timothy O’Sullivan of Churchtown went security, to the amount of £50 each, for the Rev Fr Redmond Morrissey, PP, Buttevant, Maurice Browne, PP, Churchtown



Leaving Mass in c. 1946/1947: Jack Sampson second left front, Charlie Winters extreme right front. Last man extreme right at back is Bob Winters. The lady on the extreme left is Mrs Fitzpatrick of Coolmore. The lady to her right is Mrs Eileen O'Connor, Granard (nee Lynch of Cregane). Others in this picture include Hannie Healy, Dan Flynn (with Pioneer Pin) and Bill Relihan. (Credit: Picture taken by Peter Bull, Bandon. Source: Sampson Family).

and Ballyhea, Daniel Daly, Churchtown and Liscarroll and Fr Sullivan, PP, Tullylease.

“The Baptismal Font in use at present in Churchtown bears the date 1852.

“Some of the Whiteboys were hanged on the top of a quarry in Egmont. They were attended to by Rev John Kiely, PP, Mitchelstown; he preached to them in Irish.

“The Parochial registers go back to 1812”.

Father Martin Cusack formed the Churchtown Dramatic Society c. 1945. The Churchtown Dramatic Society was rated the leading amateur talent in North Cork and had little difficulty in filling venues at Ballyagran, Ballyclough, Ballyhea, Buttevant, Castlemagner, Castletownroche, Dromina, Feenagh, Freemount, Liscarroll, Lombardstown, Kilbrin, Newtownshandrum and Shanballymore. Father Cusack, as a gesture of appreciation for the years of fund-raising by the Society, had the names of members inscribed underneath the Altar of the St Nicholas' Church. Following Vatican II the altar was moved forward and there is now no access to the underside to check for the inscription.

An Altar Boy's Memories

by Denis J Hickey

I became an Altar Boy around 1948 as did my pals Denis Pat Costelloe and Jimmy Bowe. For many weeks prior to our debut, our teacher Mr Thomas Wall instructed us in the Latin responses. Missals at that time were bilingual with the English translation on the opposite page to the Latin. Not only did that help to make the responses more meaningful, but it also served as a useful introduction to Latin when we later moved to further education.

My Soutane and Surplice were made in Buttevant in an establishment run by the Mercy Sisters and my footwear known as 'rubber dollies', was purchased at Tom O'Brien's for half-a-crown. Our two priests were Parish Priest Fr Cotter and his Curate Fr Savage. The Parish Priest was an ex-Chaplain, an easy-going man who loved to chat with us prior to Mass.

We were inspected before serving Mass by the Sacristan, Kate McCarthy who had held that position for some forty years. As soon as we arrived in the sacristy, she inspected our hands and ensured we changed into the correct footwear prior to the arrival of the priest I was usually 'on the Gong' at Mass while Denis Pat and Jimmy Bowe shared Missal, Offertory and Communion Paten duties. We were also subjected to the rule of more



*Altar servers in the 1940s with the Sacristan Kate McCarthy and Father James Savage, CC.
Servers: (back l-r) Billy O'Keeffe and Jimmy Bowe. Front: Denis Pat Costelloe and Denis J. Hickey.*

senior boys David Hickey and Billy O’Keeffe both now gone to their eternal rest.

There was a wonderful choir in Churchtown (and still is!) which Fr Savage with his fine tenor voice complemented. I so looked forward to the Missa Cantata on major Feast Days. The church reverberated not only to the voices of the choir but also to the many fine singers in the congregation.

While we shared in the joyous celebration of a Wedding ceremony, conversely, we also assisted at Funeral Masses and, as we knew the deceased, we were acutely aware of a family’s loss. Benediction was a personal favourite not only for reasons of our choir, but rather selfishly, because of its brevity. The Holy Hour had an opposite effect.

The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday always had a very large congregation. I carried the Cross on many occasions at this solemn event. We shared Confirmation with our sister Church in Liscarroll on a six-year cycle, as a consequence I assisted at just one – but it was an unforgettable experience. Retirement came when I reached fifteen years of age and it was with a heavy heart I laid aside my Soutane and Surplice for the last time. They were not mothballed however as Kate McCarthy passed them on my behalf to a new enthusiastic Altar Boy.

As if it was yesterday

by Denis Pat Costelloe

What memories I have as a former Altar Boy in the 1950s – Kate Carthy, the Missions, Fr Cotter, Church gate collections, Nora O’Keeffe on the organ, Soul of my Saviour, rushing around doing the Good Friday Stations, horse and traps tied to the railings, calling out of Tom Costelloe’s two and six pence contribution after the Stations, a slap from the Bishop after Confirmation, the Acts of the Apostles at the beginning of Mass, dashing off to pictures in Buttevant before the Holy Hour was over, swinging the Thurible as an altar boy, long queues at Confession, Hail Queen of Heaven, learning the Latin Credo and Gloria for Christmas Day, the ladies’ decorated headscarves and political parties speaking after Mass. I can see it all as if it was yesterday.



Denis Pat Costelloe with his mother Lil who was a stalwart of the Church and St Nicholas’ throughout her life, taken in 1962/63 when Denis Pat was home on holidays from London. At that time Denis Pat was working as a Postman in London. He still lives in London and keeps an active interest in Churchtown.

Press Cuttings

*Irish World,
Saturday 8 July
1899, New York*

On Sunday, June 11, a retreat was opened at Churchtown, Buttevant, by the Revs. Father Aidan and Alexander, O. F. M., of London and Manchester. The opening discourse was preached by the Rev. Father Alexander, who took for his text, "Peace be with you." The devotions on that and the succeeding evenings consisted of rosary, mission sermon and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament, when the pretty and tastefully decorated little church was thronged. Masses were celebrated at 6.30, 7 and 8 o'clock each morning, and the devoted missionaries were kept very busy with penitents from early morning to late at night. This most successful retreat was brought to a close on the evening of Sunday, June 11, by renewal of baptismal vows, Papal blessing, and Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament, when the reverend preachers congratulated the people of Churchtown on their close attention to the religious exercises during the week.

CORK.—Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne, paid his triennial visitation to Lis Carroll and Churchtown parishes on May 23, for the purpose of administering the Sacrament of Confirmation. He celebrated Mass in Lis Carroll, and having paid a visit to Rev. P. McAuliffe, he left for Churchtown, where the ceremonies proper to the occasion were carried out.

Irish World, Saturday 18 June 1904, New York

*Irish World,
Saturday 27 July
1901, New York*

Rt. Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne, has made the following appointments: Rev. E. B. O'Connell to be P. P. Churchtown; Rev. Thomas Madigan to be Administrator, Queenstown; Rev. William Blake to be Administrator, Fermoy; Rev. C. Corbett to be C. C., Queenstown; Rev. M. Madden to be C. C., Mallow; Rev. M. B. Kennedy to be C. C., Fermoy; Rev. R. Aherne to be C. C., Mallow; Rev. John Burton to be C. C., Charleville; Rev. Joseph O'Keefe to be C. C., Fermoy; Rev. David O'Connell, St. Colman's College; Rev. John White to be C. C., Blarney; Rev. Michael Rea to be C. C., Whitegate; Rev. James Kelleher to be C. C., Ballymacoda; Rev. C. Murphy to be C. C., Kilmorth; Rev. T. M. O'Callaghan to be C. C., Rathormac; Rev. Pierce Greene to be C. C., Kilmorth; Rev. Peter Fouhy to be C. C., Kilmavullen; Rev. P. Dawson to be C. C., Aghinagh; Rev. J. O'Callaghan (Midleton) to be C. C., Castlelyons; Rev. Edward McCarthy to be C. C., Newmarket; Rev. P. Leahy to be C. C., Donerally.

Our Church in the Community

Muintir na Tíre

Muintir na Tíre or ‘People of the Countryside’ was founded by Canon John Hayes, PP in Bansha, County Tipperary, on 17th May 1931. The *Muintir na Tíre* movement was phenomenally successful and guilds were established in almost every rural parish in the country.

Fr Philip Mortell – our PP from 1953 to 1962 – invited Canon Hayes to Churchtown where a branch was started which had a profound impact for the betterment of our community. Churchtown’s active guild included Simon Keane (Chairman), Peggy Keane (Secretary), Michael Aherne, Paddy Carroll, Christy Danaher, Ned Doyle, Paddy Flynn, Micheál Hedigan, Patrick Irwin, Jim McGill, ‘Redmond’ John Murphy, Mary O’Connor, John Ryan-Purcell, Nat Simcox and Thomas Wall. *Muintir* also had a junior guild in Churchtown.

Muintir na Tíre in Churchtown was supported with active involvement by the clergy of the parish. Dr Matthew Twomey PP was especially supportive to the point where he was the enthusiastic MC at the Tambola in the Square at *Muintir*’s annual carnivals. The first TV in the parish is believed to have been at Egan’s, Egmont View after Mrs Egan won the TV set in a *Muintir* raffle at the local carnival.



Canon Hayes, founder of *Muintir na Tíre*, addressing a large public meeting in the early 1950s outside the Community Centre in Churchtown.



Canon Hayes with Fr Mortell and a group of locals including Patrick Irwin, Joseph Stokes, Peter O'Sullivan, Margaret McAuliffe, Anne Sheehan, Marie Roche, Mary Browne, Mick Relihan, Paddy Flynn, Jim McGill, Nat Simcox, Paddy Carroll, Tom Wall, Micheál Hedigan, Michael Keane, Peggy Keane, Lulu Purcell, Kathleen O'Brien, Eileen O'Brien, Aggie Murphy, Nellie O'Donoghue, Redmond John Murphy and Simon Keane.

The main achievements of the local Churchtown guild were in ensuring the rapid extension of the rural electrification scheme to Churchtown (which was switched on by Parish Priest, Fr James Cotter in 1949; in winning the battle with CIE to have the Newcastlewest-Cork bus detour to the village twice daily from Buffer's Cross; and in providing free cocoa daily to all schoolchildren.

The great annual event organised by the local branch of *Muintir na Tíre* was something every boy and girl looked forward to for months. This was our annual Summer Carnival. The highlights of the carnival were the opening and closing fancy dress parades, led invariably by a local pipe band, the Sunday afternoon gymkhana, one or two inter-parish GAA matches, a number of dances in a marquee behind the old school and the nightly games of 'Pongo' in the Community Centre.

Gaelic Athletic Association

Since the foundation of Churchtown GAA in 1890 the Parish Priest is honorary President of the Club. This tradition continues as Fr Robin Morrissey PP is now the President of Liscarroll-Churchtown Gaels which is the Club name adopted when the clubs from both sides of the parish merged in 2017.





Fr Daniel Foley who was Parish Priest 1925 - 1945 is seen here in the earliest surviving picture of any Churchtown GAA Hurling team. The picture was taken c. 1927 with the team in their stylish green jerseys with a gold chevron. Father Foley was born in Coolcaum, a first cousin of the Irish nationalist and Archbishop of Melbourne, Daniel Mannix (1864-1963). He is a relative of the O'Brien family of Churchtown village. Back Row L-R: Michael Gaffney, Maurice O'Mahony, Paddy O'Keeffe, Nat Simcox, Fr Daniel Foley PP, Mick O'Keeffe, John Flannery, Dave Manning. Middle Row L-R: Billy Fitzpatrick, Pad Relihan, A.N. Other, Pat O'Keeffe, Dick Galligan and Jim Kearney, Front Row L-R: Tom O'Keeffe, Frank Flannery, Dan Relihan and Tim (Thady) Buckley.

Foróige

Another wonderful organisation was founded in Moincoin, Co Kilkenny in 1952 when the youth organisation which we now know as *Foróige* started life as *Macra na Tuaithe*. We are lucky to have a very successful *Foróige* organisation in our parish at this time. The leaders are Susan Daly, Caroline Crowley, Gordon Morris and Amy McMahon.



SOLAS / FÁS

SOLAS / FÁS have provided essential training and other services in the village for decades. St Nicholas' is grateful to Gerry Farrissey who manages this activity in North Cork for his support.

SOLAS

An tSeirbhís Oideachais Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna
Further Education and Training Authority

Corpus Christi Procession

The Feast of Corpus Christi celebrates the real presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the elements of the Eucharist – known as Transubstantiation. The feast is liturgically celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday or, “where the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is not a holy day of obligation, it is assigned to the Sunday after the Most Holy Trinity as its proper day”. In the liturgical reforms of 1969, under Pope Paul VI, the bishops of each nation have the option to transfer it to the following Sunday.

In modern times the Procession in the Parish began in 1984 and has been rotating annually between Churchtown and Liscarroll. Since 2013 the Procession is held in both Churches each year after Mass – Liscarroll on Saturday Evening and Churchtown on Sunday Morning. On Sunday 2nd June 2013 the Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated with a “Gathering” event in Churchtown. Mass was concelebrated by Fr Bill Conway from Illinois and Fr Tom McDermott, CC, Churchtown. Fr Bill is a grandson of Michael L Murphy (1882-1964) who emigrated from Egmont, Churchtown in 1903. Fr Tom explained to the congregation that not only was it in St Nicholas’ Church that Fr Conway’s grandfather was baptised but it was also where his own grandfather was baptised. Fr Tom’s grandfather was from the Cowhey family.



The Corpus Christi Procession on Sunday 2nd June 2013 led by Fr Bill Conway as it enters the Community Centre, Kerry Lane, Churchtown. This was the building where Fr Bill's grandfather Michael L Murphy attended Primary School.

After Mass the annual Corpus Christi Procession took place through the village and this was followed by outdoor Benediction in front of the Community Hall (which was formerly the school that Michael L Murphy would have attended). On the Sunday afternoon Fr Bill met his cousins, Dan Murphy from Ballinagrath, Valerie Murphy from Egmont, Dominic Smyth from Ballybeg, Buttevant and the Murphy family of Leap. A short video of the Procession may be viewed on YouTube by searching under BruhennyTV.

Speaking about the Procession recently Fr Bill said: “My grandfather migrated to the US in 1903 after two years in Liverpool. He and a younger brother, Timothy, were the only two to come to the States. My grandfather’s older brother, Fr William Murphy, served as parish priest in Avoca. Six years ago at the end of May 2013 I visited Churchtown, the birthplace of my grandfather Michael Lenihan Murphy. While there I offered morning Mass at St Nicholas’. Fr Tom McDermott kindly invited me to be the celebrant for the Mass on the feast of Corpus Christi. I was both honored and delighted. To say the least, it was the highlight of my visit to Ireland”.



Above: Fr Bill and Fr Tom McDermott at the ‘gathering’ in the Booney House after the Procession.

Right: Fr Bill with his cousin Dan Murphy, Ballinagrath after the Procession in 2013.



The Sanctuary Gong

by Denis J Hickey

Our Sanctuary Gong was presented to St Nicholas' Parish by the Creedon family in 1895. I was one of hundreds of Altar Boys privileged to strike it over the years. I still recall its melodious sound that resonated throughout our beautiful church adding an extra dimension to the Service. Sacristan Kate McCarthy always had both the gong and its brass striker absolutely gleaming.

It came as a great surprise to me to learn from schoolfriends Mary Stokes O'Brien and Nell Kiely (nee Twomey) during a lunch at Charleville Park Hotel in August



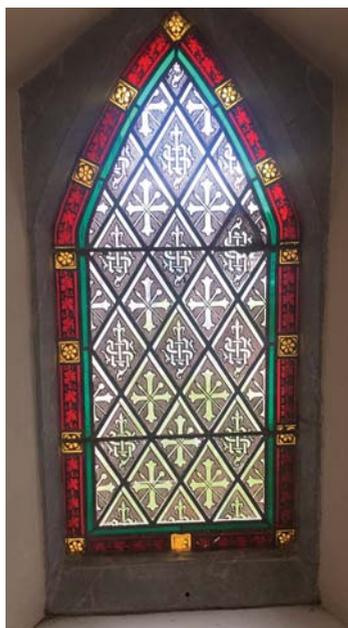
2014, that the Gong was now at Knock Basilica. Coincidentally, Mary was related to the donor of the gong through her mother and the Fitzgerald family of Mountcorbitt. I promised I would do my utmost in seeking return of the gong.

On 3rd September 2014 I wrote to Fr Gibbons, PP Knock outlining the history of the gong indicating the inscription on its base 'Presented by D. Creedon, Liverpool, 1895'. I received a most gracious reply on 25th September via its Museum Curator, Grace Mulqueen, during which was stated: "... in the light of the information you supplied us, we agree its rightful home is the church to which it was presented". Naturally I was elated and informed Fr. Robin Morrissey, fellow Members of Churchtown Heritage Society and Mary Stokes O'Brien of developments.

My wife Anna and I travelled to Knock to collect the Gong. It was a wonderful moment – not without emotion – when the Gong and Striker were placed back in my hands. I must pay special tribute to the manner in which my wife Anna and I were received and treated by all whom we encountered during our visit to Knock. But that is not quite the end of the story however!

I am a Member of a Probus Group that meets weekly at a local hotel in Limerick and I related the story there. Noel Power, now sadly deceased, offered to restore the gong to pristine condition. He was as good as his word and the beautifully restored gong was accepted by Fr Robin who invited me to strike it during Mass on the Feast of St Nicholas on the 6th December 2014. Gerry and Dorothy Murphy later hosted lunch at the Booney House at which Noel Power was Guest of Honour. The Gong is now used on special occasions in St Nicholas' and long may it continue to do so.

Right: The Sacristy window



Eucharistic Congress 1932

To coincide with the 1500th anniversary of the completion of Saint Patrick's mission, Ireland was chosen as host nation to the 31st International Eucharistic Congress. The Congress, which was opened by the Papal Legate, Cardinal Lorenzo Lauri, on Wednesday 22nd June 1932, concluded on Sunday, 26th June with Pontifical High Mass at the Phoenix Park, at which John McCormack sang the Panis Angelicus.

In Churchtown Father Daniel Foley conducted Rosary and Benediction before a crowded congregation at St Nicholas' Church during the four days of the Congress. The closure of schools for the duration of the Congress enabled several families from the parish to participate in events in Dublin.



The special stamps issued to commemorate the Eucharistic Congress in 1932.

Source: The Annals of Churchtown © 2005

Religious from Churchtown

Sister Ina Bowe MBE

On 8th July 2010 Churchtown Heritage held a ceremony in the village square to honour Sister Celeste (“Ina”) Bowe, MBE, a Daughter of Charity who received the award of Member of the British Empire in 1974 from Queen Elizabeth II for her pioneering work for children suffering intellectual disabilities. Following the Blessing of the Plaque by Fr Stephen O’Mahony PP and Fr Tom McDermott CC, the local choir under organist Louise Roche delighted all present with the first of two performances.

Ina Bowe’s obituary in the ‘Nursing Times’ concluded: “It will be for her personal qualities too that we will treasure the memory of Sister Celeste. Among her many gifts were those of courage and compassion; she was a fighter when necessary but always with grace and charm. She won the love and affection of us all. Through her the dignity of all has been enhanced and the nursing profession enriched.”

Moving tributes to Sister Celeste were paid by representatives of the Irish and English Provinces of

Invitation

Churchtown Heritage Society would very much like to expand its record of Religious from Churchtown who have served in Ireland and throughout the World. Churchtown Heritage has produced what is included in this booklet from contributions from parishioners and its own research. We regret that our research in relation to Religious from the parish is far from complete. If readers have details of a family member from Churchtown who has served the Church please email details to heritage@bruhenny.com. This booklet in online form will be available to download from www.churchtown.net and additional material will be added as it is received.



Sister Celeste (Ina Bowe) having received an MBE from Queen Elizabeth in June 1975 pictured with her brother Jim and his wife Kathleen outside Buckingham Palace.



The large gathering in the square in Churchtown for the ceremony to remember Ina Bowe MBE and to erect a bronze plaque in her honour.

the Daughters of Charity and by Sisters who had worked with her. Mrs Kathleen Bowe, sister-in-law of Sr Celeste, who accompanied her to Buckingham Palace for the ceremony in 1974 unveiled the commemorative bronze plaque on the Pillar of Honour. Following the event refreshments were provided at the Booney House, where a special cake presented by Margaret McAuliffe, Rath and Margaret O'Connell, Buttevant, was ceremonially cut and enjoyed by all.

Ina Bowe died on the 9th August 1976 in Chalmers Hospital, Edinburgh, aged 45, and was buried in St Matthew's cemetery, Rosewell, Edinburgh. See also Ina Bowe's Confirmation picture on page 79.



Left: Mary O'Keeffe at the Ina Bowe memorial event.

Right: Margaret McAuliffe, Rath admiring the cake she and Margaret O'Connell, Buttevant presented as part of the Pillar of Honour ceremony.



The Tierney Family

On 10th October 2009 Churchtown Heritage hosted a ceremony to unveil a plaque on the Pillar of Honour in the centre of the village to commemorate three members of the Tierney family who were born at nearby Mountbridget. The bronze plaque outlines the achievements of Fr Michael and Fr Jerry Tierney and their sister, Catherine Mother St Urban of the Bon Secours Order of Paris.

The plaque was blessed by Fr Stephen O'Mahony, PP and was unveiled by both Fr Pat Courtney, Provincial of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart – the congregation to which Fr Michael and Fr Jerry belonged – and also by Sr. Margaret Mary Hanafin, Provincial of the Bon Secours Sisters – the congregation of Mother St Urban.

Messages of solidarity were received from Cardinal Sean Brady, the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Giuseppe Leanza, the parish priests of Randwick in Australia and St Alban's in England where Fr. Michael Tierney had ministered, the Bon Secours Sisters in Baltimore, USA and the Bishop of Baltimore where Mother St Urban built the first Bon Secours hospital in the USA. The messages were read by students from St Mary's N.S.,

Churchtown, Nagle Rice Secondary School and the Presentation Primary School, Doneraile and St Mary's Secondary School, Charleville.



Catherine Mother St Urban



*Fr Michael (on left)
and Fr Jerry Tierney*



The large gathering of relations of the Tierneys and well-wishers in Churchtown village on 10th October 2009.

Fr Pat Courtney said that Fr Michael Tierney was a man of great vision and was endowed with tremendous leadership abilities and qualities. “After 13 years of ministry in Sydney, followed by 10 further years in England he returned to Ireland convinced that his native county would prove to be a fertile soil for vocations to the Missionaries

“The Life of Mother St Urban of the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours of Paris” by Rev Thomas David Williams. This 336-page book written by Rev Thomas David Williams was printed in 1936 by John Murphy Company, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.



A priest with a mission

Denis J Hickey went on to write an 80 page book on Fr Michael Tierney which was published by MSC on Sunday 30th October 2011; the book is profusely illustrated and includes a comprehensive biography on Fr Michael and MSC chronologies. There is also a short biography of Fr Tierney's sister Mother St Urban and his brother Fr Jerry. The commemoration in Churchtown in 2009 is also covered.

The title of the book is *Fr Michael Tierney MSC a priest with a mission*. The book was launched by former President of the European Parliament Pat Cox who said at the launch in Cork: “It takes people to animate projects. It needs institutions to sustain them. Fr Michael Tierney is a powerful example of personal action allied to institutional sustainability. His life and times are wonderfully captured in this short biography by Denis Hickey, who like his subject hails from Churchtown in north Cork”.

of the Sacred Heart. Having acquired Dyke House on the Western Road in early 1909, he had a minor seminary up and running a few months later in September with twelve boys in attendance and also had established the first community of the Society in Ireland”.

Fr Pat continued: “North Cork featured prominently in the early development of MSCs in Ireland with many of our students and priests coming from the area. It was Fr John Mary Neenan from the parish of Castlemagner who was the first Irish man to enter the MSC Society in France, and it was he who recruited the young Michael Tierney to study for the priesthood in France.”

Sr. Margaret Mary Hanafin said that Mother St Urban Tierney was far seeing in vision. “Throughout her life she kept focused on her vision and the needs of the day ... to help the sick and the dying. Amongst her many achievements, she organised the building of a hospital in Baltimore to care for the sick and the poor. She was a courageous woman willing to face any situation no matter how difficult”.



The 'Pillar of Honour' and equine sculpture at the centre of Churchtown village.

Churchtown Pillar of Honour

Sr Celeste (Ina) Bowe, Mother St Urban (Catherine) Tierney, Fr Michael Tierney and Fr Jerry Tierney are all honoured on the *Pillar of Honour* in the centre of Churchtown village. Other plaques on the Pillar recognise Robert A Anderson, a key figure in the establishment of the Agricultural Co-operative movement in Ireland and Jack Moylan (1898-1949), Irish Flat Racing Champion jockey in 1926.

Canon William & Fr James Coghlan

Canon William Coghlan (1838-1921) and Fr James Coghlan (1840-1927) were born at Annagh in Churchtown. They both served in Milford and Canon William was responsible for the building of the Church in that village. Canon William is buried in Milford Church grounds and the inscription on his gravestone reads as follows:

*Pray for the Soul of
Very Rev William Canon Coghlan
PP of this Parish for 35 years
Died 20 March 1921
Builder of Milford Church.
May his Soul Rest in Peace*



Canon William Coghlan



Canon William's name is also set into the cornerstone of the Church. The accompanying press cutting sets out Canon William's varied career in the Church including his years in the USA raising funds to build Cloyne Cathedral. Canon William's brother Fr James Coghlan also served in Milford from 1924 to 1927.

Left: Fr James Coghlan and his mother Nano Sullivan Coghlan.

Right: Headstone to Fr James Coghlan in Milford Church.



Fr Matthew Coghlan

Fr Matthew Coghlan, who was a nephew of Canon William and Fr James, was also born in Annagh and served in the USA . Fr Matthew visited Churchtown many times but especially in 1949 for his niece's wedding about which you can read in our story entitled 'Coghlan Family Wedding' on Page 40.

**LATE VERY REV. WILLIAM CANON
COGHLAN.**

A correspondent writes:—The Very Rev. Canon Coghlan, the account of whose obsequies was given in your issue of Saturday last, was born in the Parish of Churchtown close on 84 years ago. He began his classical studies in Charleville and entered St. Colman's College, Fermoy, the first year it opened. From Fermoy he was sent to St. Patrick's College, Carlow, and after one year there he was transferred to the University of Louvain, where he completed his theological course. He was ordained priest at Cobh by the Most Rev. Dr. Keane who was then Bishop of Cloyne. Immediately after ordination he was sent to do temporary duty in Kanturk and four months afterwards was appointed curate of Newmarket. After working 9 years there he was transferred to Macroom, and three years afterwards he was asked by the Most Rev. John McCarthy, late Bishop of Cloyne, to go to America to collect in aid of the Cobh Cathedral Building Fund. He spent two years and a half in America and sent home one of the largest, if not the largest collections made for the Cobh Cathedral. On his return from America he was appointed Curate to Midleton, and on the death of the Rev. Wm. Fitzgerald, was sent as Parish Priest of Milford. Here he had his work cut out. The old church at Milford was one of the worst buildings in Cloyne Diocese, or for that matter in any diocese. Again the newly appointed P.P. engaged in a begging mission and met with such generous support from his parishioners that in a few years, having in the meantime secured a suitable and beautiful site and appointed one of his parishioners as builder, the foundations were laid—the walls rose steadily day by day, and the result is the beautiful church which was aptly described by an old priest who was present at Canon Coghlan's obsequies, as "not a mere church, but a small cathedral." The House of God being finished the P.P. set to work to build a priests' house, and the splendid parochial house adjoining the church is the result. All the time while the church was being built Canon Coghlan was so ill and suffered so much that his constant prayer was that God would grant him the privilege of living to celebrate Holy Mass once in the new church. Almighty God gave the grace asked for and gave it abundantly. The church was finished in 1903—finished free from all debt—so that it was solemnly consecrated by his Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Browne before ever Mass was celebrated in it. From the date of its consecration up to 1917, Canon Coghlan said Mass in it almost daily—from 1917 to 1922 he said it

real church—the congregation of the faithful entrusted to his care. At all times, day and night, he was always ready to minister to the spiritual wants of his people. Nor was he unmindful of their worldly interests. When appealed to he was always ready to help with his advice and often in a more substantial way. Under the old landlord regime he was a constant and generally successful advocate on behalf of the persecuted tenant farmers, and there is many a farmer happy and prosperous today who owes his happiness and prosperity to the advocacy of Canon Coghlan. In politics he was a life long Home Ruler—a conscientious follower of the old Parliamentary Party, and when other methods were adopted with success—while rejoicing at the success he was always pained when the work of the old Party was ridiculed or made little of. "Ah!" he used to say, "do those young men forget that their predecessors rescued the tenant farmers from the absolute state of slavery then endured under landlordism and brought the labouring class out of houses which were little better than pigsties and installed them in comfortable cottages with an acre of land attached to each." What pained the old man most of all was to read of Irishmen using against brother Irishmen the arms they got for the sole purpose of waging war on the common enemy. His explanation of the matter was—that England had for the past 700 years for her own vile purposes so educated Irishmen to fight against one another that through habit they felt compelled to put the lesson in practice, even when England the wicked schoolmaster was not there to urge them on. I have given this brief sketch of Canon Coghlan's life because I believe that works speak more forcibly and eloquently than mere laudatory words, and I think that anyone who reads the above must admit that the late Canon Coghlan was a splendid type of priest—scrupulously exact in the discharge of all his duties—always ready to do all in his power to advance the spiritual and temporal interests of his people. An Irishman to the heart's core, his heart's desire was to see Ireland a nation and Irishmen and women prosperous and happy. His grave lies beside the splendid church he built—it can be seen by the congregation as they enter and leave to remind them of the grand old Irish Soggarth they have lost.—R. I. P.

Above: Press clippings from March 1921.

Right: a fine stationery box presented to Canon William Coghlan on 5th September 1883 by the Children of Mary in Macroom.



The Anderson Priests

The Anderson family lived at Mountcorbitt House for three generations and their most famous scion is Robert (Robin) Andrew Anderson who worked tirelessly with Horace Plunkett to create the hugely successful Cooperative Agricultural movement in Ireland. Robin was born on 26th June 1860, to a Scottish father and a Canadian mother. His father, Andrew Anderson was a staunch Unionist from a Protestant tradition but Robin was known to have very good relations with Catholic clergy – who, as it turned out, were his most helpful supporters through this trying and hard won battle for his organisation of Irish farm cooperatives.



Neville and Mary Anderson with two of their eleven children – Maisie and Andrew.

World War I was a period of intense sadness for the Anderson family. Robert's 23-year-old son, Alan, was killed in the War at Le Pelly, near Lille two weeks before Christmas 1914. Shortly afterwards, his second son, Philip, was badly wounded and died on the Western Front in February 1915.



Robin's brother Neville, on whom fell the day-to-day running of Mountcorbitt, once his father Andrew became too old to do so, converted to Catholicism and married Mary Stack, who worked in the household. Neville and Mary had eleven children, born variously at Mountcorbitt House and in Canada. Two of their sons went on to become Catholic priests. Monsignor Neville Anderson was born at Mountcorbitt on 13th April 1898 and his younger brother, Fr Art Anderson, was born in Hamilton, Ontario.

Fr Art and Monsignor Neville Anderson taken in 1931 in Calgary, Canada. Monsignor Neville was born in Churchtown in 1898.



Right: Mountcorbitt House

Monsignor Neville Anderson School

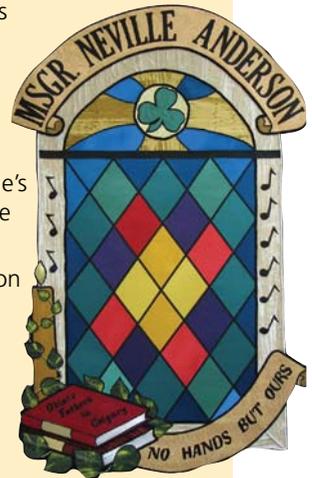
Churchtown-born Monsignor Neville Anderson has a Catholic elementary school in Calgary, Canada dedicated to his memory. When Neville Anderson was a child his family immigrated from Churchtown to Canada and settled in Hamilton, Ontario where he attended elementary and secondary school. In 1918, he entered St Augustine's Seminary and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Calgary on 10th August 1925.

During his 63 years as a priest, Monsignor Anderson served the Diocese of Calgary in many different capacities. Upon his arrival as a young priest in Calgary, he became the Bishop's Secretary, Chancellor of the Diocese and started St. Angela's parish now known as Our Lady of Perpetual Help. In subsequent years, his responsibilities included directing the St. Mary's Boys' Choir and teaching music in the Catholic Schools of Calgary.

When Bishop Kidd left the Diocese, Monsignor Anderson was assigned to Taber where he served one year as pastor before going to Drumheller where he served for 12 years from 1934 - 1946. In an effort to better serve his people, during that time, Monsignor Anderson oversaw the construction of churches in many of the surrounding missions which sprang up around the small coalmines in the area.

Following his ministry in Drumheller, the Monsignor returned to Calgary to take over St Joseph's Parish. St. Joseph's continuing growth spurred the building of new churches at Corpus Christi, St. Pius X and Canadian Martyrs to name a few. Monsignor Anderson served the North Hill area until 1967 at which time he served briefly at St Anthony's and St Patrick's parishes in Calgary and in parishes in Canmore and Exshaw.

Upon his retirement in 1970 and until his death in 1988, Monsignor Anderson spent much of his time recording and writing about the history of the Church in Southern Alberta. Monsignor Anderson died in Calgary on 8th October 1988 at the age of 90.



*Monsignor Neville
Anderson School Crest*

Source: Web site of Monsignor Neville Anderson School. Additional research material and Anderson family photographs: Cassie Ramsay Anderson, California.

Fr Michael Madden

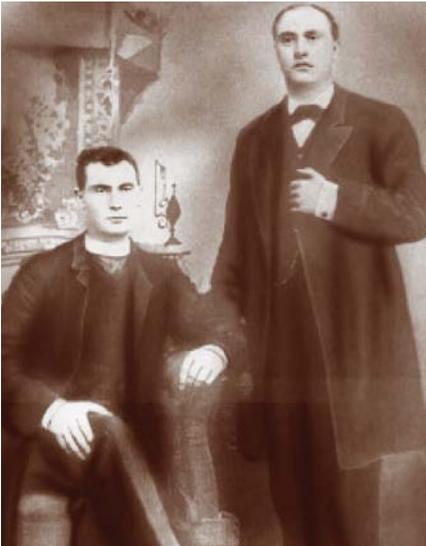
Fr Michael Madden whose family farmed in Walshestown having moved from nearby Kilbroney was ordained in 1957. He offered his First Mass at the Poor Clare Convent in Cork. His siblings were the late Clara and Denis and his sister Mary now lives in California. Fr Michael was actually schooled in Lismore and later in St Colman's in Fermoy. He served in many parishes and retired as Parish Priest from Castlelyons. He now lives near Midleton. In Castlelyons Fr Michael's curate was Fr Tom McDermott who later served in Churchtown-Liscarroll parish.

The Kavanagh Priests

There were two priests in the Kavanagh family from Coolmore, Churchtown. Fr Dan was based for many years at Poole in Dorset and he is memorialised on a headstone at Kilgrogan which reads: 'Rev D Kavanagh, Poole, Dorset died July 1954 aged 59 years and his parents Daniel and Marianne Kavanagh'. Fr John taught in St Coleman's in Fermoy and he then served in Castletownroche where he is buried.

Fr Mathew and Fr Daniel Murphy

William 'Boss' Murphy (1831-1911) and his first wife Margaret Ryan from Ballyhea had two sons ministering in Iowa in the 1880s – Rev Daniel and Rev Matthew Murphy. William was born in Egmont in 1831 but moved to a farm in Leap in the 1850s.



Fr Matthew (seated) and Fr Daniel.



Fr Matthew and his sister Ellen Murphy Delay (1860-1938) taken in Iowa in the early 1920s.

The Wigmore Murphy Priests

William Murphy (1819-1902) of Egmont, the weight thrower, married Olympia Wigmore of Liscarroll where the family then lived. They had four sons who were priests in the US – Monsignor Daniel Murphy (Dover, New Hampshire), Rev John Murphy (Vicar General of Maine), Rev Stephen Murphy (Dover, New Hampshire) and Rev James Murphy (Macon, Georgia). Full biographies of these four priests are available on pages 15 to 17 of the online publication of Churchtown Heritage Society entitled “William Murphy, The Weight Thrower’ available at www.churchtown.net/publications/.



Fr William Murphy, Avoca

Fr William Murphy’s final posting was as Parish Priest of Avoca, Co Wicklow. He was born in Egmont and ordained in the Irish College in Paris in 1904. Fr William’s sister Margaret, born in 1891 served as a nun in Paris. Fr Donal Murphy was a nephew of Fr William and Sr Margaret.

OBITUARY THE VERY REV. W. MURPHY

The death occurred at the Parochial House, Avoca, on Saturday, of the Very Rev. William Murphy, who had been parish priest since 1935. Born at Edmont, Co. Cork, in 1880, he was educated at the Irish College Paris, and ordained in 1904. In 1905 he was appointed chaplain to Lakelands Convent, Sandymount, and was later curate at Bray, Balbriggan and at St. Michan’s, Halston street, Dublin.

Above right: Fr William Murphy’s death notice in Irish Times 31st July 1944; headstone, left and plaque, below at Avoca Church.



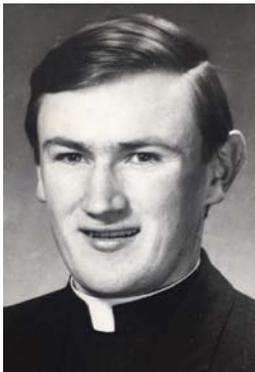
Fr Moss O'Donovan

Fr Moss O'Donovan (1917-1980) who was born in Cullig, Churchtown had the honour of playing in Croke Park on All Ireland Hurling Final Day in 1936 where his Minor team was beaten by a single point by Kilkenny. Fr Moss died as PP at Kilmartyra and was buried there in 1980. Two of Fr Moss's sisters also served as nuns – Sr Enda, a Mercy nun in Charleville and Sr Ursula of the Little Company of Mary, Castletroy, Limerick.

O'DONOVAN (Limerick and late of Cullig House, Churchtown, Co. Cork) – On December 11, 1997, at Milford House, Sr. Ursula, Little Company of Mary. Sadly missed by her Sisters-in-community, sisters Sr. Enda, Mercy Convent, Charleville and Eileen (Clohessy, Dooradoyle), nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Evening Prayer in Milford House Convent Chapel today (Friday) at 5p.m. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Saturday) at 12 noon. Interment afterwards in Convent Cemetery.

Sr Ursula's death notice in The Examiner 12th December 1997.

Fr Denis Vaughan



Fr Denis Vaughan PE, Diocese of Cloyne, was ordained in the early 1970s. He was born at Ballygrace in Churchtown – as it happens in the same house as Mother Clare O'Brien, as the Vaughan family had bought the O'Brien farm in the 1940s. Fr Denis' parents were Denis and Mary Vaughan and his siblings were Brendan, Noreen and Teddy. Fr Denis went on the serve throughout the Diocese in many locations including Nazareth House, Mallow and Mitchelstown. He was also the Diocesan Examiner for many years.

Nuns from Churchtown

Apart from the nuns mentioned at some length in this booklet we also acknowledge Sr Ita Lynch, Mother Clare O'Brien and Sr Emmanuel Sherlock and the many other nuns about whom, regrettably, we have no material at this time.

Right: Sr Emmanuel Sherlock and Sr Ita Lynch.



First Mass – Fr Donal Murphy

On Saturday 12th June 1965, Donal Murphy, son of Jack and Josie Murphy of Egmont was ordained at St Patrick's College in Carlow. The following day he celebrated his First Mass at 11.30am in St Nicholas' in front of a large congregation. His concelebrants were his uncle Fr Moss O'Donovan CC, Glountane (later PP in Kilnamartyra), Dr Matthew Twomey, PP, Churchtown, Fr D O'Mahony, CC, Liscarroll and several colleagues from St Patrick's College.



Above: John Murphy (Leap, Churchtown), Fr D O'Mahony, CC Liscarroll, Dr Matthew Twomey PP, Churchtown, Liam Murphy, Josie Murphy (nee O'Donovan), Fr Donal Murphy, Mary Cagney (nee O'Donovan), Dick O'Donovan, Cullig, Barney O'Donovan (kneeling). Young boys: Richard and Moss O'Donovan, Cullig.

Above right: Donal's father Jack Murphy and Kathleen (O'Donovan) O'Sullivan.



Right: Sr. Enda O'Donovan, Mary (O'Donovan) Cagney and Nora Murphy (in the background).



Below: Kathleen (O'Donovan) O'Sullivan, Eileen (O'Donovan) Clohessy, Sr. Delia O'Donovan (cousin of Donal's and sister of Fr Billy O'Donovan), Fr Moss O'Donovan, Josie (O'Donovan) Murphy, Sr Enda O'Donovan.



MALLOW PRIEST'S FIRST MASS

Rev. Donal Murphy, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy, Egmont, Churchtown, Mallow, was ordained at Carlow on Saturday last. Father Murphy received his early education at Churchtown National School and St. Colman's College, Fermoy, before studying for the priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Carlow.

He celebrated his first Mass at Churchtown Church at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday last in the presence of a large congregation. Assisting him at the Mass were his uncle, Rev. M. O'Donovan, C.C., Glantane, Very Rev. M. Twomey, D.D., P.P., Churchtown and Rev. D. O'Mahony, C.C., Liscarroll and a number of students from the college.

Cork Examiner 17 June 1965

My Life as a Sister of Saint Joseph

by Sister Brigid Linehan RSJ

In my teens, I was one of many young people to leave Churchtown in search of a better life abroad. I was fortunate to have a priest uncle in Australia who was keen for me to complete secondary education and pursue a career. I was fortunate to connect with two other girls from Skibbereen who became my travelling companions. On 26th October 1959, I left Ballygrace travelling to Dublin with my parents and took a flight to London. From Tilbury Docks in London the SS Orion set sail for Australia, a journey that took 5 weeks.



Sister Brigid at her First Profession in 1964.

Once in Australia, I settled into life and grew to love the Australian people and their egalitarian way of life. My final years at secondary school were spent in a boarding school run by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Lochinvar in the Hunter Valley of New Wales. It was a special time in which I got to know my schoolmates and learnt about their Australian way of life.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph inspired me in their commitment to the life they had chosen, their care of the girls in the boarding school, their 'ordinariness', their particular concern for the less well-off and their simple way of life. After some time, it was becoming clear to me that I was being called to follow in their footsteps. And so, it was, that on February 2nd, 1962, I entered the Novitiate at Lochinvar as one of a group of nine.

In 1964 I was professed and sent to teach in one of our primary schools. I found teaching an interesting and challenging experience and soon got to know the children, their parents and the parish community. My career as a teacher spanned 30 years, and in that time, the world underwent many changes. The Church and religious life were drawn into these changes by Vatican II. The Church and in particular religious life welcomed the new freedom of relaxed rules and opportunities to take part in activities such as staying with our families, going to the movies and to restaurants with family and friends.

During the 1970s and 80s, some of our Sisters went to minister in the third world countries of Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe. I was one of those groups who went to Papua New Guinea where the Sisters worked with the local community in the areas of health, education and community development. Life was particularly difficult for the women who suffered the oppressions of a patriarchal society. Our mission was to help raise their status by education in the basics of mothercraft, sewing, cooking, nutrition and literacy.

In 1988, Australia celebrated its bicentenary and it was about this time that our diocese of Maitland embarked on a programme which would enable clergy, religious and laity to live parish life as envisaged by the principles of Vatican II. Following years of planning and research, a core group proposed holding a Diocesan Synod to which every member of the diocesan community would be invited. The Synod lasted from Pentecost 1992 till Pentecost 1993. At the assembly, it was proposed that all parishes commit to pastoral planning as the basis for their activities. To do this, each parish would set up its own pastoral council and team. The proposal was accepted and the task of establishing Pastoral Councils and Teams across the diocese was begun.



Sister Brigid with her brother Noel at the Booney House in Churchtown on 7th August 2016.

Life as a Sister of St Joseph has been good to me in that I have made many friends amongst the Sisters and my work colleagues. The leaders in our Josephite Congregation have made it possible for me to have several trips to Ireland to see my family. I have also been blessed to have my mother visit Australia in 1995. A couple of years later, my brother, Noel visited, and for the celebration of my Golden Jubilee, my brother Denis came to be part of the festivities.

I thank and congratulate those who are working hard to celebrate 150 years of St Nicholas' Church in Churchtown. What a great event to commemorate and what memories the thought of the stately stone building evokes. God Bless you all.

Aged 80, Brigid's mother Mary, pictured right, fulfilled a lifetime's ambition and travelled to Australia in 1994 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Brigid's First Profession. Her mother Mary Moloney (1915-1995) attended primary school at Churchtown NS. She later married John Linehan and they farmed at Ballygrace. Mary Moloney attended Buttevant Convent at the same time as Mary O'Connor of Granard and Mary Clare O'Brien from Ballygrace.



Armistice Memorial Service in 2018

A Memorial Ceremony which took place in St Nicholas' Church after Sunday Mass 25th November 2018 was celebrated by Fr Robin Morrissey PP to remember the 10 men from Churchtown and Liscarroll who lost their lives in World War 1; all of whom would have worshipped at either St Nicholas' or St Joseph's Church in Liscarroll. In the service Churchtown Heritage Society remembered the fallen and the heartbroken families they left behind such as Kate McCarthy, the Sacristan at St Nicholas' Church whose young – and only – son Michael died, following the Battle of the River Selle just a few days before the War ended on 19th October 1918. The Commemoration included the publication of a 44 page booklet entitled *In Memoriam* which is available to download at www.churchtown.net.



Participants in the Armistice Memorial Service in St Nicholas' were: Back Row: Willie Relihan, Fr Stephen O'Mahony PE, Noel Linehan, Fr Robin Morrissey and Gerry Murphy. Front Row: Niamh Murphy, Marie Sexton, Colette Collins, Denis J Hickey and Margaret (Relihan) O'Keeffe. Picture credit: Michael McGrath (Corkman)

IN MEMORIAM

*We remember those from the
Parish of Churchtown and
Liscarroll who died between
1914 and 1918 in World War 1*

Private John Ryan
Liscarroll
#5793 - Royal Munster Fusiliers
#8981 - Royal Irish Regiment
Fell in Flanders on 27 August 1914
La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial

Lance Corporal Peter Killackey
Liscarroll
#10519 - 2nd Battalion
Connaught Rangers
Fell in the Battle of Aisne on
15 September 1914
La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial

Private William O'Grady
Liscarroll
#8910 - 1st Battalion
Royal Munster Fusiliers
Fell in Gallipoli on 25 April 1915
V Beach Cemetery, Turkey

Private Michael Regan
Churchtown
#9395 - 1st Battalion
Royal Munster Fusiliers
Fell in Gallipoli on 9 May 1915
Lancashire Landing Cemetery
Turkey

Private Timothy Brosnahan
Churchtown
#5963 - 1st Battalion Irish Guards
Fell on the Western Front
on 1 January 1916
Merville Communal Cemetery

Private Timothy Supple
Liscarroll
#25780 - 8th Battalion
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
Fell in Flanders in 15 July 1916
Mazingarbe Communal Cemetery

Lance Corporal Michael Stack
Churchtown
#1211 - 8th Battalion
Royal Munster Fusiliers
Fell in Flanders on 20 July 1916
Mazingarbe Communal Cemetery

Private Stephen O'Dea
Liscarroll
#4984 - 1st and 7th Battalion
Kings Liverpool Regiment
Fell in Flanders on 9th August 1916
Thiepval Memorial

Lieutenant Charles Francis Purcell
Churchtown
2nd Battalion Irish Guards
Fell in Flanders on
15 September 1916
Thiepval Memorial

Private Michael McCarthy
Churchtown
#7057 - 2nd Battalion
Royal Munster Fusiliers
#40126 - 2nd Battalion
Royal Dublin Fusiliers
Fell on 19 October 1918 following
Battle of the River Selle
Roisel Communal Cemetery

*Remembered by Churchtown Heritage Society on the
Centenary of Armistice Day, 11th November 2018*



Reconciliation Service in 2005

On Saturday 12th February 2005 relatives of Patrick J Walsh, a young RIC Officer, who was shot dead in Churchtown on the same date in 1921, visited the village at the invitation of Churchtown Heritage Society as a mark of reconciliation.

Fr Stephen blessed a wreath in memory of Patrick J Walsh in the Church and the family placed it in Bruhenny graveyard on the grave of Denis O'Sullivan. Constable Walsh, who died aged just 24 years old, was born and raised in Turloughbeg, Rosmuc, Connemara, Co Galway and was a native Irish speaker. He had only been transferred to Churchtown from Kildorrery a few weeks before his death. He was on his way back to the RIC barracks on George's St having left a pub in the village when he was shot dead. According to the *Cork Examiner* on 13th February 1921 "medical and spiritual assistance was summoned by Mrs O'Keeffe but the unfortunate man was beyond aid".

Following his death in 1921 Constable Walsh's mother arrived at Buttevant Railway Station from Galway to collect the remains of her son and she was met by Denis O'Sullivan (Dinny Booney) who operated the local jarvey service in Churchtown. Mrs Walsh could not speak English which, no doubt at the time, and even more so now, adds to the poignancy and contradiction of a young man from the Gaeltacht being shot because he was a member of the RIC.



The Walsh Nalty families at St Nicholas' Church in Churchtown on 12th February 2005 exactly 84 years to the day after the death of Patrick J Walsh: (left to right), Paddy Walsh, Brenda Walsh-McNicholas, Fr Stephen O'Mahony, Hugh Nalty, Jo Walsh, Mick Nalty, Steve Nalty and Chris Nalty holding the wreath.

150th Anniversary Events

April Mass

On Sunday 28th April 2019 the 11.30 Mass in St Nicholas' was celebrated by Fr Robin Morrissey PP and Fr Stephen O'Mahony PE as the first event of a full programme to commemorate the opening of our village Church in 1869.

After Mass Rosario Buckley, chairperson of the 150th Commemoration Committee addressed the large congregation and outlined the work of the Committee and the events that were planned for the year. After this Gerry Murphy, Churchtown Heritage Society delivered a short paper on the history of the Catholic Church in Churchtown. Denis J Hickey was then invited to unveil a special commemorative history plaque in the Church which sets out a short summary of the Church's history.

Philip Cotter, Piper from Newtwopothouse played a wonderful version of *The Chulainn* on his pipes and Rosemary O'Flaherty then concluded the Commemoration singing a most appropriate *Faith of our Fathers*.

Left to Right: Philip Cotter, Gerry Murphy, Fr Robin Morrissey PP, Fr Stephen O'Mahony PE, Denis J Hickey, Rosario Buckley, Noel Linehan and Paddy Joe O'Mahony.

Below left: Fr Robin blesses the plaque. In the background: David Ahern, Paddy Joe O'Mahony and Walter Ryan-Purcell.

Below right: Denis J Hickey with Peter O'Sullivan.



150th Anniversary Events

April Mass continued...



Above: Fr Stephen with Sean and Annmarie Curtin
 Left: Fr Stephen, Mary (Stokes) O'Brien and Anne Sampson

Below left: Mary Murphy, Esther Quinn and Seán Keating (Assistant Sacristan in Liscarroll).

Below: Fr Stephen with Helen Daly and right: Teresa Carroll



Vale Star and
 Corkman
 coverage



Picture credits: Michael Johnson (Vale Star) and Michael McGrath (Corkman).

150th Anniversary Events

May Concert

A special concert was organised by the 150th Committee and it took place at 7.30pm in St Nicholas' on Friday 17th May 2019. The master of ceremonies was P J O'Driscoll and performers included: Churchtown Church Choir, Cahirmee Singers, Amhránaí Gospel Choir, Suzanne Hynes Traditional Group, The Four Amigos (Denis Keogh, Liam Reilly, Tom Keogh and Pat Kelleher), Samantha Barrett, Michael McCarthy and friends from Mallow, Noel Linehan, Muireann O'Brien, Mecca Barrett, Bridie Cronin and Noel Coleman (as St Nicholas).



Left: Helen FitzPatrick (Liscarroll), conductor of the Cahirmee Singers and accompanist to many artists at the concert; Michael and Ina Bourke, Ballyadam; Noel Linehan, Ballygrace; Kathleen and Michael Drinan, Carrigeen.



MaryAnne O'Brien, Nonie Egan, Rita Leahy and Colette Collins from Liscarroll.



Rosario Buckley, Mary Jo O'Sullivan and Liam FitzGerald.

150th Anniversary Events

May Concert continued...



Above: the Cahirmee Singers. Right: the Poster for the event.



Willie Relihan, P J O'Driscoll, Russ Harris and James Roche.



Evelyn Fennessy, Mary O'Brien and Nell Kiely.
Right: Mecca Barrett



Picture credits:
Michael Johnson
(Vale Star).

150th Anniversary Events

August Concert

Three-in-row All Ireland winning Shandrum Céili Band launched their new CD *The Boss Murphy Musical Legacy* in St Mary's Church in Buttevant on Saturday 18th May 2019. The band will also launch the CD as part of St Nicholas' 150th celebrations on Saturday evening 24th August and also as part of Churchtown Heritage Society's contribution to National Heritage Week 2019. All are welcome and admission is free.

The band members are: Alan Finn and Mairéad Fitzgibbon from Buttevant, Mikie O'Gorman and Eddie Kiely from Boherbue, Brian and Keith O'Loughlin from Corofin, Timmy Collins (Kiskeam), Tadhg O'Sullivan (Millstreet), Aileen O'Callaghan (Mallow) and Ger Naughton from Newtownshandrum.

The inspiration for the CD is a collection of local Irish music collated by parishioner John 'Boss' Murphy in the period 1933-1935 and published in 2003 as *The Boss Murphy Musical Legacy; Irish Music from the Churchtown Area of North Cork*. The book was compiled by Dr Colette Moloney, Charleville.



John 'Boss' Murphy was baptised in St Nicholas' in 1875. The substantial traditional music collection he assembled in the 1930s has inspired a new CD.



Alan Finn (Buttevant), leader of The Shandrum Ceili Band, presents, on behalf the band, the first copy of their new CD to Gerry Murphy, grandson of John Boss Murphy. Other members of the Murphy family included are: Deirdre, Dorothy and Pat Murphy.

150th Anniversary Events

August Concert continued...



A selection of the large crowd who attended the launch concert in St Mary's on 18th May 2019.

The 2003 book ran to 184 pages and is now available to download free at www.churchtown.net. The new CD includes 15 tracks, a selection of over 30 tunes assembled into Reels, Quadrilles, Marches, Single Jigs, Slip Jigs, Waltzes, Scottisches and Flings. The new album includes definitive recordings of *The Walls of Liscarroll* and *The Rakes of Dromina*.



Alan Finn, leader of the Shandrum Ceili Band.

John Francis 'Boss' Murphy was born at Leap, Churchtown on 26th November 1875, a son of William 'Boss' Murphy who was born in 1831 at Egmont, Churchtown. Both were well known for their interest in traditional fiddle music but it was left to John in the period 1933-1935 to begin the mammoth task of writing down all the tunes he was familiar with from the Churchtown area of North Cork. He was one of a small number of traditional musicians from the past who had the skill to read and write music.

St Nicholas' Church, of course, is where John Boss Murphy was baptised in 1875 and from where his funeral service took place at 3.00pm on Friday 27th May 1955 before he was interred in the Murphy family plot in Kilbrin.

Little did John 'Boss' Murphy know back in 1933 – 1935 just how important his work was in creating a record of the traditional music about which he was so familiar in his lifetime and that his collected music would grace our 150th anniversary celebrations in St Nicholas'.

Communions and Confirmations



Confirmation Day in the late 1940s for Churchtown Girls: Back Row: Mairead Sampson, Marjorie O'Connor, Eileen Sheehan, Lily McGill, Cass Costelloe, Ina Bowe, Peggy Healy, Peggy Fitzpatrick and Myra O'Leary. Front Row: Eily Ryan, Dolly Mortell, Sheila Fitzpatrick, Brigid (Buddy) Healy, Lizzie Duane, Eileen O'Keeffe (Dillon) and Maureen O'Sullivan (Buckley). (Credit: Picture taken by Gordon G Armstrong, Buttevant. Source: Maureen Buckley).



Communion Class 1958: Brendan Watson, Patricia Linehan, Mary Egan, Nora McAuliffe, Maureen Deady, Margaret Relihan, Hannah Vaughan, Moss O'Callaghan and John Murphy. The Communion Mass was said in Latin by Fr Mortell on the day and the Communicants had to learn all the responses. Oliver Simcox and Brendan Vaughan were missing from the picture. The picture was taken in the National School grounds. The communicants were guests of Mrs Wall who was the local teacher (her husband Tom was also a teacher in the school) in her home across from the school where they had breakfast consisting of banana sandwiches and tea. The Communion Teacher was Angela Kelleher (later O'Regan). (Sources: On the day's events: Patricia Linehan. On names: Patricia Linehan, Hanna Relihan and Mary Egan).

Communions and Confirmations



Communion Class 1961: back row: Mary Breen, Margaret O'Connor, Eileen Keating, Kathleen McMahon, Eileen Foley and Marian Treacy. Front row: Sean O'Leary, Ted Buckley, Donal Cronin, Jim Quinn, Maurice O'Donovan and Gerry Murphy



Communion Class 1962: back row: Denis Egan, John J Quinn and Pat Murphy. Middle row: Jim Breen, Sheila McMahon, Bernie O'Callaghan, Mary Watson, Patricia Cussen, Oliver Ryan-Purcell. Front Row: William Keating, Jocelyn Brown, Ann Heffernan, Bridie Cronin, Norma Drinan and Thomas Gaffney.

Communions and Confirmations

Communion Class 1966:

Dr Matthew Twomey with Kathleen Broderick, Kathleen Manning, Michael Murphy, Eamonn Dorney and John Keane.



Boys Confirmation Class

1967: Below right, front row (l-r): John Keating, Donal Cronin, James Roche, William Keating, Francis Gaffney, Thomas Gaffney. Middle row: Gerry McMahon, William Relihan, Jim Breen, Pat Murphy, Gerry Heffernan, John Cronin, Anthony McMahon, John Corkery, Denis Egan and Ben Dorney (whose father Ned was a builder who completed many large maintenance contracts on St Nicholas' over the years). Back row: Sean O'Leary, Ted Buckley, Gerry Murphy and headmaster Pat Collins.



Left: Pat Fennessy, Principal of Churchtown National School with Finbarr Buckley on his Confirmation day in 1985.



Girls Confirmation Class 1967: *back row: Dr Matthew Twomey PP, and Bishop J J Ahern. Picture includes Frances Broderick, Ann Heffernan, Eliza Ryan-Purcell, Maura Egan, Mercy Gaffney, Eileen O'Connor, Patricia Coghlan, Norma Drinan, Eileen and Ann Foley, Mary Breen, Kathleen McMahon, Eileen Keating and Ann O'Sullivan.*

Communion Class 2019

We started our 150th Commemorative booklet with the story of St Patrick coming to Ireland in 432 AD and, in a clear demonstration of the enduring 'Faith of our Fathers', we end with photographs from our 2019 First Communion ceremony that took place on Saturday 18th May. Our picture shows our thirteen communicants with their teacher Joanne O'Sullivan, Churchtown National School Principal Donal O'Shea and Fr Robin Morrissey PP.



Left: Iliya and Ada O'Flaherty with their parents Tony and Rosemary.

Below: A much younger Tony O'Flaherty with his parents Jack and Peggy and Bishop John Magee on his Confirmation Day in 1988.



Credit: All 2019 photographs: Michael Johnson / Vale Star. 1988 photograph: O'Flaherty family.

Faith of our Fathers

Faith of our fathers, living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,
Were still in heart and conscience free;
And blest would be their children's fate,
If they, like them should die for thee:
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!

Faith of our fathers, we will strive
To win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God
Mankind shall then indeed be free.
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!

Faith of our fathers, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife,
And preach thee, too, as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!



Faith of our Fathers is a popular Catholic hymn that was written by Fr Frederick William Faber in 1849. This hymn has been sung in St Nicholas' for generations and it will be the closing hymn at the Bishop's Mass on Monday 24th June 2019. Fr Frederick William Faber (1814-1863) was a noted English hymn writer and theologian, who converted from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism in 1845. He was ordained to the Catholic priesthood subsequently in 1847.

Seán Clárach MacDómhnaill

Seán Clárach MacDómhnaill has been critically acknowledged and honoured by his bardic peers – The Maigue Poets – as their leader. He was born at Rath in 1691 about a mile from Churchtown village. He would have been baptised in our former Catholic Church at Annagh. Seán was laid to rest on the site of a former medieval parish church – near his later Kiltóohig home – in what today is Holy Cross Cemetery in Charleville.



We know that Sean Clárach's parents were millers and that the basic structure of their mill still exists and has given rise to the naming of the locality as 'Windmill'. The MacDómhnaill's nearby home has defied the centuries and may still be viewed close by the entrance to the ancient cemetery of Kilgrogan.

Following the death of his parents Seán moved to the Kiltóohig area of Charleville where he became a teacher. As a writer, Seán Clárach enjoyed a tremendous advantage over the majority of his contemporaries; as well as Irish, he could speak and write in English and was also from his education in Charleville, fluent in Greek.

Much of Seán Clárach's writings provide an insight into the plight of the Irish under the yoke of the Penal Laws. He was undoubtedly one of the most prolific writers of his time and we are fortunate that so much of his work survives. Seán Clárach's most enduring work 'Mo Ghille Mear', written as a tribute to his hero Charles Stuart, was dedicated to Jenny Cameron the Prince's paramour and one of the unsung heroines of the Stuart era.

In Churchtown we have proudly installed 'Mo Ghiolla Mear' as our anthem. A new hymn entitled 'Faithful is the Lord (our King)' was written by Diocesan Priest and singer-songwriter Fr Liam Lawton to the tune of 'Mo Ghiolla Mear' in 2002. It was published by GIA Publications. Most appropriately St Nicholas' Choir chose to sing the Fr Liam Lawton hymn to the tune of 'Mo Ghiolla Mear' at our Bishop's Mass to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Nicholas' Church on Monday 24th June 2019.

Permanent Church Crest

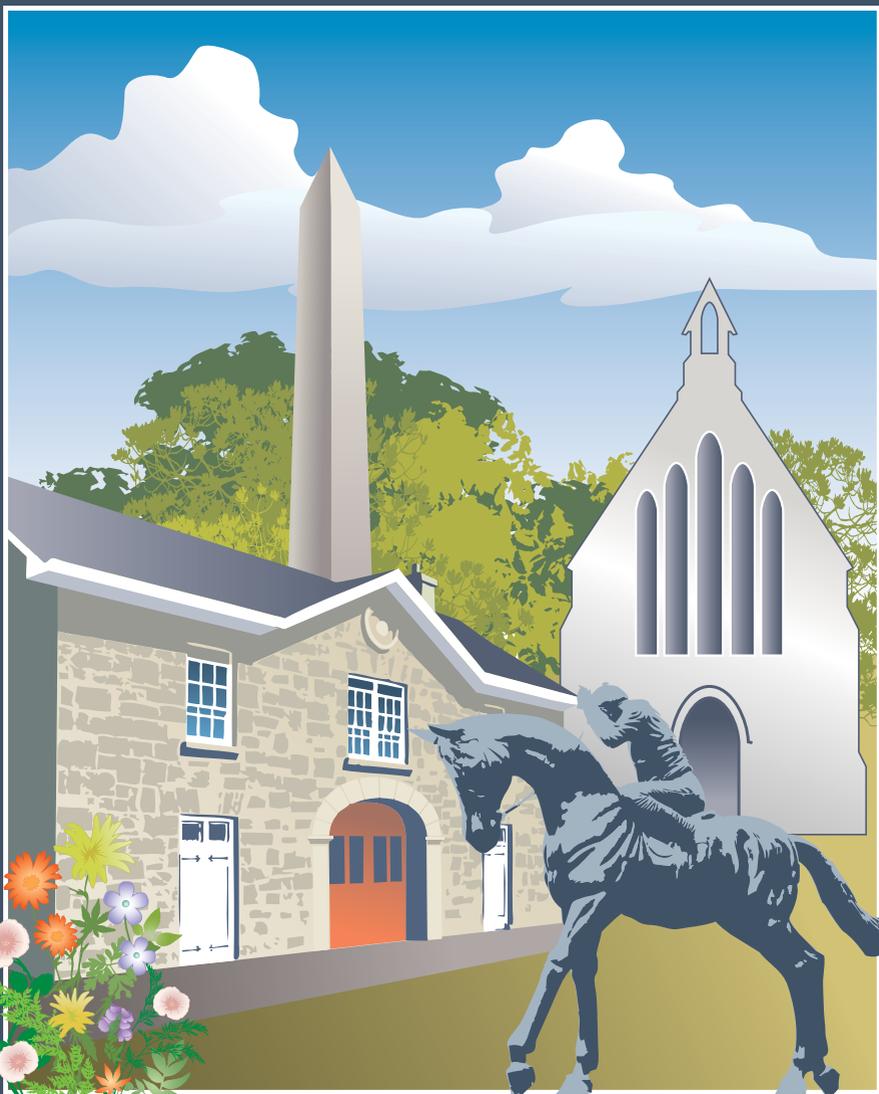
As part of the 150th anniversary of St Nicholas' it was decided to design a crest in honour of the occasion. Once the crest was developed it became clear that a permanent crest or identifying symbol for St Nicholas' should also be developed. The crest was designed by Martin Keaney who has worked with Churchtown Heritage Society on the design of multiple publications since 1997.



The permanent crest, colour and black & white versions



Overleaf: Vintage style tourist poster for Churchtown illustrating St Nicholas' Church (1869), Market House (1845), Bruhenny Obelisk (2000), the equine sculpture and various wildflowers of the countryside. This poster was commissioned and published by Churchtown Heritage Society in May 2019. Designed by Martin Keaney. Available to download in high resolution format at www.churchtown.net/publications/.



CHURCHTOWN

BALLYHOURA COUNTRY



Churchtown Heritage Society is a voluntary organisation set up to promote events and publications of local historical interest. The group succeeded Churchtown Village Renewal Trust which was founded in 1997.

Events

Hedge School Re-enactment
Wild Life Pond Visit
Moanroe Bog visit
Flax industry in Churchtown
International Year of the Cooperative Conference
Kilgrogan Graveyard visit
Flannery's Quarry and Whiteboy Commemoration
Market House in Churchtown
Mountcorbitt House visit and plaque presentation
Images of Churchtown at Community Centre
Ina Bowe OBE Commemoration / Plaque unveiling
Jack Moylan Commemoration / Plaque unveiling
Tierney Family Commemoration / Plaque unveiling
William Murphy Commemoration at Liscarroll Castle
1929 O'Keeffe Medal Presentation to GAA
Annual Seán Clárach Commemoration
Boss Murphy Musical Legacy CD with Shandrum Ceili Band

Main Publications

2003 - Boss Murphy Musical Legacy
2005 - The Annals of Churchtown
2016 - William Murphy, The Weight Thrower
2016 - The Heritage of Churches in Churchtown
2018 - In Memoriam: WW1 Armistice
2019 - St Nicholas' Church 150th Anniversary

Other Media

Bruhenny TV channel
on *YouTube*

References

The Annals of Churchtown, (2005), published by Churchtown Village Renewal Trust (now succeeded by Churchtown Heritage Society). ISBN 978-0-9524931-3-6. Compiled by Denis J. Hickey. Other contributors include: Caroline Hennessy, Colette Moloney, Jim McCarthy, Noel Linehan, Albert Daly, Gerry Murphy, Niamh Murphy, Brigid (Manning) O'Sullivan and Denis Pat Costelloe. 767pp.

An Introduction to the Architectural Heritage of North Cork, (2009), ISBN 978-1-4064217-6-7. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

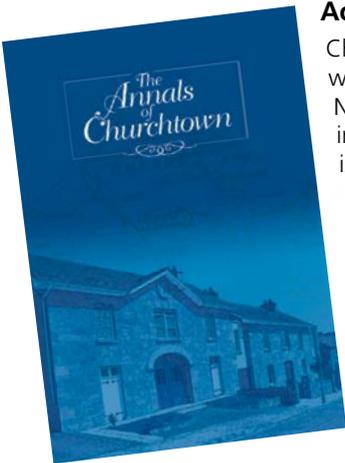
The Pipe Roll of Cloyne (Rotulus Pipae Clonensis), (1996), edited by Paul McCotter and Kenneth Nicholls. Published by Cloyne Literary and Historical Society. ISBN 0-9528974-0-7. The Pipe Roll of Cloyne was a medieval document that gave an insight into the system of land ownership within the Diocese of Cloyne. The original parchment roll was 5.38m long by 0.184m wide and was composed of 10 membranes sewn together. It was found in the Registry of St Colman's Cathedral, Cloyne, in the middle of the 19th Century. There are multiple references to Bruhenny in the Pipe Roll.

Historical and Topographical Notes on Buttevant, Castletownroche, Doneraile, Mallow, and Places in their Vicinity; (1908), Colonel Grove White. Published in 4 volumes 1906-1915 by Guy & Co., Cork. Pages 176 to 187 in Volume 2 (1911) refer to Bruhenny/Churchtown. This section is available to download at www.churchtown.net/publications/.

Acknowledgments

Churchtown Heritage Society acknowledges the great work of Denis J Hickey supported by Gerry Murphy and Noel Linehan who produced *The Annals of Churchtown* in 2005 after seven years work (1998-2005) and which is an invaluable asset in terms of recording our parish heritage and history for current and future generations. *The Annals* includes 12 historical essays, a chronology, 300 pages of Churchtown-related dictionary entries, 80 pages of tables including various census, Griffith's Valuation and Tithe Applotment for Churchtown, a comprehensive glossary of Churchtown terms and expressions presented as *Lingua Bruhenny* and a full list of all 114 listed ancient monuments in Churchtown. An 854 page extended version of *The Annals of Churchtown* is now available to download

at www.churchtown.net/publications/



Caveat: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material in this booklet more research needs to be carried out to verify what is reproduced and accumulate further information. Some Church related detail in *The Annals of Churchtown* is updated in this booklet.



150th Anniversary 1869-2019



St Nicholas' Church in December 2000.

This heritage booklet was published on 24th June 2019 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Nicholas' Church in Churchtown. Compiled and edited by Gerry Murphy, Churchtown Heritage Society. Design: Martin Keaney. Additional Research: John J F Murphy (Boston). Proofing: Dorothy Murphy. Printing: Walsh Colour Print. Commemorative 150th Committee Chairperson; Rosario Buckley. For further information please email heritage@bruhenny.com. To download a complimentary copy of this and other material please log on to www.churchtown.net/publications/

