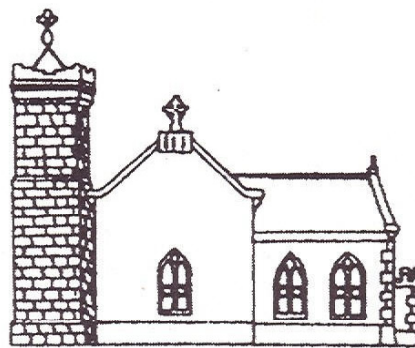
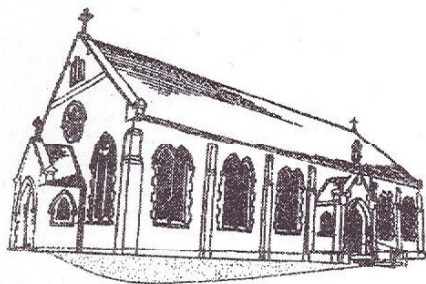


**A History
of the
Parish of
Magheradroll**



*A History
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Parish
of
Magheradroll*

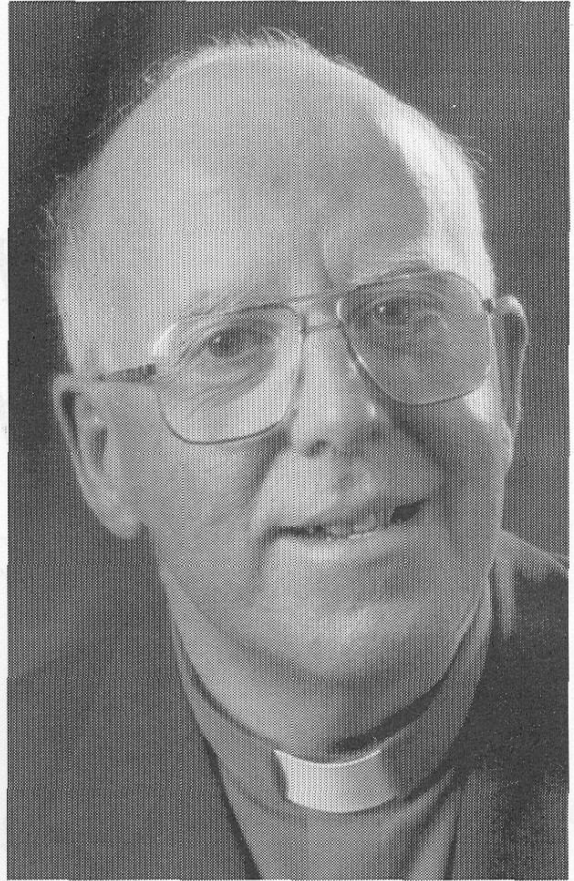
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editorial Committee wishes to express its thanks to those who contributed to the publication of this Booklet. In particular to: Ballynahinch Central Library, The Library of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, The Mourne Observer.

Also to: Dennis Fegan, Joan Scally, Maureen McCann, Jim Miskimmon (for Photographs), Dan Fitzpatrick, Gerard Sloan, Harry McEvoy, Deirdre McCann, Carol Potter, Roisin Poland, Jim Cunningham, Peggy McGoran, Rosemary McGrath, Brian McGoran, Hugh Morgan, the Priests of the Parish and to all those others who provided information, advice and assistance, and whose names we have not recorded.

FOREWORD

The blessing of St Colman's Church, Dunmore on 12th December 1999 was an important day for Magheradroll Parish, and in particular for the people of Dunmore. A church building holds a privileged place in a faith community; caring for it and keeping it in good order are important expressions of the virtue of religion. A church reflects the faith of the people who pray there; it links them with the generations that built it and who used it over the years; it links then also to future generations who will pray there after they have passed on. It reminds them of their Baptism, their Confirmation, their First Communion; it is the place where they are nourished by the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist; it is the place where they are reconciled with God and with the Church in the sacrament of Penance; it is the place where they celebrate Christian marriage, and it is, finally, the place where they bring the bodies of their loved ones for Funeral Mass and Burial. That is why a church is for us a sacred place.



Dr. John McAreavey

The re-opening of St Colman's on the threshold of the Jubilee Year was an act of hope in the future of the Church in this area. This church is a visible sign of the living Church, God's building that is formed from the people themselves. The renewal of a church building might be an empty gesture if there is not also a renewal of the faith of the people. I am confident that the restoration of this beautiful church as a regular place of personal and liturgical prayer will nourish and deepen the faith of the Catholic community in Dunmore. Parents have a special responsibility to encourage their children, primarily by example, to make attendance at Mass and Confession a regular part of their spiritual lives. In this way they hand on to their children the precious gift of faith.

The Parish of Magheradroll has been fortunate over the years in the priests who have been assigned there. The present generation is no exception and I congratulate Canon Gerard McCrory, Frs John Joe Cunningham and Brian Brown on the pastoral care that they give to the people of the parish.

Through their ministry the people of the parish are connected with the wider community of the diocese of Dromore. It is part of their task to ensure that the faithful are concerned for the community of the parish and that faithful feel themselves to be members both of the diocese and of the universal Church.

I congratulate all those who have been involved in planning and carrying out the refurbishment of St Colman's Church, Dunmore. Rath De ar an obair.

JOHN McAREAVEY, Bishop of Dromore

ADDRESS FROM CANON McCrory

This Centenary Booklet records the history of the Parish of Magheradroll and the history of the societies which are an important part of our catholic way of life. It should give parishioners a sense of pride in what has been achieved.

The contents indicate clearly the effort that has been made over the years to provide three suitable places for worship, good education facilities, suitable places for entertainment and the success in providing the necessary funding. The financial situation at the end of the twentieth century was healthy in the sense that after three churches being renovated recently, schools being updated, a Parish Centre being built, two parochial houses being repaired (another built in the 1980's), the parish is debt free.

Buildings do not make a parish a vibrant cell of the Church so for successive generations I would just like to record that while we are living in a period of immense change, a period when people are expressing their faith in many different ways, most of our Catholic families request Baptism, First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation for their children, most of whom attend catholic schools. As far as adults are concerned while our week-end Masses are well attended some no longer attend each Sunday. Many are also trying to find an alternative to individual confession as a means of obtaining God's forgiveness.

Regarding the laity in accordance with Vatican 2 the opportunity is there for participation as Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. At the same time they are being welcomed more and more into discussion and decision making in all areas of parish life — a slight move away from the priest dominated church of the twentieth century.

I hope this booklet will provide people with some insights regarding the kind of church community we have been formed into over the years. No doubt the short history of our schools and many societies demonstrates how people have responded to many needs.

To those who have responded to the needs of others and to the editorial team for this booklet, Mary Kelly, Pauline McEvoy, Ray Magee and Isobel McCann may I express a word of sincere thanks for a task well done.

May these pages encourage their readers to claim their dignity and their roles in forming an authentic community of disciples, as we move through the twenty-first century.



Canon G. McCrory.

GERARD McCrory, P.P.

February 2000.

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HISTORY OF MAGHERADROLL

The parish of Magheradroll referred to as 'Ardagualla' is first mentioned in the Pope Nicholas taxation of 1291 and again in the taxation list of 1306.

The name Magheradroll in ancient form was probably Machair Eadarghabhal, which translated means the Plain Between Two Rivers, or gravel plain. The lands of almost the entire parish were once the property of the McCartans and the Magennises, but in a deed (XXXVIII-3) dated September 12th, 1605 by James I, Phelomy McCartan and Donell Og McCartan of Killenarton, Co Down granted to Lord Crumwell, Governor of Lecale;

the castle of Dundrum and other parts adjoining in Down County, one third part of all his country called Killinartie in Watertirrge or elsewhere, all appurtenances to be allocated in such parts as Lord Crumwell shall deem most convenient, except the house of McCartan and adjoining demesnes.

These lands passed to Lord Crumwell for a certain sum of money, with the attached proviso that Phelomy McCartan's son, Patrick, be brought up and educated by Lord Crumwell.

Then in 1641 the territory was forfeited, and on the restoration of the Manor at Kinelarty which was granted by King Charles II to Sir George Rawdon, the lands became the property of the Earls of Moira.

Lord Moira, the fifth Baron, in about 1800, sold the land of the Montalto Estate to the Ker family, while the lands including Dunmore and surrounding townlands had been sold in 1636 for £8,000 to Colonel Forde of Ford's Demense at Seaforde. Part of the Montalto Estate was later sold to the Earl of Clanwilliam who sold the property on in the late 1970's to a private business while much of Ballynahinch town retains an interest in the Ker estate. The Forde interest in the Dunmore and Drumaness side of the parish, however, was relinquished on the freehold purchase of their lands, in the 1903 Land Act, by the local population.

TOWNLANDS OF MAGHERADROLL PARISH

The Parish of Magheradroll comprises thirty-six townlands. They are listed below with translations and meanings:-

- Aghnaleck - *Ath-na-leac* - Ford of the flagstones.
- Ballylintagh - *Baile linn-teach* - Townland of the pools. (flax ?)
- Ballycrune - *Baile cruinn* - Round townland.
- Ballycreen - *Baile crion* - Withered townland.
- Ballykeel - *Baile caol* - Narrow townland
- Ballylone - *Baile Abhann* - Townland of the river.
- Ballykine - *Baile Mhic Chathain* - Kane's townland.
- Ballymacarn - *Baile Mhic Chearnaigh* - Kearney's townland.
- Ballymaglave North - *Baile Mhic Fhlaithumh* - McGlave's townland.
- Ballymurphy - *Baile Ui Mhurchadha* - Murphy's townland.
- Ballynahinch - *Baile na h-inse* - Townland of the island.
- Burren - *Bolrinn* - Rocky place.
- Cargacreevy - *Carraig na craoibhe* - Rock of the great tree.
- Cragygray - *Carrai re Cabhach* - Grey Rock.
- Carricknadariff - *Carraig na dair-mha* - Rock of the oak plain.
- Creevytenant - *Craobh an teanntant* - Ceremonial tree.
- Cluntagh - *Cluanta* - Meadowlands.
- Cluntanagullion - *Clunta na gcuileann* - Meadows of the holly trees.
- Cumber - *Cumar* - Confluence of rivers.
- Dooglen - *Dubh-ghllean* - Black glen.
- Dunbeg - *Dun beag* - Small dun or fort.
- Dunmore - *Dun mor* - Big dun or fort
- Drumaness - *Droim an easa* - Hill of the waterfall or hill of the weasel.
- Drumgavelin - *Droim gaibhlin* - Hill ridge of the little river fork.
- Drumkeeragh - *Droim caorach* - Hill ridge of the sheep.
- Drumsnade - *Droim snathad* - Hill ridge of the needles.
- Edendariff - *Eadan na dair-mha* - Hill brow of the plain/Hill brow of the bull.
- Glasdrumman - *Glas-droman* - Green hill.
- Glebe - *An English term* - Townland for support of the Established Church
- Guinness - *Baile na Gainimhe* - Townland of the sand.
- Magheraconluce - *Machaire Chluain lius* - Plain of the meadow of the healing herb.
- Magheradroll - *Machaire idir ghabhal* - Plain within the river fork.
- Magherahamlet - *Machaire am thaimhleachta* - The field of the plague grave.
- Magheraknock - *Machaire an chnoic* - Plain of the hill.
- Magheratimpany - *Machaire an tiompandigh* - Plain of the minstrel.

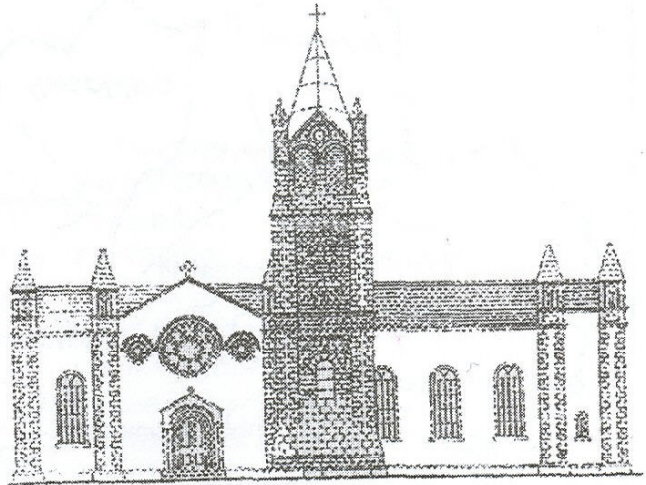
These townlands in the Parish of Magheradroll comprise three areas each served by their own church.



**Townlands in the
Parish of
Magheradroll**

BALLYNAHINCH - ST PATRICK'S

The Parish Church in Church Street, Ballynahinch traditionally serves the townlands of Aghnaleck, Ballylintagh, Ballycrune, Ballycreen, Ballykeel, Ballylone, Ballykine, Ballymacarn, Ballymaglave North, Ballymurphy, Ballynahinch, Burren, Cargacreevy, Cargygray, Carricknadariff, Creevyargon, Creevytennent, Cluntagh, Clontanagullion, Glassdrumman, Glebe, Magheraconcluce, Magheradroll and Magheraknock.



As stated, the parish is first mentioned in the late thirteenth century, and a charter of James I annexed the Rectory of Magheradroll into the Deanery of Dromore. It has appeared in many registers, but by 1622 the "Tithes of the Parish of Magheradroll" are set at £10. In 1422 it was valued at two marks and Prenes Register, in 1444, lists the name of Rev John O'Byrne as Rector of the Parish of Magheradroll being excommunicated for neglect and disobedience to Bishop Thomas Scrope - perhaps for not forwarding the required tithes!

Nothing is known about the original parish church but the ruins of an old parish church are at Crabtree Hill. The ruin is 64 ft by 32 ft with walls 3 ft thick and 4 ft at the gables. There are date stones showing that parts of the walls date from the fourteenth century.

At the time of the Reformation the Church was taken over by the Reformers although it is said it continued to be used by both religions until about 1775 with the Catholics having Mass at 9.00 a.m. and the Reformers having their service at 11.30 a.m. The majority of Catholics at this time worshipped in secret at Mass Rocks and bushes in remote and sheltered areas. However, the church was in a bad state of repair, for the Petty Survey of 1659 describes the church as having;

Walls and roofe — the rest is out of repair.

This is despite the fact that a date stone of 1607 on the western gable indicates that the church was possibly renovated at this time.

Nevertheless the church continued to be used until about 1775 when the Protestants abandoned it for their new church in Church Street. It can be assumed that at this time the Catholics abandoned the church also, probably for a Mass station in Bridge Street, now Dromore Street, the site of the former Linen Hall, and now the Fire Station; but records for this period of Catholic worship are scanty.

The Mass Station was in existence for some thirty years when there was a more liberal attitude towards Catholic worship. In fact the Landlord of the time, Lord Moira, a friend of Wolfe Tone, was sympathetic to the Catholics having their worship, and in a communication from Montalto, dated October 7th, 1796, he stated:

"The Catholics on all my estates in the County Down are most industrious and engaged in the most part in the linen trade.

Their priests have my support in the respective parishes to lead and teach their people in all that is good for the moral of mankind. At Ballynahinch I subscribe in no small way. to the building of a new mass house of late.

I give thereto a painting of the Crucifixion I brought with me from Flanders”.

There is no clear record of this Mass station in the 1782 survey of Lord Moira's estate which infers that it was probably a wooden hut. Also on a map of 1782, the site of the present church is shown as land owned by Lord Moira and used as a town garden.

After the Battle of Ballynahinch David Ker bought the estate from Lord Moira. Soon afterwards he realised the importance of the Mass Station site and offered the Parish Priest of the time, Father Alexander McCoy, the present site in Church Street in exchange for that in Bridge Street (Dromore St). The new church was erected on its present site, one of the few pre-Emancipation Catholic Churches built in the Classical style between 1807 and 1808 although it was not completed until 1812 due to lack of funds. Such was the spirit of ecumenism in the parish however, that help in fund raising was given by the Clergy in other Churches.

The Belfast Newsletter in June 1812 printed the following:

A sermon will be preached in Ballynahinch on Sunday, 5th July next by the Rev. Mr Curran of Downpatrick, for the benefit of the new chapel as yet unfinished from the inability of the congregation. It is hoped that the liberal of all denominations will contribute their units for the above purpose.

Sermon to commence at the hour of twelve o'clock.

James Moore became P.P. in 1821. He had been ordained in Newry in 1814 and when he died in July 1826 he was interred in Ballynahinch Church. There is a memorial in the porch with the inscription:

The memory of the just man is Eternal

Underneath are deposited, in the hope of a glorious resurrection through the merit of his saviour, the remains of the Rev James Moore, for several years the revered P.P. of Ballynahinch, Dunmore and Annahilt.

He was a clergyman as much admired by his attached flock for his ability and zeal in the cause of religion and charity as he was beloved for his private worth and many endearing virtues. He departed in the Lord A.D. 1826. May he rest in Peace.

Belfast Newsletter of August 21, 1826, recording his death reads:

His labours were incalculable and he was loved by his flock and respected by every person of different persuasion.

Peter Polin was appointed P.P. in August, 1826. He had been ordained in 1820. He appears to have erected schools in Ballynahinch in 1827. He died or possibly retired in 1832.

Henry O'Hagan was appointed P.P. on March 8th, 1832. He had been ordained in 1827 and died on September 19th, 1833.

Daniel Sharkey was appointed P.P. on 3rd November 1833. He had been ordained in March 1832 (he was only 21, under the canonical age). He died at age 54 on 9th January 1864, and he was interred in Ballynahinch Church. A Memorial bears the

following inscription:

To the memory of the Very Rev Daniel Sharkey:

Here rest the remains of the very Rev Daniel Sharkey, for upwards of thirty years the beloved and respected Pastor of this Parish. He was born in Newry in 1809, ordained priest in 1832 and appointed to this charge November, 1833. His death, which took place on the 9th January, 1864 was greatly lamented by his own flock, who loved him most dearly, and by a large and extensive circle of friends who appreciated his character very much and held it in the highest respect and esteem.

He was a good and holy priest, a distinguished scholar and a sincere and warm-hearted friend, May he rest in Peace.

It may be added that Fr Sharkey was a man of very imposing appearance and was exceptionally gifted. He was beloved by the people of Ballynahinch, who presented him with an address in token of five years after he became their pastor.

The Ordinance Survey of 1834 says:

The church had 300 attendants and attendants from other parishes -

Before the Church was destroyed by the Great Gale of 6 January 1839 it was described as follows:-

The Ballynahinch Roman Catholic Chapel situated at the southern extremity of the town, is a plain, slated, rectangular building in good repair, standing nearly east and west: 72 feet long and 30 feet broad. Incumbent The Reverend Daniel Sharkey. (JHW)

(Fairsheets by J Hill Williams, April 1837).

On the night of Sunday, January 6th 1839 the new chapel was wrecked by "Oiche Na Gaoithe Moire". The Great Wind was a North-West Gale.

The Roman Catholic Chapel was dreadfully wrecked ... no lives lost.

Under the direction of Rev Daniel Sharkey the people gathered sufficient funds to hire a carpenter and nailer to carry out repairs.

Below is the transcription of a letter sent to Father Sharkey by James Jordan of Ballynahinch.

Ballynahinch, March 3rd 1839

Revd Sir,

As I intend to strip the chapel on Tuesday, first if health and weather permit I hope you will be so kind as to let the committee know to have a carpenter appointed to put the roof to right as I would wish to have it and the nailer set to the making of the nails and the sand and lime made into mortar and if you think proper you will spake to the Committee for a weekly supply of money for to enable me to pay my labourer and support myself. I think it will take the sum of £1-4-0 (£1.20) in the week to do me by so doing you will oblige me much.

I am your most obedient servant

James Jordan.

*To Revd
Daniel Sharkey
Ballynahinch*

The Parish Committee had the following noted in their minutes of December 15th, 1839.
Resolution that any seat the owner or owners of which either have not paid what they owe to their clergyman as stated in the above resolution or who have not paid up the sum of two shillings to the repair of Ballynahinch Chapel on the occasion of its being wrecked by the late storm that such seat is now declared forfeited and will be sold as soon as possible - passed.

The rebuilt church was re-dedicated by Dr Blake, Bishop of Dromore on September 11th, 1843.

Under Rev Daniel Sharkey a number of other constructions took place:

Church of St Colman's erected and dedicated by Bishop Blake 26 July 1840.

Parochial House built at Dunmore, it seems, in 1841-42.

Guinness Primary School built 1848, officially opened 1849.

Under Rev Daniel Sharkey a Boys and Girls National School was being built in Railway Street. He died in January 1864. The school opened in November 1864.

Rev Charles O'Hare was appointed P.P. January 1864. He had been ordained in 1851 and he died January 17th, 1887. He was interred in Ballynahinch Church.

A memorial Cross of Granite stands in memory of him.

Much work was done to the Church in 1866-67 - so much work that it was described as "a new church". At this time the transepts and tower were added.

REA (ARCHITECT) REPORT

St Patrick's Church was first built as a single cell church with the main entrance facing onto the street. It consisted of a Nave and a Sanctuary which faced the entrance. The Nave was lighted by narrow single lancet windows and the entrance had one lancet on each side. (These were uncovered during the re-ordering). In 1866 the Architect Barr was appointed to re-order the church and he opened the single cell by forming a crossing and two transepts. He retained the Sanctuary area but improved the interior in the classical style with a barrel ceiling, with plaster mouldings and flanked the Sanctuary and crossing with large columns. The existing windows were enlarged and stain glass installed. The small lancets at the entrance were closed up and three large rose windows installed, one above the entrance and two at the transepts. The exterior was upgraded with Parapets, coursed render, turrets and the tower and spire.

Consecration of a Roman Catholic Church at Ballynahinch;

Last Sunday, a new Roman Catholic Church at Ballynahinch was consecrated by the Right Rev. Dr. Dorrian. After the celebration of High Mass, the consecration sermon was preached by the Right Rev. Dr. Leahy, who, at the conclusion of his discourse, thanked the persons, both Roman Catholic and Protestant, who had so generously subscribed to place such a house as the one they were now assembled in at the disposal of the Catholics of Ballynahinch.

After the sermon a collection was taken up, which, with the sale of tickets, amounted, we understand, to the munificent sum of over £600.

(Northern Whig)



Archdeacon Doyle.

John McGrath became P.P. on February 11, 1887. He died January 17, 1897 and is interred in the Church. John Doyle was appointed P.P. February 15, 1897. He died January 11, 1931 and is interred in the Church grounds. He became Archdeacon and was responsible for the erection of the High-Altar and side altars in 1897. The gallery was also added at this time.

Edward McGivern was appointed P.P. on January 23rd, 1931, and remained in Ballynahinch until his death on December 10th, 1938 and is interred in the cemetery. He began by renovating Ballynahinch Church, improving St Colman's Church in Dunmore and was responsible for the erection of the Church of Christ the King in Drumaness, the foundation stone for which was laid on July 4th

1935. The church was dedicated by Bishop Dr Mulhern on October 25th, 1936. The Church cost £8,000, £5,000 had already been raised by its opening.



Canon Edward McGivern.

Drumaness Primary School opened in 1939.

During his time he saw the Sisters of the Assumption arrive at 12 Belfast Road in 1932. The convent opened a School in September 1933 with 20 boarders.

A new cemetery and Parochial Hall were opened and blessed by Dr Mulhern.

The curate's residence was opened in 1931 in Dunmore.

Canon Michael McClory became P.P. on December 15th, 1938. He was responsible for the construction of two new schools.

St Patrick's Primary School was re-built in 1958 and St Colman's Secondary School opened in 1965. A curate's house was purchased in 1958 on the Belfast Road.

Canon McClory passed away in 1967, when he was succeeded by Canon Alexander McMullan who was Parish Priest until August 4th, 1975.



Canon Michael McClory.

A Description of St Patrick's Church in 1970.

Externally a curious mixture - The older parts stuccoed with round and round-headed windows. A very square-black stone tower with corner pinnacles and a diagonally placed spirelet with patterned slates. the tower and transepts were added in 1866 to designs by W J Barre: the Gallery is some 30 years later.

Outside, ornate green painted ecclesiastical iron railings, gates, pillars and lamp standards - the later with improbable and unsuitable modern mushroom tops.

Internally, of vastly greater interest:

This must be one of the very few large Catholic Churches in the North built in the classical style before Emancipation (1829). The Catholic population of the area has always been large: The original Church was built in 1807, but wrecked by the Big Wind of 1839. It was rededicated in 1843. The covered ceiling is borne on segmental arches carried by pairs of fat classical columns.

The rose windows in the North and South transepts have quatrefoil openings filled with richly coloured panes of Victorian Glass deep red, blue and yellow.

There is an excellent multi-pinnacled High-altar of Caen stone; painted under the stairs of the Gallery is a tiny Baptistry with charming gilt lettering and Cherub's head.

Canon Patrick Smyth was appointed 1975 and retired 1993. He was responsible for extensive renovation and extension of the Church in 1992. A new Parish Centre was also constructed.



The last Mass in the old Church, November 1992, before renovations took place.

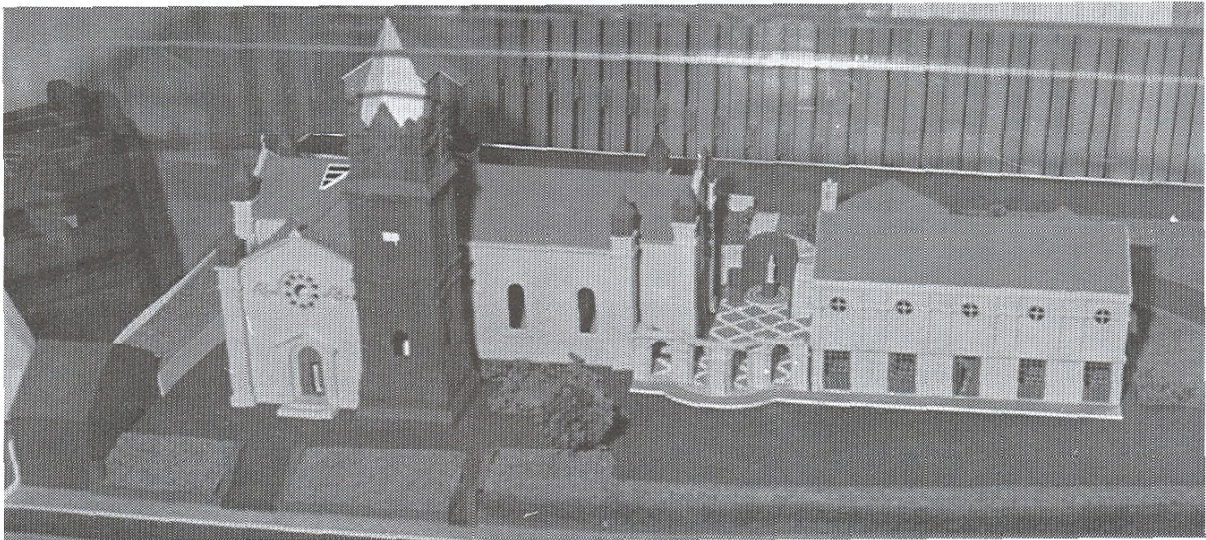
In 1991 Rooney & McConville were appointed Architects to re-order the Church and design a Parochial Hall.

As the Church was Listed B grade, it was decided to base the design on the Classic style which Barr had given the Church. The brief laid down the doubling of the seating accommodation, and as the Church could not be extended to the rear of the site the additional seating could only be accommodated along the side, parallel to the street. Once this axis was agreed, the Sanctuary had to be re-located to face the maximum number of parishioners and the present L-shaped layout was decided on.

The strength and proportions of the interior were such that they had to be continued into the extension and the classic style was retained.

The existing transept rose window was supported and removed, the new wing built and the window reinstated, the Sanctuary was located in the old Left hand Transept and a new Sacristy built behind it. Above the Sacristy a new Blessed Sacrament Room was built with access from the upper car-park, to allow visits when the main church was closed. A confessional room and a Lady Shrine were constructed behind the tower and a new side entrance, with a Bride's room and a working Sacristy, opening off it, was built. This entrance opened into an atrium which also served as an entrance to the Hall. In the space, which is entered through a colonnade, a Grotto was built and a stair which allowed access from the upper car park. This Atrium was laid out as a peaceful retreat which formed a welcoming space between the outside and the Church. The Pascal fire is contained in this space.

The existing stain glass windows were re-installed in the new window openings and new leaded lights were designed to compliment the existing glass. An organ loft was constructed above the Narthex and the Ministry of Music was situated in the old sanctuary space.



Model of St. Patrick's Church.

With the retention of the classical details, the moulded ceilings, columns, string courses and pilasters, the Sanctuary was designed to use as much of the existing marble work as possible. The altar, Ambo, Celebrant's Chair and Tabernacle were designed in the style of the old side altars, and the altar rails were harvested and built into the rear of the Sanctuary to form a worthy space for the Tabernacle. The location of the altar and its elevation on steps was decided on at the intersection of the aisles and to confirm its centrality, a carved dove of the Holy Spirit was suspended above it.

The decoration was chosen to reinforce the classical image of the interior, the light colour and the borders to the carpets add to the lightness of the space. The stations of the cross and the painting 'The Baptism of Christ' were cleaned and given their own special locations. Finally, the three paintings, which hung at the rear of the old Sanctuary and side Altars were also restored and re-hung, one above the tabernacle and the others flanked the Organ loft at the side entrance.

A special feature in the church is the painting of the Baptism of Christ that was painted in 1963 by local man, the late Kieran McGoran, who spent two hundred hours working on his masterpiece using a formula of Egg Tempera to complete the task.

This painting was donated to the church by Mr McGoran, and hangs in the tiny

baptistry, that is to be found under the stairs of the gallery with its gilt lettering and cherub's head.

A new weather porch was built on the street entrance and a commissioned stained glass roundel of the Patron Saint, St Patrick, installed.

The work was completed within eight months.

Included in the renovation of the Church was a new Parish Centre which easily caters for the organisations in the Parish and is used for Parish fund-raising activities.

The chapel was re-opened on Sunday, June 6th 1993 by Bishop Francis Gerard Brooks. In his address he referred to the re-opening and dedication of the church as:



Canon Aidan Hamill, now based in Newry.

A symbol, a sign of the living community of Christ's followers

The Parish Priest, Canon Patrick Smyth in his address paid special tribute to the curate, Fr Aidan Hamill for his tireless efforts in realising the completion of the huge task of such a massive renovation.



Canon Pat Smyth.

Canon Pat Smyth was succeeded as Parish Priest in July 1993 by Canon Gerard McCrory.

There are some natives of the parish who have answered the vocational call to the priesthood and religious life. These are Fr. John McCreanor who celebrates his Golden Jubilee in the priesthood in 2000, and Father Hugh O'Kane who celebrated his Silver Jubilee in 1999. Both priests are in the SMA Order.

Fr. John McAuley, retired Parish Priest of Donaghmore, and now living in Warrenpoint, is another native of the parish.

In the religious life, we celebrate the call of Sr. Kathleen Savage (Sister of Mercy), Passionist Resource Centre, Ardoyne; Sr. Mary John Savage (Holy Cross Order), Glen Road, Belfast; Sr. Leo Fegan (Nazareth Sisters, London; and Sr Gabriel McAuley (Sacred Heart of Mary Order), New Jersey, USA.



People who must be heard in the church. Some of the readers of the Parish of Magheradroll.



Eucharistic Ministers of St. Patrick's (from left) back row: D. Fitzpatrick, A. Murphy, J. McDonald. Middle row: C. McEvoy, J. McDonald, M. R. Fitzsimmons, M. Colgan, G. Walls, K. McQuillan, Mrs. Hannawin, P. Cunningham, E. McQuillan, J. Cunningham. Front row: M. Bonnor, P. McGoran, R. Martin, P. McEvoy, M. Rice, B. Savage, C. Fitzpatrick. Absent from photo: C. McCall, A. Trimby, J. McAllister, P. McAllister, Sr. Leontia, C. Clarke, H. Madine, M. McEvoy, K. Heathwood, M. Collins, M. McCusker, A. Savage and R. Poland.



Voluntary Helpers, St. Patricks. Back row (from left): M. Joyce, Mrs. Hannawin, G. Walls, Mrs. Hanna. Front row: R. Martin, A. Cunningham and M. Colgan.



Choir of St. Patrick's, Ballynahinch. Back row (from left): B. McGoran, M. McGlew, C. McMullan, C. Fitzsimons, T. Murnin. Front row: C. O'hare, J. McGrady, M. McGrady, M. Murnin and E. Walls.

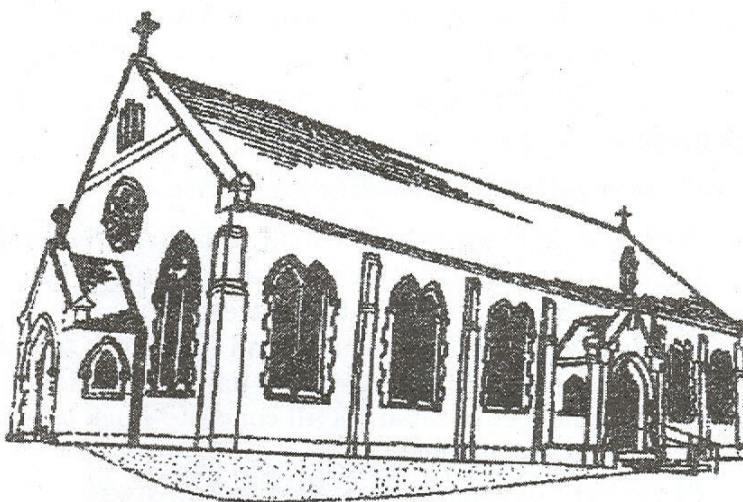


Mass servers at St. Patrick's, Ballynahinch

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

There is no record of the opening address of Dr Mulhern on October 25th 1936 when the new church of Christ the King was dedicated.

Prior to the opening of the church in Drumaness, the congregation travelled to Ballynahinch (4 miles away) or Dunmore (5 miles). Then the school house was used for Sunday Mass for some years before the erection of the church. The first Mass was



celebrated in the Church on Sunday, June 28th 1936. The sermon on the Feast of Christ the King when the opening ceremony was performed was preached by Very Rev Arthur H. Ryan who following his eulogy on the Kingship of Christ went on to state:

Faithful to the example of their forefathers in times of persecution who hear Mass at one or other of the Mass Rocks that abound in the district they did not shirk discomfort and hardship in their devotion

Father Ryan stated that the school was condemned by the Ministry of Education and Canon McGivern decided to supply a Church and a school.

He said:

"The people of the Parish with the people of Drumaness who are mostly poor toilers in the local mill have nobly responded to the calls on their slender resources.

It is our prayer that this new church of Christ the King in Drumaness will prove a ridge from which the waterfall of grace flowing with its cleansing and vivifying streams will purify for ages to come the souls of the worshippers therein, rendering them bright and shining, fit to stand forever around the eternal Throne of King of Kings."

The cost of constructing the chapel in Drumaness was in the region of £8,000.

The altar in the chapel was donated by Daniel Rogan of Ballynahinch and cost £380. The candlesticks, ornaments and vases were donated by Miss McAnulty of Ballynahinch and cost £117. The altar rails and sanctuary gates were donated by Mr H McLeigh. The sanctuary lamp, baptismal font, a statue of Christ the King and the monstrance were all donated.

(Excerpt from Irish Weekly: October 31st, 1936)

Behind the altar in the Church is a 'Clarke' window, one of the nationally famous set.

The work on the Parochial House in Drumaness commenced in July 1982 and the first resident priest, Fr Frank Lyons, an native of Co Cork took up residence on July 17th, 1983.

DRUMANESS CHURCH RENOVATION 1996

By the mid 1990's it was evident that the interior of the Church was showing a lot of dampness and could not be painted until this was cured. Upon inspection it was revealed that a lot of the concrete work was spalling and required extensive repair.

When scaffolding was erected a detailed list of work required to remedy the problems was made and carried out.

A brief description of the work was as follows:

1. Removal and replacement of all coping stones on the roof.
2. Complete re-painting of the external walls.
3. Removal and replacement of gutters.
4. Leadwork to windows, coping and lead work to rear of gutters and copings.
5. Replacement of loose slates and painting of ridge tiles.
6. Replacement and repair of all concrete work on window reveals
7. Repairs to leaded windows.
8. Treatment of woodwork to Stations of Cross.
9. Replacement of drainage to some gullies.
10. Installation of additional external lighting.

Internal

1. The lining of back wall of Gallery.
2. The lining of some window reveals.
3. Removal and replacement of glazing to rear porch.
4. Replacement of lights to main church.
5. Repainting after drying out period.
6. Replacement of carpet to alter and main aisle.

The church was re-dedicated on Feast of Christ the King, 1996.



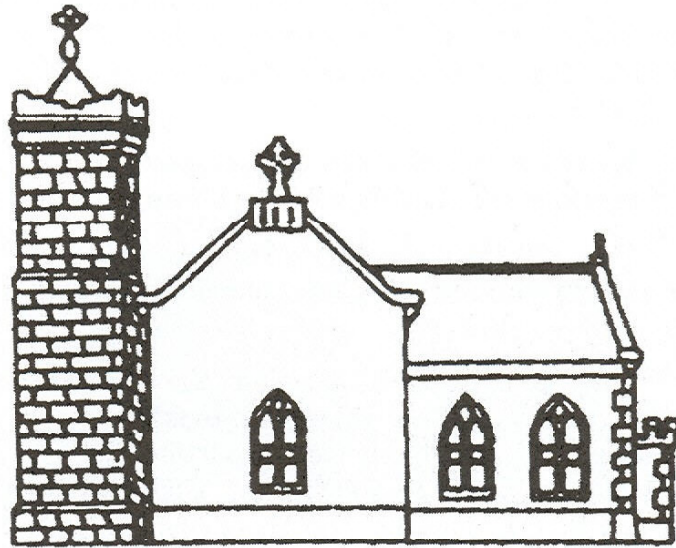
Mass servers, Drumaness, 1999.

ST COLMAN'S CHURCH, DUNMORE

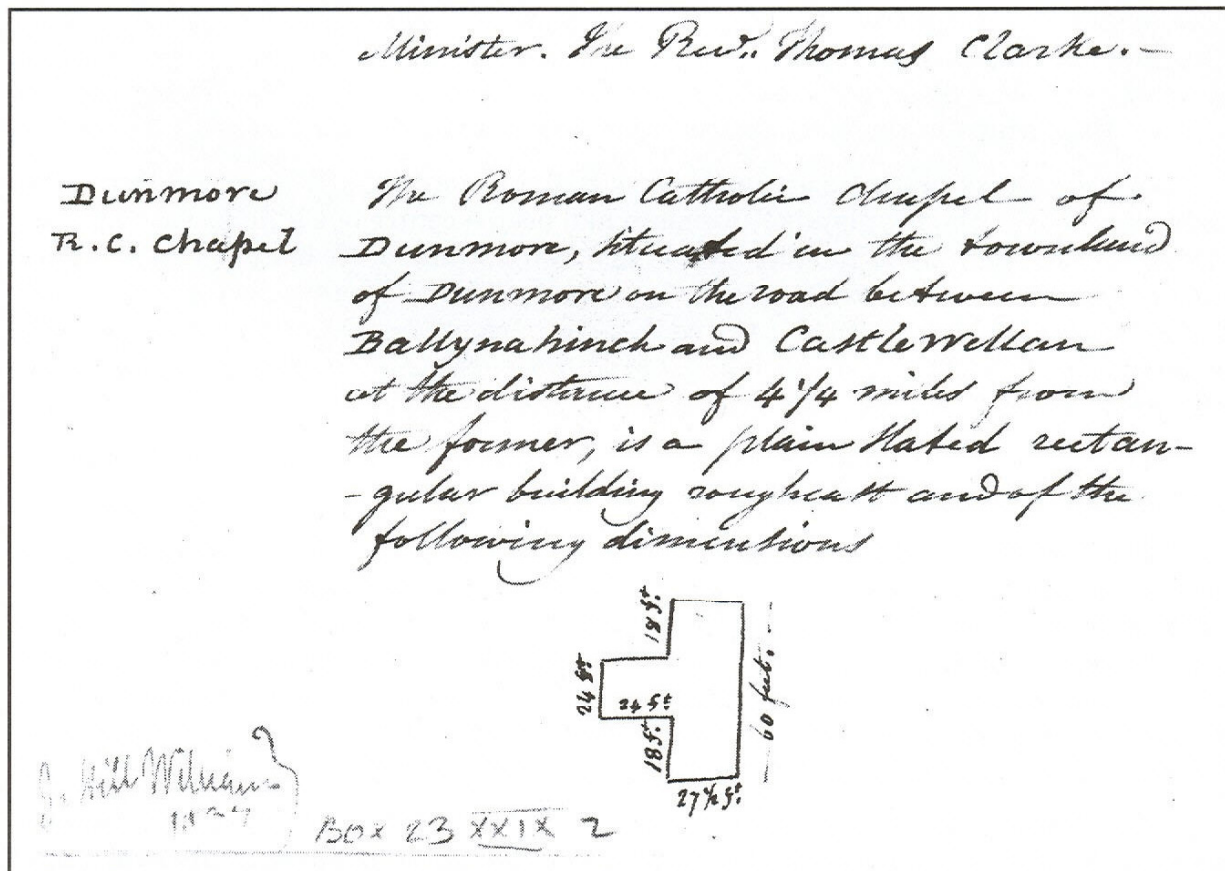
The Catholic Church acquired the land in Dunmore, in the wake of the The Act of Catholic Emancipation in 1829.

The Church of St Colman in Dunmore commenced construction in 1831 when Fr. Peter Polin was Parish Priest. It was completed and dedicated by Bishop Blake on July 26th, 1840, when Fr Sharkey was Parish Priest.

This Church was built near the site of a former Mass Station at Guinness, and close to the ancient church at Templemoyle. Prior to the Reformation Mass was celebrated in this Church.



The cost and labour for the enterprise being provided by the local population.



A copy of the original floor plan of the first Church in Dunmore. Reproduced with the kind permission of The Library of Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

A Mr Warren had a brass plaque erected on the wall inside the chapel.

The lighting was powered by a windmill which was situated on the side of the old parochial house. A bell was on a wooden tower near the same place. A Mr McNiff was the bell ringer who lived in a house opposite the car-park entrance. (Remains of this house still exist).

There was a well at the left-hand side of the main gates, with steps leading down to it. A container sat beside the well for anyone needing a drink.

This well has long since been sealed off, probably for safety reasons. As most parishioners had to walk long journeys, there were Mass paths leading to the chapel from various locations.

With some minor renovations the Church continued to serve the population until 1955, when a major refurbishment took place. The church was blessed and dedicated by Dr. Eugene O'Doherty on Sunday, October 21st 1956. The con-celebrants at the Mass of re-dedication were Fr J. O'Hagan C.C. Dunmore, Fr H Esler C.C. Newry and Fr T McConville C.C. Newry. The Mass was celebrated by Fr J McAuley C.C. Ballynahinch. The assistant at the Throne was Rev Canon McClory P.P. Ballynahinch.

The contractor was John Branniff, Downpatrick (and many parishioners worked voluntarily to help them). In the renovation the building was risen about 6 feet, and all that remained of the old church was a nine foot wall round it. The church was built in Gothic style and a new apse and sanctuary were built with the building being given a new slated roof. New stained glass windows were added. The ceiling was constructed in pine mould with masonite panelling and the altar was constructed of Italian marble. The floor covering was rubber tiling. There was a gallery at the back of the chapel where the choir sat. Mrs Stewart played the organ as did Mrs Laverty. The Gospel Book, a stained glass window, the monstrance and candle stand were donated.

In his address to the congregation, Rev B. J. Mooney C.C. Hilltown said that from time immemorial the townland of Dunmore had been a centre of Catholic worship, from the days of the church at Templemoyle which had nothing of its history handed down, not even its proper name, for Templemoyle (Teampeall Maol) means only Ruined Church. In his sermon, Fr Mooney further stated that the barn used in Dunmore for Mass for the congregation was lent by a Mr Ritchie, *a Protestant, whose name* he stated *was rightly remembered and honoured amongst them.*

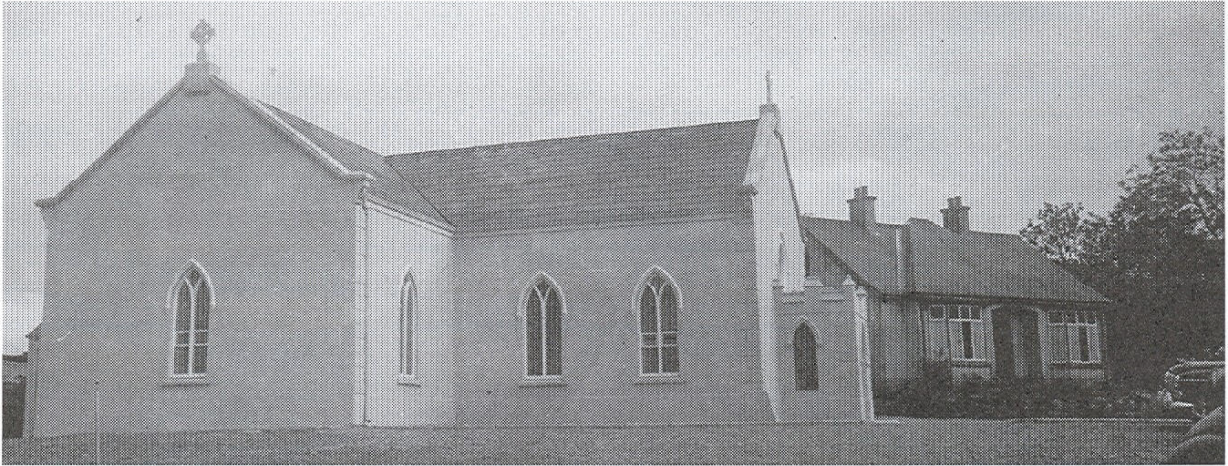
The church in Dunmore was built on the land of Mr Ritchie and the original dedication took place on July 26th, 1840.

In his address to the congregation, Dr O'Doherty expressed his appreciation of the work that was done in renovating the church. He remarked on the tastefully decorated elegant proportions. He expressed his appreciation of the work that had been done in the renovation and commented on the optimism of Fr O'Hagan when the work commenced for most of the congregation were acquainted with the difficulties involved in the breaking of the surface of an old building, as no one knew what they would find and there was a danger of finding something worse than had been anticipated.

The Bishop praised the people of Dunmore for their loyal co operation and generosity and told them they had every right to be proud of their accomplishment. He expressed a special word of thanks to Fr O'Hagan who had carried a great deal of the burden.

(Cont. Irish News - Mon October 22nd, 1956)

Down County Council, eventually, agreed to the up-keep of the lane leading up to the chapel. At around this time, a new car park was made to the front of the building with a wall built round it. All this work was completed by voluntary labour.



St. Colman's Church, Dunmore – 1956



Altar Boys at re-dedication of St. Colman's Church, Dunmore in 1956.

BRIEF RESUME OF RENOVATION WORK AT DUNMORE CHURCH

Late in 1998, on instruction from the newly formed Parish Committee/Building Committee, the Architectural Practice of S D McMullan, Newcastle was instructed to carry out a detailed technical appraisal of the existing church, with a view to appraising the short, immediate, and long term options. This was to be balanced against the respective life expectancy for each of the various options, all balanced against cost. The parish was anxious to have good value for money, for quality works. At the same time they reported that they were sensitive to any financial burden that the Parishioners collectively would have to bear.

Mr McMullan's office furnished numerous reports to the Parish. The services of J Moran, University Street, Belfast, Quantity Surveyors were also enlisted to accurately forecast the cost implications of each of the various options. (At a later stage in the

contract, Cormac Regan, LRH Engineering furnished detailed M & E Engineering specifications and cost appraisals). While these deliberations and consultations were extensive by nature, it was concluded that it would be wasteful to proceed with any works unless adequate financial resources were committed to the scheme. It was concluded that only a comprehensive overhaul of the fabric of the existing Church was the most appropriate.

Samples of the works subsequently carried out are as follows:-

1. Substantial works to the fabric of the building to tackle endemic dampness throughout. It was noted that the church was by and large built on undulating bedrock, where natural drainage was non-existent. All peripheral site drainage was ineffective. Comprehensive treatments to walls, specialist re-rendering treatments, with a proprietary drylining system inside was used.
2. Complete re-roofing of the church reusing nominally 50% of existing slating. It was noted that only partial making good of the existing roof carcass and timbers was necessary, and any consequence of lead valley deterioration had not at the time of the works caused any significant consequential damage.
3. New flooring with natural oak finish and detailed pattern tiled aisles.
4. Refurbishment of existing Mechanical and Electrical Services.
5. New Confessional Areas.
6. Refurbishment of all internal doors with size and proportion in keeping and in scale with Stained glass Windows.
7. Refurbishment and additions of Stain Glass Windows.
8. Renewal of window linings.
9. Refurbishment of Sacristy.
10. Comprehensive redecoration of the Church.
11. External Works to the Car Park, Entrance Porch, new gates, etc.

The nature and calibre of works carried out will now provide for a generally comfortable and visually pleasant Church that will now be energy efficient to maintain.

The newly renovated church of St Colman was re-dedicated on Sunday, December 12th, 1999. Concelebrants at the Blessing and Re-opening were: Bishop Dr McAreavey, Archdeacon L. Boyle, Canon J. O'Hagan, Fr B. Brown, Fr J.J. Cunningham, Fr F. Lyons, Fr L. Murray and Canon G. McCrory.



Clergy and Altar Servers pictured at the re-opening of St. Colman's Church, Dunmore on Sunday 13th December, 1999. Back row (from left): Fr. F. Lyons, CC, Magheralin, Archdeacon L. Boyle, PP, Gargory, Fr. B. Brown, CC, Ballynahinch, Canon G. McCrory, PP, Ballynahinch, Fr. J. J. Cunningham, CC, Drumaness, Fr. L. Murray, PP, Leitrim, Canon J. O'Hagan (retired), Canon A. Hamill, Newry. Front row: J. McAteer, J. Fegan, C. McCullough, E. Braniff, Dr. John McAreavey, M. Fegan and S. McEvoy.

Master of Ceremonies was Canon Aidan Hamill
 Eucharistic Minister: Ray Magee.
 Lectors: Mrs P McCullough and Mrs C Potter.
 Organist was Mrs M McMullan
 Guitarist was Mrs A Laverty

Names of Curates of Dunmore

Fr Joseph Byrne	(1920-1931)
Fr Brannigan	(1931-1936)
Fr John Lennon	(1936-1951)
Fr Andrew McGovern	(1951-1955)
Fr Joseph O'Hagan	(1955-1961)
Fr James Mooney	(1961-1963)
Fr Tom McConville	(1963-1967)
Fr Connal O'Donnell	(1967-1972)
Fr Brendan McAteer	(1972-1978)
Fr Jimmy O'Hanlon	(1978-1979)
Fr Frank Lyons	(1979-1983)



Organist and instrumentalist, Mrs. A. Laverty (left) and Mrs. M. McMullan.



The Choir at the re-opening of Dunmore church.



Professionals and clergy at the opening of Dunmore Church.



Eucharist Ministers of Dunmore.



Voluntary Helpers in Dunmore.

THE PAROCHIAL HALL OF DUNMORE

On November 7th, 1937, a parochial hall was opened in Dunmore. This hall was built on land purchased for £100 from the Pollock family who resided in the house opposite where the hall was sited at the bottom of Chapel Lane. The hall was purchased from Ballykinlar army camp for £120, and had to be demolished and reconstructed.

The hall was opened by Very Rev Canon F McGivern who was heartily cheered as he declared the hall open for any form of legitimate entertainment.

The work of constructing the hall was carried out under the guidance of Fr. Lennon C.C. Dunmore who was ably assisted by six volunteers who gave their whole time services to the work. The Parish Priest mentioned that the names of ;

Sam Boyd, Hugh McCann, P J Laverty, Peter Rogan, Tom Stewart and Robert Pollock would be recorded in the annals of Dunmore as men who cherfully and freely gave from July to November their whole time and ability to such a noble undertaking The thanks of the whole community were also due to Miss Nellie Rogan of Ballynahinch for her generous gift of magnificent stage curtains and window fittings. A special word of thanks was also due to several others of Dunmore who although not giving their full time contributed in no small way to the success of the building

(The Dromore Leader Nov 12th 1937)

Calor gas was installed throughout the whole premises, which included a main auditorium measuring 80ft by 30ft, a stage 30ft by 16ft (which was equipped with stage lighting), 2 ante rooms and 2 dressing rooms with wc's. The hall was capable of seating 800 people. On the night of the opening, the Adelphi Players from Belfast entertained the crowd with a play called "A Bunch of Linen". After the show a dance was held to the music of the McElroy Ceildhe Band.

The hall was, unfortunately destroyed by fire Circa 1970.

Presently a fund raising campaign is in operation in order to rebuild a community hall on the site and in 1999, a most successful festival was held on the old site in order to commence the process of raising this money.

A Youth Club was formed in the early 1950's by Father McGovern. Such activities as, Boxing, Irish Dancing, Table Tennis and Football were enjoyed here. Card games commenced during Father O'Hagan's time in the Parish, and he used these to raise money for the renovating of the Chapel. Quite a few business people from Ballynahinch sponsored these card plays.

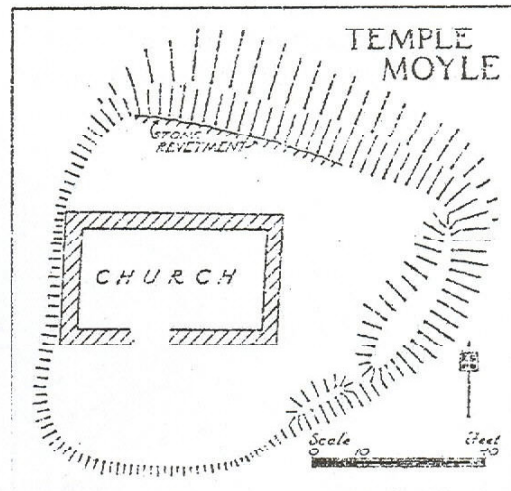
SHORT HISTORY OF DUNMORE AREA, WITHIN THE PARISH OF MAGHERADROLL

Dunmore was at one time attached to the Parish of Dromara with a chapel at Templemoyle. This was a small chapel measuring only 48ft x 24ft with walls 39" thick. The ruins of this church stand in a Field known as Temple field beside the Forde River about half a mile north of the present St Colman's Church. The word Templemoyle means Bare Church for the church stood on a high ridge above a winding stream.

The little village of Dunmore stood near the Church at Templemoyle, on what is now the Magherahamlet Road. A plan drafted in 1834 by the Royal Sappers showed 15 houses with rear gardens, enough to grow vegetables and graze a goat. The inhabitants made their living from spinning and weaving.

A lady called Catherine Woods who was a celebrated linen queen spun 12 leas of yarn which was equivalent to what would make almost 24,000 miles of thread when she was only 15 years old. This lady was buried in Magherahamlet Parish Churchyard.

Prior to the Reformation, Mass in this area was celebrated in the (now ruined) church of Templemoyle which was situated on land which is now in the possession of Savage Bros. Building Contractors, Ballynahinch - situated about five hundred yards from Templeforde Farm, a property owned by the Patterson family.



Approach to this site is, unfortunately, difficult.



Photograph of the Ruins of Templemoyle.

The site is a tranquil one. It is situated on a rise beside the Forde River, a little stream which flows around three sides of the site. About a foot of the original walls remain visible, giving a clear outline of the ancient church, and of the small cemetery which surrounded it. The only entrance is still clearly visible on the south side, and on the east side two thorns mark the spot where the altar would have stood.

Church records in the Cathedral Presbytery, Armagh show that the last Catholic to be buried there was a Patrick Rourke of Drumsnade in September 1799. We are also told that the last burial to take place in the churchyard was that of William Clokey, who was laid to rest there in 1825. (Clokey had been a United Irishman who escaped to America after the rebellion of 1798 and returned some years later to live out the remainder of his life in the Spa area).

At the time of the Reformation, Catholics were forbidden to hear Mass, and the little church passed into the hands of the Established Church. It had been used by this congregation until the new church was built in 1816 at a cost of £500.00. The new Parish Church is situated in the townland of Drumgavelin on the road between Ballynahinch and Castlewellan, at the distance of 3 and a half miles from the former on the south-western shore of McCauley's lake.

However in the meantime, as a sign of good neighbourliness, we are told the Established Church congregation allowed the Catholic population to use the old church for Mass until the landlord of the Barony of Kinelarty, Lord Rawdon received a letter from a Mr Armstrong of Ballynahinch explaining to him that there was :

a number of Papists, who on Sundays and Saints Days do attend for worship at the ruins of the old church of Templemoyle.

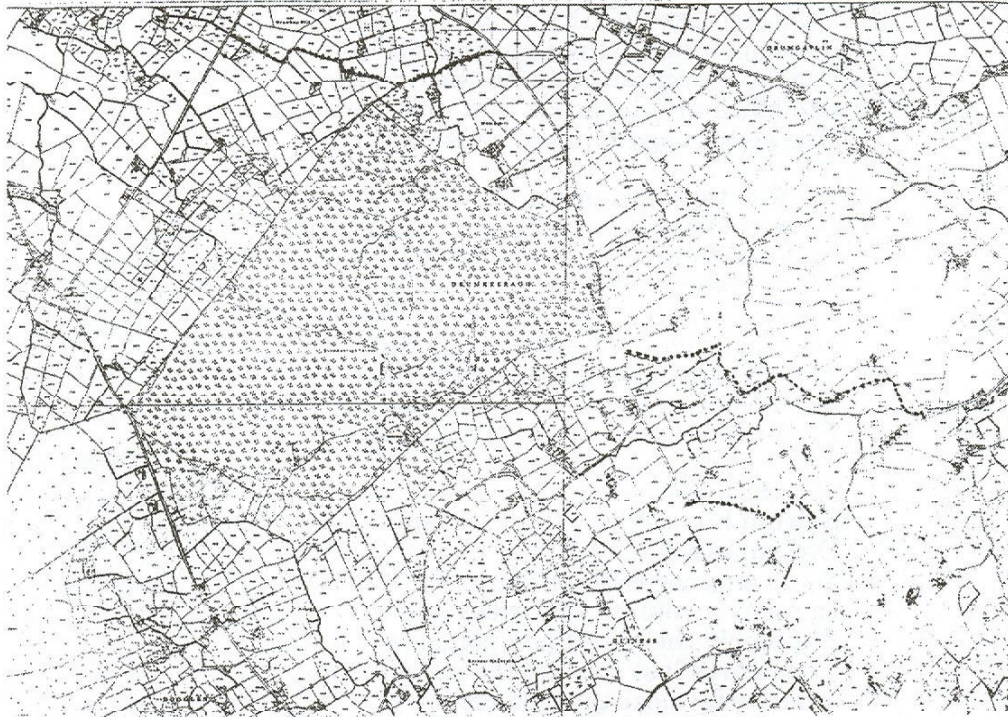
Understandably the Catholic population immediately withdrew and Mass was then celebrated in the foothills of Dunmore Mountain at a Mass Shed.

MASS ROCKS AND SHEDS

We are reliably informed that there existed a Mass Bush which served to provide shelter as the people went about their Sunday worship.

Both the church at Templemoyle and the Mass Shed at Dunmore were approached by Mass Paths. These paths are still in existence today and are now given the title of Public Rightaways. The Mass Paths led from Drumsnade and Drumaness firstly to Templemoyle and latterly to Dunmore. There were no country roads in the area and the paths were the only routes available through the area, which in the early days was well planted with woods.

When Henry VIII disestablished the monasteries, and proceeded to disallow the practices of Catholicism, Mass was celebrated at Mass Rocks throughout the area. This



was in complete secrecy, for there was £5 on the head of a priest. These Mass Rocks were to be found throughout the area in secluded places and were not easily accessible by the Occupying Forces of the time. There were two in this area. One was at Guinness in land now in the possession of the Branniff family and situated 400 yards south of Guinness School. The actual Mass Rock (4ft x 3ft) was, we are told, removed to Drumaroad Church about 1885 where it was built into the foundations. A second Mass Rock in the area was to be found in Hamilton's Folly along a path that later became a Mass Path for the inhabitants of Guinness and Dooglen as they made their way to Dunmore.

The Mass Station was frequently selected at a spot where a suitable slab of rock served the purpose of a natural altar. At times according to circumstances, a crude altar structure in wood or stone was erected under a bush that afforded a certain shelter.

Other Mass Rocks in Magheradroll Parish are:

At Ballylone where a rock 15 feet long lying about 2 feet above the level of the surrounding soil is situated about one mile from Ballynahinch.

Magheradroll Mass Rock is situated in a field known as Mass Rock Field two miles to the south east of Ballynahinch between the Drumaness and Magheratimpany roads. In times past there were steps to the front of the altar, and the station was used till the opening years of the nineteenth century.

Below is a poem written by Tom Rogan in 1935 in memory of the Mass Rock at Dunmore. Tom was a school attendance officer in the area, who composed poetry as a pastime.

The Guinness Mass Rock

We plough and sow in the fields we know,
and we travel far away,
But little is known of the Mountain Lone,
and much it has got to say.
Steadily on from the white road ends,
to the music of choir and pipe and drum,
O'er the beaten track that curves and bends,
to the old Mass Rock at length we come.

Sheltered from all the winds but one,
it looks to the east with a steadfast gaze,
For the reds were out with the rising sun,
and black are the deeds that must be done
E're he rose again in the penal days.

Fly was the word by the mountains rim,
If the soldiers came at the hour of Mass,
And woe to the feeble and weak of limb,
Who's dash so often had led the pass.
Blood was sweet to the drunken sword,
Yet none gave voice to the wild Hurrahs
That greeted the boast of the ruthless hoard.
Of that the defenceless bosom poured,
By the Altar stone in the 'Penal Days'.

Now Fr James on the Altar stands,
Solemn his words to the listeners there,
Oh hapless Erin of all the Lands.
Yours was the cross that was hard to bear.
In many a volume your woes appear,
But feebly the ablest pen portrays,
The heart's last sob and the eyes last tear,
so sorrowful close to a sad career.
At the Muderer's feet in the 'Penal Days'.

Faith of our Fathers living still,
Louder and louder, the mead of praise,
Sings to the valley, the glen and the hill.
Answer, we're proud of the 'Penal Days'.
Proud of the men who distained the lure,
That led to the Church of a Thousand ways,
Who died as they lived despised and poor,
But strong in the faith that must endure.
That braved the scourge of the 'Penal Days'

Steadily on from the white road ends
To the music of choir and pipe and drum,
O'er the beaten track that curves, and to
Honour the names of the worthy men sends
To the old Mass Rock again we come
and Faith grows strong on the Guinness braes
as we kneel where they knelt in the thorny glen,
and the past returns and we see again.
The faithfully stealing, by rock and fen
To the Mountain Mass in the 'Penal Days'.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN BALLYNAHINCH

The first reference to be found for a Parish School is:

“Peter Polin was appointed P.P. of Magheradroll in August 1826 and was said to have erected schools in Ballynahinch in 1827”.

We have discovered, from Daily Record Books, that Ballynahinch National School existed from 1st March 1849 through to Thursday, 25th October 1849.

On Thursday, 1st March 1849, it was inspected by A J Osborne, District Inspector who found 10 boys and 5 girls present.

The average daily attendance was 13; 7 of these female. In the first week, Monday to Saturday, 62 attended; 28 female. A total of 4d (about 3p) was received in cash from these pupils.

At this time, the 3rd Thursday of each month was Fair Day in the town, and the school was closed.

The next record I have found of a Parish School is Monday 9th November 1863 when 14 boys and 13 girls were present. For Christmas 1863, there was a four day holiday.

In January 1864 the school closed for 2 days in respect of the death of the Manager (Rev. Daniel Sharkey, who died January 6th 1864).

It appears that the school was held in a loft in Church Street while the new school was under construction in Railway Street.

This record finishes at the end of May 1864.

On November 28th, 1864 the record resumes, and records there were 13 children present on the new site in Railway Street. When the school opened it was made of stone and mortar, and it was slated. The area of the site was given as 23 perches, built with local contributions and was non vested.

The school opened as a National School a few days later on 1st December 1864.

The internal dimensions of each school-room were as follows:-

Length 31'6": Breadth 20'6" Height to eaves 13'6".

There were five desks each 11'-6" long and 2 separate forms, each 9' feet long.

In 1863, John Goodman, 24 years of age, was the teacher and Rev Daniel Sharkey PP was the Manager. It is said that the site in Railway Street was obtained from the Ker Estate in return for votes in an Election.

When the Railway Street building opened in 1864, John Goodman was Principal of the Boy's School, and Mary Ann Carr was Principal of the Girl's National School.

In a report of 1865, the blackboard was still in the process of being made.

In the early 1870's the new Manager was Rev Charles O'Hare, and it is recorded that Mary Logan was an Assistant Teacher in the Girl's School. In 1871, an evening school was held in the same building. There were 44 pupils, all were male. The average age was 18. This evening school opened on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6.00 pm to 9.00 p.m. The pupils were hired labourers and day labourers.

Reading, writing and arithmetic were taught at 2d a lesson. In January 1873, the Principal's results fees in the Girl's National School were recorded as £12.5.8d. Mary Logan, as Assistant, received £6.2s.10d.

Their salaries per quarter were: Principal £6.10s.0d: Assistant £4.0s.0d (rising later to £5.00). Monitresses £1.5s.0d (Miss McAlea and Miss McGrillan).

By 1877, the Principal in the Boy's School was Francis Gallagher, and Mrs McCauley was Principal in the Girls'.

In 1880, Mrs Galway was in charge in the Girl's school. Francis Gallagher was still present in 1892, but by 1898 Mrs Charlotte Rice was Principal in the Girl's School.

In the 1909 - 1911 period, H. Graham and Miss McCloskey were Principals, and Miss Doherty and Miss Croskery were Assistants.

In 1919, M. J. Nangle was Principal in the Boy's School, and Miss Evaleen Lee was the Girl's Principal. Assistant Teachers at that time included Miss M. Ryder; Miss Ellen Crangle and Miss N. Crangle. In the Girl's School at this time there were 42 girls on the Roll between the ages of 3 and 15 years. There were also 6 boys in standard one, suggesting that the infant boys were taught in the Girl's School.

The 3rd Thursday of each month was a Fair Day in Ballynahinch, and was still a school holiday.

There was a week's holiday in early November for potato picking.

At this time school hours were 10.00 am - 3.30 pm - Monday to Friday.

In January 1919, a flu epidemic closed the school for 2 days. In April of that year an Inspector's Report reads:

The School has suffered a good deal from influenza ...

The work however is generally efficient.

By 1929 the school was now a Public Elementary School run by F Quigley and Imelda Hughes. It remained like this for a number of years. Assistant teachers included: Miss Dempsey, Miss N. Crangle and Mrs Hart.

In 1948, F. Quigley was still Principal, but in 1950, P. McFlynn was in charge.

By 1953, Joseph Mulholland was Principal and 1958 saw the completion of the new school behind the original building in Railway Street.

By now it was St Patrick's Primary School, and has seen Brian Collins as Principal from 1977 - 1998 supervising a huge extension in 1980/81. Prior to the extension the school consisted of four classrooms at the front of the building plus two further classes in the hall, which also doubled up as the dining hall.

As the number of pupils, and hence classes grew, so the number of outside temporary classes increased until by the late 1970's, there were as many as five or six of these scattered about in various parts of the school yard.

By 1980, it was obvious that the school urgently needed to be extended. Over the next year the infant block and the new dining hall/kitchen were constructed, and the second level classrooms were added along with two additional classrooms on the ground floor.

The Principal's Office, Secretary's Office, and a considerable extension to the hall completed the work. This extension to the hall enabled it to be used as a proper gymnasium for the first time. The play areas to the rear of the school added to the P.E. facilities.

All of the work was supervised by the School Principal, Mr. Collins and the Parish Priest, Canon Patrick Smyth.

The school presently has about 290 pupils. Its teaching staff is the Principal with 10 permanent staff, plus 1 temporary full-time and 2 temporary part-time. Leo Flanagan became Principal in 1998.



First Holy Communion, St. Patrick's 1999.

DRUMANESS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The growth of Drumaness Primary School in many ways mirrors the growth of the Village itself. Drumaness grew into a village following the opening of the spinning mill in 1850. It was bought by James Hurst, a Manchester oil merchant towards the end of the nineteenth century. The mill prospered as the linen industry in County Down flourished. Mr. Hurst was dedicated to the business and carried out an extensive expansion programme including the red-brick houses at Cumber Terrace and Hillside. In those days people tended to work much closer to their homes and, as a rule, four or five members of the family were employed in the mill.

The old Drumaness Public Elementary School at the junction of the Newcastle and Drumsnade Roads was built as a teacher's residence and classroom. It was later converted into two classrooms heated by an open fire and with meagre toilet facilities on the opposite side of Drumsnade Road. The building was also used for Sunday Mass. Principal, Mr. E. J. O'Brien taught in the smaller room while Mr. John Owens and Miss Mary Daly shared the larger room in the 1930's.

Around that time the Parish Priest, Canon McGivern with curates, Fr. J. J. Lennon in Ballynahinch, another Fr. J. J. Lennon in Dunmore and Fr. J. McCauley (chaplain to Assumption Convent) under the guidance of Dr. Mulhern, Bishop of Dunmore, decided to provide much needed facilities in Drumaness. The Church of Christ the King (arguably the first under that title in Ireland) was opened in 1937 and the work on providing a new school was begun. In 1939 the new Drumaness School was built and opened at the cost of £4,000 to accommodate 150 pupils. It had three classrooms opening onto a corridor; with another smaller corridor at right angles to the first. It had two cloakroom spaces and separate entrances for girls and boys at either end. A coke-burning boiler heated the school, and a coal stove in one room allowed the girls to have cookery lessons. The first sign of technology was provided by a radio which required two large batteries, a dry battery about 8" square and a wet battery which had to be re-charged regularly (a service provided by Hurst's Mill). Outside were two playgrounds, the girls' on the side towards the Chapel and the boys' towards the Weir Lane. At the far side of each playground were dry toilets.

Most pupils walked to school even from a distance: a few cycled. Children brought lunches to school, usually sandwiches of jam or cheese, sometimes a bottle of milk. Some free meals for needy children were provided, usually a plate of stew prepared by Mrs. McCann in her own home next to the school (where the car park is now), and replaced by lentil soup on Fridays and other days of Abstinence. The subjects taught were Religious Knowledge, Reading, Writing, Spellings, Grammar, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Geography, Singing, Art, Science (for boys). Domestic Science (girls). Miss Daly taught Junior and Senior Infants; Mr. Owens had 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes, while 6th, 7th and 8th classes were the responsibility of the Principal, Mr O'Brien.

School leaving age was 14, when most pupils began their working life, usually in the Mill, in a trade, or as a labouring boy. Secondary education was only for the very few whose parents could afford the fees, or those lucky enough to gain one of the very few scholarships available. The only Secondary Schools for girls were Assumption Convent in Ballynahinch or (for boarders) St. Louis' Convent, Kilkeel: Boys could board at St. Colman's College, Newry or cycle to St. Patrick's High School, Downpatrick.

After the death of Canon McGivern, Canon McClory was appointed Parish Priest and so Manager of the school with total control over the running of the school and the appointment of teachers. Mr. Owens became Principal of the school succeeding Mr. O'Brien and Mrs Rogan was appointed in his place. As the need for a fourth teacher

grew, Mr. Joe Mulholland was appointed in 1948. A classroom was contrived for him by keeping the girls' door locked and using the entrance hall as a classroom (where the staff room is now). When Mr. Mulholland left to become Principal of St. Patrick's Boys' School in Ballynahinch, Mr. Gerry Davis took his place. As the make-shift classroom was not very suitable, part of the old school was refurbished as a classroom and Mr. Davis and his class relocated there.

By this time 1948 Education Act was beginning to take effect - the 'Eleven-Plus' had begun; Public Elementary Schools were re-named Primary Schools; Junior Infants were now called Primary 1; the first of the 'Intermediate' Schools were being built; the school leaving age was up to 15; — modernisation was under way.

Mr. Owens collapsed in school one day and died soon afterwards. Mr. Henry Bent came as the new Principal. When Mr. Davis left to take up a post nearer his home, Mr. Harry McEvoy replaced him and began his teaching career in the Old School, where he had sat as a pupil many years before. Changes had also occurred among the priests of the Parish. Canon Alex McMullan became Parish Priest in 1967, and was the last Manager of the School, while Fr. M. McConville and Fr. J. O'Hagan were curates.

Mrs. Mary Dornan was appointed Infant Teacher when Miss Daly retired. About 1960 the first major extension to the school saw a new classroom added (where the far end of the Assembly Hall is now) joined to the original building by a corridor which gives access to the new toilet accommodation. The Old School was once more redundant.

In 1965, the new Intermediate School for the area, St. Colman's, was opened in Ballynahinch, and Mr. Bent became the first Headmaster. Mr. H. McEvoy succeeded him as Principal of Drumacess. 1969 saw the school attain Maintained Status, and the first 'Four and Two' Committee took control from the Manager. The name derived from the constitution of the Committee - the P.P. appointed four members of the Committee and the Local Education Authority two. The members of that first Drumacess Primary Maintained School Committee were:-

V. Rev. Canon McMullan P.P. (Chairman)

Rev Fr. L. Boyle C.C.

Mr. Malachy McCauley

Mr. Patrick Rogan

Mr. Eddie McVeigh J.P.

Mr. Dan Rice

Mr. H. McEvoy was appointed honorary secretary.

The new committee made its first appointment in September 1969, when Mr. Leo Flanagan was appointed to replace Mrs Rogan, who had retired. When Mr. Flanagan took up another post he was succeeded by Mr. Anthony King.

The Mill closed in 1965, but the village continued to grow following the construction of a substantial number of Public Authority houses in the 1970's.

Back in the school overcrowding once again demanded a major extension. A kitchen was built to the back of the 4th classroom which was extended to form an Assembly/Dining Hall; three new classrooms were built into the hill behind the original school; an office and a staffroom were added and an oil-fired heating system was installed. By September 1970, it was ready for occupation, with two extra teachers, Miss Kathleen Trainor and Mr. Kieran McVeigh, added to the staff, and Mrs. Dornan promoted to Vice-Principal. In subsequent years as teachers moved on, new teachers took their place: among them; Mrs. Anne O'Hare, Mrs. Gertie O'Hare, Mr. Dan Morgan, Mrs. Nuala McAleenan, Mrs. Sheila Killen as well as part-time remedial teachers like Mrs. Angela

Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Anne McErlean.

The Eighties saw huge changes introduced in education. The Maintained Committees were replaced by Boards of Governors which were comprised of representatives nominated by the former manager, the teachers, parents and the Education Board.

In 1990, Mr. McEvoy retired and was succeeded by Mr. Leo Flanagan. Just as teachers have come and gone, so have the priests of the Parish. Canon McMullan was replaced by Canon Patrick Smyth and curates, Frs. L Boyle, A Hamill, T McConville and F Lyons have all moved on. Perhaps Fr Lyons has most influence on the school as he moved into a new Parochial House beside the school, and became the school chaplain. In no time at all he knew every child in the school by name.

One of the most worthwhile additions to the school has been the appointment of ancillary staff in the past quarter of a century. Secretary, Margaret O'Boyle, has been an essential member of staff since her introduction. Part-time caretakers like Jimmy O'Neill and Paddy McEvoy have been replaced by full-time caretakers and cleaners, Joe McCann, John McAlea, Jimmy Doherty and Patricia Lavery. The kitchen staff over the years not only provided good meals for pupils and teachers, but the co-operation and good humour of Mary Magee, Rosie Morgan, Bridie Marner, Kathleen McKee, Kathleen Quinn, Rosemary Donnelly, Josie Smyth, Dolores Noade and the others added to the friendly ethos that has characterised Drumaness Primary School then and now.

The end of the decade saw the appointment of the present principal, Mrs. Deirdre McCann. Mr. Kieran McVeigh, Mr. Dan Morgan and Mrs. Nuala McAleenan still remain, while Mrs. Veronica Woods, Mrs. Deirdre Madine and Mrs. Catherine Blaney together with Mr. Arthur Dillon, Miss Rosaleen McClean and Miss Mary Cowan make up the teaching team at Drumaness. The Board of Governors, under the chairmanship of Fr. J. J. Cunningham, the teaching and non-teaching staff give Mrs. McCann tremendous support as she leads the school in facing the challenges of the new millennium.

The life of the school and the village have been inextricably linked throughout the last century. The school looks forward to strengthening these links in the many years to come. It wishes to remain "The Community School".



First Holy Communion, Drumaness.

GUINNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Guinness Primary School came into being in 1848, as one of a number of schools erected in the local area under the system of National Education set up in Ireland in 1831, in an effort to transform the poor of Ireland into a literate population. The application to build the school was made by the Parish Priest, Fr Daniel Sharkey, and on completion the school comprised one room, sixteen and a half feet long by fifteen feet wide.

The furniture was two double desks with seats attached, each twelve feet long. There were thirty-four pupils in attendance, at the time of opening and the first teacher was a Mr. John Fishbourne from Kilmore National School, near Lurgan. He was fifty years old, and in the opinion of the superintendent of National Schools, of good character, with passable literacy acquirements, and a passable method of conducting the school.

The Principal teachers in the school from 1909 were:

Miss Mary Harvey	1909-1911
Mr Bernard Mullan	1911-1913
Miss Margaret Murphy	1913-1914
Mr George McKeown	1914
Miss Arabella Sheahan	1914-1937
Sr Angela Boyland	1937-1944
Miss Mary Lundy	1944-1946
Miss Frances Coughlin	1946-1947
Miss Margaret Murray(Mrs Liddy)	1947-1972
Mrs Glenys Magennis	1972-1977
Mrs Mary Kelly	1977-

In 1930, an extension of one classroom, equal in size to the first classroom, was added with a partition installed, which enabled concerts to be held in the school. This second classroom was built to the same specifications as the first, with wainscotting round the walls and open fires.

The initial toilet accommodation was a pair of dry toilets housed in a small outhouse, with a coal house in the middle. These were updated in the 1950's to provide flush toilets, and pot bellied stoves replaced the open fires.

Further renovations followed down the years, with a mobile classroom being added in the mid 1980's, along with a heated toilet block.

In 1997 and 1998, the two main classrooms were completely refurbished with rewiring, sinks, new floors, suspended ceilings, new windows and a new heating system being installed. *This primary school now carries facilities equal to any other in the area, and is well equipped with resources to deliver the curriculum in this isolated rural area.*

Throughout its history the school has had one or two full-time members of staff, with the exception of the years 1992 - 1999 when an increase in numbers resulted in the appointment of a third teacher. The position was initially filled by Miss Mary Grace Scullon who was succeeded by Miss Sonya Tremers. Sadly, due to a decline in numbers, the school reverted to one of two teachers in September 1999, these being Miss Mary

Smyth and Mrs. Mary Kelly, both of whom have served in the school for over twenty years. Mrs. Mary Brown was for many years principal, release and part-time teacher, but this position was terminated in 1998.

Caretaking duties are undertaken by Mrs. Angela Stuart who succeeded Mrs. Mary Burns in the mid 1980s. prior to that the school was cleaned by Mrs. McClean, who along with Mary Burns, had the task of lighting the fires early in the morning to have the classrooms warm for the arrival of the children.

Until June 1999, the duties of clerk/typist were completed by Mrs. Mary Doran (RIP) and since then the position has been filled by Mrs. Joanne Kelly. The dining attendant is Mrs. Margaret Branniff who replaced Mrs. Sheila McKay in the mid 1990s.



Guinness Primary School First Holy Communion, 1998.



Parish Confirmation 1999.



Board of Governors of Schools in the Parish. Back row (from left): P. Cowan, S. McCann, P. McGlew, H. Bonnor, N. Hanna, J. McDonald, Fr. B. Brown, R. McGee, G. McCauley, K. Carville, D. Rice, D. Marmion, G. McDermott, E. McQuillan. Front row: Fr. J. J. Cunningham, C. Mason, G. Walls, M. Kelly, M. Smyth, M. Fegan, J. Campbell, R. Fegan, Canon G. McCrory. Absent from photo: L. Flanagan, J. Savage, Sr. M. Carville, E. Savage, J. McAllister, Mrs. D. McCann, H. McCann, A. M. Cunningham, K. McVeigh, R. Hanna, S. Ritchie, T. McCusker, K. Gallagher, S. Madine, M. McCusker, J. Drake.

PAROCHIAL HOUSE, BALLYNAHINCH (Church St)

1993 - When the house was empty after the retirement of Canon Smyth, and before the appointment of a new Parish Priest the house required some alterations and repair. No internal painting had been carried out for over 20 years.

The following works were carried out:-

1. Insertion of damp course to ground floor and replacement of skirtings.
2. Replacement of kitchen units.
3. New office and waiting area formed in previous housekeepers quarters.
4. Installation of en suite/shower to main bedroom.
5. Replacement of defective bathroom fittings.
6. Complete decoration to internal and external walls.
7. Repairs and re-plastering to external walls of back yard.

CURATE'S HOUSE (Belfast Road)

When the house became vacant an inspection was carried out revealing a lot of dampness and wet rot.

The following is a list of work carried out:

1. Replastering of gable and rebuilding of chimney.
2. Removal and replacement of defective plastering internally.
3. Stripping out defective panelling and treating walls to bathroom and replacement of sanitary fittings.
4. Provision of en suite to main bedroom.
5. Provision and installation of new kitchen units.
6. Replacement of wooden floors to downstairs.
7. Complete re-decoration internally.
8. Complete electrical re-wiring.

ST COLMAN'S HIGH SCHOOL

St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch, was officially opened by the Bishop, Dr. Eugene O'Doherty on Monday 6 September 1965. It was the culmination of years of planning and fund raising by the local parishes to provide secondary level education for the children from the primary schools in the Ballynahinch, Dromara and Finnis areas.

Two hundred pupils were enrolled in St Colman's that September, in a school built for 300. The facilities included an extensive Entrance Hall, Assembly Hall, Kitchen, General Classrooms, Specialist Rooms for carpentry, metalwork, science, domestic economy and commercial subjects. This original part of the school is the part you see when you drive up to the school.

By the early eighties the school had become too small and was not up to the physical resource standards then current. So an application was made and a new extension was officially opened by the Bishop, Most Rev Dr Brooks, on 15 March 1991. This extension is mainly the three storey section of the school that runs parallel to the Crossgar Road. The original school had cost £200,000, but the extension cost £1.6 million.

However, St Colman's was still not resourced well enough to serve the needs of our pupils and a new Science Block was completed in 1998. The school has always been developing, and parents are always telling me how much it has changed even though it wasn't that long (they claim!) since they were pupils here themselves.

Mr Harry Bent was the first Principal and he remained Principal until 1981; He had previously been Principal in Drumacross Primary School. His achievement in regard to education and community life were remarkable by any standards. He founded a parish Drama Society, organised a local INTO Branch, and ran concerts to fund raise for the parish. He was co-founder of the Ballynahinch PACE movement, was a founding member of the Civic Week Committee and started a Youth Club in St Colman's etc, etc. He made a unique contribution to the schools and communities he served. He still has a fairly direct link with St Colman's, for his son-in-law is the much valued school Caretaker, Tommy Deegan, and indeed Mr Bent was back in St Colman's recently for the production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar'.

Mr Bent was succeeded by Hugh Graham as Principal in 1991, having been Vice Principal since 1979. A Dundrum man, Hugh was an outstanding Principal, teacher and administrator, but tragically died at the young age of 43 in 1989. He was the man primarily responsible for the development of St Colman's and it was under his guidance that earlier plans for an extension to the school came to fruition. A memorial plaque to Hugh was unveiled just outside the Library when the new extension opened in 1991.

He was succeeded in 1991 by Francis Duffy, who had previously been Principal in La Salle Secondary School in Belfast. Under his leadership the schools reputation and size continued to grow, and he left in 1996 to become Principal of St Paul's in Bessbrook.

He was succeeded by the current Principal, Hugh McCann who came from St Patrick's High School in Banbridge where he had been Vice Principal.

Although many staff have come and gone over the years there is still one member of staff who started when the school opened in 1965 and is still very much a part of St Colman's today. She began her teaching career as Miss Maureen McEvoy. She is of course the Vice Principal Mrs Maureen Hanna. Maureen has been the thread of continuity that runs through the history of St Colman's. No one has given greater commitment or service to St Colman's over the years and she seems to remember everyone that has gone

through the school.

The gallery of staff photographs along the administration corridor is always a focus of attention on any occasions that we have parents in. They bring back happy memories, not to mention the odd laugh when they see what some of the longer serving members of staff used to look like.

ASSUMPTION CONVENT AND GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BALLYNAHINCH



First Convent in Ballynahinch, 1932 (Assumption).

The history of the Missionary Sisters of the Assumption who founded the Convent and School in Ballynahinch stretches back to 1849, when Wexford born Bishop Aidan Devereux, the Bishop of the newly erected vicariate of the Eastern Province of the Cape of Good Hope in Southern Africa, arrived in Algoa Bay, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, with Sister Gertrude de Henningsen and six companions. They were the first Sisters ever to set foot in Southern Africa. When Bishop Devereux, in dire need of help for his mission territory, approached Pope Pius IX, the latter directed him to the Assumption Sisters of the Archdiocese of Paris, then a newly formed congregation. The Superior of the Religious of the Assumption, Mere Marie Eugenie, had responded generously and with enthusiasm to the urgent request of Bishop Devereux when he had appealed to her to send Sisters to his mission to bring the people under his care the benefits of education, culture and, above all, a knowledge of their Catholic faith.

On 3rd December 1849, the Sisters landed in Port Elizabeth, South Africa after an exceedingly hardship-filled journey of three months aboard a whaling vessel. Four wagons drawn by 16 oxen took them on the six day journey to Grahamstown - today a two hour journey by car.

The first convent school in South Africa was opened on January 12, 1850. It was dedicated to Our Lady of Good Hope. The zeal of the Sisters for the spread of the Kingdom of God, was expressed not only through the education of the needy of all races, but through numerous missionary activities demanded by the troubled times. The greatest massacre of the Frontier Wars occurred on Christmas day, 1850. Mother Gertrude and her Sisters took in one hundred orphans and cared for them in their own cramped quarters. The war dragged on for three years with its inevitable toll of wounded, displaced and refugees, widows and orphans. It took its toll too of missionary work and of missionaries

and resulted in a great shortage of personnel and resources. Communication with Paris was virtually impossible. Eventually Bishop Devereux was advised and empowered by the authorities in Rome to form the little group of Sisters into an independent Congregation; the Missionary Sisters of the Assumption.. Before the Bishop got very far with that work he died, and Mother Gertrude became the foundress and first Superior of the new congregation.

In 1904 she died, and by 1911 the Congregation was under the leadership of Mother Baptist McKenny from Ballymacarn (outside Ballynahinch). She visited Ireland on two occasions returning each time to South Africa with fourteen postulants. It was obvious that vocations would be required from Europe and funds to keep the mission going.

After consultation with Bishop Mulhern of the Dromore Diocese, Mother Baptist McKenny opened a convent and school in Ballynahinch (her home town). She herself had been elected Superior General of the Congregation in 1932. Mr. & Mrs. McCauley, parents of Father John McCauley, made their home at 12 Belfast Road available to the Sisters for a year while they themselves were accommodated by Mrs. McCauley's sister in Coleraine. The little community was set up in temporary accommodation under the leadership of its newly appointed Superior, Mother Colman. The first Sisters were Mother Colman and Sisters Benignus, Loyola and Elizabeth.

Canon McGivern, the Parish Priest in Ballynahinch, offered the first Mass for the Community on 26th July 1932, and on 15th August the first group of postulants were received in Ballynahinch. They sailed from Southampton on 22nd February 1933, accompanied by Mother Baptist McKenny, and arrived in South Africa on St Patrick's Day.

In December 1932, Bishop Mulhern gave permission for the purchase of 'Eden House' which belonged to Mrs. Rogan and it became the nucleus of the convent and school. The first Mass in the new convent was celebrated on 15th August 1933. On 8th September of the same year the school opened with 20 boarders - Sr. Joachim Baker was the first Principal (Sisters Martin, Tarcisius and Maureen Savage were among the first 20 pupils and later entered the Congregation).

The school grew and prospered, and in 1937 received approval by the Ministry of Education. From that day on, the number of pupils continued to increase, and the selection of subjects offered grew. Extension after extension to the building became necessary. The boarding department was phased out in 1983.

In 1937 two Sisters, Sisters Angela and Majella, commenced work in Guinness School. Mr. Ambrose Moore, the first caretaker of the Convent School, drove the Sisters by horse and trap each day. They were on the school staff until 1943.

While the school building improved, the original house used as the convent, gradually deteriorated and became ever more difficult and expensive to maintain, in fact to keep weatherproof. Stories are told of the Sisters going to bed with their umbrellas up!! Eventually a new purpose built convent was erected and blessed and officially opened by Bishop O'Doherty in 1971.

Sr. Pauline Mawson succeeded Sr. Jochaim as principal in 1940. After the publication of the Education Act in 1947 the Assumption High School became Assumption Grammar School. When Sr. Jarlath became principal in 1960 the enrolment was 250. By November 1981 it was 687 and by September 1982 when Sister Eileen Bogues was appointed principal it was 695. When St Maureen Carville was appointed principal in September 1994, the enrolment was 860 and the present enrolment is 910.

Currently a major building development project is planned, incorporating specialist teaching areas, general classrooms, sportshall and canteen. The new building will replace most of the existing school, so nostalgic visits of past pupils may not be a possibility much longer!

Over the years the achievements of the school have been outstanding and for the most part well documented. The school has given a sound Catholic Education to its pupils and has been a focus for vocations and a channel of funds to the missions.

GOD BLESS ALL INVOLVED



First group of Postulants, 1932.



*Present community, back row (from left): Sisters Catherine, Sebastian, Maureen, Cyril, Mary.
Front row: Sisters Josephine, Francesca, Pius, Hyacinth, Benedicta, Leontia.*

ST PATRICK'S GUIDE UNIT

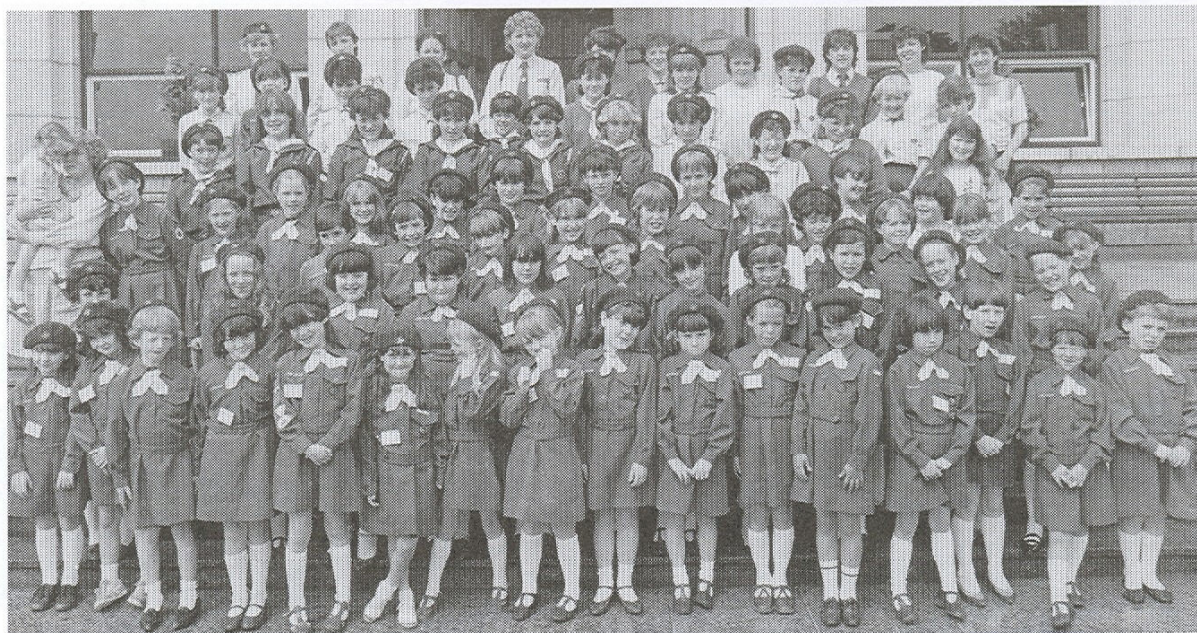
When the Guide Unit was set up in Ballynahinch in September 1976 there were 12 members. The Unit Leader was: Rosemary McKeown and she was assisted by Brenda McCaugherty and Margaret Kearney. The above is affiliated to the Catholic Guides of Ireland and was established in Ballynahinch to serve the needs of young girls in the Parish between the ages of 7 and 17 years.

The numbers continued to grow over the years that followed. Children aged from 7 years to 10 years joined the Brigin companies in large numbers and moved on to Guides at 11 years and subsequently to Ranger Guides at 15. By the mid-eighties there were over one hundred members and fourteen volunteer leaders, with an excellent back-up support from the Parents who were involved in fund-raising.

One of the annual activities to which everyone looked forward was the Summer Camp. The older girls 'camped under canvas' and the younger one took part in a 'Residential'. Venues such as Gormanstown, Kerrykeel and Butlins proved very popular. The Ranger Guides took part in a trip to Lourdes and South of France led by Fr Aidan Hamill.

With growing numbers in the eighties, our meeting place in the Parochial Hall became inadequate and thanks to the initiative of Fr Hamill accommodation was provided behind his house which we still occupy as our 'Den'. As our Chaplain he was very supportive of all our activities and with the large numbers of girls and leaders he made many things possible. The most exciting venture was our 1986 Gang Show (10th anniversary) which showed a wealth of talent. This was followed by a production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and a number of smaller productions each year. Mrs. Monica McGoran provided the music on these occasions and the producers of the shows were Mrs. Lena Owens and Mrs Peggy McGoran with much support from the leaders and parents. The girls also took part in Library Board Competitions in Drama and Netball, local Quizzes and Cross-community work.

In the last five years the age group was lowered to five enabling us to serve a wider



Guides of the Parish on a trip to Gormanstown — Summer 1985.

age range.

A uniformed organization, with a strong Catholic ethos, it is considered a valuable part of the training of young girls, a continuation of the work in the home and School. Through its varied programme of indoor and outdoor activities, the girls have fun, make new friends and learn many skills for life, thus helping to achieve their own personal development and become responsible citizens in the community.

A voluntary organisation, many adults have devoted their time and energy to furthering its cause and have been involved in basic and ongoing training necessary to meet changing needs.

In 1984 a Unit named after the Church, 'Christ the King' was established in Drumaness to serve the needs of girls at that end of the Parish. Like Ballynahinch, it has been served by a strong team of voluntary leaders, aware of the needs of the young girls they work with.

PLAYGROUP

In 1981 Margaret Rice and Anne Trimby opened a playgroup in 'The Den' at the back of Fr. Hamill's house. Registered for 16 children it was named St. Brigid's Playgroup and became a much needed facility for the parents and under five's in the parish. They continued as group leaders until 1990 when Liz McDonald took over as leader-in-charge. In 1991 the group leader again changed with Kay Cassidy and Deirdre Cunningham taking responsibility for the running of the group. In 1993 the playgroup moved to new premises in the Parish Centre.

To appeal to the wider community the group leaders changed the name to Chatterbox Playgroup, and are now registered for twenty four children per day. In 1997 the group attained an Accreditation Certificate from the Northern Ireland Pre-School Playgroups Association. The playgroup could not have existed all these years without the loyal band of helpers who have assisted the leaders throughout the years to the present day. Brenda Savage, Paulette Ralph, Teresa Davey, Maureen Bogues, Eilish McAlister, Una Caughey, Roisin Casement and Eileen Drury.



Chatterbox Playgroup waiting for Santa – Christmas 1999.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY — BALLYNAHINCH

St. Patrick's St. Vincent De Paul Conference - Ballynahinch celebrated its centenary in September 1989. The Rules of the Society are the same today as they were then, "*To seek and find the poor, sick and lonely*".

The Conference today is still going strong. At one time there was a Ladies Conference and a Mens Conference but today both work together in the one Conference.

Looking through the Minute Books of some 20 years ago one would be forgiven for thinking they were last week's minutes as the exact same work is carried on by present day members. Food, fuel, electrical goods and clothing supplied, holidays for Senior Citizens and annual outings. Also the Christmas Dinner. Visits to Hospitals and Nursing Homes. Weekly meetings are carried on as always by 3 officers and other members.

Recently the Society have been trying to update by providing training sessions for new members, to understand the Society's work in the Year 2000.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY — DRUMANESS

The Parish Bulletin of Sunday February 6th, 2000 stated that an appeal on behalf of the St. Vincent De Paul Society would be made on the following weekend, February 12th and 13th in the Churches of Drumaness and Dunmore. This was to be followed by an Information Night on Monday, 14th February in the Dan Rice Hall, Drumaness in an effort to set-up a Conference in Drumaness.

REACHOUT — SPECIAL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Reachout Group was formed in 1986 by Sister Gabriel, a retired nun with the Assumption Sisters. Its aims are to enhance the spiritual, cultural and well-being of physically and mentally handicapped children in Ballynahinch, Drumaness and surrounding districts. On 19 February 1989, four special children, Jemma Quinn, Karen Linden, John Gordon and Christopher O'Hare each received their First Holy Communion in St Patrick's Church. This was a major celebration for all the special children, their families and the Group members.

At diocesan level, the Most Rev Francis Brooks, until his retirement, celebrated an annual Mass during which a number of special children were Confirmed.

The Group also supports parents, guardians and families by holding three Masses annually followed by a party in the Parish Centre. The main highlights of the year are the bar-be-que and Christmas party. Once a year the special children attend a Retreat in Dromantine College, where they dramatise the Gospel during a special Mass. Several other events - at local and diocesan level - are held during the year for all the special children and their families.

The contact for the group is Jim Cunningham: Telephone 028 97 561241.



Reachout Nativity Play.

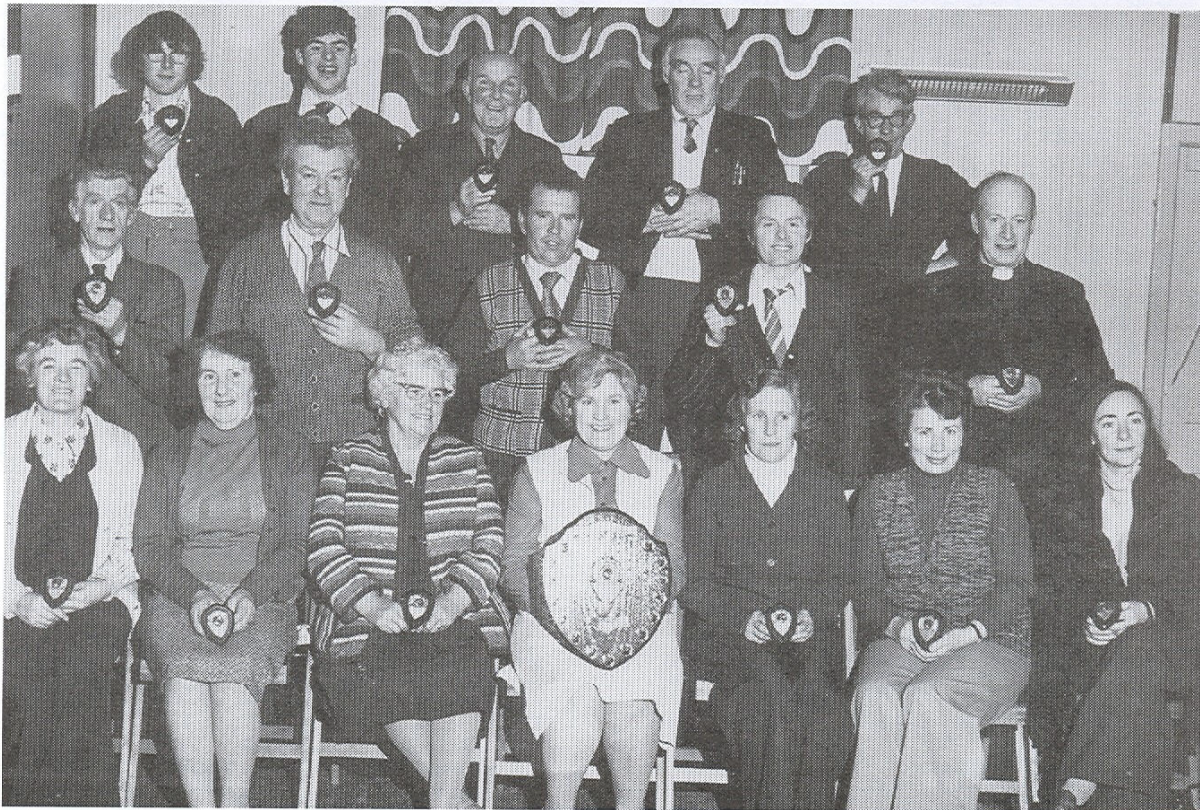
ST PATRICK'S BOWLING CLUB

Bowling was started in the Parish in 1970 by the late Joe Mulholland (who was Principal of St Patrick's Primary School) and the Rev Fr Boyle. Sadly Joe died a few years ago.

In 1977 a Memorial Trophy was obtained and a competition started with teams from the local Churches taking part. Most frequent winners were Edengrove, St Patrick's and in the later years Spa, who were invited to play when the Methodist Church Team ceased to exist. The Shield was presented to Mabel, Joe's wife, in 1994. Among the original members now deceased were Vincent and Kathleen Laverty, Jim and John McGrillen, Paddy McComiskey, Alan Gilgunn and Pat Rice.

There are 23 members at present and the longest playing member is Benny Laverty.

The Club joined the Killyleagh League in the early 1970's. There is no record of them winning this league, but they were runner-ups in both the League and League Cup on occasions. In 1995, they joined Division Four of the Lecale League and are presently playing in Division Two. Owing to the number of matches having to be played when competing in two leagues, a decision was taken to withdraw from the Killyleagh League in 1999. Bowling is an excellent way of fostering good cross-community relations.



St. Patrick's Bowling Club, circa 1978.

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

For the past 8 years there has been an active Prayer Group in the Parish. Based at the Parish Centre, it draws support from throughout the Parish.

Its origins date back to 1992/93 to a week of "Directed Prayer" and follow-up six weeks of 'Enjoy Praying' given by members of the Dromore Prayer Ministry. A similar programme was repeated in 1999.

The ethos of the Prayer Group is based on the conviction of St. Ignatius 'Finding God in all Things'. The main concepts are that by meditating on a Passage in Scripture we are open to the word of God and how it applies to our everyday lives. We are further enriched by sharing with fellow members of our experience in so far as we may wish.

The Group has been fortunate to have the help of Sr Sebastian from the Convent, Carmel Mason and Patricia McGrath as leaders of the Prayer Group. Recently two further members have been trained as leaders. All leaders are members of Dromore Prayer Ministry, and gain great support from talks given by selected guest speakers and guided discussions.

At present the public meetings of the Prayer Group are confined to major liturgical events such as Lent and Advent. These provide good preparation for Easter and Christmas.

The Prayer Meetings are open to all and advertised in the Parish Bulletins.

Any queries - contact Roisin Poland 562081 (evenings).

FAITH FRIENDS

This is a programme where young adults help children prepare for their confirmation.

The role of the Faith Friend is not to teach the children about faith but to share with them how their faith affects their own daily living. So, over a series of meetings the Faith Friend shares with the Confirmation children on topics like "When did I feel close to God", "The Gifts God has given me", "How do I pray?" and so on.

The purpose of the Faith Friends programme is to provide a community dimension to the preparation the children are already receiving at home and in school. In so doing, it offers the children a concrete experience of the interested and welcoming community that they are being initiated into.

THE LOURDES COMMITTEE



Ballynahinch pilgrims at Lourdes, 1998.

The Lourdes Committee of Magheradroll Parish was founded in 1977 and the founder members included Jackie Cowan (Decd), Bernie Cowan, Tom Rogan, Theresa Murnin, Margaret Murnin (Decd), Maureen McKeown and Fr Brendan McAteer. The current committee has approximately 12 members and is presided over by Patsy Russell.

The committee's aim is to raise funds each year to send 4-6 parishioners to a hospital close to the Grotto in Lourdes, together with helpers to care for them, and assist them to attend the ceremonies. This would not be possible without the support of fellow parishioners who attend the Table Quiz nights, buy ballots and give donations. So why not become a member, support the various fund raising efforts, give financial help or be part of the community within the diocese and travel to Lourdes as a pilgrim?



Parish helpers at Lourdes 1998, E. Marner, P. McCullough, G. McCourt and P. Russell.

ST JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

This is a lay organisation. The primary aim of the Society is to foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life by prayer. The secondary aim is to assist students financially with their education.

Mrs Olivia Taaffe, who was born into the Blake family at Annagh, Co Galway in 1832 founded the society 100 years ago. In 1895, whilst residing in Dun Laoghaire, it came to the notice of Mrs Taaffe that an altar boy desired to become a priest but his parents did not have the means to pay for his education. She appealed to readers of the St Joseph's Sheaf. The necessary amount was soon subscribed. The boy was sent to Mungret College, Limerick, and so the first student was helped. The number of students over the years has increased to 700 being supported worldwide in 1999.

Mrs Kathleen Fitzpatrick (Decd), sister of Malachy McCauley (Decd) started the Society in Magheradroll in 1980 with the support and encouragement of Canon Smyth (Decd) and Canon Hamill. Founder members were Malachy McCauley (Decd), Seamus McGoran (Decd), Andrew Murphy, Michael McKevitt, Paddy Milligan (Decd), Catherine McEvoy and Jim Magee.

The Society continues to be active today at parish, diocesan and national levels with Patricia McGrath as the current president.

The Society meets monthly and arranges prayerful events for vocations, eg special Masses, Eucharistic adoration and the annual pilgrimage to Knock. In addition, an annual house to house collection is carried out by promoters which raises over £2,000.

New promoters would be welcome particularly from the youth of the parish, and we hope that all parishioners will continue to promote the Society through prayer and financial support.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

*O Jesus, send labourers into your fields,
which are awaiting holy apostles, saintly priests,
heroic missionaries and dedicated sisters and brothers.
Enkindle in the hearts of men and women the spark of a vocation.
Grant that Christian families may desire to give your Church,
helpers in the work of tomorrow.*

Amen.

ST. PATRICK'S YOUTH CLUB 1992 - TODAY

With the opening of the new Parish Centre in 1992 it was felt possible to address an urgent need to provide a Youth Club for the youth of the parish. Formerly there had been a Youth Club run in St. Colman's School but this had closed, and there was only a Youth Club available in the Community Centre.

The Youth Club opened its doors with four leaders and approximately forty members. Various activities were available to members such as games, drama, art and crafts and outings. The club was divided into two sections, Junior and Senior to allow the more senior members more freedom. A leader-in-charge was appointed for each club. Meanwhile the leaders were regularly attending courses run by the Youth Board on Health Education, Drug awareness, etc. This trend continues even today.

At this time it was felt that some effort should be made to bridge the divisions within our local community, and permission was sought to participate in a Cross-Community non-contact weekend. This was attended by 10 members and was highly successful. Many other such ventures were a regular feature of the club's activities, and for a number of years members of both St Patrick's and the Langley Road Youth Club went to Portrush on the big Children's Day out in July.

Over the years the Club has been active with frequent trips for both clubs to the Superbowl for bowling, the ice-rink for skating, the Christmas Pantomime and various trips to the cinema. In recent years there have been adventure weekend outings for the older members, and participation in The Boys Brigade five-a-side soccer competitions.

Within the past couple of years the 'Old Brigade' have mostly retired and been replaced by 'fresh blood'. Membership is holding up well with particularly high numbers attending the Junior Club. Last year we saw two of the leaders marry each other so the youth club is providing a very varied selection of services.

The Youth Club is thriving today under the current Leaders, and of course in the background they have a very dedicated Management Committee who work tirelessly to ensure its continued success.

DUNMORE YOUTH CLUB

When a group of concerned parents and parishioners gathered in early 1994, one of the issues that was discussed was the provision for young people. The group, Joan Scally, Damien Morgan, Ray Magee, Michael Pollock and Paddy Cowan decided that a Youth Club would go some way to meet the needs of young people in the Dunmore area.

A committee of volunteers began the task of looking for available grants, suitable expertise, and carrying out a census to determine if a Youth Club would be supported by the families in the area. And so the Dunmore Youth Club was born. Parents, Michael Pollock, P J Morgan, Peggy McCullough, Anthony Kelly, Geraldine McCullough, Dolores Mooney and Damian Morgan formed a Youth Club Committee and organised the activities.

With over 150 young people between the ages of 4 and 18 years of age in the area, the committee were over-joyed at the initial success of the club. The club was opened two nights each week, and the young people were grouped according to age. Funding was obtained from the Youth Service of the South Eastern Education and Library Board,

and the parents organised fund-raising activities to provide equipment.

A pool table, television, video/CD player and dart board were all purchased and the programme drawn up to provide as broad an experience for members. The average number of young people attending each night was 50, and as well as participating in the planned activities, it was soon realised that the Youth Club provided the young people of the area with a place to meet, after school.

With the emphasis today on Health & Safety it was discovered that a qualified Leader-in-Charge was necessary for the Youth Club to develop further. I was approached by some of the committee and accepted the responsibility of running the now highly successful Youth Club.

The Youth Club continues to provide for the needs of the young people in the area. With the continued support of the Down Youth Office, all young people over the age of 15 attend personal and social development courses, some have achieved Stage I Youth leadership qualifications, while others have included Youth and Community work as part of their Education for Life.

Carla Jennings, Jarleth Lavery, Anthony Kelly, Stephen Kelly, Michelle Pollock, Vivian Kelly, Elaine Kelly, Janine Kelly, Denise McCullough, Noel Kelly, Brigin Fegan and Claire McGee are young people who have shown leadership qualities, and provided suitable support in running the Youth Club. Young people are keen to be given the opportunity to help and Caroline Morgan, Bronagh McCullough, Liza-Marie McEvoy, Maria McCullough, Mary Fegan and Claire Kelly are being registered to participate in any training offered by the Youth Service.

The Youth Club is open for young people in the area on Wednesday and Friday nights. Since 1996 two weeks in August are used to run the now annual summer scheme. These are two fun-packed weeks where the young people participate in activities such as swimming, outdoor games, cinema and visiting Coco's Indoor Activity Centre. The (final day) of the scheme ends with the now - traditional prize giving and Barbecue.

Grateful thanks must be extended to the parents of the area who continue to support the Youth Club, by sending their children, to the Down Youth Service for their invaluable support, to Canon McCrory for the use of the parochial house, and all the young people who have supported the club in any way.

I will continue to work to ensure that young people in Dunmore receive the best opportunities to help them develop fully into young adults who can give something back to their community. I hope that is what I have done.

(Carol Potter)

ST. PATRICK'S BADMINTON CLUB 1953-2000

St. Patrick's Badminton Club was formed in 1953 by two parishioners, Patsy McMullan and Tom Lavery. They approached the late Canon McClory, who reluctantly gave permission for the Club to be formed as he had never heard of the game called Badminton. So with permission granted, Patsy and Tom started the Club along with about 10 other men.

These included the Late Joe Mulholland, Alan Gilgunn, Mick McKay, Harry McGurnaghan, Dr O'Kane, Joe Mahood, Paddy McGrillen, Seamus Noade (presently living in England) and Billy McCready. Then in order to form a team they had to call on the ladies of the Parish. These included the late Mona O'Kane, Phil McMullan, Stella McKay, Ethna McAllister along with Josie Murray and Betty McGurnaghan (who devoted a large part of her life to the Club and who still takes a keen interest in and helps out with the Junior Club at matches).

The team then joined the then Catholic League, and after a few seasons playing, won the Cup for St Patrick's. There were a lot of long journeys in those days, even as far as Castledawson, Co Derry, to play.

The old Parochial Hall was used, but was found to be unsuitable for the game because of the beams which caused a lot of frustration to visiting Clubs. Some very enjoyable nights were spent in the hall in spite of the drawbacks. Sometimes the matches would go on until 1.30 the following morning, after which the visiting teams would have to travel home to eg Ardoyne, Rallyhackamore, Lishburn, etc.

It was after this time that 'younger' members joined the Club. These included Tony Rice, Terry Hannawin, Brian McGoran, Kathleen Rice, Maura Taggart, M. B. Taylor, Ita McGoran, Phil and Kathleen McAleese, Seamus McGlew and others. From then on the Club expanded. After a few years the Gilgunns and the Hartes took over the running of this Club.



Badminton Juniors, 1990s.

There was a break in the late Seventies for one season. It was then that Brian McGoran got the Club on the road again along with former and new members. These included Maureen Bonner, Declan and Michelle Toman, Michael Megoran, Pauline McCabe, Emmet McArdle, Bill Lennon, Sean Casement, Rosaleen and Kieran McGoran, Aidan Savage, Aidan McGoran, the late Philomena Mulholland, Raymond McVeigh and others. They registered with the East Down Badminton League in which the competition was very keen, but St Patrick's enjoyed a lot of success winning the B Section of the League twice and also the Cup. It was then that John and Siobhan Molloy joined and there were enough members to form two teams - Teams A and B. Both teams went on to win the League Cups in the 1989/90 season with the A Team also winning the knock-out Cup that year. Success was repeated in 1994/95 when the A Team won the League Cup. These victories were a great boost for the Club.

In the early Nineties, Brian McGoran was approached by Tony Hannawin to start a Junior Club and this also proved a great success. Shortly after the Junior Club was formed the new Parish Centre was opened, and this was a great change from the old Parochial Hall for all players. The Juniors joined the Dresswell League, and in their first season they won the League Shield and Knock-Out Shield which was a great achievement for the young players. Daniel Heathwood, Tony Hannawin, Ronan Hannawin, Ruairi McGrillin, Paul Clarke, Christopher MacDonald, Jane Heathwood, Amanda Rice, Clare McGoran, Angela McVeigh, Maeve Collins and reserves.



Badminton Club members.

By this time there was up to 50 junior members, and both halls had to be used to accommodate them on a practice night. It was hard but rewarding work. Another junior team was formed. They also did St Patrick's proud with Ronan and Colm McKeown, Clare and Emma Joyce, Stephen and Peter Clarke, Ben Fitzsimmons, Paula and Lynsey Hanna, Donna Russell, Laura Rice and others. This team also won the Dresswell League and Knock-out Shield.

Another team has now been formed and this also shows great potential. They are now at the top of the Dresswell League, and we hope this success continues. The team and reserves show great interest, with other players waiting to join the Team.

Marie Noade now helps with the junior club.

The Senior Team is still in competition in the East Down Badminton Group. The team includes Paddy Fitzsimons, Kerry Ralph, Andrew Barr, James Watson, Michelle Toman, Maureen Bonner, Paulette Ralph, Anne Curran, Rose McCaffrey, Brian McGoran and William Patterson.

Throughout the years the Club has provided a great opportunity for people to meet socially and to keep in touch with visiting clubs from neighbouring areas at both junior and senior levels. A lot of effort has gone into keeping that Club at the standard it has enjoyed through the years. We hope that this will continue for many more years to come!

Well done, St Patrick's!

INTER CHURCH GROUP

This group arose from meetings between the various pastors of the main churches in the town. They felt that given the situation prevailing in the local community at the turn of the decade it would be beneficial if the members of the various churches were seen to be publicly meeting and organising cross-community events.

At its inaugural meeting held in the Millbrook hotel on 30/5/90, it was decided to form a group that had lay representatives from each of their congregations, St Patrick's, 1st Presbyterian, Church of Ireland and the Methodists. Clergy were ex-officio members of the group. The group's name was to be the Ballynahinch Inter Community group, but in latter years, it was simply called the Ballynahinch Interchurch Group.

The initial launch was very successful and the venue selected was the Ballynahinch Community Centre. Various speakers from all sections of the community addressed the members, and it was decided to enter the ACE scheme under the auspices of the Downpatrick Interchurch Group. This was very successful and employees undertook house maintenance in both the town and Drumaness until the end of 1993.

The group held their first Carol Service in the Community Centre on 17/12/90, and it was so successful that it has become an annual fixture up until the present day. Each year the collection is donated to some local good cause with 'The Edge' benefiting in 1999.

Later they ran a bowling competition for the local bowling clubs in the town and surrounding district. Each year eight clubs keenly contest the Interchurch Bowling Trophy.

Recently Edengrove and the Baptist churches have joined the group.

PARISH DRAW

An important recent fundraising event in the financial sector of the Parish has been the Big Draw. In 1993 Fr. Hamill suggested that we partake with St Patrick's College, Carlow in a fundraising project to help pay off the outstanding debt incurred by the recent renovation of St Patrick's Church and the erection of our new Parish Centre.

This proved to be a large success with a couple of big prizes coming to members of the Parish. Again in 1994, we repeated the venture, but in 1995, it was decided to go it alone. This proved such a success that it has now become an annual fixture, and an important source of revenue to help with the many building projects presently ongoing such as the recently finished St Colman's Dunmore.

In 1999, the Draw brought in the tremendous amount of £27,500. Again we have to thank a very dedicated band of Sellers for their time and commitment.



A selection of members of the Parish Draw Committee, back row (from left): A. Sloan, D. Sweeney, G. McMullan, C. Clarke, J. McCormick, P. Quinn, B. Brown, J. Cunningham, Fr. B. Brown. Middle row: E. Savage, T. Murnin, M. Noade, P. O'Connor, S. Rooney, A. Blaney, J. Scally, M. Donnelly, J. Rainey, J. Magee, M. Miskimmon. Front row: J. Savage, F. Flanagan, M. Smyth, Canon McCrory, M. McGlew, A. McAlinden, G. Teer, C. McKay. Missing from photo: C. Melville, M. Fegan, L. Furphy, A. Murdock, B. Quinn, R. Kennedy, B. McGoran, A. Ferris, E. McGoran, B. Rainey, P. J. Morgan, S. Branniff, C. Hunt, P. Cunningham, P. McGoran, R. Martin, T. Brown, A. Madine, B. Collins, G. McCullough.

MAGHERADROLL FINANCE/PASTORAL COMMITTEE

In 1998 the above committee was set up to bring together representatives of the various parts of the Parish. The function of this committee was to oversee and co-ordinate the various aspects of parish life both secular and religious. It consists of eleven lay members, the Parish secretary, and the Priests.

The first daunting task that faced the committee was to make a decision re renovating St Colman's Church, Dunmore, and many long hours were spent on that project. However, the final result appears to have made it all worthwhile.

Spiritual matters were not ignored, and our celebrations for the Jubilee went very

well. It is hoped to set up a Liturgy Group to look at our Celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacraments, and methods of involving the Laity in making them a more meaningful experience. The committee would hope to return to some form of a Parish retreat to help in the Spiritual renewal of the Parish.

The decision to publish a Parish booklet was taken, and the launch was set for the first big social event on St Patrick's Day 2000. This booklet would be available for new families coming into the Parish and would help them to realise what facilities were available under the auspices of the Parish.



Magheradroll Finance/Pastoral Committee 1999. Back row (from left): P. McKay, P. Cunningham, D. Fitzpatrick, D. Fegan, J. McCormick, A. Murphy, G. McPolin. Front row: P. McEvoy, R. Fegan, Canon G. McCrory, P. McCullough and Fr. B. Brown. Missing from picture: D. Morgan and P. Murray.



Parish Buildings Committee, 1999. From left: D. Fegan, G. McPolin, D. Morgan, P. Murray and Canon G. McCrory.

OFFERTORY PROMISES CAMPAIGN

The Offertory Promise Campaign as we know it was launched in 1964 from the Curate's House, Belfast Road, which doubled as the Parish Office.

Prior to this there was running in the Parish an 'Envelope Collection', which entailed people being given a book of envelopes and tearing one off each week. The amount given was then duly recorded, and the proceeds were displayed graphically at the church door each Sunday. It appears that quite a close watch was kept on this collection, and members of the committee were known to have called on people who were not the promptest in paying. However this was a localised campaign and the Parish in 1964 joined the CATHOS Campaign.

This was launched very professionally at a Parish dinner in Dunmore Hall, where Mr. Peter Robbins of the firm Magher & O'Brien addressed the parishioners, and a booklet was distributed to each household outlining the reasons why people should contribute generously in a sacrificial rather than a token manner. Sunday, October 25th, 1964 was the date set for the initial offering, and at this stage the collection was taken up at the Offertory rather than after Communion as had been the previous tradition. We were the only Parish in the Diocese of Dromore who had help from the American Army to address the envelopes as far as I can determine. A cousin of the Fitzpatrick girls who were very involved in the preparations and a friend were spending a leave in the district and were enlisted to help. The Parish Priest of the time was the late Canon McClory, and the curates were Frs Boyle and McConville.

At the dinner Peter Robbins presented the Committee with a cake which they decided to keep until the first month of the campaign had run. Imagine their dismay a month later, when they opened the cake, to discover it was not a fruit cake, but a cream cake! But the campaign was more successful. The first collection raised the amount of £450, and so successful was the campaign that Canon McClory himself took envelopes!



*Parish Cashiers (from left) A. Murphy, A. Colgan, R. Fegan, T. Murnin, M. Colgan,
Missing from picture: E. O'Neill.*

The accounts of each person were distributed quarterly and annually with a review to be undertaken each three years. However, events caused this to be restricted to an annual account, and the first three year review. The next effort came in August 1984. Once again committee members visited every household in the Parish getting people to renew and review their giving.

At this stage there were 1,268 boxes of envelopes being distributed with the following breakdown of giving:-

£15.00	1 Person
£10.00	1 Person
£ 8.00	1 Person
£ 5.00	12 People
£4.00/£3.00	30 People
£2.50/£2.00	105 People
£1.50/£1.00	309 People
£0.50	137 People

191 People gave nothing with 481 giving less than £0.50 or just occasionally.

A weekly target of £1,500 was set and quickly achieved.

The latest renewal took place in 1996 and at present we have 800 boxes of envelopes distributed annually with 450 being constantly used. During 1999 the Offertory Collection brought in £107,610 with £8,565.00 collected in loose change on the plate. As a result of covenants there was a further £20,798 received by the Parish.

None of the above could have been achieved without the support of the parishioners and a very active Offertory Campaign Committee composed of people from all three ends of the Parish. This committee still sits today when necessary and no doubt will be called upon for the next renewal of the Offertory Promise Campaign.



Pioneers of Magheradroll Parish in the early 1990s.

MAGHERADROLL PARISH CHURCH
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.99

<u>Income</u>	1999	
	£	
Offertory Collections	117,046	
Covenants	20,799	
Covenanted Gifts	1,750	
Interest Received	3,609	
Parish Functions	5,182	
Shrines and Missalettes	5,349	
Rents, Cemetery, etc	1,300	
Parish Draw	27,500	
Legacies and Special Donations	14,540	
Donations	4,916	
Other Parish Income	590	
Sale of Land	<u>7,500</u>	
	210,081	
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Church Maintenance	7,652	
Church Requisites	3,771	
Parochial House Running Costs	12,981	
Parochial Hall Running Costs	14,556	
Parish Levies	3,911	
Printing, Stationery & Postage	3,021	
Insurances	8,433	
Sundries	1,711	
Interest Paid	67	
Capital Expenditure	193,646	
Schools	<u>262</u>	
		<u>250.011</u>
<u>DEFICIT FOR YEAR</u>		(39,930)
TOTAL BALANCES ON ALL BANK ACCOUNTS AT 1st JANUARY 1999		£116.012.00
DEFICIT FOR YEAR		<u>(39,930.00)</u>
TOTAL BALANCES ON ALL BANK ACCOUNTS AT 31st DECEMBER 1999.		£ <u>76,082.00</u>
On 31st December 1999 contractors were still owed £110,000.00 approx. so Parish debt at 31st December 1999 was		<u>(£33,918.00)</u>

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

Chaplain/Priest Contact

St Patrick's School	Canon McCrory
Guinness P.S.	Canon McCrory
Drumaness P.S	Fr. Cunningham
Assumption Grammar	Fr. Brown
St Colman's High	Fr. Cunningham
Finance/Pastoral Committee	Canon McCrory
St Vincent De Paul, Ballynahinch	Canon McCrory
St Vincent De Paul, Drumaness/Dunmore	Fr. Cunningham
Girl Guides/Youth Club, Ballynahinch	Fr. Brown
Girl Guides, Drumaness	Fr. Cunningham
Reachout	Fr. Brown
St Joseph's Young Priests' Society	Fr. Brown
Lourdes Committee	Canon McCrory
Readers/Eucharistic Minsters	Fr. Brown

Each priest accepts responsibility for a district. For general parish affairs/business parishioners should contact the priest of the district.

DISTRICT

Canon McCrory - Dunmore, Dromore Road/Street area, Church Street/Road, Carlisle Avenue/Park, Craigs Road, Millbrook Drive, Hillhead Crescent, Piney Hill, Meadowvale, Hilltop, Glenlough, Downpatrick Road, Drumaness Road, Spa, Tullybeg Fort.

Fr. Cunningham - Drumaness.

Fr. Brown - Belfast Road area, Crossgar Road, Hillfoot Crescent, Main Street, High Street, Windmill Street/Gardens/Avenue/Drive, Loughside Drive, Hillcrest Drive/Lane, Hillsborough Road, Annahilt, Lisburn Road.

MASS TIMES IN THE PARISH

St. Patrick's, Ballynahinch

Sunday	9.00 am	11.30 am
Mon/Tue/Thur Fri	9.30 am	
Wednesday	7.30 pm	
Saturday	10.00 am	
Vigil Mass	7.30 pm	
First Friday	9.00 am	

Confessions: after 10.00 am Mass on Saturday and between 7.00 - 7.15 pm.

Christ the King, Drumaness

Sunday	9.00 am	11.00 am
Monday - Saturday	9.00 am	
Vigil Mass - Saturday	7.30 pm	
First Friday	7.00 pm	

Confessions on Saturday between 6.00 - 6.30 pm.

St Colman's - Dunmore

Sunday	10.00 am
Friday	7.30 pm

Confessions before Mass on Friday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Canon McCrory	562410
Fr. Brown	562451
Fr. Cunningham	561432
Emergency number	0831 358707

(This is a mobile phone which is carried by a different priest each month and should only be used for emergencies).

Baptism/Marriage: Arranged by appointment with any priest of the Parish.

Anniversary Mass: May be booked in the sacristy before or after any Mass.

Visiting the Sick: Contact the Priest of the District.



Priests of the Parish (from left) Fr. B. Brown, Canon G. McCrory and Fr. J. J. Cunningham.

