



DOWN MEMORY LANE

**IN 1820's MAGHERADROLL
(YOUNG PP DIGS INTO THE PAST)**

The DIOCESE of DROMORE Past & Present

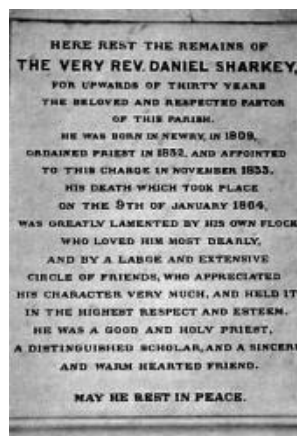
PARISH PRIESTS OF MAGHERADROLL (BACK IN 1800s)

Fr. Francis McKenny was parish priest of Dromara and Magheradroll in 1781-88. He resided in Ballymacarn North, south-west of Ballynahinch, where he held a farm from Lord Moira. When he died in 1788, he was interred in the cemetery adjoining the Church of Ireland in Dromara, which was formerly in Catholic hands. His grave is to the right of the cemetery entrance but the memorial which formerly marked his grave is now buried beneath the soil.

Fr. Alexander McCoy was Parish Priest when the present-day site of St. Patrick's Church became parochial property. The Church was begun in the first decade of the 19th. century when financial and socioreligious constraints were formidable. Father McCoy appears to have been the first Parish Priest of Magheradroll as a separate parish.

Father James Moore was ordained in Newry by Dr. Derry, in 1814, and became Parish Priest in 1821. He died five years later in July 1826. His short pastorate was marked by a deep involvement with the people of the parish. This is reflected in the inscription of the memorial within the church porch which refers to Father Moore as the 'revered Parish Priest of Ballynahinch, Dunmore and Annahilt'. The inclusion of Annahilt is indicative of the anomalies which arose in parish and diocesan boundaries during the period, 1810-30, when the Catholic Church was re-grouping and re-organising in the wake of centuries of major constraints.

In the seven-year period, 1836-43, two parish priests served Magheradroll Parish, viz. Fr. Peter Polin and Fr. Henry O'Hagan. The former was a native of Dromara Parish, and the latter emanated from the Parish of Clonduff. Fr. O'Hagan's pastorate in Magheradroll lasted only eighteen months. He died on September 19th. 1833, aged around thirty years, and was interred in Leitrim cemetery. He was renowned for his great learning.



Fr. Daniel Sharkey, who served the parish for thirty-one years, is fondly remembered

by this stone located in the side-entrance porch of Ballynahinch Church.

Reverend Daniel Sharkey was appointed to Magheradroll in November 1833, at the age of twenty-four years, just one year after his ordination. In the same year, his brother, Fr. John Sharkey was ordained, and later became Parish Priest of Dromore. During Fr. Daniel Sharkey's pastorate, important structural initiatives were undertaken within the parish, including the rebuilding of Ballynahinch Church which had been severely damaged in the 'Night of the Big Wind.' Fr. Sharkey died on January 6th. 1864, aged 54 years. His brother had passed away five years earlier, also a relatively young man.

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Reverend Charles O'Hare was appointed Parish Priest immediately after Fr. Sharkey's death, having served for one year as curate. He had also served as President of St. Colman's College, Newry, for one year, 1850-51. During Fr. O'Hare's stay in the parish, the transepts and tower were added to St. Patrick's Church, and the improvements were so major that the edifice was described as 'a new Church.' Fr. O'Hare died in January 1887, and was interred within Ballynahinch Church.

Reverend John McGrath came to Magheradroll in February 1887. As a young student, he had been in charge of St. Colman's College from September 1851 until April 1853. During the period, there were few students at the college. Fr. McGrath was ordained in 1860 by Dr. Leahy, and served as curate in Newry, Annaclone, Upper Drumgooland, and Rostrevor (1865-67). While in Rostrevor, he was also serving as President of St. Colman's College, where he taught for two and a half years. Students who attended the college when Fr. McGrath was President paid tribute in later life to his scholarship and to his ability as a teacher. He died in January 1897, and was interred within St. Patrick's Church.

Reverend John Doyle, a native of Lower Drumgooland, educated in the Irish College, Salamanca, ordained in Newry, June 1874, was appointed Parish Priest of Magheradroll, in February 1897. He remained in Ballynahinch until his death in January 1931. He was Archdeacon of the diocese from July 1923, and supervised the erection of the new high-altar and side-altars in 1897.

Father Edward McGivern, who had been a very valued curate in Lī½rgan, 1920-24, became Parish Priest in January 1931, and served until his death in December 1938. During his term, he renovated Ballynahinch Church, improved St. Colman's, Dunmore, and organised the building of the Church of Christ the King, Drumaness.

(THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE MINUTES FROM AN OLD BOOK IN THE PARISH ARCHIVES – THE QUALITY IS POOR BECAUSE OF AGE ETC. BUT PARTIALLY CLEANED THEY ARE ABOUT READABLE.

REMEMBER - NO CARS, BIROS, PHONES, COMPUTERS, LAPTOPS, INTERNET, ELECTRICITY, CENTRAL HEATING, FALSE TEETH, LOUD SPEAKERS, TVs, CARRY-OUTS, ELECTRIC RAZORS, ETC. ETC, IN THOSE DAYS.)

IT WOULD SEEM THAT BACK THEN INSTEAD OF PARISH ENVELOPES THE PARISHIONERS PAID A RENT FOR THEIR SEATS BUT A FAILURE TO DO SO COULD LEAVE THEM EVICTED & STANDING! THIS PROCESS/SANCTION FEATURES IN THESE MINUTES. NOW YOU KNOW WHY SOME PEOPLE STAND AT THE BACK OF OUR CHURCHES AND AT THE

CHURCH DOORS! THEN SURGEON CONNOR(?? *Surgeon Comm. President* -) WAS PRESIDENT OF THE PARISH COMMITTEE. LUCKILY YOUR PRESENT PP AND ITS CURRENT COMMITTEES AVOID THIS CUTTING PRESIDENT!)

1823
October 1.

On the nomination and recommendation
of the Rev. James Moore P. P. of Magheradun
and Tomslepnoic in the Diocese of Down
and County of Down, sanctioned and approved
by the consent of the parishioners of St. Anne's
Chapel, the following persons were chosen
and appointed a committee to direct and
manage the temporal concerns of said
Chapel - - -

Viz

- Surgeon Comin President -
- James Conway - Secretary -
- Denis Smyth Treasurer -
- Alex. M. Mullan - James O'Hagan -
- ~~John M. Mullan~~ - Hugh M. Barry
- John M. Mullan - Patrick Hogan (Parish)
- Thos. M. Lugh - Pat. Davy (Down)
- Hugh Carlin - John Hanna -
- John Mice - Pat. Dougherty
- Dan. Darby - Pat. Linnaghan -
- Charles Malister - Mich. Durbin
- Pat. Fernon - John Larkin
- Dan. M. Manus - Francis M. Manus
- ~~James Larkin~~ - Laughlin Blin

1823
Oct. 1

(51)

Rules regulations and powers of the
foregoing Committee &c. &c. —

- 1st This Committee are to arrange and devise ways and means, for the purpose of keeping the said Chapel in good order and repair to provide necessaries for the altar, and to make collations for charitable purposes —
- 2^d They are to make all such alterations additions & Improvements, in the interior and exterior of said Chapel & the yard thereto belonging, as they may think fit & proper, & in general to arrange and manage all the Temporalities in or connected with, affecting or concerning the same
- 3^d No person or persons, save this Committee are to make any collations in, or to do or perform any act touching or affecting the temporal concerns of said Chapel —
- 4th On the discussion of any business of importance the P. P. for the time being, is to be consulted but not to have a vote on any decision —
- 5th To prevent meetings of the Committee, on trivial matters, none but the President and Secretary for the time being are to call the Committee together, unless a Majority thereof namely
A. eleven or thirteen Members constitute a Meeting
B. When a meeting of Committee is deemed necessary each member of Committee, is to get a written or verbal notice to that effect, stating the time & place of said meeting, & requiring his attendance, or a public call of the Committee to meet in the Chapel with

7th Any member of said Committee, may make a motion concerning any of the matters aforesaid, but of no other matter, & if seconded, shall be discuss'd, & decided by a majority of the members present, provided such number present, amounts to more or eleven, such number is always required to form a meeting, and provided, that notice of such meeting has been given in manner prescribed by 6th regulation - Otherwise any such meeting is irregular and has no authority to act -

8th All the proceedings of this Committee, of every nature and kind whatsoever shall be regularly entered in this Book, signed by the Pres^{nt}, and countersigned by the Secretary -

9th The Treasurer shall not pay any money without a written order from the Secretary for that purpose; which written order shall be a sufficient voucher for the Treasurer in settling or accounting for the money placed in his hands, and the Secretary in making such orders, shall be subject to the direction of the Committee, All accts, shall be settled in presence of a meeting of the Committee, at the end of every year -

10th On the death or removal, of any of the foregoing Committee, the vacancy is to be fill'd up as soon as possible, by the nomination of the P. P. subject to the approval of the Parishioners of the Chapel &c -

1823

(53)
Extra Resolutions Adopted

Nov^r

16 At a meeting of the Committee for the purpose of regulating the temporal Affairs of the ~~Church~~ Congregation it was unanimously agreed that any Person withholding their legal dues for one year (viz: the legal ~~dues~~ subscriptions due to the Parish Priest or otherwise due for the repairs of the Chapple loses their title of their seat or seats

S. C. Curran
President

1824

May

16 It was unanimously agreed by the Committee that in future no attention can be paid to any bills or debts contracted respecting the Chapel by the Rev^d Mr Doyle late Priest of this Parish

S. C. Curran
President

Aug^t

15 Rev^d Mr Moore call'd a meeting this day but a Quorum did not attend it was to get a table to place near the Altar for various & useful purposes, and it was settled such a table should be procured for if the Members of Committee will not attend the business must not be neglected

S. C. Curran
President of

1823

Nov

16

Extra Resolutions Adopted

At a meeting of the Committee for the purpose of regulating the temporal affairs of the Chapel Congregation it was unanimously agreed that any Person withholding their legal dues for one year (viz. the legal dues subscriptions due to the Parish Priest or otherwise due for the repairs of the Chapple loses their title of their Seat or Seats

L. Compton
President

Extra Resolution Adopted

1823
Nov. 16

"At a meeting of the Committee for the purpose of regulating the temporal affairs of the Congregation it was unanimously agreed that any person withholding their legal dues for one year (viz. the legal subscriptions due to the Parish Priest or otherwise due for the repairs of the Chapple loses their title of their Seat or Seats".



2^d Resolution—moved by James Magee & seconded by Thomas Rogan.

Resolved that any seat the owner or owners of which either have not paid up 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 repairs of Ballinalinch Chapel on the occasion of its being wrecked by the late storm (in Jan^y) that such seat is now declared forfeited and will be sold as soon as possible. Passed.

(Storm damage to church referred to in above minutes – Night of the Big Wind 1839.)

The Night of the Big Wind (Irish: *Oíche na Gaoithe Móire*) was a powerful European windstorm that swept across what was then the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, beginning on the afternoon of 6 January 1839, causing severe damage to property and several hundred deaths. 20 to 25% of houses in north Dublin were damaged or destroyed, and 42 ships were wrecked. Contemporary accounts of damage indicate that the Night of the Big Wind was the most severe storm to affect Ireland for many centuries. It is estimated that between 250 and 300 people lost their lives in the storm. Severe property damage was caused, particularly in Connacht, but also in Ulster and northern Leinster. Between a fifth and a quarter of all houses in Dublin suffered damage ranging from broken windows to complete destruction. Much of the inland damage was caused by a storm surge that drew large quantities of sea water inland, resulting in widespread flooding.

(54)

Names of committee for 1827

- Mr. Patrick Rice President
Mr. Bernard Rice Treasurer
— John Rice Secretary
— John W. Mullan Maghera townpans
— Hugh McHenry - Do —
— John Hanna Glapdrumond
— Hugh Carlin Do
— Bernard Lenehan Do —
— Laughlin Finn Bawn
— Charles McAlister Ballylorn
— John Rice - Do
— Hugh Davy Ballynahinch
— Pat. Owens - Do —
— Michael Durbin L. Ballyshin
— James McMullan Maghera droole
— Michael Carana Creveutenant
— Daniel Darby Maghera droole
— Donald McManus W. Ballyshin
— Francis McManus Ballymaglave
— Thomas Pegan Drumunego
— Thomas McLay - Do —
— James Canaway Dunbeg
— Pat. Dougherty

At a meeting of the parishioners held in Ballinahinch chapel on Sunday the 15th Decr 1839 to settle accounts and transact parochial business the following resolutions were passed The Rev^d Daniel Sharkey¹⁸³⁹ being Chairman and William McMillan acting as Secretary.

1st Resolution - moved by Laughlin Kern seconded by Pat^r Owens.

That the parishioners of Magheradroh and all those holding seats in Ballinahinch chapel resolve and declare that it was only on the conditions of the dues of the Clergymen of the parish being justly paid and all other expenses required for the due repairs and furnishing of the Chapel being fully discharged that anyone should be intitled to hold a seat or part of a seat in Ballinahinch Chapel. Passed.

2^d Resolution - moved by James Magee & seconded by Thomas - Ryan.

Resolved that any seat the owner or owners of which either have not paid up what they owe to their Clergymen as stated in the above resolution or who have not paid up the sum of two shillings to the repair of Ballinahinch chapel on the occasion of its being wrecked by the late storm (in Jan^y) that such seat is now declared forfeited and will be sold as soon as possible. Passed.

3^d Resolution - Moved by Henry Berlin seconded by Philip King.

Resolved that the Parish Priest and Committee who are to be summoned by the Parish Priest are empowered to make all regulations, alterations, changes, or sale of seats and to transact all other business of the Chapel which they may deem right and proper the Parish Priest's sanction being required (and ^{that} three of the Committee with the Parish Priest