

Roman Catholic Clergy of St. Mary's Parish [Part 3]

by John Carroll

Succession of Curates in St. Mary's Parish since 1900

1900 – Patrick Ryan, baptised on 2 May 1863, studied in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth and was ordained in St. John's Cathedral on 22 January 1893. His first assignment was to St. Charles' parish, Hull, in the diocese of Middlesbrough (England). In 1896 he took up duties as sole pastor in Marton, also in that diocese. In August 1900 he returned to Limerick to take up his appointment to St. Mary's parish and remained there until 22 March 1904 when he became C.C. of Feenagh. On 12 June 1911 he was transferred to Fedamore and on 3 December 1913 became C.C. of Croagh, where he remained until he was appointed P.P. of Ballingarry on 25 January 1920. On 29 March 1924 he took up parochial duty in Monagea and held that position until his death on 5 May 1942, aged 79. He is interred in Monagea church grounds and was described as having worked with unremitting care and attention for the spiritual and temporal welfare of his people. He was uncle to John Liston who served as C.C. of St. Michael's parish from 1932 until 1933 and who was P.P. of Fedamore and Dromcollogher prior to his death in 1996.

1900 – Michael Hayes, baptised on New Year's Day, 1870, was a native of Rathkeale, where his father was principal of the national school there. He studied in Maynooth and was ordained there on 21 June 1896, but is not recorded in clergy listings until his appointment as C.C. of Parteen on 5 September 1899. The following year he took up curacy in St. Mary's parish, where he also served as chaplain to the Sisters of Mercy. In 1902 he was transferred to St. John's parish, where he served as chaplain to St. John's Hospital. On 12 April 1904 he was appointed to the teaching staff in St. Munchin's College, and chaplain to the Presentation Convent, positions he held until 1906 when he returned to active ministry as C.C. of Killeedy. On 16 September 1907 he was transferred to Tournafulla and on 23 June 1908 was appointed to St. Munchin's parish. On 30 October 1911 he left the diocese to join the Redemptorist Order in Dundalk, but returned to Limerick the following year when he left the Redemptorists and was appointed C.C. of Monagea. On 30 December 1913 he was transferred to Newcastle West and remained there until 29 September 1924 when he was appointed P.P. of Stonehall (now Kilcornan). On 20 January 1929 he took up parochial duty in Ardagh and remained there until his death – in the Mater Hospital, Dublin – on 16 June 1934 aged 64. He is buried in Ardagh church grounds. He was a committed nationalist and had changed his name to the Irish version Miceál Ó hAodha around 1920. Both he and Fr. Thomas Wall were the priests mentioned in General Maxwell's letter to Bishop Edward O'Dwyer and the latter's famous reply in May 1916.

1901 – John Rea, a native of Effin, was baptised on 22 May 1871. He attended Maynooth and was ordained there on 21 June 1896, after which he ministered in St. Peter's parish, South Bank, Middlesbrough. On 10 October 1899 he returned to Limerick when he was appointed C.C. of Manister. The following 6 April he was transferred to Donaghmore and on 21 December 1901 succeeded Fr. Hayes in St. Mary's parish. From 1902 until 1904 and from 1911 until 1913 he was chaplain to the Mercy Convent. On 5 May 1914 he took up curacy in Patrickswell and remained there until 4 April 1925, when he was appointed P.P. of Fedamore. In September 1930 he became P.P. of Athea and on 23 August 1935 took up parochial duty in Shanagolden where he remained until his death on 25 July 1948 aged 77 and is interred in the church grounds there.

1904 – John Wallace, who was baptised on 15 April 1871, succeeded Fr. Ryan. He was a native of Limerick city, where his father James was a leading businessman. He studied in Maynooth and was ordained there on 20 June 1897. After ordination he went on mission to the Westminster archdiocese where he ministered in the parish of Poplar in east London. In 1903 he was recalled to the Limerick diocese and was appointed C.C. of Manister. After a brief period in Feenagh he was appointed to St. Mary's parish on 22 March 1904. On 5 October 1909 he was transferred to Shanagolden and remained there until 21 September 1926, when he was appointed P.P. of Cratloe. On 17 June 1933 he became P.P. of Donaghmore and on 18 August 1937 took up parochial duty in Kildimo, where he remained until his death on 29 July 1953 aged 82. He had been appointed Chancellor in 1942 and Canon the following year. Three of his sisters served as nuns in the Presentation Order, two in Limerick and one in Thurles, and another sister was Prioress of the Good Shepherd Convent in Belfast in the 1940's.

1909 – Jeremiah O'Gorman, a native of Ballyagran, was baptised on 13 August 1863. He studied in Maynooth and was ordained there on 24 June 1889. After ordination he served on temporary mission in Middlesbrough until 4 October 1892, when he returned to Limerick upon his appointment as C.C. of St. Patrick's parish. In 1894 he took up curacy in Coolcappa and in 1900 became C.C. of Shanagolden, a position he held until 5 October 1909, when he took up curacy duties in St. Mary's parish, succeeding Fr. Wallace who incidentally replaced him in Shanagolden. On 13 June 1920 he was appointed P.P. of Stonehall (now Kilcornan) and on 29 September 1924 took up parochial duty in Feenagh, where he was created Canon in June 1934. He remained in that parish until his death on 28 January 1941, aged 77, and he is interred in Feenagh church grounds.

1914 – Denis Fitzpatrick was a native of Effin. Baptised on 3 January 1883, he studied in Maynooth and was ordained there on 23 June 1907. After ordination he served in the diocese of Kansas (U.S.A.) until 5 October 1910 when he returned to Limerick to take up curacy in St. Patrick's parish. On 6 May 1914 he succeeded Fr. Rea in St. Mary's parish and while there also served as chaplain to the Mercy Convent. On 18 April 1915 he was transferred to Glenroe and on 23 January 1917 became C.C. of Adare and held that position until 29 August 1935 when he was appointed P.P. of Banogue. He died suddenly in Banogue on 11 May 1939 aged 56, and is interred in Banogue church grounds. His brother, Maurice, ministered for many years in St. Michael's parish and in the time of his death in 1940 was P.P. of Bulgaden.

1915 – Patrick Carroll, a native of Brurea, received his education in the Irish College, Paris, and was ordained there on 9 June 1907. After ordination he served on mission in Liverpool until August 1911, when he returned to the Limerick diocese as temporary C.C. of St. Munchin's parish. During the following nine months he served as temporary curate in the parishes of St. Patrick's, Bruff, St. Munchin's again, and Mahoonagh until he returned to St. Munchin's parish as full C.C. on 10 May 1912. On 18 April 1915 he was appointed C.C. of St. Mary's parish and remained there until 18 January 1926, when he took up curacy in Newcastle West. He also served as chaplain to the Sisters of Mercy convent for a four-year period during his tenure in St. Mary's parish. He was appointed P.P. of Killeedy on 10 July 1934 and remained there until 3 July 1944, when he took up parochial duty in Abbeyfeale and was created Canon. He died in Abbeyfeale on 3 June 1959 aged 76. Two of his brothers, James and William, also served as priests in the Limerick diocese. James was P.P. of Ardpatrik in the time of his death in June 1954, while William was P.P. of Rathkeale in the time of his death in 1964.

1920 – William O'Sullivan succeeded Fr. O'Gorman. A native of Ardpatrik who was baptised on 21 July 1887, he studied in Maynooth and was ordained there on 23 June 1912. After ordination he served in the archdiocese of Melbourne (Australia) in the parishes of St. Patrick's, St. Kilda and Carlton respectively until 1920 when he returned to Limerick upon his appointment to St. Mary's parish. He died on 22 August 1924 aged 37, and his death is recorded in the *Limerick Chronicle* as follows:

We regret to state that the Rev. William O'Sullivan, C.C. St. Mary's, Limerick, who met with a serious accident while motorcycling near Kilmallock a fortnight ago, succumbed in St. John's Hospital yesterday. The news of the untimely death of Father O'Sullivan has been received with sincere regret in the city and throughout the diocese generally. The deceased clergyman was in his thirty-sixth year, and was ordained twelve years ago in Maynooth. He was a native of Ardpatrik, and following his ordination he was for seven years on the Australian Mission. Five years ago, he was recalled to his native diocese, and during that period he was attached to St. Mary's Church, where he was very popular with the parishioners and citizens generally. Father O'Sullivan was an ardent follower of sport, and was a familiar figure in rugby and hurling fixtures in the city.

He was interred in Mount St. Lawrence cemetery. His brother served in the archdiocese of Cardiff (Wales).

1924 – Hugh O'Connor, who succeeded Fr. O'Sullivan, was a native of Adare. He was baptised on 9 April 1893, he studied in Maynooth and was ordained there on 17 June 1917. His first appointment was to the parish of St. Winefride in Bootle in the archdiocese of Liverpool (England). He was recalled to Limerick when he was appointed C.C. of Banogue on 4 October 1919. He was transferred to Templeglantine on 25 January 1920 and remained there until 16 October 1922, when he became C.C. of Croagh. In September 1924 he took up curacy in St. Mary's parish and became chaplain to the Sisters of Mercy, where he remained until 14 July 1933, when he was transferred to Rathkeale. The following 17 November he became C.C. of Kilmallock and held this position until 5 June 1940, when he was appointed P.P. of Knockaderry. On 20 September 1946 he took up parochial duty in Dromcollogher where he was created Canon on 26 December 1962 and Archdeacon in October 1970. He remained there until his death on 25 March 1972 aged 78 and is interred in Dromcollogher church grounds.

1926 – John Moloney was baptised on 21 March 1875 and hailed from Abbeyfeale. He studied in Maynooth and was ordained there on 18 June 1899. His first clerical assignment was in the parish of St. Alphonsus in the diocese of Liverpool until September 1904 when he returned to the Limerick diocese, taking up curacy in Fedamore. On 16 September 1907 he became C.C. of Manister and took up curacy in St. Munchin's parish on 25 February 1908. He was transferred to Ardpatrik on 21 November 1910 and the following November he was appointed to Croagh until 19 May 1915, when he took up curacy in Parteen. In December 1918 he was transferred to Mahoonagh until 10 June 1921, when he became C.C. of Croom. Early in 1922 he was appointed C.C. of Ardagh until February 1926, when he was transferred to St. Mary's parish, and in July 1927 he returned to Parteen, this time as P.P. He retired as P.P. of Parteen on 4 June 1949 and died on 5 October 1957 aged 84. He is interred in Parteen church grounds.

1927 – Joseph O'Regan was C.C. of Feenagh in 1925 and later that year was transferred to Fedamore where he remained until 1926, when he was appointed C.C. of Donaghmore. He succeeded Fr. Moloney in St. Mary's parish in 1927 and remained there until 1932 when he is no longer listed in clerical listings.

1932 – Thomas Costelloe was born in Clarina on 10 May 1900 and was ordained in Maynooth on 21 June 1925. The following September he was appointed to the staff of St. Munchin's College where he remained until September 1926 when he became Diocesan Primary Schools Examiner and assistant priest in Cratloe parish. He held these positions until September 1932, when he succeeded Fr. O'Regan in St. Mary's parish. In September 1937 he was transferred to Rathkeale and remained there for five years, until he was made chaplain to Sarsfield Barracks. In 1945 he returned to Rathkeale as C.C. and remained there until 1956 when he was appointed P.P. of Knockaderry. On 9 June 1964 he became P.P. of Rathkeale and Vicar Forane and eleven days later was created Canon. He was appointed Dean in October 1985. On 1 July 1989 he resigned as P.P. and as Dean of Rathkeale, but continued to reside in Rathkeale parochial house, where he died on 17 June 1996. He is interred in Rathkeale church

grounds. A lover of nature, a great conversationalist, he was quiet and refined yet strong, prudent and firm. While in Rathkeale he formed a Community Council. He was also a keen golfer, fisherman and greyhound trainer.

1933 – Edmond McCarthy was baptised on 17 November 1886. A native of Kilmallock, he attended Maynooth and was ordained there on 20 June 1915. After ordination he ministered as C.C. of Stonehall (now Kilcornan) and after a brief period in St. Michael's parish was appointed C.C. of Loughill on 23 January 1917. In 1921 he had to leave Ireland during the Black and Tans' reign of terror and went on a temporary mission to San Francisco. He returned to Ireland in late 1921, but did not receive any faculties for some months and went to Mount Melleray, where he conducted a retreat. In 1922 he returned to active ministry, when he became C.C. of Rockhill. The following October he was appointed Military Chaplain, a position he held until July 1933 when he took up curacy in St. Mary's parish. He remained there until his unexpected death on 22 October 1938 aged 51, and is not to be confused with his namesake who was C.C. of St. Munchin's parish in this period.

1937 – Daniel Costello was ordained on 26 June 1927. He was appointed C.C. of Athea in 1928 and held this position until 1930, when he was transferred to Kilcornan. He left Kilcornan in 1932, but is not recorded again until 1937 when he succeeded Fr. Thomas Costelloe in St. Mary's parish. In 1948 he took up curacy in Newcastle West and remained there until he was appointed P.P. of Monagea in 1956. In late 1964 he took up parochial duty in Ardagh and remained there until his death on 20 March 1973 aged 68. He is interred in Ardagh church grounds.

1938 – John Kennedy was born in Ballyneety on 7 April 1907. He studied in Maynooth and was ordained on 21 June 1931. His first appointment was as C.C. of Templeglantine after ordination. In 1933 he was transferred to Glenroe and after a temporary appointment to Athea succeeded Fr. McCarthy in September 1938. On 8 April 1962 he was appointed P.P. of Croagh-Kilfinny and in December 1979 was created Canon. In his youth he hurled for Limerick and was a horseman and keen golfer. He is fondly remembered as being good to the poor and the travelling community. He organised the first post-war diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes and had a special devotion to Our Lady and the Blessed Sacrament. He died in the Regional Hospital on 28 March 1985.

1948 – Gerard Wall, a native of Ballydaheen, Bruff, was a son of Sean Wall who was Chairman of Limerick County Council and Brigadier of the East Limerick Battalion of the I.R.A. at the time of his death in an ambush on 6 May 1921 during the War of Independence. The future Fr. Wall was just three years of age when his father died. He was ordained on 18 June 1944 and after ordination was appointed to Banogue where he remained until 1946 when he was transferred to Fedamore. He succeeded Fr. Daniel Costello in St. Mary's parish in 1948 and in 1954 took up curacy in Effin. In late 1963 he was appointed C.C. of Dromcollogher. In 1972 he returned to Fedamore, this time as P.P. and on 12 November 1984 took up parochial duty in Kilmallock where he remained until his retirement in September 1994. He had been created Canon in May 1985. He died in Milford House on 4 January 2003. He endeared himself in all the parishes he served in

and throughout his life cherished all things Irish. He was a nephew of Thomas Wall who served as P.P. of Ballingarry-Granagh from 1936 until his death in 1956, and who with the afore-mentioned Fr. Michael Hayes was the subject of General Maxwell's letter to Bishop Edward O'Dwyer in May 1916 and the latter's famous reply.

1954 – David Houlihan, a native of Athlaca, was ordained in Maynooth on 19 June 1943. He was C.C. of St. John's parish from 1943 until 1944 and Ardpatrick from then until 1954 when he succeeded Fr. Wall. In 1956 he was transferred to Newcastle West and remained there until 1970 when he was appointed P.P. of Templeglantine. On 3 February 1976 he was assigned to the parish of Christ the King in Caherdavin and while there built the present parish church which was opened on 27 September 1985. The church cost approximately £250,000 to build. In January 1988 he was transferred to Bruff and in 1989 was created Canon. He retired as P.P. of Bruff in August 1991 and died on 3 May 1993. He is interred in Bruff church grounds. His brother Edmond, who died on 23 August 2006 in Milford House, served as P.P. of Effin from 1979 until his retirement in 1997.

1956 – Michael O'Connor was ordained on 20 June 1948 and after ordination was appointed C.C. of Athea, a position he held until he succeeded Fr. Houlihan. In late 1961 he was transferred to Knockaderry and afterwards became C.C. of Newcastle West where he remained until 26 March 1976 when he was appointed P.P. of Cratloe. In July 1985 he took up parochial duty in Askeaton and held that position until his death on 9 November 2000. Four of his sisters served as nuns.

1961 – Joseph O'Beirne succeeded Fr. O'Connor. A native of Castleconnell in the diocese of Killaloe, he was ordained on 19 June 1943 in Maynooth. After a temporary period in Banogue he was appointed C.C. of Athea in August 1943. In 1947 he was transferred to Loughill and in 1953 took up curacy in Donaghmore where he remained until his St. Mary's appointment. In June 1971 he became the first P.P. of the newly-created Monaleen parish and in September 1979 took up parochial duty in Dromin-Athlaca where he remained until his sudden death on 20 July 1987. A well-read and learned man, he was very articulate and eloquent and despite failing health in his later years worked tirelessly for his parishioners' right up to his death. He is interred in Athlaca church grounds.

1962 – Joseph Shinnors, a native of Grange in the parish of Bruff, succeeded Fr. Kennedy. He was born on 11 November 1917 and entered Maynooth in 1936, being ordained there on 19 June 1943. On 24 August of that year he was assigned to Parteen as Associate Pastor and held this position until 16 February 1946 when he was appointed C.C. of Kilfinane. On 1 March 1948 he became chaplain to Sarsfield Barracks and subsequently spent a period in the Congo with the Irish Army there where he witnessed much of the war that took place there in that time. He remained there until his appointment to St. Mary's parish on 13 April 1962. On 20 October 1969 he became P.P. of the newly-created Holy Family parish in Southill and while there oversaw the construction of a church-cum-community hall and a boys national school. On 11 August 1975 he took up parochial duty in Mungret and remained there until 1 September 1980 when he was appointed P.P. of Coolcappa. He held this position until his

retirement from ministry in January 1989. Upon retirement he went to reside in Milford House and died on 7 April 1997 in St. John's Hospital. He is interred in Grange cemetery in the parish of Bruff.

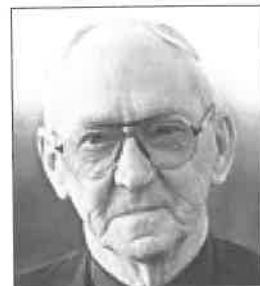
1969 – Maurice Walsh succeeded Fr. Shinnors. A native of Ballygran who was born on 3 July 1925, he was ordained in Maynooth on 17 June 1951. After ordination he ministered in St. Andrew's archdiocese in Edinburgh (Scotland) and in 1953 returned to Limerick and became Catechetical Instructor to Technical Schools, a position he held until his St. Mary's appointment. On 22 August 1976 he was appointed Administrator of Corpus Christi parish in Moyross and became P.P. there in 1978. In October 1985 he took up parochial duty in Our Lady Queen of Peace parish in Janesboro and held this position until his retirement in 2002, having been created Canon on 20 December 1996. He died on 22 February 2007.

1971 - Seán Condon succeeded Fr. O'Beirne and became P.P. in 1980.

1972 – Thomas Crawford hails from Ballylanders and was ordained in June 1969. He was appointed C.C. of Our Lady Queen of Peace parish after ordination but after a short time took up curacy in Kildimo where he remained until his transfer to St. Mary's parish. Upon his appointment, St. Mary's became a three-curate parish. In 1977 he went on mission to Nigeria until September 1981 when he returned to the Limerick diocese as C.C. of Mary Immaculate College and Assistant Diocesan Secretary. In August 1984 he took up curacy in Dromcollogher and remained there until June 1990 when he went on mission to Nigeria, ministering in Kagoro in Kaduna State. In September 1994 he returned to the Limerick diocese when he was appointed P.P. of Knockaderry and held this position until 24 September 2005 when he took up parochial duty in Glin, where he is to the present.

1976 – Anthony O'Keefe succeeded Fr. Walsh. A native of Pallaskenry, he attended St. Munchin's College and spent six years studying in the Irish College in Rome where he was ordained in early 1969. He was appointed C.C. of Bulgaden in mid-1969 and later that year took up curacy in Rockhill, where he remained until 22 August 1976 when he was appointed to St. Mary's parish. On 12 November 1984 he was transferred to Rathkeale as C.C. and remained there until August 1989 when he was appointed P.P. of the Holy Family parish in Southill, a position he held until 13 September 1997 when he took up parochial duty in Shanagolden where he has remained since then. On 24 February 1999 he was created Vicar Forane.

1977 – Charles Napier of St. Patrick's Missionary Society in Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow was appointed C.C. in 1977, succeeding Fr. Crawford. Born on 29 June 1924 in Malone Road in Belfast, he attended St. Columb's College, Derry and in 1942 entered Kiltegan to pursue his vocation. He was ordained in 1949 and was sent to Nigeria where he ministered in the diocese of Ogoja, serving in the parishes of Ikom, Abakaliki and Ohoazara. In 1958 he was recalled to Kiltegan where he was appointed its Spiritual Director, a position he held until 1962 when he returned to Nigeria, this time to Minna. In 1973 he was appointed Vicar General of Minna upon it being created a diocese. In 1978 he returned to Minna to the parish of Suleja near Lagos where he remained until early 1988 when due to ill-health caused by severe malaria he was rendered an invalid. In September of that year he took up ministry in Datchet parish in London and after a time returned to Ireland due to illness. He died on 4 October 1995.



1978 – Thomas Grealy, another priest attached to St. Patrick's Missionaries, succeeded Fr. Napier. He was born in 1922 and was a native of Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo. He was ordained in 1946 and after ordination was assigned to the diocese of Calabar in Nigeria where he worked in two parishes, Essene and Urua Akpan for the following twenty years. He established outstation churches and schools in dozens of villages and his considerable planning and organisational skills were used to good effect. His major accomplishment was the building of the parish church in Urua Akpan which was one of the first architect-designed churches in that area. He also was involved in the management of the diocesan school's network there. Due to the Nigerian Civil War he returned to Ireland in 1967 and the following year was appointed to promotional and fundraising work for the Missionaries in New Jersey (U.S.A.) where he remained until his St. Mary's appointment. He remained in St. Mary's parish until his retirement from ministry in 2000 following a stroke which left him disabled. He then returned to reside in Kiltegan but never fully recovered from his disability and required a wheelchair for some years prior to his death, following a long and painful illness, on 8 April 2011. Two of his sisters, Brigid and Josephine, were Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus and the Medical Missionaries of Mary respectively.



1979 – Patrick McMahon, C.Ss.P. was a native of Feakle, Co. Clare and a priest of the Holy Ghost Order. After ordination he worked as a missionary in Nigeria and after a time took up a teaching position in Blackrock College, Dublin. He also ministered in San Francisco prior to his return to Ireland when he was appointed C.C. of St. Mary's parish in 1979 on a pro-tem basis. In December 1979 he became C.C. of Tournafulla and remained there until March 1986 when he took up curacy in St. John's parish. While in St. John's parish he also served as chaplain to the Good Shepherd Convent. He died suddenly on Easter Sunday, 3 April 1994 aged 83. He was popular among the elderly and had a keen interest in rugby.

1979 – Albert Fitzgerald, a priest of the diocese of Brentwood (England), was born on 10 October 1936. He studied in Mount Melleray and St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, prior to his ordination on 23 June 1964. After ordination he took up curacy in St. Augustine's parish, Barkingside, and remained there until 1967 when he was transferred to the parish of Ss. James the Less and Helen in Colchester. In 1972 he was appointed C.C. of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Tilbury and in 1975 he took up curacy in Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Leigh-on-Sea, where he remained until he was appointed P.P. of St. Anne's parish in Custom House, London. He held this position until 1978. In 1979 he succeeded Fr. McMahon in St. Mary's parish and served in the parish on a pro-tem basis until 1981, when he left active ministry.

1981 – Muiris O'Connor was ordained in 1970 having studied in Maynooth and after ordination was appointed C.C. of Ballingarry-Granagh. He was C.C. of Holy Family parish from 1972 until 1977 when he went on mission to Nigeria, ministering in the diocese of Jos where he remained until his St. Mary's appointment on 2 September 1981. In 1985 he returned to the diocese of Jos until August 1989 when he was appointed C.C. of Rathkeale. In September 1994 he was appointed P.P. of Kilcornan and remained there until 11 March 1998 when he became P.P. of Kilfinane, until September 2006 when he took up parochial duty in Patrickswell. The latter year of his tenure in Kilfinane also saw him being Administrator of Ardpatrick parish.



1982 – Denis Daly, a native of Carrownakilla, Ogonnelloe, Co. Clare, was born on 11 March 1926. He received his education in St. Patrick's College, Carlow and was ordained in Sydney (Australia) for its archdiocese on 3 June 1951. From his ordination until 1963 he served in the parishes of Forest Lodge, Manly, Beverly Hills and Richmond respectively. In 1963 he was transferred to Western Australia where he remained until 1966 when he took up ministry in San Francisco (U.S.A.). After a time ministering there and in Bristol and Bath (England) he returned to Ireland in 1978 where he temporarily served in Belfast, Knock, Kilshanny (Clare) and in Christ the King parish respectively until 1 September 1980 when was appointed C.C. of Our Lady Queen of Peace parish on a pro-tem basis. In September 1982 he became C.C. of St. Mary's parish, again on a pro-tem basis, where he remained until 23 September 1983 when he took up curacy in St. Joseph's parish until August 1984. He died suddenly on 12 September 1987 in Waterford.

1984 – Anthony Mullins succeeded Fr. O'Keeffe. A native of Ardagh, he studied in Maynooth and was ordained in Ardagh on 12 June 1983. After ordination he served on temporary mission in the archdiocese of Armagh until 12 November 1984 when he succeeded Fr. O'Keeffe in St. Mary's parish. In 1985 he was appointed to the staff of St. Munchin's College, a position he held until August 1987 when he took



up curacy in St. John's parish. In 1991 he returned to the staff of St. Munchin's College but remained as C.C. of St. John's parish. On 2 September 1995 he became Administrator of that parish and was appointed Vicar Forane on 19 August 1998. He became Diocesan Secretary on 13 September 2000 and served for a period as assistant pastor in Parteen parish. In September 2004 he was appointed P.P. of Dromin-Athlacca, a position he held until July 2016 when he took up pastoral duty in Abbeyfeale and Athea and was created Canon and Vicar Forane. He has remained in Abbeyfeale to the present. He also served as Diocesan Administrator from 2010 until 2013.

1985 – James Keane succeeded Fr. O'Connor. A native of Ballysimon in Donaghmore parish, he studied in St. Patrick's College, Thurles and was ordained there on 8 June 1985. He was appointed C.C. of St. Mary's parish after his ordination and held that position until July 1991 when he took up curacy in Limerick Regional Hospital. In September 1992 he became C.C. of Corpus Christi parish and remained there until 4 October 1997 when he was transferred to St. Joseph's parish. In 2001 he became attached to the Limerick Diocesan Office and remained there until his retirement in 2004.

1986 – Maurice Kerin was born in Scartaglen, Co. Kerry on 19 May 1927. He attended St. Brendan's College in Killarney and in 1946 entered St. Patrick's Missionary Society in Kiltegan where he was ordained on Easter Sunday, 18 April 1954. After ordination he went to Nigeria where he ministered in the diocese of Calabar until 1968 when he went on mission to Toronto (Canada), where he remained until 1972 when he joined the St. Patrick's Missionary Society promotional team in Chicago. Two years later he took up ministry in Grenada in the West Indies and in 1976 returned to the Society's promotional team, this time in Cliffside Park in New Jersey. In 1979 he returned to Nigeria, this time to Port Harcourt diocese and ministered there until 1984 when he joined the staff of St. Patrick's Society in Buchlyvie in Scotland. In 1986 he returned to Ireland when he succeeded Fr. Grealy and served in the parish in a temporary capacity until September 1987 when he was transferred to Monaleen, again on a pro-tem basis. The following December he became C.C. of Adare (pro-tem) and held this position until August 1989 when he was appointed C.C. of Dromin-Athlacca. On 13 September 1997 he was transferred to Askeaton but his tenure there was short as he retired from ministry on 10 June 1998. Upon retirement he returned to reside in Kiltegan and died in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin on the evening of Thursday 19 November 1998 with two of his nephews, Frs. John Kerin and Joe Rabbitte at his bedside.

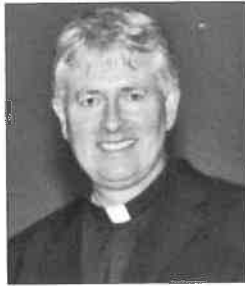


1987 – Anthony Kelleher succeeded Fr. Kerin. A native of Fedamore who was ordained there on 8 June 1980, after ordination he served on temporary mission in the diocese of Down and Connor and the archdiocese of Armagh until September 1982 when he was appointed C.C. of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Ballinacurra. In October 1986 he was transferred to Askeaton and remained there until his St. Mary's appointment (pro-tem) in August 1987. In November

1990 he took up curacy in Rockhill and remained there until 2 September 1995 when he went to the Marrianelle Centre in Dublin to study a Pastoral Ministry course. The following 9 February he was appointed C.C. of Coolcappa and remained there until 15 November 1997 when he was transferred to Dromcollogher. In 2009 he was appointed P.P. of Knockaderry and held this position until 2011 when he retired as P.P. and went to Kilmallock as Associate Pastor. In 2013 he took up this role in St. John's parish.

1990 – Daniel (Donn) Shelly, C.Ss.P. who prior to 1990 had ministered in England, Nigeria and the U.S.A., succeeded Fr. Kelleher. In September 1990 he had been appointed Associate Pastor in Tournafulla and the following November took up curacy in St. Mary's parish. In September 1992 he was transferred to Parteen where he remained until 1995. He then became attached to the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin and ministered there until his death on Saturday 25 August 2007 in Kimmage, Dublin. He is interred in Dardistown cemetery.

1992 – Thomas Mangan, a native of Ardagh, was ordained in Thurles on 8 June 1986 having received his education there. After ordination he was appointed C.C. of Mungret, a position he held until he succeeded Fr. Shelly in September 1992. Ten years later he was appointed C.C. of St. Joseph's parish and became Administrator of that parish on 20 September 2008. On 14 September 2014 he took up parochial duty in Donaghmore, a position he has held since.



2002 – Eamonn Fitzgibbon, a native of Fedamore, studied in Maynooth and was ordained in St. John's Cathedral on 11 June 1989. The following August he was appointed Dean of St. Munchin's College, remaining so until 2 September 1995 when he became Director of the Limerick Diocesan Pastoral Centre in Denmark Street, a position he has held since.



In September 2002 he became assistant priest to St. Mary's parish while remaining as Director of the Pastoral Centre. In September 2004 he went on study leave to Mary Immaculate College and served as Associate Pastor in Mungret parish. He remained as assistant in St. Mary's parish until 2006 and is currently Associate Pastor in Patrickswell-Ballybrown. He was heavily involved with the Limerick Diocesan Synod of April 2016.

2006 – Charles Irwin is a native of O'Connell Avenue who studied in Maynooth and was ordained in St. Joseph's Church on 8 June 1997. He is a qualified accountant and worked in this area and served on Limerick Junior Chamber of Commerce prior to commencing his studies for the priesthood. After ordination he returned to Maynooth to obtain a Higher Diploma in Education and while there also served as assistant priest in St. Anthony's parish in Clontarf, Dublin. On 25 August 1998 he took up a teaching position in St. Munchin's College and became President there in 2008. He served as A.P. of St. Mary's parish from 2006 until 2011 and combined this role with the position of Principal of St. Munchin's College. In present he is retired from active ministry and works as an office co-ordinator for the Mid-West Simon Community.

2011 – John O'Byrne is a native of Janesboro who was ordained in St. John's Cathedral on 17 July 2011. A former employee of Irish Cement, he studied in the Pontifical Bede College, Rome and was appointed to the parish after his ordination, where he has remained to the present.

General Sources:

"Diocese of Limerick Heritage Project" (available on CDROM and in the Diocesan website) <http://www.limerickdioceseheritage.org>.
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