The Episcopal Succession of Killaloe.
A.D. 1616 TO MODERN TIMES.

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In the following pages the succession list of the Catholic Bishops of Killaloe is carried from the year 1616 to modern times. The succession from the institution of the diocese to 1616 will be found in previous issues of this Journal. In the accounts of the Bishops which follow it is not intended to give an extended biographical note of each occupant of the See. Only the names and dates are given, with a note of the principal facts of the episcopate and of the main biographical references where any such exist. A fuller account more properly belongs to a extended history of the diocese of Killaloe such as is now in preparation. For the same reason, accounts of Vicars General are omitted, although material of interest exists in respect of many of them, such as Malachy O'Quaely, later Archbishop of Tuam, and one of the great figures of the War of the Confederation.

JOHN O'MOLONY I. 1630—1651.

From 1617 to 1630 Killaloe was under Vicars.(1) On August 12, 1630, John O'Molony was appointed. The Life and Times of this Bishop as well as of his namesake and nephew, John O'Molony II., Bishop of Killaloe, are fully dealt with by Professor Hogan in Studies, March, June and September of the year 1920. From these essays, principally, I have taken the following biographical notes.

In November, 1630, Dr. O'Molony was consecrated in Paris by the Bishop of Auxerre. His life was closely linked up with the Confederation of Kilkenny. He was one of the three Bishops exempted from pardon on the Capitulation of Limerick, but death by plague in October, 1651, saved him from falling into the hands of Ireton.

From 1651 to 1671 the Diocese was under Vicars.(2)

JOHN O'MOLONY II. 1671—1702.(3)

John O'Molony II. was the son of Thomas O'Molony of Kilbogoon, Parish of Tulla, Co. Clare, and Anne MacMahon of Clonderlaw, Co. Clare. He was born at Kilbogoon in 1617 and was a nephew of John O'Molony I. Ordained by John de Burgo, Bishop of Confert, in 1642, he left Ireland the same year to study in the University of Paris. He was appointed to the See of Killaloe on May 26, 1671, and was consecrated by the Bishop of Tournai, assisted by the Bishops of Angoulême and Le Mans at Paris. He was nominated Bishop of Limerick in 1698, retaining the administration of Killaloe. The great work of his life was the founding of an Irish College in Paris. There he died on September 3, 1702, aged 83 years.(4) A very full account of this great bishop is given by Dr. Hogan and Father Boyle in the cited references.

From 1702 to 1713 the diocese was under Vicars.

EUSTACE BROWNE. 1713—1729.

There is in the Archives of Propaganda a list of the Bishops of Ireland in the year 1714.(5) It is dated February 4, 1714, and tells us that Eustace Brown, a secular priest, was appointed to the See of Killaloe on July 16, 1712. Whatever we may say about this appointment, it is a fact that Eustace Brown was nominated Bishop of Killaloe by Decree of Propaganda, June 30, 1713.(6) He was consecrated at Spring House, in the Glen of Aherlow, by Christopher Butler, Archbishop of Cashel, on August 16, 1713.

2. Brady—I., p. 120.
Turning to the Registry of Priests for County Tipperary, in 1704, we find that No. 12 on the list is Eustace Browne. He resided at Eml, of which place he was Parish Priest. He was sixty years of age and had been ordained in Portugal in September, 1672. If these are identical, Eustace Browne was almost seventy years of age when he was placed in charge of the Diocese of Killaloe. The Bishop was suspended in October, 1723, but was absolved the following year. The date of his death is not known, but his successor was appointed on September 25, 1729.

SYLVESTER LLOYD. 1729—1739.

Ludovicus Sylvester Lloyd, O.F.M., was appointed on September 25, 1729. In the year 1717 he was Guardian in Cook Street, Dublin. He was the author of two Catechisms. One was a work in English, printed in London in the year 1712. It was really a free translation of the Catechism of Montpellier. The other was called "The Doway Catechism in English and Irish for the use of children and ignorant people." After the title are the words "printed for Ignatius Kelly, Bookseller, at the Stationer's Arms, in St. Mary's Lane, MDCCLII." Dr. Lloyd was Bishop of Waterford in 1752, but the Catechism was first published in Dublin, in 1738. The final page tells us that the Catechism was "in usum Cleri et Populi Laonen, S.L."

During his episcopate, the old Parish Church in Chapel Lane, Ennis, was erected not far from the house where, according to tradition, the Friars took up residence when expelled from their Abbey. It was said of Bishop Lloyd that "there is no man in the Kingdom so clever, Swift excepted." On May 29, 1739, he was transferred to Waterford and Lismore.

PATRICK MACDONOGH. 1739—1752.

The son of Donald MacDonogh and Maria O'Connor of Kilfenora, Patrick MacDonogh was appointed Bishop of Killaloe on August 14, 1739. As a priest he did not work exclusively, if at all, in Ireland. A document in the Archives of Propaganda has the following:

"Episcopus Laonensis—Patritius MacDonogh, per plures annos Parochus Vassonia, factus Abbas de Meaux in Gallia; Septuagenarius. Promotus 1739."

It is generally held that Dr. MacDonogh's reign did not extend beyond 1743, the reason being that William O'Meara was appointed to Killaloe on December 2 of that year. Against that view, I believe that Patrick MacDonogh occupied the See from 1739 to 1752. Briefly, my reasons are:—(1) In the Archives of the Archdiocese of Dublin is a letter to the Archbishop of Dublin from Dr. MacDonogh, Bishop of Killaloe in reference to the Irish College, Paris. The letter is dated from Ennis, June 8, 1748. (2) A letter dated February 28, 1752, from Laurence Connellan, a priest of the Diocese of Killaloe, makes it clear that only at this date was there question of a successor to Dr. MacDonogh. "I wrote to you last week and in my letter I fancy I mentioned to you that Dr. MacDonogh was weak and infirm. Now, my dear friend, he is dead and buried. It is therefore expected by your friends and those that wish you well that you will immediately make use of your friends and interests everywhere to succeed him. There is a kind of Remonstrance to be sent off by next post signed by as many priests as were at Ennis when the little man died. I say to be sent to the Chevalier, to pray him to name one or more of the gentlemen therein specified to succeed Mr. MacDonogh. Mr. James Coney, Mr. John Meagher of Roscrea, and Mr. Thomas Roche are the three first named in the said Remonstrance and warmly recommended by Dalton's giddy writing." (Note:—James Coney was P.P. of Clare Abbey and executor of the

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7. See I.B.R., Vol. XII, September, 1876, p. 578.
9. Dr. Gregory Cleary, O.F.M.—The Priests Minor in Dublin.
11. On the building is a slab with the date 1735.
Bishop's will; Father Roche was P.P. of Templemaley and Kilroehtis; Dalton was Vicar General of Killaloe. (3) William O'Meara was appointed (18) to Ardfert and Aghadoe on December 2, 1743. As the See of Killaloe was not vacant, it is clear there could have been no appointment thereto. But the Very Rev. Myles Ronan, in Handbook of British Chronology, and Brady, in Episcopal Succession, both mention Dr. O'Meara's nomination to Killaloe in 1743. The only course open to us is to question the accuracy of the Roman document from which these historians derived their information. It would be a striking coincidence to find a Bishop named William O'Meara appointed to Kerry and a Bishop of the same name appointed to Killaloe on the same day.

Dr. MacDonogh's residence was in Ennis, where he died on February 25, 1752. By his will, (19) he directed that his body be interred in the ancient burying-place of his family, at Killfenora. The tomb of the MacDonogh family is in the ruined Cathedral and in that portion of the building now used by the Disestablished Church of Ireland for its service. The inscription (20) reads:

"Donaldus MacDonogh et uxor eius Maria O'Connor sibi et suis ambobus posteris hunc tumulum fieri fecit. AN. DNI. 1688. Memento Mori."

When I visited Kilfenora eight years ago, I had considerable difficulty in finding the Bishop's tomb or rather the inscription. It is underneath the inscription on the family tomb and partly hidden by a pew.

"Here lie the remains of Dr. Patrick MacDonogh, son of the above Donaldus and grandson to the Craven. He was Dignitary of the Church of France and of the Romish of Ireland. He was intimately acquainted with men of the first rank.

Died on the 25th of February, 1752."

Frost and Westropp give these inscriptions but do not identify Dr. MacDonogh with the Bishop of Killaloe named by Frost in the list of Bishops. (21) However, MacDonogh's will and the quotation from Hodiernus Status Ecclesiæ Regni Hiberniae which I have given are sufficient proof that we have here the tomb of this 18th Century Bishop of Killaloe.

PATRICK O'NACHTEN. 1752. (22)

Patrick O'Nachten, a native of Connaught, was appointed on May 12, 1752. For 16 years he had been President of Douay College and was 56 years of age at the time of his nomination to Killaloe. He did not accept the provision, and was not consecrated.

NICHOLAS MADGETT. 1752—1753.

Father O'Sullivan of Kenmare had two or three of Dr. Madgett's Directories on the interleaves of which were entries in the Bishop's handwriting. Father O'Sullivan made extracts from these which he sent to Dean Kenny, P.P., Ennis, intimating that they were to be handed to Dr. Renehan. (23) Father Donal Reidy's Notes (24) in the Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society inform us that the Ordos (Father O'Sullivan calls them Directories) are now in the Killarney Archives.

They are a useful source of information about the Bishop. Nicholas Madgett was born near Tralee about 1703. (25) He was educated in the Irish College, Paris, (26) and became President of the College of St. Barbara. In 1750 he was P.P. of Tralee, where he built for himself a small thatched house at a cost of £16 3s. 10½d. Later, when Bishop of Kerry, he occupied the same house. (27)

25. Father Reidy's Notes. Cit.
27. Father Reidy's Notes. Cit.
He was appointed to Killaloe on December 11, 1752, and was consecrated at Limerick on February 23, 1753.  

(28) Twelve days later he was transferred to his native Diocese. The following entry in his Ordo informs us that "the permutation between Dr. O'Meara and me took place in Rome, the 23rd February, 1753." Dr. Madgett was the author of a work in two volumes entitled "Resolutiones plurimorum casuum Conscientiae."  

(29) One case, at least, is of interest as it throws light on the conditions under which the priests lived during the operation of the Penal Laws. Treating of the necessity sufficient to justify a priest in saying Mass without a server, the Bishop mentions "such persecution as we had here in Ireland in 1715 and 1745, when a priest could not venture to put himself in the power of the only clerk he could get, for the wicked laws commanded that all capable or accustomed to serve Mass should be closely examined in order to make out from them where the priest used to hide himself or say Mass."  

(30) Dr. Madgett died in 1774 and was buried in Ardfert.

WILLIAM O'MEARA. 1753—1765.

From 1728 to 1743, William O'Meara was Parish Priest of Holy Trinity in the Diocese of Waterford.  

(31) In a return sent to the Government from Waterford City in 1744, the following statement is made: —"We find that William O'Meara, reputed to be Popish Dean of Waterford, resides in the City of Waterford for some time, but upon search for him, he has abscended as aforesaid." Naturally, a search in Waterford failed to secure the prize, as Dr. O'Meara was then in Kerry, having been appointed to Ardfert and Aghadoe on December 2, 1743.  

(32) For ten years he governed the Diocese until an exchange was made between Dr. Madgett and him on February 23, 1753.  

(33) While Dr. O'Meara was Bishop of Killaloe, he was appointed delegate to the Holy See to inquire into and report on a controversy between Father Molloy and his Bishop, de Burgó, author of Hibernia Dominicana. This was in the year 1763.  

(34) The date of his death is not known, but his successor was appointed on June 5, 1765. It may be added that it is possible that Dr. O'Meara's exchange of Ardfert Diocese for Killaloe was influenced by a connection with the O'Meara family of Toomevara, Nenagh. This family seem to have been brought originally to Ormond in the 13th century by the Butlers, to whom they were doctors.

MICHAEL PETER MACMAHON, O.P., 1765—1807.

Michael Peter MacMahon, grand-uncle of Marshal MacMahon, President of the French Republic, was the son of Patrick MacMahon and Margaret O'Sullivan.  

(35) Doonas, in the Parish of Kiltenanlea (Clonlara), Dooradoyle, in the Parish of Mungret, and Limerick City have been put forward as his birth-place.

(36) He joined the Order of St. Dominic, completed his studies at Lisbon, and returned to Ireland. On June 5, 1765, he was appointed to the See of Killaloe by Clement XIII. He was consecrated at Thurles on August 4, the consecrating prelate being the Most Rev. James Butler, Archbishop of Cashel, assisted by the Bishop of Limerick and the Bishop of Ossory.

(37) He supported the Union "as the only means of tranquillising this country and abolishing those religious distinctions which have unhappily distressed this country,"

(38) O'Byrne's Irish Dominicans, App., p. 98.

(39) App. O'Byrne's Irish Dominicans, pp. 98.

(40) See Molua, 1940.

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34. Father Reidy's Notes. Cf.
35. Carrigan—Ossory, I., p. 163.
36. Pedigree of Marshal MacMahon (Shearmor) in J.R.S.A.I., Vol. IV. (July, 1878); Life of Marshal MacMahon published in Dublin, 1858, p. 38.
37. See Molua, 1940. I notice that Father Coleman, O.P., refers to Limerick as "his native city."
40. See Molua, 1940.
kingdom."(41) To promote the commerce and industry of the country was another reason advanced in favour of the Union.(42)

Did Bishop MacMahon reside in his Diocese? With the information to hand it is difficult to answer this question. Lenihan(43) and Begley(44) tell us that he resided in Limerick City. There must have been a strong tradition to this effect. On the other hand we have proof that he resided in Cappavilla, a townland in the Parish of Kiltenanlea (Clonlara) in 1794, 1797 and 1800. He countersigned a Certificate of Baptism given by the Parish Priest of Nenagh to Henry de Montmorency: "Datum in Aedibus nostris Episcopalis apud Cappavillam, hoc die quarto Junii, 1794."(45) The Lenten Pastoral of 1797 is "given at our residence, Cappavilla,"(46) and the Bishop's reply to Castlereagh's Queries is sent out from Cappavilla.(47) A list(48) of Munster Bishops given by Renchan for 1793-4 complicates the issue. The Right Rev. Peter MacMahon's See is Killaloe. His residence is at Limerick, in the County Limerick. A possible solution of the problem is hinted at in Molua, 1940. Briefly, it is this: The house in Lock Quay, Parish of St. John, where the Bishop resided, may have been the home of the MacMahon family after their property was confiscated. Mortough MacMahon, grand-father of the Bishop, "died in Limerick in his house on September 20, 1739, and was buried in the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist."(49) The Bishop made his residence at intervals while at the same time maintaining a residence at Cappavilla, quite close to the City of Limerick, but in the Diocese of Killaloe.

At his house on Lock Quay, Limerick, the Bishop died on February 20, 1807. His tomb is in St. John's cemetery across the street from St. John's Cathedral. A full account of the life of the Bishop by the present writer will be found in Molua, 1940.

JAMES O'SHAUGHNESSY. 1807—1829.

The Very Rev. James O'Shaughnessy, Parish Priest of Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, was nominated Titular Bishop of Samosata and Coadjutor Bishop of Killaloe by Brief dated September 24, 1788.(50) The consecration was fixed for Ennis(51) and the date was Sunday, January 13, 1799.(52) Brady is mistaken in saying that Dr. O'Shaughnessy was consecrated in 1798. He succeeded on the death of Dr. Michael Peter MacMahon on February 20, 1807.

The Bishop's opposition to the Veto was set out in the strongest language: "May the hand be paralysed that will ever sign for a veto in any shape or form,"(53) may be regarded as mild compared with statements made in a letter of July, 1817, to Edward Hay, Secretary to the Catholic Board.(54)

The attitude of this Bishop to the Union promises to be interesting, but at the moment we have not collected sufficient data to discuss the matter.

Dr. O'Shaughnessy resided at Mogulane House, near Newmarket-on-Fergus, and here he died in Emancipation Year. Maciere Brady(55) and Father Ronan(56) are mistaken in placing his death in 1828. The Clare Journal of Monday, August 10, 1829, and the Western Herald of the same day give the obituary notice thus: Died "on Wednesday last at his residence near Newmarket-on-Fergus, aged 84 years, after a few days illness, the Right Rev. Dr. O'Shaughnessy, R.C. Bishop of Killaloe." The inscription on the

41. Ennis Chronicle, Thursday, September 26, 1799.
42. Ennis Chronicle, Monday, October 7, 1799.
43. Lenihan—History of Limerick, p. 627.
45. Les Montmorency. Appendix No. 123.
46. Ennis Chronicle, Monday, February 27, 1797.
49. Life of Marshal MacMahon, p. 38.
50. Brady—II., p. 139.
53. Renchan—Church History II., Part I., p. 147.
54. See Molua, 1940.
Bishop's tomb in the Parish Church of Newmarket-on-Fergus differs from the obituary notice as to the day of the month but not as to the year. Renaghan makes the mistake of saying that the Bishop's tomb is in the churchyard of Quin.

Dr. O'Shaughnessy introduced to the Diocese the Christian Brothers—their first foundation being at Ennis, 1827; the Ursuline Nuns—first foundation at Ennis, January, 1829; the Brigidine Nuns—first foundation at Roscrea, 1823.

Patrick MacMahon. 1829—1836.

Patrick MacMahon received his theological education in the Irish College, Nantes. He had been Parish Priest of Quin since 1790 and Dean of Killaloe since 1814. His appointment as Titular Bishop of Fesse and Coadjutor Bishop of Killaloe was approved by the Pope on August 8, 1819. He was consecrated in the Parish Church of Ennis on November 8, the consecrating prelate being Dr. O'Shaughnessy. Other Bishops present were Dr. Tuchy of Limerick, Dr. Archdeacon of Kilmacduagh, and Dr. Murphy of Cork. The sermon was preached by Father Patrick Kennedy, Parish Priest of Lorrha, who was to succeed Dr. MacMahon.

Dr. MacMahon laid the foundation-stone of the church of St. Peter and St. Paul (the Pro-Cathedral) at Ennis on August 10, 1831. He lived at Wellpark in the Parish of Quin, and there he died on June 7, 1836, at the age of 76. His tomb is in Quin Abbey.

Patrick Kennedy. 1836—1850.

Born in Barrack Street, Nenagh, in the year 1786, Patrick Kennedy was the son of Pat Kennedy and Eleanor Maher. He entered Maynooth in September, 1804, and was ordained in the year 1810. He is the first Bishop of Killaloe to receive his education in Maynooth. Soon he became Parish Priest of Lorrha, and in 1826 he was appointed to Birr.

In 1834 Dr. MacMahon felt that he required assistance in the administration of the Diocese and summoned a meeting of the parish priests, which was held at Newmarket-on-Fergus on December 15. The Archbishop of Cashel presided, and there were present with Dr. MacMahon of Killaloe, Dr. Ryan of Limerick, Dr. Murphy of Cork, and Dr. Egan of Kerry. Three names were forwarded to Rome, namely, Rev. Patrick Kennedy, Parish Priest of Birr; Rev. Charles Fahy, Parish Priest of Tuile, and Rev. Daniel Vaughan, Parish Priest of Killaloe.

By decree, dated June 6, 1835, Patrick Kennedy was appointed Titular Bishop of Leuca and Coadjutor Bishop of Killaloe. His consecration took place at Birr on Sunday, January 7, 1836, the consecrating prelate being Dr. Slattery, Archbishop of Cashel, assisted by Dr. Murphy of Cork, and Dr. Egan of Kerry. On the death of Dr. MacMahon, Dr. Kennedy succeeded on June 7, 1836.

For some time he resided at Stormount House, Castleconnell. In 1839 he removed to Deerpark, Sixmilebridge, making Newmarket-on-Fergus his mensal parish. On the death of Father Spain he made Birr also a mensal parish and after some time went to reside there. Here he died on November 19, 1850, at the age of 63. His remains were interred in the Parish Church of Birr.

During Dr. Kennedy's reign the Sisters of Mercy established their first convent in the Diocese of Killaloe. This was at Birr in the year 1840. When the Ursuline Nuns were compelled to leave Ennis in 1839, the Bishop introduced the Presentation Nuns.

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59. Clare Journal, Thursday, August 11, 1831.
60. Maynooth Records.
61. Maynooth Calendare.
63. Renaghan MSS., Vol. 93.
64. Brady II, p. 124.
66. Life of Catherine McAuley by a member of the Order of Mercy (1884).
67. I.C.D.
In 1842 he established a branch of the Sacred Heart Order at Roscrea. He encouraged the founding of National Schools and before his death every parish, with one or two exceptions, had a National School.

DANIEL VAUGHAN. 1851—1859.

Born at Kilbaine, in the Parish of Killkenny, Co. Clare, Daniel Vaughan entered Maynooth in 1812 and was ordained at Pentecost, 1815. He became Parish Priest of Scariff in 1818; Parish Priest of Killaloe and Vicar-General in 1827, and Parish Priest of Nenagh in July, 1850. When the Bishop died in November of that year Father Vaughan was appointed Vicar Capitular. His election to the See of Killaloe was approved by the Pope on March 30, 1851. Of all the Bishops appointed to Killaloe in the 19th century, Dr. Vaughan was the only one who had not been previously Coadjutor Bishop. He was consecrated in the Parish Church of Nenagh on June 8, 1851, by the Archbishop of Cashel. Dr. Leahy, V.G., Thurles, preached the sermon. During his episcopate the Bishop resided at No. 24 Summerhill, Nenagh. He died on July 29, 1859, aged 68, and was buried in the Parish Church of Nenagh, from which his remains were translated to the grounds of the new church of St. Mary of the Rosary, which was built in 1896.

MICHAEL FLANNERY. 1859-1891.

Most Rev. Michael Flannery was son of David Flannery and Anne Corbett. He was born at Scariff, Co. Clare, in May, 1818. He entered St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, in August, 1837, and was ordained in 1843. He was curate of Cloughjordan until 1849, in which year he was appointed Professor of Moral Theology at All Hallows College, Dublin. In 1854 he became Dean of St. Patrick's House in the Catholic University of Ireland. On July 6, 1858, he was provided as Coadjutor Bishop of Killaloe under the title of Bishop of Tiberiopolis. He was consecrated in the Parish Church of Nenagh on Sunday, September 5, 1858, the consecrating Prelate being the Most Rev. Dr. Leahy, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, there being also present the Bishops of Ross, Ardfort, Clone, Confort, and Galway. Dr. Vaughan was unable to attend owing to illness. Dr. Moriarty, Bishop of Ardfort, preached the consecration sermon. On the death of Dr. Vaughan in July, 1859, Dr. Flannery succeeded to the See of Killaloe.

In 1864, his health failing, Dr. Flannery applied to the Holy See for a Coadjutor and retired to Paris, where he lived for the most part until his death there on June 19, 1891. His remains were conveyed to Ennis, where they arrived on June 26. Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in the Pro-Cathedral there on Saturday, June 27, and the Bishop's remains were afterwards interred in the Pro-Cathedral. The celebrant of the Mass was the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick. Dr. MacRedmond presided, and other members of the Hierarchy present were Dr. MacCormack of Galway, Dr. O'Callaghan of Cork, and Dr. Mac Goldrick of Duluth, U.S.A., a native of Borrisokane. The foregoing details are extracted from Brady, II, p. 124; Maynooth Calendars, Irish Catholic Directory, and the Clare Journal of September 9, 1858, and June 29, 1891.

Dr. Flannery had in all three Coadjutors, of whom the last, Dr. MacRedmond, succeeded him. The other two were Dr. Nicholas Power and Dr. James Ryan.

NICHOLAS POWER. 1864—1871.

Dr. Power was born in the parish of Rathcormac, Co. Waterford. He studied in the Irish College at Paris. As there was a scarcity of priests in Killaloe Diocese, he accepted an offer of affiliation and was ordained. He was at once appointed Curate of Nenagh, where he remained for a period of twenty years. In 1849 he was removed

68. Gleeson—History of Eily O'Carroll Territory, p. 399.
69. Original Applications in Education Office, Dublin.
70. Maynooth Calendars.
71. Maynooth Records.
74. Clare Journal, Thursday, June 12, 1851.
to Kinnitty as Curate, and on the death of Father Malone he was appointed Parish Priest of Killaloe in 1852. As Bishop he built the Palace, which is now the Convent of Mercy. When Dr. Flannery had been granted permission for a Coadjutor in 1864, he summoned a meeting of the Parish Priests at Nenagh on Wednesday, January 25, 1865. The Archbishop of Cashel presided, and the names chosen were Dr. Power, Very Rev. Timothy Kelly, P.P., V.G.; Kilrush; Very Rev. John Kenny, P.P., V.G., Ennis; Very Rev. John Egan, P.P., V.G., Birr, and Very Rev. James Ryan, P.P. Dr. Power was appointed by the Holy See and was consecrated at Nenagh on Sunday, June 25, 1865, by the Most Rev. Dr. Leahy, Archbishop of Cashel, the other Prelates present being Dr. Moriarty of Ardfeidh, Dr. Butler of Limerick, Dr. Delaney of Cork, Dr. O’Brien of Waterford, Dr. Keane of Cloyne, Dr. MacEvilly of Galway, Dr. O’Hea of Ross, Dr. Derry of Clonfert. Dr. Moriarty preached.

Dr. Power attended the Vatican Council, returning home in August, 1870. He died on March 20, 1871, at Killaloe, aged 69. He was interred in the Parish Church there (cf. Brady, II. 125; Irish Catholic Directory, Clare Journal, Jan. 26, 1865, and June 23, 1865).

JAMES RYAN. 1872—1889.

Dr. Ryan was born at Laekareagh, O’ Briensbridge, and completed his ecclesiastical studies at the Irish College, Paris. He was ordained priest at the Chapel of the Ursuline Convent, Ennis, by Dr. Patrick MacMahon, Bishop of Killaloe, on Sunday, October 21, 1830. He was appointed Curate of Burgess and Youghalarra, of which parish his uncle, Rev. Daniel Ryan, was then Parish Priest. He succeeded to the parish in December, 1840, and was appointed Vicar Forane in 1846. He became Parish Priest of Nenagh and Vicar General in 1869. On June 1, 1871, after the death of Dr. Power, the Parish Priests met at the Parish Church of Killaloe and voted for Dr. MacRedmond, President of the Diocesan College; Dr. Ryan, and Very Rev. Michael Dinan, P.P., V.G., Kilrush. On November 21, 1871, Dr. Ryan was provided by the Holy See as Titular Bishop of Echinus and Co-adjutor to Dr. Flannery. He was consecrated in the Parish Church of Nenagh on Sunday, February 4, 1872, by Archbishop Leahy, assisted by Dr. Delaney of Cork, and Dr. Keane of Cloyne. Other Bishops present were Dr. Moriarty of Ardfeidh, Dr. Butler of Limerick, and Dr. O’Hea of Ross. Dr. Moriarty preached. The great achievement of Dr. Ryan’s episcopate was the erection of St. Flannan’s College, Ennis, which is described in detail in Molva of 1938. Dr. Ryan died on July 20, 1889, aged 83 years, and his remains were interred in the parish church of Killaloe. The Clare Journal of Thursday, July 25, 1889, in an obituary notice pays tribute to Dr. Ryan as follows: — “Dr. Ryan was in years one of the oldest members of the Irish Hierarchy, having attained at his death the well nigh patriarchal age of 83. Born in 1806, and manifesting in his early youth unmistakable signs of an ecclesiastical vocation, he was sent to make his preliminary studies in Latin and Greek to a classical school in the City of Limerick. These studies finished, he went to complete his ecclesiastical education and training to France. His career as a student in the Irish College at Paris, and subsequently at St. Sulpice, was distinguished for piety and learning. He secured the first places in his classes and carried off the most valuable prizes. He was ordained priest in 1830. . . . As a Bishop his zealous desire to promote the interests of religion urged him to exertions which were remarkable for one of his age, as witness the various religious institutions which he has left after him in the Diocese, including the new Diocesan College in Ennis, which is admittedly one of the finest seminaries in Ireland of its kind. Under him, too, there have also grown up in the Diocese of Killaloe the new Cistercian Abbey and Church at Mount St. Joseph, Roscrea, together with the new Convents of Mercy at Kilkee, Tulla, Nenagh and Borrisokane.”

THOMAS MACREDMOND. 1889—1904.

Born in the parish of BIRR, Offaly, in July, 1836, Dr. MacRedmond entered the Irish College at Paris in November, 1852. He changed to Maynooth in 1854. He completed a post-graduate course in the Dunboyne Establishment and on his ordination, in 1860, he was appointed for a short time Curate of Bourne, and later of Toomevara. In 1866 he became C.C. of Nenagh and Secretary to the Bishop. When Springfield College, Ennis, was opened as a Diocesan College in January, 1866, Dr. MacRedmond became its first President—a position of great responsibility and difficulty. As Dr. Egan said later in his consecration sermon, “the College was the heir of successive failures and another
failure was confidently predicted.” After steering the Diocesan College with conspicuous success through all its early years, and notably belying the “confident prediction,” Dr. MacRedmond was appointed Parish Priest of Killaloe and Vicar General in 1876. On the death of Dr. Ryan, and pending the appointment of another Coadjutor, he was nominated Administrator of the Diocese. On August 1, 1889, the Parish Priests met at Ennis under the Presidency of Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Croke, Archbishop of Cashel. Dr. MacRedmond was chosen dignissimus, Very Rev. Michael Culligan, President of the College, Dignior, and Rev. Denis Kelly, Vice-President, dignus. Dr. MacRedmond was provided Coadjutor by the Holy See in September, 1889, and was consecrated in the Pro-Cathedral, Ennis, on Sunday, January 12, 1890. The consecrating Prelate was Dr. Croke, assisted by Dr. Fitzgerald of Cork and Dr. O’Dwyer of Limerick. There were also present Dr. Woodlock of Ardagh, Dr. Coffey of Ardferg, Dr. Egan, Bishop-Elect of Waterford; Dr. Brownrigg of Ossory, Dr. MacCormack of Galway, Dr. O’Callaghan of Cork, Dr. Corbett of Sale, Australia, and Dr. MacCarty of Cloyne. Dr. MacRedmond succeeded Dr. Flannery as Bishop of Killaloe on the latter’s death in June, 1891.

Dr. MacRedmond died at the Hydropathic Establishment at St. Anne’s Hill, Blarney, Co. Cork, on April 5, 1904, aged 68, and was interred in the Pro-Cathedral, Ennis.


MICHAEL FOGARTY, D.D., 1904.

On May 20, 1904, the Parish Priests met at Ennis and chose Very Rev. Michael Fogarty, D.D., with Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Ross, and Dean White of Nenagh. Dr. Fogarty was appointed by the Holy See to succeed Dr. Mac Redmond on July 8, 1904.

Most Rev. Dr. Fogarty was born at Killcoleman in the Parish of Burgess and Youghal in the year 1859, of a family previous generations of which had come from Knigh, in Lower Ormond. He received his early education from the Christian Brothers at Nenagh, and the Diocesan College, at Springfield, Ennis, and his theological education at Maynooth, where he was ordained priest in 1885. The Centenary History of Maynooth College, p. 512, says: “In June, 1889, the Rev. Michael Fogarty, of the Diocese of Killaloe, who had been all through the leader of his own class, succeeded by concursus to the Chair of Theology. ... Father Fogarty had been for some years previously a most efficient Professor in Carlow College.” He was appointed Vice-President of Maynooth College in 1903.

Dr. Fogarty was consecrated Bishop of Killaloe in the Pro-Cathedral, Ennis, on September 4, 1904, the consecrating Prelate being the Most Rev. Dr. Fennelly, Archbishop of Cashel, and the Assistants, Dr. O’Callaghan, Bishop of Cork, and Dr. Edward Thomas O’Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick. The other Prelates present were Dr. Browne of Cloyne, Dr. MacCormack of Galway, Dr. Sheehan of Waterford, Dr. Hoare of Ardagh, Dr. Kelly of Ross, Dr. Foley of Kildare, Dr. O’Dea of Clonfert, and Dr. Donnelly, Titular Bishop of Canea. Dr. Foley preached the sermon. To describe his long and most notable episcopate does not come within the scope of this article. Here we may say that having celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood in 1935 and the Silver Jubilee of his consecration in 1929 he still continues to guide the destinies of the See of Flannan with undiminished strength and energy.