

Limerick Priests In Scotland

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Of the 1,333 Irish-born secular priests who worked in Scotland in the one hundred and fifty years following the 1829 Catholic Emancipation Act, 97 were from Limerick. Munster counties provided the majority of the Irish priests in Scotland,¹ with 193 from Cork, 117 from Kerry and 107 from Tipperary. Priests fell into two categories, those on loan from Irish dioceses and those permanently affiliated to a Scottish see. Of the 713 sent on loan 29 successfully appealed to their bishops for *exeats* from their native dioceses to remain in Scotland. Limerick diocese had two such *exeats*. Limerick sent twenty-two priests on loan compared with Waterford and Lismore who provided seventy-six and Derry who gave seventy-four. Several of the priests on loan died while in Scotland including Henry Gleeson of Killaloe who succumbed to fever within weeks of his arrival in Glasgow. Limerick was spared such a loss. Between 1841 and 1956 Limerick priests founded fourteen parishes in Scotland and between 1841 and 1975 they built twenty churches. At least eighteen Irish secular priests on the Scottish mission served with the British troops in both World Wars. James P. Fitzgibbon (1902-1967) of Limerick was chaplain with the British forces in their retreat from Dunkirk in 1940.

Historians are indebted to Michel Condon (1817-1902) of Creeves, Coolcappa, Co. Limerick for his Diaries², which give much valuable data on the Church in Scotland. In addition to his compilations of details on priests' careers he also collected photographs of many of them. It is fortunate that these diaries and many of the photograph albums have survived: the death of priests too often leads to the destruction of their personal effects and the loss of valuable historical material.

Of the Irish seminaries that of St Patrick's College Maynooth provided the greatest number of Irish priests in Scotland in the 150 years of this study with a total of 505. St. Kieran's Kilkenny (dating from the eighteenth-century and the first college opened in Ireland after the Reformation) gave a total of 137 priests and St. John's, Waterford 117. All Hallows, Dublin provided 97, St. Patrick's, Carlow 88, St. Peter's, Wexford 52 and St Patrick's, Thurles 47. Two smaller seminaries, St. Mary's, Youghal and Holy Cross, Clonliffe, Dublin provided 11 and 8 respectively. St. Mary's in Youghal, founded in 1829 by Fr. John Foley, was the first college in Ireland to supply priests on a permanent basis to Scotland with the first three being ordained in 1842 but in the same years its founder Fr. Foley died suddenly and the college closed. Of the continental European seminaries, the Irish College at Salamanca, Spain educated 13 priests for Scotland in this period while the Pontifical Irish College in Rome provided 25.

Times and conditions change and the Irish priest in Scotland is now fast becoming a personality of the past through natural decrease of retirement and death. Vocations in Ireland have declined and it seems unlikely that in the future the church in Scotland will have the strong Irish dimension it has had in the past. Space does not allow details of all the Limerick priests to be given. Those listed are chosen on the basis that they made some particular contribution to the Church in Scotland and are given in alphabetical order.

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¹ Rev. B. J. Canning, *Irish-Born Secular Priests in Scotland 1829-1979* (Inverness 1979).

² The Condon Diaries are in the custody of Glasgow Archdiocesan Archives, Clyde Street, Glasgow.

Some Limerick Priests in Scotland 1829 - 1979

Name	Born	Education	Ordained	Parishes served	Died	Buried
Ambrose Myles	1873 Limerick	St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, St. Peter's College, Bearsden.	1897 for Glasgow	St. Mary's, Calton, Glasgow, 1897-1908. Assist. St. Mary's, Longriggend, 1908-15 PP.	19 Dec. 1915	St. Peter's Dalbeth
Burke William	1 Feb. 1822 Glenbrohane,	All Hallows College, Dublin	18 May 1847 for Western District of Scotland [WDS].	St. Mary's, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, St. Johns, Gorbals (Assist.); St. Palladius, Dalry, Ayrshire 1848-68. PP. St. Margaret's, Ayr, 1868-71, O. L. Assumption & St. Meddan's, Troon, 1871, St. Laurence's, Greenock, Renfrewshire 1871-2. (PP).	26 March 1872 Greenock.	Greenock Cemetery
Butler James	2 Dec. 1905 Ballyneety.	St. Munchin's College, Limerick St. Patrick's College, Carlow	9 June 1929 for Glasgow	Sacred Heart Parish, Bellshill 1949-58. (Founder of the parish and builder of Sacred Heart Church, 1951.)	10 October 1958 Bellshill, suddenly	St. Patrick's New Stevenston, Lararkshire
Connolly John Joseph	4 Feb. 1926 Grange, Kilmallock	Oscott, St. Kieran's, Kilkenny	8 June 1952 for Dunkeld	Built St. Leonard's Church, Dundee, 25 April 1975.		
Danaher Francis	1 Aug. 1827 Croom,	All Hallows, Dublin	20 June 1850 for WDS	St. Mary's, Greenock. Assist. St. Mary's Glasgow. Assist. St. Alphonsus, Glasgow. Assist. St. Mary's, Duntocher, 1853-74 PP.	5 December 1874 at St. Mary's, Hamilton	St. Peter's, Dalbeth
Danaher James	1821 Croom (Brother of Francis)	St. Mary's, Youghal (Founded 1829, closed 1842) All Hallows, Dublin	6 June 1845 Glasgow for WDS	St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow; Asst. St. Mary's, Greenock, 1845-52; St. Joseph's, Glasgow 1852-9; St. Mary's, Hamilton, 1859-86. PP. One of the first Canons of Glasgow Cathedral Chapter at its establishment in 1884.	13 Nov. 1886	St. Peter's Cemetery, Dalbeth
Fogarty Thomas	c. 1822 Limerick	All Hallows, Dublin	1846	St. Palladius, Dalry First resident priest in the area	3 Nov. 1850 [aged 28]	
Hallinan William	12 March 1826 Rathkeale	All Hallows, Dublin	24 June 1852 Maynooth, for WDS	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Saltcoats, Ayrshire (1853-86). (Founder and built church, opened 1856)	8 August 1886	St. Peter's Dalbeth, Glasgow

Hannan Edward Joseph	June 1836 Ballingarry	St. Muchin's College, Limerick All Hallows, Dublin	13 May 1860 Dublin for E DS	St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, 1860-1 Assist. St. Patrick's, Edinburgh, 1861-9. Assist. St. Patrick's, Edinburgh, 1869-91. PP. Canon of Edinburgh Cathedral Chapter at its establishment, December 23, 1885	24 June 1891 Dunfermline	G r a n g e C e m e t e r y, Edinburgh
Hanley Patrick	8 May 1818 Limerick City	St. Patrick's C o l l e g e , Maynooth	21 Dec. 1842 for WDS Glasgow	St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow, 1842-7; St. John's, Glasgow, 1847-9; St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow, 1849-50;. (Assist.); St. Patrick's, Anderston, Glasgow, 1850-9 (Founder of the parish and builder of St. Patrick's Church.); St. Aloysius', Springburn, Glasgow, 1859-65; St. John the Baptist, Port Glasgow, 1865-72 PP. Retired through ill-health.	4 June 1880 Leith	R o s e b a n k c e m e t e r y, Leith
Hannan Joseph	1 Jan. 1852 Ballygrenan,	St. Munchin's College, Limerick St. Mary's College, Blairs Royal Scots C o l l e g e , Valladolid, Spain	29 June 1879 St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh for St. Andrews a n d Edinburgh	St. Patrick's, Edinburgh. Assist. St. Margaret's, Loanhead. Assist. St. Alexander's, Denny. PP. (Built the church, opened in 1890) St. Francis Xavier's, Falkirk. PP. Immaculate Conception, Bathgate. PP. St. Machan's, Lennoxton. PP. Canon of Edinb. Cath. Chapter 1899.	27 May 1903 Glasgow	G r a n g e C e m e t e r y, Edinburgh (Same grave as his brother Canon Ed. Jos. Hannan)
Hayes William J.	19 July 1884 Pallasgreen	Collis Grammar School, Limerick St. Patrick's, Carlow Mt. St. Joseph's, Roscrea St. Peter's, Bearsden	29 June 1913 for Glasgow, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow	St. Roch's, Glasgow, 1913-21 Assist. St. Anne's, Cadzow, 1921-31. Assist. St. Mary's, Larkhall, 1931-8. PP. St. James's, Renfrew, 1938-49. PP. St. Mungo's, Ladyburn, Greenock, 1949-50. PP. Retired 1950	25 June 1952 Dublin	Limerick
Keane Thomas	15 Oct. 1826 nr Newcastle West	All Hallows, Dublin St. John's, Waterford	25 July 1856 G l a s g o w for Western District	St. John's, Glasgow, 1856-7 Assist. St. Alphonsus, Glasgow, 1857-8 Assist. St. John's, Barrhead, 1858-70 PP. (Built schools in nearby Nitshill and Neilston) St. Mary's, Irvine 1870-80. PP. (Building St. Mary's Church 1875)	21 Dec. 1894 Springburn, Glasgow	St. John's, Barrhead

Kennedy Joseph	1 June 1887 Caherconlish,	St. Patrick's College, Thurles. St. Peter's College, Bearsden.	29 June 1913 St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow for Glasgow	Our Lady and St. Mark's, Alexandria, 1913. Assist. Holy Family, Mossend 1913-28 Assist. St. Joseph's, Carstairs 1928-32. Chaplain. St. Joseph's, Clarkston, 1932-7. PP. St. Joseph's, Helensburgh 1937-40. PP. St. Patrick's, Anderston 1940-3. PP.	22 October 1943, Glasgow	St. Patrick's Cemetery, New Stevenston
Lee Thomas P	1831 Ballingaddy,	All Hallows, Dublin	8 Dec. 1856 All Hallows WDS	Joint mission of Johnstone and Houston 1856-9. St. Bridget's, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire 1859-64, PP. (Built the Church, 1862)	24 June 24 1864 [aged 33]	
Lillis William	1817 Croom,	St. Mary's, Youghal All Hallows, Dublin	8 Dec. 1845 Glasgow, for WDS	St. Mary's Calton, Glasgow 1845-50 Assist.	25 June 1850 Dumbarton	
Moore Thomas	20 May 1820 Co. Limerick	St. Mary's, Youghal All Hallows, Dublin	8 Dec. 1845 for WDS Glasgow	New mission at St. Joseph's, Stranraer, Wigtownshire, 1846-55.	9 June 1860	
Murphy John	30 Oct. 1842 Kilteely,	St. Patrick's College, Thurles St. John's, Waterford	25 Nov. 1869, Glasgow	St. Mary's, Dundee 1869-73. Assist. St. Patrick's, Kilsyth 1873-90. PP. Our Lady and St. Bridget, West Calder 1890-1915. PP. Retired 1915. One of the first Canons of Edinburgh Cath. Chapter at its establishment 1885.	7 July 1918 Edinburgh	
Mc Carthy Patrick A.	23 Dec. 1872 Feenagh,	St. Munchin's College, Limerick La Grande Seminaire of Le Mans Sarthe, France St. Mary's, Oscott St. Peter's, Bearsden	6 June 1897 for Glasgow,	Several Parishes – Assist. St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Largs, Ayrshire 1906-8. PP. St. Ninans's, Gourock 1908-18. PP (where he built a school) St. John's, Stevenston, Ayrshire, 1918-1929. PP. St. Mary's, Cleland, Lanarkshire, 1929-30. PP. St. John the Baptist, Uddingston, 1930-57. PP. One of the first Canons of Motherwell Cathedral Chapter at its establish. 1952	15 March 1959	
Noonan Ed.	21 Dec. 1832 Ballycallan, (Parish of Ballingarry)	All Hallows, Dublin	26 June 1859 for WDS	St. Mary's, Calton, Glasgow, 1859-72. Assist. Sacred Heart, Bridgetown 1872-86. PP. (Founder of the Sacred Heart Church, presbytery and schools.)	9 October 1886 Bridgetown	

O'Callaghan John	1890 B o o l a , Dromcollogher,	St. Mary's, Blairs. Pontifical Scots College, Rome.	1917, Rome for Glasgow. Took D.D., Rome	St. Mary's, Calton, Glasgow. Assist. St. Mary's College, Blairs, teaching Classics 1918-34. St. Mary's, Longriggend, 1934-5 Assist. St. Luke's, Glasgow, 1935-6. Assist. St. Joseph's, Cardowan, Stepps 1936-49. PP. St. Patrick's, Shotts 1949-1955. PP.	15 April 1955	
O'Donoghue John	22 Jan. 1899 Abbeyfeale,		1 May 1924, Glasgow	St. Mary's, Calton, Glasgow 1924-7 Assist.		
O'Dwyer John	1831 Co. Limerick		1856	St. Patrick's, Coatbridge 1857-59 Assist. St. Patrick's, Anderston 1859-60 Assist. St. Alphonsus', Glasgow 1860-3 Assist. St. John's, Old Cumnock, Ayrshire 1863-73. Assist.		
O'Dwyer John	17 Nov. 1926 Kilfinane,		18 June 1950, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Waterford for Paisley	Holy Family Church, Port Glasgow, 1950-68. Assist. St. Charles', Paisley 1968-74. Assist. St. Mungo's, Ladyburn, Greenock 1974-93. PP. Canon Paisley Cathedral Chapter 1992. St. Bridget's, Eaglesham 1993-96. PP.		
O'Keeffe Michael	29 Sept. 1818 Limerick City.		26 Aug. 1845, for the WDS	St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow 1845-6. Assist. St. John's Gorbals, 1846-7. Assist. St. Patrick's, Coatbridge, 1847-93. PP. Canon of Glasgow Cath. Chapter 1884.		
O'Kelly Seán	29 Aug. 1931		8 July 1962 for St. Andrew's and Edinburgh, in Church of the Sacred Heart, Rome	St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh 1962-65. Assist. Vice-Rector of Pontifical Scots College, Rome 1965-73. Rector of Pontifical Scots College, Rome 1973-81. Prelate of Honour 1974.		

Ryan Patrick	1 8 6 6 Castleconnell,		1 May 1892 for Kilalloe, on loan to G l a s g o w and got an <i>exeat</i> to remain in Scotland	St. John's, Gorbals, Glasgow, 1892-1899. Assist. St. Mary's, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, 1899-1905. Assist. St. Luke's, Glasgow, 1905-8. PP. (Founded the parish.) St. Aloysius', Springburn, 1908-16 Administrator. St. John's, Gorbals, 1916-20. Administrator. St. John's, Gorbals, 1920-9. PP. Canon of Glasgow Cath. Chapter 1927.		
Wallace Thomas	1810 Askeaton	St. Patrick's C o l l e g e , Maynooth	1838 for Limerick	On Loan to WDS St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow 1838-43. Limerick 1843-5. Obtained an <i>exeat</i> and returned to St. Joseph's, Kilmarnock 1845-53. PP.(built St. Joseph's Church, 1847.)St. John the Evangelist, Old Cumnock, Ayrshire 1853-63.PP.(Built St. Thomas church 1856).		
Walsh J a m e s Bernard	24 Sept. 1915 Ballysally, Ballyagran	St. Munchin's College, Limerick Irish College, Paris	11 June 1939. I r i s h C o l l e g e , Paris for St. A n d r e w s a n d Edinburgh	St. Ninian's, Edinburgh 1939-44. Assist. St. Mary's, Haddington 1944-69. PP St. Mary's, Bathgate 1969. PP. (Until he retired)		