

A Brief History Of Croom Church Of Ireland church

A small neat edifice of the early English style of architecture with a square tower, the present building seems to have been erected on the site of an earlier building. The actual date of construction of the present building is unknown, but it is known that in 1837 a grant of £151 was allotted by the Ecclesiastical commissioners for the repair of the church. Originally the parish embraced the old parishes of Croom, Dunaman, Dunkip and Dullas; in the early seventeenth century it was joined to Adare parish, and this arrangement lasted until 1848. Sixty years later it was separated from Adare; the parish of Kilpeacon was then joined to these two parishes, and the three parishes then formed the Adare Union of parishes. In January 1995 on the retirement of Archdeacon Snow from Kilmallock, the Adare Union was joined to the Kilmallock Union, and the Group of parishes now consists of seven churches, Adare, Croom and Kilpeacon, Abington, Kilfinane, Kilmallock and Knockainey. These parishes are ministered to by the rector, Archdeacon Michael Nuttall, and the assistant priest, The Rev. Paul Johansen. They are ably

assisted in this task by four lay readers, Albert Dawson, Barbara Johansen, Frances Moore and Stanley Wallace. Geographically most of the present group of parishes is located in East County Limerick, and extends to the Cork boundary, and ecclesiastically it is mainly situated in the Diocese of Limerick, with a small part being in Emly (Abington and Knockainey).

To return, however to Croom, within the church building, there are several memorial tablets. One gives details of the Dickson vault memorials, and they include three distinguished brothers; Stephen, Deputy-Lieut. Of Co. Limerick, Lt. Col. John, the Deputy-Lieut. Of the Co. Limerick militia, and Samuel, a 19th Century Co. Limerick M.P. A further tablet remembers Lady Lucy Maxwell, wife of Robert Maxwell of Islanmore, and the daughter of the Earl of Clancarthy. Also commemorated is John Louis Croker, son of the Rev. Edward Croker, a former Rector of the parish. John Croker died at Sebastopol in 1855.

The building is surrounded by a large graveyard with many vaults remembering many former families in the



Church of Ireland church, Croom.

area. Among the graves and vaults located here are the Croker, the Lyons family of Croom House and most famous of all the distinguished Maigne poet, Sean O'Tuama.

The Succession list of Clerics who have served Croom goes back to 1313 with John de Shortmad as "Late Vicar of Cromou". His successor as Vicar "Of the Church of Cromyth" was Sir Simon, while in 1376 John Route was "Parson of Cromit". Seventeenth Century records give details of Croom's early union with Adare, when in 1686 Edward Ingram was instituted Rector of Croom and Vicar of Adare. Thomas Bunbury, Rector of Croom 1863 - 72, later became Dean of Limerick, and then in 1899 was consecrated Bishop of the Diocese. The Rev. F. Knowles was the last Rector actually to live in Croom Rectory, and his son Philip is the present Dean of Cashel.

Today the parish consists of ten families, a small enough number, though it is heartening to think that of the

thirty or so parishioners, thirteen are under thirty, and six under ten. At present the church wardens are Mrs. Judy Davis and Mr. Willie Shire. The small numbers make the task of maintaining such an ancient building difficult, but the parishioners work with great effort to do so, and only recently a new lighting system has been installed.

I should say finally how grateful we all are for all the co-operation we receive from the local Roman Catholic community - in particular we remember with great gratitude the generous donation sent to us to enable us to do much needed repair to badly damaged windows.

MICHAEL NUTTALL

Rector

For much of the historical information I am indebted to the Diocesan History of Limerick and timetable entitled "Inspiring Stories".

