

# How The Late Bishop O'Dwyer Solved A Family Problem

An interesting story of how the late Most Rev. Dr. Edward Thomas O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick, who died in 1917, solved a family problem is told in the sub-joined special article written by our talented and well-informed contributor, "Sulcoit."

In Cuileann O Geuanac, almost on the Limerick-Tipperary border, was the home for generations of the O'Dwyers, who gave to Limerick and Ireland the able, learned and patriotic bishop, Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer. Their residence was within 60 yards of the Cullen Catholic Church and Schools, and almost directly opposite the ancient graveyard in which his ancestors lie at rest.

**GOLD ORNAMENTS**  
Mrs. Green, in her history, tells of the valuable gold ornaments discovered in the bog of Cullen, a small area of deep low lying ground, surrounded by some of the most fertile land in the Golden Vale. Besides Ballyneety, Emly of St Ailbe, Sharonell, where Liam Dall lies; Ballycohey, linked with the most stirring incidents of the land war, and Sulcoit (Solohead) where Brian Boru in two big battles, prior to 1000 A.D., defeated the Danes, and also linked with the daring exploits of Sean Treacy, Dea Egan and their party, are but a few miles away.



The Late Bishop O'Dwyer.

**THE O'DWYER CLAN**  
The O'Dwyer Clan occupied the Tipperary territory of Upper and Lower Kilmannagh, the centre being at the Black Castle, near Dundrum. A detailed and interesting account of this famous family will be found in its history written by Sir Michael O'Dwyer, who was himself born almost beside Ballycohey and the Baronstown Racecourse, near the Limerick Junction. Space does not permit details of this history or its author. Centred in Tipperary, the O'Dwyer Clan have sent their branches not only into all parts of Ireland, but right round the globe. The sad if exquisite Gaelic song, "Sean O Duibhir a Gleanna," commemorates one of the most tragic phases of Irish history, the enforced exile of his and other Irish clans. But the O'Dwyers regained their own in time.

## HOW HE KEPT HIS PROMISE.

It appears that as a young man he promised his parents he should be buried with them. But his later elevation to the See of Limerick raised an obvious unexpected obstacle. For Cullen and its people he had ever a warm regard and friendly word. But, of course, his affection for his parents was still greater. How was he to reconcile his former promise with his own almost inevitable burial in Limerick. One morning two hearses came to Cullen with empty coffins and took away the remains of his parents to the ancient city destined to be his own burial place. 'Till recent years the walls of their house were still standing.

## CULLEN A HISTORIC CENTRE.

In ancient times, Cullen was the capital of the whole territory of Cloonagh. The name is still preserved in that of the Limerick barony of Cloonagh, the Tipperary portion being now Clanwilliam. Below the village, on the Oola road, stood the Castle of Cullen in what is called "The Castle Field." It was closely associated with tragic incidents in the Rising of 1641. Near it is St. Patrick's Well, linked in tradition with the mission of Ireland's patriot saint. Sarsfield's famous ride to Ballyneety "through the long street of Cullen," within 2 miles of his destination, is closely connected in song and story, Irish and English, with the district.

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Junior and minor football. It fell to the juveniles to carry the name of Ahane to victory in 1956, a fact which should hearten and inspire future teams in the higher grades. Although their success was confined to the division, there can be no doubt but that they would have proved more successful were it not for the grossly illegal constitution of their conquerors, the story of which is too well known to merit further comment.

The senior team, as county champions, proved disappointing, a fact which goes to show that no team can afford to approach the start of a championship series in the all too complacent mood which we regret was evident. Beginning the year by a good display in the Retreat House Tournament, the same spirit was not there for the championship. We can only hope that all will strive to rectify this grave and costly fault in the year that lies ahead.

Good displays, even though beaten, were the order of the day with regard to our juniors and minors. In both grades our teams were younger than average, a feature which should be most heartening to us. We can be confident that with the abundant supply of material now participating in our Minor League the teams carrying the colours of our club in the coming campaigns should make their presence felt.

**Urgent Need Of A Playing Pitch.**  
More attention to training must be the aim of all if we are to regain our former glory. There is an urgent need for the provision of a proper playing field in this parish. This is a matter that must have our earnest attention until the situation is remedied. We would appeal to all with the interests of youth at heart to come to our assistance in this matter.

During the year, we lost two of our brightest stars. Rev. Fr. Murphy left us to take up his priestly duties in faraway Australia, carrying with him the good wishes of all connected with the Club and of all Limerick Gaeldom, in general. The tragic and untimely death of Paddy Conway was a great shock to us all. The best and most promising of our juveniles, his loss will be felt for many years to come.

In concluding, the Secretary thanked the officials, Committee and players for their patience and co-operation during the year and expressed the hope that all would strive as one united body during 1957 to restore the Ahane Club to its former prestige and glory.

The Treasurer's report having been read and adopted, Mr. J. Conway was highly commended for the clear-cut manner in which he set out the financial picture.

County Board Chairman, Pat O'Reilly, in a brief address, traced the origin of the G.A.A. as compared with the numerous alien games. They in Ahane, he said, could look back on a glorious history and look forward to a bright future.

C.L.-C.S., Coisde Caeraic Lunnin.

**FIXTURE—Sunday, Feb. 17.**

New Ireland Shield—J.H.—  
**CLAUGHAUN v. ST. PATRICK'S**  
12 noon. Referee—M. McInerney  
**MENTAL HOSPITAL GROUNDS**

Messrs. Michael Herbert, M.C.C., and Michael Minihan also spoke, after which the election of officers was proceeded with. This resulted, President, Very Rev. Fr. Fogarty, P.P.; Chairman, Richard Leonard,

(2.0)—Juvenile F. Treaty-Sarsfields v. Commercials. Eric Ryan. (3.15) Duggan Cup, S.H. St. Patrick's v. Treaty-Sarsfields. Tom Nealon.

At Copswood College (3.0)—Minor Hurling, Copswood College v. Monaleen, Dick Birmingham or Rev. Fr. Aherne.

At St. Patrick's Field (12.0)—Juvenile H., Shamrocks v. St. Patrick's. Jimmy Hannon.

**Sunday, 10th March, at Limerick Gaelic Grounds (2.0)**—Gleeson Cup, S.F., St. Patrick's v. Treaty-Sarsfields. Pat Silke.

At Pallaskerry (3.0)—"Kerryman" Cup, J.F., Copswood College v. Creora. Joe Sheehy.

At Patrickswell (3.0)—Juvenile H., Ballybrown v. Kildimo, Pallaskerry. Ned Whelan.

At St. Patrick's Field (12.0)—Juvenile H., Claughaun v. St. John's C.B.S.I. Ml. Cunneen.

At Young Ireland Grounds (12.0)—Juvenile H., Young Ireland v. Treaty-Sarsfields. V. Cobbe.

**Sunday, 17th March, at Limerick Gaelic Grounds (2.0)**—Minor Hurling, Young Ireland v. Kildimo-Pallaskerry. D. Moylan or S. Cronin.

**Sunday, 24th March, at Limerick Gaelic Grounds, Duggan Cup, S.H., Treaty-Sarsfelds v. Patrickswell, Claughaun v. St. Patrick's.**

At Pallaskerry (3.0)—Minor F., Copswood College v. Commercials. Joe Sheehy.

At St. Patrick's Field (12.0)—Juvenile H., Monaleen v. Rathbane St. Mary's. John Foley.

**Sunday, 31st March, at St. Patrick's Field (12.0)**—Juvenile F., St. John's C.B.S.I. v. Shamrocks. Jimmy Hannon.

At venue to be arranged New Ireland Shield—J.H., Young Ireland v. Treaty-Sarsfields; Minor H., St. Patrick's v. Patrickswell.

**Sunday, 7th April, Minor Hurling**—Treaty-Sarsfields v. Claughaun; Minor Football—St. Patrick's v. Creora.

**Sunday, 14th April, at Copswood College (3.0)**, Juvenile F., Copswood College v. St. Patrick's.

At venue to be arranged Juvenile F.—Claughaun v. Patrickswell.

Arising out of the consideration of referees' reports, Mungret submitted an explanation for their failure to line out at Patrickswell against Kildimo-Pallaskerry, in the "Kerryman" Cup competition, owing to adverse weather conditions, and agreed to meet the expenses incurred by the Board and the opposing team.

In an effort to improve the standard of football the Board decided to invite a leading Leinster player and trainer give a talk, illustrated with films of All-Ireland games, to school and City Board players.

Meetings of the City Board during 1957 will be held on the first Thursday of each month at 8 p.m.

The meeting sent good wishes to the ex-Chairman, Paddy O'Shaughnessy, for a speedy recovery from illness.

It was agreed to co-operate with Feile Padraig as in former years, and the usual subscription was passed.

The Chairman referred to the death of the Vice-Chairman of the Laois County Board, Mr. Paddy Campion, who was a former member of the Claughaun Club, with whom he won Limerick County Senior Hurling Championship honours. Paddy was a frequent visitor to Limerick and rarely missed a big game at Limerick Gaelic Grounds.

Sympathy was voted to his relatives, also to the Archbishop of Cashel and Muintir na Tire on the death of Canon Hayes, and to the Rochford family on the death of Mrs. Morgan.

**Near Neighbours In Opposition.**  
Attractive morning fixture for the Mental Hospital Grounds next Sunday is the meeting of St. Pat-