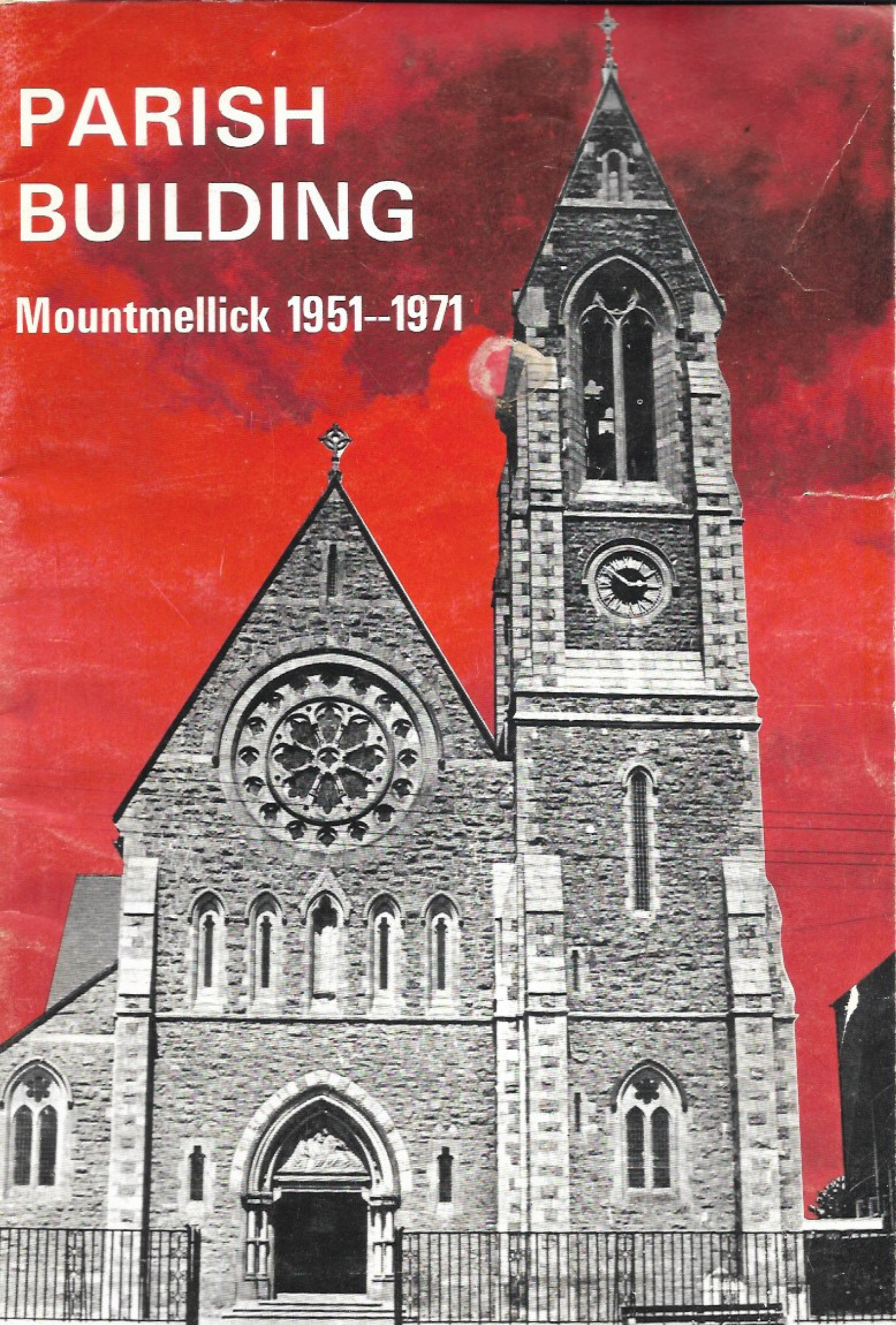


PARISH BUILDING

Mountmellick 1951-1971



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH MOUNTMELICK

Masses: Sundays 8, 9.30, 11 a.m.

Weekdays: 7.30 a.m.

Mass at 7.30 p.m. on holy days; during Lent and October; first and third Mondays of each month; first Fridays and special Feasts.

Confessions: Saturdays 11 a.m.—2 p.m.; 7—8.30 p.m.

Eve of First Fridays and Holy days, 7—8.30 p.m.

Sodality Days from 7 p.m.

Baptism: 11 a.m. Saturday Mass.

Marriages: By arrangement.

Funerals: Arrive at 7 p.m. Mass at 10 a.m.

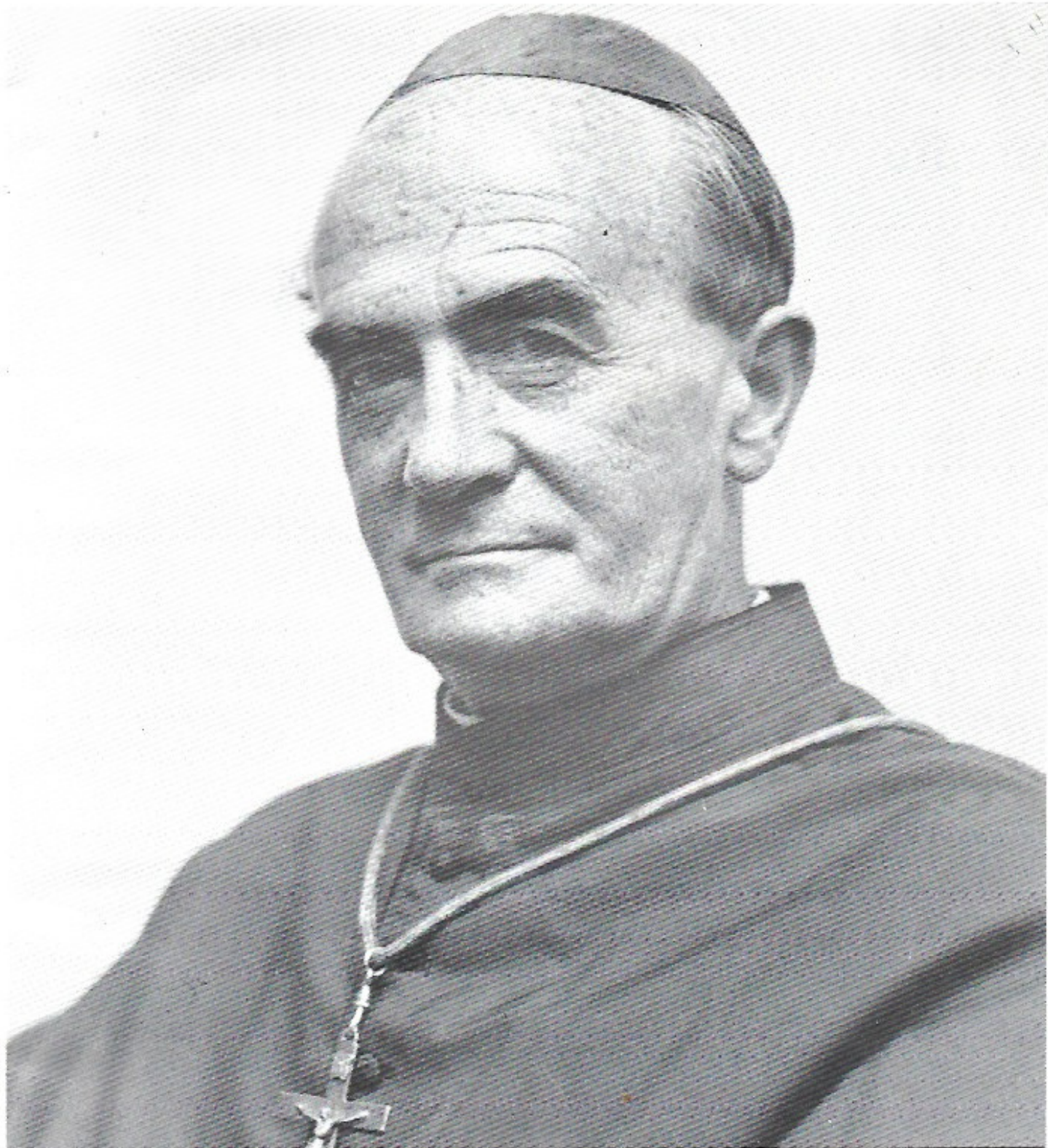
Leave for Cemetery at 2 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH CLONAGHADOO

Mass: Sunday 10 a.m.

Weekdays, Evening Mass on First Fridays; frequently during Lent and October and on Special occasions.

Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals by arrangement.



Most Rev. Patrick Lennon, D.D., as Auxiliary Bishop to Most Rev. Dr. Keogh, was Parish Priest of Mountmellick from July 1966 to December 1967.

BISHOP'S HOUSE,
CARLOW.

Dear Father Crowley,

The publication of this verbal and visual record of parish building in Mountmellick gives me a welcome opportunity to say 'thank you' to the people of the parish. It was in Mount-

mellick that I came to appreciate more deeply the meaning of goodness and loyalty, and the memory of my all-too-short residence there will always remain with me.

For many years there has been a steady stream of emigrants from the town, due to the lack of employment opportunities. May one hope that new initiatives by the State and by the

people themselves may lessen this tragic outflow.

With every good wish and blessing, I am,

Sincerely Yours,

✠ PATRICK LENNON
Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin,
Carlow,
22nd November, 1971.



C.Y.M.S. CINEMA

Officially opened in March, 1952

by President Sean T. O'Kelly

Very Rev. T. H. Burbage, P.P., V.F., acquired the site and built the Cinema so as to provide entertainment locally for the people of the parish. It seats six hundred. Any profits that accrue are devoted to the Parish Building Fund.

Architect: Michael Scott.

Contractor: Rodgers, Navan.

Cost: £22,000.





Rock Boys' and Girls' National School

Officially opened in September 1959.

It replaced the old school which started as a hedge school in 1827. In 1851 there were 67 on the rolls.

This school consists of two classrooms, indoor toilets with running water and a teachers' room.

Heating is by two convector fuel burning heaters. It is fully wired and supplied with lights and sockets.

There are 60 pupils on rolls and there are two teachers.

Architect: Board of Works.

Contractor: B. Keane, Templemore.

Cost: £5,600, of which the parish contributed £700.





Mountmelick. Catholic Church.



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Built in 1878. Extension blessed and opened on March 19th, 1965.

The extension to the parish church converted a building which was rectangular to a cruciform shape.

The addition comprises a transept, sanctuary, side chapel, boys' priests' and working sacristies and boiler-house. The transept measures 86ft. x 37ft. and the sanctuary is 30ft. in depth.

The building is constructed with reinforced concrete walls, faced externally with limestone, lined internally and plastered.

A special feature is the large windows lighting the transept. These are in cut limestone with decorative glass.

The roof of the church is slated and that on the sacristy block is copper.

Internally, the sanctuary is raised 3ft. over the nave and the floor is marble.

The windows are glazed with coloured glass in geometrical pattern. The ceilings are arched and constructed in fibrous plaster. A special feature has been made of the crossing of the nave and transept, comprising decorative groined panelling.

New vinyl tiled floors have been laid in the old and new sections.

The new work is designed in such a manner as to fit in with existing and form one unified design.

The church is heated by hot water from an oil fired boiler.

New paving has been provided around the church. In the front the paving is laid in a decorative pattern and there are new gates and railings.

Architect:

J. R. Boyd Barrett, KCSS, ARIBA, FRIAL.

Contractor:

Sweeney, Portarlington.

Cost:

£100,000.



Top left: An old picture of St. Joseph's Church, taken many years ago.

Bottom left: St. Joseph's Church, Mountmellick, showing extension.

Top right: At lunch after church extension, President de Valera and Fr. Burbage, P.P., Mountmellick, 1940-1966.

Bottom right: President de Valera leaving after the solemn blessing of the extension by Most Rev. Dr. Keogh.



Clonaghadoo Boys' and Girls' National School

Officially opened and blessed in
March, 1967

by Most Rev. Dr. Lennon

This school replaced the old school which was built in 1912-'13 at a cost to the parish of £700.

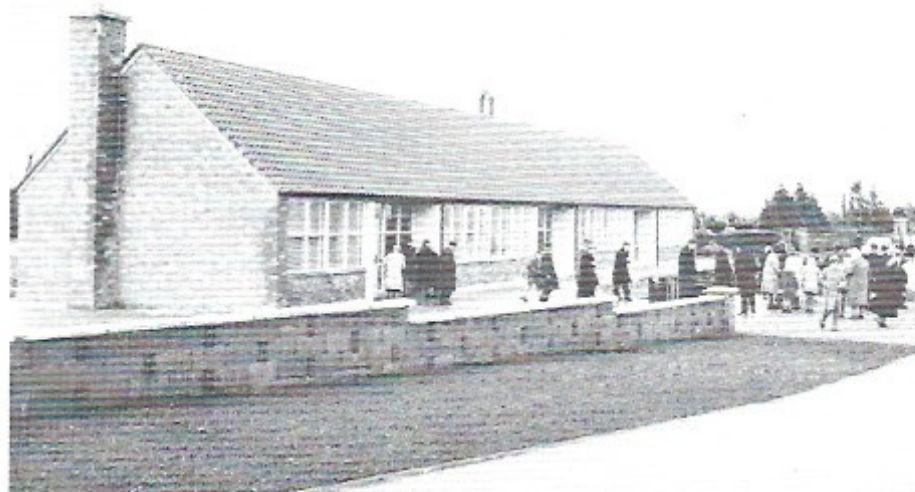
It is a very fine modern school with oil-fired central heating; separate indoor toilet and cloakroom for each class.

There are three classrooms and a teachers' room. There are 72 pupils on rolls and the staff consists of three teachers.

Architect: Board of Works.

Contractor: Broomfield, Portlaoise.

Cost: £12,000, of which the parish subscribed £1,500.



Owenass Hall

Officially opened on March 19th, 1969

This was a galvanised iron structure erected at the rear of the Catholic Institute in 1902. It was used for Dances, Badminton, etc., and at one period it served as a Cinema. As its condition had very much deteriorated, it was demolished in 1968 and was replaced by a new concrete hall with proper toilets, central heating, etc.; the old Billiard Room was extensively renovated.

It is now the Community Centre for the Parish. Many Societies hold their meetings there. It is used by the Blood Transfusion Service, Red Cross, etc. Concerts, Whist Drives, Bingo, Socials and Dances help to raise funds for many worthy causes.

Architect:

James A. Doyle, FRIAI, 22 Herbert Place, Dublin.

Contractor:

James Spollen, Tullamore.

Cost:

£14,500.

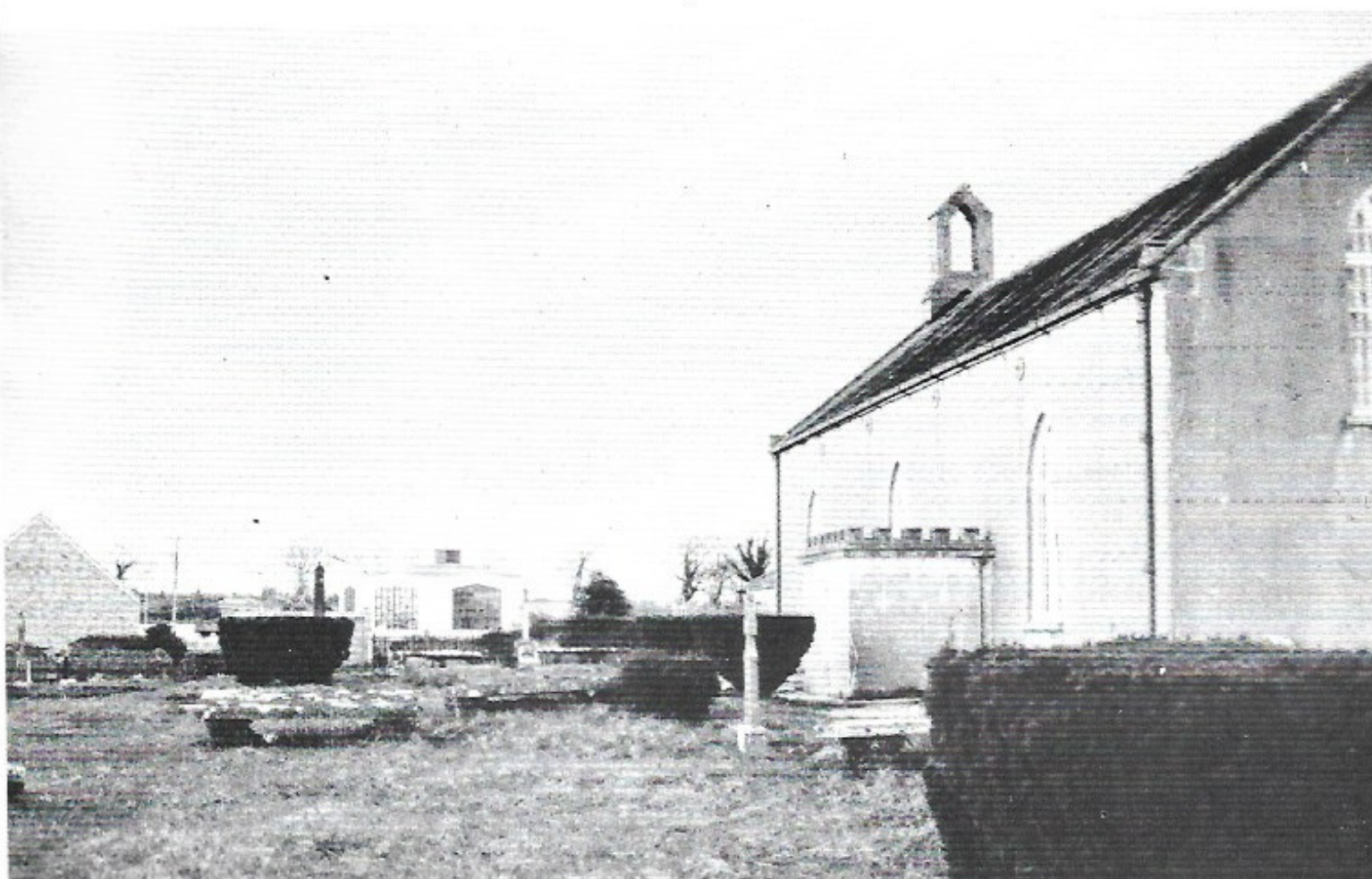
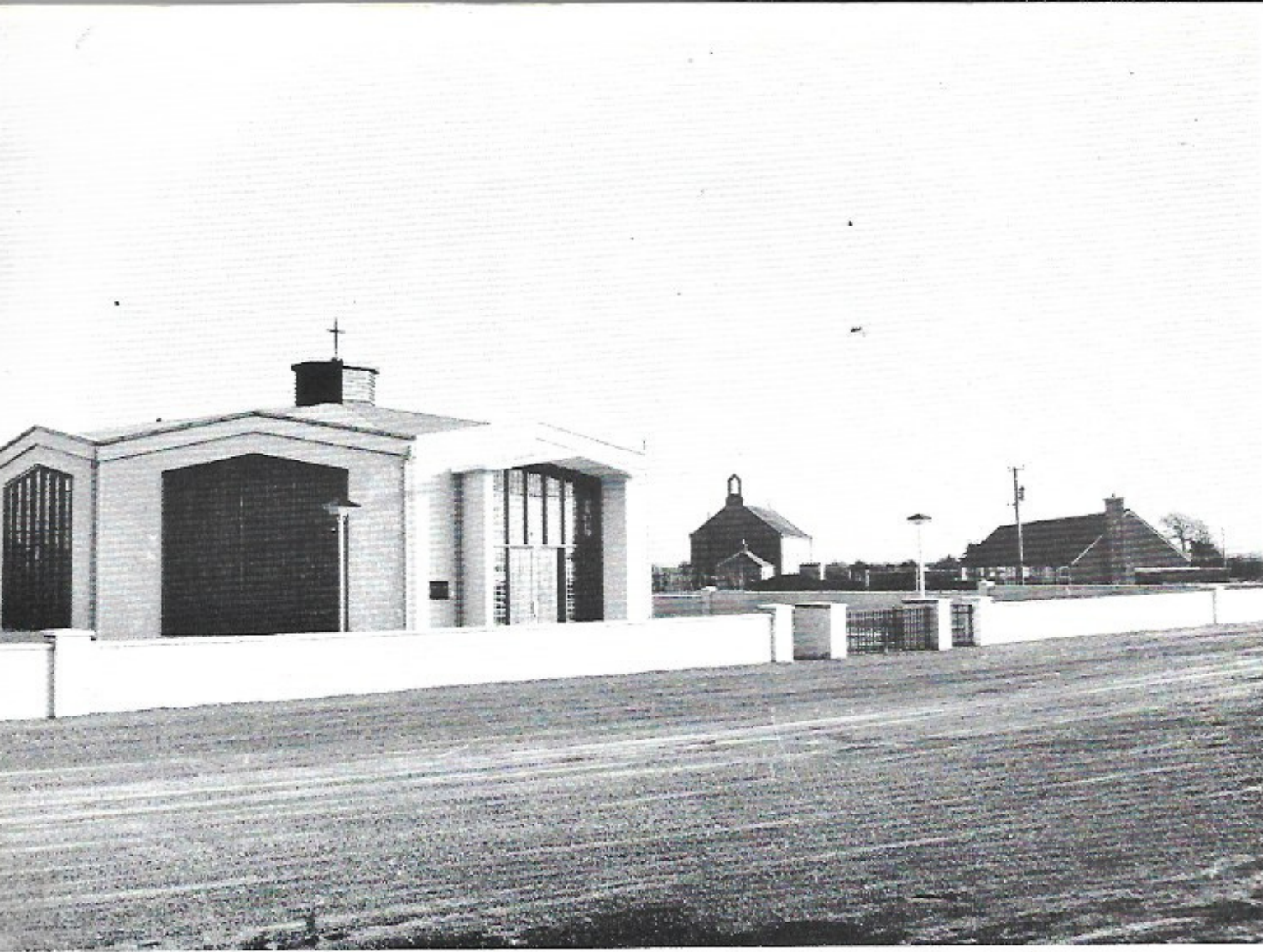


Top right: Official opening.

Mr. James Spollen,
Builder; Mr. James Doyle, Architect,
and Rev. C. Crowley, P.P.

Centre: View of hall set for luncheon
at the official opening.

Bottom right: External view of
Owenass Hall and Billiard Room.



St. Mary's Church, Clonaghadoo

Architect's Note

Opened and blessed by
Most Rev. Dr. Lennon
on 17th March, 1970.

It replaced the old church built in 1825-27 at the cost of about £1,000. This old church replaced "a humble thatched structure built by the people about 1777 in close proximity to the ancient "Mass-Place", the position of which is still indicated by a venerable "Mass-tree".

In 1967 the old Church was in bad repair and the decision was taken to build a new church.

The new Church was erected on a site bought from James Gorry and work commenced on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19th, 1969.

Architect:

J. R. Boyd Barrett, KCSS, ARIBA,
FRIAL.

Bullder:

Charles Breen, Mountrath.

Cost:

£38,000.

The new church in Clonaghadoo has been designed in a modern style and has accommodation for about 450 people. It is situated on a fairly level site off the main road from Mountmellick to Tullamore and is flanked on two sides by a public road.

The general effect internally is of lightness and grace. The altar and tabernacle have been taken from the old church and are redesigned and arranged to comply with modern

liturgy. The ambo is of new design. No altar rail is provided. The sanctuary, which is raised above the general floor, is generous in its proportions and allows ample room for concelebrated Mass. The confessionals are built in and they also form the entrance porch. The windows occupy most of the wall space and are of leaded lights and incorporate the stations of the cross. The general lighting through the windows is warm and bright. The church is heated by oil-fired central heating.



Top left: Clonaghadoo new church with old church and new school in background.

Bottom left: Old church and cemetery, Clonaghadoo, 1827-1970.

Right: New church, Clonaghadoo.



The Sanctuary, Clonaghadoo Church

Externally the church is expressed by a turret which is dominated by a bronze cross. The walls are faced with rough cast plaster with smooth cement bands. The window frames and door are made with teak.

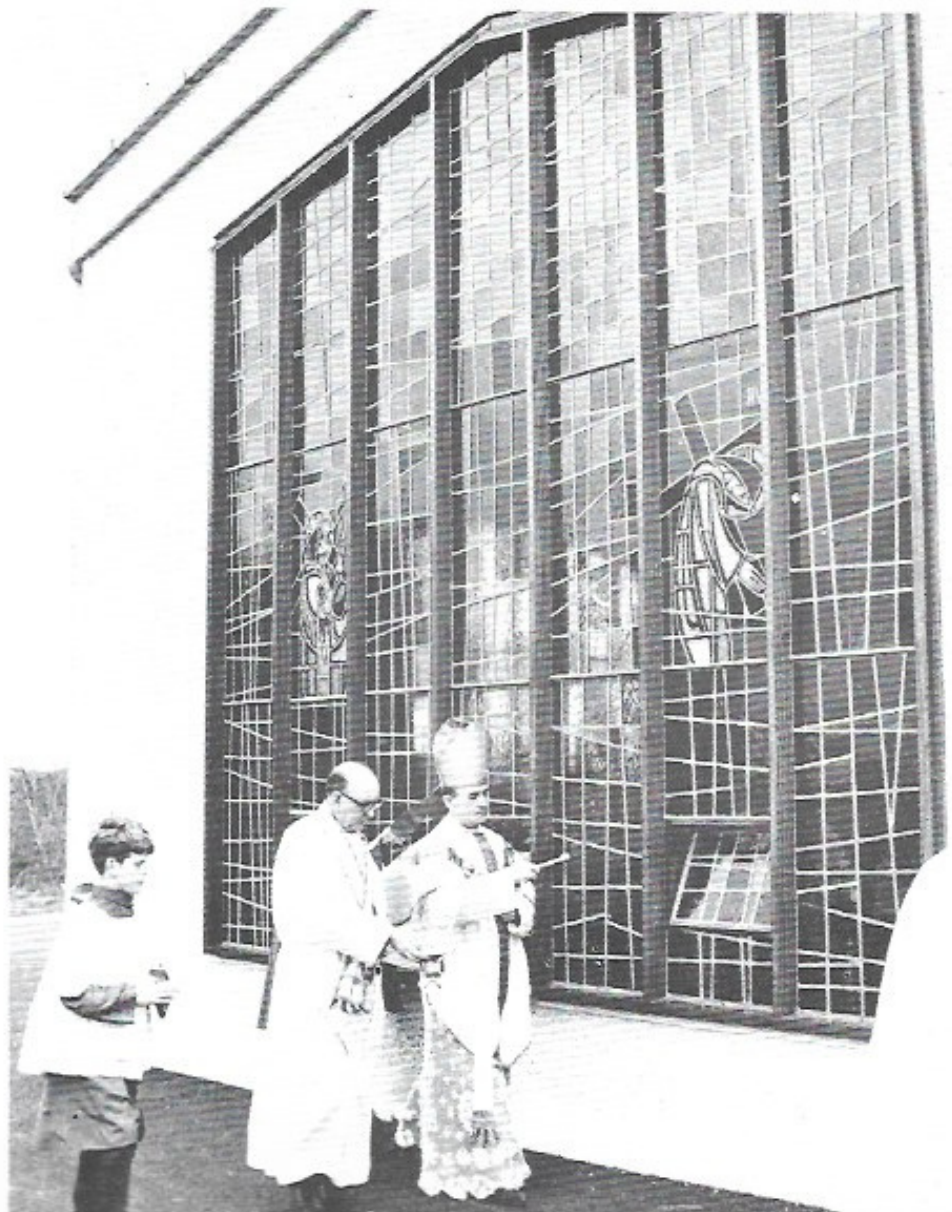
Parking space for a limited number of cars has been provided off the public road. The structural design consists of reinforced cone-walls finished internally with patent plaster lining. The roof structure is steel and is covered with slabs and weatherproof membrane. The ceiling is a simple folded structure of suspended plaster. The seating is mahogany and is arranged so that everyone faces the altar.

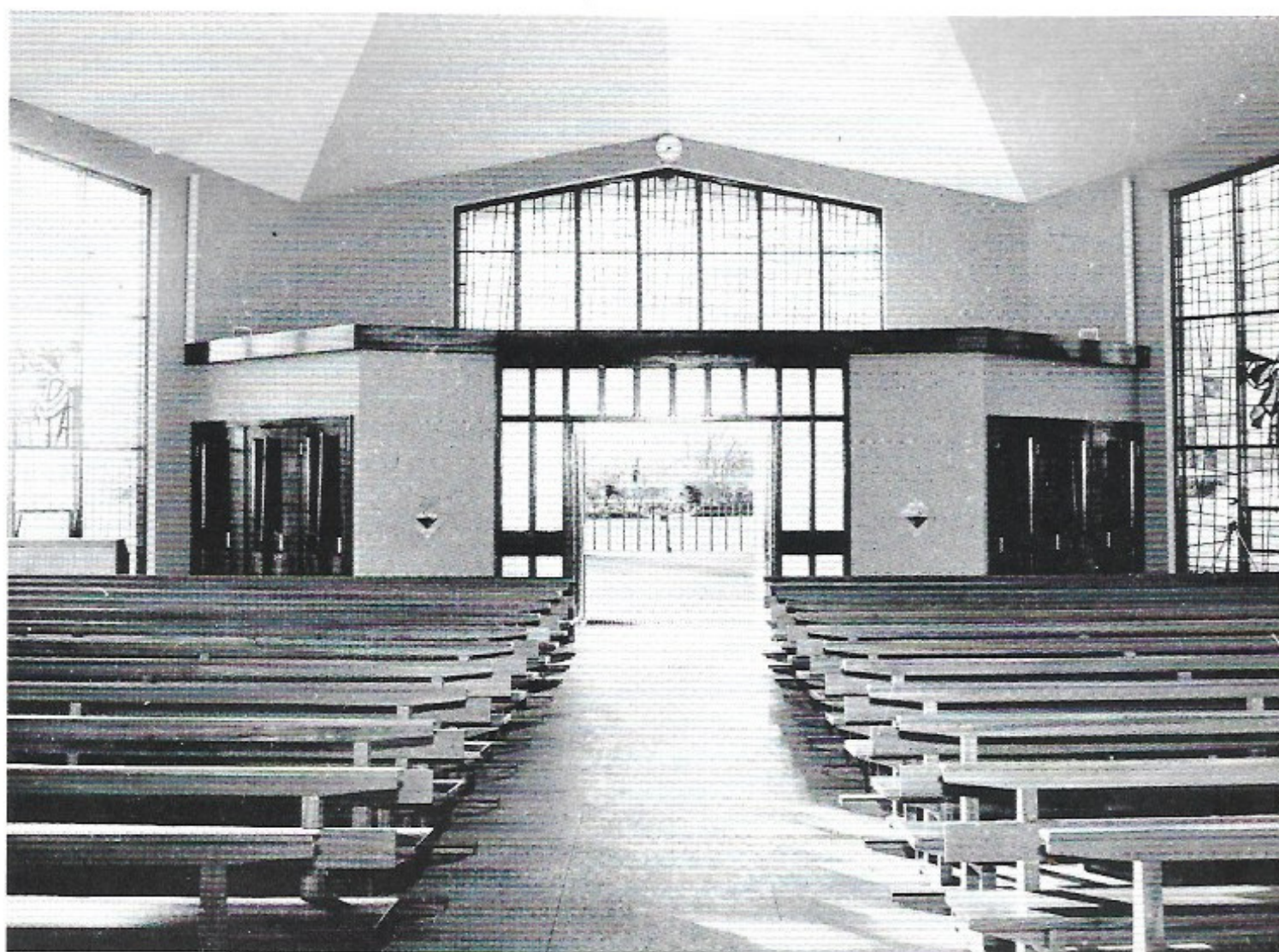
The interior width and length of the church is sixty-five feet and the height at the centre is twenty-five feet.

Simplicity and restraint are the dominant features and there is little applied decoration.

J. R. Boyd Barrett

Right: Bishop Lennon assisted by Rev. Fr. Crowley, P.P., blessing the new Church of St. Mary, Clonaghadoo—
March 17th, 1970.





Interior Clonaghadoo Church

Letter from Zambia

Catholic Church,
Naamba P.O.,
Via P.O. Cherna,
Zambia.
15/10/1971

Dear Fr. Crowley,

I have just removed a set of builders and their helpers from the above address after finishing a small church modelled on yours in Clonaghadoo. Even though it is not a patch on Clonaghadoo it is the admiration of all who have seen it so far. Thanks a million for all the encouragement and inspiration and for the model supplied by Mrs. Dunne.

We are still only starting to paint it. We have the altar support in position; it is a block of coal about 7' x

3' x 2'; we carved it out of a very big lump. There are no windows in our church; the lighting is indirect.

This Maamba is a new coal mine opened about four years ago. It is at the back of beyond . . . fifty miles from Lusaka our only reasonable buying town in the south. We reckon the church will cost 15 or 20 thousand Kwasha (10/-). Our roof is plain asbestos sheets painted on the under side. We erected a steel frame on light corner stanchions and steel purlins just as yours. I tell you it is nice and if you are passing this way do call and see it. We are so thankful for your plan.

We had of course no architect or engineer. A steel company did the steel side of it for us. We did the remainder ourselves. This Mission was started by a Jesuit Father living here for a few weeks over sixty years ago.

Our sacristy is small with flat corrugated roof at 10' high. Six of the walls are slotted for windows. Tem-

perature here is now about 106 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will rise to 108.

We put the confessionals in flat topped front porch to match the sacristy at the back.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,
Bro. P. McElduff,
Killeigh.

UP OFFALY

We wish to record our most sincere thanks to Mr. Arnold Crawford for his valuable help in supplying the splendid selection of photographs.

Congratulations to Miss Frances Moss, our very efficient parish secretary, on her recent engagement.



New Schools

St. Joseph's G.N.S., St. Patrick's B.N.S. To be blessed and officially opened on
December 12, 1971

By 1967 the Girls' School was completely outdated and very much overcrowded. Bishop Lennon, then Parish Priest, took the initial steps towards a new school by procuring a site, etc. However, in 1968, it was obvious that the Boys' School also was overcrowded and below modern standards in heating, hygiene, etc. Accordingly, it was suggested to the Department of Education that there would be considerable saving in building two schools now as a single block rather than another separate school later on. In February 1969 the Department agreed to this proposal on condition that the Infant Boys, who up to now had attended the Girls' School, would in future attend the Boys' school. Work was begun on the site in September 1969 and the schools were occupied in May 1971.

The new boys' and girls' primary schools are situated convenient to the town.

The accommodation in each school comprises ten classrooms, 25ft. x 24ft. Each classroom is a separate unit with

lavatories and cloakroom attached. There is provision for large practical areas, principal's room, office and teachers' rooms.

The General Purpose rooms are 40ft. x 30ft. each with kitchen and store and these form a link between the two schools.

The building is constructed on a piled foundation. The walls are cavity construction, finished with bes-stone. The windows are steel and the external doors are teak.

The internal decoration has been carried out in a selection of bright colours and the classroom windows are fitted with coloured curtains. The floors are vinyl tiled, laid in a decorative pattern and harmonise with the general colour scheme.

The building is heated by hot water from a central oil fired boiler. Electric light is up to full standard so that the buildings may be used by night. Adequate plugs are provided for cleaning and other services.

The furniture is modern type, designed to suit present day standards.

The front of the school has been laid out in tarmacadam and flower boxes. At the rear there is a large playground, part of which is devoted to basketball.

The buildings form a self contained group and are a pleasing addition to the town.

Architect:

J. R. Boyd Barrett, KCSS, ARIABA, FRIAI, 5 Camden Place, Cork.

Consulting Engineer:

John O'Donovan, BE, AMICE, 41 South Mall, Cork.

Quantity Surveyor:

James Sheehan, FRICS, 20 South Mall, Cork.

Contractor:

J. Gorman & Co. Ltd., Lyster St., Athlone.

Cost:

£150,000, of which the parish paid £25,000.

Girls' School Mountmellick

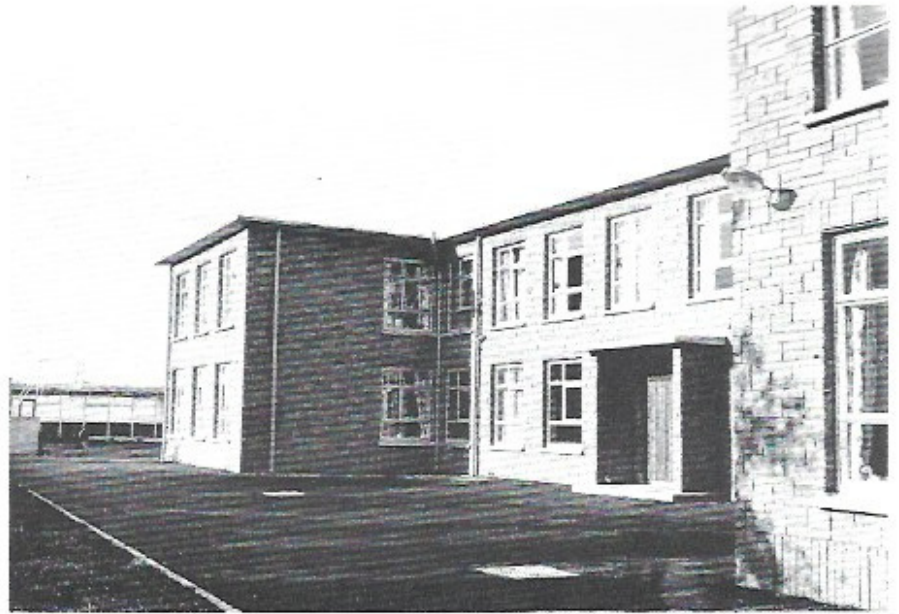
EXTRACTS FROM THE
ANNALS OF THE
PRESENTATION CONVENT

On Monday after Low Sunday, April 23rd, 1854, the first Presentation School was opened in the present Parochial House, "the lower rooms and a large hall of which were thought to be suitable for schools." In the Summer of that year however, "the overcrowded state of the schools began to tell very much on the health of nuns and children, and sickness broke out among the latter to an alarming extent. Though the sisters had given up all the apartments in the first floor of the house, even to a large hall and gate entrance, these with four large rooms, did not provide sufficient space. Fr. Healy, P.P., saw immediately that something should be done, to provide fitting school accommodation, and building undertaken for that purpose, but it was found, on enquiries being made, that no lease could be obtained of the present dwelling house, so it was then unsafe to erect schools there. This was a great trial to the nuns as the house and grounds were good and answered admirably to conventual purposes . . .

The following April, 1855, the matter was laid before His Lordship, Most Reverend Dr. Healy, who regretted very much that the nuns should be obliged to change their abode to some other quarter of the town. He knew all the advantages of their present dwelling and its beautiful and healthful position. . . The Bishop directed Fr. Healy to call a meeting of the Catholic inhabitants of the town and to represent the urgent wants of the nuns and to ask their charitable assistance in collecting funds, also to consult them on where to procure a site for the building. The kind Bishop gave £50 as his subscription, to commence the work and Fr. Healy added another £50 from his slender means.

Soon after the Bishop's departure Fr. Healy hastened to carry out his Lordship's wishes. The meeting was called and the object of it made known to the people, asking them for their co-operation in the work. They most generously responded to the appeal by placing the sum of £500 at Fr. Healy's disposal without delay.

The difficulty now arose about getting a plot of ground for the building, it was found that there was not a



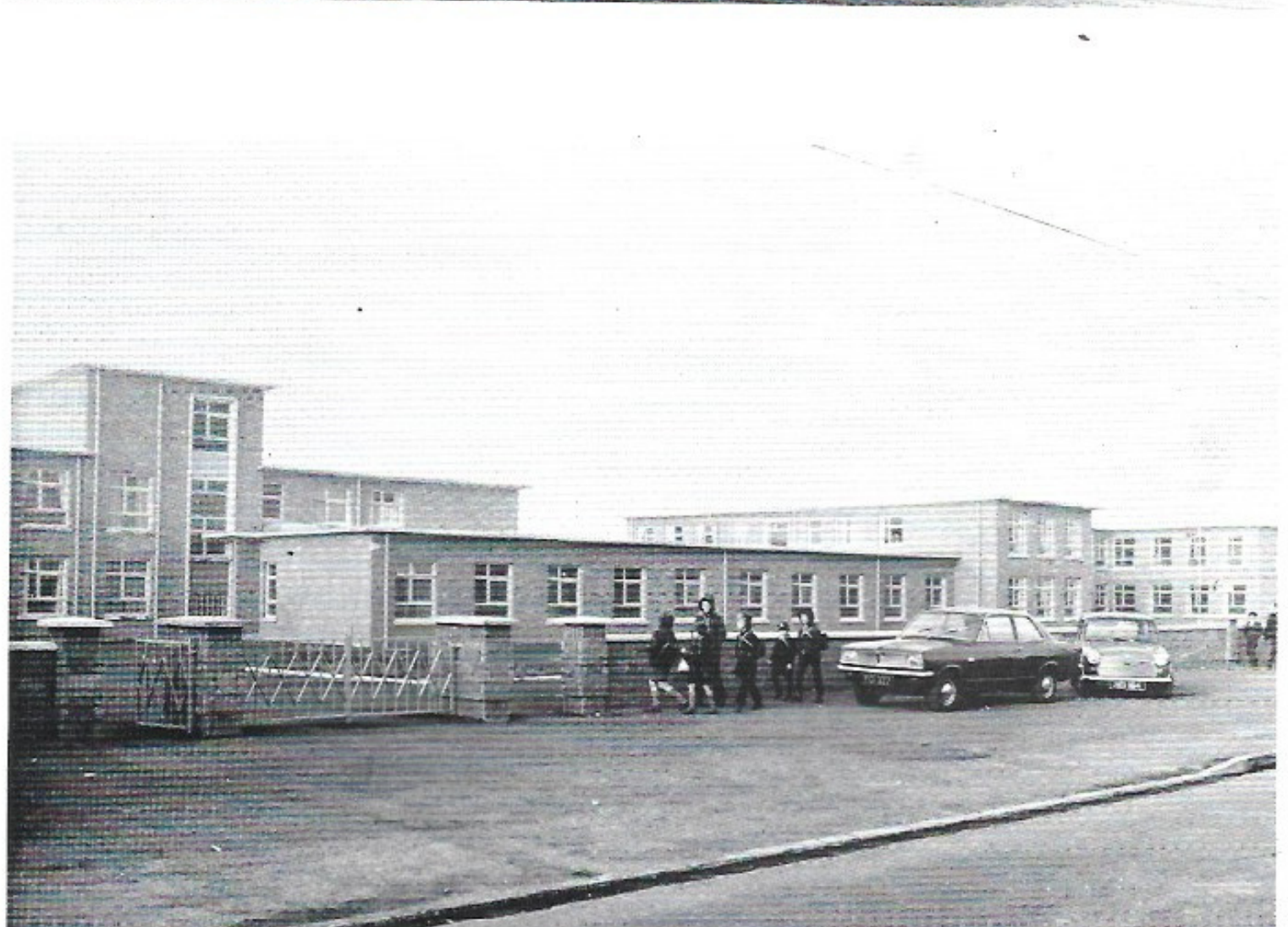
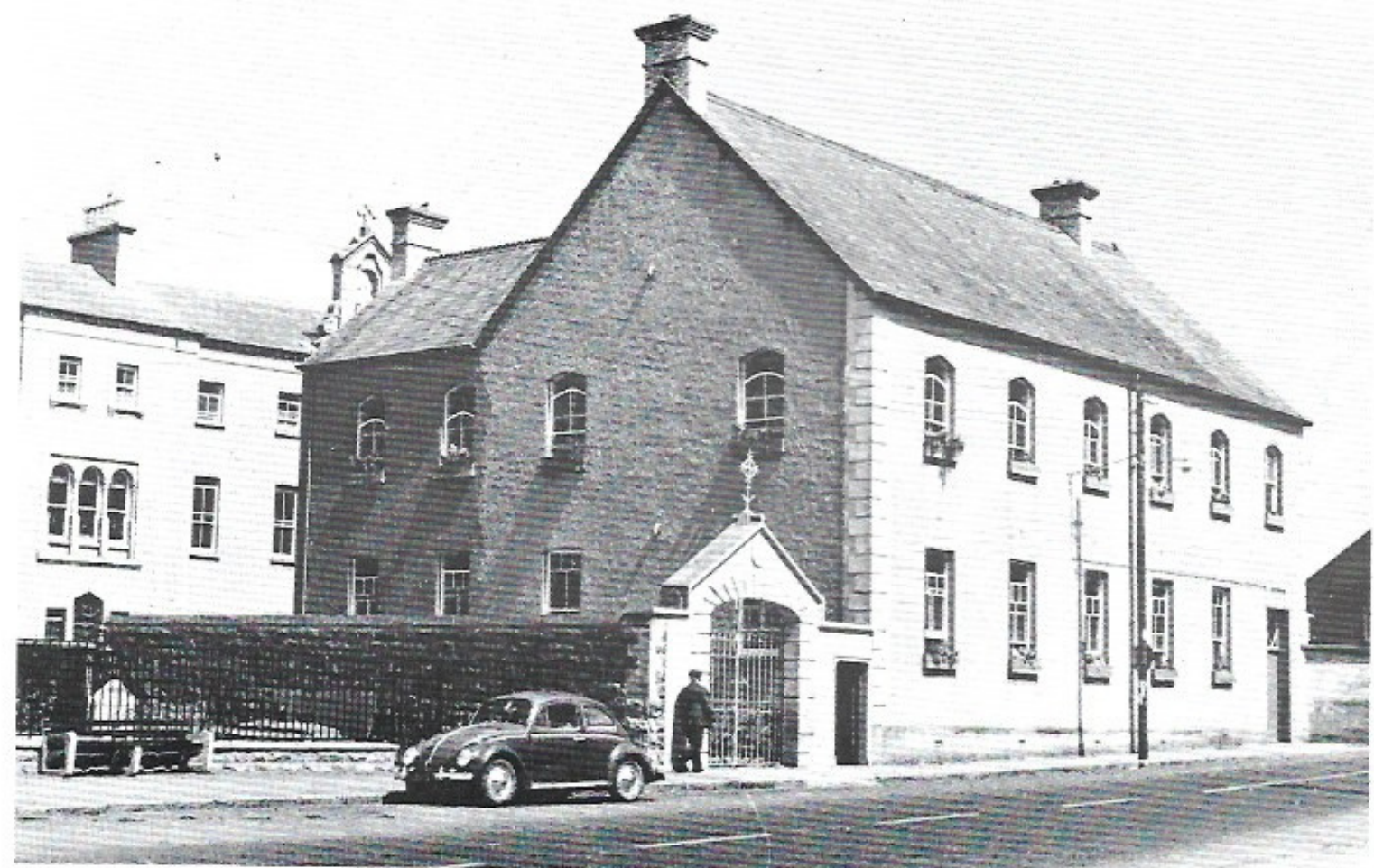
Exterior view of New School



The Playground of the New School



One of the Classrooms of the New School



Top left: Old Presentation Convent School, built in 1883.

Bottom left: New schools: St. Joseph's Girls and St. Patrick's Boys.

The usual month of May devotions and processions were carried out. It was a striking contrast to former years. A path was cleared around the grounds. It was a strange sight, the children wending their way amidst the old distillery ruins and singing the praises of Mary with as much reverence as if the place bloomed with lilies and roses.

1883

The school, built by Father Healy in the year 1856, was in late years found to be quite inadequate to the present large attendance of children. It was with great difficulty that the Sisters were able to carry out efficiently the code of Board regulations in schools of detached buildings for some of the old Convent dwelling-house was still utilised for school purposes. These rooms were badly ventilated and most inconvenient.

Our new Pastor, Fr. Doyle, perceived this want immediately when he first visited the Convent, and at once tried to remedy it. He proposed to have the new schools on the only available space, partly in front of the Convent, on the site of the old building, which should be quickly removed. A plan of the schools was drawn up by Mr. Hague (architect) which fully realised the wishes of Fr. Doyle and the Community. A large school building to be connected by a passage with the Convent, the school-rooms, two in number, capable of containing 300 children each. There was also a classroom and a music-room.

The funds for carrying out this most necessary work were at present very small. The estimate for the building was over £800 and it was calculated that another sum of £200 should be expended before the school could be made fit for accommodation. We had on hands £100, the residue of Fr. Murphy's will to the Convent, and the good kind Bishop, Dr. Walshe, sent Fr. Doyle another £100 when he heard of the work. The remainder was to be raised by a Bazaar.

The first stone of the new building was laid on the 5th February, 1883, under the special protection of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, in whose aid, under this title the Sisters relied with faith and confidence.

It was a most arduous undertaking to collect funds for the building, and just now all the energies of the Community were required to meet the constantly increasing demands on their time.

But all united to further the interest of the Bazaar which was to be held in the new building at the

end of October. It was considered by many people a very unfortunate year to hold such a thing, as there was much depression in the country and some local failures in business that cast hundreds out of work.

Still the nuns had no choice left. They considered that a Bazaar would be the least expensive way of collecting money and they were not disappointed as the Bazaar, when held in October, was a wonderful success and realised the sum of £650 clear of all expenses.

In the month of February, 1886, the new schools were occupied. The building had been completed for the past year, but want of necessary funds prevented the Community from furnishing them. With the utmost inconvenience the Sisters carried on their school duties for the last year or more. During a part of that time the classes were taught in the open air, then under a canvas tent in the most inclement weather. Discipline and order were maintained only by the greatest difficulties and to prepare the children for result examinations was a most arduous enterprise. But now all obstacles to the future improvement of the children have been removed. The new schools are fully furnished with all requisites for carrying out the programme of education in every detail.

The attendance in the advanced department numbered 180, and over 80 in the Infant School during the month of February.

The Sisters thoroughly organised the schools, and established rules to promote order and discipline."

The Boys' School Mountmellick

Up to 1878, the boys attended school in the Catholic Institute. In that year, when the Church was opened the boys school was transferred to the old Chapel in Graigue. It was not until 1909-10 that Fr. Lalor, P.P., succeeded in having a new school erected on a site provided by the Catholic Young Men's Society.

The school consisted of one room divided by glass partitions into three rooms. The cost was £1,000, of which the parish contributed £350. Subsequently two further rooms were added and other improvements carried out.

single site for such a purpose, either in or about the town, except the ground occupied by an old distillery-yard and some ruined building in it, amongst them the former dwelling-house. This was situated at the entrance to the town and could be had for the sum of £200, subject to a yearly rent of £15.

The place was anything but attractive. However, there was no choice left and finally Father Healy became the purchaser. The documents were drawn up, a lease for ever duly signed, and the premises handed over to the nuns.

The schools were commenced at once, a detached building a few yards to the rear of the dwelling-house. There were materials on the grounds useful for the building and Fr. Healy superintended the work in person, living almost in the place. The building progressed rapidly, and the old dwelling-house was repaired and fitted up for the nuns, as there could not be any hope of building a Convent at present, the funds being insufficient.

In April, 1856, the new schools were completed. They stood a few yards to the rear of the Convent. To reach them the Sisters crossed over a piece of waste ground, occupied by ruined walls and old buildings, about an acre in extent. This was the intended site for the Convent garden.

The schools consisted of two large rooms and a hall entrance, the Infant School to the right, capable of accommodating about 70 children, the upper school for grown girls a much bigger room. Both were well lighted and well ventilated. They were opened on the 12th May with an attendance of 250 children.

Fr. Paul Devereaux explains the thankless task of being . . .

A Primary School Manager

NOT MANY PEOPLE understand how our Primary Schools work. Mostly they know that the Parish Priests are in charge, or that in some vague way the clergy have control. Beyond that, they know very little of what is involved. Maybe they don't know because they do not appreciate just how important schools are, simply because we have them—many women were terribly interested in the vote until they got it, men too.

I don't know how lay people feel about clerical control or what our national school teachers think, though I have heard some say they would not like to see the present system changed. I expect that people who favour us favour our having control and that those who don't or who are anti-clerical would like to see the parish priests kicked out, altogether.

MAINTENANCE

What does the managerial system involve? It involves everything that has to do with the upkeep inside and outside of the school buildings. It means the employment of a school cleaner or cleaners and supplying them with all the necessary requirements, toilet paper, soap and washing powder, disinfectants, mops, coal, etc.

Don't forget the time and energy. If a fuse goes you replace it, if extra keys are required you supply them. If a lavatory bowl is choked or a cistern overflowing you are told—a short note from the headmaster on a slip of copybook paper is sent over from school to presbytery. I once rodded the sewerage tanks of both boys and girls schools—a pleasant task. I had some help, thank God, but the job cost nothing.

And the school grounds are part of the manager's concern—the tidy towns will comment—and if they are well kept both the teachers and the children will benefit.

PARTIAL GRANTS

On the question of grants—they are only available in respect of heating and cleaning. Improvements and extensions to the school also qualify

for grant, but in the actual running of the school only heating and cleaning are covered. Application for money for anything else will be met by the Department with the reply that such items do not qualify for grant.

The grant for a girls' school that I once had charge of was £50 and for a boys £58. I had £108 per year to look after two schools. I spent well over double that amount and any to whom I have spoken about their situation had the same sorry tale. In my present parish there are two large schools under the manager's care. The total staff between the two is forty.

The situation in the technical schools is quite different. There the grants are total. The full amount is paid by the State. A caretaker is appointed who will look after the heating and cleaning and general upkeep.

I know because I worked in a Vocational school for some years. He will keep the grounds, mow the lawns, etc. You may even have two depending on the size of the school or a man to look after the boys section and a woman for the girls. The contrast between these two types of schools is striking.

The clerical managers or the Catholic Hierarchy certainly pay for their control. To argue that this is free education, is to misunderstand the proper meaning of the term. You may not have to pay directly in fees for the education of your children, but you will have to put it on the plate in the church or in an envelope.

NEW SCHOOLS

In the provision of new schools the local contribution reaches formidable proportions. The manager must obtain a site—often in open competition with large speculators. In the city centre of Dublin, no parish can possibly buy land for schools, and only the Corporation can assist in such provision, as building sites are now, in many cases, selling at over £100,000 per acre.

Having acquired a suitable site for

a new school the manager negotiates with the Department in order to establish what proportion of the building costs will be borne by the parish. It can be as high as one third. In exceptional cases the grant may be total, but this is very rare. And in all cases, the long process of engaging architects, negotiating with the local authorities, seeking approval from both diocesan and departmental authorities is entirely up to the manager.

Even when all plans have been sanctioned, planning permission obtained, Government's grant negotiated, and builder's tenders invited, the manager must await the Department's approval before the building commences, as the present financial position of the Department of Education is critical, and funds are simply not available for school buildings sanctioned many months ago.

It appears that they have already dipped into their allocations for 1973-74 in some respects, but it is essential to realise that the contract with the builder is entered into with the manager, not with the Department. Thus, for example, if a new school is to be built at a cost of £80,000, and a government grant of as much as £70,000 is promised, a parish may find itself fighting a long and tedious battle to raise, not merely the £10,000 (plus the full cost of the site) but also the £70,000 now legally due to the builder. Even a delay of a few months can create a crisis with the banks, and the manager is placed in an impossible position at times.

All this needs to be borne in mind when so much criticism is levelled at the clergy for making such heavy demands from their people. For every mini-basilica, justly criticised, there are literally dozens of parishes whose major expenditure is not on churches, but on supposedly free primary school facilities for our children. Free education, my eye!

Then there is the question of staff, which might be said to be the real work of a manager. The welfare and happiness of our teachers can hardly be exaggerated. If a teacher retires, gets promotion, goes elsewhere, or

simply changes his job for family reasons, the parish priest must fill the gap.

He will advertise the post, receive perhaps up to twenty applications, all of whom he will probably interview with their references and inspector's reports. The person of his choice he will forward to the Department for approval.

In the engaging of teachers, the oft-quoted almighty power to 'hire and fire' simply means that the manager saves the State the time and money involved in advertising for the position, interviewing the applicants, etc.

ADMINISTRATION

Very few people have any idea of the amount of administrative work being done by the clerical managers, the number of additional staff the Department would require to replace them, the office space to accommodate them and the tremendous additional cost when they are already chronically short of money. If I tell you that there are 4,000 primary schools, 15,000 teachers and 500,000 pupils—round figures—in Ireland it may help to give some idea of the

dimensions of the task, in terms of administration, staffing and building. There is an immense amount of time and energy and money involved, and the funny thing is that you may discuss the pros and cons but at present there isn't any possible chance of a change because the Department hasn't the money.

The point I am trying to make is that the giving of partial grants is a bad system because it has this essential weakness: that things which should be done may not be done because of it, apart from the time and energy involved, of which I have already made mention. And because the manager gets no wage for his work, no one can come along and say, you're being paid for it. Not that everything should be reduced to money means, God forbid, but the scripture has it, that the labourer is worthy of his hire.

Of course, if you are the well informed terrier-type you may do very well and primary education may be cheaper in your parish—there's a thing now, cheaper in one parish than another.

Impartiality, so important in the public offices of democratic state, is not in sufficient evidence. Pairing and

bargaining in one case and not in another is the sort of practice to which I refer.

Why are the grants inadequate? Why are they given only in respect of heating and cleaning? Why does the local contribution amount to so much for new schools or extensions? Why are the parish priests the unpaid managers who administer our primary schools? Is it because of lack of money? Of course it is.

Does anyone want a change? Some would say the parish priests want to hold on to their power. Many, I think, would gladly let it go. But higher up the Department can't afford it and the bishops don't want it.

There it is then—the unpaid clerical managers who buy the land, build, staff and administer our primary schools, on inadequate grants and collect the difference from their people through the parish account—do they lie between in a power game? That's how our national schools work, for better for worse, for richer for poorer all the days of the foreseeable future.

(Reprinted with kind permission of "Irish Press").

Bishop Joseph B. Brunini of Natchez-Jackson ordaining Rev. Patrick Hayes in Mountmellick on June 12, 1971.



Proud Record

PARISH BUILDING 1951 - '71

	Total Cost	Grant	Cost to Parish
Cinema	22,000	Nil	22,000
Rock N.S.	5,600	4,900	700
Church Extension	100,000	Nil	100,000
Clonaghadoo N.S.	12,000	10,500	1,500
Owenass Hall	14,500	Nil	14,500
Clonaghadoo Church	38,000	Nil	38,000
St. Joseph's N.S. St. Patrick's N.S.	150,000	125,000	25,000
	<u>£342,100</u>	<u>£140,400</u>	<u>£201,700</u>

700
485
3500

Dear Parishioners

In these pages we give a summary of the building programme carried out in our parish over the twenty year period 1951-1971.

It reveals that four new schools, one new church, a major church extension, and other buildings were completed. It reveals that the total cost of these buildings was almost £350,000. When we deduct from this figure the State Grants for school building we find that the cost to this parish was over £200,000. If we add to this sum the cost of maintenance, heating, cleaning, lighting, insurance, repairs, renewals, etc., the cost to the parish may be put at the startling figure of a quarter of a million pounds. While our parish is not a big one—the population is slightly over three thousand—and by no means a wealthy one, our present debt is no more than about £38,000.

This remarkable achievement has

been brought about by your outstanding co-operation and persevering generosity. We avail of this opportunity to congratulate and thank everyone for their praiseworthy endeavours.

Special thanks are due to those people and priests who have helped by making personal interest free loans to the parish and to those parishes who gave us temporary use of their funds at a low rate of interest.

We have no real worry about our present debt; we know that the enthusiastic co-operation of the past will be continued.

You are rightly proud of your schools and churches; we share your pride and joy. Our prayer is that we may all use them to become better citizens of this world and of the next for the greater honour and glory of God.

Last year at a public meeting you approved in principle the development of St. Joseph's Park. In

this booklet we have one suggestion for such development very kindly given us by Mr. Boyd Barrett. Perhaps it may appear visionary, but isn't five and ten year planning the fashion nowadays? Perhaps the Board of Works will help us with drainage! Perhaps the Local Authorities will provide public toilets! Perhaps we might qualify for an Amenities Grant! Perhaps our "Swimming" Minister of State will cast a favourable eye! Perhaps we'll win the Sweep!

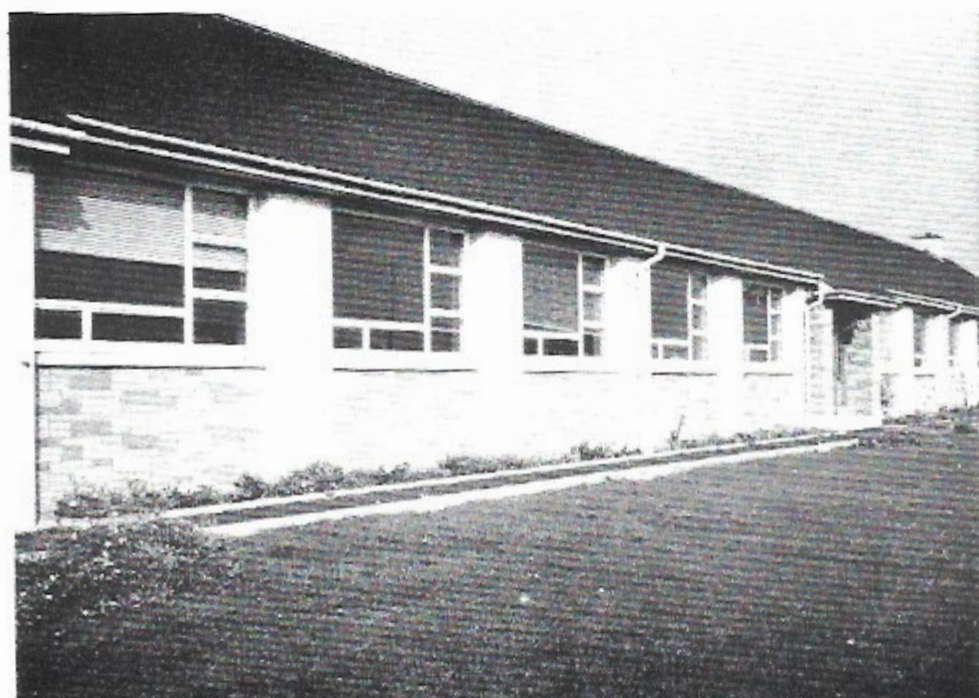
We thank you very sincerely for your generous help to the Parish Building Programme; to all charitable causes—and, indeed, to ourselves—and we pray that Almighty God may bless you all at the Feast of Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Advent 1971

T. O'Shea, C.C. J. Fleming, C.C.,
C. Crowley, P.P.

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Legion of Mary: Our Lady, Help of Christians Praesidium meet on Mondays in Confraternity Room.

Our Lady of Fatima Praesidium meet on Tuesdays in Confraternity Room.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: St. Joseph's Conference for men meet on Thursdays 7.30 p.m. in Confraternity Room.

Our Lady's Conference for Women meet on Monday in the Owenass Hall at 8 p.m.

Pioneer Total Abstinence Association meet in Mountmellick each first Sunday after last Mass and in Clonaghadoo after First Friday Mass.

Our Lady's Sewing Guild meet in Town Hall each Monday at 8 p.m.

C.Y.M.S. are responsible for the Cinema, Town Hall, Billiard and Card Room, the Owenass Hall and sportsfield.

Men's Sacred Heart Sodality: Mass and Holy Communion each third Monday at 7.30 p.m.

Women's Sacred Heart Sodality: Each first Monday at 7.30 p.m.

