

St Patrick's Church Glencullen



1909 - 2009

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It is truly a blessing for the parish to celebrate the centenary of St. Patrick's Glencullen. This church and its faith community have stood the test of time. Here the faith of our fathers is deep and strong. Here people and priests have



worshipped for generations and with God's blessings, for many more generations, God's word will be spoken and His Bread will nourish.

As we assemble we remember those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith; we pray God's guidance and love on those who will follow us for the next hundred years and we ask the good Lord to bless each of us, our families, loved ones and friends. May the shepherd Patrick, tend his flock in the Valley of the Holly, giving us hope -
Dóchas linn Naomh Phádraig

Frs. Éamann and Robert

Early Parish History

Glencullen, Gleann Cuileann, the valley of the Holly, is a rural community steeped in history. A wedge-tomb formerly known as *The Giant's Grave* is situated in forestry 335 metres above sea-level on the slopes of the Three Rock Mountain. This Bronze Age monument was built c. 1700 B.C and is considered to be one of the best of its type in Ireland. It was excavated over 50 years ago by Sean P. O Riordain and Ruaidhri De Valera.



The Giant's Grave

Newtown Hill, rich in architectural heritage, has an earthen burial-mound or tumulus surrounded by a ditch. The mound dates from the same period as the wedge-tomb just mentioned. A granite standing-stone close by, 1.6m high, may have served the burial site in much the same way that a headstone functions as a memorial in a modern graveyard.

Close to Glencullen crossroads opposite the entrance to Glencullen House there is a quartz standing-stone. Folk memory attributes the name *Queen Mab's Stone* to it.



Queen Mab Standing Stone

The old Mass House in Newtown served as a place of worship, a Mass Shelter, during Penal Times. In that period the Eucharist was celebrated in barns, behind hedges or amongst rocks. In this way the priest and congregation remained out of sight of roving bands of soldiers. A stone mason carved 1737 on a corner-stone.



The old Mass House in Newtown

Modern History

Following the Williamite Settlement, Irish Catholics suffered from the harsh penal laws enacted between 1702 and 1715. Large portions of their lands were confiscated, they were not permitted to sit in Parliament or vote; they could not enter university or hold public office, they were not allowed to teach. The bishops and religious orders were forced into exile. The diocesan clergy were obliged to register and prove to the authorities they were loyal citizens of the crown. Priests were persecuted and hunted down, some were martyred. Young men, in large numbers, fled to seek fame and fortune in the armies of the Continent.

As the 18th century wore on, the Penal Laws were relaxed and eventually removed from the statute books. Taylor's Map of 1816 marks a chapel in Glencullen. From 1829, the year of Catholic Emancipation and the year our parish was established, men of any Christian persuasion could enter Parliament.

Catholic Emancipation was largely achieved by the efforts of Daniel O'Connell who had close links with Glencullen. He was present at a meeting in Glencullen House on 8th February 1823 when the idea of forming the Catholic Association, an organisation to secure Catholic Emancipation, was first discussed. It has been described as the first organised mass movement in Irish history to use constitutional methods. Associate members paid the princely sum of one old penny per month. The Association was dissolved on 12th February 1829 when its aims had finally been achieved.

Parish Renewal and Growth

An attempt to reorganise parish boundaries had been made in 1615 and from that date until 1829, most of south county Dublin, between the mountains and the sea, formed one parish. The parish extended as far north as Dundrum; it was mainly rural with a relatively low population.

By 1820, the P.P., Very Rev. Patrick Doyle, who was living in Loughlinstown, had chapels at Cabinteely and Crinken and a curate resident in Sandyford. At this period Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) was beginning to develop and a new church, St Michael's, was built there in 1824. Five years later, on the death of Fr. Doyle, the coastal section of the parish was assigned to his successor Fr. Sheridan while the district of Sandyford and Glencullen was to become a parish in its own right. The population was less than two thousand. On April 6th 1829, Archbishop Daniel Murray appointed Fr Patrick Smyth, curate in Sandyford since 1823, to be our first Parish Priest. A document setting out the boundaries of the parish was signed by Frs. Sheridan and Smyth on 13th April 1829.

'We the undersigned have finally agreed that the following townlands shall in future be the boundaries of Cabinteely and Sandyford, viz:- Ballyogan, Jamestown, Biddy Fields, Glenamuck, Kingstown, Ballycorris, Barnaslingen and the west side of the old road to the County Brook. All the above townlands are by mutual agreement to be hereafter attached to the parish of Sandyford.'

Fr Smyth, Parish Priest, from 1829 to 1860 oversaw many exciting developments in Sandyford and Glencullen.

The Remains of St. Patrick's Church

The original church in Glencullen was built in 1824. It bears a tablet with the inscription *'St. Patrick's Chapel erected A.D. 1824 to the Honour and Glory of God.'*

Fr Smyth recalls:

'We proceeded to build another church on the mountain side about 1,000 feet above the level of the sea, three miles from Sandyford, on a new site given by Christopher Fitzsimon, Esq. It is an oblong figure consisting of a sanctuary and nave. A sacristy is attached, also a recess behind the Altar in which there is a box for the penitent with an aperture where the priest sits to hear confessions. There is a gallery for

the accommodation of the children. By the generous efforts of T O'Mara, Esq. and Christopher Fitzsimon, Esq. Glencullen Church was tolerably well finished.'

In 1845 Fr. Smyth went on pilgrimage to Rome and Fr. P. Doyle covered for him during his absence. On Fr. Smyth's return, Fr. Doyle remained on and took up residence in Glencullen in a house adjoining the church on ground donated by Mr Fitz-Simon and built from money collected in England and Ireland by Brother Macarius Keegan, a Trappist monk. Fr Smyth died on 28th May, 1860 and is buried in the old graveyard.



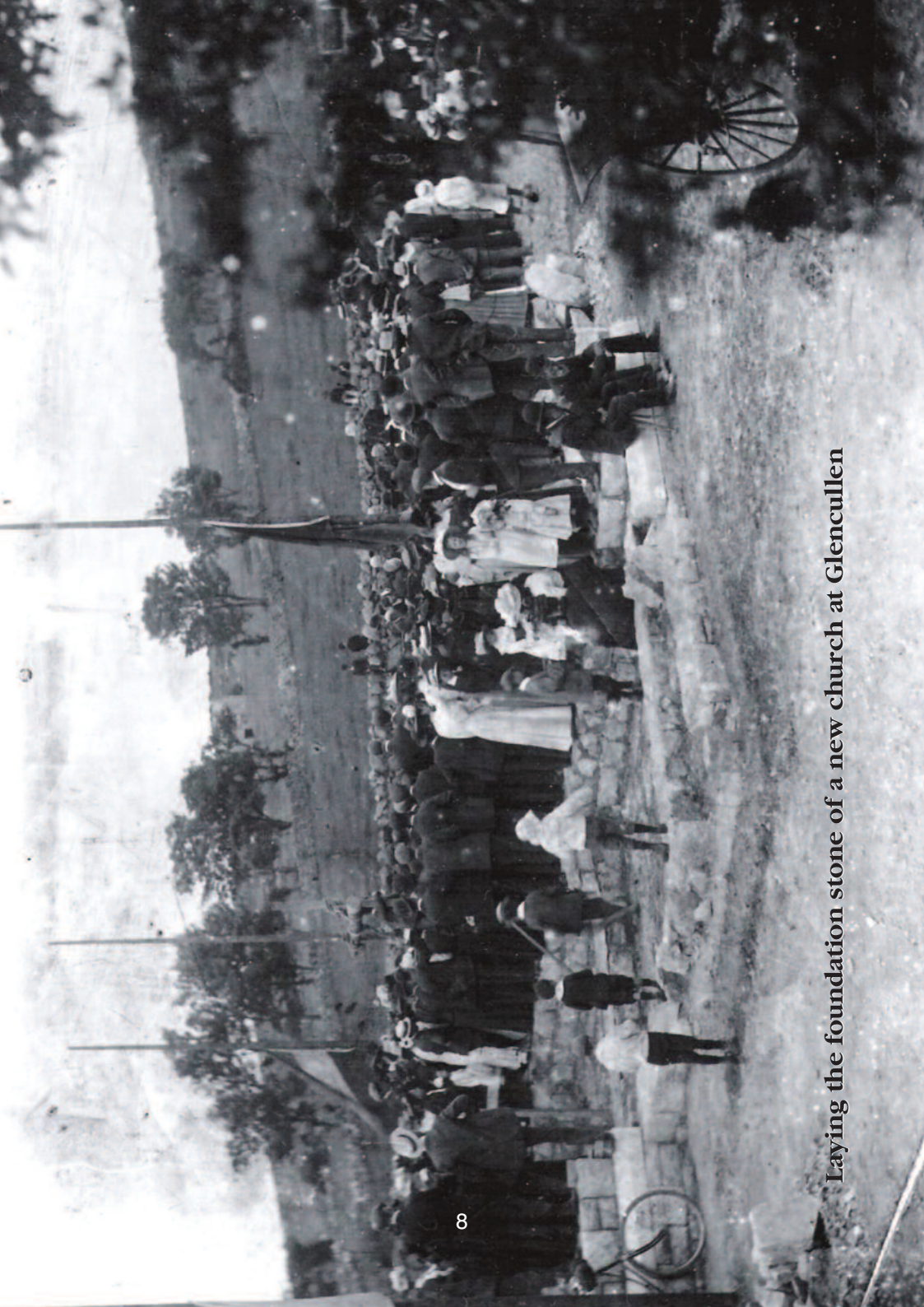
The old church had weathered many a storm and for reasons that remain unclear a decision was made to build a new one. The following is taken from the Irish Catholic Directory: *On 5th July 1908, His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin laid the foundation stone of a new church at Glencullen in the presence of a large gathering of parishioners and visitors. The latter included the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Mr. James Talbot Power, D.L., Mr Richard Croker and many other well known residents of Dublin and its vicinity. The site for the church was generously given by Mr. O'Connell Fitzsimons, whose grandfather, 100 years ago, gave the site for the old edifice which the new building is now about to replace.*

Canon Kelly, P.P. from Sandyford oversaw the building of the present church. It was dedicated on 27th June 1909. Of the £2000 required

for the undertaking, £1300 had already been subscribed by the people of Glencullen themselves, and on the Sunday contributions amounting to £900 were handed in. They include £650 from the Archbishop, £100 from Mr. Richard Croker and £50 from Mr. James Talbot Power. A collection was also made for furniture and equipment. The event was recorded in the Freeman's Journal the following day, together with the text of the dedicatory sermon preached by Canon Downing.

'Yesterday the solemn ceremony of the consecration and dedication of St. Patrick's Church, Glencullen, was performed by his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin. The church is situated in the Dublin Mountains, about six miles from Dundrum, and replaces an old structure which for many years has been insufficient for the accommodation of the people of this part of Sandyford Parish. It is a substantial and commodious yet very graceful stone building faced with granite from the Glencullen quarries, which looks like silver in the sunlight. It was designed by Messrs. W.H. Byrne and Sons, architects, and erected by Messrs. Bolger and Doyle, builders, Chamber Street. Practically all the material used in its construction and decoration was procured in the district, down to the beautiful altar carpet, which was made by the Dun Emer Guild, Dundrum. The Communion rails were made by Messrs. Kane, of Abbey Street, and the wrought iron railings outside the church by Mr McGloughlin, Great Brunswick street. Since the foundation stone was laid by the Archbishop, a little less than a year ago, the dedication has been looked forward to with great interest, not only in the district but in the whole Parish of Sandyford and the adjoining parishes.

The ceremony of the blessing and dedication of the church began at 12 o'clock. The music of the Mass and Benediction was very capably sung by a choir of children from Glancullen School, under the direction of Miss Murphy, organist. The very large congregation present included – Sir James Talbot Power, D.L.; Messrs. Richard Croker, W.H. Byrne, D. O'Connell Fitzsimons, W.A. Rafferty, P. Maguire, H. Rowe, L. Rowe, Denis Doyle, P. Bolger, James Lenehan, John Kavanagh, Michael Byrne, Myles Byrne, John Fox, and James Walsh.



Laying the foundation stone of a new church at Glencullen

The Stations of the Cross Arrive

'Delightful weather favoured the pilgrimage yesterday from Kilternan to take part in the solemn ceremonial of blessing and erecting a beautiful set of Stations of the Cross in the pretty little church situated on the top of the hill in Glencullen. The procession extended over a mile in length, and was headed by the respected pastor Rev. John Kelly, P.P. and Rev. Fr. Paul followed by the Glencullen Brass Band, after which came, neatly attired, the school children of Glencullen and Sandyford. The long procession, as it wended its way up the steep hill, presented undoubtedly a most inspiring and impressive sight.

On arrival at the church a selection of sacred music was performed by the bands. After the Stations of the Cross were blessed Father Paul delivered a sermon in the open air. This was followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the grounds attached to the church. At the conclusion of the service there was a band promenade and a reunion in the Carnegie Hall.'

Irish Independent January 13th 1910

The Stained Glass Windows above the Altar

In 1925 before travelling to England to enter the Order of the French Daughters of Charity, Emily Rafferty donated, in memory of her parents, Justice of the Peace and Coroner for South County Dublin – William Arthur Rafferty and his wife Louisa Carew Rafferty, the three stained glass windows behind the altar in St. Patrick's, Glencullen. She also donated £1,000 towards the building of the Chapel of Our Lady of the Wayside in Kilternan.

The window on the left, in memory of Louisa Rafferty, depicts Mary the Mother of Jesus standing by her crucified Son. The middle window shows Jesus crucified with Mary Magdalene at the foot of the Cross and the window on the right, in memory of William Arthur Rafferty, depicts John the Beloved Disciple.

On Sunday mornings Emily travelled with her parents by horse and carriage to Mass in St Patrick's. In severe weather the family would join their neighbours and walk along the Mass Path through nearby Ballybetagh Wood and Lenehan's Farm.

After many decades of devoted service to the Church, Sr. Mary Rafferty died in the convent of the Rue du Bac on 5th April 1966.

Based on article by Lorraine Bradshaw



Glencullen Cemetery

The graveyard at the rear of St. Patrick's Church, serves Sandyford Parish. In recent years the population of Sandyford parish has risen sharply, making it the largest parish in the country. A small graveyard in Glencullen can no longer serve the needs of such a large

parish. There are approx. 1,000 graves in the present graveyard and in the next year the graveyard will be extended to accommodate 700 more graves.

Cemetery Sunday is held each year in July. Mass is celebrated in the open air, with up to 3000 people in attendance at the graves of friends and relatives. Many are seen in the weeks before tidying the graves in preparation. On the day, the graveyard is a mass of flowers. It is a great community occasion where neighbours meet and those who have left the parish return year after year.

The Graveyard Committee spend weeks preparing the graveyard. They can be seen and heard, evening after evening, working at cutting grass and hedges, spraying, raking and keeping the cemetery beautiful.

Schooling

During penal times schooling in Glencullen was provided by hedge-schoolmasters. The Cistercians ran a night-school in the 1830s and an educational establishment was opened in the village in 1831. That same year the National Board of Education was established and two years later application was made for a National School. Tim O'Driscoll of Valentia Island was the first master. A separate school for girls and infants was later opened on the same site. The present school was opened on 11th June 1947. In the past few years an impressive refurbishment was completed and the school was also extended to meet growing needs. The school greatly enhances the life of Glencullen.

Glencullen House

The Fitz-Simon family first acquired land in Glencullen in 1676 for £100 and managed to retain their estate throughout the Penal period and for a further 200 years. Christopher Fitz-Simon married Daniel O'Connell's eldest daughter, Ellen, in 1824. Ellen was a grand-

niece of Eibhlin Dubh O'Connell, author of 'Lament for Art O'Leary'. 19th century surveys show the Fitz-Simons to have been the owners of a very extensive estate including lands at Glencullen, Glencullen Mountain, Brockey and Boranaraltry. As prominent local landlords they served the Rathdown Board of Guardians and Christopher Fitz-Simon chaired the Famine Relief Committee in Kilternan.

The family sold their estate in the last century and moved to Moreen in Sandystown. In 1953 Lt. Col. Manners O'Connell Fitz-Simon repurchased his old family home and lived there until his death some 30 years later, the last of the family to live in the house.



Glencullen House

Glencullen Library

The library was built in 1907 from the generosity of the Scottish-American steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie, who was enormously wealthy, founded libraries in the U.S.A., Great Britain and Ireland, examples of which may be seen in Glencullen, Enniskerry, Sandyford, Dundrum and Rathmines.

Local Family Names

Many family names have survived for generations in the Glencullen area, for example: Boylan, Kenny, Maguire, Mulvey, Fitzachary, Walsh. A Fr. James Mulvey's name appears in 1771, it seems he had served in the area from 1761 to 1782. Archbishop Bulkeley reported in 1650 that a priest called Cahill said Mass in the area with the support of James Walsh who occupied the castles at Kilgobbin.

Priests in Glencullen

The following priests served in Glencullen in the hundred years since the consecration of the new church:

Frs. Michael Behan, P.J.O'Brien, Thomas O'Rourke, Vincent Steen, Francis Field, James Nolan, Mark Curtis, Taghd Mc Carthy, Raymond Maloney, Eugene Mc Carney, Sean Breen, Morgan Costelloe, John Piert, Brendan Mc Aleer, Jack Lynch, John Jacob, Enda Lloyd and Denis Henry.

1st Baptism & 1st Wedding in 1909

James Patrick Boylan was the first baby baptised in the new church on St. Patrick's Day 1909. On 10th February 1909 Philip Judge and Mary Swan were the first couple to celebrate their marriage in the new church.



The stone work for The Rose Window over the front door was worked by Tom Roe, known as Black Tom or Mills