

**Representative Church Body  
Library, Dublin**

**RCB Library**

**D7/**

**Records of the Diocese of  
Meath**

**1622 - 1996**

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE COLLECTION

### The Diocese of Meath

The Church of Ireland diocese of Meath comprises the entire counties of Meath and Westmeath, large parts of Offaly, and also extends into the surrounding counties of Kildare, Longford and Cavan. The diocese traces its origins to the early Celtic church, when it was one of five provinces, and seat of the high king of Ireland, based at Tara. A church synod held at Rathbreasil, County Tipperary, in 1110, divided Ireland into twenty-four dioceses, in addition to the primatial see of Armagh. In 1152, a papal legate sent from Rome bestowed palliums on the bishops of Armagh, Cashel, Tuam and Dublin, erecting those sees into provinces (archbishoprics) and consolidating the position of the remaining 22 dioceses (bishoprics).<sup>1</sup> As a consolation to Meath, which was to lose its provincial status, and in recognition of its former royal significance, it was designated as the senior bishopric within the province of Armagh, and thereafter the Bishop of Meath was styled the Most Reverend (as with the archbishops).

When the Church Temporalities Act of 1833 reformed the Church's diocesan structure, two of the four provinces, Cashel and Tuam, were suppressed, while the number of bishoprics was reduced from 22 to 12. However, the bishop of Meath continued to have jurisdiction over the single diocese of Meath, enjoying first place among the bishops, behind the archbishops. In 1876, Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, who had official responsibility for issues of precedence in Ireland, confirmed that the Bishop of Meath 'is, as he always has been, *primus inter pares* among Irish bishops'.<sup>2</sup> When the diocese of Meath was united with the diocese of Kildare in 1976, the precedence of the bishop was not altered. Kildare had formerly been united with the diocese of Dublin and Glendalough, from which it was separated to form the newly created diocese of Meath and Kildare. At the same time, Meath diocese was transferred from the province of Armagh to the province of Dublin.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> K. Milne, *The Church of Ireland: a history* (4th ed., Dublin, 2003), p.12; D. H. Akenson, *The Church of Ireland. Ecclesiastical reform and revolution, 1800-1885* (New Haven, 1971), pp 3-4, 6-10, 337-38, 177-78, 322.

<sup>2</sup> B. J. Burke, Ulster King of Arms, Opinion on the precedence of the Bishop of Meath, Dublin Castle, 18 December 1876, (RCB Library, MS 209). A later attempt by the other bishops to reverse this and reduce Meath to their own status came to nothing, see Papers of the Most Revd Charles Parsons Reichel, relating to the challenge to his precedence, 1885 (RCB Library D7/2/5/1).

<sup>3</sup> J. Paterson, *Meath and Kildare. An historical guide* (Kingscourt, 1981), p. 6.

Until 1955, Meath had no cathedral or chapter with the result that ordinations, confirmations and other significant diocesan events took place locally in parish churches, rather than a central cathedral. This explains the frequent episcopal perambulations around the diocese recorded in several of the archives belonging to individual bishops (see section 2 below). Successive bishops (appointed by the crown until 1870) were responsible for ordaining the clergy, confirming church members, and visiting all part of the diocese on a regular basis.<sup>4</sup> During the eighteenth century, the diocese comprised some 531.620 acres, and was divided into smaller administrative units called rural deaneries, of which there were 13. Below the deaneries were the parishes, which varied in number. According to a late eighteenth-century survey of the diocese, it comprised some 224 parishes, united in various combinations. Only 77 of these had churches.<sup>5</sup> By 1817, the diocese consisted of 218 parishes, arranged into 140 unions.<sup>6</sup> In 1870, the 13 rural deaneries remained in place, as did the 218 parishes, but the number of unions into which they were arranged was reduced to 112.<sup>7</sup> By 1973 further church closures and amalgamations whittled the number of parish churches down to 94, arranged into eighteen unions, while the rural deaneries were reduced to six.<sup>8</sup> The most recent diocesan re-organisation occurred following the appointment of the Commission on Church Buildings, appointed by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in 1986. A number of church closures in Meath and Kildare were recommended by the commissioners in 1989.<sup>9</sup> Today, the diocese consists of four rural deaneries, and has thirty-one churches arranged into eleven parish unions, under one incumbent for each union.<sup>10</sup>

## The Archive

The body of records constituting the Meath diocesan archive now deposited in the RCB Library is by no means complete. Until 1922, the collection consisted of a rich heritage of administrative, testamentary, matrimonial and court records, covering the

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<sup>4</sup> Since medieval times until 1976 there were some sixty-six bishops of Meath, while there have been three bishops of Meath and Kildare since the creation of the new united see in 1976.

<sup>5</sup> D. A. Beaufort, *Memoir of a map of Ireland* (Dublin, 1792), pp 116-7.

<sup>6</sup> Visitation of the diocese of Meath, 1817 (RCB Library D7/1/1).

<sup>7</sup> *The Irish church directory* (Dublin, 1870).

<sup>8</sup> *The Irish church directory* (Dublin, 1873).

<sup>9</sup> *Journal of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland, 1989* (Dublin, 1989).

<sup>10</sup> *Church of Ireland directory* (Dublin, 2001).

period from the sixteenth century to 1870.<sup>11</sup> Like so many other Church of Ireland diocesan collections, it had been used by the Church Temporalities Commissioners for assessing the Church's land and property holdings, prior to disestablishment, and was subsequently transferred to the Public Record Office of Ireland. Tragically, all of this evidence was reduced to ashes following the bombing of the Four Courts. Thus, what survives for Meath is a small corpus of material that for one reason or another was either retained by the diocese for administrative purposes, or, remained in parish custody until transfer to the diocesan registry at a later stage.

In 1991, surviving diocesan records were transferred from the diocesan registry in Trim, to the safer custody of the RCB Library. Further transfers followed from St Patrick's Cathedral, Trim (relating to the parish of Trim, the church of which became hallowed as the diocesan cathedral in 1955) and from the Diocesan Board of Education, (relating to schools and educational endowments in the diocese) in 2000. During 2001, the bulk of the collection was sorted, arranged and listed, while work on the papers of Canon John Healy, which form the last group of the collection, was completed in 2002. Smaller deposits of records that had been given to the RCB Library before 1991 were also integrated into the diocesan collection as a whole. These included papers from the parish of Ballybay, deposited in 1993; the papers of the former diocesan registrar, Canon C. C. Ellison (registrar 1959-77); and a small collection of eighteenth-century glebe maps found in Church of Ireland House.

A link with Marsh's Library, Dublin, is provided by one document: 'An account of the parishes of the diocese of Meath, 1682', by the Most Revd Anthony Dopping, Bishop of Meath, 1682-1685 (now D7/1/1A). Whilst cataloguing the collection, we learned from a later copy of this document (D7/18/4), that the original had been presented to the diocese by Lady Grogan, of Dorchester, Dorset (and a descendant of Dopping's). But soon after her deposit, probably because of the absence of a diocesan registry, the volume was transferred to Marsh's Library, Dublin, on loan, 'or until reclaimed', for safekeeping, at the request of Bishop Orr in January 1930.<sup>12</sup> The Governors and Guardians of Marsh's Library unanimously agreed to return this

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<sup>11</sup> H. Wood, *A guide to the records deposited in the Public Record Office of Ireland* (Dublin, 1919), pp 230-32.

<sup>12</sup> Letter from the Venerable John Healy, Howth, County Dublin, to N.J.D White, Keeper and Librarian of Marsh's Library, 1930, 23 January 1930, informing him of the bishop's desire that the Dopping visitation be deposited in his library (RCB Library D7/1/1A). This is verified by the content of a letter from N.J.D. White, Keeper and Librarian of Marsh's Library, to Healy, 1930, attached to Healy's

item to the diocesan collection, and it has been integrated in the archive in the RCB Library.

Although so much diocesan material perished in the fire in 1922, the surviving records in this collection do create some sense of the manner in which this Church of Ireland diocese was administered from the eighteenth century to the latter half of the twentieth century. The collection is unusual in comparison to many other surviving diocesan archives, because it includes several items that predate disestablishment, and also because it is quite voluminous. Only the archives of Armagh and Dublin (including the dioceses of Glendalough and Kildare that were united to it), Ossory and Tuam have substantial pre-1870 material.<sup>13</sup>

A sense of its volume is obtained from the contents of group D7/12, consisting of miscellaneous registry records. For clarity, this group has been divided into nine sections, and their diverse nature provides an insight to the rich rewards to be found in the collection as a whole, including personal and family papers and other non-administrative material deposited in the diocesan registry for safe-keeping; diocesan census returns; baptismal and burial returns; papers relating to archdeacons; papers of other diocesan officers (registrars, architects and chancellors); papers relating to the administration of churches; papers relating to administration of burial grounds and memorials; registry letter books, as well as general registry material.

Throughout the collection the record-keeping and attention to detail of two diocesan registrars is much in evidence. They were Canon John Healy, registrar between 1904 and c.1926, and Canon Charles Cyril Ellison, the diocesan registrar between 1959 and 1977. Both did much to organise the administrative material inherited from previous generations as well as new material created during their respective tenures of office.

From an administrative point of view the working papers of Canon Healy, who served the diocese in several clerical and administrative capacities during his long career, are most important. They provide a sense of how the various administrative bodies responsible for a range of diocesan business (the Registry, the Diocesan Council, the Diocesan Synod, the RCB, as well as the clergy and other

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typescript copy of the volume, acknowledging receipt of the original by Marsh's (RCB Library D7/18/4).

<sup>13</sup> The Armagh material is available at the Public Record Office in Belfast, while the records of the other dioceses are available along with the Meath collection in the RCB Library. See Raymond Refaüssé, *Church of Ireland records*, (Dublin, 2000), p. 24.

officials representing individual parishes) inter-connected and related to one another. As well as being rector of Kells between 1887 and 1917, Healy also served as honorary secretary to both the Diocesan Council and Diocesan Synod between 1897-1928; and as diocesan registrar 1904 - c.1926, before being appointed archdeacon of Meath from 1914, in which position he continued to work following his retirement from active service as rector of Kells (in 1917) until 1928. Section /19 covers the entire period of Healy's service as diocesan secretary, and also includes some earlier material that he inherited from his predecessor as diocesan secretary, the Venerable Garrett Nugent, who was also archdeacon of Meath 1882-98.

The transfer of the contents of the diocesan registry to Healy is documented in detailed correspondence from the Revd R. S. Craig, son and executor of the late Revd Graham Craig (Healy's predecessor as diocesan registrar) who died whilst in the position in 1904. A transfer of custody letter from the Craig junior reveals that the material was formally handed on to Healy, although the material clearly lacked any particular arrangement. In November 1904, Healy received a dispatch of the diocesan papers from Craig, based in Tullamore, who sent them on the train. Healy had already been informed by him that 'there is a good strong box belonging to the Registry and I shall pack all the important documents and the bishop's seal into this and forward it to you by goods train early next week. The other things such as old volumes of Rural Deanery returns can follow afterwards. The bishop has his own roll at Bishops court'. By June 1905, we learn that Healy had ordered a fireproof safe for the safe custody and preservation of all the registry material.<sup>14</sup> The bulk of Healy's working papers formed a separate collection and whilst some of them were integrated elsewhere in the collection (where they obviously related to material already catalogued) the majority of them formed a group in their own right, at the end of the collection as D7/19.

Canon Ellison's papers appear scattered throughout the collection, particularly in D7/12/2 where items of historical value that he salvaged, and in some cases published, are listed. These include the 1766 census of the town of Navan (D7/12/2.1); the returns of protestants living in the diocese in 1802 and 1802 (D7/12/2/2); the miscellaneous papers relative to the family and personal affairs of the Revd Mungo Henry Noble, rector of Clongill (1793-1809), later Noble Waller (D7/12/1/5), as well Ellison's meticulously-compiled card index of all clergy,

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<sup>14</sup> RCB Library, D7/12/5/3A

arranged alphabetically, giving dates, degrees, parishes served, put together in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (D7/3/24), and a schedule of acts of consecration of churches and burial grounds, (D7/9/7).

### **Access**

The bulk of the archive is freely available for public consultation. However, a couple of items in the collection are closed to public access. These are as follows: two of the three items of legal papers (D7/8), relating to legal opinions and proceedings of the Court of the General Synod; the records concerning the Meath Protestant Orphan Society (D7/14/13A), and the files concerning endowments and bursaries for education (in section D7/13/1 & /7 & /8). In general, most other material which falls within the 30-year closure rule will also not be available for general public inspection.



## 1/ Visitations and Rural Deanery Reports

The visitations in the collection are mostly from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, having survived in the diocesan registry after many others were transferred to the Public Record Office of Ireland (and not, therefore, destroyed in 1922). However, the collection also includes one seventeenth-century return (D7/1/1A). As a result of the cataloguing process on the diocesan material carried out in the RCB Library, it was discovered to be in Marsh's Library, Dublin, where it had been transferred for safe keeping until reclaimed. Following the discovery, the RCB Library reclaimed it, and it has now been returned to the diocesan collection.<sup>15</sup>

The early visitation was compiled by the Most Revd Anthony Dopping, Bishop of Meath, 1682-1685, and covers the duration of his episcopacy. It is in his hand, entitled 'The Book of the Churches in the Diocese of Meath and the Unions Made by the Legislature, begun 1682, finished 1685' on the title page. The volume consists of 246 pages and is indexed. It was presented to the diocese by Lady Grogan of Dorchester, Dorset, and in 1930 was placed in Marsh's Library for safe keeping. The volume also contains genealogical notes explaining the connections between Dopping and the Grogan families. There is also a letter from Archdeacon Healy to Canon White, Keeper of Marsh's Library, to request that it was the bishop's desire that he 'take charge of the enclosed little volume in Marsh's Library - on loan from the diocese of Meath'. A copy of the original is found at D7/18/4, and it has also been published, with useful historical information by Canon C. C. Ellison (diocesan registrar 1959-77), in *Riocht ne Midhe*, v, 1-5 (1971-1975).

The later visitations in the collection, being records of the annual inspections of the diocese by bishop, until 1970, and of its rural deaneries by the rural deans, from 1872, would have been compiled on behalf of the bishop, by the rural deans, and later the diocesan registrar. The bishops' and rural deans' inspections are similar in content and format, and describe the condition of parishes, glebes, fabric and furnishings, salaries of incumbents, curates etc. The visitations of the bishop were replaced by the rural deans' reports, three copies of which were made, after disestablishment. One was sent to the bishop, one to the chancellor and the third retained in the diocesan registry. All three copies for the year 1872 are retained as a sample, although each contains exactly the same information. In other cases, the bishop's copy has been retained, as it includes an index of parishes at the front, grouped by rural deanery. After 1900, only one copy was made. Both copies of the bishop's visitation for the year 1840 have been retained for comparative purposes.

Whilst all of the visitations listed here are part of the diocesan archive other similar documents have ended up in other collections in the RCB Library and other repositories. A copy of another seventeenth-century visitation compiled the Most Revd James Ussher, Bishop of Meath, 1621-24, and dated 1622, is also found in the collection in the section devoted to copies and extracts from diocesan records (see D7/18/1). Another Dopping visitation for the year 1693 remains in Marsh's Library (MS Z.3.1.4). An early eighteenth visitation of the diocese for the year 1723, copied

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<sup>15</sup> See Susan Hood, 'An Archive Treasure', in *Meath and Kildare Diocesan Magazine*, February 2002, p. 9.

by the Revd Dr Daniel Augustus Beaufort (1739-1821) is among his papers (RCB Library MS 49/6).

Other documents surviving separate from the diocesan collection which are similar in content to visitations, and which may be useful for comparative analysis with the material listed here include the following four items.

1. Notebook of the Most Revd Henry Jones, Bishop of Meath 1661-1682, relating principally to the size and value of livings in the diocese of Meath for the period 1660-70, (RCB Library Ms 25).
2. 'The state of the diocese of Meath' in 1818, compiled by the Most Revd Thomas Lewis O'Beirne, Bishop of Meath 1796-1823, which is as good as a visitation, and which was transferred to the custody of the RCB in 1895 (before the foundation of the Library), by the Revd G. Craig, Tullamore, diocesan registrar (RCB Library MS 157).
3. A transcript of this document was made by the Revd Graham Craig, diocesan registrar at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, remains part of the diocesan archive, catalogued at D7/18/6.
4. Bishop O'Beirne's personal account of his visit to Athboy Union is found amongst his personal papers at D7/2/1/1.

The list of visitations follows below.

## D7/1/ Visitations and Rural Deanery Reports

\*Denotes unbound

- 1A 1682-85.
- 1.\* 1817
- 2.\* 1826
- 3.\* 1837
- 4. 1838
- 5.\* 1840 (2 copies)
- 6. 1841
- 7.\* 1843
- 8.\* 1845
- 9.\* 1851
- 10. 1853
- 11.\* 1853
- 12.\* 1854
- 13.\* 1855
- 14. 1858
- 15. 1864
- 16. 1866
- 17. 1867
- 18. 1869
- 19. 1870 This return takes the form of replies to bishop's queries for the eastern division of rural deaneries in the diocese, and contains some correspondence and supporting maps of glebe lands.
- 20. 1870 This return takes the form of replies to bishop's queries for the western division of rural deaneries in the diocese, and contains some correspondence and supporting maps of glebe lands.
- 21. 1872 (bishop's copy)
- 22. 1872 (chancellor's copy)
- 23. 1872 (registry copy)
- 24. 1873
- 25. 1874
- 26. 1875
- 27. 1876
- 28. 1877
- 29. 1878
- 30. 1879
- 31. 1880
- 32. 1881
- 33. 1882
- 34. 1883
- 35. 1884
- 36. 1885
- 37. 1886
- 38. 1887
- 39. 1889
- 40. 1890

41. 1891
42. 1892
43. 1893
44. 1894
45. 1895
46. 1896
47. 1897
- [None for 1898]
48. 1899
49. 1900
50. 1901
51. 1902
52. 1903
53. 1904
54. 1905
55. 1907
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84. 1939-40
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86. 1941-42
87. 1942-43
88. 1943-44
89. 1944-45

90. 1945-46
91. 1946-47
92. 1947-48
93. 1948-49
94. 1949-50
95. 1950-51
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105. 1961
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109. 1965
110. 1966
111. 1967
112. 1968
113. 1969
114. 1970
115. 1971
116. 1972
117. 1973-77

## 2/ Records Relating to Bishops of Meath

### D7/2/1/ Papers of Individual Bishops

This section includes the papers of several bishops, but Episcopal material is also found in other sections. Letters of the Most Revd John Bennett Keane, bishop of Meath 1897-1917 and Canon John Healy are found in the group of papers concerning Healy, at D7/19/1/5 and D7/19/1/9 below. For printed forms about enthronement of the Most Revd T.G.G. Collins as Bishop of Meath in 1926, and the election of his successor, following Collins's sudden death just a year into the appointment, see D7/19/3/5, while the printed charge of the Most Revd Joseph Ferguson Peacocke, Bishop of Meath 1894-97 is found at D7/19/3/3. For diocesan-related papers relating to consecrations, see also D7/6/5, and for episcopal seals, see section D7/14.

/1 Miscellaneous papers of the Most Revd Thomas Lewis O'Beirne, bishop of Meath 1798-1823, as follows:

1. Visitation of the union of Athboy, Rathmore, Moyaugh, Girly and Kildalkey, in the rural deanery of Trim, visited Monday 16 June 1800, giving details of churches, in the hand of Bishop T.L. O'Beirne.  
1800
2. Letter of O'Beirne, to the Revd Mungo Henry Noble, relative to various matters, mostly personal, but also including notes on the union of Kilshine with Clongill parishes, and extension of the glebe house at Clongill.  
1809-13

Note, that there is also O'Beirne material in the glebe land volume commissioned by him, in 1811, and a copy of his visitation (D7/7.1, D7/18/6).

/2 Miscellaneous papers of the Most Revd Edward Stopford, bishop of Meath, 1842-1850, as follows:

1. Oath of subscription when instituted as archdeacon of Armagh, 1825, with seal of Lord George Beresford, Primate of all Ireland, affixed.  
1825
2. Certificate awarded by the Madras Fine Arts Society, presented to Lt. Col. G. B. Stopford, the bishop's son, for original painting, with cover letter, together with letter from Mrs Florence C. Banks, Durham to the Most Revd Alexander Buchannan, bishop of Meath in 1961 enclosing and explaining same, after she found it amongst her husband's papers.  
Undated

Note, for copies of some of Bishop Stopford's letters, see D7/12/8 below.

- /3 One item covering the episcopate of the Most Revd Joseph Henderson Singer, bishop of Meath, 1852-66:

Entitled 'Diocese of Meath in 1857 and catalogue of books', this stray volume contains a list of the books in bishop's library, and also notes on individual parishes, the distances between them, the name of their incumbents, and the condition of individual churches, glebe houses, and schools, c. 1857. Also lists confirmation candidates and general observations on the state of glebe houses and schools for the period 1853-64 and includes a copy of the 1216 constitutions. Not inscribed, but probably from Singer's time.

1853-64

- /4 Miscellaneous papers of the Most Revd Samuel Butcher, bishop of Meath 1866-76, as follows:

1. Draft document entitled 'Notes for the bishop elect, compiled by the Venerable Edward Stopford, archdeacon of Meath, for the incoming Bishop Butcher, about duties, co-operation, patronage, replies to letters, areas of jurisdiction, exchanges etc.  
25 August 1866.

2. Letter from Archdeacon Stopford to Bishop Butcher relating to fees for visitation, and valuation of benefices and urging that he undertakes to get a good map made of the diocese (for this item, see D7/6/9).  
20 September 1866.

3. Letter from Archdeacon Stopford to Bishop Butcher enclosing copy of his draft bill to enable bishops to enforce the canons of the Church of Ireland in relation to vestments and ritual, sent to the Rt. Hon. Spencer Walpole, MP.  
19 February 1867.

4. Copy of the certificate of election appointing the Venerable John Richard Darley, as Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, 5 October 1874, presumably sent to Butcher, as a member of the House of Bishops.  
1874

- /5 Miscellaneous papers of the Most Revd Charles Parsons Reichel, bishop of Meath 1885-94, residing at Ballymacoll House, Dunboyne, County Meath, as follows:

1. Bundle of papers, mostly copies made for the Revd Graham Craig, diocesan registrar, including mandate for Reichel's enthronment, together with protest against any attempted interference with the rights of precedence and style, by the General Synod.

1885

2. Exchange of correspondence between Reichel at his Dublin residence (at Dundrum Castle) and Revd G. Craig, the diocesan registrar, relating to the inappropriate preaching of the Revd S.G. Crofton, rector of the Curragh, County Kildare, at the Baptist Chapel, Athlone.  
5-29 November 1889

Note, for a register of ordinations commenced during Reichel's episcopate, and completed by his successors, see D7/3/5 below, and for exchange of correspondence between him and the Office of the Registrar General, Dublin, relating to marriage licences for churches in the diocese, see D7/12/6/4.

- /6 Volume containing notes about documents relating to the diocese including lists of confirmation candidates 1897-99; notes on individual parishes, 1897-99, and details of cash receipts for various diocesan charities, 1913-15, compiled for the Most Revd J. B. Keene, bishop of Meath 1897-1919, c. 1898. (For sequence of correspondence from Keene to his diocesan secretary, Canon John Healy, about parochial administration, see D7/11/9/3A).  
1897-1915
- /7 Letter of the Most Revd Benjamin J. Plunkett, Bishops court, Navan, County Meath, bishop of Meath 1919-26, to Canon John Healy, archdeacon of Meath, concerning parish endowments, and answering queries about diocesan business, including the proposed sale of the glebe lands of Killochonegan. 17 December 1921

### **D7/2/2/ Registers and Papers Relating to Confirmation**

(in addition, see D7/10/21 and D7/13/8 for other confirmation records)

- /1. Schedule giving numbers of persons confirmed in the diocese, by parish for several years as follows:  
1804; 1813; 1816 and 1824
- /2. Confirmation tour of the Most Revd Nathaniel Alexander, bishop of Meath, 1823-40, dated 1824, being a diary on his travels, routes taken etc, for confirmations in various parishes.  
1824
- /3. Lists of confirmation candidates in various parishes, during episcopacy of Bishop Alexander  
1824
- /3A. Register of confirmation candidates, principally in the parish of St Mary's Athlone, but also the parishes of Tullamore, Clara, and St Mary's Moate.  
1882-2003



- /4. Loose schedules for individual parishes, giving the names of candidates for confirmation, with instructions to parishes and letter about confirmation cards, 1891.  
1891-92
- /5. Register of confirmations, giving names and numbers of candidates, by parish.  
1894-1938
- /6. Loose schedules and correspondence concerning confirmation candidates, 1959-95.

For confirmations during the period 1853-1864, see D7/2/1/3, and for the period 1897-99 see D7/2/1/6.

### **D7/2/3/ General Administrative Papers Created for Successive Bishops**

- /1. Loose papers relating to episcopal elections, including returns of the clerical votes for the election of the Most Revd Samuel Butcher, bishop of Meath 1866-76, in 1866.  
1823-1959
- /2. Subscription Rolls (being rolls relating to ordinations and appointments, containing the signature of the person concerned, the office to which appointed, the date of subscription, organised chronologically by bishop):
  - /A Most Revd Samuel Butcher, 1866-76
  - /B Most Revd William Conyngham Baron Plunkett, 1877
  - /C Most Revd William Conyngham Baron Plunkett, 1879-84
  - /D Most Revd Charles Parsons Reichel, 1885-94
  - /E Most Revd Joseph Ferguson Peacocke, 1894-97
  - /F Most Revd John Bennett Keene, 1897-1919
  - /G Most Revd Benjamin John Plunket, 1919-26
  - /H The Venerable John Healy (commissary), 1926
  - /I Most Revd Thomas Gibson George Collins, 1926-27
  - /J Most Revd Dr John Orr, 1927-38
  - /K Most Revd William Hardy Holmes, 1939-40
- /3. Episcopal mandates ordering the election of members of the General Synod  
1873-1966
- /4. Episcopal mandates ordering election of members of the Diocesan Synod  
1874-99
- /5. Episcopal mandates ordering election of members of the Diocesan Synod  
1900-90

- /6. Episcopal mandates ordering election of bishops.  
1876-1945
- /7. Summons issued to the clergy for episcopal visitations, by various bishops.  
1886-1915
- /8. Episcopal mandates and commissions ordering the consecration of the Very Revd Maurice Day as bishop, 1908; the enthronement of the Revd Dr John Orr, as bishop 1927, and nomination of deans and chapter members of Trim cathedral.  
1927-84
- /9. Miscellaneous printed episcopal circulars and enthronement orders of service  
1903-59
- /10. Two insurance valuations for episcopal staff, cross and crozier  
1935; 1981

## **D7/3 Records of the Diocesan Clergy and Lay Readers**

- /1. Register of curates' licences  
1850-99
- /2. Register of licences for non-residence  
1851-1901
- /3. Register of sequestration (copies of writs sent out by the deputy diocesan registrars, during the episcopates of Bishops Joseph Henderson Singer and Samuel Butcher to safeguard the income from livings during a vacancy).  
1856-67
- /4. Register of copy writs for ordinations, institutions, resignations, commissaries, elections and consecrations, together with an alphabetical index.  
1871-79
- /5. Resignations in two bundles of loose papers
  1. 1871-89
  2. 1890-1984
- /6. Nominations of incumbents to parishes in a box of loose papers.  
1871-1983
- /7. Nominations to curacies in two bundles of loose papers
  1. 1871-96
  2. 1897-46
- /8. Material relating to plans for the appointment of a diocesan curate, 1874-1945, including a copy of the diocesan minutes concerning plans for the appointment, 26 February 1874, and subsequent papers, as follows:  
Correspondence from prospective candidates, including in chronological order: John Darragh, 1880, James L. Poe, 1889, Wm. A. King, Francis J. A. Beere, Patrick Percival O'Sullivan, 1905, Edward Day, 1909, H.B. Montmorency, 1910, John Robert William Fleming, 1940, Mr Edward G.C.B. Ingram, R. Athey undated.  
Baptismal certificate for Charles Grierson, dated 1857 and copied in 1881.  
General licence for the Revd R.W. King, 1878.  
1874-1940; undated
- /9. File of clerical release documents  
1874-85
- /10. File of letters of caution, advising against clergy who may apply for clerical positions in the diocese (not necessarily concerning diocesan clergy).  
1875-89

- /11.** File of Si Quis ("if who") summons documents requesting knowledge about persons offering themselves for ordination in the diocese.  
1875-1985
- /12.** File of letters dimissory with correspondence, ordering the ordination of specific deacons.  
1877-1912
- /13.** File of letters testimonial, recommending and declaring knowledge of specific individuals to be ordained. In some cases, material includes correspondence and certificates of age.  
1878-1975
- /14.** File of declarations of subscription to the statutes of the General Synod (witnessed by the churchwardens of the parish where new incumbent placed)  
1878-1939
- /15.** File of certificates of reading (to declare that the declaration of subscription had been read in the parish of concern), signed by a minister and churchwardens.  
1879-1984
- /16.** File of Bene Decessit ("without descent") declarations for individuals, signed by various clergy to declare knowledge of the good behaviour of specific individuals in previous parishes.  
1879-1982
- /17.** File of letters of recommendation, and bene decessit, being a small collection of miscellaneous declarations.  
1882-1981
- /18.** Register containing copy writs for ordination, commenced by the Most Revd Charles Parsons Reichel in 1886, and completed by his successors.  
1886-1907
- /19.** Register of clergy in the diocese, being a comprehensive journal of copies of records concerning elections, licences, institutions, together with the roll of clergy for the year 1904, as well as enthronements, elections and deaths of bishops. Indexed.  
1886-1945
- /20.** Papers relating to the diocesan canonry of Tipper, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.  
1892-1952
- /20A.** Correspondence and notes relating to the temporary duty on Sundays and other holy days of various parochial clergy in vacant parishes, and the payments and arrangements made by the diocese for this cover.  
55 items.  
1898-1905; undated.

- /20B.** Correspondence to and from individual diocesan clergy concerning their qualifications and ordination dates, as directed and received by Canon John Healy, in his capacity as diocesan registrar.  
1904-9; undated.
- /21.** File containing the biographical and career details of Revd H.C. Brady, curate-in-charge of Oldcastle, 1919-20, rector of Reynagh 1920-26, and rector of Kilskyre, 1926-32.  
Undated
- /22.** File containing the declarations of diocesan lay readers.  
1926-48
- /22A.** Loose correspondence relating to proposals to award long-service grants to diocesan clergy.  
1931-2.
- /23.** File containing miscellaneous acts of institution, for various individual incumbents, signed by various bishops of Meath.  
1952-75.
- /24.** Card index of all clergy, arranged alphabetically, giving dates, degrees, parishes served etc. Compiled by Canon Ellison, during his time as the diocesan registrar, 1959-77.  
Undated, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **D7/4/ Diocesan Synod Records**

- /1. Copy minute book.  
1870-94
- /2. Minute book.  
1889-1925
- /3. Register containing the names of all diocesan synodsmen  
1870-1938
- /4. Register of the diocesan Board of Nomination including the minutes of individual boards for specific parishes. Also includes the Venerable E. Stopford's statement of the present state of the diocese of Meath for the year 1867, prepared from the Ordnance Survey, Captain Stackpole's returns, and information from the diocesan registry, with proposed re-arrangement of the diocese in 1867.  
1867; 1885-1914
- /5. Volumes of printed synod reports, as follows:
  1. 1870-76
  2. 1877-79
  3. 1880-82
- /6. Loose printed list of clergy and lay delegates at the diocesan synod  
1870
- /7. Register of general attendance at the diocesan synod  
1890-1928
- /8. Register of clergy attendance at the diocesan synod  
1892-1928
- /9. Registers of triennial elections, as follows:
  1. 1903-06
  2. 1909-18
  3. 1921-24
  4. 1924-27
  5. 1954-58
- /10. Bundle of correspondence and voting papers concerning synod elections, including reference to a new system of elections devised by Canon John Healy, diocesan registrar, c. 1900.  
1898-1926; undated.
- /11. Bundle of vouchers and related correspondence to and from Canon John Healy, diocesan registrar, concerning the issuing and payment for rail tickets for synodsmen travelling from the diocese to Dublin to attend the diocesan synod.

1901-05

- /12.** Printed notices including episcopal summonses; business orders for each day; abstracts; notices of the corresponding annual episcopal visitation (timed at the same time as the synod).

1876-1908

- /13.** File of diocesan registry correspondence concerning the organisation of the annual diocesan synod service, held in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and of the synod procedure at the Synod Hall. The correspondence reveals the close interplay between Diocesan Registry, Synod and Diocesan Council.

1901-07.

## **D7/5/ Diocesan Council Records**

- /1** Minute Books
  - 1. 1870-74
  - 2. 1874-79
  - 3. 1879-91
  - 4. 1891-99
  - 5. 1900-26
  - 6. 1926-40
  - 7. 1940-51
  - 8. 1951-59
  
- /2** Finance Committee Minute Book  
1878-1919
  
- /3** Rough Minute Book  
1898-1915
  
- /4** Volumes of extracts from minutes relating to finance
  - 1. 1886-1901
  - 2. 1901-28
  
- /5** Agenda Books
  - 1. 1895-1910
  - 2. 1911-28
  - 3. 1928-33
  
- /6** Council Resolutions Books and file of loose resolutions
  - 1A. File of loose resolutions, including opposition to the Universities Bill, 1907.
    - 1. Volume of resolutions, 1902-13
    - 2. Volume of resolutions, 1911-23 (relates to finance only)
    - 3. Volume of resolutions, 1914-30
  
- /7** Schedule of account showing Meath Diocesan Council in account with the RCB, arranged by parish  
1870-73
  
- /8** Index and summary (arranged by parish union) of prospective financial arrangements of the Diocesan Council, giving total cash required by each union, its cash capability, notes about glebe lands available etc.  
18 January 1950
  
- /9** Diocesan Reports, being the printed reports of the Diocesan Council to the Diocesan Synod, as follows:
  - 1. 1870-76
  - 2. 1882-85
  - 3. 1886-90
  - 4. 1890-93



5. 1894-97
6. 1898-1901
7. 1902-05
8. 1906
9. 1907
10. 1908-11
11. 1912-15
12. 1916-29
13. 1920-23
14. 1924-27
15. 1928
16. 1929
17. 1930
18. 1931
19. 1932
20. 1933
21. 1934
22. 1935
23. 1936
24. 1937
25. 1938
26. 1939
27. 1940
28. 1941
29. 1942
30. 1943
31. 1944
32. 1945
33. 1946
34. 1947
35. 1948
36. 1949
37. 1950
38. 1951
39. 1952
40. 1953
41. 1954
42. 1955
43. 1956
44. 1957
45. 1958
46. 1959
47. 1960
48. 1961
49. 1962
50. 1963
51. 1964
52. 1965
53. 1966
54. 1967

- 55. 1968
- 56. 1969
- 57. 1970

#### 10/ Loose Miscellaneous Papers and Correspondence

1. Council papers including correspondence, reports, and calculations about the insurance of diocesan property (mostly glebe houses, but also churches and schools). 19 items.  
1877-1904; undated.
2. General and miscellaneous correspondence which reflects the interaction of the Council with other diocesan bodies, including the Synod, the diocesan registrar, and rectors of individual parishes. Much of the correspondence is very routine, dealing with the printing of the annual report; and much of it directed to or written by Canon John Healy, in his capacity as diocesan secretary.  
c. 1898-1928
3. Papers and correspondence concerning the Diocesan Trustees, including letters to Canon John Healy, diocesan secretary, about appointments, memoranda and draft reports, as well as printed circulars of the RCB governing the activities and duties of trustees in general, and a printed schedule of the contents of various diocesan trustee boxes in the RCB.  
21 items.  
1898-1906
4. Correspondence, including memoranda about the printing of the annual Diocesan Report.  
1898-1907
5. Routine correspondence to and from individual Council members concerning meetings, appointments, and resignations.  
1898-1907
6. Miscellaneous papers and correspondence relating to nominations of Council members and one item relating to the nomination of a trustee.  
1920-27

## D7/6/ Maps and Plans

- /1 A map of part of the lands of Silloge, alias Rathaddnige, measured for Rich[ard] Janns Esq, in the parish of Kilberry, barony of Morgallon, County Meath, and including parts of lands in possession of Mr Thomas Jarrett in the townland of Rathaddinge, extracted from miscellaneous papers relative to the lands of Clongill and Fletcherstown (see D7/10/13).  
16.5' x 13'; 4.2cm x 3.3cm  
Drawn by Roger St. Kersley  
1692
- /2 A plan of Trim parsonage, being a colour map of part of the glebe lands of Trim, ordered by the Revd Dr Adam Lyndon, vicar 1732-53. Shows the location of Trim Church, the road to Athboy gate, Trimblestown Road, Mr Seaton's garden, and part of Lord Mornington's estate, and features robust cartographic features.  
14' x 11'; 3.6cm x 2.8cm  
Drawn by Patrick McDonnell  
Surveyed, 2 July 1747.
- /3 Map of Piercetown, in the parish of Cortown, being part of the estate of James Smyth Scott, Esq., copied from the survey of James Frizell, 1787, with reference table, together with two tracings of same. Transferred from Church of Ireland House, and integrated to the diocesan collection in 2000.  
Surveyed by Patrick Fitzsimmons, surveyor.  
1787
- /4 Map and survey of the lands of Cookstown, in the parish of Kells, County Meath, part of the estate of James Smyth Scott, Esq., in the parish of Ballrathboyne, together with a reference table listing tenants and acreage of lands, showing also the surrounding townlands of Cortown, Grange, Kilmainham, Milltown and Nugentstown. Transferred from Church of Ireland House, and integrated to the diocesan collection in 2000.  
Surveyed by James Frain, surveyor.  
1804
- /5 & 6 Two maps and sections of Cookstown River, in the parish of Kells, County Meath, showing several falls, townlands, part of the estate of the Hon. R. Taylor, with observations concerning deepening project of river. Transferred from Church of Ireland House, and integrated to the diocesan collection in 2000.  
Surveyed by George Plunkett, surveyor.  
1824
- /7 Copy map of the diocese of Meath. Framed in colour, showing diocese of Meath, dated 1816, comprising the counties of Meath, Westmeath, and King's County, with their towns, villages, churches, and gentleman's seats, with principal roads, adjoining bishopricks and archbishopricks, by the Revd Daniel Augustus Beaufort, LLD, the rector of Navan for the bishop and clergy

of Meath. This map was originally printed in 1797 and reprinted in 1816. [For background information, see also the miscellaneous section below, and for information on Beaufort and his cartographic interests, see C. C. Ellison, 'Remembering Dr Beaufort', in Irish Georgian Society, 1975, pp. 1-16.]

30' x 24'; 7.6cm x 6 cm

Undated

- /8** Black and white framed copy of /7  
31' x 26'; 7.8cm x 6.4cm  
Undated
- /9** Atlas containing colour maps of each parish in the diocese of Meath, in the context of its surrounding parishes and townlands (based on Ordnance Survey).  
c. 1870
- /10** Colour map of county Meath, taken from the Index to the Townlands of Ireland (1901), showing location of parish unions, with specific details of the acreage and square miles of the Dunshaughlin, Ballymaglassan and Ratoath Union.  
Undated [Early 20th century]
- /11** Ground plan of unidentified "church, abbey and ruins", probably Clonmacnoise.  
31' x 22'; 7.9cm x 5.6cm  
Undated.
- /12** Plan of Clonmacnoise graveyard showing portion to be taken over by Offaly County Council.  
24' x 23'; 6cm x 5.5cm  
Undated
- /13** Outline colour map of the diocese, showing 'Protestant' churches, houses – presumably rectories, railway lines, main roads, and demesne boundaries. The town of Mullingar, and Wilson's Hospital are also indicated.  
17' x 13.5'; 4.4cm x 3.5cm  
Undated and unsigned
- /14** Plan of Killoughy Glebe, with measurements for the house, garden and curtilage, showing right of way and area 'taken by the RCB'.  
7.5' x 7'; 1.8cm x 1.7cm, on tracing paper.  
Drawn for the RCB by J.K. Couche.  
29 September 1876
- /15** Plan of Kilbride and Tullamore Glebe, with acreage details.  
9.2' x 8.5'; 2.3cm x 2.2cm, on tracing paper.  
Drawn for the RCB by J.K. Couche.  
13 March 1877

- /16** Plan of Clara Glebe, showing adjoining townlands and the road to Clara and Ballycumber, with acreage details.  
14.5' x 13'; 3.7cm x 3.3cm, on tracing paper.  
Drawn for the RCB by J.K. Couche.  
15 November 1877
- /17** Plan showing proposed division of Churchtown Parish in relation to the parishes of Almoritia and Mullingar, with valuations.  
16' x 14'; 4cm x 3.6cm, on tracing paper.  
Drawn by M. Meares.  
18 May 1878
- /18** Three printed colour maps of the counties of King's County, Meath and Westmeath, showing parish boundaries, by George Phillip and Sons, London and Liverpool.  
11' x 8.8'; 2.8cm x 2.2cm, printed.  
Autographed by Garrett Nugent, Rector of Kells  
1882

## **D7/7/ Records Relating to Glebe Lands**

- /1 Volume containing copy of full details of glebe lands in County Meath from the Book of Distribution of 1641, dated 1811, made by John Pollock, Mountainsview, for the Most Revd Thomas Lewis, bishop of Meath, 'most humbly and most respectfully presented by His Lordship's obliged and devoted friend and servant'. The details are organised by parish and barony, and include full extracts of the survey, with names of proprietors, denominations of lands and observations. This volume was clearly executed for diocesan administration during O'Beirne's episcopate and is thus treated as an original document and not a copy.  
1811
- /2 Register of Delapidations and Improvements to Glebe Properties.  
1844-52
- /3 Glebes Register.  
1861-69
- /4 File containing glebe loan mortgage and related legal queries and opinions relative to the benefice of Rathgrasse, under the Irish Church Act.  
1869-70
- /5 Loose schedules of Poor Law Valuations of glebe houses, and lands, containing an individual schedule for each parish including observations, organised alphabetically, plus a return of valuations of glebe houses and lands in the diocese of Meath by parish, in tabular format.  
1904-05
- /6 Miscellaneous loose diocesan correspondence and papers relating to glebe land policy within the diocese. Some correspondence concerns individual glebe lands, 1872-1909. Also, completed Representative Body forms of agreement for caretakers of glebe lands, 1905 only, and one later item of correspondence from the RB in relation to the change of Rule 21 concerning glebe lands, 1942.  
1872-1942
- /7 Printed forms, statutes, and resolutions, mostly from the RB, concerning general policy for glebe lands and burial grounds.  
11 items.  
1897; undated.
- /8 Compulsory purchase orders for parts of Delvin and Rathconnell glebe lands, by the Mullingar, Kells and Drogheda Railway, 1907, with later correspondence about the impact of a proposed extension of the railway through the parish of Rathconnell schoolhouse field, 1919-20.  
1907, 1919-20.

For maps of some glebe lands see the collection of individual parish papers, especially D7/10/46 relating to the parish of Trim. For dispute relative to Collinstown glebe, see D7/11 below, and for insurance details of glebe houses, see D7/5/10/1 above.

## D7/8/ Legal Papers

- /1 Volumes of Legal Opinions
  - 1. c.1835-1843
  - 2. 1894-1930 [CLOSED]
  
- /2 Box of legal documents concerning the following two issues:
  - 1. Papers, mostly copies of papers from the Court of the General Synod papers, concerning the legal proceedings about the Colquhoun Case, relating to ritualistic practice in St John's Sandymount, diocese of Dublin, 1930s. Includes the copy of a letter from Bishop Peacocke about ritualistic practice dating from the 1880s.  
1930s [CLOSED: may only be consulted with the permission of the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod].
  - 2. Papers relating to inappropriate marriage, involving, a minor.  
c.1940 [CLOSED]
  
- /3 File of papers, including legal opinions, relating to the formal establishment of a Diocesan Court.  
1910



## **D7/9/ Accounts**

- /1** Stipend Schedule Books
  - 1. 1875-84
  - 2. 1902-15
  
- /2** Ledger Books of Assessment and Endowment, for each parish in the diocese:
  - 1. 1877-86
  - 2. 1911-18
  - 3. 1936-51
  
- /3** Journal Accounts
  - 1881-90
  - 1902-13
  
- /4** General Expenditure Books
  - 1889-95
  - 1896-97
  
- /5** Balance Book
  - 1905-32.
  
- /6** Book of parochial endowments, from the Finance Department, RCB
  - 1911-c.1931.
  
- /6A** Schedule of parochial endowments other than those vested in the RCB and Diocesan Board of Education.
  - 1932
  
- /7** Schedule of Payments Books
  - 1911-30
  - 1912-32
  - 1934-47
  - 1948-58
  
- /8** General Cash Book
  - 1914-16
  
- /9** Diocesan Accounts
  - 1932-36
  
- /10** Diocesan Hall Appeal Account Books
  - 1960-62
  - 1960-62
  
- /11** Loose manuscript and printed statements for various parishes
  - 1870-1975

- /11A** Loose correspondence and printed schemes concerning the raising of supplemental capital for individual parishes – the Supplemental Scheme Fund.  
1898-1924
- /12** Schedules of parochial statements of accounts, organised by rural deanery and individual parish.  
1972-76
- /13** Annual report 2008, being statement of accounts and 2009-10 diocesan information.  
2008

## D7/10/ Papers of Individual Parishes

A brief summary of the contents of each parochial file, with dates, is provided below. The files are arranged alphabetically by parish/ parish union. For additional material on individual parishes, see the papers of Canon John Healy, D7/19/2 below.

- /1 Ardraccan
  1. Petition relating to alterations, 1866
  2. Letter relating to records of the parish, from the Public Record Office of Ireland, 1874.
  3. Schedule of deeds, 19<sup>th</sup> century
  4. Copies of a submission about stained glass windows depicting the resurrection and good shepherd, to be transferred to the local retreat centre, with photographs, 1992.  
1866-1992
  
- /2 Athboy
  1. Estimate for steeple, signed by the architect, Francis Johnson.  
11 June 1792
  
- /3 Athlone
  1. Clerical licence, 1941
  2. Flier for Billy Graham rally, undated, 20<sup>th</sup> century.  
1941, undated.
  
- /4 Ballivor, Castlerickard and Clonard
  1. Appointment of others to be in charge of the parish, due to incapacity of the Revd Charles Thompson.  
1955
  
- /5 Ballyboy
  1. Papers re. tithes, 1824
  2. New church, 1824
  3. Rededication of pews and other alterations, 1860s, 1866
  4. Special licence, 1878
  5. Institutions, 1879, 1890, 1904  
1824-1904
  
- /6 Ballyloughloe
  1. Petition for non-residence  
1886
  
- /7 Banagher
  1. Financial scheme for Banagher Union  
1954
  
- /8 Bective  
(See also papers relating to the parish of Trim in D7/10/46 below)

1. Copy will of Frances G. Bolton, relating to Bective Church, the Bolton bequest, and consecration of the church, 1853.
2. Letter concerning Bective school, 1929  
1853-1929

**/9** Bellair

Extract from will of William Bury Homan Mulock, of Bellair, for Liss church, and how it affected the RCB, undated, early 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Undated

For Carrick see Lynne below.

**/10** Castlejordan

1. Augmentation of incumbent's stipend, 1873
2. Conditions under which incumbent to hold benefice, 1877
3. Petition for non-residence, 1885  
1873-85

**/11** Castlepollard

1. Copies of extracts relating to the collation of the united vicarages of Castlepollard, Lickbla, Foughley and Mayne, 1537-1781, 19<sup>th</sup> century.
2. Fee farm grant for new glebe, 1820
3. Deed of exchange, 1869
4. Financial scheme for Castlepollard Union, 1954  
19<sup>th</sup> century-1954

For Castlerickard, see Ballivor above.

For Castletown, see Syddan below.

**/12** Clara

1. Financial scheme for Clara Union  
1952

For Clonard see Ballivor above

For Clonfadforan, see Tyrellspass below.

**/13** Clongill

(for additional material relating to this parish, and specifically, the personal affairs of the Revd Henry Mungo Noble, and the Waller family, see also D7/12/1/5 below).

1. File of legal papers including leases, deeds of partition, schedules of deeds, legal cases and correspondence relating to settlement and partition of the glebe lands of Clongill, comprising 360 acres in Clongill and 337 acres in Fletcherstown (both in the parish of Clongill and barony of Morgallion).  
22 items  
18<sup>th</sup> century

These papers reveal that under the Act of Settlement, of 1669, three brothers: Joseph, John and Gabriel Barber, were first grantees of the lands from Charles II. Later by a lease dated 29 August 1671 one William Ralphson Esq of County Meath acquired an interest in the lands, and this was then acquired by his son, Lieutenant John Ralphson Esq, gentleman, of London and Dublin, by lease of 10 October 1706. The involvement of the latter explains why two copies of his last will and testament, dated 1733, survive in the collection. Ralphson also released the lands to other tenants, including one William Paine, of Clongill, gent. in 1714. During the 1780s and 1790s there was a flurry of activity concerning the same lands. In 1787 a deed of partition dated 3 July 1787 was drawn up between the following three parties:

1. Revd Joseph Stock, rector of Conwall, County Donegal, 1779-1795, and also of Delgany, County Wicklow, 1788-95, then prebendary of Lismore 1793-95 and later bishop of Killala 1798-1810 and the bishop of Waterford and Lismore 1810-13.
2. Rt. Revd William Newcombe, bishop of Waterford and Lismore, 1779-97 and later Primate of all Ireland 1795-1800.
3. The Venerable Henry Palmer, archdeacon of Ossory 1776-1801.

This divided the interest of the lands between the three men, an arrangement confirmed by subsequent deeds and various searches and judgements in the collection submitted on behalf of each of them. Then in 1794, one John Gerrard Esq. made a bid to acquire the lands, by purchasing the interests of the other three parties and it is his draft case, which is the first and most significant document in the file. There is a letter from the then bishop of Waterford, the Rt Revd W. Beresford, to the Revd Henry Mungo Noble, rector, alluding to Mr Gerard's interest. A legal case, dated 25 October 1795 explains the interest and rights held by the Primate of all Ireland in the lands of Clongill, from the time of the Restoration, while Gerrard's purchase appears to have been completed by 1796, but the influence of the other parties continued into the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as shown by the last three items in the collection, as follows:-

1. Case concerning augmentation of the glebe lands of Clongill, of which the Revd Mungo Henry Noble is rector, from adjoining lands leased by David Thompson Esq, from the Bishop of Killala, 1802.
2. Memorandum of agreement between Revd Henry Palmer of Killala, and John Gerard Esq of Gibstown, County Meath, relating to a proportion of lands in Clongill. Revd Mungo Noble, Henry Bonle, and Joseph Ridgeway were witnesses, 26 June 1807.
3. Letter from Joseph Ridgeway, Baggot Street, Dublin, to John Gerard Esq, Gibstown, Navan, relating to the Revd Mr Palmer's bill of £200, for lands of Clongill, 15 August 1807.

A map relating to this material is catalogued with the maps and plans at D7/6/1.

4. An oath of subscription and deed of appointment of the Revd Mungo Henry Noble, as rector, 1783.
5. Circular from Bishop O'Beirne to Revd Mungo Henry Noble, ordering a visitation of the parish, 1805.

Multiple items  
1770s-1807

**/14** Collinstown (originally part of Fore Parish)

1. Appointment of the Revd E. Goff to living, 1876
2. Bundle of papers relating to case of Revd Percy H. Richardson, incumbent, relating to purchase money for glebe lands of Collinstown/Ballybay glebe, being a dispute with Mrs Lyster Smythe, whose husband the late Mr Lyster Smythe of Barbavilla had endowed it as a perpetual curacy. The papers include copies of vestry minutes relating to the vesting of the lands, as well as correspondence and legal documents, c.1923-43.  
1876-1943

**/15** Drakestown and Nobber

1. Form from the Public Record Office of Ireland advising the rector of the destruction of the original parish registers and requesting information about copies, 1928.  
1928

**/16** Donaghpatrick and Kilshine

1. Appointment and petition for non-residence, 1905, 1912
2. Appointment of rector, 1926
1. Institution of rector, 1937  
1905-37

**/16A** Donaghpatrick and Kilberry

1. Complaint of Thomas Everard of Randellstown, county Meath, and Hamlet Garnett of Teltown, county Meath, wardens of the united parishes of Donaghpatrick and Kilberry, concerning the collection of parish rates and tithes apportionments, July 1821.  
1821

**/17** Drogheda, St Mary's

1. Statement of accounts, 1903
2. Application for stipend, 1934  
1903-34

For Drumconrath, see Syddan below.

**/18** Dunboyne and Dunshaughlin

1. Licence of rector, 1843
2. Alterations to church, outline of proposals and related correspondence, 1867

3. Institution, 1879, 1886
4. Glebe charges, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century
2. List of statutes relating to, 19<sup>th</sup> century
3. Episcopal correspondence and other papers relating to the sale of the old glebe house, and purchase of a new one, for Dunboyne, 1936.
7. List of services in, 20<sup>th</sup> century  
1843-20<sup>th</sup> century

**/19** Enniskeen

1. Assignment of parish hall  
1925

For Ferbane, see Moate below.

For Fore, see Collinstown above.

For Galtrim, see Kilmessan below.

**/20** Girley and Martry

1. Schedule of legal papers relating to lands of, 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries.  
Undated [? 19<sup>th</sup> century]

**/21** Kells

1. Abjuration of popery document, by Richard Murphy, schoolmaster, Kells, 1823
2. Certified copy of portions of the will of Richard Reilly, relating to a bequest for the benefit of a widow's house in Kells, 1855.
3. Correspondence and warrant for removal of parish records to the Public Record Office of Ireland, 1873.
4. Four lists of confirmation candidates, c. 1904, in the hand of Canon John Healy.
5. Guide to the antiquities of Kells and its neighbourhood, by Canon Healy, c.1930, being a manuscript copy of a booklet later published.  
1823-1930

For Kilberry, see Donaghpatrick above.

**/22** Kilbixy

1. Amalgamation of the parish with Almoritia parish  
1921

**/23** Kilbride and Lynally

1. Appointment of rector  
1889

**/24** Kiloughey

1. Two licences for clergy to serve  
1905, 1925

- /25** Killucan
1. Correspondence relating to alterations to the glebe lands of Killucan c. 1864-66
- /26** Kilmessan and Galtrim
1. Institution of rector document  
1942
- /27** Kinnegad
1. Certified copy of instrument ordering the formation of a new parish district, 1789.
  2. Nomination, 1872  
1789-1872
- /28** Kinnity (now in the diocese of Killaloe)
1. Correspondence relating to burial plot between Mr F.W. Price, Dublin and Revd W. Coates Harvey, 1945, with letter to Harvey from the Bishop of Meath explaining why he will be unable to issue a faculty for this.  
1945

For Kilpatrick, see Syddan below.

- /29** Laracor
1. Notes about Revd Stafford Lightburne, Jonathan Swift's curate at Laracor, 1722-1733, undated.
  2. Papers and licence relating to the transfer of the Revd Charles Henry Crookshank from Tehallen (Clogher) to the parish, 1812.  
Undated, 1812
- /30** Leney
1. Deed for schoolhouse for parish at Balnalack, James Gibbons Esq of Ballynegall County Westmeath and Rt. Revd Nathaniel Alexander, bishop of Meath, 1823-40, and Revd Daniel Wood, rector of Leney, dated 1824.
  2. Details of stipend, 1952.  
[For papers relating to the separation of Wilson's Hospital School from this parish, see D7/13/8 below]

For Lismullen see Skryne below.

For Liss see Bellair above

- /31** Loughcrew
1. Licence of Revd Robert William Russell as rector  
1801.

For Lynally, see Kilbride above.

- /32** Lynne, Milicker and Carrick



1. Copies of documents of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, dealing with translation of Edmund Bourke to the parish, 1678, and draft statement as to advowson of Lynn, being a statement of tithes payments and arrangements for the lands from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards.  
Undated

For Milicker see Lynne above.

**/33** Moate-Ferbane Union

1. Financial scheme for union  
1954

**/34** Moybologue (see also Moynalty below).

1. Licence for new church, 1868
2. Report from rector on various charges on the parish and accounts, including the Sunday school, collections and harmonium, 1876.

**/35** Moynalty and Moybologue Union

1. List of subscriptions to school building fund, 20<sup>th</sup> century
2. Licence for bishop's curate, 1955  
1955; 20<sup>th</sup> century

**/36** Mullingar

1. Order to close churchyard for burials, and related correspondence,  
1886
2. Licence, 1919
3. Orders of service, 1950s.  
1886; 1919; 1950s

For Nobber, see Drakestown above.

**/37** Oldcastle

1. Suspension of Revd J. Grierson, 1910
2. Licences for clergy to serve the union of Oldcastle with Loughcrew, Kilbride, Castlecor and Killeagh, 1940, 1946, 1954  
1910; 1940-54

**/38** Portnashangan

1. Material relating to school endowment, 1930s.
2. Copy licence of appointment of rector, 1944  
1930s; 1944

For Rathgrasse see glebes D7/4/3/, and for Rathconnell, see D7/7/8.

**/39** Rathkenny

1. Copy of extracts from document dated 1576 relating to parish cess  
Undated.

**/40** Rathmolyon

1. Copy typescript of 'A short history of the parish of Rathmolyon', by Canon Rowland Athey, together with some related correspondence related to his research during the 1950s.
2. Licence for the united parishes of Rathmolyon and Laracor, 1953.  
1950s

**/41** Skryne: (see also 42 and 43 below)

1. Papers relating to the building of Skryne church, including the licence for the new incumbent 1796
2. Plans for the rectory, c. 1816
3. Title of the Revd Richard Radcliffe, 1829.
4. Licence, 1863
5. Valuation, 1870s
6. Licence for schoolhouse, and marriages, 1902
7. Consecration of St Columba's church, orders of service, 1904
8. Faculty for exhumation of the body of Peter Wilkinson, 1905
9. Advertisements for the Christmas bazaar
10. Plans (on tracing paper) for alterations of the church, 1923
11. Institution of new rector documents, 1932  
1796-1932

**/42** Skryne:

1. Newspaper cuttings relating to the consecration of the new St Columba's church  
1904

**/43** Skryne:

1. Papers relating to the closure of the church  
c. 1958-1965

**/44** Syddan, Drumconrath, Castletown and Kilpatrick

1. Papers relating to the Elizabeth Ball Fund, for maintaining the church and relative to Drumconrath glebe, 1875-1931, and the Singleton bequest relating to same, 1932-33.
2. Document explaining construction of union from various parishes, 1942.  
1932-33; 1942

**/45** Tara

1. Renovation details, 1932
2. Correspondence relating to the graveyard, 1952
3. Printed orders of service for the annual open-air service, 1959-1967  
(see also photos)
6. Plans and specifications for a new vestry and porch, 1960
7. Undated notes on parish history, by Revd R. Athey, rector of Trim  
1933-56.  
1932-60; undated

**/46** Trim (for plan of Trim see D7/1012, and for photographs see D7/15117)

1. Papers relating to the glebe land of Trim, including deed of exchange and copy of lands next to the vicar of Trim's garden, to be exchanged with Mr Richard Wesley, by the vicar, Revd Adam Lyndon, 1737, with map annexed, 1737 (this map is now at D7/6/2. Also, miscellaneous correspondence relating to the glebe house and lands, 1877, and legal opinion about the glebe land belonging to Trim, with earlier deed of 1789 concerning same, 1737.
2. Answers to queries concerning the parish of Trim, including its tithes, land values, glebe lands, rectories, perpetual curacies and extensive comments on schools in Trim, both Church of Ireland and "papist", c. 1808.
3. Contemporary copied circular, concerning Dean Butler's monument, being erection of a clock in the tower of the church, which, it was envisaged would 'be not only useful but ornamental to the town', signed by Harcourt Lightburne, treasurer of the memorial fund, with copy of the resolutions concerning decision to erect monument, subscription list and accounts, 1865.
4. Papers including correspondence and copies of will of 1702, concerning the Briddock Trust, an endowment for clothing the poor protestant freemen of the town of Trim, and later broadened to make provision for others. Endowment of Robert Briddock, formerly of Dublin, and afterwards Roustown, County Meath, known as the Briddock Charity, 1862-1900.
5. Indentures for apprenticeship of children to various employers in the town of Trim, under the Briddock Charity scheme, 1891-98.
6. Papers, including copy will of 1892, relating to the Carroll Fund, being an endowment of shares in the Ulster Banking Company Ltd for use by the poor, with receipts for shares, correspondence about the shareholding, 1892-1954.
7. Letter to Most Revd Charles Parsons Reichel, bishop of Meath 1885-94, and the Board of Nominators for the parish, with signatures annexed, concerning a demand to increase the sustentation for the parish, pending election of a new incumbent, 1892.
8. Certified copy of the institution of the Venerable Garrett Nugent as incumbent of Trim, February 1892.
9. Correspondence between R. N. Potterton, solicitor, Trim, and Revd E. Goff, rector, concerning the lettings of various tenants: Mr Regan, Mrs Walker and Miss Kennedy, and their prospective purchase agreements, under recent Land Act legislation, 1904-1909.
10. Correspondence, deeds, minutes of meetings and contracts for works relating to the purchase of the Methodist Chapel in Trim for use as the parish national school, in 1908, including copy of the original conveyance for the premises as a church, made in 1856. The project was overseen by the rector, Revd E. Goff, 1906-08. File also includes a later valuation of the property, 1914, and subsequent letter about vesting the premises in the Meath Diocesan Board of Education, 1942, with related correspondence with Goff's daughters Mrs Celia Cleborne

- and Mrs Hodson, concerning memorial to their father and transfer of the school property to the RCB, 1942-43.
11. Receipts and correspondence relating to repairs of windows and tracery work on the church, and a memorial to the late William Thompson Esq, J.P., of Rathnally, County Meath, by Mrs Anne Dane [relative?], of Rathnally, 1906-07.
  12. File of later correspondence and papers concerning letting and sale of the glebe lands of Kilstoome and Newtown Moynagh, 1908, with earlier extract rental for Trim glebe, date 1859, listing some tenants' names and rents paid. Includes a run of letters between Revd E. Goff, rector and Bishop James Bennett Keene, bishop of Meath, 1897-1919, outlining negotiations with the Estates Commissioners and involvement of the RCB in the process, especially its Finance Committee, and the opinions of the House of Bishops about sale, 1908.
  13. Papers and deeds concerning sexton's house in Scarlett Street, Trim, including letters of appointment of Thomas Tristram as sexton in 1912, and Mary Jane Keems in 1921, and later vesting assignment in the RCB, 1942, and the establishment of a Board of Trustees, 1912-1942.
  14. Schedule of legal documents concerning the schoolhouse and sexton's house, covering the period 1856-1909, dated December 1930.
  15. Printed returns with details of real property, churches, schools, schoolmaster's house, etc, vested in the RCB, belonging to the united parishes of Trim and Bective, with typescript copy of same, 1942.
  16. Brief correspondence concerning the rectory, and proposed sale, 1953.
  17. Papers relating to the parish registers, including order of the Master of the Rolls for their safekeeping, 1887, and copy of schedule of the registers for the parishes of Bective, Kilmessan, Laracor and Trim, made by the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1977. All the registers are now in the RCB Library.
  18. Papers concerning the hallowing of St Patrick's cathedral, Trim, 1955, as follows: Constitution of the cathedral, signed by Most Revd James McCann, bishop of Meath, 1955; orders of service and invitation for the hallowing ceremony, 17 March 1955, and printed copy of extract from the Book of Armagh, which seems to have been printed as a souvenir of the day.
  19. Miscellaneous orders of service and other printed items as follows:-  
Order of service for the enthronment of Most Revd John **Orr**, as bishop, in St Patrick's Church, Trim, 1927.  
Order of service for the hallowing of St Patrick's cathedral, Trim, 17 March 1955.  
Lessons and Carols orders of service, 1958.  
Programme for Swift Tercentenary Commemoration, Trim, (including exhibition and public lectures, 1967
  20. Correspondence of Revd R. Athey, rector 1933-56, concerning parish history, and hallowing of church as a cathedral.  
1956.  
1737-1956

For additional material about enthronement services and election of the cathedral chapter at Trim, see D7/2/3/8, and for additional printed items see

D7/18/7. Recordings of the hallowing service in 1955, on six 33" discs have been transferred to the Sound Archive in RTE.

- /47** Tyrellspass (Clonfadforan)  
Correspondence relating to use of the courthouse in the town of Tyrellspass for use as the Infants' School.  
1921-1930.

## D7/11/ Papers Relating to General Parochial Organisation

- /1 Schedule of replies from parishes of the Western Division of the diocese, given to the bishop by the clergy and synodsmen, being replies to queries circulated to parishes  
April 1870.
- /2 Tabular list of churches, glebe houses and land, schoolhouses, graveyards, to be applied for, and the particulars of each church's population, with values of property furnished by the Valuation Office, Dublin. Western Division only. Compiled for the RCB to facilitate administration after disestablishment.  
October 1870.
- /3 Tabular form showing particulars of benefices, as re-arranged after disestablishment, and terms under which glebes may be purchased. Includes property associated with each benefice, (including schoolhouses, chapels, glebe lands, graveyards), values, building charges, and other observations. Western Division only.  
October 1870.
- /4 Copy of tabular form as listed above D7/11/3.
- /5 Papers relating to parochial statistics including returns made for the bishop, of all churchwardens, diocesan synodsmen and nominators elected at the Easter vestries, 1873-76, with notes about suppressed parishes, resignations, deaths of incumbents, and other vacancies.  
1871-1876
- /5a Alteration of boundaries papers, being correspondence and tables relating to changes in parochial boundaries.  
1872-75.
- /6 List of churchwardens, parochial nominators, diocesan synods-men, by parish.  
Easter 1879.
- /7 List of churchwardens, parochial nominators, diocesan synods-men, by parish.  
1879-1882.
- /8 List of representatives for rural deaneries.  
20 July 1876.
- /9 Papers relating to rural deanery organisation, as follows:
  - 1. Returns of replies to queries giving detailed breakdown of the various parishes in each rural deanery, and some correspondence annexed.  
1898-99
  - 2. List of rural deaneries and rural deans with parishes and clergy in each one.

- 1899.
3. List of parishes comprising several rural deaneries of the diocese of Meath, copied from a list dated 1899.
- 3a. Correspondence to Canon John Healy, mostly from Bishop Keene, about changes to rural deaneries. This Episcopal correspondence makes some telling remarks about individual rectors, and the difficulties of implementing the task in hand.  
c.1903-07.
- 3b. Rough rural deanery reports and related correspondence.  
1907-08.
- 3c. Printed return of changes to rural deaneries.  
1927.
4. Report on rural deaneries and changes proposed to same, made for the Most Revd William Hardy Holmes, bishop of Meath, by Venerable William F. Alment, archdeacon of Meath, and the Revd W.L. Harvey, diocesan registrar, and the Revd A.E.L. Stuart, with table annexed, 25 November 1939.
5. Rural deaneries and clergy list, 1940.
6. Rural deaneries and clergy list (two copies of same item, one with amendments)  
1944
7. Rural deaneries and clergy list  
1964-1965.

**/10** Papers relating to re-grouping of parishes and creation of new unions, as follows:

1. Printed schedule of parishes, with extensive amendments, re-arranged by rural deanery, giving details of the townlands comprising each one.  
1870.
2. Draft schedule of parishes giving details of their current status and proposed unions of some, for circulation amongst members of the Diocesan Council only.  
1921.
3. Printed schedule of same.  
1921.
4. Bundle of papers and correspondence relating to proposals for re-grouping of parishes in the western division.  
March-November, 1936.
5. Printed list of parishes with details of clergy, diocesan synods-men, parochial nominators and their postal addresses.  
1969
6. Schedule of 'present unions and proposed changes' made under the diocesan re-organisation scheme.  
1980.

**/11** Papers and correspondence of the Sparsely Populated Areas Commission, 1957-1963, including the following: -

1. Draft scheme, (two copies).

- 1957
  2. Final Scheme, approved.  
1957.
  3. Implementation of proposed scheme with explanatory notes.  
1963.
- /12** Miscellaneous papers of the 'Amalgamation Committee' relating to parochial amalgamations, unions of parishes and augmentations of clerical incomes. File includes resolutions, observations, statistics and printed forms.  
1917-20; undated.
- /13** Correspondence and resolutions relating to the transfer of the parish of Clonmethan, diocese of Dublin, to the diocese of Meath.  
1920.
- /14** List of churches in use in the diocese and their dedications, in the hand of Canon John Healy.  
1900.
- /15** Large file of correspondence, mostly from Canon John Healy, and returned schedules, together with several printed circulars, concerning the diocesan Clerical Superannuation Scheme, which includes particulars of parish incomes, and changes in parish boundaries.  
1899-1906; undated.



## D7/12/ Miscellaneous Registry Records

For clarity, this section has been divided into nine sub-sections, given the large quantity of miscellaneous material that was deposited in the diocesan registry. These are as follows, organised chronologically:

1. **Items not relating to diocesan administration, deposited in the diocesan registry, probably for safe keeping.**
2. **Census returns**
3. **Baptismal and burial returns**
4. **Papers relating to archdeacons of the diocese.**
5. **Papers of other diocesan officers (registrars, architects and chancellors)**
6. **Papers relating to administration of churches.**
7. **Papers relating to administration of burial grounds and memorials.**
8. **Registry letter books**
9. **General registry material**

[NOTE: Additional registry material is listed in the Healy Papers, in section D7/19 below].

### **D7/12/1 Material not relating to diocesan administration, deposited in the diocesan registry, probably for safe keeping.**

- /1. Document entitled 'An account of his majesty's right in disposing the bishoprics of Ireland independently of the Pope', in the hand of the Rt Revd Anthony Dopping, bishop of Meath 1682-1697, dated 1686, together with a cover letter from one of Dopping's descendants, to the Most Revd Robert Bonsall Pike, bishop of Meath, dated 28 May 1963, explaining that it had been preserved with family papers but 'I give it now to be preserved in the Diocese of Meath, where and in what circumstances the Bishop shall determine'. Bishop Pike clearly transferred it to the diocesan registry, where it was preserved in the safe. There is also an earlier cover letter from the same relative dated 1955 referring to another document in Dopping's hand that is no longer present. The context for this document is the succession of King James II to the throne in 1685, and his reluctance to fill vacant sees, as was expected of the king. The protestant minority was fearful of its position, given that 1641 Rebellion was still a vivid memory for many, and there was much caution about the king's political agenda. Based in Dublin at this time, Dopping attempted to keep the middle ground, and show loyalty to the crown, whilst protecting protestant interests. This account reflects the difficult political situation in which he found himself. For background, see Healy, *History of the Diocese of Meath*, I, pp 315-35  
1686
- /2. Eighteenth-century copy of a document entitled 'Tyth Table', being a list of tithe charges for Easter offerings, christenings, churchings,

marriages, burials, and even animals and agricultural produce, ordered for the distribution of the escheated lands in the province of Ulster in 1625. The text of this document is well known and was published several times during the eighteenth-century. It was probably used for reference purposes in the diocesan registry.

Undated [early 18th century]

- /3. Contemporary copy of the three-way political correspondence between the Henry Boyle, Rt. Hon. Henry Boyle, Speaker of the House of Commons; the Rt. Revd Dr Robert Clayton, bishop of Cork and Ross 1735-45, and Sir Richard Cox, reflecting their political differences, and the general politics of the day. Another copy of the same document is found in the Royal Irish Academy Library, Dublin MS 12/W/35, and for background see Eoin Magennis, *The Irish Political System, 1740-1765, The Golden Age of the Undertakers* (Dublin, 2000), pp. 35-6.

Undated [April-May 1738]

- /4. Subscription list of those who contributed towards 'the late survey and general map of the county of Meath, to be drawn on vellum and hung in the court house of Trim, to include all roads, publick and private churches, parishes, baronies, gentleman's seats, sounds and bearings of the coast, as far as it is bounded by the sea'. An extensive list of county gentlemen, with the sums they subscribed to this survey, and some notes on the dorse of payments that were made for the same at the spring assizes, 1769. The provenance of this item in the diocesan collection may be attributed to Daniel Augustus Beaufort (1739-1821), rector of Navan and cartographer, whose papers, in RCB Library MS 49, allude to his extensive interest in cartography, and geographical information, particularly concerning the diocese of Meath.

Undated [mid-eighteenth century, possibly 1769]

- /5. Miscellaneous papers relative to the family and personal affairs of the Revd Mungo Henry Noble, rector of Clongill, 1793-1809, later Noble Waller.

1773-1824, as follows:

1. Rough notebook containing accounts, and mostly concerning cash settlements between 1773 and 1781, and also rents received from various lands, with tenants names, 22 March 1781, and also some rural deanery returns and observations for the rural deanery of Athboy, between 1803 and 1810, containing parish by parish descriptions.

1733-1810

2. Notebook entitled 'Athboy tythe', 1795-96, containing ruled pages with townland names, occupants' names, value of land, value set for tithe and notes on payments in the rural deanery of Athboy. Covers later payments 1799-1800 and details of accounts on a journey to Cheltenham and London by the Revd Mungo Henry Noble and his family, 1824. Also includes later

typescript of the journey to Cheltenham made by Canon C. C. Ellison, diocesan registrar 1959-77.  
1795; 1824

3. Stock book and miscellaneous accounts, together with several notes on the condition of churches in various parishes in the union of Trim and other parishes. Includes notes on the schoolhouse in Navan.  
[c.1808]
4. Map showing the parishes of Athboy, Girly, Kildalkey, Moyagher and Rathmore, with surrounding parishes and acreage details. Drawn by Revd M. Noble, probably based on a map from G. Taylor and A. Skinner, *Maps of the roads of Ireland* (London, 1778).  
Undated
5. Various receipts for payments from Robert Waller Esq. for lands in the united parishes of Ardbracken, and also for dry stock, including the family estate at Allenstown  
1731-98
6. Abstract of deeds relating to a marriage settlement concerning cash payment for Robert Waller Esq, between 1782 and 1790.  
1802
7. Typescript copy of accounts of a journey to Cheltenham and London by the Revd Mungo Henry Noble Waller and Family, in the year 1824, extracted and transcribed from D7/12/5/2 above, by Canon C. C. Ellison, diocesan registrar, 1964.

**NOTES:** The son of James Noble, gentleman, of Meath. Mungo Henry Noble assumed the surname and arms of Waller, by royal licence dated 5 May 1801, and thus inherited the estate of his uncle, Robert Waller of Allenstown, County Meath, on the death of the latter in 1809. He appears to have retired from his living of Clongill, held since 1793, to enjoy the life of a country gentleman and landowner on his inheritance of the estate. He was clearly well connected, having been married in 1794 to Maria, eldest daughter of the Most Revd William Newcome, Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of all Ireland 1795-1800, and formerly the bishop of Waterford 1779-1795. C.C. Ellison's biography of Daniel Augustus Beaufort makes reference to the Waller family, records Noble's connection with them, and specifically to Fanny Beaufort Edgeworth's (sister-in-law of Noble's mother) recollection of the inheritance in 1809: 'when the will was read...he [Noble] burst into tears and getting up said, as soon as he could speak, "I'm sure I feel greatly obliged to my uncle for his having distinguished me in such a manner and having set me up above his other nephews as the head of the family. I hope I may be able to conduct myself in such a manner as by giving satisfaction to all my relations to prove my gratitude to

him". See C.C. Ellison, *The Hopeful Traveller. The Life and Times of Daniel Augustus Beaufort LL.D., 1739-1821* (Kilkenny, 1987). Significantly, the parish of Athboy, to which parish several of Noble's notebooks and other papers in this collection relate, was under the patronage of the Archbishop of Armagh, who, as its rector derived a revenue from its lands, and was entitled to appoint vicars to administer it on his behalf. Although there is no evidence that Noble was appointed vicar, he may have acted as a local agent for his father-in-law, explaining why several of the notebooks in the collection concern Athboy. The other items in the collection concern private family papers relating to other lands in the Waller family's possession, presumably acquired by Noble Waller as part of his title, when he inherited the estate. Other papers relating to

Noble Waller which may be of interest include his commissioning to the parish of Lisnaskea, in the diocese of Clogher, RCB Library D1/51, while in the Genealogical Office, Dublin MSS 105 and 106 contain copies of the royal licence and grant of arms, dated 5 May and 7 August 1809. See also D7/10/13 for papers relating to the parish of Clongill.

1773-1824

- /6. Notebooks of the Revd William Alexander Reynell (1838-1906). Reynell served in the Church of Ireland dioceses of Derry and Down between 1860 and 1880, and then in retirement lived at Eccles Street, Dublin, from where he pursued genealogical and antiquarian research, drawing on many sources then in the Public Record Office of Ireland, that were subsequently destroyed. These included several collections of parish registers. Between 1880 and his death in 1906, he compiled clerical succession lists for several dioceses, including Derry and Connor, while six of the seven notebooks here comprise his lists for the diocese of Meath. The lists cover the period from the Reformation onwards. When compiling a clerical succession list for his *History of Meath*, published in 1908, the Venerable John Healy commented that he 'being unaware of what Mr Reynell had done, went practically over the same ground'. In the *History*, Healy explained their provenance, and discovery after Reynell's death in 1906, thus: 'On the death of Mr Reynell his note-books dealing with the diocese of Meath were purchased by the Revd J. E. Preston, rector of Julianstown parish, and by his courtesy the author has been allowed to compare his own lists with those of Mr Reynell. Although in the main agreeing, they, in nearly every parish, supplement one another. The principal sources of information are the First Fruits Returns, the Register of Institutions and the Visitation Returns' (Healy, *History of Meath*, 2, p. 281)

The books consist of the following: -

1. Copy of Bishop Dopping's Visitation of 1697; clergy lists for c. 1700 and c. 1726, and miscellaneous other notes by William Reynell.

2. 'Continuation of Dean Reeves Survey of Meath Diocese', including detailed notes on the diocesan seal, further clergy lists, a list of the high sheriffs of the county, and the history of Coleraine parish church, diocese of Connor.
3. The succession of clergy to benefices in Meath diocese, from 1594 onwards.
4. Clerical promotions by the crown in Meath diocese, including notes taken from Board of First Fruits reports in the Public Record Office of Ireland.
5. Detailed alphabetical lists of clergy with salaries given.
6. Lists of clergy by parish, A-L, with some correspondence and other notes annexed.
7. Detailed extracts from the parish registers of Kilbeggan, 1765-1880.
8. Typescripts of the extracts from the Kilbeggan register by Canon C. C. Ellison.

**NOTES:** Significantly, Reynell's seventh notebook contains extracts from the Kilbeggan parish registers, including baptisms 1784-1826; marriages 1765-1826 and burials 1764-1826, and also miscellaneous entries from the period 1822-29 and 1829-80, consisting of 242 baptisms, 36 marriages and 104 burials. The original parish registers from Kilbeggan, comprising baptisms 1764-1881, marriages 1765-1872 and burials 1764-1880, were all destroyed in the PRO fire in 1922. Canon C. C. Ellison, diocesan registrar, produced a typescript copy and other notes about these items, which provides a useful starting guide to deciphering Reynell's jottings and notes on these registers which, Ellison commented 'were evidently...made hurriedly and almost at random'. Each notebook is autographed by Reynell and later annotated by Preston himself, as follows: 'Bought at Revd W. Reynell's Book Auction, Dublin, June 1906, by Revd J. E. Preston, Julianstown'. Significantly, in volume six there is an additional note in Preston's hand: 'On the death of the Revd J. E. Preston, all the books relating to the Meath Diocese I wish to be handed over to the Diocesan Council of Meath, after my death.' This appears to have happened, explaining the fortunate survival of the collection in the diocesan registry. Other Reynell notes are deposited in the Manuscripts Reading Room, Trinity College Dublin, the National Library, and the Society of Genealogists in London. Some of Reynell's correspondence is also available in the RCB Library MS 12, and a collection of portraits of bishops, archbishops and other dignitaries which he presented to the RCB (in two portfolios) is also in the custody of the RCB Library. A brief biography of Reynell is available in J. B. Leslie, *Derry Clergy and Parishes* (1936), pp. 142-2.

1697-1880

## **D7/12/2 / Census returns**

- /1. Religious census for the town of Navan, County Westmeath, giving head of households' names, numbers of adults, children, protestant and 'papist' servants, and total in each household, organised by location (gate, street etc) in the town. The document has been referred to by C.C. Ellison, *Some Aspects of Navan History* (Drogheda, 1964), in footnote 24, which states ' A list of households compiled about 1761

and preserved in Meath Diocesan Registry, shows a total of 2,753 souls living in streets outside the walls'. However, contrary to Ellison's date, it is more likely that it was created in 1766, as part of the census of that year. Although the front cover states that it accounts for 'Protestants of Navan', it is in fact a census of the whole town, the protestants being indicated with an 'x' next to the tabular information on each household inside. The census has been published by Brian Gurrin, *Riocht ne Midhe*, xiv, (2003), pp. 144-69. Further analysis of the census will be published in *Riocht ne Midhe*, xv, (2004).

[c. 1766]

- /2. Returns of protestants living in the diocese, 1802 and 1803, arranged by parish. Ordered by Bishop Thomas Lewis O'Beirne, bishop of Meath 1798-1823. The returns were used by the bishop in his bid to reorganise the diocese. Some of the returns include full details of families, with abodes, occupations, and family relationships. The collection accounts for about half of the parishes in the diocese at this time. [The returns for 1802 were published in full by the Revd C.C. Ellison, diocesan registrar (1959-1977), in the *Irish Ancestor*, vol. v, nos. 1 and 2 (1973)].  
1802-03
- /3. Census returns, organised by parish giving the names of the head of each family, numbers in the family (male, female, children), amounts contributed to church funds, number of family attending church and/or Holy Communion, quality, trade, profession of family head, and observations. The observations are particularly revealing, commenting on attendance, residence, status of family. Also includes a statement about the church buildings (class) and table giving the population of each parish, arranged in descending order, with the most highly populated parishes first, 1877
- /4. Loose census returns, as above, without details of churches, or parish populations, in two bundles.  
1897
- /5. Loose census returns, as above, without details of churches, or parish populations.  
1909

### **D7/12/3/ Baptismal and Burial returns**

- /1. Loose returns of general statistics of baptisms and burials that took place in the diocese, but including some entries for certain parishes.  
1870-1877
- /2. Register of baptisms and burials in each parish in the diocese, including full transcript of each baptismal and burial entry.  
1870-73

- /3. Register of baptisms and burials in each parish in the diocese, including full transcript of each baptismal and burial entry.  
1874-76
- /4. Register of baptisms and burials in each parish in the diocese, including full transcript of each baptismal and burial entry.  
1876-77
- /5. Register of baptisms and burials in each parish in the diocese, including full transcript of each baptismal and burial entry.  
1878.
- /6. Register of baptisms and burials in each parish in the diocese, including full transcript of each baptismal and burial entry.  
1879.
- /7. Register of baptisms and burials in each parish in the diocese, including full transcript of each baptismal and burial entry.  
1880-81.
- 8. Register of baptisms and burials in each parish in the diocese, including full transcript of each baptismal and burial entry.  
1882-84.

**D7/12/4/ Papers relating to archdeacons of the diocese.**

- /1. Two copies of a printed 'open letter' from the Venerable Edward A. Stopford, archdeacon of Meath 1844-72, addressed to the Revd Dr John Cantwell, Roman Catholic bishop of Meath 1830-72, concerning religious allegiance, pro-Nationalist, and tenant right.  
Undated [sometime between 1844 and 1866]
- /2. Diocesan notes and statistics of Venerable G. Nugent, incumbent of Kells, with an address at Cookstown glebe, Kells, County Meath and archdeacon of Meath, 1882-98. Mostly details of clergy, notes on the diocesan census of 1877 and 1881, licences, glebe houses, consecrations of churches, and some early statistical information about the diocese from 1800. There is a useful index at the front of this volume.  
1869-79
- /3. Papers relating to the appointments of archdeacons and also archdeacons as special commissaries in the event of an episcopal vacancy.  
1871-1949
- /4. Diocesan notes and statistics, arranged by parish, accounting for the state of individual parishes, major events, grants of money, legal proceedings etc during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and also general sections on schools, salaries of officers including the registrar,

archdeacon, dean, diocesan curate, canons of the cathedral, the diocesan financial scheme, glebes and other miscellaneous notes, compiled by the Canon John Healy, diocesan secretary 1898-1928; diocesan registrar 1904-c.26, and archdeacon of Meath 1914-28. [For further Healy material see section D7/19 below.

Undated.

- /5. Particulars of parishes arranged in alphabetical order, giving extent, church condition, services held, glebe house, land, finance, superannuation, since disestablishment, compiled by the Venerable John Healy, archdeacon of Meath 1914-28.

Undated, [c. 1932]

### **D7/12/5 Papers of other diocesan officers (Registrars, Architects and Chancellors)**

- /1. File of appointments to the office of Diocesan Chancellor.  
1872-74
- /2. File of appointments to the office of Diocesan Registrar.  
1882-1984
- /3. Papers of Revd G. Craig, Diocesan Registrar 1898-1904. [See also D7/12/5/3A below], as follows:

1. Diocesan journal containing notes on the records, traditions and memories of the parish of Kilbride and Tullamore, 1894-1903, and also miscellaneous notes about diocesan meetings and proceedings at the diocesan synod, compiled by Revd G. Craig. Craig was also Dean of Clonmacnoice 1900-04.  
1894-1903
2. Correspondence from Revd G. Craig to Canon John Healy about miscellaneous diocesan business.  
7 items only.  
1899-1903

- /3A. Papers of Canon John Healy, diocesan registrar, 1904-26. [For more extensive collection of Healy's Papers, see D7/19 below].

1. General registry correspondence received by Canon John Healy, together with drafts of his outgoing correspondence. Includes material relating to the transfer of the Diocesan Registry from R.S. Craig, son of the Graham Craig, who died in 1904, to Healy as the incoming registrar, November 1904. As Craig was in Tullamore, and Healy in Kells, it took a little time to forward the material by train. On 1 November 1904 Craig junior informed Healy that 'there is a good strong



box belonging to the Registry and I shall pack all the important documents and the bishop's seal into this and forward it to you by goods train early next week. The other things such as old volumes of Rural Deanery returns can follow afterwards. The bishop has his own roll at Bishops court'. By June 1905, we learn that Healy had ordered a fireproof safe for the custody of registry material. There is a lot of correspondence about the printing up of new forms, such as appointment forms for incoming incumbents, and arrangements for issuing marriage licences. 133 items.  
1904-09.

- /3B. Papers of Revd Leslie A[lexander] Handy, Diocesan Registrar c. 1926-28.

Two stray letters from Revd L.A. Handy, the Rectory, Skryne, County Meath, to Canon Healy, with the address of 'The Rectory, Kells' crossed out, and the address 'Skryne, Tara, County Meath' about him taking custody of documents. These suggest that the Registry may have passed to his responsibility at this time.

1926; 1928

- /4. File of correspondence and references of support for the appointment of Charles H. Murphy, consultant engineer and architect as the diocesan architect, on the resignation of Mr Batchelor.  
1922
- /5. Volume containing parish details including insurance returns for churches, population of parish, statistics such as baptisms, marriages and burials, and information about the sextons and parish schools, compiled and autographed by the Revd Wm. F. Alment, diocesan registrar 1928-36 (later archdeacon of Meath) and the Revd William Coates Harvey, diocesan registrar 1936-45. For copies of memorial tablets in the churches of Meath, compiled by Revd Alment, see D7/12/7/3 below.  
1928-45
- /6. File of appointments to the office of diocesan architect.  
1949-60

For reference to the Revd William Coates Harvey, diocesan registrar 1936-45, see D7/12/4/6 above.

### **D7/12/6 Papers relating to the administration of churches.**

- /1. Licences issued to various churches authorising that marriages may be held there. Includes one licence for the school house in Charlesfort, parish of Rathboyne.

1848-81

- /2. Acts of consecration and related papers relating to the consecration of new churches, and additions to existing churches, such as chancels [for index see D7/12/9/7]  
1876-90
- /3. Copy of original vesting order of churches vested in the RCB, enclosed with letter and duly stamped and sealed with the seal of the RCB.  
21 February 1879
- /4. Letters from the Office of the General Registrar, Charlemont House, Dublin, to the Most Revd Charles Parsons Reichel, bishop of Meath, relating to stamp duty paid on licences of churches for the celebration of marriages.  
November-December 1885
- /5. Faculties, being applications to make additions and alterations to various churches.  
1898; 1965-85
- /6. List of churches in the diocese and their dedications (including saints names etc) in the hand of Venerable John Healy.  
Undated, [c. 1908?]
7. Papers related to procedure for the disposal of consecrated buildings and other sites, and the legal implications of de-consecrating a church.  
1917-41
8. Consent orders permitting additions and alterations to churches  
1940-85
9. Removal of consecration orders and related papers for various churches that were closed under the Sparsely Populated Areas Commission, and subsequent orders.  
1962-79
10. Miscellaneous notes and correspondence relating to the transfer of fabric, furnishings, plate and records from various churches that were closed for the churches of Banagher Union, Castlerickard Church and Castletown Church,  
1970-77

**D7/12/7/ Papers relating to administration of burial grounds and memorials.**

1. Acts of consecration and related papers concerning new burial grounds, additions to burial grounds, and church yards. [For index see D7/12/9/7 below]  
1875-1954

2. File of papers relating to the ordering of and arrangements for exhumations in the diocese.  
1889-1963
3. Copies of the memorial tablets in the churches of the diocese of Meath, compiled by the Venerable W.M.F. Alment, archdeacon of Meath.  
1930s.

### **D7/12/8/ Registry Letter Books**

1. Copy out letter book, mostly relating to correspondence about finance, and many with officers of the RCB.  
1914-16
2. Copy out letter book, mostly relating to correspondence about finance.  
1919-20
3. Registry book of notes and some transcripts of outgoing correspondence.  
1929-36
4. Registry book of notes and some transcripts of outgoing correspondence.  
1936-39

### **D7/12/9/ General Registry Material**

1. Calendar of registry documents containing extracts from the registry books of the diocese, 1712-1759; copy letters relative to delapidations, marriage within the prohibited degrees, 1840s; clergy list 1840-50; miscellaneous accounts for sundries with the bishop of Meath, 1844-46; copies of letters and other papers of Bishop Stopford, 1844-46.  
Undated. [19<sup>th</sup> century]
2. Copy statement relating to the income of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and specifically the rise in income from £98,000 to £140,000, between 1848 and 1856, with a schedule of accounts, dated 1 April 1857, presumably sent to the diocesan registrar for information.  
1957
3. Miscellaneous printed items, as follows:-
  1. Diocesan Council fees, 1880.
  2. Notice of visitation, 1899.
  3. Commission on Financial Reconstruction, 1950
  4. Hallowing of St Patrick's cathedral, Trim, 1955.
  5. Notice about Education Sunday, 1959.
  6. Notices to candidates for Holy Orders, undated.
4. Library catalogue of printed books in 'Meath diocesan library'. [May be reference to the origins of an attempt to organise the diocesan registry

at the time of the hallowing of Trim parish church as the diocesan cathedral.

1955

5. Hand-written report on the opening of the new diocesan hall, Trim, 27 January 1960, by the Most Revd Dr R.B. Pike, Bishop of Meath, in the presence of the Lord Primate, the Most Revd Dr James McCann, who preached at the service, probably by Canon C.C. Ellison, diocesan registrar, with two press cuttings.  
1960
6. File containing lists of documents from the Diocesan Registry as follows:
  1. List of documents formerly in the Registry, organised by parish, with shorthand notes and references about each one.  
Undated.
  2. List of Healy Papers, being papers of the Venerable John Healy, archdeacon of Meath.  
Undated.
  3. List of papers transferred to the RCB Library.  
1991.
7. Schedule of acts of consecration of churches and burial grounds, in the hand of Canon C. C. Ellison. See files D7/12/6/2 & D7/12/7/1 above, to which the numbers on these lists refer.  
Undated [1960s?]
8. Printed copy of the *By-Laws of the Diocese of Meath* (Dublin, 1900), given to the Diocesan Secretary by the bishop in November 1970, together with related correspondence, and a draft copy of the *By-Laws and Financial Schemes* [undated].  
1899-1901.

## **D7/13/ Papers Relating to Diocesan Education**

### **/1. Minute Books of the Diocesan Board of Education**

1. 1890-1907
2. 1907-48
3. 1949-96

### **/2. Other Volumes of the Diocesan Board of Education**

1. Proposals Book, being resolutions, and names of those who proposed and seconded them.  
1915-34.
2. Rent Book, being rents paid for school residences and other school property, with loose correspondence interleaved.  
1960-88.
3. Transport Applications Book, being grants of funds to assist the transport of children [see also D7/13/3 below].  
1959-97 [**CLOSED**]

### **/3. Account Books and Related Papers of the Diocesan Board of Education**

1. Cash Book, No. 2 Account.  
1931-80
2. Ledger, No. 1 Account.  
1939-57
3. Ledger, No. 1 Account.  
1958-75
4. Investment and Dividend Book.  
1945-76
5. Abstracts of accounts  
1970-84
6. File of loose audited accounts  
1984-87

### **/4. Miscellaneous Loose Papers**

1. Correspondence and related papers, from the Revd C.P. Reichel, vicar of Mullingar, to the Most Revd Samuel Butcher, Bishop of Meath, mostly at 40 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, concerning diocesan school houses mostly at Mullingar, but also Banagher, Longford and Trim, together with communications from the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, 1866, an estimate for repairs to Mullingar schoolhouse, and two schedules of deeds relating to diocesan schools.  
1866; 1867
- 1A. Correspondence of Canon John Healy, Diocesan Registrar, concerning diocesan education. Includes printed forms relating to Education Sunday, 1883, 1888, 1902.

1876-1907

2. Copy of the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act, 1885, Scheme 55, dated 2 August 1890, relating to the endowment of the parochial schools of Meath, and also the Preston School, Navan, including a later schedule of all schools, and papers relating to school inspectors under the scheme, 1981-82.  
1890; 1981-82
3. Copy opinion relating to school "managers" and their meaning under Intermediate Education Act, 1878, by George Wright Q.C.  
30 December 1895
4. Schedule listing all educational trusts and endowments for every school in the diocese, and copy of Diocesan Council minute concerning the collection of interest from various endowments.  
c. 1920
5. File of temporary letting agreements for houses, flats and other properties in the ownership of the Diocesan Board of Education, 1925-1989; two blank agreement forms, and an undated agreement for the sale of the Cowper Rochfort estate, in the townland of Windmill or Black Islands, barony of Fertullagh, to the Diocesan Board of Education, tenant, under the 1909 Land Act, concerning sale of holdings to occupying tenants.  
1925-89
6. Report of the committee appointed to enquire into the present state of school buildings and premises belonging to the diocese.  
[1930s?]
7. File of correspondence relating to school transport, with some specific correspondence about the Earl of Darnley National School, Athboy.  
1933-35
8. Letter of the Revd James McCann, Rector of St Mary's Drogheda, to the Bishop of Meath, concerning various diocesan schools, including Killucan, Ballivor, Castlerickard, Rathmolyon and Rathconnell.  
1938
9. Report on assistant schoolmasters, under the General Superannuation Fund as recommended by General Synod.  
1940
10. Papers relating to the diocesan course for religious instruction.  
1946-91
11. Note of miscellaneous rents and endowments  
1973

12. Reports on parochial schools, for the Department of Education.  
1982
13. Legal papers relating to the amalgamation of the Meath and Kildare Diocesan Boards of Education, including a copy of the original Educational Endowment Scheme for Meath.  
1991-98
14. Reports on the membership of National School Boards in Meath, for the Department of Education, with cover letter explaining the nature of the report, from Canon V.E. Crawford, Hon. Secretary, Diocesan Board of Education.  
1993

### **D7/13/5/ Files Relating to Specific Schools (mostly by parish)**

These files contain a variety of items, mostly Diocesan Board of Education correspondence, some deeds, some extracts of minutes, copies of endowment schemes etc. The name of the school, and cover dates of the material are given below.

1. Ardbraconn  
1962-63
2. Athboy  
1939-67
3. Athlone  
1839-1987
4. Ballinalack  
1897
5. Ballivor  
1961-71
6. Ballymore  
1903
7. Banagher  
1961-85
8. Bective  
1965-67
9. Castlepollard  
1927; 1960-90
10. Castlerickard  
1958-62
11. Clara  
1975-82
12. Donaghpatrick  
1917-90
13. Drogheda  
1962-67
14. Drumcree  
1961-68
15. Eglisk  
1913

16. Ferbane  
1947-78
17. Julianstown  
1979
18. Kells  
1908; 1959-67
19. Killucan  
1961-67
20. Kingscourt  
1961-83
21. Kinnity  
1960-69
22. Moate  
1962-63
23. Moynalty  
1907-72
24. Mullingar [see also D7/13/4.1 above]  
1960-83
25. Navan - Flowerfield School [for the Preston School see D7/13/7  
below]  
1947-83
26. Oldcastle [for information relating to the Gilson Endowed School, see  
D7/19/60 below]  
1956-61
27. Rochfordbridge  
1966-68
28. Rathmolyon  
1962-98
29. Rathconnell (Reynella)  
1947-60
30. Tullamore  
1955-92
31. Tyrellspass  
1957-67

[For Wilson's Hospital School, see D7/13/8 below].

### **D7/13/6/ Files of Miscellaneous Correspondence**

1. 1945-60
2. 1966-69
3. 1969-71
4. 1972-73
5. 1974-75
6. 1976-78



## **D7/13/7 Material relating to the Preston School, Navan, and Preston Endowment for Diocesan Schools**

1. Printed report of visit of the Incorporated Society for Promoting Protestant Schools to the bishop of Meath relative to Preston School, Navan.  
1909
2. Various amendments of the Preston School Endowment Scheme No. 55, with copies of accounts and related correspondence.  
1910-71
3. Schedule of costs related to the amendment of the scheme to endow the Preston School.  
1912
4. Three agreements for premises related to the Preston School.  
1915-16
- 4A. Correspondence and report concerning dispute about the unauthorised departure of a student.  
1918
5. Minute Book of the Visiting Committee of the Preston School, Navan.  
1928-69
6. Statement of payments from the Preston Endowment to various schools in the diocese.  
1937
7. Insurance policies for the Preston School, Navan.  
1938, 1948
8. Schedules of capital accounts from the Preston Endowment for various schools in the diocese.  
1950-55
9. Miscellaneous correspondence.  
1962-82
10. Valuation of furniture and kitchen utensils at the Preston School.  
1963
11. Ledgers of School Accounts
  1. 1963-68
  2. 1964-68
12. School Cheque Payment Book.  
1963-68

13. Balance sheets and accounts for the Preston Endowment.  
1964-68
14. Correspondence relative to bursaries paid out of the Preston Elementary Endowments to children in various schools, including Wilson's Hospital.  
1990-96 [CLOSED]

### **D7/13/8 Material relating to Wilson's Hospital School, and its endowment from the Preston Scheme**

1. Papers and extensive correspondence, mostly directed to Canon John Healy, Diocesan Secretary, concerning a dispute that arose when the headmaster of the school, Revd Dr Hill Wilson White, wished to separate the school from the parish of Leney, with which it had traditionally been associated, so as to claim his superannuation scheme bonus. Includes the report of sub-committee on the 'relative positions of Wilson's Hospital, and the parish of Leney'. This contains valuable historical information, including the terms of the will of Mr Andrew Wilson, and copies of related minutes of the committee. There is also interesting comparative comment with the status of Midleton College, Cork, and St Columba's College, Dublin.  
The correspondents include the following: the Revd J. Rennison, Revd Graham Craig, diocesan registrar, John O'Neill, Wilson's Hospital, Hugh Holmes, solicitor, Revd James George Scott, rector of Bray, John Cooper, Dunboden, Mullingar, Revd John Campbell, rector of St Mary's Athlone, Revd Francis Thomas Caldwell, rector of Leney,, and the Rt. Hon. Gustavus R. Hyde. There is telling correspondence from vestry members and parishioners, outlining how the issue had divided the parish of Leney.  
1888-1906, principally for 1900 (when the dispute arose)
2. Handmade lists of confirmation candidates, giving the names, ages and dates of confirmation of every confirmation candidate from the school.  
1929-38
3. Queries submitted and resulting legal opinions given in response, relating to an alteration in the Act of Incorporation of Wilson's Hospital School, together with a copy of 'The Case of Wilson's Hospital, Diocese of Meath' prepared for the Legal Committee of the RCB, 1886.  
1930-1
4. Copy of Department of Education memorandum to the Bishop of Meath concerning school grants, relative to the number of days that the school was in operation.  
1930
5. File of miscellaneous material including correspondence, accounts, and other papers relative to the Preston Endowment Scheme for Wilson's Hospital.

c. 1942-90  
**[CLOSED]**

6. Amendment of Preston Endowment Scheme in relation to Wilson's Hospital School.  
1983-93  
**[CLOSED]**
7. Reports from the school board to the Diocesan Board of Education.  
1984-87  
**[CLOSED]**
8. File of historical information and related correspondence concerning the origins of the school, and the Preston Endowment, submitted to the Inspector of Endowed Schools, Department of Education.  
1988-92  
**[CLOSED]**

## D7/14/ Papers Relating to Charities and Endowments

[This section is organised alphabetically by fund/scheme].

- /1 Lady Ardilaun Educational Endowment  
Application forms  
c. 1928
- /2 Belvedere Orphanage, Tyrellspass,  
Episcopal and other correspondence, accounts, and court orders, concerning  
the management of the orphanage.  
1930-38  
**[CLOSED]**
- /3 Charlton Charity  
Four files of papers relating to the charity established as the bequest of the late  
Thomas Charlton Esq, of Corraghtown, near Navan who died in 1782, for the  
benefit of day labourers' sons and daughters, from counties Meath and  
Longford, who married each other. The files are as follows.
1. Case relating to objections to proposed alterations to the scheme by the  
Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests, with related  
correspondence, including copy of the will of Thomas Charlton.  
1876-77
  2. Schedules of further amendment of the Charlton Charity Endowment.  
1885; 1895; 1926
  3. Printed accounts of Charlton Endowments, for the years ending.  
1925; 1940; 1941; 1942
  4. Blank application forms for grants under the endowment, and cover  
letters.  
1960; 1964.
  5. Correspondence with Canon John Healy, diocesan secretary  
1907
  6. Various forms and applications  
c. 1906
- /4. Chetwoode Charity Trust Fund (later Chetwoode and Sterne)  
This fund was established initially as the bequest of the Revd Dr John  
Chetwoode, rector of Ardracran 1681-1704, who left £500 for apprenticing  
Protestant boys to Protestant masters of trade. This later became the  
Chetwoode and Sterne Fund, following bequest of a further £50 towards the  
Chetwoode Charity, which assisted girls and boys. Three files of material as  
follows:
1. Indentures, certificates, testimonials, and related  
correspondence relating to specific children apprenticed.  
Includes some letters to the Revd Noble Mungo Waller, rector  
of Clongill, and also twentieth-century summary list of the

- children's names, payments and other details, in the hand of Canon C.C.Ellison.  
1811-12; 20<sup>th</sup> century
2. Schedules outlining government scheme to alter the terms of the endowment.  
1884; 1932
  3. Abstracts of accounts, financial reports, including names of children and annual sums  
1926-27; 1936; 1990s
  4. Two letters relating to meetings of the committee to run the charity.  
1983
  5. Printed fund details.  
Undated
- /5.** Colpe Endowment  
Memorandum relating to this fund for private endowments of the parishes of Kilshaven, St Mary's Drogheda, and Julianstown, distinguishing it from the Evans Fund.  
c. 1936
- /6.** Coole Trust Scheme  
Memorandum relating to the charitable support for the union of Rathgrasse, Mayne and Foyran.  
1932-40
- /6A.** Coote Bequest  
Correspondence of Canon John Healy, Diocesan Secretary, concerning administration of the bequest of the Revd M.H. Coote, for the benefit of various poor parishes and national schools.  
1908-09
- /7.** Crofton and Donagh Fund  
Copy of amended scheme for general diocesan purposes.  
1932
- /8.** Bishop Evans Trust Fund  
Fund established as the bequest of Bishop John Evans, bishop of Meath 1716-24, for the purchase of glebes, augmenting incomes of incumbents of certain livings. This file includes extracts from his will, mid-nineteenth century accounts, schedules of legal proceedings, a copy legal order dated 6 April 1871, and correspondence.  
1871; 1931-36
- /9.** John Charles Lyons Charity  
Public notice that the almshouse for helpless women, established in Stackallen, under Lyons bequest, be sold at public auction.  
1931
- /10.** Lord Langford Annuities

Correspondence relating to a fund for support of poor parishes in the dioceses of Dublin, Limerick, and the parish of Laracor, in Meath.  
1922-38

- /11. Meath Good Clergy Service Fund Letters relating to accounts.  
1943
- /11A. Meath Medical Mission  
Circular to subscribers and two letters  
1925-26
- /12 Malone Trust  
Legal opinions and correspondence relating to a fund for the upkeep of the parishes of Ballymore, Kilbixy and Almoritias (Forgney Union).  
1920; 1930
- /13 George Nugent Trust  
Outline of scheme to support of the parish of Castlerickard. Court order dated 1884, and other undated notes.  
1884; undated
- /13A. Meath Protestant Orphan Society  
Miscellaneous papers and letters as received and issued by the Diocesan Registry, including incoming correspondence to Canon John Healy, Diocesan Secretary relating to payments and subscriptions, and in some cases the welfare of individual children, with copies of outgoing letters about donations and payments for individual children, 1904-05; with blank collecting card; miscellaneous Annual Reports for the years 1900, 1902, 1904 and 1908, and a copy of *Short History of the Meath Protestant Orphan Society*, compiled by Revd Rowland Athey, Hon. Secretary. There are additional Meath Protestant Orphan Society records at RCB Library MS 318.  
1900-08  
**[CLOSED]**
- /13B Widow and Orphan Fund  
Routine correspondence concerning payments within various parishes,  
1898-1907
- /14 James Browne Smyth Friendly Help Fund  
Legal order  
1934
- /15 Dr William Tew's Bequest  
Miscellaneous correspondence relating to Raddanstown School, and transport for Dunboyne schoolchildren.  
1878-1904; 1970
- /16 Miscellaneous Endowments for Poor Parishes

RCB correspondence relating to the Bolton, Cairns, Coote, Morgan and Mulock Funds and assistance of poor parishes in the diocese; and one letter to Canon Healy concerning the Caines and Bolton Trust.

1904; c. 1927-28; 1982

- /17** Parochial endowments not vested in the RCB or Diocesan Board of Education  
 Schedule of parochial endowments other than those vested in the RCB or Diocesan Board of Education, from information collected by the late Revd R.W. Knight, 1932. The list is organised by parish, and some entries relate to material found in parish files (see section D7/10 above).  
 c. 1932

**/17A.** Parish endowments

File of earlier correspondence and list of local endowments for various parishes that were not vested in the Representative Body.

1900-12

**/17B.** Poor parish endowments in general

Extensive file containing correspondence, notes, reports and calculations on financial schemes for various poor parishes, including also printed sermons for poor parishes. Most of the calculations are the work of Canon John Healy.

1894-1908; undated

- /18.** General file of diocesan registry material including printed reports, relative to the Committee of Missions, and giving returns of collections made in aid of various charities within the diocese. The correspondence is all to and from Canon John Healy.

1882-1904

For the Preston Endowment, relative to the Preston School, Navan and Wilson's Hospital School, Mutyfarnham, see D7 /13/ 7.

## D7/15/ Seals and Related Papers

- /1. Box containing electrotype copy of medieval seal matrix of the clergy of the diocesan synod of Meath (as distinct from the bishop), with a wax impression of same, printed impression, and related descriptive correspondence and notes about the origins and history of the medieval seal. According to the enclosed documentation the original medieval seal went missing from the diocesan registry c.1928. (See also D7/15/8 below).  
Undated
- /2. Double seal matrix (front and back images) of Most Revd Edward Stopford, bishop of Meath 1842-50.  
1842
- /3. Double seal matrix of Most Revd Thomas Stewart Townsend bishop of Meath, 1850-52.  
1850
- /4. Double seal matrix of Most Revd James Bennett Keene, bishop of Meath 1897-1919.  
1897
- /5. Double seal matrix of Most Revd John Orr, bishop of Meath 1927-38.  
1927
- /6. Seal matrix of Most Revd William Hardy Holmes, bishop of Meath 1938-1945.  
1938.
- /7. Seal matrix of Most Revd James McCann, bishop of Meath 1945-59.  
1945
- /8. Copy of article entitled 'The Corporate Seal of the Clergy of Meath', printed in *Meath Diocesan Magazine*, May 1970.  
1970
- /9. Letter from Gerald Slevin, Chief Herald of Ireland, to Revd Canon D.J. Morrow, diocesan registrar, explaining the heraldic symbols on the new seal for Most Revd Dr Donald Caird, bishop of Meath 1976-85, being the first seal for the new united dioceses of Meath and Kildare.  
1975
- /10. Auction catalogue which includes seal matrix of the Most Revd Ralph Lambert, bishop of Meath, 1726-32, together with unsuccessful bid form for same.  
Undated [mid 1970s]
- /11. Correspondence relating to design for the seal of the Diocesan Board of Education. 1915



- /12.** Double seal matrix of the Diocesan Board of Education, featuring three mitres (the wrong way round), in centre.  
Undated
- /13.** Ink stamp for the Diocesan Board of Education.  
Undated
- /14.** Ink stamp of signature of the Most Revd Robert Bonsall Pike, Bishop of Meath, 1959-73  
Undated
- /15.** Ink stamp of signature of the Most Revd Donald Caird, Bishop of Meath. 1975  
- 85

## D7/16/ Photographs

- /1. Most Revd Charles Parsons Reichel, bishop of Meath 1885-94.  
Photograph by W. Lawrence, Dublin.  
Undated
- /2. Most Revd Joseph Ferguson Peacocke, bishop of Meath 1894-97.  
Unknown photographer  
Undated
- /3. Most Revd James Bennett Keene, bishop of Meath 1897-1919.  
A note on back of the frame stated this photograph was 'sent from Bishops court'-presumably to the Diocesan Registry in 1955.  
Undated
- /4. Most Revd William Conyngham Plunkett, bishop of Meath 1919-26.  
Photograph by Lafayette Studios, Dublin.  
Undated
- /5. Most Revd Thomas Gibson George Collins, bishop of Meath 1926-27.  
Photograph by Abernethy Studios, Dublin.  
Undated
- /6. Most Revd John Orr, bishop of Meath 1927-38.  
A note on back of frame stated the photograph was 'sent to Trim, 1955' (see also D7/16/19 below).  
Undated
- /7. Most Revd William Hardy Holmes, bishop of Meath 1938-45  
Undated
- /8. Most Revd James McCann, bishop of Meath 1945-59.  
Undated
- /9. Clergy group at the enthronment of the Most Revd John Orr, as bishop of Meath, at Trim, 21 October 1927.  
Photograph by Lafayette Studios, Dublin.  
1927
- /10. Copy of D7/16/9 above.
- /11. Clergy group at the presentation of a pastoral staff (replica of ancient crozier of Clonmacnoise) by the diocesan clergy, to the Most Revd John Orr, at Westmeath Choral Festival, 30 May 1934. (Includes Canon John Healy who is the bearded man in the front row). 1934

- /12. Clergy group at the presentation of the pastoral staff to the Most Revd J. Orr, at Mullingar, 1934. Includes Very Revd H. de Vere White, Most Revd J. Orr, the Rt. Revd J.G.F Day, Venerable T.R. Brunshill.  
1934
- /13. Clergy group at the enthronement of the Most Revd William Hardy Holmes as bishop of Meath, at Trim.  
10 November 1938.
- /14. Clergy group at the enthronement of the Most Revd James McCann, as bishop of Meath, at Trim.  
September 1945.
- /15. Clergy group at the enthronement of the Most Revd R. B. Pike, as bishop of Meath, at Trim.  
12 June 1959
- /16 File of other loose photographs, as follows:
- 1-3 Photographs of the dedication of a new vestry and porch at Tara Church, by the Most Revd Robert Bonsall Pike, bishop of Meath, and including other clergy and local people.  
25 June 1961.
- 4-1 Annual open-air service at Tara held on the last Sunday of June, 1961. Various clergy groups, Most Revd Bonsall Pike, other diocesan clerics including Canon C.C. Ellison, and an unidentified bishop, possibly St John Pike [?].  
1961
- 11 Annual open-air service at Tara, 1963, featuring sermon by the Rt. Revd William Cecil de Pauley, Bishop of Cashel.  
1963
- /17. File of loose photographs, relating to Trim Cathedral, as follows:
1. Clergy group at the enthronement of the Most Revd William Hardy Holmes, at Trim, outside the old rectory.  
November 1938.
  2. Clergy group at the hallowing of Trim cathedral.  
1955
  3. Clergy group at same, including Venerable R. S. Hipwell, Revd Adam Lamb, Most Revd John Gregg, Archbishop of Armagh, Canon C.C. Ellison, Most Revd James McCann, Bishop of Meath, and Revd A.R.C. Olden.  
1955
  4. Clergy group at above.  
1955
  5. Photograph of John Bull, lay reader, and his wife Gertrude Bull on their golden wedding anniversary.  
April 1968

6. Photograph of John Bull, lay reader with unidentified child.  
Undated.
  7. Small photograph of Stella's cottage, Trim, probably taken for Swift Tercentenary celebrations in Trim, 1967 (see also D7/10/46/19).  
1967
- /18.** Large print of unidentified clergy group (not robed), at Ardraccan.  
Undated [Early 20<sup>th</sup> century]
- /19.** Large print of six bishops (five unidentified), but also including Most Revd John Orr, and also the Venerable John Healy, at door of cathedral [?].  
Undated, [c. 1927?].

## D7/17/ Diocesan Magazines

### 1. Volumes of the *Meath Parochial Magazine* (Diocesan Magazine), printed monthly.

1. 1885
2. 1886
3. 1886 [second copy, with complete run of *The Dawn of Day*, religious tract for 1886]
4. 1888 [at end of volume preceded by the *Church of Ireland Parish Magazine*, for 1888].
5. 1890 [at end of volume preceded by the *Church of Ireland Parish Magazine*, for 1890].

### 2. Miscellaneous loose issues of the magazine, printed monthly, some interleaved with the *Church of Ireland Magazine*, organised by year, as follows: -

1. 1887 [March, May only, tatty and incomplete]  
1889 [February, June, July, August, November only]  
1891 [January, September, October, November only]  
1892 [September, November only]  
1893 [March, April, May, June, September, December only]  
1894 [February, April, June, August, December only]  
1896 [July only]  
1900 [September only]  
1901 [April, May, June, August only]  
1910 [June only]
2. 1927 [complete, except July]
3. 1928 [complete, except February, July, December]
4. 1929 [January only]  
1932 [January, February only]  
1933 [November only]  
1934 [May, June, September, October, November]
5. 1935 [complete, except February, August]
6. 1936 [complete, except February, March, May]  
1937 [except March, April, July, August, October, November]  
1938 [except March, June, August, October – December]  
1939 [except February – June, November]
7. 1941 [except December]  
1943 [except November, December]  
1945 [except April, October, December]  
1946 [except May, June]

8. 1951 [complete, except September]
9. 1952 [complete]
10. 1953 [complete except January, July]
11. 1954 [complete]
12. 1955 [complete]
13. 1956 [complete]
14. 1957 [complete]
15. 1958 [complete]
16. 1959 [January, February only] [no 1960]
17. 1961 [complete except May, July, October, November]
18. 1962 [complete]
19. 1963 [complete except October-December]
20. 1964 [except January, February, May]
21. 1965 [complete]
22. 1966 [only January, February, May, October, December]
23. 1967 [only January – June, October]
24. 1968 [complete except March, June, October]
25. 1969 [complete except March]
26. 1970 [complete except May]
27. 1971 [complete]
28. 1972 [complete]
29. 1973 [only May-July, October-December]
30. 1974 [complete]

## D7/18/ Copies, Notes and Extracts from Diocesan Records and Other Sources

- /1. The State of the Diocese of Meath, being a visitation of each parish, compiled for the Most Revd James Ussher, bishop of Meath 1621-24.  
Contemporary copy of manuscript preserved in the Library of Trinity College Dublin, and reprinted in *The Whole Works of the Most Revd James Ussher, I*, edited by Charles Richard Elrington, (Dublin 1847), pp lx-cxxv.  
1622
- /2. Copy of manuscript entitled 'A catalogue of all the rectories and vicaridges in the diocese of Meath, with the names of their patrons and their yearly value'.  
Lists clergy names, the church in question, its value and its patron. Copied from a manuscript in the possession of Blair Smith J.P., Londonderry, January 1905, probably by Canon J. Healy, archdeacon of Meath, as it correlates with his 'list of clergy of Bishop Ussher', printed in J. Healy, *History of the Diocese of Meath* (Dublin, 1908), I, p. 251.  
1905
- /3. List of benefices and their patrons.  
The list includes the names of patrons on a parish-by-parish basis, together with the details of lands connected to each one, and the various statutes to which each was subject during the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Some later additions have been added in pencil, but the hand is 18<sup>th</sup> century.  
c. 1700 [?]
- /4. Volume containing transcript copy of 'An account of the parishes of the diocese of Meath, 1682', by the Most Revd Anthony Dopping, bishop of Meath 1682-85, and later additional notes, probably also by the bishop, in effect, the bishop's visitation returns for the diocese. The copy is in the hand of the Canon John Healy.  
The original manuscript from which the transcript was made (now D7/1/1A), was, we learn from the fly-leaf of Healy's version, presented to the diocese by Lady Grogan, but later deposited in Marsh's Library, Dublin, for safekeeping. A letter to Healy from Mr N.J.D White, Keeper and Librarian of Marsh's Library, 1930, found inside the volume confirms that by this time the original had been placed in that library on loan, 'or until reclaimed', for safe keeping and reference purposes, although remained the property of the diocese of Meath. As a result of the work on the diocesan records, the original was transferred from Marsh's Library to the RCB Library, and reintegrated with the remainder of the archive, following a unanimous decision by the governors of Marsh's, in October 2001.  
1930
- /5. Extracts for the rural deaneries of Duleek, Trim, Clonard, only, from the 'State of Diocese' of Meath, as delivered to the Lord Justices of Ireland, by the Most Revd Anthony Dopping, in 1693. Copy from original manuscript, in the hand of the Venerable John Healy.  
c. 1930

- /6. 'State of the Diocese of Meath', by Bishop Lewis O'Beirne, 1818.  
Copy of original manuscript (now catalogued as RCB Library MS 157), made by the Revd Graham Craig, diocesan registrar 1898-1900, before handing over the original to the RCB.  
Undated [late 19<sup>th</sup> century]
- /7. Facsimile copies of parts of Book of Armagh, as printed, relating to the endowment of the church of Trim, AD 432.  
Undated [early 20<sup>th</sup> century]
- /8. Copy of the text of a thesis [?] manuscript entitled 'The Reformation in Meath' together with copies of maps of various parishes and a schedule of clergy.  
[Author unknown].  
Undated, no author [late 20<sup>th</sup> century]



## **D7/19/ Papers of Canon John Healy**

This section is essentially an archive in its own right. It consists of the working papers of Canon John Healy, who served the diocese in several clerical and administrative capacities during his long career. As well as being rector of Kells between 1887 and 1917, he also served as honorary secretary to both the Diocesan Council and Diocesan Synod between 1897-1928; as diocesan registrar 1904-26, before being appointed archdeacon of Meath from 1914, in which position he continued to work following his retirement from active service as rector of Kells (in 1917) until 1928. Whilst some items of correspondence from his collection were more appropriately listed in other parts of the diocesan archive, the vast majority of them, as listed here, form an organic entity of their own. They reflect not only the dove-tailing and interaction of the various official positions held by Healy, but also demonstrate how the various administrative bodies responsible for a range of diocesan business (the Registry, the Diocesan Council, the Diocesan Synod, the RCB, as well as the clergy and other officials representing individual parishes) inter-connected and related to one another. This collection covers the entire period of Healy's service as diocesan secretary, and also includes some earlier material that he inherited from his predecessor as diocesan secretary, the Venerable Garrett Nugent, who was also archdeacon of Meath 1882-98.

The material is divided into three sections as follows:

1. General Correspondence and Miscellaneous Material
2. Material Relating to Individual Parishes
3. Printed Material

### **D7/19/1 Correspondence and Miscellaneous Material**

1. Correspondence with Colonel Charles Pepper, Ballygarth Castle, Julianstown, Drogheda, who was Deputy Lieutenant for County Meath, and also a prominent member of the Diocesan Council. His services for the diocese included being secretary of the Diocesan Finance Committee, Diocesan Trustee, and member of the Board of Education. Whilst much of this correspondence is routine, it does give a flavour of ongoing administrative issues, and also the respect that members of the laity had for their clerical colleagues - all of Pepper's comments and advice being extremely cordial indeed.  
45 items  
1898-1909
2. Returns sent by parochial clergy, with accompanying letters concerning inventories of church plate, and other items forwarded by Healy to the RCB, with later plate inventories for the rural deanery of Loughsendy only, some general correspondence, and details of the insurance of plate in the rural deanery of Slane.  
1898-1909, 1925-26, 1934, 1950-54.

3. Correspondence with the Representative Body, concerning appointments to the RB to represent the diocese of Meath, and other matters requiring the sanction of the RB.  
20 items  
1898-1919
4. Miscellaneous letters and leaflets of the Church of Ireland Temperance Society, East Meath branch.  
5 items  
c. 1900
5. Correspondence between Healy and the Rt. Revd James Bennett Keane, bishop of Meath 1897-1919. Most of the correspondence is from the bishop, writing from Bishops court, Navan, and reflects a typical exchange of administrative and anecdotal comment about diocesan business. In addition to his local address, a couple of his letters were also sent from further afield, including the University Club, Dublin, the Portland Hotel, London, and on one occasion each from Munich and Stuttgart. One drawback to the episcopal correspondence is that it is mostly undated (apart from the first 18 items). Only the month and day are given, not the year, but it is reasonable to assume that the collection spans the period 1901-07, during which Healy's letters of response, which are all meticulously dated, were written. In contrast to the bishop's letters which are all handwritten, Healy's responses are typed, with the date clearly indicated at the top of each page. Letters 1-77 are from Bishop Keane, and letters 78-90 are from Canon Healy.  
90 items  
c.1901-07
6. Papers relating to the See House, being Bishops court, Navan. They include architect's inspection forms, proposals to fit out an old wine cellar as a 'strong closet', or 'diocesan strong room', in the basement of the Bishop's House, Navan, and other running repairs to the House. The correspondence also makes reference to the bishop's pictures and the need to have a portrait of Bishop Dopping repaired as soon as possible, and the former See House at Ardbraccan, the grounds of which adjoined Bishops court.  
15 items  
1901-08.
7. Bundle of routine correspondence to and from R. McIntosh, clerical assistant in the diocesan office. His correspondents are Colonel Pepper (see D7/19/1/1 above) and Canon Healy. This is a large collection of very routine administrative material, mostly typescript one-line letters.  
1901-07.
8. Correspondence to and from Healy relating to the purchase of lands belonging to the RCB in various parishes by the tenants who occupied them, and other vendors, under the terms of the Land Acts. The material includes revealing correspondence about the Williamstown estate, formerly 'in the hands of a Protestant gentleman, the late Mr Garrett' and Healy's efforts to ensure that the lands should 'fall into the hands of Protestants'. One correspondent, George

Knight of Trim enclosed a copy of the *Report of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland for 1899 and 1900* with his letter of 1901, in which, he advised Healy, would be found 'the names and addresses of all Protestant leaders to assist in finding suitable vendors'.

56 items of incoming letters to Healy, with larger bundle of Healy's typewritten replies.

1901

9. Correspondence and papers, including printed reports, relating to the diocesan Auxiliary Fund. This material relates to the allocation of the Church Auxiliary Fund and Emergency Fund to various parishes. The material includes some correspondence between Healy and Bishop Keane.

1904-08; 1931-61.

10. Meath Choral Union. Routine correspondence concerning orders of the *Festival Book for Choirs*, published in 1905, for various parishes.

1904-05

11. Papers relating to the Sunday Observance Committee, with the Revd J.F. Pillor, rector of Almoritia and Mullingar, and also the chairman of the diocesan committee.

4 items

1907-09; undated.

## **D7/19/2 Material Relating to Individual Parishes**

This material seems to be a combination of Diocesan Council, registry and RB related papers. It includes correspondence and other material such as inspection of glebes returns; episcopal correspondence about parochial issues; accounts; grants for poor parishes; returns of plate; Diocesan Council resolutions about individual parishes; material relating to parochial boundaries; reports on stained glass; as well as copies of outgoing correspondence to the rectors and other parish officers about general administration. The material is organised by parish, and cover dates are given.

1. Agher  
1898-1935
2. Almoritia  
1898-1928
3. Ardraccan  
1898-1942
4. Ardnurcher  
1898-1927
5. Athlone  
1898-1941
6. Athboy

1898-1935

For Ballivor see D7/19/2/40 below

**7. Ballybay**

1899-1924

**8. Ballylough**

1899-1936

**9. Ballymore**

[This material includes papers relating to Drumraney old church and graveyard, and the Malone Endowment for Ballymore and Kilbixy parishes]  
See also D7/19/2/35 below.

1898-1926

For Banagher, see D7/19/2/67 below

**10. Bective**

1898-1934

**11. Castlejordan**

1898-1910

For Castlelost see D7/19/2/55 below.

**12. Castlerickard**

[including material about the parish of Killochonnigan]

1901-07

**13. Clara**

1897-1927

**14. Clonard**

1896-1925

**15. Clonfadforan (Tyrellspass)**

[see also D7/19/2/19 below]

1898-1909

**16. Clonmacnoice**

[including material about an amalgamation with Tissaran and Ferbane parishes, c. 1924]

1896-1909

**17. Collinstown**

1904-26

**18. Delvin**

[including the sale of Killallon glebe 1900-01]  
1898-1901

**19. Donaghpatrick**

[includes a letter from Bishop Thomas G. Collins, Bishop of Meath, 1926, relating to the appointment of a curate-in-charge and also in relation to the curacy of Clonfadforan]  
1926

**20. Drakestown**

[includes correspondence relating to the restoration of Nobber church plate, and churchyard, 1905-07]  
1898-1911

**21. Drumconrath**

1872-1918

**22. Drumcree**

1898-1923

For Drumraney see D7/19/2/9 above

**23. Drogheda, St Mary's**

1898-1921

**24. Duleek**

[see also D7/19/2/25 below]  
1898

**25. Dunboyne**

[includes material relating to the loan of Dunboyne flagon to the parish of Duleek]  
1900-07

**26. Dunshaughlin**

[includes references to Kilmore old church and graveyard, 1923]  
1900-27

**27. Durrow**

1890-1925, undated

**28. Eglisk**

1898-1923

**29. Enniskillen**

[includes material relating to the Mervyn Pratts' Charity, 1872]  
1872-1927

**30. Ferbane**

[see also D7/19/2/16 above]

- 31. Forgney**  
 [see also D7/19/2/35 below]  
 1898-1928
- For Foyran, see D7/19/2/64 below
- 32. Julianstown**  
 1899-1918
- 33. Kells**  
 [includes details of Archdeacon Healy's benefaction, undated, and correspondence with the National Museum of Ireland concerning the making of paper mache castings of the crosses in Kells graveyard and other antiquary-related matters, c. 1901-05. Also a history of the endowments for the parish]  
 1875-1960
- 34. Kentstown**  
 [includes maps of the glebe, c. 1933]  
 1898-1933
- For Killallon see D7/19/2/18 above
- 35. Kilbixy**  
 [includes counsel's opinion to the bishop about future appointments to the parishes of Kilbixy and Almorita Union, and also references to Ballymore and Forgney parishes, 1930, see also D7/10/2/9 above].  
 1897-1930, undated
- 36. Kilcleagh**  
 1897-1937
- 37. Kileagh**  
 1898-1926
- 38. Kildalkey**  
 1898-1906
- 39. Kilkenny West**  
 1898-1927
- 40. Killochonnigan**  
 [includes references to Ballivor, see also D7/19/212 above]  
 1898-1923, undated
- 41. Killoughy**  
 1900-26, undated
- 42. Killucan**  
 1932

**43.** Kilmainham Wood  
1894-1925

**44.** Kilmeassan  
1898-1941

For Kilmoon see D7/19/2/66 below

For Kilmore old church, see D7/19/2/26 above

**45.** Kilnegarenagh  
1899-1922

**46.** none

**47.** Kiskyre  
1900-23

**48.** Killucan  
1894-1911, undated

**49.** Laracor  
[see also D7/19/2/65 below]  
1898-1926

**50.** Leney  
1898-1926

**51.** Loughan  
1872-1926

**52.** Loughcrew  
1898-1909

**53.** Mayne  
1898-1923

**54.** Moyglare  
1898-1923

**55.** Moylisker  
[includes a historical paper by Healy on the tithes of the old parish of  
Castlelost]  
1901-03

**56.** Moynalty  
1872-1917

**57.** Mullingar

1901-02

**58.** Newtown Fetullagh  
1872-1926

**59.** Nobber [see also D7/19/2/20 above]  
1902-22

**60.** Oldcastle [includes material relating to the Rotherham Bequest, 1872, 1943,  
and correspondence about the Gilson Endowed School, Oldcastle, 1924]  
1876-1943

**61.** Paynestown  
1898-1926

**62.** Portnashangan  
1905-24

For Rahan, see D7/19/2 72 below

**63.** Rathconnell  
1902-25

**64.** Rathgraffe (Castlepollard)  
[includes material about the separation of this parish from Foyran, which was  
then attached to Mayne, 1904  
1898-1904

**65.** Rathmolyon  
[includes material about financial arrangements and the union with Laracor]  
1876-1928

**66.** Ratoath  
[includes a report on Kilmoon church, 1926]  
1899-1927

**67.** Rynagh and Banagher Union  
[includes correspondence about a field beside Banagher church, 1936-37]  
1898-1937

**68.** Skryne and Tara  
[includes much interesting material about the amalgamation of these parishes  
and the efforts to keep Tara church open. Also, printed orders of service for  
the annual Open-Air Service at Tara, notices and details of the 1500<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the coming of St Patrick to Ireland Commemoration, 1932]  
1871-1934

**69.** Slane  
[includes the churchwarden's account book, that belonged to R. Harvey, 1873-  
1901]



1873-1927

**70. Stackallen**

[one item relating to dispute with local Roman Catholic priest concerning access to the graveyard, and timing of local Roman Catholic funerals, which reveals ecumenical tension]

1943

For Tara see D7/19/2/68 above

For Tissaran see D7/19/2/16 above

**71. Trim**

1898-1937 [includes general exchange of correspondence relating to the By-Laws of the Diocese of Meath]

**72. Tullamore**

[includes one item relating to the repair of the ancient church at Rahan, near Tullamore, and a notice concerning the Dean Craig Memorial, 1905]

1900-11

**D7/19/3 Printed Material**

1. Forms of prayer and thanksgiving. Includes orders of service, as ordered and directed by the bishop of Meath, or by the archbishop of Armagh, for a variety of special services as follows: the recovery of the Prince of Wales, 1872; the death of Queen Victoria, 1901; Coronation Day, 1902 [being the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra]; general prayers for the general election, confirmation services, 1885 -1902; general prayer during vacancy of the see; the anniversary of the First World War, 1917; thanks for victory at War, 1918.  
1872-1918, undated
2. Instructions for Easter Vestries, as issued by the Diocesan Registry, to parish clergy and churchwardens at various times.  
1873-1909
3. Charge delivered to the clergy of the diocese by the Most Revd Joseph Ferguson Peacocke, bishop of Meath, during his primary visitation, 1895, and other visitation orders. 1895-1931
4. Diocesan Council printed forms, orders, resolutions, stipend schemes, reports on arrears of assessment, and list of fees payable to clergymen, select vestries and graveyards.  
1880-1927
5. Miscellaneous registry notices including notification about the ten-year diocesan census, 1898; voting paper [blank] for the election of a canon

to the stall of Tipper in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and notices issued to clergy for their ordination details.  
1898-1908, mostly undated

6. Auxiliary Fund papers, including details of accounts, resolutions  
1901-09
7. Reports of the Committee of Missions and Charities (Eastern Division)  
1901-08
8. Subscription returns to St Patrick's National Cathedral Fund  
1902-07
9. Returns of annual sermons for poor parishes  
1903-06
10. Appointment of Education Sunday circulars  
1903-09
11. Episcopal pastoral letters, issued by successive bishops of Meath on a range of issues 1903-26; undated
12. Accounts and regulations of various diocesan charities  
1901-25
13. Diocese of Meath Calendar  
1918
14. Subscription details for the Meath Diocesan Emergency Fund  
1919
15. Printed forms concerning Episcopal elections, including voting papers, letter from the Very Revd T.G.G. Collins as bishop-elect to the Diocesan Synod, and his subsequent enthronement service, 1926, as well as the call for a new election following his sudden death the very next year.  
1926-27
16. File of miscellaneous printed items, as follows:
  - Blank notice of meeting for a board of nomination
  - Blank form of resignation of a benefice
  - Notice to candidates for holy orders.
  - Paper entitled 'Reconstruction. The position of Meath parishes', which was circulated following the General Synod, 1956 and led to the establishment of the Sparsely Populated Areas Commission.