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The Dominicans of Arklow

(1264-1793)

DERMOT WALSH, O.P.

"... ARKLOW, one of the poorest looking villages that could well be seen. It is entirely supported by the herring-fishing during the season; but all the rest of the year, is miserably off." When the Dominicans arrived in Arklow in 1264 it was indeed a somewhat different town from that described by Inglis in his "Journey through Ireland" in 1834. It was an Anglo-Norman town, with a port that had some pretensions to commercial importance. Much of the adjoining land had been parcelled out among Anglo-Norman adventurers, and "as usual, for the good of their soul, they bestowed some of it for church foundations." (*"Ancient Churches of Arklow."* Myles Ronan, J.R.S.A.I., Vol. LVII, Part II, p. 103).

The site of the Dominican Priory lies to the south of the main street in Arklow town. It is reached by Abbey Lane (a narrow lane-way) which leaves the Main Street just a few yards above Bridge Street. All that now remains to be seen is a rectangular walled graveyard, with a number of headstones, entirely overgrown with brambles and nettles. Local tradition that the Dominican buildings served as a quarry for the construction of the adjacent warehouses and stores as well as a Methodist chapel, (now a private house but in use until 60 years ago), is borne out by a letter from Eugene Curry dated January 31st, 1839. "... there is an old and extensive ground in this town to which the inhabitants continue to give the name Abbey, though not a vestige of the building remains, nor is it distinguishable from the neighbouring ground but to those who saw its walls before they were pulled about thirty years ago by a man of the name Sherwood, who had a store-house built from the old materials." (*Ordnance Survey Letters, Wicklow*, 419, p. 134 Edition by Fr. Michael O'Flanagan, Bray, 1928).

This was the Priory of Holy Cross, one of the two new foundations in Ireland for which permission had been granted at the General Chapter of the Order held in London in 1263. (*ACG. 1263, Monumenta Ord. Praed. III*, p. 121). The following year according to a chronicle of the Order now preserved in Trinity College, Dublin, "Locus apud Arclo capitur" the friars took possession of their new convent. (*MS. T.C.D. F.I.*, 16). Their lands, which were extensive, were previously bestowed on the Cistercian Abbey of Furness in

Lancashire whose monks never took up residence there. (*Place-Names of the Barony of Arklow*. Liam Price. R.I.A. XLVI, Sec. C, No. 5, 1941). The founder, Theobald Fitzwalter, Fourth Butler of Ireland, died according to the Annals of the Four Masters in 1285 "VI Kal. Oct. in the castle of Arclowe and was buried there in the Convent of the Preachers." A tomb, with the founder's effigy carved upon it, was erected to his honour in the church. (This was known as the Butler tomb, and an indulgence was supposedly attached to visiting it. Visits to Arklow to gain the alleged indulgence ceased, according to local tradition, in 1798 when the indulgence also ceased (Dr. Pochin Mould, *unpublished notes T.A.* pp. 1, 2.)) This tomb was to be seen up to 40 years ago, but not a trace of it now remains. The burial of distinguished people in churches became general from the end of the 13th century onwards. "Tombs, elaborately sculptured funeral monuments, memorial altars and chantry chapels . . . soon converted the plain Dominican church into a veritable art museum . . . This structure took the form of a single rectangle, without aisles, transepts or tower, and the roof, except for the portion surmounting the chancel, was not vaulted. In Ireland, it appears to have been covered with wooden shingles . . ." (*Medieval Irish Dominican Studies*. Benedict O'Sullivan, O.P. *Irish Rosary*, Jan.-Feb. 1951, p. 38).

In 1339, in the account of Thomas de Beuley, Seneschal of Holy Trinity Priory, Dublin, we find a quaint entry for Monday after the first Sunday of Lent. "In the Prior's chamber for the coming of the friars preachers and chaplains of Arclo, in oysters, 2d., salmon 2d." (*Account Roll of Holy Trinity Priory*, p. 10). We do not know the business of their coming, but it may have had something to do with the raids of the Irish clans of the district, as many of the entries in the Account Roll made about this time are in connection with ward and muster. These were the clans who were later described as "continually hanging over the neck of the city" of Dublin. Preaching, the friars, main work, was integrated into the day to day living of the community. The quest, with all its humiliations (this begging by the friars for their daily sustenance, which goes back to the time of St. Dominic), brought with it the obligations to pray for their benefactors. The obligation of the prior and community of the Dominican Convent of Arklow to pray for all the faithful and especially their benefactors, is to be found in a folio of a 15th cent. bible which belonged to the friars and is now in the Library of Lambeth Palace, London. Named in particular is Robert Dowdall, and four other members of the Dowdall family, one living and the others dead. The MSS, written in small 13th cent. minuscule, would seem to have been intended for use as a Lectionary for the Epistles and Gospels read at Mass, as well as a portable Psalter for the recital of the Office. As one of the Codices Lambethani the MSS may have been in the Library of Lambeth as early as the time of

Archbishop Bancroft, its founder. (For a fuller description of this bible cf. *Rep. Novum*, Vol. II, No. 1, p. 64. *Some Liturgical Books of the Diocese of Dublin*, by Fr. Hawkes).

The lack of material means necessary for their own sustenance and that of their church must have led the friars to petition the Pope for an indulgence to be granted to all those who would contribute to their support. It was from the Council of Constance that Pope John XVIII issued the following bull. "John, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God, to all the faithful of Christ who shall see these letters, Health and Apostolic Benediction. Desiring that the Church of the Friars Preachers in Arklow, in the Diocese of Dublin, built in honour of the Holy Cross, be frequented and supported with due honour . . . by the authority of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, I confer on all penitents . . . who visit the Church (and contribute to its support) . . . on the feasts of the Nativity, Circumcision, Epiphany, Resurrection, Ascension, Corpus Christi, Pentecost, and on the Annunciation, Purification and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Sts. Peter and Paul, the Finding and Exaltation of the Holy Cross and All Saints, and for six days following the aforesaid feasts, an indulgence of Ten Years and Ten Quarantines . . . Given at Constance on the 17th of the Kalends of December and the fourth year of our Pontificate." (*Bullarium Ord. Praed. II*, p. 524). That was in 1414 and less than 200 years were to pass before Henry VIII wrought destruction on the Dominican Apostolate in Arklow. De Burgo in his *Hibernia Dominicana* (p. 73) gives us the name of the first friar who is known to have any connection with the convent. He was Fr. Denis White, O.P., who was vicar of the convent in 1476 and subsequently became Bishop of Glendalough.

The Abbey was suppressed in 1539, and on Feb. 15th of the following year a lease was granted to Edmund Duffi, gent., of the site of the Friars Preachers of Arklow. (Fiants, Henry VIII). Then when the extant was made (Jan. 27th 1541) the Prior, Edmund Kenny, was seised of the Church and belfry, chapter house, dormitory, hall, three chambers, a store, kitchen, cemetery and garden containing 2 acres, with 2 parks and 3 acres of land of the great measure of Arklow, and 4 messuages in the said town, annual value, besides reprises, 29s. 10d. Each tenant of a messuage used to give the Friars, for their sustenance, from brewing of beer for, sale, 3 gallons of beer worth 13s. 4d. Each gave one hen; 8d. (*Irish Monastic Possessions 1540-1541*. Newport White, pp. 373, 374, 375). As has been seen, the friars lands were extensive and they had the tolbooll of all ale brewed in the town. Later the commissioners came back to make a second investigation and inventory of possessions; they reported that no goods or chattels were to be found on the premises. In 1544, Feb. 4th a grant was made of the monastery site to one John Travers Esq. of Dublin, and three years later a lease was granted to Terence

McMoro (Mac Murrough) of Arklowe. (Fiants, Henry VIII).

Notwithstanding all the persecutions, the Dominicans laboured at Arklow during the 17th century, and while the spy's report of 1667 shows the convent as without a prior, this does not necessarily mean that there was no community there. After the rebellion of 1641 the friars quietly slipped back to re-establish themselves in their former dwellings. This is substantiated by a letter of Sir Henry Tichborne to Sir William Flower dated Dec. 15th 1666 Donganstown. "... A few days since the Sheriff of this county placed Sir Thomas Esmond in the possession of the Abbey of Arklow, with the tithes and lands belonging unto the same, and likewise some parks, never for aught I can learn pretended unto but by certain friars, which trust themselves into that Abbey in the time of the late Rebellion and by their own authority, while they continued masters in that place, took these parks with the rest and enjoyed them." (*Calendar of the MSS of the Marquess of Ormond, New Series*, Vol. III, 1904, p. 251). It was the usual pattern all over the country. Except for the brief period of Mary, the return would (when they probably regained possession) be just a century after the sale or lease of the Abbey. The Cromwellian period (1649-1660) would not have afforded much chance of survival in such an exposed place as Arklow. The friars would all have gone to ground when Cromwell himself struck the town with characteristic violence on his way to Wexford. He captured the castle, overturned six of its seven towers, and reduced the remainder to the condition of a yawning ruin.

In the Provincial Archives of the Irish Dominicans at Tallaght, Co. Dublin, there is a thin folio volume entitled *Liber Provinciae*, a register of the Dominican personnel in Ireland during the years 1683-1710. It is a MSS copy of notes made out by Provincials on their annual visitations of the various convents. The years covered by the Register so far as Arklow is concerned, are 1683-1689, 1691, 1694, 1695; and while telling its own story, it also portrays the rise and fall of James II in bas-relief. From 1683 to 1689 the community grows in strength from two to seven. Three novices are received. Then comes a three year gap corresponding to the military debacle of 1689-91. By 1694 the novices are no longer in evidence, and the community of three priests remains until the general exile of 1698. The penalty for those who remained or returned was imprisonment until death or transportation. All over the country James was welcomed as a Catholic king prepared to give full freedom to the Church. The black and white of the Dominican habit was again seen in the streets of Arklow, but not for long, as five years after his accession to the throne he fled this country defeated at the Boyne. Edmund de Burgo, O.P., in his *Brevis Notitia Provinciae Hiberniae* (SCAR) says that this revival prior to 1683 started from the houses in Connacht. "Deinde in Ultoniam, Lageniam, et Momoniam ex Conacia (sunt quattuor Hibernia provinciae) fratres missi sunt ut

desolatos restaurarent Conventus in tribus aliis provinciis, et juvenes indurerent in illis quod feliciter . . . in Lagenia : Dublini, Naasiae, Kilkeniae, INIRVORE . . ." (This is the Irish name for Arklow). A close study of the biographical dictionary which follows on this article shows that the greater number of priests who worked in Arklow came from convents in Connaught, five being from Roscommon and four from Portumna.

The Government registration of 1697 shows "James Cocklan Prior of ye Dominicans in Arklow. Thomas Cahoe one of the friars of the same Order and Convent. Dominic Oran of the same". None of these three priests were registered for any parish. It would seem then that they went into exile with the exception of Prior Coughlan who probably returned to his own convent of Portumna. Thus it was that the friars who numbered some 300 in Jacobite times were reduced to 80 or 90 in 1704, and most of them were living in the West. But O'Heyne writing in Louvain in 1706 (p. 31) says that "in the Co. Wicklow on the seaboard in a place called in Irish, Inbher Mor, and in English Arklow . . . of the friars of that house, I neither know nor can discover anything". Just three years before that, an Act of Parliament had been passed empowering the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin "with the consent of the incumbent and parishioners to constitute and erect the said Abbey into a parish church". (*Erck, Irish Ecclesiastical Register* 1830). The Abbey referred to here was the suppressed Dominican house, which, however, was never rebuilt as a parish church. (*Ancient Churches of Arklow*. Myles Ronan, *J.R.S.A.I.* Vol. LVII, Part II, pp. 103, 104).

In a *Report on the State of Popery in Ireland in 1731*, Arklow, in the Diocese of Dublin, is shown as having two Mass-houses and four priests. (*Arch. Hib.* Vol. IV, 1915, p. 134). Eight years later, the Fottrell Papers—the Acts of Provincial Chapters—tell us that Arklow "has no sons of its own except Andrew Fottrell. Present Prior is James Williams; and Ambrose O'Connor and P. Corr are assigned there too". (*Louth Arch. Journal* 1930, Vol. VII, No. 2, p. 138). Fr. Williams was living at Ballinabarny near Ballinderry, within 7 miles of Wicklow at Mountain Side, and Ambrose O'Connor was living at Castle Cavan near Roundwood. (*F.P.* p. 27). When Thomas de Burgo, the author of *Hibernia Dominicana*, visited Arklow some 20 years later, he records that he saw the walls of the church and priory standing almost complete and tells us that there were only two fathers working there, James Murry, Prior, (alias Morilly) and Ambrose O'Connor. (*Hib. Dom.* p. 269). From 1756 to 1780 there is no record of Dominican activity in the town or neighbourhood. But on the 31st of Oct. 1780, Dr. Carpenter, the Archbishop of Dublin, in a report to Propaganda, complains that "other evils are perhaps coming to a head, for there are three fathers of the Order of St. Dominic called sons of the convent of Arklow in this Diocese; another five of the same Order under the same title are

expected whilst the town of Arklow shows not the slightest trace of a convent and is scarcely able to support a pastor". (*Rep. Novum*, Vol. I, No. 2, 1956, p. 396). The obits of the Provincial Chapter in 1793 mentions the fact that "Fr. Petrus Daly Arkloe" had died since the previous chapter, and this would seem to be the last contact that the Dominicans had with this sea port town of Co. Wicklow. Archdall said in 1786 that "large ruins of this noble structure still remains". (*Mon. Hib.* pp. 759, 760.) A thorough search has failed to unearth some tangible relic of these last Dominicans. No chalice or headstone has been found and unfortunately there are no old parish registers or records as most of them were burned during the cholera epidemic in 1865. Dr. Pochin Mould in field notes made in connection with the writing of "The Irish Dominicans" in Sept. 1956 says that "there is a tradition of an underground passage from the priory to the castle and the ground, now concreted over in the adjacent yard, was before this was done, said to ring hollow. There is also a confused account in local tradition of a vault with a statue of Our Lady and it is said to be very old, though not very old as it is remembered by the present Arklow people. . . . There appear to be no traditions about Dominicans working in the parishes around Wicklow. The chief items of local lore—much confused—are the tales of the underground passage and the indulgence gained there". (Dr. Pochin Mould, *unpublished notes T.A.* pp. 1, 2.)

A list of the abbreviations and sources used in the following Biographical Notes :

ACG.: Acta Generalia Ordinis.

ACP.: Acta Capituli Provinciae Hiberniae.

AGOP.: Archivium Generalis Ordinis Praedicatorum Rome.

A.H.E.B.: *Analectes pour servir a L'Histoire Eccleistique de la Belgique*, Louvain, 1892.

Arch. Hib.: Archivium Hibernicum.

Brevis Notitia Provinciae Hiberniae 1600–1736 by Edmund de Burgo, O.P. Unpublished MSS in San Clemente Archives, Rome. *Bullarium Ordinis Praedicatorum*.

F.P.: Fottrell Papers. Acts of Provincial Chapters (1721, 1726, 1730, 1732, 1734, 1738) published in the Louth Archaeological Journal, Vol. IV, 1930.

Hib. Dom.: *Hibernia Dominicana* by Thomas de Burgo, O.P. Kilkenny, 1762.

Liber Recept. ad Habitum et Professionem in Conventu SS. Sixti et Clem. de Urbe 1676–1787; *et Liber Secundus Continens Professiones*.

L.P.: *Liber Provinciae* 1683–1710. Unpublished MSS in Provincial Archives, Irish Dominicans, Tallaght.

Moran, Cardinal: *Memoirs of Oliver Plunkett*, Dublin, 1861.

- Mac.*: Note books of Humbert MacInerney, O.P., Provincial Archives, Tallaght.
- Nec.*: *Necrologium Provinciae Hiberniae*, Dublin, 1953, by Luke Taheney, O.P.
- O'H.*: O'Heyne, the Irish Dominicans of the 17th Cent., Louvain, 1706; re-edited by Ambrose Coleman, O.P., Dundalk, 1902.
- Rep. Nov.*: *Reportorium Novum*.
- SCAR.*: San Clemente Archives, Rome.
- Spic. Ossor.*: *Spicilegium Ossoriense* by Cardinal Moran.
- TA.*: Provincial Archives, Irish Dominicans, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.
- W.P.B.*: W. P. Burke, "Irish Priests in Penal Times", Waterford, 1914.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

BERNE (also BERN, O'BEIRNE), BERNARD. First mentioned in a letter of the Master General De Marinis to the Provincial Fr. O'Hart dated 3rd of May, 1659 as being Prior of Derry. Then he is mentioned in an intercepted letter of the Provincial to himself dated 1667. (*W. P. Burke*, p. 20). In a *Relatio* to Rome on the state of his diocese Bl. Oliver Plunkett refers to him as a learned preacher who did much good, and again refers to him the following year (1671) in another *relatio* to Rome this time giving an estimate of the number of regular clergy in the Province of Ulster. (*Moran*, pp. 140, 67.) In 1683, 1684 he was working in Arklow (*L.P.*). On June 18th he was assigned to Newtownards, and is a member of that community in 1686. The following year he became a member of the Drogheda community, "hic depositus ex Conv. Villae Novae". In 1694 he became a member of Coleraine community, but did not stay long as in 1695 he became Prior of Newtownards and the Register states "Habet commenditias ad Vic. Gen. Drumore et Downe . . ." In 1702 he became Prior of Carlingford and is referred to as "Bernardinus Bern". O'Heyne speaking of this priest says that he studied with success in Spain, and was "of noble birth but nobler still in the sanctity of his life. . . . He was a fine preacher and of exemplary conduct during his whole life. He was often prior, governing with remarkable prudence" (p. 9). He was a son of the Priory of Coleraine.

CORR, PETER. Born 1700 (*Hib. Dom.* p. 261). He was a son of the Convent of Roscommon. Professed 1716 (*Hib. Dom. idem*). Working in Arklow between 1734 and 1738 (*F.P.* p. 26). In 1756 he was working as a pastor in the Diocese of Elphin. (*Hib. Dom.* p. 261). He is thought to have been a relative of Bishop Luke Concannon, O.P., first bishop of New York. (p. 4, footnote 2, "Luke Conanen O.P." by Vincent Reginald Hughes, O.P., Fribourg, 1926.)

COUGHLAN, FELIX (JAMES). A son of the convent of Portumna (O'H. p. 217) in 1684 he was Master of Novices in that convent (L.P.). Later in that year he became Prior of Arklow, but three years later according to the Register he is Sub-Prior in Portumna. In 1688 he is confirmed as Prior of Portumna (L.P.), and signed the Acts of the Provincial Chapter held that year in Lorrha as "Fr. Felix Coghlan Tertius Diffinitor". (ACP). At this chapter he was appointed National Vicar for Connacht, and also appointed as visitator for the Priory of Roscommon (L.P.). In 1689 he was still Prior of Portumna, and was confirmed as Visitator of Roscommon (L.P.). In 1691 he was instituted Prior of Arklow, and three years later was still in the same position of authority, being reappointed as Prior (L.P.). In the Government List of 1697 (*W. P. Burke*, p. 26) mention is made of "James Cocklan, prior of ye Dominicans in Arklow". These two men are surmised to be identical. None of the Dominicans in Arklow were registered for any parish, and it would seem that Fr. Felix returned to Portumna. Writing in Louvain in 1706 O'Heyne (p. 217) says that he "was prior of his own convent and of Aghaboe; he made very good studies in Spain and Lombardy".

DE CORDUBA, FRANCIS. This bishop was appointed to the See of Glendalough on the 21st of Aug., 1500. (*Hib. Dom.* p. 479). Evidently he was a Spanish Dominican, appointed by a Spanish Pope (Mac. U2 p. 38 TA) and was a very erudite theologian—"in Sacra Theologia peritissimus"—(*Hib. Dom. idem*).

DALY, JOHN, O.P. Father John Daly was born in 1725, and would seem to have been a native of North Kildare because of his affiliation to the Convent of Naas. (*Hib. Dom.* p. 448). He entered the Dominican Order in 1747 (*Status Prov. Hib.* 1767 AGOP) at Louvain (*Rep. Nov.* Vol. 3, No. 1, p. 157). He received all sacred orders in the one year; Tonsure and Minor Orders on the 20th of Feb., 1750, Subdiaconate on the 21st of Feb. 1750, Diaconate on the 23rd of May, 1750, and Priesthood on the 19th of Sept., 1750. (*Malines Ordination Lists*.) In 1752 and 1753 he was among those who publicly defended theses in theology in Louvain (*A.H.E.B.* p. 181). According to De Burgo, in 1756 he was teaching in the faculty of Arts (*Hib. Dom.* p. 448) and in the following year he was teaching Philosophy (*Newbridge College Quarterly*, Spring, 1947, p. 49). In 1758 he was appointed Regens, and became Master of Students as well as a Professor of Theology (*New Coll. Quart.*, Spring, 1947, p. 49). He became First Regent, and Prior of the Convent of Holy Cross, Louvain, in 1760 (*Hib. Dom.* p. 448 footnote n). The last record concerning him in Louvain is dated June 1763, and he returned to Ireland shortly afterwards. (*New Coll. Quart.* Spring, 1947, p. 49). (He did in fact preside at the public scholastic disputations in

Louvain between 1757 and June 1763. His name appears as Moderator in the printed theses preserved in Louvain file, Provincial Archives, Tallaght.)

When Fr. Daly came to Dublin in 1763, he immediately began to act as Curate in St. Andrew's, in Lazor's Hill (Townsend St.). It would appear that he did not reside in the Dublin convent of the Order as he refers in his letters to his lodgings at No. 1 Cumberland St. (*New Coll. Quart.* Christmas, 1956, p. 9). According to the Status Prov. Hib. 1767 (*AGOP*) drawn up by Provincial Fr. Thomas Netterville, O.P., Fr. Daly was working in Arklow on his own. But the parish records of St. Andrew's show that he worked there continuously from 1764 to 1770. He was made Historiographer of the Province in 1769 (*ACP* 1769) and this position was confirmed by subsequent chapters (*ACP* 1781, 1801). From 1770 to 1773 Fr. Daly was Prior of Newbridge (*New. Coll. Quart.*, Spring, 1947, p. 51).

Fr. Daly did return to Dublin between the years 1773 and 1784 when he was again working in Townsend St. He became Prior of Newbridge again in 1784, and remained in that position of authority until 1787 (in that latter year the degree of Master of Theology was conferred on him. (*New. Coll. Quart.*, Spring, 1947, p. 51). In 1789 he became Prior of the Convent of Denmark St., Dublin, and remained there until he again became Prior of Newbridge in 1792 (*Rep. Nov.* Vol. 3, No. 1, p. 157). While Prior of Denmark St. he was appointed by Archbishop Troy as an examiner of the Dublin Clergy, and was also appointed a member of the Commission set up by the Archbishop to examine the question of the morality of the Oath of Allegiance. (*New. Coll. Quart.*, Spring, 1947, p. 51). His term of office as Prior of Newbridge finished in 1795, and in the following year Fr. Daly returned to Dublin for a short period. After this he returned to Newbridge where he spent the rest of his life. (*New. Coll. Quart.*, Spring, 1947, p. 51). A man of moderate principles, he was opposed to the Independence Movement that led on to the Insurrection of 1798. He died in Newbridge on the 17th of June, 1809 (*Nec.* p. 21) at the age of 84 and is buried in the cemetery of Old Connell (*New. Coll. Quart.*, Spring, 1947, p. 51). "That there was a strong mutual regard between himself and his fellow Dominican, the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Thomas Troy, is indicated by his selection of the latter as one of the executors of his Will even though he had for many years retired from parochial work in the archdiocese; and from the fact that he held at least one important position of trust in Dublin" (*New. Coll. Quart.*, Christmas, 1946, p. 10).

DALY, PETER. According to the Malines Ordination Registers he received Tonsure and Minor Orders on the 22nd of Dec., 1775, Subdiaconate 23rd of Dec., 1775, Diaconate 23rd of March, 1776 and Priesthood on the 1st of June, 1776, with a dispensation of 13

months for age. He was affiliated to the Priory of Arklow. From 1782 to 1790 he lived in Rome, and during that period his name appears in the Council Book of San Clemente (*SCAR*). From May, 1783, he signs himself as Novice Master. He returned to Ireland in 1790, and the obit list of the Provincial Chapter of 1793 notes that among those who died since the last chapter was "Fr. Petrus Daly Arkloe". (*ACP*, 1793).

DOHERTY, ANTHONY. A son of the convent of Roscommon. (*F.P.* p. 25). On the 10th of April, 1736 he was appointed confessor to the Dominican Sisters of Galway. (*F.P.* p. 16). The obits of the Provincial Chapter of 1749 notes that "Antonius Doherty Vicarius Conventus Arkloensi" had died since the last chapter. (*ACP* 1749). The name raises problems of identification. There was an Anthony Doherty preaching in Derry for seven years in 1738. (*F.P.* p. 19). This friar died prior to 1757 (*ACP* 1757). But which of these two priests was the student in Louvain between 1729 and 1731 it is impossible at the moment to know. (*A.H.E.B.* p. 174).

DOWELL (also McDOWELL), PATRICK. A novice at Arklow in 1688, and a cleric there the following year. In 1689 he was sent to study in Spain. (*L.P.*)

DUNNE, MATTHIAS CLEMENT. The San Clemente reception book records that on the 12th of Feb. 1778 "Matthias (modo f. Clemens) o Dunn, pro Conventu Arcloensi" received the habit of the Order. (*SCAR*). He was professed on the 12th of Feb. of the following year. He signs the first reception book of San Clemente in 1785 as "Philosophiae" Lector, and on the 27th of June 1787 as "Subprior". In 1792 he signs himself as Novice Master. He was Prior of San Clemente in 1798. All his life was spent in Rome where he died in Dec. 1803. (Letter in *TA.*). (A letter of Father Connolly, O.P., to Fr. Roche, O.P., dated May, 1805, speaks of Fr. Dunne being a year and a half dead.)

FANYN, JAMES. In 1684 he was Sub-Prior of Portumna and on the 16th of May of the same year was assigned to Arklow. (*L.P.*). According to the Register he was still there on the 18th of June, but was assigned back to Portumna on the 22nd of Aug. Then he became Sub-Prior of Portumna. In 1685 he was again a member of the Arklow community, and in 1687 he was Sub-Prior there. In the years 1688, 1689 he was just an ordinary member of the Arklow community (*L.P.*). Then in 1693 he is a member of the Dublin community, and three years later is Vicar of that house. (*L.P.*). In the Government list of 1697 he is listed as one of the four "Dominican friars at the Convent in Cooke St." (*W.P.B.* p. 121).

FLYAN (FILANE), JAMES. (Also PHELAN, PHILAN). In 1685 he was a member of the Roscommon community. In 1686 he was assigned to Youghal. Two years later, 1688, he was working in Arklow and was instituted Sub-Prior there. The following year the Register notes that he is still Sub-Prior there. In 1692 he was made Prior of Aghaboe, and was still Prior there in 1695 (*L.P.*). He does not appear in the Government list of 1697, but there was a James Phelan Parish Priest of Skirk in Queen's County in March, 1743. (*W.P.B.* p. 338). Question is, are these two priests identical ?

FOTTRELL, ANDREW. In an undated document not later than 1739, in the Fottrell Papers (p. 26), it says that "Holy Cross, Arklow . . . no sons of its own except Andrew Fottrell". He was working in Arklow from 1734 to 1739, and died there between 1753 and 1757. "In Conventu Arkloensi R.P. Fr. Andreas Fottrell" the obit in the Chapter Acts of 1757 says. In fact he died before 1756 (the year Thomas de Burgo visited Arklow) because there is no mention of him being there. (*Hib.Dom.* p. 269.)

GANURIJ (possibly GORMAN or GAYNOR), JAMES. Mentioned in the Acts of the General Chapter of the Order held in Rome in 1644 as one of those appointed to settle the order of precedence among the houses in each of the four provinces of the country. He was appointed for Ulster, and his name is given as "Fr. Joannem Genory" (*ACG* 1644). On the 3rd of June, 1647, there is evidence from Propaganda Archives that he and four other Irish Dominicans were refused permission to go on the mission to Scotland (*Arch. Hib.* XXII, 1959, p. 130). In 1653, "Pr. fr. Joannes Ganurij ex conventu Arcloensi, post plures persecutiones exilio relegatus in pace quievit, (in Gallis✠) 1653". (✠Altero manu addita) (*AGOP, Annalist N.* p. 966).

HORAN, DOMINIC. In 1684 he was a member of the Roscommon community. The following year he became a member of the Arklow community. Later that year he was assigned to Athy. In 1686 he was instituted Sub-Prior of Athy and the following year, 1687, was assigned back to Arklow. He is mentioned in the Register as being there in 1688, 1691, 1694. In the Government list for 1697 he appears as "Dominic Oran" (*W.P.B.* p. 126). This is obviously the same man as in the Register.

KENT, DOMINIC. According to the Malines Ordination Registers he was ordained to the priesthood on the 21st of Feb., 1671. In 1683 he was Vicar of the convent of Arklow (*L.P.*). In 1684 and 1685 he was a member of the Kilkenny community. Then in 1686 he was made Prior of Cashel, and was in that position of authority in 1687. In 1688 his assignation to Kilkenny was revoked. This was the year

he was instituted Lector of Moral Theology in Cashel. (*L.P.*). In 1689 he appears in the community list, and in that same year was made Sub-Prior of Cashel. Then for the years 1694, 1695, 1697 he was Prior of Cashel. (*L.P.*). According to O'Heyne (p. 105) he was professed at Louvain for the convent of Cashel "and on finishing his studies was lector of philosophy there. At home he was often prior of his convent and very proficient in preaching and teaching. He was indeed a good, mild and genial man, and above all of exemplary life. On being exiled he went to the convent of Bourges, in France, where he gave great edification. He was afterwards a chaplain in the French army, but becoming infirm returned to Louvain, where fortified by the last sacraments he died a pious death in 1703".

KENNY, EDMUND. Prior of Arklow when the Abbey was suppressed in 1539. He is mentioned in a deed with regard to a dispute about land dated the 14th of May, 1552. "Whether Edmund Kenny, late prior of Arklow had the custody of said lands . . ." (*Ormond Deeds*, Vol. V, p. 52). This name does not occur in any Dominican documents, and as yet there is no further trace of his doings.

KEOGHY, THOMAS. In 1688 he was a novice at Arklow. In 1689 he was a cleric there. Later in that year he was sent to study in Spain (*L.P.*). In the Government list for 1697 there is one "Thomas Cahoe one of the friars of the same said Order and Convent" of Arklow. Now assuming that it took 7 years to have him educated on the continent it is not impossible for him to have been back in the country by 1696. (*W.P.B.* p. 126).

LENAN, DAVID. Prior of Arklow in 1667. (Cf. *The Strange Case of Colonel Robert Byrne* 1667, *Rep. Nov.* Vol. II, No. 2, p. 281). This priest does not appear in the spy's list of 1667 in Burke's *Irish Priests in Penal Times*, p. 19-20. He was examined on oath by Ormond on the 12th of June, 1667, in relation to his connection with Robert Byrne. The examination is preserved for us in the *Calender of State Papers for Ireland Charles II*, 1666-1669, p. 621. This priest's name does not occur in any Dominican records or documents, and beyond this piece of knowledge nothing more is known of him.

LORCAN, AUGUSTINE. In 1683 the Register tell us that this friar was a Deacon in the convent of Portumna, and then "Dimissus ad sacros ordines suscipiendos". The Register adds that he got "Dimissoriales" for Spain, but instead was assigned to Arklow in 1684. He worked in Arklow for some months in 1685, but then was sent to Spain to study. (*L.P.*).

LYONS, MARK. In 1688 he was a novice in Arklow, and in the following year, 1689, he is a cleric in the same community and accepts dimissorials for orders. In 1693 he is a member of the Dublin community, and in 1694 was sent to study in the Province of Lower Germany (Netherlands). According to the Register he was a priest-student of theology in Louvain in 1701. (*L.P.*). In a report of the Irish Dominicans resident in Louvain on the 2nd of Aug., 1695, we find the name of Mark Lyons there as a priest. In yet another list of Irish Dominicans resident in Louvain dated 16th of March, 1707, we find that Mark Lyons is at Namur, with the Tilly Regiment (Philip III Army) hoping to get a Viatic thereby. He is also there in the following year. In a list drawn up by the Provincial, Hugh Callinan, O.P., in 1710, we find that Mark Lyons is still an army chaplain, but he is now at Valonica. (This would seem to be present day Valence in the Diocese of Valentinensis, the Department of Drôme in the Ecclesiastical Province of Avignon. *Cath. Ency*, Vol. 15, p. 250).

MACDOWELL (also DOWELL), FELIX RANDAL. (This note is based on the researches of Fr. Reginald Walsh, O.P., and Fr. Conleth Kearns, O.P., taken from the file on Felix MacDowell in the Provincial Archives, Tallaght.) A son of the convent of Tulsk, Co. Roscommon (*Hib. Dom.* p. 586) he studied in Valladolid. In his examination in Dublin on the 19th of April, 1706, he said that he "was ordained in the City of Dublin, between thirty and forty years since . . ." (*I.E.R.* Vol. 25, 1909, p. 616). This would place his ordination between 1666 and 1676. 1670 would seem to be a reasonable date. At any rate he must have distinguished himself as a student for he was selected to teach philosophy in a college of the Order in Sardinia. (*Hib. Dom.* p. 586). He was assigned to the Mission of Tangier towards Sept. 1673, and ministered there until 1676 or 1677. (*Propaganda Archives Scritture Riferite nelle Congregazioni Generali Irlanda*, Vol. 442, Fol. 186.) On the 20th of Aug., 1677, he was present in Rome for the handing over of San. Clemente to the Irish Dominicans. (*Hib. Dom.* pp. 134, 371, 586). From now until 1680 he was Professor of Theology to the Dominican students of the English Province, who were then residing in the nearby house of SS. John and Paul; during these years he became "Theologiae Praesentatus". (*Hib. Dom.* p. 134, g, 586). In 1680 he was made Prior of San Clemente and was in this position of authority until 1683 (*Spic. Ossor.* III, p. 359). De Burgo says that he was an example to all in the exactitude of regular observance. (*Hib. Dom.* p. 586). Before 1686 he returned to Ireland as Missionary Apostolic (*Hib. Dom. idem*). In 1686 he is a member of the Roscommon community (*L.P.*), but was later assigned to Drogheda where he was Lector of Philosophy and Theology. In 1687 he was working in Arklow and was there also in 1688. (*L.P.*). After a short stay at

Rosbercon he was assigned to Roscommon on the 24th of Aug. 1688. From there he was assigned to Cloonshanville on the 13th of Oct. of the same year. His stay in this latter convent could not have been very long, for the Register notes that on the 11th of July, 1689, he was back in the Priory of Roscommon. (*L.P.*). He became a chaplain in the army of James II in this year (*Hib.Dom.* p. 586); in Dalton's printed copy of King James's Army List the name MacDowell does not occur, but in two places it is stated that the Rev. — McDonnell was chaplain to Henry Luttrell's regiment of horse. (*I.E.R.* Vol. 25, 1909, p. 611.). O'Heyne mentions (p. 267) that "this father was chaplain of a regiment of cavalry". It seems probable that he was at the Battle of the Boyne, and was overtaken by the Williamite soldiers at Ballimor. (*Brevis Notitia Prov. Hiberniae* 1600-1736 *SCAR*). He was then tied to a horse's tail and made walk to Dublin. (Is this Ballimor in Co. Westmeath, or the Ballimor in Co. Longford? Both these places are fifty Irish (or 64 English) miles from Dublin). "In spite of the 40 milaria of the *Brevis Notitia* I prefer the Ballimor of Co. Westmeath as the place of Fr. MacDowell's capture" (Fr. Conleth Kearns, O.P., MacDowell file, *T.A.*). *Hibernia Dominicana* (p. 586) says he left the country on the accession of William of Orange, "Devicto autem regno Anno 1691". In fact he escaped to England, but was arrested there. He had been Chaplain to the Spanish Ambassador from 1691 to 1700, and at his request was allowed to go to the continent, and lived for a time in Holland (his own testimony—*I.E.R.* 1909, Vol. 25, p. 616). He was recalled by the Provincial, Fr. Ambrose O'Connor (1700-1709), who feared that owing to the long persecution the Order would die out. In 1703 he returned to England "Lodging in severall places in London, and last at the house of one Mr. Dean, a cook, near Little Queen St. near Holborn, at the sign of the goat, but being indisposed in health . . . was advised by some eminent Physitians in London to return to his native country for the recovery of his health . . ." (His own testimony, *I.E.R.* p. 616 *idem*). He returned to Ireland on the 19th of April, 1706, and was arrested at Ringsend, Dublin, on landing from "the ship called the Charlotte" which had left Chester some days before. He was thrown into Newgate Prison, and one Captain William Rowan, who had taken the friar on his arrival, was paid £13 5s. in "blood money" for his capture. According to De Burgo (*Hib.Dom.* p. 586) he died in prison on the 3rd of Feb., 1707. His cause for beatification is included in that of the Irish Martyrs that has been before the Holy See for many years.

MADDEN, DONAL. In 1688 he was a novice in Portumna, and in 1689 a professed cleric in the same house. In 1691 he was working in Arklow, and according to the Register he was there also in 1694. (*L.P.*).

MCDONOGH, JAMES. According to O'Heyne (p. 255), this priest was a native of Ballindoon, and made his studies in Spain, "and on his return was prior of Urlar"—(The register says it was in 1683). On the two succeeding years, 1684 and 1685, he was Master of Novices in Sligo, and in 1686 became a member of the Dublin community. In 1687 he was instituted Prior of Arklow. (*L.P.*). O'Heyne also mentions this fact (p. 255). He was prior "of the convent of Arklow, commonly called Inbher Mor, and ruled . . . with prudence and piety". The Register notes that he was Prior from 1687 to 1689 and that he was re-confirmed as Prior by election in 1690. But he must have left the country after the Boyne for O'Heyne notes that "he went to France on the subjugation of our kingdom, and in the convent of his Order at Boulogne-sur-mer, wasted with fever, he died in 1692 refreshed with the last sacraments." (O'H. *idem*).

MURRAY (alias MORILLY), JAMES P. G. A son of the convent of Urlar, he was born in 1707 (*Hib.Dom.* 1, p. 269). He was professed in 1727 (*Hib.Dom. idem*) and would have joined the Order one or two years previous to this date. He was Prior of Arklow when De Burgo visited the place in 1756. He died in 1767 (Dr. Pochin Mould, Unpublished notes *TA* p. 2). This priest would appear to have been a brother of Bartholomew Murray, a physician who was born in Co. Clare in 1695. This man was educated in Paris and was a benefactor of the Irish College there in which he founded 16 burses, 3 for the descendants of Denis and Patrick Murray, Co. Clare. He died on the 8th of Jan. 1767 and was buried in the College des Lombards. "His brother James Murray, who became a priest, belonged to the Order of Preachers, dying in the same year, was also buried in the College des Lombards." (*Biographical Dictionary of Irishmen in France* by Richard Hayes. *Studies*, Vol. 34, 1945, p. 108).

O'CONNOR, AMBROSE. Born in 1701, a son of the convent of Roscommon. (*Hib.Dom.* 5, p. 269). He studied at Louvain, where on the 14th and 15th of May, 1725, he was one of those who defended theses in General Philosophy. (*A.H.E.B.* p. 189). This was printed in Louvain "typis Viduae Francisci Vande Velde in 40, 8 pp." On the 6th of May of the following year, 1726, he defended theses in theology "de Angelis, Homine, Beatitudine, Actibus Humanis, Conscientia, Peccatis, Divina Gratia, Justificatione et Merito". It was printed by the same printer but this time in 40, 10 pp. (*A.H.E.B.* p. 173). On the 9th of June, 1727, he was in the scholastic wars again as he defended a thesis "de Deo, Ejusque Attributis, Visione, Scientia, et Reprobationis Mysterio", Lovanii typis Viduae Francisci Vande Velde in 40, 8 pp. (*A.H.E.B.* p. 173). On the 5th of March, 1728, he defended a thesis in Scripture entitled "in Actus Apostolorum, cum Interspersis Quaestionibus Theologicis", printed

by the same printer in 4to, 8 pp. (*A.H.E.B.* p. 173). We know from the Fottrell Papers, that he was working in Arklow from at least 1738 (*F.P.* p. 26) and from the same papers from an undated list of addresses (not later than 1739) we know that he lived "at Castle Cavan, near Roundwood" (*F.P.* p. 27). In a report to Propaganda dated the 19th of Aug., 1743, on the Irish Dominican College at Louvain and of the priests it had sent to the mission in Ireland, it says "within the last 20 years (1723-43) it has sent 33 priests to Ireland when it was obliged to send only 16. Of the 33, two or three are dead—five are actually Parish Priests. Parish Priest Dublin Diocese—Ambrose O'Connor". De Burgo mentions this fact that he was working as a pastor in the diocese when he visited Arklow in 1756. (*Hib.Dom.* p. 269), and tells us that he died on the 1st of June, 1757. (*Hib.Dom.* s, p. 269).

O'KELLY, STEPHEN. According to the late Fr. Ambrose Coleman, O.P. this priest was the last Dominican to work in Arklow. "The last representative of the Order there, Fr. Stephen O'Kelly died shortly after 1835". He was associated with Arklow only on paper. (*Appendix to O'Heyne*, p. 26). This priest died in Dublin, where he spent all his life, on the 24th of July, 1830. (*Nec.* p. 22).

O'SULLIVAN, DOMINIC. Born 1729, he received the habit of the Order in Corpo Santo, Lisbon, in 1749 with an affiliation for Arklow. He was professed in 1750, and was in Lisbon in 1755. (*Hib.Dom.* p. 429). He survived the earthquake of 1755 in Lisbon, which all but completely wrecked the college of Corpo Santo, but of his later wanderings we have no record.

PLUNKETT, THOMAS. The Reception Book of San Clemente (*SCAR*) says of this friar "qui habitu clericali pro conventu Arcloensi in Hibernia, Lovanii indutus fuit annus probationis ad ortu solis incipiendus ab A.R.P. Priore Luca Conanen, S. Theol. Mag.—assignatus fuit"; that was on the 3rd of Aug. 1784. He was professed on the 7th of Aug., 1785. His signature appears on the Profession Book on the 10th of Oct., 1789, with "Philosophiae Lector" written after it. He died in Verona in 1806 while tending the fever-stricken there. (p. 465 "*Collections . . .*" by George Oliver, London, 1857).

WEALSH, JOHN. In 1684 the Register says he was "Professus" at Portumna. In 1684 he was assigned to Arklow, and he appears as a professed cleric there. That same year he got dimissorials for orders. In 1685 he was sent to study in Spain (*L.P.*). According to O'Heyne (p. 217), this priest was a son of the convent of Portumna, "studied in Spain and is now chaplain to a Spanish regiment in Belgium" (1706).

WHITE, DENIS. He was Vicar of Arklow in 1476 (*Hib.Dom.* p. 73). From Rubricelle in the Vatican Archives we learn that "Denis White was appointed to the See of Glendalough by Sixtus IV in 1481, and on the 28th of November of that year offered 33½ florins to the Apostolic Chamber as the tax (Gains ?) provision" (*Mac. U* 2 p. 35 *TA*). He was consecrated Bishop of Glendalough in Rome on the 9th of Dec., 1481. (*Mac. idem* p. 42). According to an MSS in T.C.D. Denis surrendered the Bishopric in the Chapter Room of St. Patrick's in 1496 (*Mac. idem* p. 36). But Bishop Donnelly (in *J.R.S.A.I.*, June, 1893) says Bishop White's successor succeeded in 1493. How explain the enigma ? (*Mac. idem* p. 37).

WILLIAMS, JAMES. A native of the convent of Burrishoole (*Hib. Dom.* p. 299) he was born in 1687, and professed in 1716. In the Fottrell Papers (*F.P.* p. 26) he appears as "Present Prior" of Arklow between 1734 and 1739. Some time later he went to Aghaboe, where he was Prior when De Burgo visited that convent in 1756. From there he seems to have gone to Kilkenny c. 1760. He died there between 1761 and 1765. (*ACP*, 1765. *Obits.*). The Fottrell Papers also note (*F.P.* p. 27) in an undated list of addresses not later than 1739 that "Mr. Williams lives at Ballinabarny near Ballinderry, within 7 miles of Wicklow at Mountain Side".

DERMOT WALSH, O.P.

Succession Lists of Parish Priests

in the Archdiocese of Dublin, 1771-1963 (*continued*).

W. M. O'RIORDAN

COUNTY DUBLIN

NORTH FINGAL

PARISH OF BALROTHERY AND BALSCADDEN

In 1771	Pat Fay	To St. James', 1777
1777	Francis Mooney	
1796	John B. Hamilton	To St. James', 1804
1804 (18th July)	John Grace	Resigned
1804 (25th July)	John Smith, O.P.	? Retired, 1827
1828	John Smith, Jnr.	To St. James', 1851
1851	Charles O'Connell	To Sandyford, 1860
1860	Matthew Keogh	+1898
1898	Patrick Fee	To St. James', 1902
1902	James Brannan	+1907
1907	Eugene Byrne	+1924
1924	Joseph Hickey	+1952
1952	Patrick O'Flynn	

Note : Dr. Donnelly, when writing of this parish, treats John Smith, O.P. and John Smith Junior as one person. He thus credits Fr. John Smith Senior with a reign of 47 years as parish priest.

PARISH OF SKERRIES

In 1771	Patrick Grace	+1792
1792	Patrick Hoey	+1819
1819	John Fitzharris	+1820
1820	Edward Foster	+1827
1827	Michael Murray	+1834
1834	John Molloy	To Garristown, 1839
1839	Charles Boyle	+1853
1853	Timothy Farrell	+1861
1862	Thomas Green	+1871
1871	Arthur Doran	+1880
1881	James Walsh	+1899
1900	Thomas Dolan	+1918
1918	Philip Ryan	+1932
1932	William Meighan	+1935
1935	Patrick O'Gorman	+1949
1949 February	Patrick McAuliffe	+1949 March
1949 March	Richard J. Casey	+1960
1960	John Masterson	+1961
1961	Pierce J. Perkins	

Note : In one of the Parochial Registers in Skerries there is a list of the names of the parish priests from 1728 to 1880. Fr. Pat Grace is stated to have died on 2nd February, 1793, aged 72, and to have been P.P. for 25 years. In the Diocesan Archives, Dr. Troy gives 1792 as the date of Fr. Grace's death.



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