

The Inquest

The inquest was presided over by Mr M E Cassen, Solicitor and Coroner, Rathkeale.

Dr J McGrath, State Pathologist, stated that assisted by Dr Fitzgibbon, he performed a post mortem on the body: it was fully clothed, including an overcoat, but there was no headress; there was a large ragged opening through the garments on the right side; beneath this there was a ragged, gaping wound in the body; it was situated on the back of the right side, and was $12\frac{1}{2}$ inch-a below the level of the shoulder; this wound was oval and was $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and was oblique. Having described the injuries to the organs of the body, Dr McGrath said there was considerable haemorrhage; there were three separate wads recovered from the wound within the anterior abdominal wall; there were many pellets scattered widely in the body; the other organs were normal; death, in his opinion and that of Dr Fitzgibbon, was due to shock and haemorrhage, following a gunshot wound; the gun had been discharged at close range.

Father Rea gave evidence of identification and said that he last saw Father Casey alive at 11.30 on Sunday morning. That night he saw him lying dead on the foot-path at the side of his house.

The Coroner, foreman of the jury and Supt Cooney expressed sympathy with the relatives.

The tragedy has caused a deep gloom over the district. Shops and other business premises were shuttered on Monday, and the blinds were drawn in private houses.

The remains of Father Casey were removed from the Parochial house to the parish church. A large number of people lined the streets as the cortege passed and the church was packed while the prayers were being recited.

Father Rea received the remains in the church. In the sanctuary were Very Rev D Fitzgerald, P.P., Kilcolman; Very Rev M Ryan, P.P., Ballynahill; Very Rev W J Carroll, P.P., Glin; Very Rev P Lynch, P.P., Kilmoran; Very Rev D O'Donnell, P.P., Cappagh; Rev T Kennedy, Maynooth Mission to China, Daigan Park; Rev Wm McDonnell, O.C., Pallaskeyry; Rev J Wilmot O.C., Adare; Rev J Connors, O.C., Ballynahill; Rev W O'Connell, O.C., Coolsappagh; Rev E Boulton, O.C., Ardagh.

Born in Ardpatrick in 1876, Father Casey was educated in St Munchin's College, Limerick, and in Maynooth, where he was ordained in 1900. He ministered for a time in Liverpool, and following his recall to his native diocese he was curate in St Munchin's (Limerick), Ballynahill, Axtanton, Baginbun and C.lemahoe. About 20 years ago he was appointed Parish Priest of Ballynahill and was transferred to Axtanton in 1920.

The interment took place in the church grounds after Solemn Office and Requiem High Mass to-day.