

POPULAR PRIESTS

Bereaved By Recent Death

RATHKEALE LADY PASSES AWAY

Two deservedly very popular priests of the Limerick Diocese—Rev. W. O'Grady, C.C., St. John's, and Rev. M. O'Grady, C.C., Newcastle West are bereaved by the death of their mother, Mrs. Norah O'Grady, Rathkeale, who passed away on Sunday last. The deceased, who was wife of the late John M. O'Grady, a prominent and highly-respected Rathkeale merchant, who passed away some years ago, was a lady of great refinement and charm of manner. She was a member of a widely esteemed family, being a daughter of the late William Costelloe, who was one of the best and most favourably known auctioneers in Munster many years ago. Of a very kindly, sociable and charitable disposition, she was a great friend of the poor and was never happier than when doing a kindly act for someone who needed it. Her demise is deeply regretted not only by her immediate relatives but by numerous friends and acquaintances all over the county.

THE OBSEQUES

The remains, followed by a great concourse of people, were removed on Sunday evening to St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, where Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of her soul was offered up on Monday. Right Rev. Archbishop Hannan, P.P., presided at the Mass. The officiating clergy were: Celebrant, Rev. M. O'Grady, C.C.; deacon, Rev. W. O'Grady, C.C.; sub-deacon, Rev. D. Wall, C.C.; master of ceremonies, Rev. W. Creed, C.C.; chanters, Very Rev. W. Hartly, P.P.; V.C., Rev. Dr. Cowper, P.P. In the choir were the following priests: Very Rev. C. Canon McGrath, P.P.; Very Rev. M. Canon Munday, P.P.; Very Rev. M. Canon Wall, P.P.; Very Rev. J. Canon Wall, P.P.; Very Rev. D. Fitzgerald, P.P.; Very Rev. M. O'Brien, P.P.; Very Rev. P. Ruddle, P.P.; Very Rev. R. Donworth, P.P.; Very Rev. H. O'Connor, P.P.; Very Rev. M. Ryan, P.P.; Very Rev. P. Lynch, P.P.; Very Rev. P. Lyons, P.P.; Very Rev. M. Quinn, P.P.; Very Rev. D. O'Donnell, P.P.; Very Rev. C. Moriarty, P.P.; Very Rev. D. Martin, President, St. Munchin's College; Very Rev. J. White, Adm., St. Michael's; Very Rev. O'Callaghan, Bishop's Secretary; Very Rev. Father McDonnell, C.S.S.R.; Rector; Very Rev. Father O'Connor, C.S.S.R.; Very Rev. T. O'Connor, S.C.; Rector; Very Rev. C. Greig, S.C.; Rev. D. O'Callaghan, C.C.; Rev. W. Boyce, C.C.; Rev. T. Costelloe, C.C.; Rev. D. Costelloe, C.C.; Rev. M. McCarthy, C.C.; Rev. J. Lyons, C.C.; Rev. J. Wilmot, C.C.; Rev. J. Halpin, C.C.; Rev. W. McDonnell, C.C.; Rev. T. Cusack, C.C.; Rev. R. O'Sullivan, C.C.; Rev. J. Kennedy, C.C.; Rev. M. Minihana, C.C.; Rev. M. Kelly, C.C.; Rev. D. Roe, C.C.; Rev. J. Liston, C.C.; Rev. J. Godfrey, C.C.; Rev. J. Cullane, C.C.; Rev. M. Conolly, C.C.; Rev. J. Chawke, C.C.; Rev. D. O'Keefe, C.C.; Rev. J. O'Connor, C.C.; Rev. W. O'Connell, C.C.; Rev. G. Enright, C.C.; Rev. T. Lyons, C.C.; Rev. J. Moran, C.C.; Rev. J. O'Donnell, C.C.; Rev. J. Casey, C.C.; Rev. P. O'Regan, C.C.; Rev. H. Tynan, D.L.; Rev. H. Fee, C.C.; Rev. G. Ryan, C.C.; Rev. G. Griffin, C.C.

The chief mourners were: Rev. M. O'Grady, C.C., Newcastle West; Rev. W. O'Grady, C.C., St. John's, Limerick; T. M. O'Grady, Dental Surgeon, Dublin (sons); Mrs. May Geary (daughter); Mr. M. J. Geary (son-in-law); Pat and Tony Geary (grandchildren); Rev. Mother Angela, Mohill (sister); Miss Celia Costelloe, Hove, Sussex (niece); W. P. Costelloe, M. and L. Bank, Dublin; T. M. Costelloe, solicitor, Dublin; W. J. Costelloe, Rathkeale (nephews); Miss B. V. Russell (cousin).

NEWCASTLE WEST REGRET

Newcastle West parishioners learned with very sincere regret of the death of Mrs. J. M. O'Grady, Rathkeale, mother of Rev. M. O'Grady, C.C., Newcastle West (writes our Newcastle West correspondent). Deceased lady was widow of the late Mr. John M. O'Grady, who was associated with the business life of Newcastle West for a number of years before he established a very successful business in Rathkeale. Since he came to the town as Curate several years ago, Father O'Grady has won the highest confidence, esteem and respect of all sections of the community. As Spiritual Director of the Confraternity of the Holy Family, he has maintained with increasing strength and membership the best traditions of the Sodality in the town. He has also taken an active and progressive interest in the local branch of the Irish Red-Cross Society, of which he is chairman, and in the work of the Parish Council, as well as other movements intended for the welfare of the town. All sections of the townspeople will join in tendering their heartfelt sympathy to Father O'Grady, and to the other members of the bereaved family, including Rev. W. O'Grady, C.C., Limerick; Mrs. M. Geary, Rathkeale, and Mr. O'Grady, L.D.S., Dublin. Large and representative numbers of Newcastle West parishioners were represented at the funeral of the late Mrs. O'Grady to Rathkeale Cemetery, on Monday.

Gael Called to Garda Force

His many friends in the locality writes our Dromcollogher correspondent will join in congratulating Mr. Thomas Broderick, Church Street, Dromcollogher, who, having been highly placed at a recent examination for entrance to the Garda Síochána, has been called to the Depot. He was treasurer and a prominent player in the local hurling team and was also an active member of the local L.D.F. unit.

Dromcollogher Billiards Tournament

The following are recent results in the second round of the billiards tournament promoted by the Dromcollogher Social Club—N. O'Farrell beat J. O'Farrell (186); D. Condon beat N. Russell (196); D. Lenthin beat J. Scully (137); E. Nunan beat J. Egan (99). In the first round, N. O'Farrell beat J. O'Farrell (186); D. Condon beat N. Russell (196); D. Lenthin beat J. Scully (137); E. Nunan beat J. Egan (99).

COUNTY'S BIG "PROBLEM"

Question Of Fire Fighting Service

PROPOSED USE OF CITY BRIGADE

Decision Shelved For Second Time

Even at the second attempt, the Limerick County Council, at their meeting on Saturday, Mr. Martin O'Dwyer, chairman, presiding, failed to reach a decision as to whether the services of the City Fire Brigade should be availed of in the event of conflagrations in the county area.

The County Manager (Mr. P. J. Meghen, B.E.) submitted a fire-fighting scheme for the whole county at an annual cost of £1,500. This included a charge of £800 for the City Brigade, which is a whole-time permanent unit. After a prolonged discussion-it was decided to defer the whole question for a month.

An interesting discussion took place at the meeting of the Limerick County Council, on Saturday, Mr. M. O'Dwyer, Chairman, presiding, on the question of providing an efficient fire-fighting service for the county.

In connection with this matter, the County Manager (Mr. P. J. Meghen, B.E.) submitted the following report:

"I have circulated the minutes of the special committee meeting, which was held to consider the question of the fire-fighting arrangements for the county, and you will have observed that there was a certain divergence of opinion at the meeting as to the best solution of the problem. I was asked to re-examine the scheme to see whether economies might not be effected in the outline scheme prepared by Captain Diskin.

"I have since had an opportunity of discussing the question with the City Manager and with Captain Diskin, and am putting forward today a modified proposal.

THREE SUB-STATIONS

"This would involve the maintenance of three sub-stations, i.e., Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Kilmallock or Killmone. Each of these would be responsible for its own area. This would only involve the addition of a trailer pump to the Rathkeale equipment, the purchase of a towing vehicle for Newcastle West, and the purchase of a towing vehicle for the third centre, the pumps to be obtained from the Department.

"I suggest that an annual sum be paid to the Limerick Corporation for the use of their fire brigade in the balance of the district—that is the former Limerick Rural District the former Tipperary No. 2 District, and portion of Kilmallock and Croom Rural areas. The area would extend from Castleconnell to Doon, Oola, Hospital, Bruff, Croom, Adare and to the Shannon near Pallaskey. I have shown this area in the attached map. In view of the risks involved, I suggest that you offer the Corporation the sum of £800 per annum. The City Manager and Captain Diskin do not believe that this amount is adequate for the work, but I feel that it may be possible for the city to arrange a contribution from the County Council also, and in this way meet their additional costs.

HOW COSTS WOULD WORK OUT

"Compared with the full scheme suggested by Captain Diskin, the costs of the amended scheme would work out as follows:

"Capital expenditure, £1,500, or say, £200 per annum; payment of staff, £500 per annum; Contribution to Corporation, £800 per annum; estimated cost, £1,500 per annum.

"I believe that the Council should agree to the organisation of the scheme on these lines. In a circular letter issued on 15th June, 1945, the Minister for Local Government and Public Health drew attention to the need for better fire-fighting services. He said: 'The adoption of more comprehensive measures in many areas is essential. There have been serious losses caused by fires due to the absence of adequate fire-fighting arrangements and the Minister desires to impress on local authorities the necessity of making the fullest possible provision for fire-fighting. It is important to avoid any tendency to regard the risk of fire as negligible in areas where no serious loss of life or property has occurred for a considerable time.' 'Steps should be taken to review the adequacy of the existing arrangements in respect of personnel, equipment and organisation and to submit particulars thereof to this Department, with the measures deemed necessary, to place the arrangements on a more efficient footing. The organisation of schemes will necessarily vary according to local conditions, but the general character of a comprehensive scheme should be such as to ensure prompt and efficient action in the event of fire. It is to be clearly understood that the local authority are responsible for the conduct of their Fire Brigade and for the fire-fighting standards which they adopt and maintain.

THE CITY PERMANENT STAFF

"In view of the importance of this matter I do not believe that the present suggestion is unreasonable. To enter into this agreement, the city will require to increase the permanent staff and to take the responsibility for the fire risks in the many towns and villages included in the area and in the thickly built suburban area of the city. The other areas will have the comfort of knowing that the resources of the City Brigade will be at their call to supplement their own Brigades if a fire is serious. Important main roads radiate from the city to all corners of the county and there would appear to be no doubt that in these days of motor transport, the proper scheme is to develop the central brigade so that it can efficiently serve all the adjoining areas.

The Chairman asked the Manager would the City Brigade be available in the event of a serious conflagration in any part of the county.

Manager—Yes. Mr. Hayes said that he would like to see more sub-stations in the county. He did not like the idea of doing away with sub-stations in different areas.

Mr. McCarthy said that in the original scheme it was proposed to have a sub-station at Abbeyfeale. That was now done away with; Abbeyfeale was an important centre. The Manager said that it was the feeling of the Council at the last meeting that the estimated cost of the fire-fighting service was too high. In order to reduce the cost

he had reduced the number of sub-stations.

IN FAVOUR OF EXCLUSIVE COUNTY BRIGADE

Senator Madden said that he was in favour of the Manager's exclusive fire-fighting service for the county, free from any outside help. They should be quite capable of having an efficient County Fire Brigade without having to link up with the City. Rathkeale was as important to any part of the county as was the city and with sub-stations at different points they could have a first class fire-fighting unit. The Manager's original scheme was estimated to cost £1,500 per annum, but as a result of the Council's decision the high estimate had not yet been reached. Another estimate, estimated to cost £1,500 that sum included a charge of £800 in respect of the City Brigade. He thought that if extra sub-stations were set up, and provision made for a day and night crew at Rathkeale, the cost of the City Brigade, they would have no need for the services of the City Brigade. The cost proposed to be given to the City Brigade would more than give an increased remaining fee to the part-time fire fighters. These men were getting a miserable pittance of £5 per year; that could be increased to £10 per year. If that were done they would have an excellent service for about £1,200 per year. He proposed that a Central Fire Brigade be set up at Rathkeale, with a sub-station at Newcastle West and another in East Limerick, with sub-stations at different strategic points.

Mr. Barrett said that Newcastle West was only six miles from Rathkeale. If they were going to have a County Fire Brigade the county should be divided up properly.

ACT OF HEROISM

Recalled By Recent Death

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CANON ABBOTT

The following interesting tribute to the late Canon Abbott was written by Mr. Patrick Conway, N.T., Askeaton.

The news of the death of Canon Abbott, which appeared in the "Irish Times" of May the 9th, 1946, was read with deep and sincere sorrow by the old inhabitants of Askeaton, where himself and Mrs. Abbott were deeply and deservedly respected, owing to their many acts of charity and kindness to the poor of the town.

On a cold frosty morning on May the 9th, 1918, two brothers, Con and Tom McMahon, were coming up the river Deel with a gondola of seaweed. A strong tide was flowing against them, and the older boy, Tom, fell off the seaweed into the tide. Con was unable to do anything to rescue him. A large number of young men came to the scene and were also unable to help in his rescue. The Rev. Canon, cycling across the bridge, turned down the quay with great speed, and in a minute arrived at the scene of the accident. The Rev. Father Reidy, P.P., was on the opposite side of the river with the crowd, and was amazed to see the brave young clergyman dive off a cliff into the water, without divesting himself of even his coat. He was a splendid swimmer, and his first dive took him some time before he again came to the surface. He dived repeatedly, and after some time Father Reidy begged him to give up the attempt. Canon Abbott returned to the river bank, and to the astonishment of the onlookers he dived again into the tide. The bed of the river at that particular spot was strewn with large boulders of rocks. Father Reidy then prevailed upon him to give up the attempt and save his own life.

The brave and heroic Canon walked to his residence, half a mile distant, with great regret that he was not on the scene of the accident a few minutes earlier. A large number of the seaweed workers went to his residence to thank him for his brave and heroic act, but the Canon expressed his regret at the sad occurrence, and replied in his usual gentlemanly manner—"I simply did my duty."

DEATH OF M.O.

Dr. James C. Murphy, Dispensary Medical Officer of Toomevara, Co. Tipperary, died suddenly at his home on Friday morning. Deceased, who leaves a widow and son, was 16 years in Toomevara. He served in the war of 1914-18.

There was no water service to farmyards. Mr. O'Donnell agreed and said that towns and villages should organise their own fire-fighting services.

Mr. Dore again proposed the adoption of the Manager's scheme. Mr. McCarthy seconded.

Mr. McNamara proposed that further consideration be adjourned for a month. The question was a very big one and no harm would be done by a little delay.

UNWISE TO IGNORE CITY BRIGADE

The Chairman said that the Council would be unwise not to avail of the City Brigade. No reason was shown why the City Brigade should be ignored. Farmhouses would benefit from the scheme, as the use of trailer pumps made it possible to use small streams.

The Manager said that the proposed scheme would provide a good service at a small cost. The farming community would derive benefit from the scheme, inasmuch as trailer pumps could be carried over fields.

Mr. Dore—Captain Diskin told us that his hoses could cover a distance of half a mile.

Manager—That is so. The agricultural community may not derive as much benefit as town dwellers, but, then, the agricultural community does not pay as high rates as town dwellers.

Dr. McPolin, replying to Mr. Dore, said that the population of the built-up area around the city was between 12,000 and 15,000.

Mr. Dore said that it would be absurd to leave such a populous area, and which was highly valued, at the mercy of a part-time Fire Brigade.

Manager—We must have an arrangement with the Corporation.

Mr. Dore—We should also make special provision for our public institutions.

SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Dore proceeded to say that the County Council had a serious responsibility in the matter of providing adequate measures to combat fires. If they were not prepared to do that a Commissioner would do it for them. Nothing could be more ridiculous than to have a Fire Brigade from the county pass through one part of the city in order to extinguish a fire in a suburban area, while the City Brigade was on the spot.

Mr. Barrett said that people in county towns would feel more assured if they knew that the city brigade would be at their disposal in an emergency.

Chairman—To say the least, it would be foolish to turn down such an essential service.

GROUNDLESS ARGUMENT

Manager—There is nothing in the argument that if we availed of the City Brigade it would mean that the Corporation would have a case to extend the Borough Boundary. The Corporation would have a much bigger case if we left the suburbs without an effective fire-fighting machine. The Cork Corporation has an arrangement with the Cork County Council for the use of the City Brigade, and I'm sure the members of the Cork County Council are as jealous as we are to preserve their territory. The Cork Brigade comes as far north as Charleville. The Cork County Council makes a contribution of £2,000 a year for the use of the City Brigade. I have suggested that we give a contribution of £800 per year to the Limerick Brigade. The City Manager says that is not enough—£1,000—but I think the Corporation will also be making an arrangement with the Clare County Council, and in that way the Corporation might make up the deficiency.

Mr. Dore said that he had no objection to having the question adjourned for a month, if that was going to do any good.

It was accordingly decided to adjourn further consideration of the Manager's recommendations for a month.

GARDENING

The Rains Came

Everyone connected in anyway with the land will thank God for the rain that fell during this week. Not only have we had an extraordinarily long spell of dry weather, but the drying cold winds of the last two months were anything but congenial to robust plant growth. In addition to retarding plant growth, this type of weather appears to be conducive to insect pest propagation, and greenfly, etc., were reported in quantity from every quarter. Plant life of every description was not only retarded by the drought but stunted and devoured by the insect pests, and crops such as turnips, young cabbages, etc., were disappearing everywhere.

Many seeds sown a month ago were only now beginning to germinate, and even big seeds such as peas were being muffled in the ground by the heat and the drought. From several quarters I have heard of maincrop potato sets becoming soft and jelly-like in the ground, and only for the rain such crops as hay, cereals and turnips would have certainly been ruined.

The blessed rain, however, has arrived, and already there is a great change over the land. The insect pests are not so plentiful, and the natural beautiful green is coming back into all plant life.

The dry weather brought on by way of retarding weed growth, and it allowed us all to get our land clean, but this enemy is already at our door again, for there are millions of seeds of those pests germinating rapidly now, and if the wet weather lasts for one week they will soon overtake and smother the crops. So keep an eye out for the first dry spell again, and get busy with the hoe to kill these weeds when in their babyhood and not when they have grown up and done damage.

THE ONION CROP

Reports of bad germination of onions are prevalent, but I have seen some of the plots that I was supposed to have failed, and I was glad to be able to tell the owners that although the germination was thin, it was quite sufficient. As a matter of fact, most people sow their onion seed far too thickly, and then there is much waste, and time lost in thinning.

Now is a good time, while the soil is soft and moist, to go through the early sown crops such as parsnips and onions to thin and weed at the same time. Use a piece of stick sharpened like a pencil or a long nail will do, and prick the soil between the onions in the row as the thinning is done. Two inches is sufficient at first to leave between the seedlings, and after a week the onions could get their final thinning to 4 inches apart, and the parsnips to 5 inches. I have often left the onions at 2 inches apart and this has resulted in nice-sized long-keeping bulbs. It is a bad thing to get the onions to grow too big, as they will not keep so well as the small ones.

CABBAGES

While the soil is moist, get in a batch of spring sown cabbage. "Greyhound" is one of the best varieties, and should be planted at 18 inches apart each way. It is also time now to plant out early Brussels Sprouts, and second-early cauliflowers.

All cabbages should be planted in well dunged ground. The cauliflowers should be spaced at 18 inches apart each way and planted in firm soil, but the Brussels Sprouts should have at least two feet between the plants, and 2 feet 6 inches between the rows, and they should be planted in very firm soil. I have often grown them successfully when I had to plant them with a crowbar, the soil was so hard.

Good varieties of cauliflower for planting now are All the Year Round, Snowball and Autumn Giant. Scrimmer's Giant and Fild Basket are two good varieties of Brussels Sprouts.

Brussels Sprouts require extra feeding and a dressing of superphosphate or bone-meal should be worked into the surface soil before planting.

Shallots and potato onions have become brown at the tips lately, because of the dry weather, but they will recover now that the rain has come in time. Scrape away a little of the soil around their bases to help the bulbs to swell up. Watch out for the mildew specimens, those with the grey on the foliage and pull and burn them.

As soon as the surface dries, sow another batch of French beans and the main batch of runner beans. Also make another sowing of peas, lettuce and turnips, and sow the main crop carrots, and beetroot next week at the latest. Chantenay is one of the best varieties of carrots to sow now, and the Crimson Globe type of beet root is the most popular sort.

Autumn sown broad beans are now in season, and I would recommend again that these be cooked in the pods in the same manner as French beans. They are delicious when cooked this way, and there is no waste. The pods, however, should be collected before they get old.

Spring sown broad beans are now in full flower. See that the tops are pinched out before the black fly appears.

POTATOES

Maincrop potatoes are now ready for earthing. Before drawing the soil up to them, pull it all down from between the plants, and then draw it up again putting up as much as possible with this final earthing. I use a draw hoe and not a shovel or spade for this operation. If your soil is as fine as it should be for potatoes, you will find the draw hoe a much easier tool to work than the shovel or spade. Try it.

Vegetable marrows and outdoor tomato plants should now be got into their final quarters.

For marrows dig holes about 6 feet apart each way, place a couple of forkfuls of decayed manure in each hole and cover over with the soil taken out, and plant one marrow at each station. Water thoroughly and cover with glass or some other protection for a while, especially at night, or when strong cold winds are blowing, and until the plants are established. Then uncover and keep watered as often as possible.

The "bush" type of marrow when obtainable, and it does not appear to be on the market at present, is very suitable for small gardens, and they can be planted at 3 to 4 feet apart.

Outdoor tomatoes should be planted against a south wall if possible, and the ground should be deeply dug and well manured with semi-decayed stable manure. They should be planted at 18 inches apart. Failing a wall, one could make an artificial wall with boards or corrugated iron, say about five feet high, and the plants could be planted on the south side of this. Of course, they can be grown fairly successfully in a sunny posi-