



*Grateful  
to  
God*  Photographs courtesy of  
Mike Kinsella

Previous Sanctuary Furniture was made by  
Paddy Heffernan, Sean McDonnell, Gerry Gallagher,  
Michael Callaghan, Martin Flanagan Jnr

**In Grateful appreciation to the Belmullet  
Sisters of Mercy**  
Sr. Mary Lou Haverty, Sr Perpetua Hynes,  
Sr Bernie Hoban & Sr Canice Burns  
Who gifted the New Sanctuary Furnishings  
to our Church.

# Our Lady's Kilmurry Re-Dedication

15th October 2017



Dear Friends,

I welcome the opportunity to congratulate you and wish you well as we mark the Re-dedication of the restored Church of Our Lady, Kilmurry.

Today, we remember the past, thank God for it and ask Him to bless the future. But this church is not just a monument to the past, to the generosity of your parents, grandparents and yourselves. This Church has a central role to play in the life of this community for the future. This is still the place each of you can come to, to join your community in worship of God, to celebrate your joys and share your sorrows. It is also the place where each one of you can leave aside the bustle of modern life and find a stillness where, in the quietness of your own soul, you can come close to God, discover the depths of your faith and allow God to speak to your heart. Then, from this place and from this quiet space you can return to the bustle of life “knowledgeable, and with, what the Achill poet, John Deane, described in his poem Riverdown, the feeling of “something achieved”.

I am delighted to see the Oratory of the Sisters of Mercy, Belmullet, rehoused in Kilmurry. This Sanctuary will always stand as a reminder of the generosity of the Sisters and the heroic nature of their work in this diocese.

Once again, I thank all of you for all that you have done and continue to do for the Church of Our Lady, Kilmurry.

+ John,

Bishop of Killala.

In 1866, when this church began to go past repairing, plans were made for the building of a new church to the right of the road leading to the present church and materials were collected. Difficulties arose about the proposed site, and it was decided to build in the graveyard instead as a temporary measure. The roof of this latter church proved to have been so well constructed that it was then decided to make it the permanent one. I understand that there were burials beneath the floor before this site was chosen.

To the right of the pathway leading to the church, at what was then the gate-way is to be seen a stone marker engraved “Kilmurray, 1886”. Father Patrick McHugh, who died on 23/09/1899, aged 44, and is buried in the church, never served in the parish. He was a native of Glenavenue, and was ordained in Maynooth on 30/05/1871. He had been curate in Binghamstown, Ballycastle, Addergoole and Bangor before going as curate to Enniscrone in 1881, where he remained until his death.



**Extract from *The Parishes in the Diocese of Killala*  
by Rt. Rev. E.MacHale, P.P., V.G. Killala**

**KILMURRY**

The O.S. Letters speak of the ruins of an old church at Kilmurry More. The map shows it to be situated roughly in line with the entrance door of the porch of the present church as one stands facing outwards. In the hollow was to be seen a clump of stones with ash and bore-trees growing among them. Among these stones were to be seen the carved blocks which formed the doorway of this medieval church. These cut-stones ought to be preserved and re-erected outside the present church if all of them can be found. The carved angle's head, which now forms the apex of the date-stone for the present church, was dug up some years ago during grave-making near the ruins just mentioned. The date-stone in question is now located to the right of the roadway, and near the old entrance gate.

Between the decay of this medieval church and the year 1775 there may have been Mass-sites in the area, but I do not know where they were located or if they existed. In 1775 a church for Kilmurry was built at a cost of £50. It was located along the main road to Crossmolina near the present Curate's Residence, but closer to the cross-roads. Recently, through the kindness of Fr. Kevin Hegarty, I came across the following reference to this church in a letter written by Fr Edward Murray, who was in Crossmolina at the time, to Bishop O'Finan on 26/09/1837: - "... We are repairing the chapel of Kilmurry. We formed a Committee for that purpose three weeks ago. The walls are now prepared for roofing".

**KILMURRY CHURCH - Re-Dedication -  
15th October 2017**

This newly refurbished church is a tribute to the faith of the people of this parish and, particularly, to the people of Kilmurry. Its refurbishment is also a challenge to a new generation of young parents to hand on the Catholic faith to their children.

What makes this building important in the life of this parish is that the faith community or Church is built on the foundation of God's word, on the sacraments and on the ministry of charity, represented both by the ministry of the priest's who served here and the solidarity and support of parishioners for each other. Within this church, the assembled people will be nourished in faith, hope and charity. This parish has a strong community of faith over the generations.

It's a great delight, it's a great privilege for us to be with you on this very special occasion in the life of your church. As we gather in this beautiful building we express our confidence that God gives us a future with him; that we are able to begin again to raise up on old foundations new signs of hope. And this afternoon as we re-dedicate this church to God's service, we re-dedicate ourselves also, praying that on the foundation of his love God will continue to build in us , new lives, new hope, and new promise.

With every  
blessing

*Fr Francis*

*Fr Gabriel*



## Sanctuary Furnishings

### The Altar

The Altar is the symbol of Christ in the worship space.

“The Altar must be pre-eminent in every respect: in its location as the focal point of the assembly; in the quality of its material; in the beauty and skill of its design and workmanship, and in the manner in which it expresses the sacred mysteries.” (*The Place of Worship, 14.5*)



The Altar, crafted in American Red Oak, is 30 inches square. The Mensa is 7.5 inches in depth and the Altar weighs 23 stone.

It is beautifully made and stands as a noble symbol of Jesus Christ in this intimate place of worship.

### The Ambo

The Ambo is “the table of the bread of the word, just as the altar is the table of the bread of the Eucharist.

When the scriptures are proclaimed in the liturgy, Christ himself is speaking to his faithful and they are celebrating his presence in the word”. (*The Place of Worship, 13.2*)



The Ambo is flanked by two candles, honouring the presence of Christ in the proclaimed word.

### The Tabernacle

“The location of the tabernacle should reflect the indissoluble relationship between the reserved sacrament and the Mass itself. The arrangement should be such, however, that the tabernacle does not dominate the altar or obscure its distinctive sign value as the place of banquet/sacrifice. Nor should the presence in the tabernacle overshadow the different forms of Christ’s presence in the Mass, or obscure the way in which these gradually unfold: his presence in the assembled faithful, his presence in the word, his presence in the person of the presiding priest, and his presence substantially in the sacred species on the altar.” (*The Place of Worship, 16.9*)



“They recognised him at the breaking of bread.” (*Luke 24:35*)

God’s holy gifts for God’s holy people; draw near to receive them with praise and thanksgiving.

### The Baptismal Font

Fonts are often placed at or near the entrance to a church's nave to remind believers of their baptism as they enter the church to pray.

Baptism is the first of the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church.

It is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments.

“...God uses the sacrament of water to give his divine life to those who believe in him.”

