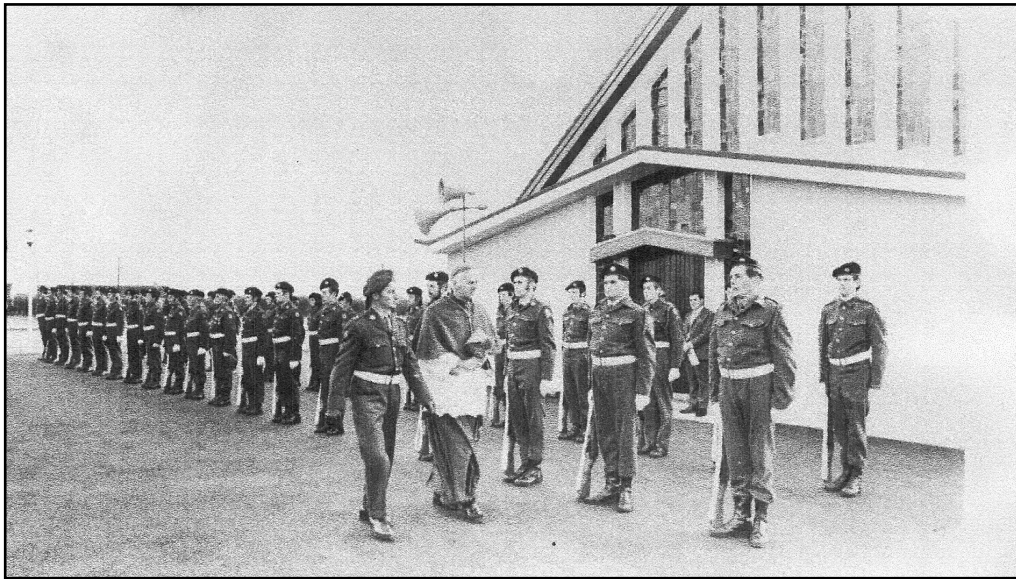


Celebrating Fifty years of Errill Church

1971-2021



In November 2021 we celebrate
the Fiftieth Anniversary
of the opening and dedication
of Our Lady Queen of the Universe Church in Errill.

To mark this Jubilee celebration we are planning a number of events over the next few months.

The easing of Covid restrictions allows us to plan knowing that we can accommodate greater numbers safely at both indoor and outdoor events.

The centre-piece of our celebrations is a Camino or walking pilgrimage over four stages.

Each of the four stages will be inspired by the routes and locations associated with the faith history of our community during the three centuries leading up to the building of the church in Errill village in 1971.

The First Stage of The Camino:

Errill to The Little Derries

Sunday 19th September 2021 at 3pm

Carrigan's History of The Diocese of Ossory states: *"During the Cromwellian oppression of Irish Catholics in the mid 17th century the celebration of Mass would have ceased altogether in the parish of Rathdowney were it not for some zealous priest, who braving all danger, took his stand in what may well be called 'his last ditch' and celebrated Mass for his people in the Little Derry, a small bog island very close*

to the bounds of Co. Tipperary. There was a small wooden structure set up here, but it's use was merely to shelter the rude altar. "

Our pilgrimage walk will begin at 3pm in the grounds of Errill church and progress on the two mile route on the Templemore road and then turning right at The Lea Bridge will travel through the bog to the little island site where mass was celebrated all those years ago.

On arrival at The Little Derries we will celebrate Mass before returning to Errill Village for refreshments.

The Second Stage of The Camino:

Graigueavallagh to Errill

Sunday 3rd October 2021 at 7am

Carrigan's History continues: *" When the persecution abated, the woodwork and altar were removed from the Little Derry and set up in a more central place, in the townland of Graigueavallagh. Tradition hands down that the work of removal was effected by staunch men named Maher, ancestors of the present Maher's of Coolkerry.*

The 'Chapel Pit' in Graigueavallagh, an old disused sandpit, then became the great Mass-Station for all of Rathdowney parish, and continued as such for about a hundred years.

It's title Chapel Pit may be regarded as a misnomer, in as much as the so-called "Chapel" can have been nothing more, at best of times, than a miserable shed."

With an early morning start, the second stage of the Camino leaves the site of the Chapel Pit in in Graigueavallagh through Kylemalawn and Borahan Lane, pausing for prayer at the monastic ruins of St. Kieran and the local cemetery, we arrive at Errill Church for a short service of Reconciliation and healing and the conclusion of the second stage of the Camino

The Third Stage of The Camino:

Graigueavallagh to Grogan:

Sunday October 10th at 9.30am

Carrigan's History continues: *" At length came the dawn of better days. Mr John Burke O'Flaherty, a Catholic gentleman, having acquired the fee-simple of the townland of Barney and Mount Oliver, made a free grant of an acre of land, in the latter, for the site of a chapel. This was about 1775.*

Fr. James Butler, the P.P. at once set about erecting a small temporary chapel on the new site. When the walls were built and roofing material could not be readily procured, the difficulty was solved by a number of strong men lifting off the roof of the 'chapel' in the Chapel Pit, bearing it bodily and intact on their shoulders, and placing it again in the same condition, on the bare walls of the new chapel. Such is the history of the foundation and completion of the first chapel in Grogan. This chapel was thrown down

and another built on its foundations in 1791 by Father Purcell PP.

The present chapel, the third on the same site, was built by Fr. Tracey PP in 1826, around and over its predecessor, which was only taken down when the new edifice had been roofed in."

The Fourth Stage of The Camino:

Grogan to Errill

Saturday 20th November at 12 Noon

The church built at Grogan in 1826 remained in use until 1971. In November 1971 the new church dedicated to Our Lady Queen of the Universe was opened in Errill village. The beautiful stained glass windows from Grogan are now to be found in two churches in County Kilkenny, The Rower and Glenmore. Two of the Grogan windows remain in the parish, one depicting St. Colmcille which is over the altar in Errill and another window dedicated to St. Virgilius (Fergal) is erected in the Religious Studies room of St. Fergal's College, Rathdowney.

For our fourth and final stage of the Camino we will gather for a short prayer in the grounds of Grogan church at 12 noon and then walk to Errill Church.

Later in the evening of Saturday 20th we will have a mass to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the church and this mass will be celebrated by Bishop Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Ossory.

Following the evening Mass there will be refreshments for everyone. We would particularly love to welcome those who were, baptised, received First Communion, Confirmation or were married in Errill during the last fifty years to come and join us for this celebration.

Further details from Fr. Martin at 0862444594 or the Parish Office in Rathdowney 050546282.