

Historical Gleanings
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The Church of the Most Holy Trinity
(Father Mathew's Church)

Put together by

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NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE CAPUCHINS OF CORK.

CHURCH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY.

The Church of the Holy Trinity, Charlotte Quay was commenced in October 1832. The Plan was given by a Mr. Payne, and the contracting architect was a Mr. Anthony. The foundation was very expensive as steam engines were employed to pump the water day and night. It is formed of inverted arches, pilings, etc., and cost nearly £1,600, before any portion of the Church was commenced.

The Contractor Mr. Anthony took the contract at too low a figure, (as he alleged) at the suggestion of Father Mathew, who privately guaranteed him against any loss. Mr. Payne had been engaged as Superintending architect at 5 per cent on the expenditure. This led to quarrels and a law suit between Mr. Payne and Father Mathew in which damages were given to Payne of £300 and costs.

Mr. Anthony failed and could not complete the contract, and afterwards Sir Thomas Deane and Co undertook the completion but only went so far as the roof of the Church.

The priests connected with the Capuchin Order in Cork at the commencement of the building were the Rev. Mr. O'Riordan, Rev. Mr. Power and the Rev. D. F. MacLeod and Father Mathew.

The rent of the Church is £80 per annum with right of reducing the same to £55 on payment of £500.

The sum of one thousand pounds was borrowed by Rev. Mr. Mathew from the Board of Works in 1837. £250 was repaid but the

remaining sum, amounting ^{with interest} to £1,300, was remitted by Government at the application of Wm Fagan M.P. backed up by others. Rev. T. Mathew got the letter of remission; it is dated March 31 1854.

In 1848 it was resolved to endeavour to complete and open the Church for Divine service. General collections were made through the City for that purpose.

The Rev. D.F. MacLeod, the Revs L.O'Riordan, G. Brennan, John O'Connell went through the city and succeeded in getting the names of those who had subscribed to a fund for a monument to Daniel O'Connell to agree that the whole fund should be given for a monumental Stained glass window. The trustees to the fund were Thomas Lyons, A.F. Roche and Daniel Murphy. The sum amounted to £320. The Window was erected by an Englishman; the stone frame cost £105 additional.

During the great excitement of the Temperance movement, Father Mathew was pressed from many parts of Ireland to allow the Church to be finished by subscriptions of Teetotalers, but would not allow the matter to be accomplished.

Father Mathew went to America May 22 1849, and returned to Cork Dec. 6 1851. He appointed Rev. John Murphy Vicar Provincial in his absence. He promised on leaving Ireland to send home money towards finishing the Church but did not send a farthing.

As far as my memory serves me at present, I think the Church cost to this present time (May 1854) over £16,000, an enormous sum. I calculate it as follows :

Anthony received	£13,000.
Sir Thomas Deane & Co.	1,000.
Since 1848 to various parties	<u>2,500.</u>
	£ 16,500.
 Collections made in 1854.	 500.

The heads from which the arch of the large entrance to the Church springs were cut by Hogan, the eminent Sculptor. He was paid £10 for them.

The original lease of the Church is registered in Dublin, as also its assignment by F. Mathew to Fathers O'Riordan, MacLeod, and Buckley.

It was dedicated to Divine worship Oct. 10 1850 by the Right Rev. Dr. Delany.

7 August 1850. The Stained glass window finished and put up in the new Church on Charlotte Quay. The full cost of this window was £525.

October 6th 1850, the 21st Sunday after Pentecost. On this Sunday the South Friary was finally closed and the New Church of the Most Holy Trinity was opened on the 10th October, being the Birthday of the Very Rev. Mr. Mathew. The consecrating Bishop was Right Rev. Dr. Delany, assisted by Right Rev. Dr. Murphy of Ross & Cloyne and the Right Rev. Dr. Walshe of Ossory. The opening Sermon was preached by Dr. O'Connell of Waterford. Admission was by Ticket at the following charges :

To the Nave. 5/-
 To the Eastern Aisle. 2/6.
 To the Western Aisle. 1/6.

The full amount on the above day was £72.

Guardian, The Rev. John O'Connell.

The Rev. T. Mathew made a legal assignment of the Church of the Holy Trinity to Rev. J. L. O'Riordan, Rev. D. F. Macleod and Rev. J. Buckley, by deed dated and signed May 4 1854.

MEMORANDA.

1856.

1. The Rent of the Church is £80.
2. Vespers and Benediction every Sunday at four o'clock.
3. Mrs. Keogh, Organist is paid £15 per annum.
4. High Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Benediction every day during the octave at ten o'clock Mass.
5. The Church, vestments, altar Plate, Gothic window are insured for £1325 at Evan's office S. Mall. The yearly payment is £3:6:8.
6. The Organ bought of Mr. J. S. Murphy cost £310.
7. Conferences commence the 2nd Tuesday in October and finish with the 2nd Tuesday in March.
8. The Chapel Rent is generally commenced to be collected about the 13 or 14th February.
9. There is an obligation on whatever Priests may hereafter

have possession of and serve in the Church of the Holy Trinity to celebrate annually one Mass for the repose of the souls of the following :

For Mr. and Mrs. James Roche, in February. £50 left for the purpose was expended on the Church. Those Roches were unconnected with the Banker.

10. For Mr. Thomas Devereux, in June. He was formerly painter and glazier. At his death there was due to him one hundred pounds for work done in the Church.

For Mr. and Mrs. William Cogan in October.

The above notes are contained in an Account Book of Cork Community, preserved in the Archives in Dublin.



The following article appeared in Battersby's Catholic Registry for 1851 :

p. 221. Father Mathew's Chapel in Cork.

In this noble building, which is nearly completed, there has been erected a most beautiful stained window over the altar. It is an ornament in keeping with the Church itself, and reflects the highest credit on the gentleman who has put it out of hands. The history of this window is :- A fund was collected in this city towards the raising of a national monument to the memory of O'Connell, about £350, and, in consequence of some circumstances it was ultimately decided by the committee, in whose hands it was,

that the money should be devoted to the erection in Father Mathew's Chapel of a monumental window. The execution of the task was entrusted to Mr. J. A. Gibbs, of London, who has accomplished it in a most felicitous manner. The window is illustrated with eight different scenes from the life and death of our Redeemer-- The Annunciation, the Adoration of the Wise Men, Christ disputing with the Doctors in the Temple, the Baptism of our Lord, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, the Ascension, and day of Pentecost--each subject being surrounded with an illuminated border of brilliant, but not gaudy colours. At the two openings below are the Virgin and the Redeemer, and above is a representation of the Trinity. The whole window has a most imposing effect and excites a reverential feeling in the spectator, carrying him back to the religious grandeur of the middle ages. At the right centre there is the head of St. Francis and the arms of the Order of Capuchins; and on the left below are the arms of the O'Connell, from which, across the base of the window, runs the following inscription in illuminated characters--"Sacred, in gratitude and affection, to the memory of Daniel O'Connell, the Liberator of his fellow Catholics from the Penal Code, and Assertor of the equal right of all communions to Civil and Religious Freedom.--R.I.P." This beautiful monument reflects equal credit on the skill of the artist and the good taste of the committee.
