

All Saints' Grangegorman

A Short Guide



All Saints' Church

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the parish church of All Saints', Grangegorman. The parish of Grangegorman was created in 1828 for the needs of an expanding Dublin. The church was constructed from designs by John Semple.¹ It was later remodelled by Thomas Drew between 1856 and 1889.² The interior, originally richly decorated with wall paintings, stained glass and stencilling was badly damaged by fire in 1966. An interim restoration after the fire was followed by that of 2001 under the present incumbent, Archdeacon David Pierpoint and, insofar as funds would permit, the interior was returned to its condition prior to the fire.

We hope that during your visit to this church you will sense something of the great crowd of witnesses who have worshipped here over the past 187 years and may your time here bring you a renewed sense of peace and a deepening experience of the presence of God.

All Saints and the Tractarian Movement.

All Saints occupies an unusual place in the life of the Church of Ireland. It was the first church within the Church of Ireland to participate in the Catholic Revival movement, later known as the Tractarian Movement. This movement emphasised the importance of the sacraments, the liturgy and the doctrine of the Church. John Keeble and John Henry Newman were among those who wrote a series of tracts (hence the term Tractarian) which sought to reemphasise the Patristic and Catholic nature of the Church. An emphasis on the holiness of the Church and sacramental worship has characterised the liturgy and preaching in All Saints ever since.

The Tractarian movement was an early influence on the life of the parish through the long tenure of a leading High-Church cleric, Dr William Maturin, Vicar from 1843 to 1887. Tractarianism inspired the various extensions which were added to the church including the chancel in 1856, the large North nave-aisle in 1867 and the baptistery in 1889.

¹ John Semple (1801–1882) was an Irish Architect who worked for the Board of First Fruits and designed such churches as Monkstown Church, Dublin and St. Marys Chapel of Ease, Dublin. He is noted for being ahead of his time in his style of architecture.

² Thomas Drew (1883–1910) became diocesan architect of the united dioceses of Down, Connor and Dromore in 1865, and from then on Church architecture was Drew's principal activity. He was consulting architect for both St. Patrick's Cathedral and Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin.

Dr Maturin weathered the vigorous attempts on the part of campaigning Low Church interests from outside the parish to dismantle the sacramental and devotional ethos of the church and the parish was dragged before the courts of the General Synod on charges of ritualism. His work was consolidated by his curate and later vicar Henry Hogan (1861 -1923) and during the long incumbency of Archdeacon Raymond Jenkins (1939-1976).

Dr Maturin introduced one of the first robed choirs in Ireland to All Saints'. The emphasis was on plainsong and the regular pattern of singing Matins, Evensong and the Holy Eucharist to ancient, yet simple chants. The tradition gradually died out in the 1980s but has been revived in recent years. Beauty of Holiness was sought not just in the costly enrichment of All Saints' but complemented by carefully ordered Eucharist's and Offices to the Gregorian music of plainsong which has remains an enduring inspiration. Today a choir of local people advance the work of devoted predecessors such as Victor Leeson, Organist from 1943 until 1987.

POINTS OF INTEREST

George Tyrrell Memorial

George Tyrrell was born in Dublin on 6 February 1861 and brought up as an Anglican. His father was a journalist who died shortly before George was born. Tyrrell grew up poor. He converted to Roman Catholicism in 1879 and joined the Jesuits in 1880. George Tyrrell was one of the most remarkable Jesuits that the English Province of the Society of Jesus has ever produced. He was a man of great pastoral sensitivity, widely sought after as a retreat giver, preacher, spiritual guide and confessor. He was also possessed of a keen intellect and deep insight into the nature and role of religion in life, amounting to what has been called 'religious genius'. By the late 19th century he had become, perhaps, the most important Catholic theologian in England.

By the time Tyrrell died in July 1909, at Storrington, West Sussex, he had been expelled from the Jesuits and excommunicated from the Church which, at times, he seemed to love and loathe in equal measure. He was refused Catholic burial.

As a Jesuit he wrote an essay entitled 'A Perverted Devotion' wherein he lampooned much of the Catholic attitude to hell. He believed that in some respects the idea of eternal punishment for sins sat uneasily with the idea of a God who took the suffering and sins of humanity upon himself so that

we might be saved. He thought that in some respects the Church's teaching on hell was both cruel and unjust. But perhaps the boldest statement of all was his assertion that a certain 'temperate agnosticism' about the prescriptions of Catholicism in matters such as hell was an essential prerequisite for intelligent faith.

The Great East Window

This window by Arthur Louis Moore an English stained glass maker was erected in 1894. The subject of the centre light is the Ascension, to the left the sacrifice of Abraham and to the right the serpent in the wilderness.

The window on the south side of the Sanctuary

This is the work of An Túr Gloine studio and executed by Catherine O'Brien.³ It is a memorial to the Reverend Joseph Bewley, Curate of All Saints' (1889-1921).

The War Memorial

Members of the parish who served in the Great War are recorded. Those in gold letters on a black background record the fallen. The central panel of enamel, gold, silver and precious stones is by Oswald Reeves and unique. It depicts a female figure emblematic of peace, bearing in each hand a crown of laurels as symbols of victory. The lettering is by George Atkinson and the metalwork by James Wallace and John Hunter. Directly behind this and on the outside of the church is an *opus sectile* panel by An Túr Gloine studio executed by Ethel Rhind, it depicts the Archangel Michael and is also a memorial to the Great War.⁴

The two windows on the South Side of the Choir

The Resurrection Morning is a memorial to the Misses Leech and the Anointing of Our Lord's feet by the woman with the alabaster jar of

³ An Túr Gloine was a cooperative studio for stained glass and *opus sectile* artists from 1903 until 1944.

⁴ *Opus sectile* is an art technique where materials are cut and inlaid into walls and floors to make a picture or pattern.

ointment is a memorial to Mrs Maturin, wife of the famous vicar. Both windows are by Arthur Louis Moore.

Windows in the South Aisle

(1) The Good Shepherd, erected to the memory of Thomas George Dudley, curate of All Saints' who died in 1861. The window was designed by James Edward Rogers and executed by James Powell & Sons.

(2) Ruth and Naomi, this is another specimen of the work of An Túr Gloine, by Catherine O'Brien. It commemorates the loving friendship of two sisters, May and Rachel Smyth, who died within a year of each other.

The Great West Window

This window in the baptistery is by Arthur Louis Moore and is a memorial to the Reverend Dr William Maturin. The Theme is the Sacrament of Baptism. This window is composed of three lights. The centre light depicts the ascended Christ reigning in glory and blessing his church. The left hand light has as its subject St Patrick baptising King Angus. The right hand light depicts the baptism of St Augustine by St Ambrose.

The Banner of the Guild of All Saints'

The Guild of All Saints' exists to support the work of the parish, in every way, and is not an alternative to it. It is a communicants' guild, intended to strengthen the devotional life of the people who are regular communicants, as most people are, who attend Church regularly. The Guild was founded in the days when there was a bitter controversy in Ireland over High Church matters, because All Saints was a Church under Tractarian influence. That meant that the life of the parish was regulated according to the calendar of the Book of Common Prayer, with due observance of the Church's round of feast days and fasting days, all listed in the small print at the front of the old prayer book. Not many people, then or now, paid much attention to the small print. But the High Church movement in All Saints was championed by Dr Maturin, a celebrity preacher in the days of celebrity preachers, and he intended the Guild to be a defence against those who opposed the Tractarian movement and to support those who sought to maintain it in the parish. The North Aisle was built to accommodate the crowds which came to hear him. The Baptistery is a memorial to his ministry. It's hard to believe now how hostile people were towards that form of service. In our

own day, there is more generosity and tolerance, and fewer people who believe that the Church service should be the same in every Church.

The Guild takes a supportive interest in all that the people of the parish do to support the work of the Church, and traditionally has a particular interest in the care of the Altar, the colours, the flowers and the proper preparation for services and sacraments. The Guild has a charitable role. The Treasurer will convey any donations he or she receives to the special fund which is disbursed by the Vicar for charitable purposes. The Guild has an interest in commemorating its deceased members, and traditionally has had a role in funeral arrangements and anniversaries. This has been very much the historic role of similar guilds and societies in other place and in other churches.

Worship

You are most welcome to join us for worship at any time in All Saints', we are an open and inclusive community who seek God's nearer presence in word and sacrament. All are welcome without question and invited to receive the sacrament. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at 11.30am. There is an evening service of Compline at 7:00 pm on the last Sunday of each month. All Saints' is part of the Christ Church Cathedral group of parishes along with her sister churches of St Michan's and St Werburgh's.

'The absolute priority of worship, the sacramental life, the call to strict discipline, the demand for intellectual integrity; the necessity for beauty; no matter how the outward trappings might alter from generation to generation, these elements are vital and essential. All else must perish, but they must remain'

Archdeacon Raymond Jenkins, 1898-1998, Vicar of All Saints 1939-1976

More information on the Christ Church Cathedral group of parishes is available online at

<http://www.stmichans.com/>

Parish Contact Information

Vicar:

The Archdeacon of Dublin
The Venerable David Pierpoint
The Vicarage
30 Phibsborough Road
Dublin 7
D07 Y9D3

Telephone: 830 4601

Curate:

The Reverend Abigail Sines
32 Shandon Drive
Phibsborough
Dublin D07 F9Y9

Telephone: 598 1915

Parish Administrator:

Mrs. Patricia Parfrey,
Parish Office,
St. Michan's Church,
Church Street,
Dublin 7
D07 XAC6

Telephone: 872 4154

Email: stmichan@eircom.net