

St Mary's Bicentenary 2028

Dedication Plaque, St. Mary's Parish Church.

This plaque in Latin is fixed to the wall at the top left-hand side of St. Mary's Parish Church, on the left of the confession box and underneath the stained-glass window. The translation which follows was written by the late Canon Dónal O'Connor, D. D. P.E. (11/1/1926 – 14/8/2026) in August 2009.

To God the Best and the Greatest.

This edifice is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the august Mother of God, assumed into heaven. It was built through the generosity of our forefathers, and the divine services were publicly celebrated in it for the first time on 27 March 1828.

After that it was furnished more than once through the generosity of the townspeople, and it was consecrated with due solemnity by Bernard, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore who inserted the relics of Anicetus and Hilary in the high altar on 21 September 1916.

John Power, Parish Priest placed (this Plaque) in 1921 to seal the memory of this most auspicious day.

Explanatory Notes.

Bernard Hackett, a native of Dungarvan and a Redemptorist priest was Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, 1916 – 1932.

Between 1828 and 1916 substantial renovation was carried out by a number of parish priests: Rev. James Vincent Cleary, D.D. PP Dungarvan 1876 – 1880 and later Archbishop of Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

V. Rev. P. Casey, PP (1888 – 1894). Work carried out by Mr. Creedon of Fermoy after plans by Mr. Ashlin.

John Power (Rt. Rev. Mgr.) PP VG. Dungarvan, 1902 – 1925.

Relics of St. Anicetus (Anacletus) and St. Hilary were inserted in the high altar.

Tuesday, 8th September: The Birthday of Our Lady.

In wishing Mary a 'Happy Birthday' we are giving thanks to her son. In fact, it is because she was the mother of Jesus, the Son of God and Saviour, that we rightly celebrate her birth and give thanks for her life. Mary herself said: 'Henceforth all ages will call me blessed'. She is indeed blessed because of her son. The best birthday present we can give Mary is to welcome Jesus into our lives each day and to do our best to do whatever he tells us, as Mary said at the wedding at Cana.

Parishes of

**St. Mary's, Dungarvan, An Rinn & Sean
Phobal, Kilgobinet, Colligan & Kilbrien.**

September 2026



Visit of the Relics of St. Therese of Lisieux/the Little Flower and her parents, Sts Zelie and Louis Martin to the Carmelite Monastery, Tallow (P51 CCPY), September 11th - 13th. This marks the 25th anniversary of the visit of the relics of St. Therese to Ireland in 2001. Zelie and Louis Martin were canonised by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square on October 18th 2015. They are the first couple to be canonised in the history of the Church.

September 11th.

4.30 p.m. Reception of the Relics by Most Rev. Alphonsus Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford & Lismore.

6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer of the Church.

7.00 - 9.00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Personal Prayer at the Relics followed by Night Prayer.

September 12th

10.00 a.m. 'Come as a Family' in the footsteps of Zelie and Louis Martin.

12.00 noon. Family Eucharist, 'The Family that prays together stays together'.

2.00 p.m. Prayer of Intercession for the Sick and Prayer for Health Care Professionals.

3.00 p.m. Anointing of the Sick.

4.45 p.m. Evening Prayer of the Church and Salve Regina.

7.00 - 9.00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Personal Prayer at the Relics. Concluding with Night Prayer.

Sunday 13th September

9.30 a.m. Eucharist. Rev. Fr Michael Melican.

10.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Keeping prayerful Vigil.

4.00 p.m. Come in Thanksgiving to our Eucharistic Mass of Farewell.

St. Teresa of Calcutta/Mother Teresa (26/8/1910 – 5/12/1997)

Feastday: 5th September.

St Teresa of Calcutta Anjeze Conxhe Bojaxhiu was born 26 August 1910 in Skopje, Albania (now North Macedonia) and at 18 years of age, came to Dublin to become a Sister of Loreto with the singular desire to be a missionary in India. She went to India the following year, 1929. She taught English in Darjeeling and then for 20 years in Calcutta, working as a teacher, always with a great desire to be a missionary to the poorest of the poor. Taking the religious name Teresa, after St. Thérèse of Lisieux, patron of the missions (in its Spanish spelling) and in the style of the Sisters of Loreto at the time she was titled Mother, and became known as Mother Teresa. Later leaving teaching and her religious congregation, she founded in 1950 the Missionaries of Charity to serve the hungry, the unwanted and the dying. Often her faith was tested, her words and actions criticised, yet she was always certain in remaining a servant of Christ who reaches out to the poor. The missionaries of Christ, once a small number in Calcutta, now number 5000 sisters in 130 countries. Mother Teresa, as she is universally known, is an outstanding witness of Christ, reaching out to our suffering brothers and sisters. She died in Calcutta (now called Kolkata) on 5th September 1997, was beatified in 2003 and canonised 4th September 2016.

(From Liturgical Calendar for Ireland 2026 p.143)

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (8/5/1895 – 9/12/1979)

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen to be beatified on 24th September 2026.

It is also providential that this year, on 24 September, in Saint Louis Missouri, a renowned National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States of America, the Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, will be beatified. **Archbishop Sheen was a light of faith, hope, and love that shone through the radio and television media for decades.** I myself am a witness of his evangelization when I was growing up. **His broadcasts touched millions with the hope of the Gospel and his initiatives and efforts resulted in enormous spiritual and material aid to the Churches in areas of first evangelization.** May our new Blessed be an example for all of the National and Diocesan Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies throughout the world.

(From Pope Leo XIV's speech at an audience with participants in the General Assembly of the Pontifical Mission Societies, 01.06.2026)

Canon Dónall O'Connor, RIP. (1926 - 2026).

The late Canon Dónall O'Connor was a priest for 75 years, a humble man, a holy man, a musician, a linguist, an educator, a scholar and a friend to many. He celebrated his 100th birthday on the 11th January last in St. Vincent's Unit, Dungarvan Community Hospital surrounded by family and friends. On that occasion, he gave a 10-minute interview in Irish to TG4, part of which was broadcast that evening.

Over the last few months his health slowly deteriorated. On Friday, August 14th, the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, he died very peacefully. The following Monday evening, August 17th his reposition took place in St. Mary's Parish Church and was attended by priests, many friends and former parishioners. Everyone paid tribute to a remarkable man, a very learned man who carried his learning lightly.

Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan who officiated at the Funeral Mass on Tuesday, August 18th, preached a beautiful homily on the life, priesthood and scholarship of Canon Dónall. He was buried in a family plot in Old Parish Churchyard. Suaimhneas síoraí tabhair dó, a Thiarna, agus go lionraí solas suthain air. Amen.

Month's Mind Mass.

The Month's Mind Mass for the late Canon Dónall O'Connor will be celebrated at 12noon on Sunday, 13th September 2026 in St Mary's Parish Church. Requiescat in pace Christi.

Autumn Collection: 12/13 September 2026

The Autumn Collection for the support of the priests of the parish will be taken up on the weekend of September 12/13. Please use the Autumn Collection envelope, the white envelope from your box of envelopes. The offertory collection at each of the Masses that weekend will also go to the support of the priests of the parish. This is one of the 4 collections each year for the support of the priests. The Priests' allowances rely totally on the generosity of the people of the parishes of the diocese.

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

This novena continues each Monday at 7.30pm until Monday 19th October. No morning Mass on Mondays during the novena.