



TRAIN INTO LIMERICK STATION OCTOBER 1920



**SISTERS ARRIVE IN LIMERICK STATION
OCTOBER 1920**

SR. KATHLEEN

KERANS

- one of the first four
sisters to come to
ireland





**ST. ITA'S
THE FIRST
HOME AND
SCHOOL OF
THE SALESIAN
SISTERS**



**FR. SUTHERLAND
SALESIAN**

Worked to bring
the Salesian Sisters
to Ireland



**GEORGE'S
STREET
LIMERICK
1920**



**ST. MICHAEL'S
PARISH CHURCH**



**Sr. Chiarina
Giustiniani
Provincial Leader
in England
in 1920**



**SIEGE OF
LIMERICK 1922
DEPARTURE OF
NATIONAL
TROOPS**

**Siege of Limerick, July, 1922. [Photo, Hogan,
DEPARTURE OF NATIONAL TROOPS. ARMOURD CAR "DANNY BOY" IN FOREGROUND.**

A black and white photograph of Dromore Castle, a large stone building with a prominent tower, situated on a hill covered in dense trees. The castle is the central focus, with its architecture featuring multiple gables and windows. The surrounding landscape is lush with foliage, and a body of water is visible in the foreground.

DROMORE CASTLE

The Sisters were evacuated
there in July 1922



SR. MARY GOTTO

One of the
first four Sisters
to come to Ireland

Bishop of Limerick Calls Nationalists To Join Sinn Fein

BY THE LONDONER THE RIGHT REV. DR. HALLINAN
Bishop of Limerick

(FROM THE DUBLIN FREE PRESS AND OPINION, 27th. 12. 1918.)

Limerick, Dec. 26.—The present is, in my humble opinion, the only momentous period in the whole history of Ireland. The end is nigh and the people have at last found a leadership in which the best of the world have already trusted their destinies to guide us through the hour of our national rebirth. It is a moment of our own making in the sense that it is the result of our own choice. Indeed it is a choice which has brought us to this point, and we may well feel that the end is in sight. It is a choice which has brought us to this point and we may well feel that the end is in sight.

Having the confidence and the support of the Irish people, we are prepared to stand by the principles of the national movement, and to do all that is in our power to bring it to a successful issue.

In this hour of our national rebirth, we are called upon to choose between two paths. The first is the path of compromise, the second is the path of principle. We are called upon to choose between the path of compromise and the path of principle. We are called upon to choose between the path of compromise and the path of principle.

The path of compromise is the path of the few. The path of principle is the path of the many. We are called upon to choose between the path of compromise and the path of principle. We are called upon to choose between the path of compromise and the path of principle.

In the year 1918 the people of Ireland have chosen the path of principle. They have chosen the path of principle. They have chosen the path of principle. They have chosen the path of principle.

By the choice of the Irish people, we are called upon to stand by the principles of the national movement, and to do all that is in our power to bring it to a successful issue.

**BISHOP HALLINAN
CALLS
NATIONALISTS
TO JOIN
SINN FEIN**

LIZZIE NOLAN

One of the first pupils
at the evening classes
and lifetime friend
and supporter of the
Salesian Sisters





CANNOCKS

1920



**GEORGE'S
STREET,
LIMERICK
WITH
BARRICADES
1920**

WOMEN WORKING



IN CLEEVES FACTORY



Front row:

Sr. Teresa Pentore

Sr. Clotilde Cogliolo

Sr. Angela Borio

Sr. Maria Gotto

Sr. Mgt Fitzgerald

Back row:

Sr. Elsie Nolan

Sr. Mary O'Dea

Sr. Catherine Moore

Sr. Margaret Moore

Sr. Mary Reihill



DON
BOSCO



SR. MARY REIHILL

The third of three Irish girls to join the Salesian Sisters in Chertsey came from a small island, Trainish Island on Lough Erne. She left her island home in Co. Fermanagh and travelled by boat and train to England when the First World War was raging and the future of so many things uncertain. Mary was professed in 1920.



EUSTON STATION

The group to see them off at Euston included Sr. Avio, other Sisters and Salesian Priests who *'attended the departure of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians for this Catholic Nation'*.
Chronicles

KINGSTON PORT

The journey from Euston by train and by boat across the Irish Sea saw their arrival *'at Kingston, a port of Dublin, they were welcomed by Rev. Fr. Sutherland and his brother, a solicitor, who had worked tirelessly, regardless of cost, journeys or difficulty, in order to procure a house suitable for the Sisters in Limerick.'*

Chronicles



GEARY'S HOTEL THOMAS STREET



**SR. MARGARET
FITZGERALD**

First Irish person

to join

the Salesian Sisters

in England in 1912



Plaque to Michael Scanlan killed by British Forces in Thomas Street on 27th October 1920, 5 days after arrival of Sisters



SR. MARY REIHILL
with
LIZZIE NOLAN
and friends
Kathleen Rathbourne
and
Margaret Harrington



Templemore 'miracles'

August 1920

Girls from the family involved came to St. Ita's hoping to enter, but were not accepted



Salesian
priests and
supporters
with
Bishop
Hallinan
in 1921



I must ask you to excuse my bad writing and mistakes; my sight is not too good and my eyes get tired, but I am pleased to help you with what I can, knowing that there is no one else left who were in the beginning of our first house in dear old Ireland.

I must ask you to excuse my bad writing and mistakes; my sight is not too good and my eyes get tired, but I am pleased to help you with what I can, knowing that there is no one else left who were in the beginning of our first house in dear old Ireland.

Sr. Kathleen Kerans



DROMORE CASTLE

Where the Sisters were
sent for safety during the
Civil War



*I had to leave Ireland in 1925 and I
could not write about the time after that.
I little thought that I would never
go back again. Sr. Kathleen Kieran*

I had to leave Ireland in 1925
and I could not write about the
time after that. I little thought
that I would never go back
again.

Sr. Kathleen



Barricade on Sarsfield Street



MARY
MAZZARELLO



The ...

has authorized you to accept on his behalf
the condition which I have laid down for the
granting of a foundation to the Emperor of
Ankara that of Christians within the service
of his empire. I am pleased at this and
will be formally to visit through you.
I wish to send a foundation and

**ENTRANCE
TO STABLES
AT
RICHMOND HOUSE**





SR KATHLEEN KERANS
WITH HER FAMILY



SR. GIOVANNA MARTINONI

Leader of the first Salesian
community in Ireland



Cleeves House
FERNBANK
where they
moved to in 1922



BISHOP DENIS HALLINAN

who invited the Salesian

Sisters to Limerick

and supported them

in the early years



LIMERICK CITY UNDER SIEGE

Denis Hallinan D.P. 1918-1923
He received his Classical
training in Limerick & then
passed to the Irish College,
Rome, where he met John Bosco
he was thinking of joining
the Salesians, so John Bosco
said to him go back to your own
Country, & some time you will
do more for the order, he came
back to Limerick, & was appointed
P.P. St Michael's parish, he
used to call into the forge
to my father, my father was a
Black Smith & Farrier, they used
to have a little chat, about
horses, he told him he was
going out to see the Bishop

Note written by Lizzie Nolan

NOTE WRITTEN BY LIZZIE NOLAN

Denis Hallinan DD 1918-1923

He received his classical training in Limerick and then passed to the Irish College, Rome, where he met John Bosco. He was thinking of joining the Salesians. St. John Bosco said to him – go back to your own country and some time you will do more for the order. He used to call into the forge to my father. My father was a Black Smith and Farrier, they used to have a little chat about horses and he told him he was going out to see Bishop...

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911

The Census of the Republic of Ireland in the Year 1911

FORM 2.

NOTICE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TABLE AND THE INSTRUCTIONS RELATIVE THEREON, AND THE USE OF THEM IN THE HOUSEHOLD

CENSUS 1911
Nolan family

HOUSEHOLD NO.	NAME AND SURNAME		RELATION	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	PLACE OF BIRTH		EDUCATION		RELIGION	SPECIAL OCCUPATION
	MALE	FEMALE					IRISH	FOREIGN	IRISH	FOREIGN		
1	Thomas	Nolan	Head	M	48	Married	IRISH	IRISH	None	None	Roman Catholic	Labourer
2	Mary	Nolan	Wife	F	45	Married	IRISH	IRISH	None	None	Roman Catholic	Labourer
3	John	Nolan	Son	M	17	Single	IRISH	IRISH	None	None	Roman Catholic	Labourer
4	Elizabeth	Nolan	Daughter	F	15	Single	IRISH	IRISH	None	None	Roman Catholic	Labourer
5	John	Nolan	Son	M	11	Single	IRISH	IRISH	None	None	Roman Catholic	Labourer
6	Elizabeth	Nolan	Daughter	F	10	Single	IRISH	IRISH	None	None	Roman Catholic	Labourer
7	William	Nolan	Son	M	8	Single	IRISH	IRISH	None	None	Roman Catholic	Labourer
8	John	Nolan	Son	M	5	Single	IRISH	IRISH	None	None	Roman Catholic	Labourer
9	John	Nolan	Son	M	3	Single	IRISH	IRISH	None	None	Roman Catholic	Labourer
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												
16												

I hereby certify as required by the Act of 1911, and I declare that the foregoing returns are correct according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I believe the foregoing to be a true return.



Sr. Mary Keane

Sr. Mary Reihill

Sr. Margaret Fitzgerald

The first Irish
to join the Salesian Sisters
in England



RICHMOND

HOUSE

**second home of
the Salesian Sisters**





Against the Odds recounts the history of how the Salesian Sisters arrived in Ireland in 1920 and founded their first house in Limerick during the War of Independence. The original four pioneering Sisters started a foundation which has provided a lasting legacy to the people of Limerick and Ireland over the past 100 years.



Against the Odds

A History of the Foundation
of the Salesian Sisters in Ireland

Noelle Costello
and Sarah O'Rourke
Editors

Against the Odds

A History of the Foundation
of the Salesian Sisters in Ireland



*'The founding story has to be constantly
revisited and retold in ways
that continue to sustain, illumine
and germinate meanings.
In the return to where we began
we find new knowing.'*

Evelyn Woodward

Against the Odds

A History of the Foundation
of the Salesian Sisters in Ireland



This History of the Foundation of the Salesian Sister's in Ireland was published in 2020.

The history book recounts how the first Salesian Sisters arrived in Ireland in 1920 where they founded their first house in Limerick during the war of Independence through to the lasting legacy they laid down over the subsequent 100 years.

Sr Noelle Costello and Sr Sarah O' Rourke
[Editors]