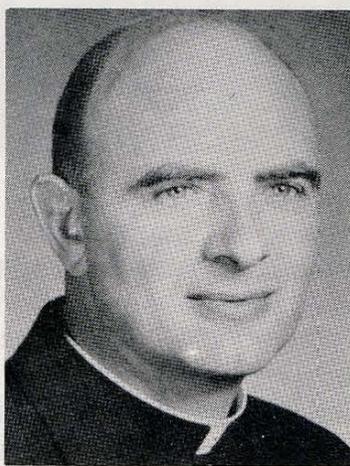


Chapter Seventeen

1969-1975



President
Very Rev James Hurley

REVEREND FATHERS

- Walter Kennedy – Vice-President (1969-74) – 6th Year Form Master (1972-75)
David Darcy – Assistant Headmaster and Inter. Form Master (1969-72)
– Professor (1965-)
John Hourigan – Dean, Junior School (1963-71)
Sean Little – Dean, Junior School (1971-80) – Professor (1970-71)
Cyril Byrne – Senior Form Master (1969-72) – Professor (1962-)
Henry Moloney – Junior Form Master (1969-72)
John Byrne – Bursar (1969-72) – Professor (1972-)
Edward Burke – Professor (1961-83)
Patrick Murray – Professor (1969-72)
Francis Barry – Professor (1944-84)
Martin Maiben – Professor (1954-84)
Gerald Lord – Professor (1956-79)
Arthur Carragher – Professor (1969-72)
John Cahill – Professor (1969-70)
Joseph Beere – Professor (1968-70)
Noel Gavin – Professor (1970-75)
Richard Lehane – Professor (1970-72) – Bursar (1972-75)
Dr Michael Kennedy – Retired (1971-77+)
Denis McManus – Professor (1971-72)
Thomas Maguire – Professor (1972-75)
Liam Martin – Professor (1972-75)
Patrick Reedy – Professor (1972-73) – 1st Year Form Master (1972-73)
Vincent O'Grady – Professor (1974-81)

LAY PROFESSORS

- Philip McCabe – Professor (1942-73)
 – Vice Principal (1971-72)
 Pól Uasal Mac Murchú – Professor (1958-)
 – Vice Principal (1972-)
 – 4th Year Form Master (1972-75)
 Noel P. Doyle – Professor (1964-)
 – 5th Year Form Master (1972-75)
 Patrick Henry – Professor (1964-83)
 Peter Quinn – Professor (1965-)
 – 3rd Year Form Master (1972-75)
 Sean McCarthy – Professor (1966-)
 Aubrey O'Donoghue – Professor (1966-72)
 Mrs K. McDermott – Professor (1967-72)
 Ms S. Murphy – Professor (1967-70)
 Mrs Mary Brinkworth – Professor (1969-71+)
 David Morris – Professor (1969-73)
 Ms A. Morrissey – Professor (1968-72)
 Ms K. Walsh – Professor (1969-72)
 Ms P. Cassidy – Professor (1969-72)
 Ms M. Browne – Professor (1964-70)
 Mrs Brid Roberts – Professor (1970-76)
 Ms Teresa Buckley – Professor (1970-73)
 C. Brannigan – Professor (1971-)
 Terence Newell – Professor (1971-)
 Kevin Lewis – Professor (1971-)
 – 2nd Year Form Master (1972-75)
 Francis Conlon – Professor (1972-89)
 B. Brophy – Professor (1972-74)
 James Corbett – Professor (1972-77)
 J. Crowley – Professor (1972-)
- J. Gillespie – Professor (1972-)
 A. Gorman – Professor (1972-75)
 James Kirby – Professor (1972-74)
 Michael Leonard – Professor (1972-)
 James Breslin – Professor (1972-73)
 Michael Watters – Professor (1972-73)
 David Moylan – Professor (1972-)
 K. Murphy – Professor (1973-78)
 Ms E. Behan – Professor (1972-76)
 Mrs M. Kelly – Professor (1973-77)
 Ms G. Pierce – Professor (1973-74)
 S. Cummins – Professor (1974-75)
 Liam Naughton – Professor (1974-)
 Ms M. Culhane – Professor (1974-76)
 Mrs M. O'Mahony – Professor (1974-75)
 Mrs C. Buckley – Professor (1974-75)
- Ms Maire Cranny – Elocution (1944-90)
 Ms Cassidy – Elocution (1972-74)
 Mrs Spinks – Singing (1967-72)
 Ms Maureen Valentine – Singing (1972-88)
 Ms M. Murphy – Art (1969-70)
 Ms A. Whittle – Art (1970-72)
 Mr G. Hegarty – Art (1970-72)
 D. O'Gorman – Art (1972-74)
 Morosini Whelan – Dancing (1954-70)
 P. Bolton – Dancing (1972-74)
 Oliver Dunne – Physical Education (1961-)
 Mrs T. Boyle – Physical Education (1973-75)

H. DIP. CANDIDATES

Rev P. Harrington
 Rev V. McCarthy
 Mr Kevin Lewis
 Rev P. Reedy CSSp.

Mr O'Rourke
 Sr B. Reynolds
 Rev P. Tierney OSB

Sr Clare Sykes
 Mr D. Coleman
 Ms Helen Keogh

James Hurley, CSSp.

THE NEXT PRESIDENT and Principal of the school was Fr James Hurley. He was born in Clonakilty, county Cork in 1930 and did his secondary studies in Rockwell College. He joined the Holy Ghost Congregation on leaving school in 1948 and after completing his degree in UCD and his philosophical studies in Kimmage Manor, he was sent to the Gregorian University in Rome where he obtained his STL and was ordained priest in 1957. On returning to Ireland in 1958 he joined the staff of St Mary's for a year while doing the H.DIP. He was then appointed to Rockwell College where for ten years he filled many posts including Dean of Studies. In 1969 he came to St Mary's as President and Principal for six years before handing over the presidency to Fr William Nugent. He held the post of principal for a further two years until his appointment as Provincial Councillor of the Holy Ghost Fathers with responsibility for educational matters. At the end of six years, in 1983, he returned to Rockwell College as President.



As can be seen from the above lists, the number on the academic staff continued to grow to keep pace with the increased number of students on the roll and the expanding syllabus. A radical change was made in the first year of Fr Hurley's guidance of the college, when, instead of the traditional Dean of Studies and Dean of Discipline, it was decided to divide the senior school into three sections, senior, intermediate and junior, with a dean in charge of each who would combine the former duties of deans of studies and discipline, each in his own section. It was thought that in this way the load would be more equitably shared. Fr Cyril Byrne was the first Senior Dean, Fr David Darcy the Intermediate and Fr Henry Moloney the first Junior Dean. The experiment was tried for three years, but was found to be less than satisfactory and abandoned in favour of a Form Master in charge of each year: Fr W. Kennedy, 6th; Noel Doyle, 5th; Pól Mac Murchú, 4th; Peter Quinn, 3rd; Kevin Lewis, 2nd; Fr Reedy, 1st. Another change was the separation of the offices of headmaster and president, though the two continued to be held for some years by the same person. In turn there was also a vice-principal as well as a vice-president. Fr Walter Kennedy, with his wealth of experience from almost thirty years as a professor and dean in the senior school, was the vice-president until he retired in 1979. Mr Philip McCabe, who had served equally long on the senior staff, was the first vice-principal, and, on his retirement in 1971, the office went to Mr Pól Mac Murchú.

1973 saw the retirement of one of the longest serving and most respected teachers in the college. Mr McCabe taught in the junior school for four years before joining the senior school, where he considered it to be his mission to inculcate a knowledge and love of the native language, which he did with refreshing vigour and enthusiasm. He was particularly interested, according to Pól Uasal Mac Murchú in an article written in the 1974 College Annual, in the weaker student, and with his hard work and the co-operation of the boys it was soon his proud boast that nobody failed in Irish in the Intermediate or Leaving Cert. He always claimed that the real test of a teacher was the ability to get through to the weaker student. His dedication to his work was phenomenal. Although he had to travel down from Skerries every morning, he was never late, and only the death of a near relative or school business could keep him from class. Although often stricken in his later years with severe laryngitis, he never considered it an excuse to stay at home. The esteem in which he was held was particularly evident on occasions such as Sports



College Staff, 1970

*Back: Fr. H. F. Moloney, Fr. G. Lord, Mr. S. McCarthy, Fr. J. Byrne, Fr. M. Maiben, Mr. P. Henry,
Mr. P. Quinn, Fr. J. Beere.*

*Centre: Fr. J. Hourigan, Mr. D. Morris, Fr. E. Burke, Fr. C. Byrne, Mr. N. Doyle, Fr. A. Carragher,
Mr. P. McCabe, Fr. F. Barry.*

*Front: Pól Uas. Mac Murchú, Mrs. K. McDermott, Miss S. Murphy, Mrs. M. Brinkworth,
Fr. J. Hurley, Miss A. Morrissey, Miss M. Browne, Fr. W. Kennedy.*

Not present: Fr. P. J. Murray, Fr. D. Darcy, Miss K. Walshe, Miss Marie Cranny and Mr. O. Dunne.

Day when past pupils would throng round him to shake his hand. Even today numerous boys are convinced that they would not have passed their exams but for him. He was conscious that he was carrying on a tradition of outstanding lay teachers stretching back to the very first days of the school and which included, besides such more recent figures as Messrs Gallagher, Nagle and Barrett, such names as De Valera, Archdeacon McMahon, Professor Louis Roche. Philip was proud of this tradition and enriched it by his hard work, dedication, punctuality, patience and good example.

It was during this period also that the school lost Fr Joe Gilmore, the first-ever Dean of the Junior School and former president, who died after a short illness in 1971. The same year saw the death of Fr Edward Gorman, who served nine years on the senior staff before taking over the duties of College Bursar. Born in county Donegal, Fr Gorman went to school in Blackrock College and went on the Missions at the end of his studies in Kimmage Manor. He was an assistant to Fr Dick Lehane in a parish in Onitsha Archdiocese when he was severely burned in a fire when he was preparing to go out on a night-time sick call. He returned to Ireland where he had to spend long and painful months undergoing treatment, during which he displayed the greatest fortitude and unflinching cheerfulness. After his discharge from hospital and a period of convalescence, he was appointed to St Mary's where he attended UCD, obtaining a B.A. in Economics and History and the next year a Diploma in Education. In 1964 he became a full-time member of the staff in the senior

school and later filled the position of College Bursar. In April of 1969 he became gravely ill and cancer was diagnosed which quickly took its toll of his already weak constitution. He went to Lourdes during the summer, from which he returned totally resigned to God's Will. He died on October 11, 1969 at the age of 45.

The deaths of a number of former staff members occurred at this period: Mr John Gallagher, one of the founder-members of the re-opened School in 1926; Fr John Nealon, who was on the staff for about ten years in the late '20s and 30s, during which time he was Dean of Discipline for a time; Fr Patrick Townsend, a prefect in the early '40s, when, with Fr Michael Troy (now in Canada), he was a stalwart on the St Mary's Club senior team. Fr Townsend went on to spend twenty years in Nigeria. When war in that country interfered with missionary activity, Fr Pat volunteered to go to Mexico where priests were urgently needed. There he endeared himself to the people by his simplicity and untiring devotion to their welfare. To this day his grave is a place of pilgrimage to the people of the surrounding districts. Two other staff members were Mrs Mary Brinkworth, the first full-time lady teacher in the senior school, and Miss Courtney, who was on the staff for five years before her untimely death in 1969.

DEVELOPMENT

The previous period had seen such an unprecedented spate of physical development, resulting in a totally re-structured junior school, the extension of the grounds by the acquisition of a strip of land along the northern boundary, a new gymnasium with showers and dressing-rooms, new entrance gates leading on to the Rathmines Road,



Fr. James Hurley at the Blessing of the new Scout Den in Kenilworth in 1971.

Behind is Sean O'Byrne, Chairman of Troop Committee (partly hidden).

the complete re-furbishment of the assembly hall and stage, it is not surprising that there was an easing of the activity for a time. But it was just an easing off, not a suspension of activity. The target now was the grounds at Kenilworth Square, where work had continued in a minor key in improving the hedge and shrubbery round the perimeter, and on levelling the pitches and cricket creases. A major job on the drainage was completed at this time and work on the new Scout Den soon came to a completion.

In May, 1971 the planning permission came through and the entire Scout Unit pitched in to clear the site of small trees, brush and undergrowth. Cost was minimised by the use of direct labour, and also by the fact that Mr J. Carmody, who very kindly offered to organise the construction of the building, was able to acquire cheaply such items as windows which had not been made to the correct specifications for some other building. Philip Shaffrey, himself a former scouter, was able to incorporate them into the design he made for the den. The building consists of a large hall used by scouts and cubs, officers' room, seniors' room, store room, kitchen, and toilets. The realisation of the unit's dreams in this new den was the fruit of extremely hard work, not only by the members of the unit, but particularly by the Committee headed by Mr Sean O'Byrne, himself a former scout of the HQ troop (along with the author) from the days before the establishment of the St Mary's unit. Cheese and Wine parties, musical evenings, garden parties, were among the fund-raising activities, while a Ladies committee was tireless in arranging coffee mornings, jumble sales and bring-and-buy sales. The reward for all their hard work was a purpose-built home for the unit, ideally suited for all the indoor activities of scouting. The crowning of the work was the Solemn Blessing of the completed den by the President, Fr James Hurley, assisted by the Unit Chaplain, Fr David Darcy, in the presence of the full muster of every section from the cubs up, together with the members of the Troop Committee who had done such great work in raising the necessary funds.

ENROLMENT

Between 1969 and 1975 the school enrolment rose from 621 (325 in the senior school; 296 in the junior) to 719 (388 in the senior school; 331 in the junior).

ACADEMICS

In 1969 the Department of Education introduced a new system of grading in the Leaving and Intermediate Certificate examinations, replacing the old Honours and Pass labels with Grades from "A" to "F".

The following are the results for the period under review with this new system:

Year	<i>Leaving Certificate</i>		
	<i>No. Sitting</i>	"A"	"B"
1969	40	11	24
1970	48	20	28
1971	48	3	25
1972	55	2	28
1973	50	4	47
1974	47	5	21
1975	51	6	39

Intermediate Certificate

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. Sitting</i>	<i>"A"</i>	<i>"B"</i>
1969	52	13	62
1970	52	12	96
1971	55	12	92
1972	49	8	73
1973	63	19	106
1974	65	33	155
1975	60	29	75

DEBATING SOCIETY

Prominent among the successes of this period were those of the College Debating Teams. We have seen that the art of public speaking was cultivated from the earliest days of the school and that it continued to be exercised in after life by the past students, many of whom distinguished themselves, not only in third level institutions, but in the courts of law as worthy advocates. In 1970-71 the college won two major debating trophies, the Leinster and then the All-Ireland Finals of the Safety First Association Schools' Debating Competition. The St Mary's team, comprising David O'Sullivan, Patrick Power and Brian Fitzgerald, defeated CBS Drimnagh in the Leinster final and thus St Mary's became the first boys' school in the history of the competition to win the All-Ireland Final. The team coach, Fr Sean Little, Dean of the Junior School, was an invaluable ally and source of knowledge throughout the competition, and in this he was aided by Fr Cyril Byrne in the All-Ireland section.

The following year St Mary's captured the Leinster Schools Junior Debating Cup.

The 1973-74 year saw the return of the Leinster Safety First Debating Cup for the second time in three years. That year, the coaches were two of the senior staff, Mr Sean McCarthy and Mr J. Gillespie with Fr Little as researcher. The St Mary's team was Peter Charleton, Alex Schuster and Gerald McDonald. The final was held in CUS and contested by Dominican Girls Convent, Dun Laoghaire. The Leinster Cup was borne back proudly to the college. It was then on to the All-Ireland semi-final where St Mary's met and were defeated by St Ignatius College, Galway, who went on to win the final.



*All Ireland and Leinster Safety First Association of Ireland National Debate Winners, 1971
David O'Sullivan, Brian FitzGerald and Patrick Power receive the trophy from Bobby Molloy TD, Minister of Local Government.*



Michael O'Shea who won the Feis Maitiú Cup for Extempore Speaking, 1972.

The only formal competition entered in 1974-75 was the Public Speaking Competition organised by Trinity College, Dublin. St Mary's were represented by John Keogan and Desmond O'Neill. Desmond delivered a powerful speech which qualified him for the final but, unfortunately, he was unable to participate. The Safety First Association found that they were unable to continue their sponsorship of the All-Ireland Schools Debating Competition, so they presented St Mary's with the Perpetual Trophy which the school had won in 1971 and the previous year, the final year of competition. That trophy sits proudly to this day on the college side-board.

COLLEGES' VOLUNTEER CORPS

The Colleges' Volunteer Corps was founded by Archbishop John Charles McQuaid CSSp in 1961 when the plans were being formed for the celebration of the Patrician Year, the 1500th anniversary of the death of St Patrick. Then known as the Congress Volunteer Corps, it was formed from senior students in boys' secondary schools. Clad in a distinctive uniform of dark grey trousers, white shirt with yellow epaulettes, green tie and yellow beret, they were in attendance as guards of honour to civic and religious dignitaries and as stewards and couriers. At the end of the Patrician Year it was decided that it would be a pity to lose this trained corps of youth who had learned the value of co-ordinated effort, so it was decided to make the Corps permanent and change the name to the Archbishop's Volunteer Corps and later, to its present name. One other change from the original corps is that it now can include past pupils under the age of 21.

The year the corps was established there were three groups in the college, but when it became permanent they amalgamated to form one group. The corps is engaged in social work with the aged, blind, itinerants and youth clubs. Prospective members attend weekly lectures in the Dublin Institute of Adult Education, given by university and institute lecturers as well as lay and religious social workers.

Every year since 1961 Volunteers have accompanied the Dublin Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes to act as brancardiers.

MUSICAL APPRECIATION SOCIETY

In 1973-74 a group of enthusiasts at the instigation of Peter Charleton, an accomplished pianist, decided to form a Musical Appreciation Society with the aim of promoting the understanding and appreciation of good music. They set about this by using the Notice Board for short essays on various aspects of music and by publicising concerts and radio and television broadcasts which would be of interest to the serious listener.

CHESS

The early years of the '70s saw a revival of interest in the ancient game of chess after many years in oblivion. Many boys played during lunch recess and leagues were successfully run. A junior team was entered in the Schools Chess League which performed creditably by winning more games than they lost in the junior section in 1972-73-74. The team was chosen from J. Hamill, R. McDonnell, M. Fitzgerald, D. Larney, S. Burke, B. Quigley, G. Byrne, K. O'Byrne, J. Cunningham and P. Galligan. Trophies were presented in various grades in the school contests. John Hamill was the No. 1 player in 1972-73 and Eamonn Browne in 1973-74. A team was entered for the first time for many years in the senior section of the Inter-Schools League in 1973-74 where they gave quite a good account of themselves. It was led by John Hamill. Teams were entered in both the senior and junior Sections in 1974-75. J. Hamill, S. Burke, D. Larney, J. Burke, E. Browne and J.

Cunningham, were among those to represent the school from time to time in the senior, M. Bermingham, P. Stephenson, P. Black, O. Sullivan, J. Larney in the junior. The shortened lunch-hour made it difficult to run off matches during school hours.

DRAMATICS

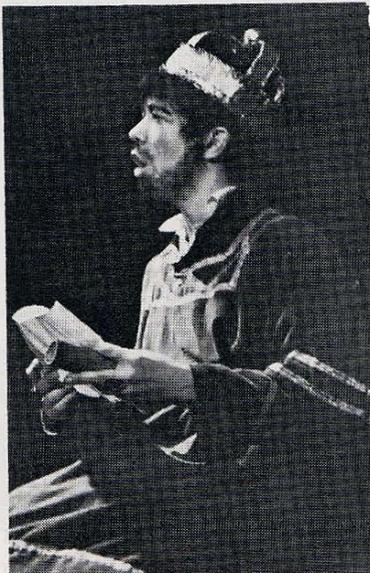
The play chosen for the first production for four years was a modern comedy set in London, *Not in the Book*, by Arthur Watkyn. It had the merit of having a small cast, with which Fr Barry felt he might more readily begin to restore the school's acting tradition after a hiatus of four years. It was a resounding success.

For 1970-71, the 800th anniversary of the death of St Thomas a'Becket, Fr Barry went to the opposite extreme and chose a play with more than three dozen speaking parts, thus stretching the histrionic resources of the school to the limits. 'Becket' or 'The Honour of God' was a rather unusual choice of play. Jean Anouilh makes no secret of his anti-clericalism nor of his personal opinion of the relation between the king and the archbishop, but the play did have excellent dramatic qualities, and the large cast had the merit of involving more of the students than is usual with the annual production.

Philip Leahy and Michael O'Shea were on hand again the following year, 1971-72, for the production of *The Happiest Years of Your Life*, a play with plenty of laughs which went down very well. Gerald McDonald as the Games Mistress, Miss Gossage, brought the house down at every performance.

Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which had been produced with great success in 1954 was the final choice for 1972-73 after much soul-searching. Michael O'Shea was still available and, together with the females, carried the play, which depends so much on clear speaking and decorative presentation. Des O'Neill (Lady Bracknell), Cormac Sharpe (Gwendolen) and Michael Byrne (Cecily), proved better than their counterparts in 1954. As was the case with productions for the next few years, the fashionably long hair affected by the boys at the time created numerous difficulties, and excluded a number from participating as they were unwilling to have it cut.

P. G. Wodehouse's *Oh! Clarence* was the choice for 1973-74. Farce always looks easier than it actually is in practice, especially when done by young people, timing being the most



"Becket"
King Henry II (Joseph Raftery)



"Becket"
Young Queen (Philip Leahy)



"Becket"
Thomas Becket (John Keogh)



Pere Barry "conducting" rehearsals of the College Play.



"She Stoops to Conquer"
Mr. Hardcastle (Kevin Farnan)
Miss Kate Hardcastle
(Simon Burke)



"She Stoops to Conquer"
Tony Lumpkin
(Brendan Foley)
Mrs. Hardcastle
(Declan Murray)

difficult part of the comedic art. Michael Byrne (Lady Constance), Kevin Farnan (Beach), Brendan Foley (Freddie), Francis O'Gorman (Clarence), Raymund Bulger (Daphne) and Daniel O'Duffy (Maid), all did well.

The 1974-75 year saw a break with tradition in that the boys of St Mary's were involved in a production in St Louis Convent of *The King and I*. This was a joint venture and the harbinger of things to come, although it was not for almost another decade that St Mary's began the very fruitful co-operation in annual productions with a girls school, and then it was with Notre Dame de Missions school in Churchtown. The production was very successful, but it did adversely affect the college's own production that Christmas, cutting in as it did on the already only too short rehearsal time. Where he could, Fr Barry always chose people who were not too involved in other school activities, particularly rugby, knowing how much of their free time dramatics called for. Having two major productions in the one term was very demanding. The college production that Christmas was Goldsmith's *She Stoops To Conquer*, with a Prologue specially written by Fr Murray, as this was the playwright's bi-centenary. The Prologue was well done by Desmond O'Neill, who won The Actor of the Festival award at the EEC Schools Drama Festival in Brussels, at which the Irish entry of *The Importance of Being Earnest* won 3rd place. The son of a St Mary's past pupil, Aidan Grennell, was also in the group, which was under the direction of Nora Lever.

For the Prize-giving Concerts at the end of the school year, the junior school celebrated the Four Green Fields of Ireland in song and verse, Miss Cranny in charge of the elocution and Mrs Spinks of the singing. The senior school included an extract from *Murder in the Cathedral* and an extract from *The Dream of Gerontius* in their verse-speaking as well as songs from Schubert and Handel. Miss Cranny once more looked after the verse-speaking, while Fr Maiben was in charge of the choirs. Fr Sean Corcoran was the accompanist.

In the Summer Concert, Miss Cranny and Mrs Spinks took The Monuments of Dublin in Song and Story as the theme for the junior school, while Miss Cranny and Fr Maiben went further afield in their verse and song for the senior school concert, mixing the classical with the traditional in a satisfying blend.

The Prize-giving Concerts in May 1973, with Miss Cranny and Miss Cassidy in charge of the elocution, Miss Valentine the singing and Mr Bolton the dancing, followed the customary format. Irish Dancing was introduced for the first time in the Junior School

Concert and proved very popular. Miss Cranny and Fr Maiben once more presented an evening of choral verse-speaking and singing which featured Yeats and Benet, Handel, Brahms and Schubert. Mrs Dorothy Malone was accompanist.

The Junior School concert in May 1974 had the usual fine mixture of verse and song mixed with dance, under the competent direction of Misses Cranny and Valentine and Mr Bolton. Fr Maiben and Miss Cranny looked after the choral singing and verse-speaking at the Senior School concert with Peter Charleton of 6th Year as accompanist.

At the Prize-giving concert in the summer of 1975 Fr Maiben and Miss Cranny combined once more to provide a feast of choral song and verse.

Following on auditions conducted by Fr Barry, Brian Sullivan was chosen by the BBC to appear in a filmed version of Walter Macken's story *The Island of the Great Yellow Ox* which was filmed in Dowth, county Louth, and Roundstone, county Galway.

Connell Mulvihill was a prize-winner in the Dunlop National Story competition, while Ultan Stephenson and David Teevan were prize-winners in the Feis Maitiú.

RUGBY

St Mary's entered the '70s with a decade of success in schools football behind them, in which they had reached the final of the Leinster Schools Senior Cup on four occasions, winning three times, in 1961, 1966 and 1969. Only a very talented Blackrock foiled them in 1967. The new decade began well in that four of the senior backline, Paul Andreucetti who captained Leinster, Gerry Aylward, Liam Grissing and Eddie Wigglesworth gained Interprovincial caps, but lack of power up front meant they were starved of possession, particularly in the opening cup match when Blackrock won a monopoly of the ball.

The first half of the decade was notable for the emergence of a number of players who were to become household names everywhere rugby is played round the world. In chronological order these were: Tony Ward, Rodney O'Donnell, Terry Kennedy, Declan Fanning and Paul Dean, all of whom wore the Irish jersey with distinction, with Declan Fanning having the added distinction of captaining Ireland "B" on a number of occasions. To these must be added the name of Philip McDonnell, an outstanding schools international schoolboy scrumhalf, while Derek Bennett won an U-16 International Cap. The names of others who went on to play at interprovincial senior and junior level can be found in Appendix IV. Many others went on to give sterling service to the St Mary's Club when they left school.

Tony Ward got his first drop-goal in competitive football in a JCT semi-final against Clongowes in 1970, a feat he was to repeat many times for Munster, Ireland and the Lions. Tony played on the SCT for three years and as captain in his final year 1972-73 when they went down by 8-9 to the eventual cup-winners High School. He was selected as substitute outhalf on the Leinster team.

Rodney O'Donnell captained the U-13s in 1969-70 while playing regularly on the JCT. From the day he entered the junior school and was chosen for the U-9s, Rodney was a tower of strength to every team that represented the school. Big for his age during his schooldays, he gained Interprovincial caps as a schoolboy, and after he left school as junior and as a senior. He gained International caps at U-20 and senior level and toured with the British and Irish Lions in South Africa where he received the injury which nearly ended his life and certainly ended his career. He captained the U-13s that won the Provincial's Cup for the first time in six years. He was on the JCT team that won the Leinster Junior Cup for the fourth time in 1970-71 and captained the team for two years. In his first year on the SCT, 1972-73, he gained his Interpro cap and the following year he was vice-captain to Declan Fanning when St Mary's contested the final with Blackrock only to lose out 6-8.

Declan Fanning was another who starred in every team from U-9 upwards and ended



*LEINSTER SCHOOLS INTERPROVINCIALS
1970: E. Wigglesworth, P. Andreucetti, L. Grissing,
G. Aylward.*



1971: Kevin Deering



*1975:
Stephen Mulvey*

as captain of the SCT in 1973-74 when St Mary's nearly brought off the treble of Leinster Senior Cup, Schools Senior Cup and Schools Junior Cup, losing out only in the Schools Senior Cup by two points. In 1970-71 he had been on the Junior Cup-winning team. A strong, mobile No 8, Declan, after leaving school, was a regular on the Leinster Interprovincial team for ten years and crowned his career by captaining the Ireland "B" team for two seasons, 1984-85, 1985-86.

Terry Kennedy was a slow maturer, physically. He almost didn't make the JCT which won the Cup in 1971 because of his size, and throughout his schooldays found his size a handicap. However, after he left school he filled out considerably and gained the first of his eleven caps when Ireland toured New Zealand in 1978.

The first trophy to come to Rathmines in this decade was the Provincial's Cup in 1969-70. Captained by Rodney O'Donnell, the team showed early on that, unusual for a St Mary's team at any level, the strength was up front. Rodney, chosen at No 8 for the maximum use of his ability, scored 203 of the 483 points tallied by the team in 31 matches. In the Cup, a draw with St Michael's and a loss to Willow Park in a mud-bath in Kenilworth seemed to have put paid to the St Mary's hopes. Wins against Templeogue and St Michael's in the second round revived hopes, although another loss to Willow fairly dashed them. It was all down now to a shootout with Willow. This was played in Templeogue and resulted in a draw, 6-6. The replay was a match to remember. Willow scored in the first half but the second half was all St Mary's who scored three tries to bring the cup home for the first time in six years.

Next came the Junior Cup in 1970-71. Captain Henry O'Neill had the support of Rodney O'Donnell and Declan Fanning to give confidence, courage and skill. In the cup they had only two points to spare over Pres Bray at the end, 11-9, and against Newbridge, always a difficult team to beat in the cup, it was only a last minute try by Paul Opperman, converted by Rodney O'Donnell, that saw them through. A semi-final game with Castleknock severely tested the St Mary's defence but it stood fast and, on resuming after halftime, they reverted to the running game that had seen them through



*Leinster Schools' Junior
Cup Winners, 1971*

Standing: P. McGovern,
L. O'Toole, C. Callan,
E. O'Cofaigh,
S. Sheehan, P. Doran,
C. Davis, D. Quigley.
Seated: D. Fanning,
P. Opperman,
R. O'Donnell,
H. O'Neill (Capt),
L. Healion,
T. McDonagh,
G. Delany.
Front: V. O'Gorman,
D. Howard.

*Leinster Schools' Junior
Cup Winners, 1974*

*Leinster Schools' Junior
Cup Winners, 1974*
Back: P. Barnwell,
F. McEntee, P. Davitt,
T. Kennedy, B. Quigley,



the previous round and two tries, by Healion and Opperman, and a penalty by Delaney, were enough to clinch it.

The weather for the final against Terenure at Lansdowne was anything but propitious. A gale blew the length of the pitch. This disconcerted the team which never really got going and was on the defensive even with the wind in the first half. Terenure got a try after only fifteen minutes, but Rodney O'Donnell managed to equalise with a splendid penalty. Conditions were far better for the replay and both sides responded by playing good football. A mammoth kick from Rodney O'Donnell, rather against the run of play, left St Mary's ahead at halftime. Playing with the wind in the second half, St Mary's looked like getting on top when Terenure brought off an intercept giving them a 5-3 lead. It looked all over, and then Rodney had another shot at goal and made no mistake and St Mary's were ahead by a point. The last five minutes of the game were all St Mary's and the cup was once more in St Mary's for another year.

It was left to the U-13s to come up trumps in 1971-72, which they did in style, scoring an all-time record 792 points in 26 matches winning 24 of them. Kevin Egan was captain and Paul Barnwell his vice. In the Provincial's Cup they won all their matches and scored 187 points, conceding only 6, and these were penalties. The St Mary's line was never crossed.

In 1973-74 the JCT looked promising from the start. Kevin Egan, who had captained the U-13s to a Provincial's Cup, was elected captain, ably assisted by Willie Opperman. An early try by Clongowes in the Cup put matters up to St Mary's and captain Kevin Egan led by example when he darted over for a try from a quick heel and this was followed by another quick heel and a speedy transfer across the backline for Long to touch down. St Mary's changed over two points to the good and dominated the second half which yielded good tries by Opperman and a second for Long. CBC Monkstown were the team most feared. On a sodden Stradbroke pitch both sides tried to play open rugby. St Mary's were happy to turnover at halftime with the score 0-0. Shrewd kicking by out-half, MacDonnell, kept St Mary's on the attack and it was he who broke the deadlock by slipping over for a try far out. Then a brilliantly executed intercept by Barnwell led to an 80 yard dash for the clinching score.

The performance against Terenure in Donnybrook was anything but vintage. A penalty early on and a "garryowen" with the wind gave Opperman a try after Quigley nailed the fullback. But a seven point advantage did not seem nearly enough to face the wind and Terenure soon reduced that to one point with two penalties. However, a brilliant cut-through by Barnwell who moved to centre and a quick transfer from Opperman gave Long a good try and St Mary's victory.

The St Mary's forwards hunted together well in the final with Belvedere and won much good possession from ruck and maul as well as strikes against the head. The backs did not waste it. McDonnell cut through, and though his pass went to ground, Long had the presence of mind to dribble across the line. Then Holland came through the lineout on one of his unstoppable breaks and Cowman converted to give a 10 pt lead. Later, Derek Cowman hit the upright with a penalty and Belvedere scored a try, but the issue never looked in doubt and the cup was borne to Rathmines in great glee. Over the season the squad registered 23 wins and two losses, with 502 pts scored and only 90 against.

CRICKET

For two years St Mary's had been unable to field a senior school team, but in 1969-70 a JCT appeared which seemed to promise an end to the lean years. There were only about twelve players available for the team, but they made up in team-spirit and enthusiasm, and no little skill, for any deficiencies. As mentioned in the previous chapter on cricket, a number



*Neil Smith Irish Schools'
Cricket International.*



*Dermot McCarthy, Leinster
Schools' Cricket Interprovincial.*

of enthusiastic cricketers from the school joined the under-age ranks of the Leinster C.C., with the encouragement of Fr Frank Barry, and these, who included Rory O'Connor, Derek Bennett, John Quinlan, Gerry Delaney, Frank O'Donnell and Terry Kennedy, formed a core round which a team could be built even in the short season available for cricket. St Paul's and Sandford Park were accounted for in the Cup before Belvedere capitalised on a number of St Mary's 'mistakes' to come out on top. Gerry Delaney had figures of 6 for 24 and John Quinlan 3 for 14, which would have accounted for most teams, but the batting let St Mary's down.

In 1970-71, played 11 lost 5 drew 6 does not sound like a very fruitful season and yet it was considered as both successful and enjoyable by those who took part in it. Over 100 runs were scored in almost every match. Gerry Delaney and Derek Bennett were chosen for the Leinster Schools against the Leprechauns, while Derek was also chosen for the Interpro against Ulster.

This year the Leinster Branch introduced a Schools League at junior level to supplant the cup competition and sustain interest in cricket over a longer period. For most schools the cricket season, wedged in as it is between the rugby season and public exams, is short enough, but at least a league had the merit of keeping a team in the hunt right up to the end. Also, the matches lasted just one afternoon and did not drag on like knock-out cup matches which could go on for days depending on the vagaries of the weather. Gerry Delaney was the captain of the JCT while at the same time one of the mainstays of the SCT. Another Leinster C.C. stalwart, Ciaran Callan, was the vice-captain.

1971-72 was the most satisfactory cricketing season for many years. Early games with Surgeons, West Indians and Leinster put the team under Rory O'Connor in the proper frame of mind, with the result that St Paul's (9 wickets) and Masonic (7 wickets) and Sandford Park (5 wickets) fell victims to the bowling of Rory O'Connor and Gerry Delaney. However, a strong St Columba's side put an end to the St Mary's hopes. Gerry Delaney and Derek Bennett were both chosen to play for Leinster against Ulster (a game cancelled because of the bad weather). They were also picked for Leinster Schools against the Leprechauns.

In 1971-72 the JCT, under the captaincy of Neil Smith assisted by Dermot McCarthy, went one better than the previous year when as U-14s they had lost the cup to St Columba's by just one run. In the Cup, a 20 run victory over Sandford Pk was followed by a surprisingly easy 7 wicket win over Belvedere, for whom nothing went right for a change and nothing wrong for St Mary's. However, in the very next match, against Gonzaga, nothing went right and St Mary's lost by 7 wickets. This meant a play-off against Sandford who had an equal number of points. This was the best match of the season, which St Mary's won by 6 runs, 88-82. Neil Smith was the man-of-the-match with top score of 27 and bowling figures of 6 for 23. All was in readiness for the final against St Columba's, who were the kingpins of cricket in those years. St Columba's won the toss and elected to bat on a perfect Sandford Park wicket, but tragedy struck for them when Neil Smith got their opening bat with his third ball. From that on it was disaster all the way for them and they could only scrape together 36. Smith took 7 for 16. But even 36 runs can be difficult to come by in schools cricket. Derry McCarthy took the brunt of the attack, making an invaluable 17 n.o. to take the St Mary's score past their rival's, and the cup was back in Rathmines after an absence of 25 years. Ciaran Cantwell, thus emulated the feat of his father, Sean, who was on the 1948 cup-winning side.

The U-14 team did not win the cup but had a record to be proud of, 8 wins out of 11 played, 2 drawn and only one lost. Three players from the previous year were again eligible. They had played on the victorious U-16 Leinster C.C. team. They were: Kevin Egan, Robert McDonnell and Brendan Foley.

1973-74 saw the culmination of all the efforts put into cricket in St Mary's by Fr Barry and Fr Moloney over the previous five years, during which the school had gone from being unable to field a senior team to winning the Leinster Schools Cup for the first time in 26 years. The team was led by Neil Smith who had captained the JCT two years previously when they had won the Junior Cup. He was assisted by Derry McCarthy once more. In the League Masonic were beaten by 16 runs, King's Hospital by 5 wickets. The High School left St Mary's only 90 mins in which to score 118, so they had to settle for a

*Leinster Schools'
Junior Cricket Cup
Winners, 1972*

*Standing: I. Conlon,
J. Treanor, K. Cantwell,
B. Sheehy, D. Rafter,
P. Healy.
Seated: P. Walsh,
R. Sloan,
N. Smith (Capt),
D. McCarthy,
R. McDonnell.
Front: K. Egan,
C. O'Neill.*





*Leinster Schools'
Senior Cricket Cup
Winners, 1974*

*Back: C. O'Neill,
D. Longeran, B. Foley,
P. Healy, R. McDonnell,
B. Quigley, P. Walsh.
Front: K. Egan,
R. Sloan, D. McCarthy,
N. Smith, G. McDonald,
D. Quigley.*

draw. The replay was the best match in the series. High School had the two best bowlers in Leinster, Alan Forde and Ian Burns who later went on to be capped for Ireland at both cricket and rugby. Nevertheless, St Mary's made a tidy total of 124. Then excellent bowling by Paul Walsh who finished with figures of 5 for 30, and Neil Smith who took important wickets at crucial junctures, saw St Mary's through. The final was against Wesley and was played in excellent conditions in Masonic's grounds. In spite of two run-outs (always a self-inflicted wound in cricket) St Mary's ran up the respectable score of 90, of which Paul Walsh contributed 54. Neil Smith was again in top form with the ball and took 5 for 18, Paul taking 3 for 27. With a lead of 34 going in to the second innings, St Mary's batted more confidently to reach 109. Wesley batted without conviction and Paul Healy shared the wickets equally with Neil Smith, both taking 5 for 30. The Leinster Schools Senior Cup returned once more to St Mary's. Neil Smith was capped for Leinster and Ireland Schools while Derry McCarthy was picked for the Leinster Schools.

1974-75 brought no cricket trophies to Rathmines. The outstanding player on the team, and indeed, in Leinster, was the captain for the second time, Neil Smith, who crowned his year by captaining the Leinster Schools against Ulster and the Leprechauns, by being one of the four Leinster players chosen to tour Holland with an Irish U-19 team (which was captained by ex-St Mary's Gerry Delaney), and by being chosen on the Irish Schools team to play Wales.

Jonathan Bennett took the U-13 Single Wicket title against all comers.

ATHLETICS

The first half of the decade showed a continued interest in athletics, although both cricket and basketball continued to make inroads on both the talent and time available. In 1969-70 there were successes at all levels of competition from Dublin Regional to All-Ireland. Cathal Sweeney was the outstanding individual, equalling the High Jump record in the South Dublin Zone with 1.70m, winning the Leinster championship and going on to take the All-Ireland for the second year in succession. He was 1st in the Triple Jump in the Zone

with a record 11.48 jump. Philip Opperman broke or equalled the record in the 100 and 200 Junior in the Zone, winning the 100 and getting 3rd in the 200 in Leinster. Gerry Aylward won the Zone Long Jump with a record leap (5.6m), having got 3rd in the Senior 200 and 400. In the Leinster he was 3rd in the Senior 200. Medals were also won by Rodney O'Donnell (3rd) in the 800m Junior, H.O'Neill (3rd Junior Long Jump), Junior Relay, Kevin Deering (3rd 800m Intermediate), Relay (Interm.), P. Walker (3rd Shot Intermediate), and G. Saab (1st Senior Shot, Zone record, 12.07m). In the Annual Schools Sports, Gerry Aylward was the Victor Ludorum.

In 1970-71 Philip Opperman was 2nd in the Leinster 100 and 200, Intermediate, but went one better in the All-Ireland by winning the 200. Henry O'Neill was 3rd in the Leinster 400, while the school Intermediate relay squad (Opperman, Howard, Keane, O'Neill) were 2nd.

1971-72 successes in the Zone Championships were J. McManus 100m (2nd) and P. O'Byrne, Shot (1st) in the Junior; Opperman, 100m (1st), 200 (1st), C. Davis, Shot (2nd), Relay (Opperman, Howard, O'Neill, O'Donnell) 1st, Intermediate; E. Keane, 400m (2nd) Senior. In the Leinster Championships Opperman was first in the 100 and 2nd in the 200 while the Relay team (Opperman, Howard, O'Neill, Healion) was 1st. In the All-Ireland, Opperman was 2nd in the 200, 3rd in the 100.

1972-73 saw Declan Fanning take the Leinster High Jump title for the first time, thus emulating his elder brother Jim. Paul Opperman continued his sprinting successes with wins in the Leinster 100 and 200, and 2nds in the All-Ireland.

In 1973-74 Declan Fanning won the Leinster High Jump and took 3rd place in the All-Ireland with a school record of 5'11½. Paul Opperman was injured during the year and could not reproduce his best form. Still, he was able to collect two 2nds in the Leinster Championships and two creditable 4ths in the All-Ireland. In the school sports he was Victor Ludorum for the third year and broke the school long jump record (21'1").

Michael Feehan was the only success in the Leinster Sports with a very close 2nd in the 400 Intermediate which showed that he could well shine in a year's time when he would be still eligible for the same grade. He won the 100, 200, 400 and High Jump in facile form in the school sports.

BASKETBALL

Basketball was played throughout the year by those who had no active interest in rugby or soccer but it was only during the slack period for these sports that basketball could be held. The Senior Basketball League continued to flourish and generate enthusiasm and rivalry. During the season a Blitz Tournament involving teams from the past as well the present proved very popular. Fr Cyril Byrne continued to be the mainstay and support for the game at this period. The game was not confined to the seniors. 3rd and 4th years held class competitions. All the Intermediate games were refereed by 5th and 6th year students.

After a lapse of eight years it was decided, in view of the level of interest in the game throughout the senior school, to revive participation in inter-school competition. In the Leinster Senior Schools Basketball League, St Mary's lost to Ringsend but beat St David's and Terenure, qualifying for Group B. Here they were faced by St Kieran's, Kilkenny, and had a convincing 50-40 win. It was then on to a meeting with St Michael's, Omeath, who had an overwhelming victory 90-49. Still, it was a brave maiden voyage, reflecting great credit on captain Tom Shanahan and his team: C. McCormack, J. Oliver, P. Rafter, W. Ryan and N. Hendrick.

Basketball continued to be played enthusiastically in 1972-73-74-75 but only as an internal sport. Leagues were played at both the beginning and the end of the 71-72 season, but after that the game was confined to the last term. One innovation that year was the

involvement with one or two of the neighbouring girls' schools with whom matches were arranged.

TENNIS

Nine grass courts in Kenilworth Square were fully occupied every half-day, weather permitting, although it often did not permit in 1969-70. This dependence on fair weather courts did not help in the preparation for inter-school games. At the same time, lack of success in the various competitions cannot be put down solely to lack of hard courts.

1970-71 was the best tennis season for a number of years weatherwise. Interest was high in the school except for 6th Year who were understandably more anxious about the upcoming exams. There was never a vacant court in Kenilworth on a half-day. But still, St Mary's found it difficult to compete with schools who played the game all year round. John Keogh was the school's No 1.

1971-72 saw the introduction of a competition in Leinster for U-13 teams. Every match would consist of 3 doubles games, and no JCT player was eligible. The courts were marked out early that year and practice was soon underway. Unfortunately the weather did not oblige and little tennis was possible for the rest of the term. John Keogh was again School No. 1.

In 1972-73 the weather was kinder and the interest in tennis all the keener for that. Over 180 took part in the school tournaments. The SCT were beaten by Belvedere in the Cup, Conheady and Walsh being the only winners. The JCT had better fortune, beating Gormanston (5-1) and St Michael's (4-2) before going out to the eventual winners, Gonzaga.

In 1973-74 the SCT repeated the performance of the previous year by going out in the first round, this time to Moate (5-0), but they did not go down without a fight, Sloan, Beirne and O'Shea taking their respective opponents to three sets.

1974-75 saw some of the best summer weather for years, with the result that tennis flourished. However it did not come in time for the cup matches which began on May 1 with rain that interrupted play in the first match. It took two days to finish the match. Quite a number of boys were interested enough to join Leinster C.C. during the summer where they had the advantage of coaching and regular hard court practice. Ray Sloan was the College No. 1, but it is interesting to note how the same names crop up whatever the sport. Paul Dean and Philip McDonnell, who were to form a most fruitful partnership in rugby at half-back for school, province and country, were prominent in the Junior Tennis Team also, not to speak of cricket and basketball.

SWIMMING

Swimming continued to interest a sizeable number of boys. Iveagh Baths were no longer available so the Friday sessions were switched to Tara St, where the facilities were poorer and the numbers had to be limited. Nevertheless, over 100 boys benefited, from absolute beginners who had no idea how to swim to the more proficient who availed of the coaching of Mr Ince to perfect their technique. Such was the interest that it was decided to hold a Swimming Gala in March for which there were over 60 entries and 50 prizes. So successful was the Gala that it was hoped it would become a regular feature in the college programme of events. The outstanding swimmer in the school at this time was undoubtedly John Mulvey, who won the Liffey Swim in 1969. John represented St Mary's in the Leinster and Irish Schools Championships on numerous occasions and was in the Interpro team which met Ulster in 1969 and again in 1970. He was a medallist in the 100m and 220m Freestyle in the Irish Championships 1970. In 1970 he won the Kilmartin Cup in an open-sea race

John Mulvey with some of his swimming trophies for 1969 and 1970.



in Bray. Two other open-sea swimmers were the Davis brothers, Donal and Con, who came in first and second in the Clontarf Open-sea Swim in 1970.

Winter and spring training continued in Tara St Baths where the school were given the use of the second pool after Easter. This meant that the more advanced students had more space and time in which to practise seriously without curtailing the fun of the beginners. The Gala was held in Iveagh Baths in April with an increased entry which showed a big improvement on the previous year. John Mulvey, still eligible for the U-16 group, remained the outstanding swimmer, clocking 61.6 for 100m freestyle and winning both butterfly and medley, while the Davis brothers took the breaststroke and backstroke. St Mary's took a water-polo team to Belfast for the Irish Championships for the first time. They did not win either of their matches, against Gormanston and St Malachy's, but John Mulvey and Con Davis were chosen for Leinster. In the match against Ulster, which Leinster won, Con Davis scored the first goal. In the Leinster Championships, John Mulvey was second in the Intermediate Freestyle and Backstroke. St Mary's were 3rd in the Freestyle Relay. In the Irish Schools Championships the St Mary's squad were 4th in the Intermediate Freestyle and Medley. To crown the swimming achievements that year, the College Scout Unit won the CBSI Shield and Cup for the first time, with the help of Con and Donal Davis, Declan McDonald and Dermot Rafter.

In 1971-72 the writing appeared to be on the wall for the Tara St Corporation swimming facilities and St Mary's began to consider the advisability of providing their own. The question of space could be answered in Kenilworth but the question of cost could not so easily be answered. Meanwhile, Tara St continued to be used to good effect as the standards at the Annual Gala in Iveagh Baths in April showed. For the first time a senior section was included, mainly due to students like John Mulvey and the Davis brothers continuing to maintain interest. John took the freestyle and butterfly, Donal the backstroke and Con the breaststroke. John's younger brother, Shane was the leading U-15 swimmer. Two records were broken in the U-14s, by Philip Shortall and Gerard Hickey in the butterfly and breaststroke, while Ronan Murray won the freestyle, backstroke and medley. The largest entry came in the U-13s where Colm Largey had a time of 31s in the freestyle and

then broke his own record in the butterfly. Barra O'Kane won the U-13 backstroke as well as the only two U-12 events. After the Gala the IASA Proficiency Tests were held with satisfying results. 23 boys received the Gold Award, 20 the Silver and 32 the Bronze. Apart from Mr Ince the Instructor, a debt was owed to some of the parents including Mrs Davis and Mrs Mulvey, and to past students Tommy Dorgan, John Pettit and Kieran Cowman for their help with the Gala and the Tests.

In the Leinster Schools Con Davis won the silver medal in the Intermediate Freestyle and was 4th in the butterfly. John Mulvey was 3rd in the Senior Freestyle and 4th in the butterfly. In the Irish Championships in Tuam, Con Davis was again 2nd in the Intermediate Freestyle with a time of 63.1s, but John Mulvey won Gold in the Senior Butterfly with a time of 69.9s, while Donal Davis came 4th in the Senior Backstroke. As a final round-up of the season, St Mary's sent a team to Castleknock where they had a comfortable win in the senior and U-15 events but were beaten in the U-13s.

Tara St Baths survived for another year and St Mary's had the use of the two pools until the end of January. Many of the boys took their proficiency a step further. Con Davis took two bronze medals in the Leinster Championships in spite of injury. Teams were entered for the Schools Life-saving competition and for both Senior and Junior Water Polo Championships. A successful Annual Gala rounded off the season.

In 1974 Mr Ince, the popular and helpful swimming instructor for many years, died. Hundreds of boys owed their introduction to the joys of swimming to him. Mrs McGoldrick took over where he left off and proved herself an able replacement. With the passing out of such swimming stalwarts as John Mulvey and the Davis brothers, there were insufficient seniors interested to warrant the holding of a senior section in the Gala, but the enthusiasm in the other grades more than made up for this.

In 1974-75 a transfer was made from Tara St Baths to the Eurosport Centre in Grafton St where many boys learned to swim under the guidance of the coaches provided by the Centre. A few boys entered the Leinster Championships but with no notable success. Con Davis was chosen for the Leinster U-19 Water-polo team. The Annual Gala took place as usual in Iveagh Baths in April and about 70 boys participated with evident enjoyment. But the most pleasant event of the year as far as swimmers were concerned was the sight of the workmen beginning to build the new Corporation Baths in Williams Park not 200m from the college.

SOCCKER

1968-69 saw St Mary's embark on their maiden voyage on the uncharted seas of Inter-school Association Football. Soccer had been played unofficially almost from the very first days of the school after the re-opening in 1926 and quite a number of boys from the school made names for themselves as soccer players outside the school, including Ivor and Barry Hooper in UCD, and Seamus Mulvey who was a schoolboy International in the '30s, and Fionan Fagan in the '40s, who went on to gain full International caps when playing First Division football for Derby County. But although games were played after school by pick-up teams, it was never included in the official list of organised school games until now. A very successful Soccer League was played in 1968-69 in the back field with four games every Tuesday. Tony Ward (who went on to play for Shamrock Rovers and Ireland) and David Hooper (keeping up the family soccer tradition) were very prominent exponents.

Raymond Geraghty was elected captain of the SCT for the initial foray into the Leinster Colleges Soccer Cup in which they were grouped with Terenure and CUS. They won comfortably against CUS in Belfield but lost by the only goal in the game with Terenure. However, this qualified them for the next section where they met St Paul's who won by the odd goal in five. It was a brave effort and all credit to the team and their manager, Sean

McCarthy, without whose help and encouragement the enterprise would not have got off the ground.

1970-71 started well. Tim O'Flaherty was elected captain and he had four others of the previous year's team on which to build. The first cup match signalled the entry of Tony Ward on to the soccer scene in earnest. Before this he had appeared only in the house games where he had revealed his potential. On a soggy pitch in Clongowes, the lighter and more skilful St Mary's side found the going difficult and only the stout defence of the Hooper brothers, David and Kevin, kept the score-sheet blank. Two goals from Ward saw them through. The next match was the quarter-final and was against the cup favourites, O'Connell Schools, who ran out easy winners although St Mary's kept them on the rack for long stretches.

In 1971-72 Tommy McGovern, who, like the Hoopers, was in his third year on the SCT, was elected captain, Tony Ward was vice-captain. In the opening cup game, with St Andrew's, the forwards showed their ability by scoring 5 goals, but the defence showed its vulnerability by letting in 4. The next match, against the unknown quantity of Mt St Fergus Academy was a bit of a shambles with bookings, sendings-off and a plethora of goals which saw St Mary's lose after extra time by 6-8.

In 1972-73 Tony Ward, who had already gained his Schools International cap, was now playing for Shamrock Rovers and led the team into the Leinster Schools Cup, where they were unfortunate enough to be pitted against the favourites, Beneavin, who won 2-0 in the very first round.

In 1973-74 some of the interest and enthusiasm for soccer seemed to go with the passing out of such stalwarts as Ward, the Hoopers and McGovern. The SCT, skippered by B. O'Connor, won their opening cup game, against St John's, Ballyfermot, 5-4, a game that had no little skill as well as thrills, as the result indicates. The next was against a very fine St Laurence's team and St Mary's were well and truly beaten.

SCOUTING

Many changes took place in scouting in the college in 1968. So great was the demand for admission that it was decided to start a second troop to cater for the numbers. It was named the 8th Dublin Troop. This meant an extra call for suitable officers, but the Unit was fortunate in having both the number and calibre needed. Louis McMullen retired from active duty following his marriage but he continued to be on hand when his services were required. His place as Unit Leader was taken by Peter Best. The ensuing vacancy as Cub Leader was filled by Gerry Costello and Jim Kelly, assisted by D. McSorley and M. McLaughlin. Conor Hooper also resigned after long service and his post as Senior Scout Master was taken by Brian O'Kelly. Jerry Kelly became the first Scout Master of the new 8th Dublin, but unfortunately found he was unable to continue and Peter Costello took over. Denis Kirby was Scout Master of the 7th for a number of years, but he was made a Commissioner and Gerry Sharvin took his place. He in turn was replaced by D. Hogan. Throughout all these changes Fr David Darcy remained chaplain, a rock of stability amid the changing seas.

When the troop first split there were four patrols in each. Two more patrols were added in 1970 giving 5 patrols in each troop. The Troops were separate for most activities but they combined for the Diocesan Soccer to reach the final and came third in the Swimming Gala. Pat Shaffrey and Tom Shanahan became the first Star Scouts of the new 8th.

The total strength of the Unit in 1970-71 was 130, from cubs numbering 40 to senior scouts who provided support for all the scouting activities. The Dublin Swimming Gala was won by the 8th, mainly thanks to the Davis brothers. But it was the prospect of having their very own purpose-built Den that spurred the enthusiasm of all during that

year from the moment the planning permission came through. As stated earlier in the chapter on development, the senior troop played a big part in the initial site-clearing, helped by scouters, scouts, cubs and anyone else who happened to be standing round or even passing by Kenilworth Square at the time.

1971-72 was notable, first for the completion and Blessing of the new Den, and second, for the initial camp in Europe. Derek Jennings retired as Scout Master and Arthur McMullan and Paul Sullivan took over in the 7th. The 8th lost Peter Costello who was replaced by Louis McMullan and John Shanahan.

A number of changes in the leadership over the previous two years saw the retirement of Peter Best as Unit Leader, Arthur McMullan, Brian O'Kelly, John Shanahan, Martin McLaughlin, Tom Lynch and Paul Rafter, to all of whom the unit owed an immense debt of gratitude for years of selfless dedication to the cause of scouting in general and the St Mary's College Unit in particular. On the national level Jerry Kelly (National Executive Board and International Commissioner), Denis Kirby (Chairman, Dublin Diocesan Council, and Training Team member) were worthy representatives of the College Unit. An Annual Cheese and Wine Party which was started in 1973 to clear the remaining debt on the new den proved a continuing financial and social success.

The only change in the leadership in 1974-75 was in the cubs where Pat Shaffrey took over from P. J. Farrell. The numbers in the unit continued to grow. Camping activity also grew and much use was made of the National Camp at Larch Hill. Two PLs were sent on a training course to Kunderstag in Switzerland and four more on a similar course at Larch Hill. Two representatives were sent to the International Jamboree in Norway.

SUMMER CAMPS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Camp-Site</i>	<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>Leader</i>
1970	Guernsey, C.I. (7th) (8th) Courtown (Cubs)	Fr Darcy	Derek Jennings Peter Costello Jim Kelly
1971	Kingsdown, Kent (7th) (8th) Courtown (Cubs)	Fr Darcy	Derek Jennings Peter Costello Jim Kelly
1972	Kanderstag, Switzerland (7th) (8th) Courtown (Cubs)	Fr Darcy	Paul Sullivan Louis McMullen Jim Kelly
1973	Aberdeen (7th) Youlbury (8th) Courtown (Cubs)	Fr Darcy Fr T. Maguire	Arthur McMullen Jim Kelly Aidan Delaney
1974	Tawd Vale, Lans. (7th) Sheffield (8th) Courtown (Cubs)	Fr Darcy	Aidan Delaney Tony Dalton P. J. Farrell
1975	Isle of Wight (7th) Downe, Kent (8th) Courtown (Cubs)	Fr darcy	Aidan Delaney Tony Dalton Pat Shaffrey

PHILATELY

The Society which came into being in 1967-68 continued to flourish in 1969-70. The waning of interest in a small number left a core of dedicated philatelists, whose appetite for the hobby was sharpened during the year by a series of competitions for prizes donated by the Society. Chief among these is the Perpetual Trophy which that year was won by Peter Norton with a fine essay on Europa.

The Society lapsed for the year 1970-71 but was revived in 1971-72. In a way, the lapse was fortunate, because the revived society found that it did not need the wet-nursing of one of the staff to survive. Philip Leahy, the inaugural winner of the perpetual trophy, was elected president, Rory O'Connor hon. sec. and Eoin O'Cofaigh as hon. treasurer. The society met every week in the college art room where the members took it in turns to put on displays of their collections. Dermot McCarthy won the perpetual trophy with a display of Australian Christmas stamps. An innovation was the publications of a fortnightly newsletter compiled by Eoin O'Cofaigh.

ORNITHOLOGY

Towards the end of the first term in 1969-70, a group of boys interested in ornithology formed a club. Some had already made bird-watching their hobby, so they were not inexperienced. Awareness of the environment and of the need to protect it was increasing among people of all ages, and the club, under the guidance of Fr Henry Moloney, set out to observe and study birds in their natural habitat, with a view to increasing this awareness. In Ireland there is an ideal opportunity to study not only the birds native to this country but the myriads of birds that come here every year to escape the rigours of the more northerly climes. Field trips to the nearby Grand Canal and St Stephen's Green, Phoenix Park, Ringsend and Booterstown Wildlife Reserve were followed by a trip to the Natural Museum, but the event of the year was the trip to the Saltees off the Wexford coast. This is one of the great bird sanctuaries of the world with unequalled flocks of kittiwakes, fulmar, puffin, razorbill, guillemots, shags and gannets. A founder-member of the club, Fergus Sweeney, was chosen to represent the school on a wildlife Television programme.

1971-72 saw an increase in membership in the club. Most of the activity in the club took place in the first term, with meetings on most Saturdays after school when slide shows and talks were given to prepare for the field trips on the week-end to the Bull Island, Booterstown, Dun Laoghaire, Ireland's Eye and the Zoo. The term ended with a trip to the Wexford Sloblands. In the third term there were trips to Howth and Ireland's Eye to observe the birds of the rocky coast. Finally there was another visit to the Saltees with Mr J. Devereux of Kilmore Quay and Mr J. Sutton early in the summer holidays. From the



*Ornithology Club, 1970
Members of the
Ornithology Club
relaxing after a successful
survey of the birds on
Ireland's Eye.*



Ornithology Field Trip, 1971

beginning, photography was a hobby very closely linked with bird watching and every year saw an addition to the club's collection of photos. To this was added in 1971-72 a collection of records of birdsong to familiarise the members with the different birdcalls.

In 1973-74 efforts were made to give the members a more scientific approach to their hobby. Sketching and photographic competitions were held which showed a very high degree of competence. During the year Niall O'Cofaigh brought out a quarterly magazine to which the members contributed articles.

In 1974-75 there was a departure from the norm when a group stayed overnight camping in a reserve in October. The Wexford Sloblands were again one of the most interesting trips, due in no small measure to the kindness and interest of Mr Oscar Merne, in charge of the reserve.

PAST PUPILS' UNION

The President of the Past Pupils' Union for 1969-70 was Paddy Condon, who was followed in turn by Sean O'Byrne, John Fanagan, Conor McCarthy, Tim Brooder and Reggie Redmond. In chronological order, the principal events on the union calendar continued to be the Annual Dance, co-sponsored by the union and rugby club, the Annual Mass for the deceased past students and staff in November, the Annual Dinner in December, the Annual Retreat on Good Friday. In 1969-70 an At Home was held in the college for the first time and 81 people had a very enjoyable evening. A Social Evening was held in the rugby club the following month but was poorly attended despite the efforts of Derry Smyth and the excellent catering by Mrs Coveney and Mrs Kearns. In conjunction with the Blackrock and Rockwell Unions, an appeal was made to the past students to raise funds for Bishop Whelan and Biafra, which realised £1,400. But in general there was a feeling in the union that affairs could be better organised, that much more could be made of the

potential membership among the hundreds of past students who were largely untouched. With this in view it was decided to form three committees, each with a separate area of responsibility: Membership (chaired by Sean O'Byrne); Objectives (Conor McCarthy); Functions (John Fanagan). The membership committee set about compiling a list of past students with their last known addresses with a view to contacting them and inviting them to participate in one way or another in the union's activities, even if only by joining the union and paying a subscription, without any commitment either to take an active part or even attend functions. The Objectives Committee set about identifying possible objectives the union might take on board either in regard to the School itself or society at large. It was suggested, for instance, that the union might involve itself in raising funds to provide the school with a swimming-pool, a project that would call for a sum in excess of £75,000. The Functions Committee addressed the matter of the usefulness or otherwise of the functions that the union promoted annually, such as the Dinner etc. In this regard it was decided to drop the Dress Dance and substitute an Informal Dance; to drop the At Home and substitute a week-end in the Talbot Hotel in Wexford in May/June.

Annual Mass

All the usual annual union events were successfully held in this period of 1969-75. The Annual Mass for deceased past students and staff attracted a mere 30 or 40 every year, but in 1973-74 it was decided to invite whole families to attend and the numbers increased dramatically, while the tea and biscuits in the College afterwards helped to make an occasion of it and a real union event.

Annual Retreat

By the end of the '60s the idea of an enclosed week-end Retreat was no longer an attractive proposition, so it was decided to substitute a one-day Retreat and it was thought that Holy Week would be the best time for it. In 1970-71 a two-day Retreat was given in the college by Dr Michael O'Carroll, CSSp (former prefect) in conjunction with the Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgical services, but in the following year it was a one-day affair again on Good Friday, as it has remained to this day.

Annual Dinner

Throughout the entire 1969-75 period the Clarence Hotel was the venue for the Annual Dinner and the numbers fluctuated between a low of 88 to a high of 134. In 1970-71 it was decided that with all the amateur talent available among the members there was no point in wasting money on professional entertainers, so, from then on the members entertained themselves at these dinners. In 1974-75 tombola was introduced by Reggie Redmond in order to raise funds for the union and for the Marian Boys Club.

Annual Dance

The Shelbourne, Gresham, Killiney Castle and the Clarence were among the venues for the Annual Dance, at which attendances varied from 150 to 275. The occasion in the 1973-74 year was notable in that it marked the retirement of Mr Philip McCabe, the respected teacher who had been on the staff from 1939, initially as a Higher Diploma candidate, and then, from 1942, full-time. A presentation was made to him by the union in recognition of what the college and student body owed to his selfless dedication to their welfare over the preceding thirty years.

Union Day

1970 saw the inauguration of a Union Sports Day which was held in August. A cricket match between the President's (S.O'Byrne) XI and The Rest was the highlight and this was followed by a soccer tournament with 4 teams. Johnny Bowden provided all with tea. This was a formula which was followed with success for the next few years with the numbers attending rising to 150. In 1974 the date was brought forward to May as a more suitable date before families scattered for the holidays. That year too, the links with the Tennis Club were strengthened by a tennis fixture between the club and members of the union. The 1974-75 Union Day was washed by the rain and soccer was the only game that could be played. Johnny Bowden and his tea-maids were the sure winners that day!

Marian Boys Club

If not exactly flourishing financially, the Marian Boys Club continued to function, catering for about 40 boys. About 12 Union members were engaged in the work but many more helpers were needed. A Fashion Show to raise funds was not too successful but the £200 from the Golden Guinea Club was very welcome. In 1971-72 the 5th and 6th year students spent part of their summer holidays helping to decorate the premises, but the club underwent an even greater change at this time than a merely cosmetic one. Hitherto the club had catered for youths from 18-25 years, but now it was decided that a younger age group would benefit even more from the premises and its activities, so it was decided to take in boys from 10-18 years, dividing them into three age groups who would meet once a week, when they would learn a simple trade like carpentry as well as enjoy the recreational facilities provided. At this time the club was autonomous with no connection with any other organisation, so a committee was formed of former members for the day-to-day management of the club. Dan Coveney, Dermot Sullivan and Reggie Redmond of the union were members of this management committee, but more union members were needed to help in the running of the club. With the help of the union, the St Louis Musical Society, the Golden Guinea Club, the finances of the club were in good shape. The back yard of the premises were cemented over for £800, A football trip to Liverpool was organised as well as a camping holiday in county Wicklow. In 1973-74 the running costs of the club were £376 p.a. all of which was raised by the fund-raising activities of the PPU's of St Mary's and St Louis, and of Sales of Work organised by a Ladies Committee. In 1974 £900 was subscribed. 15 boys from the college and about 13 girls from neighbouring schools took part in a 24-hour fast in St Stephen's Green, and two dances were run by the boys from the college, all of which were financially successful. By 1975 about 60 boys were being catered for in the club, which, being situated in the Gardiner St part of the inner city, contributed considerably to the improvement of the area.

The Golfing Society

The Golfing Society, of which P. Drennan was the hon. sec, held their Annual Outing in Milltown GC and over 60 attended the dinner. This was the pattern over the years with a small variation merely in the numbers attending. In 1971-72 15 from St Mary's took part in a golf outing to Royal Dublin organised by the sister colleges, Blackrock, Rockwell and St Mary's. 130 played in this event the following year in Royal Dublin, but little more than half that number in the next year. It is a very useful exercise in Holy Ghost solidarity and well worth cultivating. While the union presidents and hon. secs. meet annually at each others union dinners, there is no other occasion where the ordinary members can meet.

LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Two new hard courts were installed in the Tennis Club which was celebrating its 21st Anniversary in the Belmont premises, thus making it a year-round club. Every year an

appeal was made in the Annual Address of the PPU Hon. Sec. for more of the past students to join the club to ensure its continuing links with the college, but not with much success. Boys interested in tennis were already members of clubs nearer their homes before they left school. In 1971-72 there were 150 in the club, with more ladies than men, but this was not a sufficient number to offset expenses, and were it not for the various functions run to raise funds the club would be in debt and it left no possibility of further improvements.

Nevertheless, the club carried on. In 1973-74 the B team reached the quarter-final of its League, while the Men's Winter League team reached the final with Sutton LTC. There was a Barbeque Weekend on the Shannon in the summer and a number of outings to Brittas Bay. The At Home was held in the Cliff Castle Hotel in Dalkey. In 1974-75 the B team was promoted to Class 3 after defeating Taney LTC to win the Cup for the first time. The At Home was held in Brook House. At this time the rugby club was engaged in its move from Fortfield to Templeville and the tennis club wondered if perhaps they could be accommodated there also and in that way forge closer links both with the college and its past pupils. But from soundings made, it appeared that the rugby club had other plans.

ST MARY'S RFC

The 1969-70 season did not end on as high a note as the last but it was by no means bereft of laurels. While the 1st XV went down to Lansdowne in the first round of the Cup after two replays, the 2nds won the Metropolitan Cup for the first time in 17 years. They were captained by George Hook who also captained the Leinster Junior Interpro team in their clean sweep. All through the season it was felt that this team would come good despite the number of times that their members were called upon for duty with the 1sts. Terenure had already won the Junior League without losing a game. They led by 8 points at half-time with aggressive attacking football, but mid-way through the half the St Mary's forwards began to get on top. A penalty by O'Connell was followed by a Kinahan try converted by O'Connell, who then clinched the victory with another penalty in the dying minutes.

The 3rd B got to the final of the Winters Cup for the second year in succession. A new competition was inaugurated that year between the 3rd D teams of Terenure and St Mary's, called the Greenlea Cup after the Terenure RFC Grounds, and was won by St Mary's who seem to make a habit of winning trophies in their inaugural year (Leinster Senior League; Moran Cup; Winters Cup; McCorry Cup; Junior 4 League).

Tommy Kearns officiated at the Air Force-Navy game in Twickenham, an Interprovincial and a Cork-Dublin match while Matt Gilsenan handled both the Leinster Senior Cup and Schools Cup finals as well as one of the Interprovincials.

Sean O'Byrne managed a short 3-match tour to Devon which was highly successful. The 1st XV travelled to Liverpool to play Waterloo and Wilmsow. A creditable draw was the result of the first, but the second game was cancelled. West of Scotland and New Brighton were two visiting teams who were welcomed during the year.

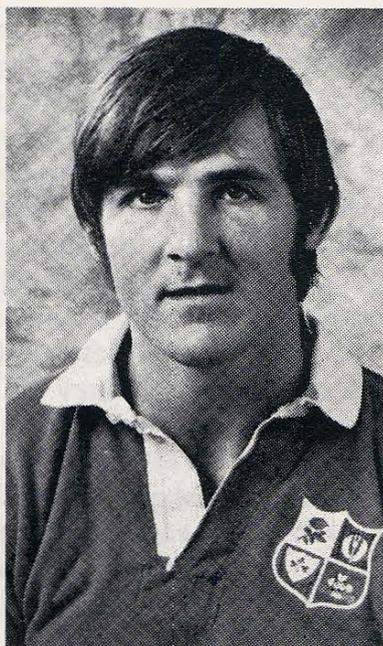
Fergus Meehan and Kevin Corrigan were capped by Connaught; Terry Young, Denis Hickie, Johnny Moloney and Sean Lynch were capped by Leinster, who were captained by Lynch. Lynch was also a sub for the Irish team. Sean Lynch, Johnny Moloney, Shay Deering, Henry Murphy and Jim McDonnell were picked for the Irish Tour to Argentina. Derek Jennings was picked for the Irish Youths team which did so well both in London and Dublin. With Paul Andreucetti and Dermot Byrne he was on the first-ever Leinster U-21 team who played Ulster.

The season was notable for one sad happening, the death of the first-ever captain of the club, Seamus Ó Braonain. With his death the last link with the founding of the club in 1900 was severed.

1970-71 had to be the greatest season ever in the club. The Leinster Senior Cup was won



Sean Lynch



Johnny Moloney



Tom Grace

under the captaincy of Johnny Moloney, with Vinnie McGovern as manager. Sean Lynch and Denis Hickie became the first members of the club to be capped for Ireland [previous past student Internationals, Paddy Roddy (1920), Joe Clarke (1922-24) and George Norton (1947-50) had played for Bective Rangers]. They played in all four Internationals as well as the Interprovincials, together with Johnny Moloney who was Roger Young's understudy for the Irish team. Another first for the club was Sean Lynch's selection on the Lions' Tour to New Zealand (an honour previously given to George Norton), as was his selection for the Barbarians.

The 2nd XV, under captain Eamonn Mullan and manager, Bill Grey, retained the Metropolitan Cup. George Hook retained the captaincy of the Leinster Junior Interprovincial team which also featured Ciaran O'Connell.

This season also saw the inauguration of the McCorry Cup for U-19 teams, which St Mary's won under the captaincy of Paul Andreucetti. Ned Carmody did a fine job of coaching this team as, indeed, he did for every other team in the club as required. He also coached the successful Leinster U-19 team which contained Liam Grissing, Martin O'Brien, Paul Andreucetti, Eddie Wigglesworth, Tom Lynch and Cathal Sweeney. In addition, Paul, Eddie and Derek Jennings played for the Leinster U-21 team.

Joe Fanagan, the club's representative on the Branch, was elected to the Selection Committee. T. B. Kearns (France-Romania; Irish Trial), Matt Gilsenan, Eddie French, Paddy Farrell and Denis Nagle were active with the whistle for the Branch and Union. Many teams were entertained to meals in the club throughout the season and were loud in their praise of the hospitality, which was in the hands of Colm Bevan, who also took charge of the celebratory dinner for the new Internationals. Matt Gilsenan again looked after the Annual Dinner which was an unqualified success. It is considered the best Club Dinner in Leinster.

Because of complaints from local residents about noise and unruly behaviour, the committee reluctantly decided to stop the dances in the beginning of December. This occasioned a severe financial loss to the club but there seemed no other answer. It was decided to start the dances once more in the beginning of June. The same complaints forced the committee to restrict the use of the club during the weekdays too. An enlarged foyer with tea lounge added considerably to the appearance of the club premises as well as

giving much needed extra cloakroom space. At the instigation of the committee, Diarmuid O'Donovan and Nick Kearns, with other members of the legal profession, examined the Club's Constitution with proposals to re-draft it.

The Metropolitan Cup was won for the second time in succession (and the fifth time altogether) at the end of a season which saw the 2nd XV just pipped by Terenure for the Junior League Cup. The icing on the cake that season was the play-off between the winners of the Metropolitan and Provincial Towns Cups, in which St Mary's met and defeated Skerries in a very tight match (8-6).

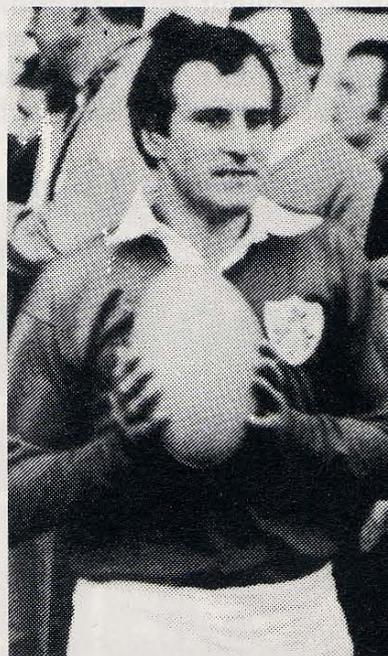
The McCorry Cup was presented by Blackrock RFC in memory of Charlie McCorry, a well-known and popular rugby personality closely connected with both rugby and Blackrock RFC. It was intended to cater for boys making the transition from schools to club football, so it had an age limit of 19. St Mary's were proud to be the first name on this trophy.

Even before the 1971-72 season began the name and reputation of the club had been enhanced throughout the rugby world to an extraordinary degree by the exploits of Sean Lynch with the British and Irish Lions in New Zealand. Sean played in all four Tests and after this gruelling series of matches was acclaimed as one of the finest prop forwards in the game. On returning home he captained Leinster to win the Interprovincial title and played for Ireland in all three internationals.

The season began on a high note by the winning of the Castle Trophy at the Blackrock RFC Festival and ended with the winning of the J. B. Roche Cup, competed for by the Leinster and Munster (Cork Constitution) Senior League Winners, in its first year to be awarded. In between they won the inaugural Leinster Senior League, playing some brilliant football which won them unstinted praise from all the critics, with an end-of-season tribute that recognised the tremendous contribution they had made to the game and acknowledged them as the best club side in Ireland. Captain J. B. Sweeney, coach Eamon Carmody and manager Sean O'Byrne deserved great praise. It was just unfortunate that the team slipped up at the worst possible moment by allowing



Denis Hickie



Shay Deering



*Tom B. Kearns
International Referee.*



*Joe Fanagan
Irish 'Big Five' Selectors.*



*Gerry K. Boyd,
Leinster Branch Treasurer,
IRFU, 1971-81.*

Lansdowne, the eventual cup-winners, overcome them in the first round of the Cup. 3C XV reached the final of the O'Connor Cup.

Honours continued to be heaped on the heads of players. John Moloney gained his first cap, against France in Paris, to be followed by two more, against England at Twickenham, and France a second time, in Dublin, to make up for the refusal of Scotland and Wales to travel to 'disturbed' Ireland. Johnny scored in both French games, thus becoming the first member of the club to score for his country. Joe Clarke (Bective) had scored a try in 1924; George Norton (Bective) was Ireland's top points scorer in Internationals until Olly Campbell broke his record. Johnny and Denis Hickie (who gained his 5th and 6th caps during the season) also played for the Barbarians. Eddie Wigglesworth, Shay Deering and Paul Andreucetti joined the two internationals on the Leinster team, and Kevin Corrigan played for Connaught team. In addition, Eddie Wigglesworth was on the Leinster U-19 team. Ron Foley and Conor Ryan were Leinster Junior Interpros. Joe Fanagan, the club's Leinster representative, was on the selection committee whose teams were unbeaten in the Interprovincial and Inter-City matches throughout the season.



*Metropolitan Cup
Winners, 1970*

*Back: P. Bolger, R. Foley,
G. Fanning, C. Ryan,
J. Murray, M. Rigney,
T. McCormick, V. McGovern.
Seated: G. O'Hagan,
D. Jennings, A. Andreucetti,
G. Hooke (Capt), M. Jones,
C. O'Conaill, F. Meehan.
Front: E. Mullen, J. Kinahan.*

*Leinster Senior Cup
Winners, 1971*

Back: V. McGovern,
K. Corrigan, F. Dowling,
N. Kenny, D. Hickie,
J. Sweeney, D. Byrne,
R. Foley, T. McCormack,
P. J. Bolger.
Front: A. Andreucetti,
A. Byrne, E. Wigglesworth,
J. Moloney (Capt), F. Meehan,
P. Andreucetti, C. Sweeney.



Tommy Kearns took charge of the France versus Gt Britain Universities game as well as a Schools Interpro.

The dances which were suspended the previous year because of complaints from neighbouring residents were successfully resumed in June, due mainly to sterling work by Sean Jennings, Niall Woodcock, Gerry Ebbs and Derek Jennings.

1973-74 was another sparkling year for the club and the Leinster Senior Cup returned once more to Rathmines. This was the third victory out of four finals in six years. Paul Andreucetti was captain, Ned Carmody coach and Tim Brooder manager. Johnny Moloney, Sean Lynch and Tom Grace were capped for Ireland, while the latter two were on the Lions tour to South Africa. In addition, Tom Feighery got his Interpro for Leinster, while John Kinahan and Ron Foley got Junior Interpros. Denis Hooper was on the successful Leinster U-19 team. Joe Fanagan graduated to the Irish 'Big Five', which picked the first Irish team to win the Championships since 1951.

Tommy Kearns had charge of the Leinster Senior League final.

The Annual Dinner continued to be the best in the province thanks to the good work of Matt Gilsenan. The guest-of-honour was Bill McBride, the Irish captain of the Lions, who was presented with a plaque by the Club to mark this honour and regaled the company with stories of 'Lynchie' on the New Zealand Tour.

The most momentous happening was the announcement towards the end of the season that the Club was to move from Fortfield Road. The negotiations had been in train for some time with the Holy Ghost Fathers in Kimmage and the bank for the acquisition of land close to Templeogue College. This would give sufficient space for four full pitches and a clubhouse with ample parking space. It would also allow for the building of a clubhouse which would be considerably distant from the nearest housing, thus avoiding the problems that had arisen in Fortfield regarding noise.

1974-75 was the Centenary season of the Irish Rugby Football Union and St Mary's used that stage to add even greater lustre to a playing history that was second to none in the country. The first task was to make sure of holding on to the Leinster Senior Cup, no easy task as events proved. Terenure caused the first hiccup by holding them to a 13-13 draw in the first round, but the replay was safely negotiated. Old Belvedere were then safely disposed of 20-10. The semi-final with UCD was a thrilling game, St Mary's getting on top only in the final quarter to win 10-0. The final against Old Wesley was equally thrilling and ended in a draw 6-6. In the replay Old Wesley led 3-0, 6-3 and 9-3. With only seven minutes left a Tom Grace try and penalty set the seal on a magnificent effort.

*McCorry Cup
Winners, 1971*

Back: E. Carmody,
R. McKell, G. Walshe,
P. Greene,
Fr. W. Kennedy,
M. O'Brien, E. Morgan,
T. O'Flanagan,
M. Colley, P. J. Bolger.
Seated: T. Lynch,
C. Sweeney, B. Bennett,
P. Andreucetti (Capt),
E. Wigglesworth,
L. Grissing, B. Grimson.
Front: P. McLoughlin,
F. Kennedy.



*Leinster Senior Cup
Winners, 1974*

Back:
E. Carmody, (Coach),
T. Feighery, A. Hickey,
T. Grace, J. Sweeney,
J. Donlon, M. Glynn,
P. O'Reilly, S. Lynch,
T. Brooder (Manager).
Seated: T. Young,
H. Murphy,
A. Andreucetti,
P. Andreucetti,
J. O'Donohue
(President), F. Kennedy,
R. O'Connor,
E. Wigglesworth.
Front: L. Grissing,
J. Moloney.



*Leinster Senior Cup
Winners, 1975*

Back: E. Carmody,
T. Feighery,
T. McCormack,
E. Mullan,
J. B. Sweeney,
T. Grace, M. Glynn,
J. Donnellan, D. Hickie,
A. Hickie, T. Brooder.
Seated: S. Lynch,
H. Murphy, L. Naughton,
J. O'Donohue,
T. Young (Capt),
J. Moloney, F. Kennedy,
L. Grissing.
Front: P. Andreucetti,
E. Wigglesworth.



*Lions and
Interprovincials, 1974*

Back:

*T. Young (Munster),
A. Hickie (Leinster),
T. Feighery (Leinster),
J. Sweeney (Leinster),
E. Wigglesworth
(Leinster).*

Front:

*H. Murphy (Leinster),
T. Grace (Lion,
Ireland & Leinster),
P. Andreucetti (Leinster),
J. Moloney (Lion,
Ireland & Leinster),
S. Lynch (Lion,
Ireland & Leinster).*



That victory put the club in line for another honour. The Munster Branch had organised the All-Ireland Centenary Club Champion-ships between the champion clubs of the four provinces. The replayed Leinster Cup final left St Mary's with a daunting task. They would now have to play matches on the Saturday and Sunday if they were to win, on top of the two matches the previous Saturday and Wednesday – four cup ties in eight days! And yet, they never played better than they did against the Ulster champions, Bangor, that Saturday, setting themselves up for an encounter with one of the club's friendliest of rivals, Garryowen.

The scene was set for a moment of glory for the club. The ground was packed to capacity with fervent Garryowen supporters who had come to see the battle of the champions. They were not disappointed. Again St Mary's trailed and again their opponents led 9-3. It seemed the team had played their heart out and were doomed to defeat, but once again the fighting spirit came to the rescue. Tom Grace scored near the posts and his conversion made it 9-9. And that was how the game ended. Extra time had now to be played. The rules stated that in the case of a draw, the side with more tries would win. Since St Mary's had the only try of the game, the game was obviously to defend might and main. But that was not the St Mary's way. They attacked from the word go and twice nearly got over but the final whistle came with no change and St Mary's were Centenary Champions.

Tommy Kearns took charge of the Leinster Schools Junior Cup Final.

The only other competitions in which St Mary's were successful were the Kilcock and U-19 Sevens under captains Rory O'Connor and Declan Fanning.

VOCATIONS

<i>Name</i>	<i>At School</i>	<i>Ordination</i>	<i>Order/Diocese</i>
Patrick Corrigan	(1955-62)	1970	Legion of Christ
Patrick Connolly	(1952-62)	1972	SMA Cairo
Brian Horgan	(1956-65)	1972	OP
Anthony Sheridan	(1951-59)	1972	CSSp

Chapter Eighteen

1975-1981



President
Very Rev William Nugent

REVEREND FATHERS

- Walter Kennedy – Vice-President (1975-79) – Professor (1944-79)
Francis Barry – Professor (1944-84) – Vice-President (1979-84)
James Hurley – Principal (1969-77)
Jerome Godfrey – Principal (1977-89)
Sean Little – Principal Junior School (1971-80)
John Fallon – Principal Junior School (1980-81)
Gerald Lord – Vice-Principal Junior School (1975-76) – Professor (1956-79)
Vincent O’Grady – Bursar (1975-76) – Professor (1974-81)
Michael Moore – Bursar (1976-77)
Michael Smithwick – Bursar (1977-89)
David Darcy – Gamesmaster (1975-80)
Edmund Burke – Professor (1961-83)
Cyril Byrne – Professor (1962-)
John Byrne – Professor (1959-81)
Edward Darcy – Professor (1979-84)
Michael Kennedy – Professor (1971-77+)
Patrick Liddane – Professor (1980-85)
Martin McDonagh – Professor (1975-77)
Martin Maiben – Professor (1954-80 ret.)
Patrick Murray – Retired (1972-84+)
Peter Raftery – Professor (1980-)
Bro. Ignatius Curry – Professor (1976-80)

REVEREND PREFECTS

Michael Begley	Michael Kilkenny
Colm Early	Conor Courtney

William Nugent, CSSp

THE NEW PRESIDENT was Fr William Nugent, born in Ardfinnan, county Tipperary, in 1925. He went to school in Rockwell College and joined the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1943. He took an M.A. in Celtic Studies in UCD in 1949 and prefected in Rockwell before going to Rome where he took a Licentiate in Theology. He was ordained priest in Rome in 1953. Appointed to Kimmage Manor to teach philosophy, he spent eleven years at that work, during which time he did a considerable amount of preaching of Retreats. He returned to Rome in 1965 where he completed his Doctorate in Theology. In the following year he was appointed Novice Master in the Novitiate in Kilshane, county Tipperary, and for eight years he held this most onerous post at a time of great upheaval in the Church following on the Second Vatican Council. He was then appointed President of St Mary's. After his six years as President of St Mary's, he was appointed chaplain to St John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, where he continues to do admirable work of spiritual rehabilitation among the patients. His dedication and skill have gained for him a high reputation with the families of the patients and with the medical staff.



Dr Michael Kennedy died on Ascension Thursday, May 19, 1977 and, in the words of the obituary that appeared in the *College Annual*, "left behind him a life of sanctity, of culture and education, a life of kindness and thought and a life that made him one of the most eminent members of the Irish Holy Ghost Fathers. He was mourned by his confreres all round the world but especially in St Mary's where he was loved by all who came into contact with him from the lowliest junior to the most senior members of the Union and Club."

Another great loss from the staff at this period came with the death of Fr Sean Little who came to St Mary's in 1970 and served as Dean of the Junior School for nine years until his unexpected and untimely death on May 13, 1980. He was born in 1931 in county Kilkenny, the county that had given St Mary's its first President, Fr Tom Fogarty. He went to Blackrock College and then entered the Holy Ghost Fathers. He had First Class



The College Staff 1979-1980

Back: Fr. C. Byrne, Mr. N. Doyle, Fr. M. Maiben, Fr J. Byrne, Mr. P. Quinn, Mr. J. Gillespie,
Fr. P. Raftery, Mr. P. Henry, Fr. E. Darcy, Mr. S. McCarthy, Mr. K. Lewis.
Middle: Fr. V. O'Grady, Mr. T. Newell, Fr. P. Liddane, Mr. M. Leonard, Mr. J. Kirby,
Mr. C. Branigan, Mrs. F. Bane, Mr. M. Brennan, Miss J. McDonnell, Mrs. T. White, Fr. F. Barry,
Mr. L. Naughton, Mr. R. Hughes.
Seated: Mr. F. Conlon, Mrs. M. O'Donnell, Mr. I. Lee, Mrs. E. Ryan, Fr J. Fallon,
Mrs. U. Wall, Fr. W. Nugent, Mr. P. Mac Murchú, Fr. J. Godfrey, Miss E. McCallig,
Mr. J. Crowley, Miss P. Crowley, Miss N. O'Sullivan.



Visit of Superior General to St. Mary's – March 1979

*Back: J. Hourigan, I. Curry, D. Darcy, M. Smithwick, E. Darcy, F. Barry, J. Byrne,
M. Begley, J. Godfrey.*

*Front: W. Kennedy, J. Daly, General Council, E. Watters, Provincial,
M. Timmermans, Superior General, W. Nugent, Superior, J. Gross, General Council,
M. Maiben, V. O'Grady.*

honours in his degree at UCD, winning the Pierce Malone Scholarship in Moral and Mental Philosophy. He then perfected in St Michael's College for two years, gaining his H. Dip. before going to Rome for his theological studies in the Gregorian where he was ordained in 1958. His first appointment after ordination was to The Gambia in West Africa where he laboured for ten years gaining the experience in school administration that was to be of such benefit to him when he was appointed to St Mary's in 1969 after a year's teaching in England. In St Mary's he showed the same dedication that had characterised his schoolwork in Africa, asking from the students no less than he was prepared to give himself, and that was everything. In 1972 after one year teaching in the senior school he succeeded Fr Hourigan as Dean of the Junior School. For five years he edited the College Annual which was embellished with well-researched articles by himself on the history of the college and the Rathmines area in general. He was actively involved in the Legion of Mary in Dublin and other pastoral activity, including Retreats to non-Catholics for which he was highly regarded. In November 1979 he had to retire from active involvement in the junior school due to illness and was admitted first to the Mater Hospital and later to St Luke's, Rathgar. Following treatment, he returned to St Mary's to the joy of all and it was hoped he would be his old self once more but this hope was dashed when he had a relapse in early May 1980 and was re-admitted to St Luke's where he finally succumbed to the cancer. His Requiem was fittingly celebrated in St Mary's before a packed congregation and the cortege to the community cemetery in Kimmage Manor was immense, an eloquent testimony to the regard in which he was held by one and all.

Mr Patrick Henry joined the senior school staff of St Mary's in 1964 and reached official retiring age in 1979 when he was presented with a canteen of Waterford Glass by the staff in recognition of his long and devoted service. He came to teach Irish and history, having previously taught Latin and Greek, but before long he added English and art to his many accomplishments and, on retirement, he consented to remain on to continue teaching art in a part-time capacity for a further five years before finally calling it a day in 1984. He was

truly a gentleman and a scholar. In his younger days he was a well-known footballer who captained his county, Offaly, for whom he played in mid-field in many Leinster Senior Championships. When Offaly won two All-Irelands in succession, in football and hurling, he was as proud of the achievement as if he had been playing himself. His love for the Irish language, which he spoke to everyone prepared to join him, was patent and one of his great joys before leaving in 1979 was to see one of his pupils attain the highest grade possible in Irish in the Leaving Certificate. No teacher ever deserved better the successes his pupils gained. (P. MacMurchú – *College Annual*)

Another great loss to the college at this time was the retirement through illness of Fr Walter ('Wat') Kennedy, one of the best-loved members of the staff for 38 years and, through his association with rugby teams in both the college and club, one of the best-known Holy Ghost Fathers on the Irish rugby scene. Born in Limerick City, he learned his football in Rockwell College where he distinguished himself as a typical fiery Munster wing-forward, playing on the SCT for three years and as captain in his final year, winning the Munster Schools Senior Cup and Interpro honours. On leaving school he joined the Holy Ghost Fathers which effectively put an end to his rugby career. In those days you might play for a couple of years while prefecting in one of the colleges, as Fr Dick Lehane and Fr Frank McMahon and a number of other prefects in St Mary's did down through the years, but apart from that rugby was confined to inter-house matches in Kimmage Manor which rivalled in intensity and fervour the game as played in New Zealand, Wales and Munster. After his ordination in 1941 he was appointed to St Mary's where he spent the rest of his priestly life until his retirement through illness from active teaching in 1979. He was a well-loved teacher of science, and a trainer and coach of football teams, both in the school and the club. During his time he had the satisfaction of seeing the school win three Leinster Senior Schools Cups, three Leinster Junior Cups, the Leinster Second Seniors Cup and the Leinster Junior Plate twice. The debt owed by school and club to the expert training, guidance and encouragement of Fr 'Wat' is immense.

Fr Gerald Lord came to St Mary's in 1956 and was on the staff for 23 years, during which he attended UCD for some time and obtained his degree. He was very interested in photography and many of the fine photos which appeared in the *College Annual* down through the years were his work. In 1979 he was appointed to pastoral work in the U.S. where continues to this day.

The last day of the term in June 1980 marked the last official day of teaching in St Mary's for another long-time member of the staff, Fr Martin Maiben, who joined the staff in 1954. Born in Dublin and educated in Pres. Bray and Blackrock College, Fr Maiben joined the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1934 after leaving Blackrock and was ordained in 1942. Inheriting a gift for music from his father, he showed early talent which he assiduously cultivated at every opportunity permitted during his student days as an organist, a pianist and as a string instrumentalist, taking over and building up a creditable orchestra from among the students in Kimmage Manor. His first appointment after ordination was to St Mary's College, Trinidad, in the West Indies, to which he made the hazardous journey during the very height of the German U-boat campaign. For nine years he taught there until forced through ill health to return to Ireland. During his time in St Mary's Trinidad he continued his interest in music, taking charge of the choir and orchestra in the college and bringing them to new heights of excellence. On his return to Ireland he was appointed to Blackrock while undergoing medical treatment and after a year moved to St Mary's where he stayed for the rest of his teaching career, combining general teaching with music, taking charge of the college choir as well as inaugurating music appreciation classes which gave many their first insights into the pleasures of classical music. Every year the fruits of his training were heard in the prize-giving concerts which featured choral and instrumental items. At the Staff Dinner in 1980 a presentation was made to him by the members of the staff to



Rathmines Folk Group, 1978/79

mark his retirement, although for some years he continued to teach a limited number of classes until his more recent full retirement.

Fr John Byrne was another long-term member of the senior school staff. Ordained in Rome in 1958 he came to St Mary's the following year. He was a gifted woodworker and made the much-admired illuminated cross which adorned the chapel bell-tower during the Patrician Year 1961 and the Papal Visit of 1979. He was also responsible for the formation of the Rathmines Folk Group, originally composed of students from St Louis Convent and St Mary's, and remains today the longest-surviving of the many such groups formed after Vatican II, although the college's involvement now is minimal. For three years (1968-72) he was College Bursar. In the summer of 1980 he was unexpectedly transferred to Templeogue College, which still enjoys the benefit of his many gifts and dedicated service.

DEVELOPMENT

The most significant physical development at this time took place not in the college itself but in the Rugby Club which sold its premises in Fortfield to the Allied Irish Bank and acquired land in Templeville Road from the Holy Ghost Fathers opposite Templeogue College on which to build four full-sized pitches and a club-house. The new club-house was unofficially opened in February 1976 but the Blessing and official opening took place in September.

In 1976 the Carmelite Convent, known as Tranquilla, in Upper Rathmines closed for lack of vocations. The Sisters moved to the Carmelite Convent in Donnybrook and the convent premises were put up for sale. The possibility of acquiring these premises and moving the college from its present location was considered for some time, but it was eventually decided that nothing would be gained by the move.

Changes were made in the interior of the community residence such as the partitioning of the former chapel in the upper corridor above the junior school to make three bedrooms for the Fathers and a store-room, and the turning of the former prefects' dining-room into an office for the Bursar, but none of these changes altered the out-ward appearance of the school.

During the summer holidays of 1979, Kenilworth Square, which had oft and on been the subject of vandalism, was broken into and the school rugby pavilion set on fire and destroyed. A happy accident as it necessitated building a new pavilion with more modern facilities.

But, of course, the most outstanding event of the era was undoubtedly the visit of the Pope to Ireland in September 1979 to commemorate the centenary of the apparition of Our Blessed Lady at Knock which was rivalled in the religious annals of Ireland only by the Eucharistic Congress of 1932. As on that occasion, as we have already noted, the college was decorated in honour of the visit. Fr John Byrne draped the college chapel in the papal colours with the help of two of the parents, Mrs Gloria Leahy and Mrs Carmel O'Sullivan, and fashioned with the help of the 6th Year students, a cross outlined with electric light bulbs which he hung from the belfry tower festooned with streamers in the papal colours. On September 23 the illuminations were turned on and until after the papal visit ended were an object of admiration to passers-by. The only direct Collegiate participation in the ceremonies was by the College Volunteer Corps and the College Scouting Unit which helped with the stewarding at the various functions, but there was hardly a boy who did not attend the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park with his family, while about 20 members of the Folk Group made the journey to Galway to participate in the Youth Rally Mass on September 30.

In the aftermath of the Second Vatican Council, great efforts were made to implement the various recommendations of the Council and particularly in the area of liturgical renewal. Mass said by the priest facing the congregation and using the vernacular were the two biggest changes. When the new college chapel was completed in 1953 it had a conventional altar at which the priest said Mass with his back to the congregation, three steps up from the sanctuary. With the new liturgy introduced during the Vatican Council in 1961, it was decided to re-model the altar to bring it into conformity with the new



Post Vatican II changes to Sanctuary of College Chapel. Note that the position of the Altar now meant that the priest could face the congregation when saying Mass.

thinking, so the three steps up to the predella were removed, bringing the table of the altar down *in plano*, and the tabernacle was made free-standing behind the celebrant. In this way the altar and celebrant were in clear view of the entire congregation. As the facility for concelebration was widened, the need for a multiplicity of altars decreased as a number of priests could celebrate together. For this reason it was decided to remove the two side altars in the chapel and replace them with marble ambos, one under the mosaic of the Sacred Heart and the other under the mosaic of St Joseph, as they are now.

ACADEMICS

During these years the school roll numbered 734 (408 in the Senior School; 326 in the Junior) in 1975-76 and 698 (378 and 311) in 1980-81.

The following table gives the Leaving Cert and Inter results 1975-1981:

<i>Leaving Certificate</i>			
<i>Year</i>	<i>No. Sitting</i>	<i>"A"s</i>	<i>"B"s</i>
1976	58	6	39
1977	60	11	21
1978	63	5	53
1979	58	7	74
1980	57	22	91
1981	59	14	73

<i>Intermediate Certificate</i>			
<i>Year</i>	<i>No. Sitting</i>	<i>"A"s</i>	<i>"B"s</i>
1976	66	37	111
1977	66	41	134
1978	60	66	145
1979	63	52	150
1980	62	39	113
1981	56	44	133

In 1980 Mark Redmond was the winner of the Arthur Jacob Memorial Scholarship to the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland.

Ronan McNulty of 1st Year won the McCullogh-Piggott Cup for Solo Piano at the Feis Ceoil. He is the son of the well known composer and organist, Mr Dan McNulty.

NATIONAL QUIZ

The Dublin Junior Chamber of Commerce organises every year a Metropolitan Schools Quiz and in 1975-76 St Mary's entered for the first time. The metropolis was divided into four areas, each area with its own competition and the four winners then met in the final. St Mary's were able to enter in two areas, Dublin and Clondalkin, due to an

overlapping of the boundaries and won both. The team was Mark Heffernan, Michael Power, Michael Sheerin and captain, Ultan Stephenson. In the Dublin final, held in St Louis, Rathmines, they came first and Marian College were second. In the Clondalkin final held in Presentation, Clondalkin, they won again adding gold pen-and-pencil sets to the plaques won in the Dublin final.

At the Metropolitan final it was decided that St Mary's should appear just once although they had won two area finals, so the runners-up, Marian, were promoted. St Mary's defeated Dominican, Cabra to set up another meeting with Marian who had eliminated St Benildus, Kilmacud. Here the tables were turned and Marian won. A total of 59 schools took part.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The Debating Society continued to owe an immense debt to Mr Sean McCarthy for his enthusiastic encouragement and organisational ability.

1976-77 was one of the busiest ever years for the Debating Society with nineteen debates as well as participation in the Junior Chamber of Commerce/ESB competition and the Road Safety competition. The St Mary's team was Joseph O'Neill, David Larney, Brian O'Moore and Peter Sirr. In the Trinity College competition Brian O'Moore was best speaker. In January 1977 the second rounds of the the two competitions were successfully negotiated and in the semi-final of the Trinity competition Brian O'Moore was successful. In the regional final of the Chamber of Commerce/ESB event, St Mary's defeated Gonzaga to reach the Dublin City final.

Presentation, Warrenmount, were the opponents in the first Safety First debate, which St Mary's won, as they did the next debate which brought them into the National final, which they lost to St Joseph's, Fairview. The team was Niall Burgess, Tom O'Brien and Bernard Dagge. In the Trinity competition Brian O'Moore and Michael Chester were the St Mary's representatives, winning through to the final. All in all a very successful year with the final or semi-final reached in every competition entered.

In 1977-78 St Mary's competed in the Muintir na Tíre, Junior Chamber of Commerce and Trinity College competitions. Brian O'Moore qualified for the Leinster final of the Muintir na Tíre competition as individual speaker. William Maguire, Brian O'Moore and Patrick Stephenson won through to the second round of the Chamber of Commerce. Brian O'Moore and Tim O'Connell spoke on opposite sides in the Trinity and both qualified for the final. In the Trinity semi-final Brian O'Moore qualified for the National Final which he went on to win. The final debate of the year was a bi-lingual one with Our Lady's Grove in which two from both sides spoke in English and two in Irish.

St Mary's were again the Dublin winners of the Junior Chamber of Commerce debating competition and William Maguire was the winner of the Trinity College Edmund Burke Trophy in 1978-79. Bill Maguire, Fintan McDonald, Ultan Stephenson and Declan Sheehan were the successful team, qualifying them for the national final in which they were not successful. However, for the third year running St Mary's had a finalist in the Trinity debate when Bill Maguire qualified when he successfully defended the motion "That the Signatories of 1916 should have saved their Ink".

1979-80 was another successful debating year for St Mary's as they won the Junior Chamber of Commerce competition once more. The team was Fintan McDonald, Ultan Stephenson, Desmond Foley and William Leo. Mark Lawler replaced William Leo, who had to withdraw, for the next round. The final was with The O'Connell Schools and held in the Art Room in St Mary's to a packed audience. The motion, was successfully defended by St Mary's. Unfortunately, pressure of study did not permit participation in the provincial final to the bitter disappointment of all.



The Inaugural Lorcan C. Gogan Memorial Debate, 1980.

An Irish Debating Team from 5th Year reached the third round of the Gael Linn competition, coached by Mr Jim Kirby. This was the first time in many years that St Mary's had competed and it was hoped the interest would be kept up.

The highlight of the 1980-81 debating year was undoubtedly the Lorcan Gogan Memorial Debate, instituted by the Past Pupils Union in memory of a past President of the Union, Lorcan S. Gogan, who did much to foster relations between the past and present pupils. The Gogan family have provided the school with three generations of pupils and have given three members to the Holy Ghost Fathers. It was thirty years since a Past v. Present debate had been held, so it was no wonder the hall was packed for the occasion. A former Union President, Mr Paddy Funge, had presented a perpetual trophy for the best individual speaker. Mr Maurice O'Doherty, RTE newsreader, whose son was in his final year in the school, was in the chair. The school team was Leonard Lynch, Leslie Branagan, Maurice Gueret and Desmond Foley. The Past were represented by Billy Byrne, B.L., Ulick O'Connor, B.L., Liam Birkett and Fr Brian Gogan. Maurice Gueret was voted best speaker and awarded the trophy by the President of the Union, Mr Des White.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE ESSAY COMPETITION

The *Business and Finance* magazine organised two competitions for schools in 1979-80 in order to interest students in making a career in the world of business and finance. The judges were distinguished economists, politicians, educationalists and businessmen. The first was an essay competition and the second a case study of a fictitious firm. The St Mary's essay entry was by Eamonn Ambrose and was judged one of the finest entered and won the award for best individual entry. The prize, donated by Ofrex Ireland Ltd was an overhead projector. Stephen Drumm was the St.Mary's entrant in the second competition and won the best individual award, a spirit duplicator, also donated by Ofrex. Incidentally, Stephen's grandfather, Dr Drumm, was the noted inventor of the Drumm Battery train

that ran for years on the Bray line. His father and uncle were also St Mary's men in the '40s, prominent in rugby and cricket. The awards were presented at a reception in Blooms Hotel by ex-Mary's man, Conor McCarthy, managing director of Ryans Hotels.

John Fitzgerald of 6th Year was adjudged the winner of first prize in the Essay competition in the following year with an essay on "The Growth of Technology". All these successes reflected greatly on the Commerce teacher, Mr Liam Naughton.

BANK OF IRELAND PROJECT

Mr Naughton was the originator of a prize-winning project which involved a large number of students of the Commerce class. The idea was to compile a survey of business activity on Rathmines Main Street. A questionnaire was compiled and the students went in twos to canvass the traders. The reaction to the questionnaire was quite encouraging with 159 replies from 180 contacted. The £150 prize money was divided between the St Vincent de Paul Society and the New Library Fund.

Those taking part were: Brian Bardin, Barry Booth, Ian Burgess, Peter Byrne, Kevin Cahalane, John Carvil, Kevin Conlon, Gary Cosgrave, Richard Crofts, Ian Donnelly, Paul Donovan, Colm Dunne, James Fearon, James Furlong, Brian Gilsenan, John Goldrick, Stephen Gunning, Gerald Hassett, Conor Heslin, Adrian Horne and Austin Lennon.

"FOLLOWING THE FLEET"

In 1978-79 Irish Shipping Ltd. inaugurated a contest for schools which was won by the Junior School. The project was called Sailors Over the Years and undertaken by Form Four under the supervision of their class-teacher, Ms. Mary O'Donnell. Part of the project was a ship built of match-sticks by Norman Byrne, Patrick Crowe and Mark Keenan, who represented the class at the prize-giving luncheon in the headquarters of Irish Shipping, where they were presented with a plaque which adorns the Dean's office today.



*"Business and Finance"
Essay Competition, 1980*

*John Fitzgerald won
the Essay Competition
on "Growth of
Technology", pictured
with his fellow-students
of Commerce with the
Principal, Fr. Godfrey,
and teacher,
Mr. Liam Naughton.*

*National Management
Game, 1980*

*E. Ambrose, S. Cooke,
J. Tunney TD, Minister
of State, Dept. of
Education; P. Barnes,
S. Daly, General
Manager ICL; M. Bowe,
H. Tierney, Ulster Bank,
P. Murray.*



NATIONAL MANAGEMENT GAME

With the idea of promoting computer studies at secondary school level, International Computers Ltd, in 1980-81 co-sponsored with Ulster Bank Ltd, a computer game in which every team represented the Management Board of a manufacturing company. The competition went on for period of three months from September to November. Only one team from a school was permitted but the St Mary's 2nd team was shortlisted and it also went into the final. Gerard Fitzpatrick captained the first team and Paul Barnes the 2nd. Paul Barnes' team came second in the final which entitled them to go into the play-off with two teams from Northern Ireland, in which they came second to Royal School, Armagh, a magnificent achievement since there were over one hundred entries from all over Ireland. The St Mary's team included Paul Barnes, Eamonn Ambrose, Shane Cook, Michael Bowe and Paul Murray.

AER LINGUS YOUNG SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR

In 1980-81 the first students from St Mary's to enter the Aer Lingus Young Scientist of the Year Competition were 5th Year students, Patrick McCarthy, John Keogh, John Nolan and Ronan Hughes. An exhibit on Passive Solar Heating was entered by Ronan Hughes and Patrick McCarthy. The project was highly commended and received a prize.

John Nolan and John Keogh submitted a project on Uranium as a Source of Energy in the Environmental and Social Sciences section.

COMPUTER STUDIES

In view of the present trend in the field of computers and computer science, students who are not familiar with computer techniques will be illiterate in the world they are about to enter on leaving school. For that reason, students at St Mary's are helped towards an understanding of the value of the computer in modern society and with simple computer techniques. Fr Cyril Byrne with 5th Year and Mr Terry Newell with 4th Year provide a course in high-level and low-level computer language, a language devised by Fr Byrne when he was at Trinity College and is called Computer Science Student Program (CSSP). The school possesses a fully equipped Computer Science laboratory

giving ample opportunity to the boys for 'hands-on' experience with computers. Fr Byrne is one of the pioneers in Computer Science studies at secondary level in Ireland. He created and taught the Diploma Course in Trinity College for the training of teachers and this course holds pride of place, according to Mr Newell, as the most respected training course for teachers in computer studies. Fr Byrne was chairman of the committee set up by the Department of Education to examine teacher training in this area and was involved in the production of a text-book for this purpose.

CHESS

There was considerable interest but only one tournament was started in 1976-77. M. Bermingham was the motivator on the outside interest and looked after the senior team which did not win any match but had quite a number of individual victories. At the same time, it was not certain if there was enough interest to warrant entry into the Leagues the following year. And as it happened the school did not enter for a number of years after that.

MUSIC APPRECIATION SOCIETY

The Music Appreciation Society continued under the chairman-ship of Peter Charleton to promote an interest in good music in the school by using a section of the Notice Board reserved for them to apprise the school of forthcoming interesting concerts and worthwhile radio and television programmes. During the year the members attended five symphony concerts and thirteen piano recitals.

DRAMATICS

The long-awaited canonisation of St Oliver Plunkett in 1976 prompted the choice of Aodh de Blacam's play, *Golden Priest*, for 1975-76. The play about the life of Oliver Plunkett was written in 1940 and received its second-ever presentation when Fr Murray produced it in St Mary's in 1943 with Michael MacCormac, in the lead. The play deals with authentic incidents in the saint's life while the actual words of St Oliver and the Lord Chief Justice



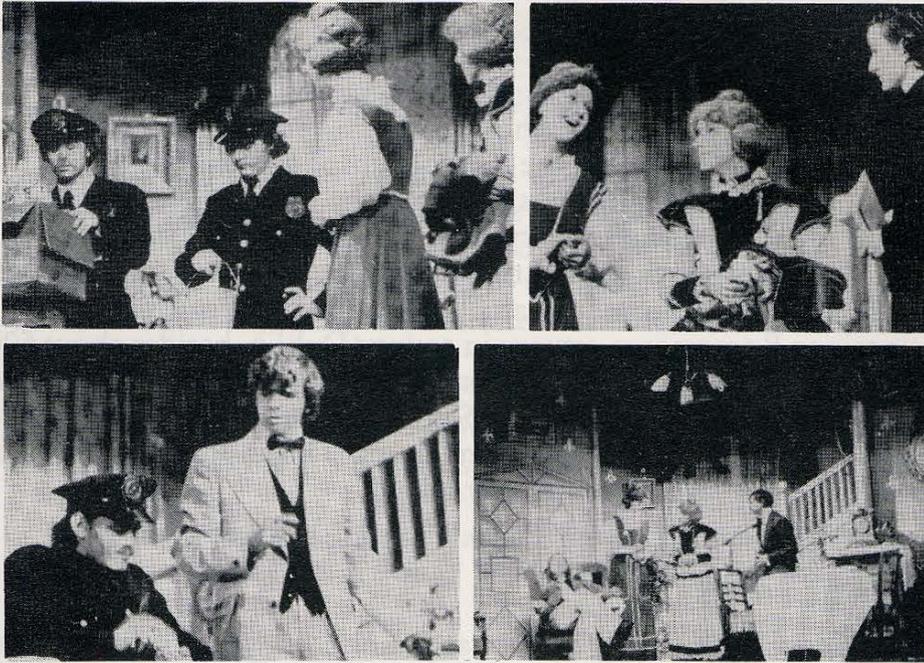
"Golden Priest"
Fr. Miescow (Joseph O'Neill)
Dr. Oliver Plunkett
(Cormac Sharpe)



"Golden Priest"
Peter-Pad-the-Road
(Alan Wright)



"Golden Priest"
Cabal Hamis (Charles Jolley)
Meeball Rua (Thomas Mullen)
Dr. Oliver Plunkett
(Cormac Sharpe)



Scenes from
"Arsenic and Old Lace",
 1977

with Thomas Mullen,
 Kieran Morrin,
 Declan Sheehan,
 Patrick Lonergan,
 Joseph O'Neill,
 Edmund Armstrong,
 Timothy Lynch,
 Michael Graham,
 Charles Jolley.

are used during the trial scene. Cormac Sharpe, with a fine voice, quiet, strong, full of assurance, gave, according to Fr Barry, "a portrayal of a personality one felt must have been Oliver's". He was well served by Raymund Bulger, Joseph O'Neill, Tim O'Connell, Brian O'Moore, Gareth Byrne and Ronan O'Neill among others.

Arsenic and Old Lace was the choice for 1976-77 making a complete contrast to the previous year. Declan Sheehan and John Lonergan, tall and thin, short and stout, were excellent as the two ladies. Charles Jolley as the mad brother, Jonathan, and Edmund Armstrong as Teddy who thought he was Teddy Roosevelt and was happily digging the Panama Canal in the cellar, and Michael Graham as the only sane member of the family, with Stephen Fanagan as the police lieutenant. All gave splendid performances which were enhanced by the stage setting built by Raymund Bulger.

Back in 1949 *Charley's Aunt* was produced in what was considered by some as the best presentation ever given in the college, so Fr Barry and his chosen cast had much to live up to. Comparisons are odious and anyway, there were not many still around who remembered the 1949 production. The 1977-78 production could stand comparison with anything that had gone before. Fr Barry considered the 'girls' to be the best-looking 'girls' ever made up in college productions. These were Edward Byrne, Eamonn Brophy, John Keogh and Patrick Leahy, and they were ably supported by William Maguire, Cormac Renahan, David Butt, Declan Sheehan, Edmund Armstrong and Michael Crosbie.

After two farces in succession, *The Winslow Boy*, in 1978-79, the true-life story of a man determined to clear the name of his young son accused of stealing a postal order, was a change of pace and depended on the ability of the cast to delineate character. The three major characters were played by Paul Murray, David Fleming, and Alan Wright. Arthur McEvoy, with his head of flaxen hair, was ideally suited to the part of a young naval cadet in the first part of the play. Niall Harnett appeared in the part in the latter part of the play to show the two-year time elapse from the start of the play.

Slapstick in the form of a rapid-fire West End comedy called *Dry Rot*, by John Chapman, was offered in 1979-80. Edward Byrne and Paul Fleming played the hotel owners, Desmond Foley, Ewan O'Doherty and Maurice Gueret the rogues who get their come-uppance eventually. The play stood or fell on the performances from the last three and they did not fail. For the third year in succession Raymund Bulger built a splendid set, complete with bar and sliding panel.

ORNITHOLOGY CLUB

November to March continued to be the the most interesting period of the year for the bird-watchers, because of Ireland's position in the migratory cycle. The Society was blessed in having within easy reach of the of the school, unspoiled areas such as the estuary at Malahide or the Bull Island or Booterstown marsh, where there were large concentrations of exotic bird life to be viewed at very close quarters. In the January trip to county Wexford, Mr Sean McCarthy providing the transport, they were fortunate enough to see the snow bunting at Lake Tacumshin and to catch a glimpse of a peregrine falcon. At the end of the month, on a trip to Rogerstown estuary in county Dublin, besides about 500 brent geese, they saw a few rare sights, three jacksnipes, a tree sparrow and a short-eared owl. A party of 12 set off on May 29 for the Great Saltee, where they found that the south-easterly winds had brought a number of unusual migrants. The photographic results of the trips were shown one evening with commentary added.

JUNIOR SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

The Senior School Prize-giving Concert in 1975-76 was mainly the work of the 1st and 2nd Years, and included English and Irish verse-speaking, Irish and Latin choral songs, two French playlets and a French song, a German playlet and an Irish playlet. The Junior School presented *The Childen of Lir* in Irish, produced by Mrs Roberts and stage-managed by Fr Barry.

The Christmas Pageant in 1976-77 was produced by Ms Cranny and Ms Valentine in aid of Fr Dick Lehane's Mission in Sierra Leone. Every boy in the Junior School was involved.

In 1977-78 *The Royal Jester* was presented by the Junior School. It was first done by the school in 1947 and repeated with great success in 1955, so it was due for another airing. It had the great merit of involving a large cast, which meant involving a great number of parents who rallied round to help with the costumes, which saved much expense, particularly as the proceeds were meant for the missions. Ms Cranny and Ms Valentine were as usual in charge of the drama and music and were aided by Ms Rita English who choreographed the production. The Prize-giving Concert was given by Forms 2 and 3



Commander-in-Chief
(James Coyne)



King Ortensis, (Paul Fleming)
Queen Zitania (Mark Turley)

ROYAL JESTER



Prime Minister
(Garrett Quigley)
Lord Chancellor
(Robert Davitt)

and included two playlets, choral songs as well as performances by a Percussion Band and Recorder Ensemble.

The production of *Zurika, the Gypsy Maid* by Ms Cranny, musical direction by Ms Valentine and choreography by Ms English, was given in 1978-79. The experience of the previous year had shown that there was a limit to the number that could be used on the stage with any efficiency, so this year it was decided to limit the cast to Forms 5, 5A, 6, 6A. This still involved 128 boys, so 64 boys from the 6th Forms played Acts 1 and 3, 64 boys from Forms 5 did Act 2 and joined the others only at the finale of Act 3. The audiences on three nights enjoyed every minute of it. The mission of Brazil benefitted to the amount of £400.

Since it had been the boys of Forms 5 and 6 who had taken part in the operetta, the Annual Prize-giving Concert in May 1980 was the work of the other Forms: Action Songs and Verse Speaking from Forms 2, Choral songs and two playlets from Forms 3, songs from Forms 4.

There were two evenings of Carol Singing, together with a musical version of Dickens's *Christmas Carol* at Christmas 1979, produced by Ms Cranny and directed by Ms Valentine.

RUGBY

The second half of the decade saw the retirement of Fr Walter Kennedy as coach to the Senior Cup Team. His part in the promotion of excellence in rugby in the school has already been mentioned. His place was taken by Fr David Darcy who moved up from the JCT. The period was notable particularly for the blossoming of the partnership between Paul Dean and Philip McDonnell as half-backs on the 2nd Seniors first and then for two years on the SCT, Leinster Province and Ireland Schools; for the emergence of Gerry Cross and Vincent Cunningham in the competitive rugby scene.

Paul Dean started playing rugby as an U-9 when he entered St Mary's in 1967. It was in the junior school that he began the half-back partnership with Philip McDonnell which lasted all through school, culminating in two seasons on the SCT, Leinster and the Irish Schools team, when they played all three 'Home' countries as well as Australia. The IRFU's Centenary Year in 1975 saw the inauguration of international rugby for Ireland at schools level. The English Schools played the Irish Schools at Lansdowne Road and

*Presentation of the
Timothy West, Munster
& Leinster Trophy, 1978*

*Fr. Jerome Godfrey,
Paul Dean,
Philip McDonnell,
Fr. David Darcy.*



were fortunate 6-3 winners. The next match was against Scotland in 1976 followed by one against Wales. A return match in 1977 saw England run out easy winners. McDonnell and Dean were the halves behind a well-beaten pack but stood out for their dogged defence without ever getting the chance to show their attacking abilities. Wales were played at home but won 10-4. The first schools match against an Australian Schools Touring team took place in Limerick in 1977 and was a thriller in which the all-conquering Australians were fortunate to scrape through 12-10. Dean and McDonnell played brilliantly. Dean and McDonnell continued their partnership in wins in 1978 against England Schools (22-16) in Dublin and Scotland Schools (21-7) in Inverleith.

After he had starred in the junior school rugby scene for four years, Gerry Cross began to make a name for himself in competitive football when he captained the U-13 team to capture the Provincial's Cup in 1978-79 for the first time since 1972. A proneness to injury which was to plague him all through his career showed itself early in 1980-81 in his second year on the JCT and put him out of contention for most of the season. Vincent Cunningham made his first competitive appearance for St Mary's the following year in the same competition.

The trophies won at this period were the Second Seniors Cup and the Provincial's Cup. The surfeit of good players in the backs on the SCT meant a very healthy-looking Second Seniors and so they proved, spear-headed by Paul Dean, captained by Terry Coveney. The fruitful partnership between Paul Dean and Philip McDonnell which had done well in the JCT continued to mature both in the U-16s and 2nd Seniors. The words of the coach, Noel Doyle, in the *College Annual*, 1976, were prophetic:

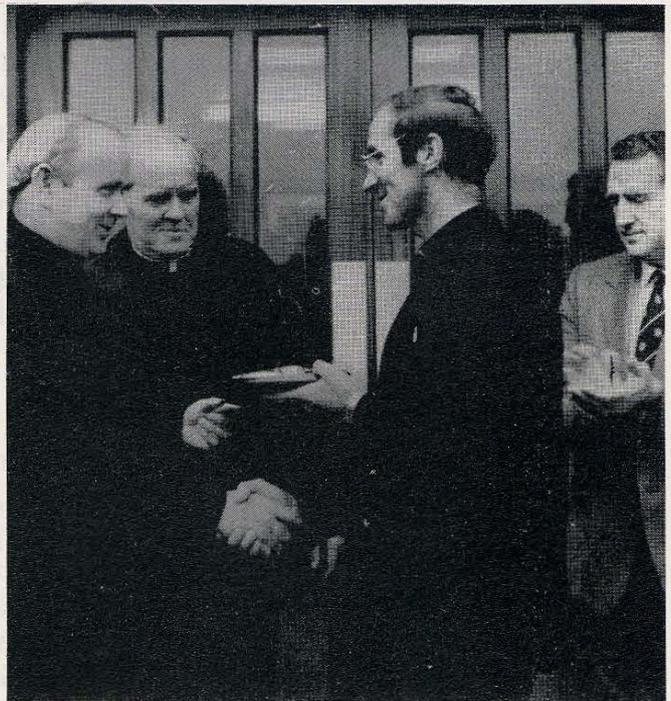
Paul Dean was out-half, and anyone who has played with Paul, or has seen him play, knows that if he continues to develop and display those abilities in the next five or six years, then it is certain that there is no honour that this game has that is not within his grasp. Apart from his abilities to handle, run, kick, his reading of the game is superb.

This was the first victory for St Mary's in this competition and was made all the sweeter by the fact that it was Blackrock, who, with their enormous pick, had dominated and been beaten only once since its inception twelve years previously, that they met and beat in the final.

Success at last in the Provincial's Cup for the first time since 1972 was the reward for wholehearted endeavour throughout the season, combined with dedication to the honing of skills in practice. Led by Gerry Cross and Timmy Scanlon, the team showed many fine qualities.

Stephen Mulvey and Paul Barnwell were chosen for Leinster in 1975-76 and Stephen was captain. Dean and McDonnell for Leinster and Ireland in '77 and '78. Andy Cowman was substitute hooker in 1979-80. Conor Cooke, John O'Connell and Niall McNiff were Leinster trialists.

Plaudits are often, not just reserved for winners, but extended to losers for outstanding performance. This certainly was the case with the SCT in 1976-77. St Mary's for once had a big pack with John 'Rusty' O'Connor towering above the line-outs, conspicuous as much for his red hair as for his height. The opening match against St Paul's in Jones Road was played in a downpour and St Mary's were happy to see Dickie Doyle cross for a try and Philip McDonnell kick a penalty for a 7-3 win. A 15-10 win against Wesley gave St Mary's a semi-final chance against Terenure who had accounted for Clongowes, Castleknock and Monkstown. St Mary's took charge from an early stage with the halves stamping their authority on the game and came out 12-3 winners to set up a final with the inevitable Blackrock.



Scenes at the Blessing and Opening of the new Pavilion in Kenilworth, 1981.

Blackrock College brought back the Leinster Schools Senior Cup for the 54th time by defeating St Mary's at Lansdowne Road in what must have been one of the finest finals of this 90-year-old competition.

The 20,000 crowd were held spellbound by the tremendous performances of two fine teams who finished level, 12-12, at the end of normal time. Then the attendance had the bonus of extra time which saw Blackrock take command and tag on 12 further points for victory.

The final scoreline, however, does a tremendous injustice to St Mary's . . . (who) had in Philip McDonnell and Paul Dean, the best pair of half-backs seen in the competition. Scrum-half McDonnell, strangely ignored by the Leinster and Irish Schools selectors, had a marvellous match, feeding Dean a series of beautiful passes. Dean gave an equally polished performance at out-half and scored a classical try from one of McDonnell's long passes. He chipped ahead, gathered the ball and then went round two tackles to cross between the posts.

(The Irish Independent)

Conor Cooke captained an U-13 team which included besides himself, three more players who went on to star with the Club, Dermot Quigley, John Kennedy and P. Mac Giolla Riogh, after they left school. The team had had an impressive record in the junior school but their lack of size told when they got into the senior school.

The 1977-78 season saw a revival of the practice of sending the SCT on tour. During the Halloween break they went to London and played two games, against Douai College who were beaten 28-3, and St Joseph's, Blackheath, who were barely beaten, 13-12. Blackheath

came over during the Christmas holidays for a return match. Another new fixture featured Methodist College, Belfast, who had a well-merited win.

The 1979-80 season was complicated by the malicious fire which destroyed the Senior Pavilion in Kenilworth during the Summer holidays. As well as causing great inconvenience on every practice day it meant all matches had to be played either in the Club's grounds in Templeville or away. This was Fr Jerome Godfrey's first year as coach of the SCT. In 1980-81, when it seemed it would never be completed, the new pavilion was made available before Christmas and the tiled floors and oceans of hot water made practice on wet, dreary winter evenings, if not enjoyable at least more bearable.

CRICKET

All of the 1975-76 Senior Cricket Team were members of Leinster C.C. so more was really expected of them than they actually delivered, even though they did reach the final of the League. The final against St Columba's was played in glorious weather in Leinster CC grounds. St Columba's won the toss and batted first making 204 for 4 in the stipulated 50 overs. A reply of 98 from overcautious batting (Ray Sloan 30) was simply not good enough. St Columba's made 172 in their 2nd innings. The St Mary's opening pair, Delaney and Graham, made 60 and by the tea interval St Mary's were 121 for 2. Then they lost four wickets in quick succession for the addition of only 11 runs. Philip McDonnell stayed at the wicket till the end which came when St Mary's reached 171. It was one of the best finals for years, 600 runs scored over the three days. Ray Sloan was picked for Leinster and for the Irish Schools. Hugh Delaney, who was still under 15, was picked for the South Leinster U-19 team.

Players were in short supply even for the JCT, but they succeeded in winning most of their matches. They won their section of the League. Brian Delaney, in his first match in the competition, took 5 wickets for 15 runs. Against St Paul's, Pat McCarthy and Stephen McDonald did the damage with 6 for 9 and 3 for 9 respectively. The semi-final, against High School, whose bowlers, Henderson and Blair, were the bowlers on the SCT also, was a disaster and St Mary's managed only 27 runs.

The U-14s could not be faulted either on the score of skill or enthusiasm. Brian Delaney, a regular on the JCT was captain, aided by Jonathan Bennett. Jonathan was undoubtedly the best fast bowler in Leinster, taking 6 for 21 against High School and he also made the biggest score, 63 against St Columba's. They didn't win the Cup but the standard in the deciding matches, against King's Hospital and High School, was very high.

Five of the previous year's semi-finalists were back in action in 1976-77 and these were reinforced by a group of seven all of whom had played for Leinster CC. Captained by Donal Lonergan with Michael Graham vice-captain, they won their section with wins over Wesley, King's Hos, St Andrew's and Sandford Park, all recognised cricketing schools, scoring over 100 runs every game except over King's Hos. In this match they made 73 but with Philip McDonnell taking 5 catches off the bowling of Donal (6 for 15) they easily dismissed their opponents for 41. The final was played in glorious summer weather in Pembroke grounds against Belvedere, who made 136, to which St Mary's replied with 112. Three quick second innings wickets gave St Mary's a fillip before close of play, but the following day Belvedere went on to make 183. It looked and was an impossible task but St Mary's set about the bowling with a will, throwing caution to the winds, but could only amass 90.

In 1977-78 Hugh Delaney was captain, assisted by Mark Hughes. Against King's Hos Brian Delaney had an inspired spell with the ball and took 5 for 6 and they were all out for 39. In the next match, 125 was sufficient to see off Sandford Park, especially with Philip McDonnell taking 7 for 35. In the section decider with Belvedere Philip made 45 out a



Ray Sloan
Irish Schools' Cricket International, 1976.



Conor Murphy
Irish Schools' Cricket International, 1981.

meagre total of 72 and Belvedere, who were the eventual cup-winners, easily made the necessary runs. Both Hugh Delaney and Philip McDonnell were chosen for the Leinster Schools.

The enthusiasm of the Juniors more than made up for any lack in numbers. Captained by Mark Lawler, aided by David Raftery, their first League match was a tough one, against St Columba's but they made a fine score of 126 on a sodden pitch, to which the reply was only 89, due mainly to figures of 7 for 37 from Alan Delaney. Losses against Belvedere and The High School were followed by wins over Clongowes and Gonzaga, too little too late.

1978-79 went down as the worst season weather-wise in living memory. A severe winter carried on well into May, rain, sleet and even snow, were the constant expectations before every game. A new competition was inaugurated by Masonic School for U-12s and named after Dr Harry Riske, a cricket enthusiast. St Andrew's won it first time round. An U-13 Single Wicket competition was held in Kenilworth for a magnificent trophy presented by Mr and Mrs Raftery to commemorate their son, John, who had died a few years previously when in 1st Year. Belvedere won the inaugural competition.

This season sufficient players were interested enough in cricket to form a 2nd Senior team and, under Owen O'Sullivan, reached the final of the League. The chief attraction of this form of the game is that the innings are short, 20 overs apiece, so that even those who are studying hard for their Leaving can fit them in. Bowling figures of 4 for 16 by Martin Crofts and 6 for 6 by E. Coveney on the way to a final with Belvedere were outstanding, but the season had gone well into the holiday time and St Mary's could field only a very weak team.

1979-80 opened with a thriller against The High School, ending in 109 each. St Mary's took the last High School wicket with the last ball of the game when the 109 was reached. Martin Crofts took 5 for 30 and Brian Delaney 3 for 31. Against Masonic's pathetic 16, a rather pedestrian 79 was sufficient to win. The figures of Brian Delaney, 6 for 9, and Martin Crofts, 3 for 5, speak for themselves. For the best part of 50 years Masonic had

been a power in schools cricket and it was sad to see their demise. Belvedere in the next round were a different proposition, making a solid 132 for 8 on a big ground, but dropped catches did not help the St Mary's cause and a batting slump did the rest. Conor Murphy and Brian Delaney were chosen to represent Leinster Schools against Munster Schools, and Conor was also chosen to play against Ulster and the Leprechauns.

A lack of interest among the graduates of the Junior School left the U-13s with only 13 players to pick from. Vincent Cunningham was the captain and both bowling and batting mainstay.

In 1980-81 Ireland had the wettest May for years and that meant the wettest cricket season, since most of the cricket is played in May. The League was a disaster for St Mary's. In their second match they registered the lowest in the school's history – 22 all out! Conor Murphy was top batsman in the season and well merited his selection for Leinster against Munster and Ulster and the final accolade of selection for the Irish Schools against the Leprechauns, the Welsh Schools (won by Ireland by 7 wickets), English Schools (won by England by 5 wickets). The English match was played after the Welsh without even one rest day and it proved too much.

ATHLETICS

Tony McCormack was the only St Mary's winner in the Leinster Schools Championships in 1975-76, taking the U-14 sprint, but 260 entrants in the senior section of the Annual School Sports showed there was considerable interest if only it could be tapped and people could be coaxed into the kind of training that success demands. A new event was the 1500m Junior which Andy Whelan won in 4m 57.6, having already taken the 800. Mark Redmond won five events in the Juvenile Section, including the newly included 800m, and 16 ft leap in the Long Jump. Mark Feehan was the Victor Ludorum.

In 1976-77 Mark Redmond (Junior 800), Tony McCormack (Inter. 200) and the Junior Relay (M. Redmond, P. Bennett, D. Kirk, C. Murphy) qualified for the Leinster Finals. Mark was the only medallist (3rd). In the School Sports, Kieran Holland, captain of the school, emerged as the Victor Ludorum. Records were created in the Senior 800 (P. Maguire, 2m 11.9), and Junior 800 (M. Redmond, 2m 12.3).

Entries in the senior section of the School Sports in 1977-78 were smaller than ever, so it was no great surprise that David Cogley was the only qualifier for the Leinster Sports although Tony McCormack failed only by inches. In the School Sports, Paul Dean was the surprise packet in winning the 800, High Jump and Shot to earn the Victor Ludorum, while M. McSweeney took the Junior 100 in record time (12.2), and Ian Dunn equalled the record in the Senior 100.

Entries for the Intermediate Section were well up in 1978-79 although only Michael Lynch (Shot) and Mark McSweeney (Long Jump), along with Pat Blunden (Senior 100) qualified for the Leinster Finals. Leg strain prevented Tony McCormack from making it, but in the College Sports in Kenilworth, where no records were set, he was the outstanding senior competitor. In the absence of the injured Mark Redmond, Mark McSweeney was the best in the Intermediate and he also qualified for the All Ireland Long Jump.

Apart from the Annual College Sports, athletics in 1979-80 remained for the minority, which is probably inevitable in a sport where dedication is essential. Tony McCormack fulfilled the promise he had shown throughout his school career and won the Leinster

100 Championships. Mark McSweeney was 2nd in the Leinster Inter 100 and 3rd in the All Ireland. Owen White became the first St Mary's boy to win the West Leinster 75m Hurdles. He also won the Junior 100m sprint. The Intermediate Relay (T. Miller, M. McSweeney, D. McCarthy, P. Hartigan), and the Minor Relay (O. White, J. Byrne, B. McGreen, P. Cross) qualified for Leinster. Victor Ludorum at the College Sports was Mark Redmond with 3 wins and 3 seconds, including a record 2.11.2 for the 800m. Mark McSweeney had four wins in the Inter, including a record Long Jump (21'00).

1980-81 saw a return to the inter-scholastic athletic meetings which had been a feature of the sporting calendar in the '40s and '50s. In a triangular competition with Blackrock and Castleknock, the St Mary's teams at all levels won every event in which they entered. In the West Leinster championships the juniors were pipped for first place by just one point by Terenure. The seniors were 5th. and three individuals, Niall Cogley (400m), Ken Regan (800m) and Mark McSweeney (100m and 200m) made the finals and Mark came 2nd in the 200m to qualify for the All Ireland. Unfortunately he damaged a muscle in the 100 and could not compete. Three Juniors also reached the Leinster finals, Brendan McGreen (800m) and Anthony O'Regan (800m), both breaking the school record for this event by a large margin. Owen White was 2nd in the 100m and 3rd in the 200 to qualify also for the All Ireland. The Junior Relay team (McGreen, O'Regan, White and John Byrne) were 4th in the Leinster Championships. Mark McSweeney was Victor Ludorum at the College Sports with wins in four events.

SWIMMING

Upwards of 30 boys went every Saturday morning to the Euro-sport Centre in Grafton St for an hour's swimming where they either learned to swim or how to improve their technique under instructors. A Mini Gala was held in Iveagh Baths at the end of the term in which David Teevan emerged as the top swimmer. Meanwhile, down in Junior 3 a youthful Vincent Cunningham was beginning to show promise. He won a bronze medal in the 50m Freestyle in the Irish Schools minor championships and was just pipped for the bronze in the Backstroke event.

The long-awaited Municipal Swimming Pool in Rathmines was at last opened in 1978, not 200 metres from the college at the other end of Ardee Road. The senior school had the use of it every Thursday from 3.30-4.0 and Fridays from 3-4. The junior school had their sessions also. While large numbers of 2nd and 3rd years, with a scattering of 4th years came, 5th and 6th years were noteworthy absentees. An informal gala was held on the last two days of the season and John Carvill and David Teevan proved best. Three seasoned swimmers from 6th Year, Peter Mulvey, Brendan Largey and Brendan McNally, shared their expertise with less accomplished swimmers from time to time.

In 1978-79 the Thursday sessions were reserved for 1st Year to give them every assistance in overcoming any fear of the water and learning the basic skills. Fridays were for the more accomplished swimmers in the other years. Many boys used the facilities all through the year. Races, for which medals were awarded, were run off at the end of the year and over 20 boys were honoured.

The outstanding swimmer of 1980-81 was Stuart Brady, the son of past student, Des Brady. In the Leinster Clubs Gala in February 1981 Stuart was a member of the team that won the U-16 Freestyle Relay and U-14 Medley Relay. In the same Gala he won an



Stuart Brady with some of his swimming trophies, 1981.



Ciaran Maher, Squash International, 1981.

individual bronze in the U-14 Breaststroke. In March in the Speedo Gala No. 1 he won another bronze in the 100 Freestyle. In the No. 2 Gala he was first in the 100m and was a member of the squad which came 2nd in the U-14 Medley and first in the U-14 Freestyle Relay. In the Leinster Schools Championships he gained a 1st and a 2nd place in individual competitions.

TENNIS

Reasonably good weather in the 1975-76 year was an aid to the Tennis programme but when St Mary's were drawn against the favourites, Clongowes, in the Senior Cup, it was largely a question of "By how much would they win?" R. Sloan and B. Foley took seven games and P. Dean and M. Thornton took eight from their opponents.

In 1976-77 the Schools Section of the Lawn Tennis Association introduced new competitions to allow weaker sides some hope of a trophy. As it turned out, the B teams of the schools that won the A competitions, Clongowes and Castleknock, also won the new trophies. As usual weather interfered very much with preparations. St Mary's continued to be handicapped by the lack of hard courts which not only meant they were at the mercy of the weather for practice but they were unable to practise all year round as most of the other tennis-playing schools then did and were at a very definite disadvantage when playing away matches. Kenilworth was playable only in mid-May, but by then St Mary's had been beaten by Moate. Philip McDonnell won the No. 1 singles and a number of the other matches went to tie-breakers. The Juniors beat Wesley 6-0 but went down fighting to Moate and St Gerard's, 4-2 in both cases. The U-13s did well with 4-1 victories over St Michael's and Belvedere before going down to favourites, St Fintan's. Their final match with Mullingar was another marathon, three singles going to 3 sets before Mullingar took a 2-1 lead, the final set going to 9-7 before the issue was resolved. In the House Tournament Nick Power was the surprising and welcome winner of the top slot.

In 1977-78, for the first time in many years St Mary's won their section in the Junior Cup to advance to the semi-final. They beat O'Connell's and Gormanstown before going down

in the semi-final 4-3 to Newbridge at Clongowes. In the House Tournaments only the Senior was completed, Philip McDonnell beating P. Thornton. Templeogue LTC offered free membership for two years to the finalists.

In 1978-79 the courts could not even be marked before school broke up for the summer holidays so bad was the weather. All games had to be played away, thus surrendering all initiative, so it was heartening to see the JCT beat King's Hos without losing a set. Against Clongowes in the next match, lack of practice was the main reason for the 4-2 defeat.

1979-80 was the big break-through year for tennis in St Mary's when the SCT got past the first round in the Penn-Snauwert Cup. The team was M.Gueret, Paul Brooder, Conor Cooke, John Burke-Moran, Peter Cosgrove and Brian Rowntree. In the semi-final played in Clongowes against Moate, John Burke-Moran was the only singles winner, so Moate had to win just one doubles which they did without hassle. Still, it was quite a shot in the arm for tennis in the school. The Juniors had talent but were short on belief in themselves.

SQUASH

Not having a squash court, this popular game is not played at St Mary's, but recognition must be given to a student who achieved remarkable success in this field in a very short time. Ciaran Maher's squash career began when as an U-14 he won two minor tournaments as well as the Leinster Open. That year he was the No. 3 on the Leinster panel and gained Interprovincial honours. In 1980 he won two minor tournaments and retained No. 3 spot this time as an U-16 in a match against Ulster. In 1981 in his final year as an U-16 he won three tournaments before winning the Connaught Open, coming 2nd in the Munster Open and runner-up in the Leinster Closed. His ranking moved him to No. 1 spot for Leinster and in that position he played in the junior Interprovincials. He gained his International Cap playing No. 4 for Ireland against Scotland in Edinburgh. Needless to remark, he was an everpresent member of the college tennis teams down the years.

BASKETBALL

Basketball could not be said to have flourished in the second half of the 70s decade. It continued to be played by many who were not involved in rugby and Leagues were run off, both in summer and winter, but apart from a couple of games with St Columba's College in 75-76, there was no inter-scholastic involvement. The growth in interest in soccer possibly explains the lack of interest in basketball.

SOCCER

With the growth of the Schools Soccer Cup, matches were being played earlier and earlier in the year which posed problems in any rugby-playing school. St Mary's were fortunate in 1975-76 to get a team together for the first round match with St John's which they won. They managed to get in a bit of practice before the next tie which was with formidable Patrician College, Finglas. This ended in a draw but Patrician prevailed in the replay. Leagues were organised in the last term for seniors, intermediates and juniors which were fiercely contested.

A team was entered in the Senior Cup as usual in 1976-77, but as it coincided with rugby, St Mary's had to withdraw after just one match. Later in the year they entered the Belfield Blitz and won one of their three games.

Soccer was confined to the domestic scene in 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81 but



Members of the 7th Troop at East German border while on camp in Bavaria, 1978.

the Leagues, Senior, Intermediate and Junior were as well contested as ever and provided after-school entertainment for the whole of the last term.

Gaelic Football

For a number of years U-14 and U-17 Blitzes were organised at school level, mainly catering for rugby-playing schools and St Mary's took part in some of these, even reaching the semi-final stage on one occasion. In 1975-76 both teams from St Mary's reached the last four of their respective competitions at St Paul's, where the seniors were narrowly beaten by Belvedere and the Juniors by Marian. Mr Newell and Mr Lewis looked after the teams. An innovation in 75-76 was an U-15 League played before Easter. St Mary's did not win any match but they enjoyed the experience of playing full-length matches.

In 1976-77 no Blitzes were organised but a full programme of matches was carried out.

Numbers were slow in coming forward in 1977-78 at the beginning of the last term but St Mary's managed to take the field in the League organised for rugby-playing schools, meeting Terenure and De La Salle who were too good for them.

There was a good response from the U-15 age group in 1978-79 and there was no difficulty in getting a team together to contest the league for rugby-playing schools. Templeogue beat St Mary's rather easily in the first match, but then to everyone's surprise, and in particular Terenure's, St. Mary's won the next in Terenure. Unfortunately they had to take the field against Pres Bray without some better players who were otherwise engaged, and were beaten.

SCOUTS

The most significant change in the Unit in 1975-76 was the formation of a new Troop, the 6th Dublin. It was felt that the numbers warranted it and that five patrols in a troop were quite sufficient. Tony Dalton took charge of the new troop assisted by Brian Sullivan and Jimmy Crofts, but handed it over to Tom Shanahan at Christmas. Don O'Higgins

took over the 8th, assisted by Willie Ryan and Dermot Rafter. This left Stephen Sheehan with the 7th, assisted by Richard Murphy, Gerry Coghlan and Tony Pacitti. Jim Kelly was Unit Leader, Jerry Kelly the secretary, Ross McMahon, treasurer, Louis McMullan, Den warden and Fr David Darcy chaplain. Venturers Leader was Gerard McDonald and John Keogh was Cub Leader.

Unit Leader in 1976-77 was Tony Dalton. The only other change in the leadership was in the Cubs where Pat Shaffrey took over from John Keogh and history was made by the appointment of a girl, Siobhan Mulcahy, as an Assistant Leader. A total of 170 boys were engaged in scouting in the college which demanded a large number of committed leaders and the unit was blessed with the number of past scouters who were willing to devote their time to the work. It was the Golden Jubilee of the Association and promised to be an exciting year. The Cub Pack was expanded to 40 members and the Link Badge was introduced to prepare final year cubs for scouting. The highlight of the year was a family picnic in Glenmalure, county Wicklow. The unit was represented by the 6th and 7th in the Melvin Trophy competition in Larch Hill. The 7th won the National Orienteering Competition in county Cork with Paul Barnes and Mark Redmond. The CBSI organised an International Jamboree to mark the Jubilee. The 6th and 7th were 'twinned' with a Danish and German troop respectively, which entailed not only camping alongside the guests for the duration of the camp, which was held in Mount Mellaray, county Waterford with over 10,000 scouts attending, but of providing 'home hospitality' for some weeks. It was immensely successful due to the generosity of the parents involved. The 8th Troop set off for Sweden. There they attended a small jamboree, 'Delcamp 77' outside Stockholm with scouts from all over Europe with whom they formed some warm friendships.

In 1977-78 Pat Shaffrey took over the 8th Dublin from Don O'Higgins while Eoin Redahan took over the Cub Pack. The unit took part in the national orienteering camp in Wicklow in September. The 6th had a four-day camp in Navan in October. The 7th



*Jim Crofts,
Tom Shanahan,
Fr. David Darcy,
Gerry McDonald.*



*M. Murphy, M. Farrell, H. Stephenson
prepare a meal, 1978.*



*P. Norris, A. McEvoy, W. Foley
cooking pancakes on camp in Guernsey, 1978.*

and 8th hostelled in Aughavannagh at Christmas while the 6th went to Foulkrath Castle in county Kilkenny. The 7th had been invited by the German Troop with whom they had been twinned in the Jamboree in Mount Mellary, to camp with them in Nuremburg in the summer. This meant an amount of fund-raising on the part of a parents committee, whose inventiveness and hard work were amply rewarded. The 8th went to an International Camp at Woodstock, county Kilkenny, where they renewed friendships formed with Swedish scouts the previous year in Stockholm. The Venturers, now split in two because of numbers, went to Kerry and to Woodstock.

Don O'Higgins became Unit Leader in 1978-79 in succession to Tony Dalton and Gerry Coghlan took over the 7th from Stephen Sheehan. At Christmas all the troops went on camping week-ends to Aughavannagh. The Annual Cheese and Wine Party in the Braemor Rooms to raise funds for the unit's activities was very successful. The 8th won a regional soccer tournament organised by Tom Shanahan, who also organised a jumble sale to raise funds for a needy inner city scout troop to mark "The International Year of the Child". The Venturers toured in the south of Ireland, hostelling.

Changes in the leadership in 1979-80 included Tony Dalton and Pat Shaffrey taking on the duties of secretary and treasurer, respectively. Anne Costello became Cub Leader, Ian Delany the 6th Leader, John Sheehan the 7th, Dermot Rafter the 8th and Tom Shanahan the Venturers. The Venturers were called upon to serve as stewards at the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park and received a service certificate to mark the occasion, but they felt the real reward was the memory they would hold for the rest of their lives of the most wonderful event in which they had ever participated. Before Christmas the unit held a social evening to wish Fr David Darcy, long-time and well-loved Chaplain, bon voyage at his departure for the missions in Brazil. To mark his fifteen years service to scouting in St Mary's he was presented with a bronze medal by Regional Commissioner William Potts, on behalf of the Catholic Scouts Association. The Annual fund-raising Cheese and Wine party was held in Coman's, Rathgar. Apart from the usual week-end fun and training camps throughout the year, the cubs had their annual summer camp in the Earl of Meath's demesne, Kilruddery, on the slopes of the Little Sugar Loaf. The Earl was the original landlord of the Rathmines property that became St Mary's College.

The leadership in the St Mary's Unit remained the same in 1980-81, even though Tom Shanahan got married during the year. The Cub Pack numbered 36 and had many a tiring but enjoyable hike during the year. The annual picnic was washed out but the parents entered into the fun of a car treasure-hunt.

SUMMER CAMPS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Camp-Site</i>	<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>Leader</i>
1976	Youlbury, Ox. (7th) Aberdeen (8th) Le Havre (6th) Courtown (Cubs)	Fr Darcy	Stephen Sheehan Don O'Higgins Tom Shanahan John Keogh
1977	Mt Mellary (7th) Sweden (8th) Mt Mellaray (6th) Clongowes Wood (Cubs)		Stephen Sheehan Don O'Higgins Tom Shanahan Pat Shaffrey
1978	Nurenbeg (7th) Foulkrath, Kilkenny (8th) Guernsey, C.I. (6th) Clongowes (Cubs)		Stephen Sheehan Pat Shaffrey Tom Shanahan Eoin Redahan
1979	Aberdeen (7th) Youlbury (8th) Phasel's Wood (6th) Greystones (Cubs)		Gerry Coghlin Pat Shaffrey Tom Shanahan Eoin Redahan
1980	Broadstone, Sussex (7th) Machynlleth, Wales (8th) Sheffield (6th) Kilruddery, Wicklow (Cubs)		John Sheehan Dermot Rafter Ian Delaney Anne Costello
1981	Youlbury (7th) Walesby (8th) Downe, Kent (6th) Courtown (Cubs)		John Sheehan Dermot Rafter Ian Delaney Anne Costello



*Pat Shaffrey, leader, joins
J. Woods, B. Gilsean,
R. Davitt and M. O'Neill
for a meal in Guernsey,
1978.*

THE PAST PUPILS' UNION

1976-77 was celebrated as the Golden Jubilee of the Union. There was good reason for declaring this year the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Past Pupils' Union, because we have the records of the very first meetings, beginning in December 1927, together with an unbroken list of officers and activities down to the present day. However, there is also a claim to be made that a past pupils union was started in the 1890s. In the report to the Mother House in Paris in May 1899, mention was made of the formation of a past pupils' union to preserve the bonds that unite our past students with one another and with the college. As the period covered by the report was from February 1898, we must conclude that the Union was formed between that date and May 1899, the publication date of the report. We have the word of Seamus Ó Braonáin (cf. *College Annual* 1963) that a past pupils cricket club was operating for some years before the rugby club was formed in 1900. That date, 1900, is the accepted date for the formation of an official club called Old St Mary's RFC and can be called the birthday of the present club, but we have the evidence of a photograph dated 1894 purporting to be the St Mary's College Past Pupils Rugby XV. The photo, necessarily in black-and-white, shows members of a team wearing jerseys of horizontal stripes of alternating white and a darker shade, presumably blue, as in the present-day Blackrock or Rockwell jerseys. But the names appended are quite definitely St Mary's. The photograph was probably taken on the once-off occasion of a "Past Pupils' XV v. Present XV" match and the Past wore jerseys borrowed from 'Rock for the occasion to distinguish themselves from the Present.

President of the PPU for 1975-76 was Professor Thomas Lynch. The joint secs. were Fr Walter Kennedy and Desmond Byrne. Gerry Cullen was hon. treasurer. Tom Lynch was followed in turn by Paddy Fearon, Fred Cogley, Paddy Funge, Des White and Matt Gilsean.

St Mary's Union and Rugby Club lost a valued past president and the college a valued friend and past student when Lorcan C. Gogan died in 1980. His association with the College extended from his schooldays in 1909-1916, of which he always cherished the fondest memories, right through his entire life to the day of his death. He was hon. sec. of the union for some years and President in 1962-63. For two successive terms he was president of the rugby club, 1965-67, of which he was made an honorary life member. He had excelled at rugby, cricket and golf and was captain of Milltown GC. He was a founder member of the Irish Air Corps in which he served for seven years, under fellow past student, Col. Charles Russell.



Paddy Fearon making a presentation to Fr. Walter Kennedy in 1978 marking his 25 years as Union Secretary watched by Fr. William Nugent.

Annual Mass

The Annual Mass for deceased members of the school and union saw the largest attendance for some years and for the rest of the period and to the present day remains one of the focal points of the union's activities, particularly since whole families began to attend and not just the actual past students, making it the family affair it should be.

Annual Dinner

The 1975-76 Annual Dinner took place on November 21 and 155 members were there. This was the first time for many years that the dinner was held in the college. While some shortcomings were noted, it was felt by the majority to have been a successful experiment well worth repeating, the college being seen as the most fitting place for such a function. 140 attended the 1976-77 Dinner also held in the college in November 1976 which marked the Golden Jubilee of the Union. The 1977-78 Dinner, held in the college attracted only 134. The presentation of a cut-glass decanter was made at this Dinner to Fr Jim Hurley to mark the years he spent in St Mary's as president and dean of studies. The numbers were much the same in 1978-79, but there was a considerable improvement in 1979-80 when 169 came. However the numbers dropped off again in 1980-81 to about 130 including 18 juniors and about 18 guests.

Union Day

Union Day was marred in 1975-76 by rain, only the soccer was possible, much to the relief of Fr Barry as the Past are more apt to leave their mark on the crease than on the scoreboard. The weather made amends the following year, as befitted a Golden Jubilee Year. Basketball and tennis had to be abandoned for lack of support but cricket and soccer went ahead. Johnny Bowden and family provided the refreshments as ever. In 1976-77 250 Teas were served, which made a run on cups, so it was decided to use paper cups in future. It was estimated that 350 attended Union Day in 1977-78, with tennis, basketball, soccer and cricket all well supported. However, Union Day had to be abandoned in 1978-79 because of the weather, and it very nearly had to suffer the same fate in 1979-80 and consequently was poorly attended. The new decade 1980-81 began more hopefully with a fine day, good and enthusiastic players, especially in an American Tennis Tournament.

The Golfing Society

The Golfing Society had their 1975-76 outing at Milltown in which 42 took part, Frank Nagle winning the President's Prize to the delight of all as Frank had been the golfing secretary for many years.

66 took part in the 1976-77 outing, to Milltown as usual. The winner of the president's prize was Brian O'Meara, who also won the cup. A second outing was held in the Grange for the captain's prize, won by Frank Murphy. 76 teed off in 1977-78, Peter Thornton winning the president's prize. The second outing, at the Grange, had 82 players and Martin Murray won the captain's prize. The pattern was repeated in 1978-79 and 1979-80, but 1980-81 saw a jump in the numbers playing, 91, with Fred Cogley walking off with the cup and president's prize. At the second outing, the Grange GC captain, Dermot O'Donovan, won the society captain's (D. O'Sullivan) prize. Royal Dublin was the venue for the combined unions outing but was not well attended.

Scouting

Past students continued to be involved in the leadership of scouting in the college. During the year, Peter Best was awarded the Bronze Medal of Honour by the Association in



The President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery, at the Golf Outing of the PPU at the Grange, 1980 with David O'Sullivan, Capt. of Golfing Society, and Des White, President PPU.

recognition of his service to the Unit and scouting in general. The activities of the Scout Unit under the leadership of the past pupils are chronicled in their own section.

Marian Boys' Club

Total income of over £900, including £100 from the Golden Guinea Club, made 1975-76 a very successful financial year for the club, which cost more than £10 a week to run. 15 St Mary's students, with friends from neighbouring girls schools, completed a successful 24-hour Fast at St Stephen's Green, while two dances organised by the students realised a healthy sum. The club was open three nights a week and catered for about 60 young boys from the Gardiner St inner city area. Only about six past pupils were involved and more were needed. Una Mangan, lifelong friend and supporter of all things Mary's, guided the Ladies Committee which organised cake sales and a musical evening, which brought in over £800 in 1976-77. The college 24-hour Fast brought over £1,000, Gold Guinea Club, £100 and Tombola at the Dance, £50. 1977-78 saw a decline in the numbers attending the club on a regular basis because of a proliferation of youth clubs in the area. Eight of the ten Leaders in the club were past pupils and the management committee was seriously thinking of alternative uses for the premises in view of the number of these clubs about. The youth clubs in the immediate neighbourhood were contacted and the committee decided to amalgamate with one or other in order to make the best use of the premises. As a result, the premises began to be used five nights a week as a community centre. For seven years Fr Hurley acted as chaplain to the club and in 1977 his place was taken by Fr Nugent, the college president. The students collected £600 in their 24-hour Fast. The club continued to function as a community centre with the minimal input from the union for the rest of this period.

Dinner Dance

The Annual Dinner Dance was held in Killiney Court in 1975-76. The Tombola organised by Mrs Sheila Lynch and the Ladies Committee realised £55 for the Boys Club. A record 218 people turned up at the same venue in 1976-77. Mrs Joan Hughes and her committee ran the Tombola. 198 attended the Dinner Dance in Killiney in 1977-78, the Union President's wife, Mrs Brenda Fearon, and committee again looking after the Tombola in aid of the Boys Club. A postal strike created difficulties in 1978-79 and the Dinner Dance was held in the Gresham with about 120 guests. There was a return to Killiney Court the next year when 140 attended. It was decided to move to the Braemor Rooms for the 1980-81 Dance and the format was changed somewhat to allow for a cabaret with the dancing. A Monster Raffle was organised by Mrs Eithne White and her committee with a first prize of a six-day holiday in Brittany.

Career Guidance

A new venture organised by a small committee of past Presidents of the union, working with Professor Lynch, Fr James Hurley, college principal, Fr Walter Kennedy, college vice-president and Mr Kevin Lewis, career guidance teacher, was the provision of lectures to the senior classes in the school as a help to them in their choice of future employment. Over 23 topics were covered in the first year by experts in various walks of life including religious vocations, the professions, the skilled trades, business management and journalism to public service and banking. Judging by the interest shown and the high standard of questioning elicited, the talks were an unqualified success. They have since become as much a part of the school curriculum as any academic subject and continue to be provided by the Union. In 1976-77 an innovation was the provision of interviews for all members of the 6th Year to give them experience in undergoing an interview with a prospective employer. Both in their preparation for these interviews and from what they personally learned from them, the boys were given an opportunity of testing themselves in an interview situation, which could only be of value afterwards. As many as 22 such "mock interviews" were held every year between October and March. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the union was flattered by a request from Rockwell and Castleknock colleges for details of the St Mary's Careers Guidance Project.

ST MARY'S LAWN TENNIS CLUB

1975-76 was marked by an increase in membership, young members filling the vacancies left by those retiring from active tennis. The Men's Team won four of their five matches in the Winter League. On the social side, there were theatre evenings, socials and outings to Brittas Bay and the annual barbeque. A £10 levy on all members went a long way in carrying out necessary repairs. A friendly and informal spirit pervades the club and in spite of the small numbers of past pupils involved, the spirit is truly the traditional St Mary's spirit.

There was quite a hiatus between the report of the 1975-76 season in the College Annual and the next one which appeared in 1980. So much so, in fact, that the writer felt constrained to give a short history of the club and its grounds in Belmost Avenue, which have been in use for tennis since 1908 (as Percy Lawn Tennis Club) to assure readers of the Annual that the club existed. During the 1970s the Club did well in competition, particularly the women's teams which won outright four winter Leagues and three Class II summer Leagues. But as the new decade opened the club set about ungrading the facilities. Four 'tennisquik' all-weather courts of championship standard were installed in 1980-81. Many unforeseen difficulties, including an unknown underground stream, had to be overcome, but they were ready for use in May 1981. Another difficulty was in obtaining planning permission for a new entrance to the club's premises. There were objections from some local residents but these were resolved and the new entrance was put in. The club house was also refurbished and a new heating and shower system installed, and then it was decided to put in floodlights to extend the playing time during the winter evenings.

Nigel Bennett, one of the small number of past pupils involved in the club, led a tour to Westphalia, West Germany, that was a conspicuous success and left the members involved hungry for more. The first overseas trip undertaken by the club had been in 1966. In 1980 they were the guests of Grun-Weiss Tennis club, Schloss Holte, Stukenbrock, West Germany. This was in return for the very enjoyable visit of the German club to St Mary's LTC in 1968. A party of 20 departed from Rosslare September 1979. The visit commenced with an invitation to the club 'At Home'. Matches were organised with neighbouring clubs and visits to scenic areas and night spots. It was a most enjoyable holiday. The ties

with St Mary's were strengthened by the college playing some of its 'home' matches at Belmont Avenue. By 1980-81 the membership of the Club included 100 men, 140 women and 90 juniors.

ST MARY'S RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

The highlight of the 1975-76 season was the opening of the new clubhouse at Templeville, one of the finest in the country and a monument to the foresight and perseverance of the Alternative Grounds Committee of Matt Gilsenan, Benny Lynch and Bill Gray, with the support of Brian Whelan, Paddy Bolger and the successive chairmen of the Finance Committee of the club, who put in an enormous amount of their time in bringing the project from Tony Hickie's drawing board to reality. There was great difficulty early in the season while the clubhouse was under construction and great gratitude was expressed to the President of Templeogue College for permitting the club to use the college's changing-room facilities for more than half the season, and to St Mary's College for providing rooms for meetings etc. It was almost inevitable that in all the coming and going off the field, that the rugby itself would suffer somewhat and the only trophy won was the O'Connor Cup. The team was captained by Frank O'Rourke and coached by Des White. On the representative level, Tom Grace was honoured by the captaincy of Ireland and of the Irish Touring party to New Zealand which was so successful. He was joined on the tour by Tom Feighery. Two St Mary's referees, Denis Nagle and Paddy Farrell were awarded with Junior Interprovincial matches and Paddy also refereed the Schools Junior Cup Final. Joe Fanagan finished his stint as a member of the Irish 'Five' by taking the chair



*Bishop Whelan chatting with old friends after the Blessing of the new Club Pavilion, 1976.
Fr W. Kennedy (partly hidden), Benny Lynch, Matt Gilsenan, J. Finucane, Mick Glynn,
Lorcan Gogan, Fr. W. Nugent.*

for his final year. An indication of the depth of the playing strength in the club was the fact that 192 players got a competitive game during the season.

With the trauma of being houseless for most of the previous season over them, the members set about getting the clubhouse and grounds in order for the first full season in their new home. A Special General Meeting was held in August 1976 and a new set of Club Rules drawn up and adopted. The Senior and Junior 5 teams went on a short tour of Devon in September and both won all their matches. Then on September 19 the new clubhouse was officially opened by Mr Dudley Higgins, President of the IRFU, and to mark the occasion an Irish XV, captained by Willie John McBride, challenged the St Mary's Senior XV in front of over 5,000 well-wishers. The task of organising this great crowd was done by 150 members under the direction of Colm Bevan, Chairman of the Organising Committee, assisted by the college scout unit and a Ladies Committee. It was a triumph for Colm Bevan who had claimed to a sceptical membership that the event could be run at a profit, and he was proved correct. The railings round the senior pitch was paid for out of the proceeds of that day.

That auspicious opening was but the first of many triumphs that 1975-76 season. The U-21 team, captained by Derek Early, and coached by Louis McMullan won the inaugural Des Merry Cup for that age group. The U-19s were unlucky in going down to a very good UCD team in the McCorry Cup, but their true worth was shown when the Leinster Selectors chose four of them, Charlie Barry, Jody Greene, Donal Coughlan and Eugene Kavanagh for the Leinster U-19s. At Junior 1 Rodney O'Donnell and Declan Howard were chosen for the Leinster Junior Interpro. At senior level, Tom Grace captained the Leinster Interpro team which also contained Tom Feighery and Frank Kennedy, while Ciaran Fitzgerald and Michael Glynn gained Connaught caps. Tom Feighery retained his place on the Ireland 'B' team before going on to gain two full Irish caps. Tom Grace led Ireland in the off-season tour of New Zealand and then went on to captain Ireland for all the home Internationals where his inspirational leadership both on and off the field made him a tremendous ambassador for the club.

The New Year brought old friends together when His Lordship, Bishop Joseph B. Whelan, the captain of the revived St Mary's RFC in 1934, celebrated Mass in the new clubhouse and blessed the grounds and pavilion in the presence of members and their families and friends. Willo Murray co-ordinated coaching and as a result of the accent on coaching, every team that had the benefit of coaching reached at least the semi-final stage of a competition in their grade, while J 7 and J 8 teams reached the finals of their unofficial competitions. In the Leagues, Seniors, J1 J2, and J4 won their sections, while the J3 lost to the winners, Seapoint, by just one point, 9-10. The Senior XV team showed the need for new blood when losing in the first round of the Cup to Skerries. That new blood seemed readily available in the J1 team which, under Dave O'Brien, reached the J1 League final for the first time since 1948, losing out to Blackrock who brought off the League and Cup double. J2s were beaten in the semi-final of the League in extra time and then went out of the Cup only after extra time at the quarter-final stage. The J3 had the best playing record in the Club but were least successful in terms of awards. They played 22 games winning 19, losing 2 and drawing 1, scoring 477 points to 144. They lost just one League match and that, 9-10, and a replayed cup match only after extra time when they were down to 14 men. The J4, captained by Frank O'Rourke and coached by George Hook, were beaten in the quarter-final of the Winters' Cup but went on to win the J4 League Cup in its inaugural year, thus following on in a now traditional practice of winning competitions in their inaugural years.

Paul McInerney's J6, coached by Paddy Jennings, took the Tom Fox Cup, another first for St Mary's. The J7 under captain John Boyle and coach Louis McMullan, made it to the final of the Greenlea Cup, as did the J8 under Paul Dixon and Gary Rafter in



*St. Mary's RFC,
First XV. Winners of
Leinster Senior League and
Blackrock Festival, 1978.*

*Back: V. McGovern
(Manager), S. Deering,
J. B. Sweeney, T. Grace,
M. Glynn, D. Fanning,
D. Hickie, A. Hickie, S. Lynch,
N. Kenny (Coach).
Front: F. Kennedy,
A. Andreucetti, D. Deering,
T. W. Brooder (President),
J. Moloney (Captain),
A. Byrne, C. Fitzgerald,
G. Browne.
Seated: T. Kennedy,
R. O'Donnell.*

*Senior Sevens. Winners of
Blake Sevens,
Old Belvedere Sevens,
Omagh Sevens, 1978.*

*Back: F. Kennedy,
S. Deering, C. Fitzgerald,
D. Earley, D. Deering.
Front: P. Andreucetti,
D. Fanning, J. Moloney
(Captain), T. W. Brooder
(President),
T. Kennedy, D. Howard.*



*St. Mary's Junior 1 XV.
Winners of Junior League
and Metropolitan Cup,
1978.*

*Back: S. Jennings
(Manager), G. Ebbs,
F. O'Dea, P. O'Reilly,
T. Young, D. O'Brien,
E. Kavanagh, D. Deering,
T. McGovern, D. Jennings.
D. Nagle (Coach)
Front: J. Lynch,
D. O'Connor,
D. Hooper, C. Sweeney
(Captain), T. W. Brooder
(President), E. Early,
L. Grissing, D. Howard.
Seated: J. Greene,
L. Naughton.*

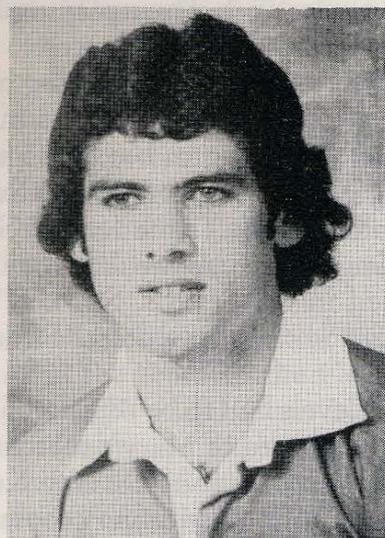
the unofficial Guilfoyle Cup. However, pride of place must go to J5 who retained the O'Connor Cup, won for the first time the previous year. Diarmuid White coached an almost completely different team this time, with Brendan Spring as captain. And finally, Rory O'Connor coached a dedicated band of 'Sevens' specialists to victory in the North Kildare and Skerries Sevens Cups.

If the hardware won is the real measure of a club, then 1976-77 must be the best year St Mary's ever had. No fewer than 10 cups were won: The Castle Trophy; Leinster Senior League; Old Belyvedere International Sevens; Galwegians-Blake Sevens; Omagh Academicals Sevens; Leinster Junior League; the Metropolitan Cup; the Winters Cup; Greenlea Cup and Guilfoyle Cup. But this remarkable year began in even more remarkable fashion by a Russian Tour at the invitation of the Russian Rugby Federation. Every member of the party paid, in true capitalist fashion, his own way, from the president, Tim Brooder, to tour manager, Nicky Corrigan, to captain, Johnny Moloney, but several parties were held to help them on their way. Two games were played against the USSR Senior and Junior Selected XVs and both were won, 32-20 and 20-3. A third game had to be cancelled because of injuries to too many key players.

The trophies won have already been enumerated. The early exit of the U-19s from the McCorry Cup in atrocious weather released a flow of about 40 players to other grades. J4 were finalists in their League, as were J2 in the Minor Cup and J5 in the O'Connor Cup. The J1 were probably the most successful team when they brought off the Junior League and Metropolitan Cup double for the first time in the Club's history. These team successes at various levels were reflected in the number of players chosen for representative honours. Johnny Moloney took over the captaincy of both Leinster and Ireland from team-mate, Tom Grace, who kept his place on the Interprovincial and International teams. Ciaran Fitzgerald captained Ireland 'B' and Connaught, and was a sub on the senior Irish side. Ciaran Smyth was capped as out-half for Connaught. Charlie Barry and Donal Coughlan got Leinster U-19 caps, while Rodney O'Donnell, Eugene Kavanagh and Declan Howard were Junior Interpros for Leinster. No small credit for these successes on the field was due to the Match Committee under Tim Harrington, which managed to field ten teams every weekend and provide coaching at every level. Paddy Bolger succeeded Joe Fanagan as the club's representative on the Leinster Branch and Gerry Boyd was the Branch hon. treasurer and Branch representative on the IRFU. Tommy Kearns (Leinster Senior Cup final), Paddy Farrell, Mervyn Johnson, Denis Nagle, served with distinction with the Referees Association, while Dick Whitty and Denis Hooper were also active in this side of



Patrick J. Bolger



Tony Ward



Benny Lynch



*Ireland
Tour of Australia, 1979*

*Johnny Moloney,
Ciaran Fitzgerald,
Terry Kennedy,
Rodney O'Donnell,
Paul Andreucetti.*

the game. The club management committee under Bill Fagan did their usual Augean-stable heroics in running the club on a day to day basis. The Ladies Committee, Gerry Ebbs (the one-man-band dance organiser) and the bar committee of Tony Murray, Henry Roche, Frank Montague and Frank Reddy, deserve great praise for their selfless efforts in keeping things running smoothly.

Russia one year, California next. You didn't need to join the navy to see the world. St Mary's RFC would do. The 1978-79 season began auspiciously enough with a good run in the Bridgend Sevens, to which the club had been invited at the end of the previous season after winning the Old Belvedere Sevens. They were beaten only by the eventual winners. This was followed by the Castle Trophy which they were defending. Here in spite of winning all the matches in their section, they lost out because of fewer tries, a circumstance repeated in the Leinster Senior League. A semi-final loss to Blackrock put them out of the Cup.

J2 reached the finals of both League and Cup but lost out in both. J3 carved their own niche the club's history by doing the Moran Cup and J3 League double for the first time. It was the first Moran Cup win since 1950. Their playing record was:

Played 26, won 23, Lost 3, 697 pts for, 156 against.

The team was captained by Niall Woodcock, managed by John Carvill and coached by Pat Moran. For the record, it was Paul Dean's first season in club football.

The J4 reached the semi-final of their League, but the J5 won the O'Connor Cup for the third time in four years, beating Bective Rangers. Brian Swift was captain, Tom Browne the Manager and Michael Hogan the coach. J7, under Joe Gallagher, retained the Greenlea Cup, and the J8 retained the Guilfoyle Cup, which they had shared the previous year with the J7s. Successes continued in the Sevens. St Mary's won the Old Belvedere, the Galwegians and the North Kildare Sevens, reaching the final in the CYMS and in the Gala International in Los Angeles.

This high standard of play at all levels had to be reflected in representative honours. Shay Deering created history by being the third St Mary's man in succession to captain the Irish XV, following Tom Grace and Johnny Moloney. Terry Kennedy was capped for Ireland and Leinster for the first time, while Johnny Moloney captained Leinster and was a sub for Ireland. During his short stay with the club, Tony Ward was capped for Ireland. Finally, at

the end of the season when the squad to tour Australia was announced, Paul Andreucetti, Ciaran Fitzgerald, Terry Kennedy, Johnny Moloney and Rodney O'Donnell were listed. It was a tremendous honour for the club to have so many on a touring party, and for the college to have provided five, including Tony Ward, who had changed his allegiance to Garryowen since going to live in Limerick. And, not only were they in the party, they contributed greatly to the squad's resounding success both on and off the field.

Paddy Bolger became President of the IRFU Leinster Branch in this its Centenary Year. An innovation was the setting up of a Rugby Council comprising Tim Harrington, Vinnie McGovern and Steven Tracey to oversee all playing affairs. Gerry Ebbs and his dedicated band of stewards continued to be the financial mainstay of the club through the weekly dances.

In the last days of April 1979 the club lost one of its most dedicated, loyal and hard-working members, who embodied in his person the living tradition that is St Mary's. This was Benny Lynch, who died after a protracted illness, borne with all the fortitude, calm and simplicity that was characteristic of the man. An outstanding player as a schoolboy, he figured in that memorable team that almost wrested the Leinster Cup from Blackrock in the final of 1943. His running and tackling, in partnership with Alec Hughes in the centre, was a feature of the game. He well deserved the interprovincial honours that came to him. After school he was a leading light in the club as a player and as an official. Even when his engineering career took him to London, where he played for London Irish, he retained his connections and when St Mary's went on tour to Manchester in 48-49 he travelled from London to join them. On returning to Dublin, Benny took up once more his active participation in the affairs of the college, the union, the rugby club and Milltown GC where he was an outstanding exponent and, as ever, a keen competitor. For a long time he was Treasurer of the RFC and closely involved in the transfer of the club from Fortfield to Templeville, and in the mammoth task of transforming a meadow into top class football pitches. The club itself, as it stands today, is a monument to his work and devotion.

1979-80 opened with a short but successful tour of Jersey by the J7 and J8 teams. At Easter it was the turn of J2, who toured Holland. In representative games, Paul Dean and Declan Fanning gained their first Interpro caps for Leinster, while Johnny Moloney, Terry Kennedy, Paul Andreucetti and Rodney O'Donnell added to theirs. Ciaran Fitzgerald and Hugh Maguire played for Connaught. Andreucetti, Dean, Kennedy and Moloney also toured Romania with the Leinster XV. It was a brilliant season for the Province, winning all but one of its matches and the four St Mary's regulars can take some credit for that. Amid great controversy the British and Irish Lions went on tour to South Africa and Rodney O'Donnell was included. Most unfortunately, he received a very serious back injury which ended his playing career just when it was beginning to blossom, and nearly left him paralysed for life. But it was indicative of the young man's will to get better that before anyone thought he would ever be mobile again, he was back in the club, not just as a passive spectator, but actively engaged in coaching, team management, team selection and any other job that needed doing. At U-19 Andy Whelan was selected for the Leinster team that toured Italy with such success with George Hook as coach. On October 31, St Mary's had the honour of hosting the Centenary Dinner of the Leinster Branch, whose President was Paddy Bolger.

The senior team had a successful year, winning the League by beating Greystones in the final after beating Lansdowne in the semi. In the Cup Lansdowne reversed this with some long-distance goal kicking. The J1 under Liam Naughton reached the final of the Junior League. J2 made amends for losing the finals of League and Cup the year before by bringing off the double this year, under Ray Sloan, coached by Brian Wynne and managed by Bill Gray, with the enviable record of 24 played, 23 won, 1 lost, scoring over four tries a game. J3, under Niall Woodcock, fell at the last hurdle in the cup and the semi in the

League. J4 with David Mooney reached the final of the Cup, beaten by a try in the last minute of injury time. Brendan Spring led the J5 team to the final too while Greg Maher led the J7s to the semi-finals of the Greenlea Cup where they were beaten only in extra time. The J8 retained the Guilfoyle Cup under Paul Dixon. The North Kildare Sevens was won by Dave O'Brien's side. Louis McMullan, Dave Fair and John Pine ran a very successful Sevens confined to the Club.

The 1980-81 season opened brightly with a convincing win in the Castle Trophy. Unfortunately the momentum was not maintained. At Easter an U-21 party under Eamonn Mullan took part in a London-Irish Festival in London, doing well without actually winning. Trophies were thin on the sideboard this year. Apart from the Castle Trophy won by the 1st XV, the only others were the O'Connell Cup won by the J2 team that just narrowly failed to bring off the elusive League and Cup double by falling to Lansdowne in the League final, and the Galwegians Sevens, which had by now become something of a St Mary's preserve.

The Secretary's Report for 1980-81 closes with an expression of thanks to Fr Noel Redmond and the community of Templeogue College for their contribution to the club by directing their past pupils to the club on leaving school and in making pitches and other facilities available whenever requested. The closest ties have been maintained between the college and club from the day the club acquired the land adjoining the college, and past pupils of Templeogue continue to this day to make a most valuable contribution to the club's playing strength and general support.

Representative honours went to Hugh Maguire, Michael Quaid, Jack Mannion and Ciaran Fitzgerald from Connaught; to Terry Kennedy, Paul Andreucetti, Declan Howard and Paul Dean from Leinster. Ciaran and Terry wore the Irish jersey against Romania. Paul Dean and Hugh McGuire gained Ireland 'B' caps against England. Andy Whelan was honoured by the Leinster Youths.

Gerry Boyd retired after ten years as hon. treasurer of the Leinster Branch, to be replaced by Paddy Bolger. Vinnie McGovern was elected as sub-selector for the coming year. In the club administration, Bill Fagan continued the arduous task of heading the Management Committee.

VOCATIONS

<i>Name</i>	<i>At School</i>	<i>Ordination</i>	<i>Order/Diocese</i>
Dermot Sullivan	(1954-64)	1978	White Fathers. Uganda
Donal Davis	(1967-73)	1980	Cistercians Mount Mellaray
Brendan Largey	(1972-78)	-	OFM. Professed '84. +86

Fr Brendan Largey

Brendan Largey left St Mary's after the Leaving Cert in 1978 and after working for a number of years he fulfilled his dearest wish and entered the Franciscan Order in 1983. At the end of the novitiate in Killarney, he was professed as a member of the Friars Minor and sent to Galway to attend the university, where, in spite of his appetite for hard work, he found the going difficult after the five-year break from study. But he buckled down to it characteristically and mastered it. In 1985, with a number of confreres he travelled by minibus to Assisi, to see at first hand the birthplace of the Founder of the Order, St Francis, and to Rome where they had the honour of an audience with the Pope. A year later he did well in his examinations and went to the Franciscan House in Rosstown for the summer, returning to Galway, where his mother, sister and god-mother took him to Knock on a day-visit. It was a beautiful memory for his family to have, because that very night he had a heart-attack and died shortly after.

Chapter Nineteen

1981-1990



President
Very Rev Hugh O'Reilly

REVEREND FATHERS

- Francis C. Barry – Vice-President (1979-82)
- Jerome Godfrey – Principal (1977-89) – Vice-President (1982-89)
- Michael Smithwick – Bursar (1977-88)
- Stephen Maher – Gamesmaster (1981-90)
- Edmund Burke – Professor (1961-83+)
- Cyril Byrne – Professor (1962-)
- Edward Darcy – Professor (1979-84)
- Anthony Geoghegan – Professor (1981-82)
- Patrick Liddane – Professor (1980-85)
- Sean O'Shaughnessy – Professor (1981-86) – Principal, Junior School (1986-)
- Peter Quinn – Professor (1981-82)
- Peter Raftery – Professor (1980-)
- Richard Olin – Chaplain (1984-85)
- Liam O'Sullivan – Chaplain (1985-86)
- Richard Lehane – Professor (1986-)
- Vincent Browne – Bursar (1987-)
- Aloysius Flood – Chaplain (1989-)
- John Flavin – Professor (1990-)

COMMUNITY

- Francis Barry – Retired (1982-84)
- Daniel F. Curtin – Retired (1986-)
- Edward Darcy – Retired (1984-)
- Patrick Murray – Retired (1972-84+)
- Martin Maiben – Retired (1980-)
- Walter Kennedy – Retired (1979-85?)
- Desmond Kenny – Community (1982-85)
- William Maher – Community (1986-)

LAY PROFESSORS

Francis Conlon – Professor (1972-89) – Principal (1989-)
Pól Uasal Mac Murchú – Vice-Principal (1972-)

Mrs F. Bane – Professor (1979-)	Sean McCarthy – Professor (1966-)
P. Barrett – Professor (1986-87)	P. McCluskey – Professor (1986-)
Ms J. Barry – Professor (1981-82)	Mrs P. J. McGee – Professor (1986-)
Ms D. Boylan – Professor (1987-)	Michael McGarry – Professor (1985-)
Ciaran Brannigan – Professor (1971-)	P. Mackey – Professor (1982-83)
Michael Brennan – Professor (1980-89)	L. McNutt – Professor (1981-82)
G. Calvey – Professor (1984-87)	R. Murphy – Professor (1984-85)
J. Crowley – Professor (1972-85)	Liam Naughton – Professor (1974-)
Ms P. Crowley – Professor (1980-85)	Terence Newell – Professor (1971-)
B. Delaney – Professor (1987-88)	R. O'Connor – Professor (1981-82)
Kevin Donnelly – Professor (1982-)	P. O'Farrachtain – Professor (1984-85)
Noel Doyle – Professor (1964-)	Mrs M. O'Donnell – Professor (1981-)
L. Duggan – Professor (1987-88)	Fred O'Gorman – Professor (1988-)
Daniel Dunne – Professor (1981-)	Ms M. O'Sullivan – Professor (1981-)
J. Gillespie – Professor (1972-)	Ms Nuala O'Sullivan – Professor (1979-82)
Patrick Henry – Professor (1964-83)	Ms C. Parr – Professor (1986-89)
T. Hogan – Professor (1982-83)	Peter Quinn – Professor (1965-)
Richard Hughes – Professor (1979-)	Ms C. Rochford – Professor (1984-87)
J. Kent – Professor (1986-87)	Ms G. Rossiter – Professor (1986-87)
James Kirby – Professor (1978-)	Cathal Sweeney – Professor (1981-)
I. Lee – Professor (1979-84)	Ms P. Tyrrell – Professor (1984-)
Jeremiah Lehane – Asst. Bursar (1981-85)	Mrs Una Wall – Professor (1977-)
M. Leacy – Professor (1984-85)	S. Ward – Professor (1985-86)
P. Lenehan – Professor (1985-86)	Mrs T White – Professor (1979-)
Michael Leonard – Professor (1972-)	Mrs Isobel Cotter – Senior School Secretary
Kevin Lewis – Professor (1971-)	Mrs Betty Ryan – Junior School Secretary
Ms Elizabeth McCallig – Professor (1976-)	

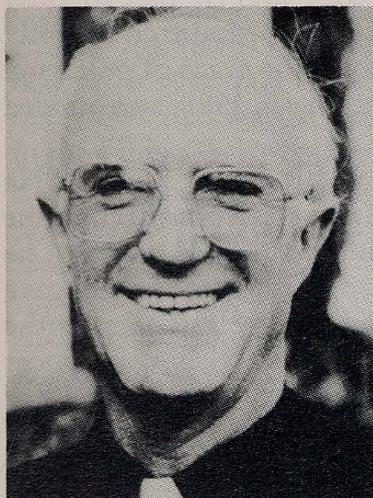
Ms Maura Cranny (O'Donnell) – Speech, Drama (1944-90)
Ms Maureen Valentine – Music, Singing (1972-)
Ms G. Gormley – Music, Singing (1984-85)
Sr M. de Lourdes – Music, Singing (1986-)
Oliver Dunne – Physical Education (1961-)
Ms U. O'Sullivan – Physical Education (1980-)

Hugh O'Reilly, CSSp.

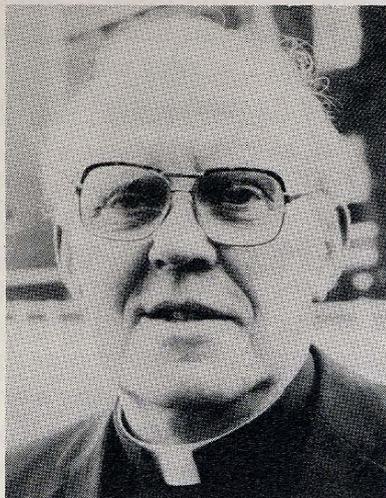
THE NEW PRESIDENT of St Mary's in September 1981 was Very Rev Hugh O'Reilly, the first past pupil to have the honour. Born in county Cavan, Fr O'Reilly, attended St Patrick's College, Armagh, until his family moved to Dublin on the death of his father. He then came to St Mary's where he crowned his secondary studies by becoming the recipient of the Union Gold Medal for General Excellence in his final year. On leaving school he joined the Holy Ghost Fathers and studied history and philosophy in UCD where he graduated in 1953. He was a prefect in Blackrock College for two years before continuing his studies in Kimmage Manor where he was ordained in 1958. His first appointment after ordination was to the missions in East Africa. He spent seven years in Kenya, mainly in teacher-training. He returned to Europe in 1967 to pursue a course of study in catechetics in London. He then returned to Kenya where he was engaged mainly in administration as secretary to Archbishop McCarthy of Nairobi. After three more years in Kenya he returned to Ireland in 1971 to join the staff of Blackrock College where he continued his studies, taking the Higher Diploma in Education and a Diploma in Career Guidance. He then spent a year on the staff of St Felim's College, Ballinamore, county Leitrim, as chaplain, until his transfer to Templeogue College as college chaplain. He was transferred to St Mary's in 1980.



The end of the scholastic year, 1980-81, saw a major break with the past when Fr Francis Barry officially retired from teaching after 39 years service on the staff of St Mary's as Prefect (1938-40) and as a Priest (1944-81). Fortunately, this official retirement meant merely a diminution in the number of classes he continued to teach and did not diminish his active participation in cricket and drama, the two non-academic fields of activity most associated with him down through the years. On April 14, 1982, one of the largest gatherings of past pupils ever assembled in the college paid tribute to him. After Mass in the college chapel, four past students spoke about him under the headings of Cricket Coach (Fred Cogley), Drama Producer (Paddy Funge), Rugby Trainer (Shay Deering) and French Master (Michael Burns). The Union President, Matt Gilsenan, summed up the sentiments of all when he said: "We would like to pay tribute to your life of giving, of service and dedication to all of us and to thank you from our hearts for what you have given us of yourself over the years."



James McNulty, CSSp.



Jerome Godfrey, CSSp.



Francis Barry, CSSp.

On June 25, 1983, on the very day of the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood, Fr Edmund Burke died at the age of 79. He had come to St Mary's in 1961 after a distinguished career as a missionary in Nigeria and in indifferent health but he remained on the staff of the junior school for twenty years until his retirement in 1981. His first appointment as a priest was to Nigeria where he was to spend the next thirty years of his life. In 1936 he was appointed to the mission of Eke, which became a household name in St Mary's from the numerous fascinating tales told by Fr Burke of those early days. Poor health forced his return to Ireland and for over twenty years he was in St Mary's, teaching in the junior school and preparing the Confirmation class year after year. He was interested in everything that went on in the school, walking up to Kenilworth on Wednesdays and Saturdays, rain or shine, even in his late 70s, to watch the boys at play. In everything he did he showed he cared.

On Holy Thursday, April 17, 1984, Fr Patrick Murray died, having spent all but six of his 44 years as a priest in St Mary's.

In 1985 Mr Arthur Barrett who came to St Mary's shortly after it re-opened in 1926 died quietly, thus severing another important link with the past. His contribution to the school has already been reviewed.

Mr Patrick Henry, whose career was sketched in the last chapter, did not live long to enjoy his well-earned retirement. He died in 1987.

Another death at this time was that of Mr Jerome Lehane, a brother of Fr Dick Lehane. Mr Lehane worked for ten years as assistant in the Bursar's office after he retired from a lifetime in banking and often described them as the happiest ten years of his life. He was of inestimable assistance to a succession of Bursars, who relied heavily on his experience and he made many friends among the staff. A daily Mass-goer, his was an exemplary life which he crowned with the resignation he showed during his last and painful illness.

1987 also brought news of the death in December 1986 by accident of a former Dean of Discipline, Fr Tommy O'Sullivan, in Kenya, East Africa. Fr Tommy was a popular and efficient dean from 1938 to 1940. He spent the rest of his dynamic life in Kenya, East Africa where he was engaged mostly in education until, on retiring, he was attached to the Apostolic Delegation, obtaining his flying licence in order to carry out his duties more efficiently in that widespread territory.

In the last chapter mention was made of Fr David Darcy in connection with the scouts and the farewell reception given to him in 1979 on the occasion of his departure for the missions in Brazil after fifteen years as chaplain to the scouts. His sojourn on the missions was not to be a long one. While home on leave in 1988 he had the happiness of celebrating the Silver Jubilee of his ordination with his family. Shortly after that he had to enter hospital for treatment for the cancer that had been diagnosed and his condition speedily deteriorated. He made the pilgrimage to Lourdes where he received the grace of peace and resignation. Two days after his return he died peacefully on October 5, 1988, surrounded by his family and confrères.

David was born in 1934 in Greystones and went to school in Blackrock College. He joined the Holy Ghost Fathers on leaving school. After UCD he went to Rome to continue his studies and he was ordained in 1963. His first appointment was to St Mary's and he threw himself into the work with a zeal that was to characterise all his activity. He gave himself untiringly to the service of the students, whether it was in the classroom, in the organisation of games, training of teams, and in particular the scouts, establishing a rapport with the boys they would recall with pleasure long afterwards. He was Dean of Studies for a number of years and was acting President during the lengthy illness of the Superior of the time. It was typical of the man that when he left St Mary's and might have legitimately taken a long rest before launching himself into his new career on the missions, he chose instead to attend a course in pastoral theology the better to prepare himself for this new venture. He was simply a great servant of God.



Maura Cranny-O'Donnell



Francis Conlon

Finally, the ending of the Centenary Year brought with it the resignation of Ms Maura Cranny (Mrs O'Donnell), who had, for the best part of 45 years, taught elocution to the junior school and the lower classes in the senior school, and had been the mainstay and the guiding light of most of the cultural activities in which the college had been engaged over the years. Her influence over the way the boys of St Mary's could speak and comport themselves in public, in debate or drama, is incalculable. Before the school closed for the summer holidays in June 1990, a presentation was made to her on behalf of the junior school in recognition of her unstinting services down the years.

RADICAL CHANGES

The '80s proved to be one of the most momentous eras in the history of the school, mainly because it ushered in changes which were to have far-reaching effect. These involved a radical change in the way in which the school was to be governed in the future. Ever since the Second Vatican Council in 1961-65, a falling off of vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life had been experienced all over the world, with the exception of some areas of the Third World. Coupled with a considerable leakage of both religious and clerics who found themselves unable to continue the commitments they had made at their profession or ordination, this led to grave shortages of personnel in the schools run by priests and religious, leading in turn to the closure of some schools and to the handing over of others to entirely lay staffs. The Holy Ghost Fathers were no exception to this dearth of vocations, nor, indeed, to that same leakage among its members. They may have suffered less than many other congregations, but the sad fact remains that there has not been one vocation to the Holy Ghost Fathers from St Mary's College for over 25 years! One result of this is that there has been no way to replace Fathers who have retired. The missions remain the primary work of the Holy Ghost Fathers and it cannot be sacrificed for anything else. In January 1984 a seminar was held in Blackrock College attended by Holy Ghost Fathers engaged in education in Ireland. It was conducted by Bishop Brendan Comiskey, SS.CC. and Brother Declan Duffy, FMS, and was entitled "The Spiritan Educational Apostolate in a Time of Change". The seminar lasted for three days and considered in depth the question of change in general before going on to discuss changes in society, the Church and education, before ending with recommendations to the Provincial Administration on how best the Holy Ghost Fathers could serve the educational needs of the local Church in Ireland. During the discussions, some disturbing statistics were revealed, e.g. of the total number of Fathers (126) resident in the five colleges of Blackrock, Rockwell, St Mary's,

St Michael's and Templeogue, in 1984, only 78 were engaged in teaching, either part time or full time, and the average age of these was 54 years. There were only 4 Fathers under the age of 40. By the year 1994, all but 22 of those engaged in teaching would be retired.

On May 18, 1987, the Provincial Superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Ireland, Very Rev Michael McCarthy, wrote to the President, Fr Hugh O'Reilly, to the effect that

- (a) A Board of Governors/Management should be set up to take effect from June 1988, and
- (b) that the post of Headmaster of the Senior School be advertised so that a new Headmaster could take over from Fr Jerome Godfrey on his retirement at the end of the 1987-88 school year.

On May 22, the staff of St Mary's were apprised of this by letter. On October 11, Rev Brother Leonardi Gilmore was invited to address the senior school staff on the implications of having a Board of Management in a school. On October 20, Fr Shelly of Newbridge College also came to talk on the same subject, so that all concerned would fully understand what was involved. Needless to remark, news of what was taking place became well known and it was a topic of much discussion and speculation at the past pupils union annual dinner which took place in November. The following day, a delegation from the union met the President to hear at first hand what the plans for the future of the school were. Naturally, they were extremely worried about any radical change in the management of the school and in particular that there would be no diminution of either control of or commitment to the school by the Holy Ghost Fathers.

Fr O'Reilly assured the delegates that there was no question of the Holy Ghost Fathers withdrawing from the responsibilities they had undertaken when they re-opened the school in 1926, but that the fact of the shortage of priests had to be faced sooner rather than later. On December 2, the delegation waited on the Provincial Superior to voice their unease with the wisdom of setting up a Board of Management based on the articles agreed between the Association of Secondary Teachers of Ireland and the Conference of Managers of Catholic Secondary Schools. The post of Principal was advertised in all the national papers on January 27, 1988. 18 applications were received by February 19. On March 2 a panel of interviewers, comprising Fr Brendan Hally, former president of Blackrock College, Professor Michael MacCormac and Mr Eanna Johnson, was appointed to interview the applicants. Incidentally, the mother of Mr Johnson was a teacher of elocution in St Mary's from 1927-1931. The interviews took place on March 16 and lasted from 8.30 till 18.30. On April 4 it was announced that Mr Francis Conlon had been appointed principal to take office at the end of the 1987-88 academic year.

Mr Conlon is a married man with four children. A graduate of UCD he joined the staff of the senior school in St Mary's in 1972 and was the head of the biology department for eighteen years. One of the things that worried many of the past pupils, and indeed, everyone who had ever had any connection with the school, was that the change to a lay principal might adversely affect the whole direction of the school. Whether or not the Appointment Board considered this factor in making their choice, they could not have chosen better in order to allay these fears. Mr Conlon had considered joining the Holy Ghost Fathers when he left school and had studied in Kimmage Manor for some years and had even prefected in St Mary's for two years in the '50s. These facts along with the fact that he had taught for sixteen years in St Mary's made him eminently suited to continue the unique spirit that had always informed all the activity in the school, academic, cultural and sporting.

Mr Conlon's advent meant the departure of Fr Jerome Godfrey after ten years at the helm of the senior school. Born in Farranfore, county Kerry in 1923, Fr Godfrey

spent his entire life in education. After secondary studies with the Christian Brothers in Tralee, he studied pharmacy and became a qualified chemist before deciding to become a missionary priest with the Holy Ghost Fathers. He obtained his B.A. in 1947 in UCD and was ordained in 1950 and completed his studies the following year before going to Blackrock College. He had been appointed to the Vicariate of Zanzibar in East Africa but ill-health which was to dog him all through life, prevented this and a long period of hospitalisation followed. When well again, Fr Godfrey first taught in St Michael's, at that time a Preparatory College for Blackrock, and then in Willow Park. In 1957 he was appointed Dean of Discipline in Blackrock College, a position which involved him not only in the supervision and care of the Boarders, who were far more numerous in those days than they are now, but in the organisation of games, including the training of the Senior School Cup Team, which won the Leinster Senior Cup four times in the six years he was in charge. In 1963 he became Bursar and, after eight years, succeeded another Kerryman, Fr Tim O'Driscoll, as President of Blackrock. For six years he directed the fortunes of this great establishment and then, without even the shortest of breaks from these onerous tasks, accepted the appointment to St Mary's as Principal in succession to Fr James Hurley who had been transferred to Rockwell.

On leaving St Mary's, Fr Godfrey, on the theory that a change is as good as a rest, took up a temporary post in the pastoral ministry in Rotherham, Yorkshire, but at the end of a



Senior School Staff, 1987-1988

*Back: Mr. R. Hughes, Mr. P. Quinn, Mr. L. Naughton, Mr. P. McCloskey, Mr. C. Branigan,
Mr. D. Dunne, Mr. P. Flood, Fr. V. Browne.*

*Middle: Mr. B. Delaney, Mr. L. Duggan, Fr. C. Byrne, Mr. K. Lewis, Mr. N. Doyle,
Mr. S. McCarthy, Mr. J. Gillespie, Mr. T. Newell, Mr. M. Brennan, Miss C. Parr,
Mr. J. Kirby, Mr. M. Leonard, Fr. P. Raftery.*

*Front: Mrs. I. Cotter, Mr. F. Conlon, Miss D. Boylan, Fr. J. Godfrey, Fr. H. O'Reilly,
P. Uas Mac Murchú, Mrs. C. McCahill.*



Junior School Staff, 1987-1988

*Back: Sr M. de L. Moran, Mr. K. Donnelly, Miss J. Barry, Mrs. M. O'Donnell, Mr. C. Sweeney,
Miss M. O'Sullivan, Mrs. V. Wall, Fr. P. Reedy.
Front: Mrs. F. Bane, Fr. H. O' Reilly, Miss E. McCallig, Fr. S. O'Shaughnessy, Mrs. T. White,
Mr. M. McGarry, Mrs. E. White.*

year he was recalled to fill the post of Bursar in Willow Park, where he continues to keep up the contacts with St Mary's forged during his stay there.

Change is part and parcel of any organism if it is to remain alive. We are told that we change the skin on our bodies completely many times over during our lives. Proof that St Mary's is truly alive is vouched for by the continual change in its appearance over the years from the very first day of its existence as a school. The period of the '80s was to be another time of alterations, this time in the senior school, keeping pace, as it were, with the radical changes in the management structure. No major change had taken place in the school since the extension to the junior school carried out in the '60s. But the senior school was due for a face-lift as well extension, in order to provide much needed extra classroom space as well as updated chemistry and computer and physics labs, a library, a multi-purpose assembly hall which would double as lunch-room, improved staff-room, principal's and vice-principal's offices, geography room and careers guidance office as well as washrooms and toilets.

On March 22, 1988, a design team including Mr Duffy from the architectural firm of Shaffrey & Co, Mr Purcell of McGreevy & Co, surveyors and Mr O'Brien of O'Brien, & Co, electrical and plumbing engineers, met to discuss the proposed extension and alterations to the senior school and invite tenders for the work. On May 13 the tenders were opened in St Mary's and the lowest tender came from a firm in county Meath. On June 13 it was announced that the contract for the work had been awarded to Messrs Cleary & Doyle of Enniscorthy, county Wexford, and four days later the work of demolishing the outer walls of parts of the senior school building began.

The small quadrangle formed by the chapel, the 1st and 2nd Year block and school office, disappeared and in its place was built the multi-purpose assembly hall which would also be used as lunch-room. The 3rd and 4th Year block, with 5th and 6th Year rooms above them, was extended to the west with rooms above and below on the north of the corridor. The work was finished in the same red brick facing to make the new indistinguishable from the old. The garden so assiduously cultivated by Fr Maiben had to go by the board so as not to curtail the space available for recreation. Permission was sought from and granted by the Ministry of Defence for access to the site for heavy duty transport from the Military Road. By the end of July the extension was ready to be roofed but it was not expected that the building would be ready for use before January 1989.

However, by December 1988 the new classrooms were almost ready for occupation to everyone's delight. Early in the New Year, the new desks arrived and industrial cleaners were in to prepare the rooms for class when the school re-opened after the Christmas holidays. So, the New Year of 1989 saw the students returning to brand-new or refurbished classrooms and other facilities. However work continued for some months before the staffrooms and canteen and some of the classrooms were ready, during which a major tragedy almost occurred when a workman struck an underground electric cable and was nearly electrocuted. Fortunately, loss of power for some hours was the only consequence. The workman suffered some shock but quickly recovered.

ACADEMICS

Examination Results:

Leaving Certificate

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. Sitting</i>	<i>"A"s</i>	<i>"B"s</i>
1982	58	3	40
1983	51	14	72
1984	51	12	69
1985	59	38	86
1986	56	15	94
1987	59	30	54
1988	64	36	55
1989	63	16	81
1990	73	22	93

Intermediate Certificate

1983	66	75	145
1984	63	64	119
1985	61	39	146
1986	62	77	135
1987	63	73	165
1988	69	51	88
1989	131	150	299
1990	62	55	106

The period under review was one of considerable academic success as the above tables show. It contained some of the best results ever obtained by the school in public examinations. In the Leaving Cert the 1988 year obtained 36 'A's and 55 'B's out of 64 presented and the class of 1987 had 30 'A's and 54 'B's out of 59 presented. But the palm has to be awarded to the class of '85 with 38 'A's and 86 'B's out of 59 presented.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

In 1981-82 an experiment was carried out in 1st Year under the supervision of Mr Noel Doyle which involved the teaching of 'Integrated Studies'. This was a system of teaching in which subjects were treated not merely from the sole point of view of history, or geography or civics or social science, but from every point of view. It called for great co-operation between teachers as it transcended the ordinary subject-boundaries. It called for much group-work in projects and outside visits which were relished as a break from routine. The year was rounded off when the pupils invited their parents and friends to a display of the year's work and a dramatisation of the period between the Famine and the Land War, for which Paddy Funge was largely responsible.

YOUNG SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR

Ronan McNulty of 3rd Year was the winner of an outstanding extra-curricular award in 1982 when he gained first place and won the McCullough-Pigott Cup for Piano in the Sligo Feis. Ronan, son of the well-known Dublin organist and composer, Daniel McNulty, was the assistant-organist in the school during the year. Three years and many more gold medals and first places at Feiseanna later, Ronan had the unique distinction of having an entire edition of the St Mary's College Annual dedicated to his success in the Aer Lingus Young Scientist of the Year Competition. Ronan's invention was to devise a way in which music played on a conventional keyboard could be transferred to a computer and appear on a print-out in musical notation. Ronan's achievement is all the more praiseworthy when it is remembered that the competition, the 21st to be held, attracted entries from over 800 schools in the 32 counties.

COMPUTER STUDIES

As well as Ronan's great success, two 4th Year students, Robert Daly and Eoin Kelly, won 2nd Prize in the 'Physical and Applied Sciences' category of Best Computer Project. Their project set out to show how CSSP, a simple computer language, devised by Fr Cyril Byrne of the college staff, could be converted into Basic. The two boys then devised a programme which would convert CSSPK (an advanced version of CSSP) into Basic. Much of the work was done on the home-computer of Mr Terry Newell. It took three months to feed the programme into the computer. Robert Daly went on to even greater things. In the Leaving Cert in 1987 he won 1st Place in Ireland in Honours Physics.

Fr Byrne and Mr Newell, who look after the Senior and Intermediate Computer Studies have every reason to be proud of their students on their successes. (*College Annual* 1985)

In the following May Ronan McNulty flew out to Barcelona to take part in the European Young Scientist of the Year Competition where he won further honours by claiming the supreme award.

TOP SCHOOL IN IRELAND

Besides these successes in the Young Scientist competition, 1985 was to prove a bumper year for St Mary's as the college emerged at the top of the list of all the schools in Ireland in the Leaving Cert examinations, as the following extract from an article by Ted Hogan in the *Irish Times* shows:

St Mary's emerged at the top of the list of all the schools in Ireland in the Leaving Cert examination. The class of 59 boys won no less than 33 'A's, a tremendous result when one considers that schools with three and four times as many pupils doing the examination could not win even as many as half that number of 'A's.

One experienced teacher of Leaving Cert subjects, who has asked me not to disclose his name, or that of his school, told me: 'Those St Mary's results were the best ever reported to me and you can take it as certain they were not bettered by any school in Ireland.'

Four boys in the class, Peter Cross, Daragh Kilmartin, Edward Browne and William Crowe each secured the maximum 32 points in the examination and two, Ronan McNulty and Niall Corish, secured 31. A fifth boy, James Fitzgerald, on the strength of being among the first six in music, was invited to apply for a scholarship in the Faculty of Music at UCD. But he has opted for a career in pharmacy and will continue to play the cello.

The remarkable academic achievements of the 1985 Leaving Cert class of St Mary's College do not end there. Three boys, Ronan McNulty (mathematics), Peter Cross (chemistry) and Edward Browne (physics) each took first place in Ireland in the NUI Matriculation and each won a scholarship to UCD worth £1,000.

Thus, St Mary's College won three out of a possible 16 first prizes awarded in the NUI Matriculation examination open to all the schools in Ireland.

St Mary's College, Rathmines, was founded in 1890 by the Holy Ghost Fathers and has built up a great tradition in the sports and academic fields. The good work is being carried on by the College President, Rev. Hugh O'Reilly, the Principal, Rev Jerome Godfrey, the Vice-Principal, Pól MacMurchú, the Science and Mathematics teachers, the Rev Cyril Byrne, Mr Frank Conlon and Mr Terry Newell, and the entire staff.



Ronan McNulty
Young Scientist of the Year, 1985.



Robert Daly
1st Place in Physics, Leaving Certificate, 1987.

In 1987-88 Laurence Doddy won First Place in Mathematics in the Matriculation Examination.

In December 1987, it was announced that Robert Daly had been awarded First Place in Ireland in Honours Physics in the Leaving Cert.

In 1989-90 Adrian Trenaman qualified for Phase II of the International Mathematics Olympiad organised by UCD.

INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER SOLVING COMPETITION

1984-85 was a hard act for the class of 1985-86 to follow, but they gave it a good try. While they could not quite come up to the academic successes of the previous year in terms of written exam results, they produced some good result themselves. In the International Computer Solving Contest organised by the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, over 4,000 teams entered from all over the United States, Canada and twelve European countries. The team from St Mary's, Daniel Keogan and Colman Stephenson, was among the top scorers

*International Computer
Problem Solving
Contest, 1986*

*Daniel Keogan,
Colman Stephenson.*



*AIB/Business and
Finance Schools Essay
Competition, 1986*

*Mr. L. Naughton
receives the prize from
Mr. P. Mahony, Region
Manager, AIB. Also in
the picture are the
prize-winning essayists,
John Kennedy,
Declan Kennedy,
Cormac Byrne and
Alan Connolly and
Mr. Jim Dunne, Editor,
Business and Finance
Magazine.*

*Bank of Ireland
Student Project
Competition, 1986*

*Ciaran Keogh,
Robert Daly,
Declan McGuinness,
Roland Keogh,
Níall Funge.*



in the Junior Division. Six of the eight top teams were from the U.S. and one from Canada, while the St Mary's team were the standard bearers for Europe. It was a marvellous tribute to the boys and their teacher, Mr Terry Newell.

AIB/BUSINESS & FINANCE SCHOOLS ESSAY COMPETITION

In April 1986, four students from Mr Liam Naughton's 6th Year Economics class, Cormac Byrne, Alan Connolly, Declan Kennedy and John Kennedy submitted an essay which won 1st Prize in the AIB/Business and Finance Schools Essay Competition.

BANK OF IRELAND STUDENT PROJECT COMPETITION

A team of five 5th Year students from Mr Liam Naughton's Economics class entered the Bank of Ireland Student Project Competition and were awarded a 'Grade A' Certificate of Merit for their project. The five students were Ciaran Keogh, Robert Daly, Declan McGuinness, Roland Keogh and Niall Funge.

THE MANAGEMENT GAME

Groups of students from about 100 schools around the country in their final year take part in The Management Game organised every year by the computer firm, ICL, and Ulster Bank. In 1984-85, the St Mary's team of Eoin Flood, John Condren, Eoghan Donnelly and Peter Cross, emerged victorious after the first trading period, and again after the second period. The final was held 'live' in ICL House between six teams and through a miscalculation of the time remaining, St Mary's were pipped at the post and had to take third place to Ballyfin and Castleknock.

A St Mary's team, again under Mr Peter Quinn, came third in the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants Business Management competition in 1987-88. The competition was in the form of a case study. The team was Conor Callinan, David Connolly, Colin Creedon, Donal Delaney, Darragh Maher and Victor Pomeroy.



*Management Game,
1988*

*At the prizegiving
reception: V. Pomeroy,
Mr. P. Quinn
(St. Mary's), C. Creedon,
Roy Hanan
(Craig Gardner),
D. Maher, B Maguire,
D. Connolly, H. Byrne,
(President, CIMA),
L. Connellan
(Director General,
Confederation of Irish
Industry), C. Callinan,
D. Delaney,
Fr. J. Godfrey
(Principal, St. Mary's).*

*National Management
Game, 1985*

*D. Doyle, E. Flood,
J. Condren, E. Donnelly,
P. Cross.*



In 1989-90, John Bainbridge, Mark Browne, Duane Byrne, Edward Condren, Alex Fitzgerald and Ross Whelan of Mr Naughton's class also came third in the Business Management Game.

DEBATING SOCIETY

1981-82 saw a big increase in the active participation of the students in the Debating Society's affairs, with many more taking to their feet to put points. Con Tiernan, Leonard Lynch and Charles Russell were the officers for the year. In the Lorcan Gogan Memorial Debate, the school were represented by Leonard Lynch, Con Tiernan, Hugh Stephenson and John O'Connell. The distinguished Chairman was Mr T. F. O'Higgins, S.C. Chief Justice and a past pupil, who recalled his own schooldays shortly after the school re-opened in 1926. Con Tiernan was named Best Speaker.

In 1982-83, in the Junior Chamber of Commerce competition Gonzaga were the opponents for Tadhg Tiernan, Ian Ronayne, Conor Gilligan and John Thornton. For the Annual Lorcan Gogan Memorial Debate, Tadhg Tiernan, Brian Gilsenan, Gerry Cross and Ian Burgess represented the school against the Past. The chairman for the night was Dr Martin O'Donoghue, former government minister. Gerry Cross was voted Best Speaker.

The Lorcan Gogan Memorial Debate in 1983-84 attracted the usual high-powered representation from among the past students. The chair was taken by Mr Michael Mills, the newly appointed Ombudsman. The Present were represented by Ian Ronayne who won the Trophy, Paul Keogan, Conor Gilligan and John Thornton.

Most of the activity of the Debating Society took place in the first term in 1984-85. But the highlight of the debating year continued to be the Lorcan Gogan Memorial in which the Present were represented by Peter Cross, Niall Corish, Dara Kilmartin and Paul Keogan. The chair was occupied by the recently appointed Chairman of the Labour Court, past student John Horgan. Roland Keogh was voted winner of the Trophy. Participation in the Junior Chamber of Commerce competition was short-lived with Presentation, Terenure, administering the quietus in the first round.

The Lorcan Gogan Memorial Debate was held on Jan 24, 1986. The Present were represented by Niall Tracey, Norman Byrne, Roland Keogh and Henry Bruce, who won the Trophy.

In 1986-87 the Lorcan Gogan Memorial Debate was on the motion "That This House Has No Confidence in the Future of Ireland as an Independent Nation". Past student, Judge Kevin Lynch, was in the chair. Roland Keogh was voted best speaker.

In 1987-88 the Present were represented by Laurence Doddy, the winner of the trophy, Rory Byrne, Michael Roche and Eamon Whelan. The Chairman for the evening was past student Diarmuid O'Donovan. S.C. On November 12 King's Hospital were guests for the debate in aid of Concern. David Brabazon, Mark Regan, Michael Roche and Colman Stephenson were the speakers.

Ronan Walsh, Colman Stephenson, Kealan O'Reilly and Phelim Moloney were the school's representatives in the Annual Lorcan Gogan Memorial Debate in 1988-89, which was chaired by Barrister Nicky Kearns, Ronan winning the trophy for best speaker. Colm Stephenson represented the school in the Bank of Ireland Secondary Schools Debate in TCD.

Debating continued unabated in the Centenary Year. At the Annual Lorcan Gogan Debate between the Union and School, which took place in March, Rodney Long was declared individual winner of the award.

INTER-SCHOOL LINKS

In 1987-88 a party of seventeen students and four teachers from Dal Riada School, Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, came to stay with seventeen students and four teachers from St Mary's, as part of the on-going Co-operation North Project begun in 1971 at the height of the Northern 'Troubles' with a view to improving relations between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. The School-links Exchange Scheme was launched in 1984 and under this scheme St Mary's was linked with Dal Riada. Mr Noel Doyle and Mr Sean McCarthy had earlier met with their counterparts to work out a schedule for the visit and much thought and work was put into making it as interesting and profitable as possible for both sides. Initial fears were quickly dispelled as both sides made every effort to show goodwill and the visitors were loud in their praise of the City and what it had to offer culturally, historically and recreationally. Of course, the whole point of the exercise is in



Dal Riada and St. Mary's, 1980

the return visit, and the St Mary's contingent were not disappointed with the welcome they received from their Northern friends and the beauty of the Antrim coast and the Giant's Causeway.

The success of the project inspired its continuation and every year since that initial outing the two schools have exchanged visits. In March 1989 the St Mary's Venturer Scouting Group undertook the hosting of the Dal Riada group for their stay in Dublin. The Exchange is now a fixture in the school calendar.

MUSIC

The year 1983-84 was a year of musical achievement outside the school. Jim Fitzgerald won a place in the Irish Youth Orchestra as a cellist. Jim had won many prizes in Feiseanna down the years and crowned his career as a schoolboy musician by being awarded a scholarship in music in UCD on the results of the Leaving Cert. Ronan McNulty gained 1st place in the Feis Ceoil in piano, while Paul McCarthy of 1st Year won the Boys Treble competition. Finally, the school choir gained 2nd place in the Diocesan Plain Chant competition.

In the following year, 1983-84, Paul McCarthy was a soloist in the Concert of Christmas Music in the National Concert Hall, Dublin, on December 14. At a Fleadh Ceoil on December 16, Colm O'Coifaidh (4th Year) came 1st in the uileannn pipes. In the following March a group of St Mary's students, together with a group from Notre Dame, Churchtown, performed excerpts from the musical, Salad Days, in the Feis Ceoil for the AIMS trophy.

In 1985-86 Aminoodin Sayed of 1st Year was selected as percussionist in the Irish Youth Orchestra.

In 1986-87 Edward Foley of 1st Year gained First Place in the Feis Ceoil in Solo Pianoforte.

In 1987-88, R. Foley, P. Byron, M. Hogan and M. Mullarkey of the Junior School were entered by their teacher, Sr Mary de Lourdes, for the Whitefriar St Feis and won medals for singing.



Duane Byrne



Aminoodin Sayed

THE CHOIR

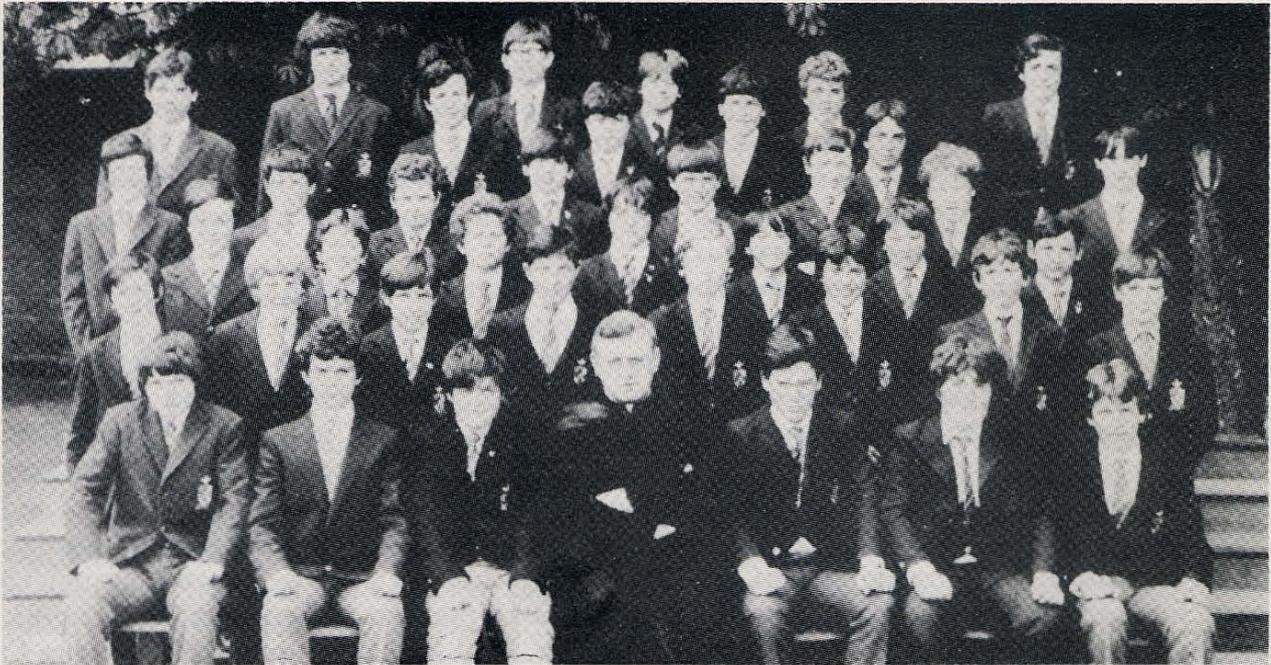
From the beginning of the school's existence there was a choir, if for no other reason than to give a lead in the singing at Benediction on Saturday mornings, which ended school for the week. This liturgical singing expanded occasionally into the singing of Missae Cantatae on the major feasts of the year.

We have already seen the large part played in music in the early days when the school had the benefit of such music masters on the staff as Joseph Stein, who composed the welcome song which opened the very first concert in the school in December 1890, and who contributed violin solos at this and other concerts during the two years he spent on the staff. He was followed by Mr F. Manly who is down as a teacher of the piano and Mr J. Munro who is mentioned simply as music teacher. Unfortunately we know nothing more about them or their work except their names on the staff list. Of course, all this time and until 1898, Fr Hugh Evans was on the staff and it can be safely taken for granted that liturgical singing was in his capable hands and as he was a man deeply concerned with all matters artistic and cultural, as well as being a deeply spiritual man, he would have seen that the liturgy was carried out as well as possible. For ten years from 1901 until 1910 St Mary's had the benefit of one of the best teachers of music it ever had in Mr Robert O'Dwyer. Mr O'Dwyer later went on to become Professor of Music in UCD and the composer of numerous works, including at least one opera that was produced to acclaim.

The Holy Ghost Fathers in Ireland had absorbed the flair for the liturgy that had characterised the order in France. Even to this day the Holy Ghost Fathers are in the forefront of the liturgical renewal and in Fr Lucien Diess they have one of the leading liturgists in the Church today. The community of St Mary's has always contained at least one Father more than capable of taking charge of liturgical singing, even if it seldom boasted such luminaries as it can boast today in Fr Maiben, Fr Raftery and Fr Flood. But while singing, both liturgical and secular has always played its part in the cultural activity of the school, it was only under Fr Martin Maiben that choral singing achieved an entity of its own in the senior school. It had been an integral part of the junior school curriculum from the beginning, but it was not until 1948 when Miss Kathleen Uhlemann came on the staff that a specialist singing teacher was engaged, who looked after the singing in the junior school and in the lower classes in the senior school. Miss Uhlemann (1948-52) was a well-known Irish contralto who had sung in oratorio and opera in Dublin. She was succeeded by Mr Leo Maguire, singer and broadcaster, until 1955, when he was succeeded in turn by Miss Moira Griffiths (1955-59), a well-known organist and choir mistress. Miss Muriel Morris was on the staff for seven years (1960-67) before handing on to Mrs Spinks who remained for five years (1967-72) before the advent of Mrs Maureen Valentine who is happily still with the college. In 1987 Sister Mary de Lourdes from the Mt Sackville Convent of St Joseph of Cluny came to assist Mrs Valentine. All of these dedicated teachers and musicians played a part in inculcating a knowledge and appreciation of singing to generations of St Mary's boys, which few enough of them may have been aware of while at school, but went to form them as educated men.

Fr Maiben had an encyclopedic knowledge of music and was a practitioner of no small merit on organ, piano, violin, viola, cello and banjo. For over a quarter of a century he helped to develop choirs and choral singing in the senior school and gathered round him a band of dedicated music lovers in the Musical Appreciation Society. When he retired in 1980 he was succeeded by Fr Peter Raftery, M.A., B.Mus.

The retirement of Fr Frank Barry in 1984 was the end of an era in St Mary's. For the best part of fifty years Fr Barry had been involved in the annual stage production in the senior school. In fact he had become synonymous with 'The Play', much as he had become synonymous with cricket, and, as a result, his retirement left a lacuna difficult to fill. For



The Choir, 1983

*P. Gillian, D. Byrne, J. Heron, K. Carvill, R. Keogh.
 F. Roantree, J. Healy, D. W. Fogarty, F. Dolan, G. Raymond.
 K. Twomey, P. Whelan, P. MacNally, F. McNulty, N. Byrne, B. Brennan,
 J. Higgins, R. McNulty (Accompanist).
 D. McHugh, B. Herriott, R. Kilmartin, P. Shaffrey, P. Funge, C. Kissane, M. Thorne.
 B. O'Donoghue, M. Regan, R. Daly, J. Beirne, D. Flood, H. Bruce, N. Funge, E. Kelly.
 N. Corish, D. Kilmartin, B. McDonald, Fr. P. Raftery CSSp, J. Deasy, C. Budds, T. Lavin.*



The Choir, 1987

*C. Buckley, R. Lynch, R. Keogh, D. Fogarty, P. MacNally, J. Moran, M. Regan, P. Dolan.
 J. O'Hara, A. Coady, P. McElwee, E. Foley, P. Doddy, S. Strahan, H. Byrne, R. Regan,
 A. Sayed, A. Graham.
 R. Gillen, D. Kenny, D. Byrne, I. Gilmartin, D. McCambridge, E. Condren, P. Pirie,
 P. Nagle, C. Flood, A. Byrne.
 D. Harty, R. McNamara, C. Doyle, T. Lavin, M. Browne, J. Heron, C. Flynn, S. Keogh, S. Daly.
 G. Walsh, S. McGuinness, J. MacNally, C. Stephenson (Organist), Fr. P. Raftery,
 D. McShary, A. McConnell, P. Brennan, K. Brennan.*

one year, the first since 1934, St Mary's did not have a senior school production. However, the pause was in the nature of a deep breath because in April 1984 the first-ever musical presented by the senior school, *Oklahoma*, in association with Notre Dame School, Churchtown, was a resounding success, and since then the St Mary's/Notre Dame annual musical productions have been looked forward to with keen anticipation. However, these are all treated in their own section of this book. For the moment we concentrate on the work done by Fr Raftery with the choir.

After Fr Maiben's retirement the choir was dormant until Fr Raftery revived it in 1982-83. In a small school like St Mary's the students are involved in many extra-curricular activities and students keen on games are also very likely to be in the scouts and may be in the Debating Society or some other indoor activity as well. How to find time is the problem. Fr Raftery solved it by scheduling choir practices at 8.30 a.m. every Wednesday. The choir, in Fr Raftery's own words, began modestly, all the work done was in the area of the Liturgy, the monthly School Masses and the special occasions like Christmas and Easter and the Mass preceding the Past Pupils' AGM. At the Annual Diocesan Inspection of Sacred Music, Fr Threadgold of Clonliffe College thought they were good enough to participate in the Diocesan Festival of Plain Chant in the Pro-cathedral in April, 1983. They were the only boys' choir invited to take part. Paul McCarthy was the soloist in *O Holy Night* on Christmas night. Paul was a pupil of Professor Dan McNulty and sang in his choir in the Augustinian Church, John's Lane, and was a Feis Ceoil gold medallist. On December 14 at the National Concert Hall, Paul McCarthy was the soloist in the performance of "We're Walking on Air" by Howard Blake.

Ronan McNulty was school organist during the year and gained the highest grade in music in the Inter Cert in 1984. The choir was once more the only boys' choir invited to the Diocesan Plain Chant Festival, which was the last function attended by Archbishop Ryan before he announced his retirement. At the Requiem Mass for Fr Murray in April 1984, Tristan Pierce and Paul McCarthy were the soloists. 1985 was European Music Year and two St Mary's boys were members of the Dublin Boy Singers, directed by Frank Hughes of Wesley College, who presented a concert for the occasion. Mark Regan and Barry O'Donoghue of 3rd Year were members of the choir that performed at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the Special Olympics in the RDS.

1986-87 saw the choir breaking new ground when it was invited to sing at the Sunday Television Mass on October 1986. This was Mission Sunday, so it was apt that a school run by missionaries should share in the provision of the choir for the occasion. They were joined by the choir of Notre Dame, Churchtown. Miss Hynes conducted while Fr Raftery was accompanist. The chief celebrant was Bishop Smith of Meath assisted by Fr Seamus Galvin, CSSp, National Director of the Pontifical Aid Societies, and Fr Paddy Dundon, CSSp.

At the Archiepiscopal Concelebrated High Mass which opened the Centenary Celebrations in September 1989, the choir, under Fr Raftery's direction, with Fr Flood as accompanist, won praise from all sides for both their musical and devotional performance, adding immeasurably to the solemnity and beauty of the occasion.

PIONEER TOTAL ABSTINENCE CENTRE NO. 217

50 New members were enrolled in the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association in the college in 1981-82, including the first members of the newly formed Juvenile Section. In December 1981 they entered for a schools quiz organised by Terenure College for Temperance Week. Although St Mary's had won this competition for the previous two years this time they were not so fortunate and had to give best to their neighbours, St Louis School. In April

1982 a Sponsored Walk was undertaken and the proceeds sent to the Brazilian mission of Fr David Darcy who had been involved in the Centre's activities for fifteen years.

EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL TOUR

For years the school had been accustomed to the Senior School Rugby XV going overseas on football tours to various parts of Britain, and even some of the boys had been selected to tour Zimbabwe with the Irish Schools XV, but in 1982-83 the first group, (apart from a pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1958 in celebration of the Centenary of the Apparitions) ever to leave St Mary's on an educational tour to Europe left during the Easter Vacation. They were from 3rd and 4th Years and were led by the vice-principal, Pól Uasal MacMurchú, Mr Michael Brennan and Mr David Dunne. They flew to Amsterdam, where they did a city tour by waterbus and visited the Rijksmusea before boarding a coach to Brussels, where they were given a tour of the Berlaymont by a member of the staff of Mr Richard Burke, Ireland's EC Commissioner. Paris was the next and final stop and they drank their fill of the sights and sounds of the Left Bank, Notre Dame, Louvre, Champs Elysée and the Eiffel Tower, losing only one boy and that only momentarily.

A four-day trip to Europe was again essayed by the 3rd and 4th Years with the same masochistic cicerones, Mr Dunne and Mr Brennan, in 1983-84. They are either slow learners or 'living saints'! This time they went by coach to Rosslare, ferry to Le Havre, coach to Ivry outside Paris, where they spent the rest of the time 'doing the sights', returning to Rouen and the St Killian which brought them home.

The 1985-86 trip took the 3rd and 4th Years to Cherbourg where they boarded their coach that took them to St Marie Église and the famous World War II Museum, and then to William the Conqueror's hometown, Caen, where they were to stay. Easter Sunday was spent in Paris, returning via Lisieux.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The phasing out of the Legion of Mary in the early '70s left a lacuna which was not filled until 1988-89. Fr Aloysius Flood, the newly appointed school chaplain, inaugurated a Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in the school. The Conference took Fatima Mansions in Dublin as the sphere of their activities in conjunction with the local clergy and the Holy Ghost group living in the flats and engaged in an active apostolate in this area devastated by high unemployment.

From time to time events are organised in the school to raise funds for the Society. In May 1990 a very successful bazaar was held in the college hall with various stalls manned by the boys, while a little later in the month a Marathon Indoor Soccer Tournament took place in the gymnasium. These events have the double benefit of raising much needed funds and of keeping the work of the Society before the minds of the boys and of providing them with an opportunity of fulfilling their Christian duty to the less fortunate in society.

DRAMATICS

The dramatic offering in 1981-82 was the play by Louis D'Alton, *They Got What They Wanted*. And as it happened, this was to be Fr Frank Barry's swan-song and the last straight play to be presented by the senior school. From then on the 'musical' was to be the genre pursued. This may have been an 'ending', but it was also a 'beginning' because that year for the first time ever 'real' girls appeared on the St Mary's stage. Heretofore, the audience had to accept boys masquerading as ladies. Now they had the real thing, drawn from Our Lady's, Templeogue, and Notre Dame, Churchtown, who

were to figure in all the productions from then on. In fact the annual production became a joint-production of Notre Dame and St Mary's. But before dealing with this departure from tradition, it might be no harm to say a word in praise of the countless boys over almost 100 years who interpreted with surprising grace and elegance the roles of women of every station in life from Lady Bracknell to Liza Doolittle, from Charley's Aunt to Thomas More's daughter, Meg. It took no little moral courage to endure the ballyragging that accompanied the playing of such parts. They deserve a retrospective cheer for a job well done.

The ladies who initiated the new trend responded magnificently to the challenge. Hilary O'Loughlin of Our Lady's played the exacting part of the mother of five grown-up children. She brought a maturity and a sense of humour to the role that belied her years. Catherine Dennis and Orla Cunningham of Notre Dame played the two daughters. The male players Conal Budds, John Blunden, Colm Dunne and Hugh Mullen responded gallantly to the standard set by the girls. The set design was by Raymund Bulger, the lighting by Cormac Funge and Niall Sweeney. Make-up in the capable hands of Mrs Funge and Mrs Smyth, Peter Walsh and John Gillespie. It was a most satisfactory note on which Fr Barry could take his final curtain-call.

In the lull between productions during 1982-83, many students from St Mary's were guest artists in the Notre Dame School production of *Blossom Time*, gearing up, as it were, for the future.

A rip-roaring *Oklahoma* ushered in the new era of musical productions in 1983-84. It was with considerable trepidation that Fr Raftery embarked on this new venture. Mould-breakers seldom have it easy. It might be argued that without precedents the stage was set for creating new standards, but in a school where excellence was the only acceptable standard, he knew he had his work cut out to emulate the traditions already set. He need not have worried, it was a resounding success. The production and direction were by Miss Cranny; musical direction by Fr Raftery and Ronan McNulty; choreography by Ms Rita English; lighting by Mr Frawley, C. Funge and C. Tee; sets by Mr Calvey and art students; stage management by N. Sweeney, J. Ronaldson, R. Traynor, J. Condren, and N. Funge. Lt. Col. McNally and Ronan McNulty supplied the music.

Salad Days, a West End fantasy, was the second joint venture of Notre Dame and St Mary's. It was presented in Notre Dame, the two schools agreeing to sponsor the productions every alternate year. Lisa Kelly and Tristan Pierce, two of the principals of *Oklahoma* were the young lovers, John Deasy the father, Anita Wilson and Patricia Dennis the two aunts and David Fogarty the bumbling constable. The production and direction were in Miss Cranny's capable hands, with Ms Rita English once more in charge of the choreography, and Ms Emer O'Connor, music teacher in Notre Dame, was musical director.

1985-86 was the centenary of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Mikado* and it was hoped to stage it as the third musical offering of the joint Notre Dame/St Mary's venture. However, *The Pirates of Penzance* was decided on as a more realistic if less ambitious option. It was a major undertaking with a cast of over 80 to be rehearsed and controlled. Miss Cranny was again director/producer; Ms English choreographer; Ronan McNulty (now a student in UCD) was assisted by Ms Hynes, Notre Dame music teacher, as musical director; Mr Calvey, aided by Gerard McGann, Kieran Carvill and Bernard Herriott, designed and executed the scenery; lighting was by Mr Feighan with the aid of Niall Funge, Andrew O'Donovan and Cormac Kissane. Padraic Funge was stage manager. The colourful posters and programme design were by Gerard McGann.

In 1986-87 the success of *The Pirates of Penzance* the previous year encouraged Fr Raftery and Ms Hynes of Notre Dame to attempt *The Mikado*, which they had feared to try the year before. Availability of suitable players plays a large part in the choice of a



"Pirates of Penzance"
Pirate King (John Moran)



"Oliver"
Fagin (Ronan Walsh)



"Fiddler on the Roof"
Tevye (Paul Brennan)

production for a school of limited numbers, even when it is combined with another school of similarly limited numbers. The cast was headed by Roland Keogh, in his third year of playing leads, an admirable Mikado, and well served by David Fogarty, David Connolly, Mark Regan, John Moran, Lisa Kelly and Ms Teresa Dunne of the Notre Dame staff. Miss Cranny and Ms English were once more in charge of production and choreography, Ms Hynes of musical direction. Bill Feighan assisted by Pamela Cullen and Louise Kedroff, looked after the lighting, Erica and Larry Foley, assisted by 5th Year students of Notre Dame, designed and executed the scenes. Dedicated parents of both schools produced costumes that would have graced a professional company.

Oliver! was chosen for the 1987-88 production which was presented in St Mary's for six nights in the last week in November 1987. Ronan Walsh brought many years experience on stage and television to the character of Fagin. Jacqueline Fogarty, in the first of a number of appearances in these musicals, brought a verve to her dancing and singing and acting that brightened up the stage at her every appearance. But the entire production was of the quality that audiences had come to expect from these joint ventures. A new director and producer, in the absence of Miss Cranny, was Ms Marie-Louise O'Donnell of Carysfort College. Ms Hynes and Ms English looked after the music and choreography. Mr P. McCluskey, art teacher in St Mary's, designed the sets with the help of Peter Fitzgerald and John Kehoe. Bill Feighan had the assistance of Niall Funge with the Lighting. Padraic Funge was the Stage Manager, with Andrew O'Donovan and Pamela Cullen.

1988-89 was the turn of Notre Dame to stage the annual co-production and *Calamity Jane* was chosen as a ready-made lead was available in the person of Jacqueline Fogarty, whose singing, acting and personality would carry any show. She was ably seconded by David Leech, David McCabe, Kevin McDevitt, Gary Twohig and Alan McConnell in a rip-roaring production well up to standard.

Fiddler on the Roof in 1989-90 was another production with a very large cast, with a score of main characters apart from the choruses. Duane Byrne (a Feis Ceoil gold medallist) was the Fiddler, a playing, non-speaking part. Paul Brennan and Jacqueline Fogarty had the leads with Lisa Walsh as the Matchmaker. A fine orchestra of strings, wood-wind, brass, accordion and percussion, led by pianist Pauline Cooper, added greatly to the pleasure of the evening. Production and direction were in the capable hands once more of Ms



John O'Connell



Gerry Cross



David Lynch



Conor Foley

Cranny, while Ms Rita English and Ms Aileen Hynes looked after the choreography and music.

The Junior School was not to be outdone in the Centenary Year. In March they presented not one but two most colourful productions, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Hiawatha*, Henry Longfellow's tragic poem set to music by H. A. McDonald. Mrs Maura Devery was the producer and Sr de Lourdes the musical director of *Joseph*, while Ms Cranny and Ms Valentine looked after *Hiawatha*. Between them, they called upon most of the Junior School, and in doing so involved huge numbers of parents in costume-making. The end-product was a credit to players and helpers.

RUGBY

The football season of 1981-82 actually began only weeks after the previous season ended. The main reason being that the new season was due to open with a match against Blackrock to celebrate the official opening of the new Pavilion in Kenilworth. So, workouts in the gym were carried out during the cricket season to keep up the fitness levels. As a result, that opening game with 'Rock was an exciting one that St Mary's could have won if they had taken their chances, but ended in an honourable draw, 9-9.

The Cup itself was a disaster for St Mary's. The Wanderers RFC Schools Sevens were some consolation when they reached the final with Clongowes. School captain, John O'Connell, got the reward for his powerful running and crash-tackling when he won his cap for Leinster against the visiting Australian Schools. At the Hallow E'en mid-term break there was a short tour to Wales with a draw with Cynffig School and a 7-14 loss to Brynteg School.

The 1982-83 season began on a high note with a well-merited win over the Welsh conquerors of the previous season, Brynteg, who had already beaten St Michael's, 17-0. St Mary's ran in four tries in their 24-4 win. Unfortunately, it was a question of peaking too early, because it was all downhill from then on in spite of the heroic efforts of captain, Gerry Hasset, in his third year on the SCT, and what was one of the best packs to come out of the school in years. The really outstanding player was undoubtedly Gerry Cross at No. 8, and he was the outstanding player on the Leinster Interprovincial team, and well worth the Irish caps he was awarded.

1983-84 was another season in which St Mary's did not fulfil their potential. John

Muldoon led the team on their short tour to London in which they defeated Wimbledon and lost to St John Fisher. In December seven of the team gained Interpro trials. Terenure in the first round of the Cup, is never a welcome prospect, and so it proved. The only consolation for St Mary's was that they were beaten by the convincing cup-winners.

1984-85 again saw St Mary's make an early exit from the Cup. Paul McSharry was captain of a team which had three Schools Internationals in its backline, Conor Foley, David Lynch and Vincent Cunningham, along with another, Kilian Murray, who gained Interprovincial honours. St John Fisher came over in October and were roundly defeated, 36-10. Three members of the SCT, Adrian Hoey, Paul McSharry and Killian Murray, were chosen on a team selected from the five Holy Ghost colleges to tour Italy. The occasion was the Beatification of the Venerable Daniel Brottier, CSSp in Rome by Pope John Paul. Fr Brottier was a Holy Ghost Father and worked on the missions in Senegal for ten years before returning to his native France to raise funds for the building of the Cathedral in Dakar. He worked for the Red Cross during World War I taking part in the ghastly battles at the Somme, Verdun, and Flanders. After the war he founded the National Union of Ex-Servicemen and then he began his life work, an orphanage at Auteuil, Paris, which became a model for orphanages world-wide, including the famous "Boys' Town" of Fr Flanagan in Omaha, Nebraska. He is said to have worked many miracles in developing this great work and many miracles have been attributed to him since his death in 1936, making his tomb a place of pilgrimage.

After the Beatification ceremonies, a number of matches with Italian schools were arranged. The boys returned with a trophy they had won.

The JCT looked an accomplished squad from their very first victory, over 'Knock (24-0), followed by sixteen more before Christmas. Two more games, against Blackrock (11-3) and Castleknock (6-3), finished the friendlies leaving a record that had never been equalled in the school's history,

Played 20; Won 20; Lost 0; 372 points for; 89 against.

The Cup campaign began with a walk-over from St Columba's who had 'flu rampant in the college. CUS followed and were beaten 13-0. Templeogue had proved one of the toughest nuts St Mary's had had to crack in the friendlies, with a big, strong team. In Donnybrook, with a near-gale blowing, they were unbeatable and won 16-0. Paul Sheehan in the front row was captain, but the entire squad deserved the highest commendations for their performance over the whole season.



Vincent Cunningham



Andrew Hoey



Stephen Tracey



Stephen Rossi



David Wall



Norman Byrne



Gary Lavin



Niall O'Kelly

The U-13s had a taste of 'international' football when they played host to a visiting team from the Jesuit college of Stonyhurst in the Christmas holidays, winning 36-14.

Stephen Tracey was captain of the SCT in 1985-86. Early on, they were unfortunate enough to lose Donal Loughrey and Paul Whelan to injuries which put them out of action for most of the season and probably cost them their interpro caps. In the Blackrock Schools Festival they reached the semis only to be put out by 'Rock. The following day David Wall sustained a serious shoulder injury which put him out for the season, depriving him too of a likely interpro cap. The mid-term break included a short tour to London in which St Mary's played Wallington High School, winning 18-13, and St John Fisher. A comfortable win over CUS in the Cup was followed by a win over St Gerard's after a scoreless draw. Churchtown were quarter-final opponents and won a tight match 9-8. Andrew Hoey gained International and Interprovincial honours, Stephen Tracey Interpro honours and Brendan O'Hora a Leinster trial.

A disappointing 7-0 defeat by St Michael's in the first round ended St Mary's interest in the Junior Cup proper, but opened up the possibilities for the Junior Plate, a trophy presented by St Gerard's School for those teams eliminated from the first two rounds of the Cup. St Mary's defeated King's Hospital (17-3) and Clongowes Wood (14-12) to reach the semi-final with St Gerard's, a hard game won by St Mary's 18-0. The final, against St Andrew's in St Gerard's, brought out the very best football in the contestants and ended with a victory for St Mary's by two tries by Gareth Halpin, one from Maitiu McCarthy, a conversion and two penalties by Gareth, 20-8. It had been quite some time since St Mary's had last won any trophy at rugby.

In 1986-87 Fr Godfrey, the Principal, managed the SCT for the 9th year, while the coaches were again Brian Cotter and Derek Jennings. Stephen Tracey was captain for the second year. The highlights of the first term were the annual match with St John Fisher of London, who came seeking revenge for two defeats but had to depart empty-handed, and a lightning visit to Glasgow. The game with hosts, St Aloysius College, was played in atrocious conditions and the 22-3 win for St Mary's was well merited. A bye into the second round of the Cup brought St Mary's up against what was considered the strongest pack in the competition, King's Hospital. The St Mary's pack, led by vice-captain Paul Sheehan, took the game to this pack and did not give them an inch. A characteristic break by Tracey and a quick transfer to Norman Byrne outside him, saw the out-half over at the corner flag. It was the only score, but enough. The opposition in the quarter final

was Churchtown, always doughty cup fighters, but St Mary's were anxious to turn the tables on the side that had put them out of the competition the previous year, They succeeded with a 21-6 win with tries by David Wall and the Lavin brothers, Gary and Troy. Blackrock were the opponents in the semi-final and the St Mary's plan was to run everything that came their way, knowing that 'Rock's strength was in its pack. St Mary's were ahead at the interval, but as expected Blackrock came back at them and in the closing minutes of the game their sharp scrum-half scored what many thought was a dubious try, but it was enough to clinch the issue. Three of the team were awarded their Interprovincial caps, Stephen Tracey, David Wall and Stephen Rossi, while Stephen Tracey was chosen to represent the Irish Schools on a tour to Australia where he played in the two Test matches.

The U-13s had a good year, winning all four of their matches in the league section. A narrow 6-4 victory over Blackrock set up the final with Willow Park. Rain, sleet and a biting wind helped neither side but Willow scored three tries to two for St Mary's to win out.

The 1987-88 season began with a winning streak of five games, including a first win against Rockwell for a number of years. Niall O'Kelly was elected captain with Gareth Halpin vice-captain. St Mary's played host to St Aloysius from Glasgow and had an easy 36-3 win. In the London Tour at the mid-term break they played Eltham College and won 10-0, and then went to old rivals, St John Fisher, who reversed the trend and won a very close encounter, 15-12. A 3-4 loss to The High School in the first match of the Cup gave St Mary's entry into the Senior Plate. The final saw De La Salle win by the narrow margin of 7-6. Both Niall O'Kelly and Gary Lavin were picked for their Province and for the Irish Schools.

When St Mary's went to Castleknock as customary to open the 1988-89 season, they faced a highly rated team, so the ensuing draw was highly satisfactory for the start of the season. Early on injury sidelined Gary Lavin who missed most of the season, returning only just in time to stake his claim on the Irish Schools team. In expectation of large crowds the first match of the Cup against St Michael's was played in Donnybrook and the crowd were treated to a fine display of rugby. A plentiful supply of ball from scrum and lineout gave St Michael's too many opportunities and they made enough out of them to finish 16-7. In the Senior Plate, a St Mary's side depleted by injury just lost out to St Gerard's in a close battle. Four players were honoured by their province, Leinster, Gary Lavin, Maitiu



Colin Thornton



Michael McLoughlin



Maitiú McCarthy



Brian Cotter

McCarthy, Colin Thornton and Michael McLoughlin while Gary was picked for the Irish Schools. Gary, Maitiu and Michael were selected for the Leinster Schoolboys team that toured Zimbabwe for three weeks in the summer. The side won all six matches played.

The 2nd Seniors won their section of the League by beating Terenure (6-0), St Paul's (14-0) and Newbridge (23-0). Michael Leonard who trained both 2nd and 3rd Senior teams did a fine job, as he had done for a great many seasons. The 3rds beat Blackrock (13-4), Newpark (w.o.), Kilkenny (w.o.), King's Hosp. (6-0) to reach a semi-final against St Columba's who adapted to the adverse weather conditions better and won 10-6.

The JCT, after a First Round defeat at the hands of Pres Bray, went on to take the Junior Plate for a second year, in itself no mean feat. Oran Rigby sustained a broken leg just before the cup campaign, which did not help matters. A 3-4 defeat by Pres Bray had put them out of the Cup. They were captained by Adam Rossi.

The U-13s had been unbeaten as U-12s and U-11s and had been together since they were U-9s and had learned the fundamentals of the game from none other than that maestro, Fr Dick Lehane. So it was understandable that Messrs Lewis and Dunne, the coaches, felt this could well be the team to beat the jinx that had bedevilled St Mary's for so long in the Provincial's Cup. And they were right. From the very first match of the season which they won by over 35 points, they played 17 matches and lost only one, scoring 566 points and conceding only 39. In the Cup, they beat Templeogue (33-0), then in the hardest match of all St Michael's (8-0), Blackrock (44-0) and Willow Park (10-0). Willow were the opponents in the semi-final in ideal conditions, well suited to the St Mary's running game, and suffered a massive 44-0 defeat. St Mary's made a good start in the final, scoring within five minutes but St Michael's responded with two unconverted tries. At halftime the St Mary's prop, Brian Cavanagh, had to retire but was ably replaced by Eoghan McMahon and St Mary's put on the pressure which realised a try to put them ahead. St Michael's responded with sustained attacks for twenty-five minutes but these were stoutly repulsed and the final whistle found St Mary's once more attacking. It was enough, and after a gap of ten years the cup was back where St Mary's always felt it should have been. The Provincial, Very Rev. Brian McLaughlin, a St Mary's 'old boy', had the pleasure of presenting 'his' trophy to 'his' school.

1989-90 was the College's Centenary Year, so the way was open for novelty events. The first of these was a challenge match between the SCT and the cup-winning SCT of 1968-69, at least as many of them as were still able-bodied. It ended fittingly in a draw. Centenary or not, trophies are not won on wishes, and there were no great expectations



Our Rugby Mentors

*Fr. H. O'Reilly,
Mr. D. Campion
(Under 14s),
Mr. F. Keogh (JCT)
Dr. B. Deasy
(Medical Adviser)
Mr. D. Jennings (SCT)
Mr. B. Cotter (SCT)
Fr. J. Godfrey.*

for the team. The material was just not there, even if there was no shortage of commitment or hard work, as was shown in the first Cup encounter, when a far heavier Wesley pack pushed St Mary's all over the park, but could not make their superiority pay. A few back movements from St Mary's on the couple of occasions on which they managed to steal possession, and St Mary's were over for tries to offset the penalty and push-over try Wesley got. St Mary's 8 Wesley 7. Two weeks later and Clongowes were the opponents, this time in Donnybrook. The pattern was unchanged. Clongowes got everything in the set pieces and in the line-outs, St Mary's survived on the scraps picked up in the loose, but on every occasion on which the ball got to the backs there was flowing movement to enjoy, which yielded two tries. Unfortunately, with the wealth of possession they had, Clongowes had far greater opportunities and they availed of them to run up 14 points and win the day. However, the year did have its consolations when the Senior Schools Sevens, run in conjunction with the Old Belvedere Sevens competition, was won by St Mary's. They beat CBC Monkstown 20-0 in the final.

The U-13s bade fair to emulate their peers of the previous year by breezing through their matches in the Provincial's Cup with scarcely a hiccup. Not that the opposition took it lying down. Willow and St Michael's in particular provided sterling competition, but St Mary's had strong-running centres in Hickie and Doggett who, together with out-half Ormond, could always turn a game round if given any kind of decent service, and so it proved, and the Cup was retained.

The U-11s were centre-stage for a change when they played Belvedere in a Mini-rugby demonstration as a pipe-opener to the full International match at Lansdowne Road between Ireland and the All-Blacks of New Zealand.

JUNIOR SCHOOL RUGBY

Throughout our account of games as played in St Mary's only passing references have been made, because of lack of space, to the games played in the junior school. And yet, whatever success has been achieved at games in the senior school, at any level, is assuredly to be laid at the feet of those who nurtured those games in the junior school, particularly rugby and cricket, not least in the love of the games engendered there. Whatever the coaches in the senior school may feel, their success could not have been achieved if the foundations had not been properly laid in the junior school or a love of the games had not been nurtured early on.

The task of introducing the young boys to the mysteries of rugby and cricket, games as a rule totally foreign to the vast majority whether they came from national or private schools, was given for the first ninety years of the school's history to prefects, the young clerical students pursuing their studies for the priesthood with the Holy Ghost Fathers. Their dedication to the work, and to the boys they worked with, was legendary and remembered with affection by all who had the privilege of knowing them and of coming under their influence.

However, decreasing numbers and a change of policy which saw these young men going abroad to obtain mission experience rather than getting this work experience at home in the schools confided to the Order, brought an end to this era. The last prefects to come to St Mary's (1977-79) were Mr Michael Begley and Mr Michael Kilkenny, who are now working as missionaries in East Africa and Angola. However, apart from these two, from 1967 on, there were no prefects.

From 1970 until 1975 the Junior School had the benefit of the incomparable knowledge and practical skill of Fr Dick Lehane to introduce the young boys to the game and inculcate in them the basic skills which would serve them throughout their playing careers. In 1975 Fr Lehane returned to the missions where he had spent most of his life, and which were

his first love. He left a lacuna which the authorities found difficult to fill and in their need they turned to the St Mary's RFC for help. The President of the Club at the time was Matt Gilsenan and in him the school found a ready and eager supporter and organiser. The club was, and still is, acutely aware that the well-being of the club is largely dependent on a steady influx of new blood and there is no better place to find that than in the school where the vast majority of the members had learned not only their rugby skills but the very spirit which had always characterised the club. And many feel that it would be a disaster for the club if the exigencies of playing in the All-Ireland League were permitted to dilute the college content of the playing membership. The short-term gain from such a move ought to be seriously examined before embarking on a policy that would radically alter the content of the membership.

The fact that the college turned to the club for help in providing coaches for the junior school was in no way intended to belittle the efforts of the few male members on the junior school staff. Even when the prefects were there, staff members pulled their weight in this regard, but with nine classes to cope with, help was needed and very quickly Matt Gilsenan had John Cunningham, Christy Maguire and Don Purcell in to coach the U-9s. Michael Cotter and Jim Corbett of the school staff looked after the U-10s with Michael McSweeney, while Jack Bagnall, John Carvill and Frank Montague took on the U-11s and U-12s every Saturday morning. On Wednesdays, Denis Hooper helped in the training, while Ned Carmody and Willo Murray organised visits from the Leinster Branch coaches. The following year Dr Brendan Deasy made his appearance on the junior school games scene as referee and trainer of rugby and as a trainer and umpire for cricket, and the college has not had a more dedicated friend and sponsor throughout its one hundred year history. For seventeen years, in spite of an extremely heavy work load in his professional life, he never failed to appear on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings, as regular as clockwork, hail, rain or snow, a model of dedication.

In 1976-77 a group of parents, most of whom were also past pupils, suggested that no boy should play in any team other than his own age-group, no matter how talented. It was felt that at this stage any boy big for his age would be better off with those of his own age than with maturer boys. Friendly games were played with other schools, especially the sister colleges, but new ground was broken when St John Fisher College in London sent over, with their SCT, an under-11 team. It was a harbinger of things to come. Kilkenny RFC also invited Under-11s and U-12s, and returned the visit later in the season. Matt Gilsenan and the Ladies' Committee of the RFC generously were hosts to the visitors.

By 1977-78 Dr Deasy and John Carvill had joined forces to look after the U-12s, the senior team in the junior school, arranging fixtures within the metropolitan area and also away to Kilkenny and Garryowen. Then, for the first time for the junior school, a team crossed the sea to engage St John Fisher School and Donhead. The U-11s confined their forays to Kilkenny, the U-10s to the Dublin area, while the U-9s were considered not yet ready to go public. And all this time the internal games in the Holy Childhood, Minor and Juvenile Leagues were contested vociferously and vehemently. The coaches already mentioned, as well as Messrs Begley, Mallon and Hughes of the junior staff, were helped at various times by Val Joyce, Milo Lynch and Billy Byrne among others.

In 1978-79 Navan and Longford were among the venues added to the lengthening list of away fixtures, but the biggest challenge of all was the game against a Bridgend side selected from among the 37 schools in the district around Bridgend. This was the first of the visits to Wales, which have since become as regular as Christmas. It was a great undertaking and great credit must be given to Dr Deasy, John Carvill and others who undertook the responsibility of looking after so many boys and returning them safely to the bosom of their families.

The pattern in 1979-80 was for Wednesdays to be devoted to the internal school leagues

and practice, while Saturday mornings were given over to inter-school games. The U-9s and U-10s succeeded each other on the front field, three games being played across the field simultaneously. As Kenilworth was needed for the senior school, the St Mary's Club generously permitted the U-11s and U-12s to play in Templeville Road. V. Joyce, B. Byrne, M. Lynch and J. Roche looked after the U-9s; Richard Hughes the U-10s, J. Cunningham and S. Tracey the U-11s; Dr Deasy, J. Carvill and J. Byrne the U-12s. Paul Thornton, Pat McCarthy and M. Hughes assisted on Wednesdays. The U-10s entered a Mini-Rugby Festival organised by Pepsi-Cola at Belfield and won their section which qualified them for the finals in Carlow where they were joint winners with Palmerston RFC. When the Welsh boys came to Dublin for their return visit they were presented to the Lord Mayor in the Mansion House.

In 1980-81 Mr David Dunne of the staff looked after the U-9s, who lost only 3 games in the year. Billy Byrne's U-10s had a mixed season, but the U-11s with John Cunningham, Stephen Tracey and Jimmy Byrne, won every match they played. Not to be outdone, the U-12s had a very fine season, managed by John Carvill, Paul Thornton and Dr Deasy, they lost only to Brynteg on their tour of Wales, but compensated for this with a resounding victory over the same opponents when they got them in Rathmines. On this tour to Wales, the U-11s and U-12s were accompanied by Dr Deasy, John and Mrs Cunningham, Stephen and Mrs Tracey, John and Mrs Carvill, Frank Montague and David Dunne. It is interesting that one of the teams they played was Archbishop McGrath School, named after Cardiff's archbishop who, coincidentally was a prefect in St Mary's in the early years of the century during the presidency of Dr Crehan. The Welsh schools returned the visit later, and this was to be the pattern in the years that followed, the boys staying in the homes of their opponents.

Mr Colm Sweeney joined the junior school staff in 1981-82 and liaised with the group of parents looking after the teams, Tony Kearney, Ray Joyce, Frank Keogh, Ronnie Regan, George Saab, Ted Finn and Billy Byrne, as well as the old brigade of John Cunningham, Steve Tracey, John Carvill and Dr Deasy. For the first year fixtures were arranged even for the U-8s, who refused to be left out. The Welsh Tour continued to be successful, home and away, Yvonne Finn led a team of devoted mothers who formed a Tea Committee and Freda Byrne organised a 'cake sale' in aid of the missions on 'Finals Day'. Paul Thornton and James Graham joined John Carvill and Dr Deasy in 1982-83 in coaching the U-12s, who put out three teams every week, regretting there were not enough teams to test them. Pres Cork was added to the list of opponents and were played at home and away. The Brynteg Welsh teams came in October instead of the end of the season, bringing U-14 and U-18s with them. In the return fixture in March three U-12 and three U-11 teams went, over 100 boys in all.

In February 1988 the Welsh arrived, but were unfortunate to lose all their matches. However, they appreciated the hospitality off the field.

In October 1988 a Poker Classic was organised in the Rathmines Inn to raise funds for the U-12 tour to Wales. In November 1988 a Table Quiz in St Mary's RFC raised further funds for the same good cause. The exchange of visits with Welsh schools continues to this day.

CRICKET

The cricket season was always at the mercy, not only of the weather, but of what was happening on the rugby pitch. At best it lasted just about one month, so that if match practice did not begin until mid-April, teams found themselves totally unprepared for the Cup and League matches which of necessity have to start early in the season if they are to be completed before the schools close for the summer. Any undue delay in completing



Mark Raftery-Skehan



*St. Mary's Representatives on the Leinster Cricket Club
Under 15 Team, 1986*

the rugby season can seriously impair the start of the cricket. And this can happen even if those who play cricket are not also those who play rugby. In small schools like St Mary's the two are usually synonomous.

1981-82 turned out to be a good year. The rugby season ended promptly enough and the weather was perfect. Six players, Alan Delaney (captain), Conor Murphy, Peter MacGiolla Riogh, Vincent Cunningham, Neil Briddock and Vincent Merriman were members of Leinster CC and were strongly supported by Arthur McEvoy, Gerry Cross, Hugh Mullen and a few others. So, it was the makings of a good team. Conor Murphy was picked for Leinster Schools and for the Irish Schools. 2nd Senior cricket is played in a more cavalier, 'Ian Botham' fashion (little practice, plenty of panache) and consequently, matches which could have been won were lost by catches dropped from unpractised hands. But, it was enjoyable cricket.

Vincent Cunningham, as an established member of the SCT, was the obvious choice for captain of the JCT, and he vindicated this choice by easily topping the batting averages.

Winter dragged on to the end of May in 1982-83 making a shambles of the cricket season. The League was crammed into a few days without any preparation. Vincent Cunnigham was top scorer and Hugh Mullen bowled himself into the ground. Gerry Cross captained the team, assisted by Arthur McEvoy.

Adrian Hoey and Liam O'Donoghue were picked from the JCT to play for Leinster U-15 in an All-Ireland competition.

1983-84 was a vast improvement from the point of view of the weather. Vincent Cunningham was captain of the SCT and earned his selection, along with Liam O'Donoghue, for Leinster Schools against Ulster. He continued his good form with his strong batting for Leinster CC 2nd XI, who won their Section Cup.

1984-85 was a bench-mark year for cricket in St Mary's, in fact for schools cricket in general in Leinster, because it was the first year for 45 years that the maestro, 'Père' Barry, was not at the helm. It could also be taken as the watershed for cricket in St Mary's because it was all downhill after that, not because of the departure of Fr Barry but because his departure coincided with the general decline in interest in cricket, not only in St Mary's, but throughout the entire province. From that until the end of the decade cricket was even more of a 'cinderella' sport than ever, kept alive in St Mary's mainly by the efforts of a number of dedicated teachers and friends of the junior school

and enthusiastic players in the senior school who were members of Leinster CC, CYMS CC and other cricket clubs.

St Mary's did field an SCT, U-14 and two U-13 teams that season. Vincent Cunningham led the SCT and went on to be capped for both Leinster and the Irish Schools, thus becoming one of the very few to be capped at both rugby and cricket at schools level. The U-14 team was the best in the school. It was captained by Martin Stuart who played a captain's part in the opening match against St Columba's by taking 6 for 49. However, the side usually proved too venturesome with the bat. A win over Wesley was noteworthy because of the bowling of Joe Healy who took four wickets with four successive balls, missing the fifth only because of a dropped catch! An innovation that season was a Father-and-Son festival played at Kenilworth under special mini-cricket rules which gave Father-and-Son pairings four overs in which to score as well as they could.

1985-86 was the season when cricket pride was restored in St Mary's. When a school has gone without a League win for six years, the only ways to go are up or out. Happily St Mary's chose to go up. The early part of the short season was spoiled by the usual downpours and only one practice match could be played before the league started. The League began with two losses. However, luck changed after that and in the match with Belvedere St Mary's recorded their first League win for nearly ten years. O'Donoghue bowled superbly, taking 6 for 34, McCarthy and Hoey shared the rest. In the final match, only the rain saved High School from a drubbing. With figures of 4 for 9 at one stage Liam O'Donoghue was running through the batting order when the rain stopped the match. The High School were 48 for 7. Liam finished with figures of 6 for 18 in 18 overs. That draw put their opponents into the final which they easily won.

The U-14s under Brian Cotter, Jun. made a brave fight of it in their League. It was in this competition that Mark Raftery-Skehan began to show his ability at the game, scoring 31 (out of 42) in the last match. The U-13 game against Sandford Park was the outstanding game of the competition, 297 runs scored off 50 overs. A six was needed off the last ball to save the match, but it did not come.

Six St Mary's boys figured in the Leinster CC Under-15 side which won both the Leinster Cricket Union and All-Ireland Under-15 Cups, Matthew McCarthy (capt.), Adrian Hoey, John Whelan, Shane Tracey, Paul Leech and Kevin McDevitt. Adrian hit his maiden century in competitive cricket, while John Whelan was named Man-of-the-Match for a fighting innings in the Leinster final.

1986-87 saw the withdrawal of St Mary's from the Senior League because Leaving Cert commitments made too great a gap in the ranks of the players.

In 1987-88 only one match out of six was won by the SCT and that was against the Past. The outstanding player was Mark Raftery-Skehan who won his place on the Senior CYMS XI, was captain of Leinster U-15 Interprovincial XI, captain of CYMS All-Ireland-winning U-15 XI which also won the Yates-Hale Cup, was top-scorer in the Leinster Interprovincial XI 1987, CYMS U-15 Player-of-the-Year 1987, captain CYMS U-15 XI 1988.

TENNIS

The weather could not be blamed for any shortcomings on the tennis scene in 1981-82. For once the sun shone throughout May. The Senior competition is on a knock-out basis unlike the Junior and Minor which are on a league basis. The Minors showed great promise in beating Killashee and Wesley after an unexpected defeat by King's Hospital.

In 1983-84 all 'home' matches were played on the Dublin Municipal courts in Bushy Park.

Nine matches were crowded into a two-week spell to complete the tennis season in

1984-85. The Minors again did best. They played Belvedere (2-3); Terenure 'B' (5-0); Sandford Park (3-2) and Gormanston (3-2). St Mary's were now in the 2nd Round where they were paired once more with Gormanston. The match stood at 2-2 when the first doubles went to 13-13 in the third and final set, so rather unorthodox methods were used to bring the tie to an end, to the chagrin of the St Mary's pair, Ronan Hogan and Maitiu McCarthy.

Like the Minors the year before, both Juniors and Minors went further than the school had been accustomed to in their Leagues in 1985-86. The Juniors, probably the most talented squad to represent the school for a number of years, were anchored by four players who played all year round in clubs outside school, which offset the usual disadvantage normally experienced by St Mary's when facing schools equipped with all-weather courts. They played CBC Monkstown (3-2) in a marathon of over four hours, Castleknock (3-2) in a 'home' game played at Rathgar LTC for the first time; Sutton Park (5-0) and Clongowes (3-2). This put them into a semi-final with CUS which was played in gale force winds and resulted in a 1-3 loss with one match unfinished. The Minors played King's Hospital (3-0), St Macdara's CS (3-0), Killashee (3-0) and St Benildus (2-3). The outstanding player was Declan Kearney who dropped only one set in all his encounters.

The good showing by the Juniors and Minors the year before continued in the 1986-87 season which saw the Seniors reach the Leinster 'B' semi-final and the Juniors reach the Junior "B" final. The Seniors got past the first round in the Cup for the first time in living memory with a 5-1 win against Wesley, followed by a win over Terenure (4-3) which put them into the semi-final against Newbridge who proved too strong, only Gary Halpin winning in a 1-4 loss. The Juniors had wins against Blackrock (3-0), Wesley (4-1) and Salesian College (4-0) which set up a quarter-final match against CUS, their semi-final conquerors the previous year. The revenge was sweet, 3-1. The semi-final with Clongowes offered no great difficulty, ending 4-0. The final in Templeogue LTC was with Gormanston, frequent winners of the trophy over the years. The St Mary's team was: Robert McHugh, Gary Halpin, Declan Kearney, Brian Hanlon, Kevin Nowlan, John McNally and John Whelan. Robert won handily 6-1, 6-1, Gareth and Declan also won to give a 3-2 victory and the first tennis trophy to grace the sideboard of St Mary's.



*John-Kevin Moran
Leinster Interprovincial
Cycling Team 1987
10th in 2-day Irish Road Race.*



*Dara O'Flynn
Irish Squash Champion 1986.*

In 1987-88 the improvement witnessed the previous year when the Seniors succeeded in clearing the first hurdle in the Cup was maintained with a win over Malahide CS (4-1), with Robert McHugh at No. 1, Alan Cooke at No. 2, Gareth Halpin at No. 3 and Neil Champion at No. 5 victorious. Clongowes put a stop to that run 4-0. However, the Minors turned up trumps in their grade, reaching the final. They won their first match 3-0 against Belvedere and their second against Gonzaga 4-0. They took three matches against Castleknock to win and then edged Templeogue 3-2 to win the Section. The semi-final was with St Gerard's and it gave them a comfortable win, 4-1, to set up the final against The High School at Sutton. A good singles win by Tom O'Connell and a doubles by the ever reliable Patrick Doddy and Breon White were not enough and High School took the Cup 3-2.

In 1989-90 the SCT met and went under to Newbridge in the their first match, 1-4. In a return match they improved on their earlier showing by taking two games in a 2-4 loss. Later they beat Moyle Park, but went under to Terenure in the Cup, 1-4.

The Juniors whitewashed King's Hospital 5-0 in their first match and then went on to beat Wesley. They also whitewashed Terenure before going on to hold Gonzaga to 2-3. For their efforts they were awarded the Junior Plate.

The Minors beat Malahide CS 5-0 and then beat St Conleth's 3-0, before going under to Terenure and Gonzaga.

SQUASH

As we saw in the previous chapter, in Ciaran Maher St Mary's had an outstanding exponent of the game of squash. It seemed a pity not to avail of this ability at schools level, so, although there are no facilities for the game in the school, two brave souls were found to form a team with Ciaran and take on the world. These were Arthur McEvoy and Stephen Tee, two stalwarts who could never pass up a challenge. Lack of match experience did not faze them nor dampen their enthusiasm nor prevent them from playing admirably in all their matches. The team began well with a 2-1 win over De La Salle and followed this with another win, over St Conleth's, 3-0. A good start may be half the work but the other half can be a problem, sometimes. The next match was with Pres. Glasthule, the eventual winners of the Cup and 0-3 was the result. St Fintan's Sutton ceded a walk-over when they failed to raise a team. For a first effort in this discipline it was admirable and the greatest credit is due to the team for the success of their maiden voyage.

In 1986 Dara O'Flynn won the U-16 Irish Open and was Runner-up in the Irish Close Squash Championships. He was a member of the Leinster Interprovincial Squash Team, winner of the Leinster U-19 'A' Plate Closed, U-19 'B' Irish Open and member of the U-19 Leinster squad.

GOLF

A team of Seniors was formed to contest the Leinster Schools Tournament in 1981-82. They were: Peter McGiolla Riogh, Denis Byrne, Killian Cregan (all 6th Year), Arthur McEvoy and Paul Donovan of 5th Year. The tournament is League based. St Mary's were in a section with Terenure, Gonzaga and St Mark's, and teams were made up of two pairs. In the first match McEvoy and Cregan won the first game 2 up but Donovan and MacGiolla Riogh went 3 down. In the second match, at Milltown against Gonzaga, St Mary's won both, MacGiolla Riogh and Byrne 3 up and Arthur and Killian 1 up. In the third match, played at the Castle, St Mary's had not only to win but to win by four holes to advance. MacGiolla Riogh and Byrne did well, winning 4 up, but Cregan and McEvoy were unable to hold their opponents and finished 2 down.

In 1986-87 St Mary's were represented by B. McCarthy, M. Leo, C. Hanratty, C. Keogh, T. Lavin and P. Sheehan.

In 1987-88 Ciaran Keogh, Troy Lavin, Paul Sheehan and Brian McCarthy were matched with Coláiste Éanna. C. Buckley, D. Keegan, M. Leo, G. Halpin and A. Cooke made up the squad.

MARTIAL ARTS

The various forms of Martial Arts are not officially pursued in St Mary's, but quite a number of students engage in them privately. One such student was Andrew Byrne of 1st Year who won third place in Ireland in the Taekwon-Do Championships in 1985.

CYCLING

Many students are involved outside school in the sport of cycling. The exploits of Ireland's Sean Kelly and Stephen Roche had given a fillip to the sport in the minds of every youngster in the land. Cycle races had always figured in the Annual College Sports and we have seen that as far back as the 1890s cycle racing was incorporated in school activities and that there was a cycle track in the back field. However, there was never organised cycle racing as an on-going sport in the school, and boys who wanted to pursue the sport did so outside school. John Kevin Moran was one. He was selected on the 1988 Leinster U-17 Interprovincial Cycling Team. He came 10th out of 600 in the Leinster 2-Day Stage Race, and 2nd in the U-16 Orwell Wheelers. His brother James came 13th out of 350 in the U-14 Irish Championship Classic and winner of the Orwell Wheelers Championship.

Paul Lee became Junior Champion in 1987. The *Irish Times* declared that he "was clearly the best in the junior race. His surge on the hill for the last of the 15 laps left the opposition trailing".



Golf Team, 1988

C. Buckley,
D. Keegan,
M. Leo,
G. Halpin,
A. Cooke.



*All-Ireland Under 15 Relay Winners, 1988
P. Moloney, E. Ormond, O. Ribgy, C. Lucey.*



*Denis Hickie
All-Ireland 100m Champion, 1990*

ATHLETICS

Considering the small number of boys who seriously pursue athletics in the school, the results during the final decade of the school's century were commendable.

Mark McSweeney won the Victor Ludorum award for the second year in 1981-82, but Brendan Cassidy broke the school 400m record for the outstanding performance in the School's Sports. In the West Leinster Schools Championships Mark won the Senior 100m and 200m and helped the Senior Relay team to 2nd Place. Owen White was 2nd in the Inter 400m and 200m, while Dee was 3rd in the 100m and Brendan McGreen was 3rd in the 3000m. In the Junior Section Hoey was 1st in the 100m.

The athletics squad in 1987-88 included I. O'Neill, E. Ormond, R. Murphy, C. Lucey, K. Connolly, P. Moloney, M. McLaughlin, O. Rigby and A. Finn. The Junior Relay Team of P. Moloney, E. Ormond, O. Rigby and C. Lucey won the Regional, Leinster and All-Ireland relays in Belfield.

SCOUTS

In 1981-82 Tom Shanahan was Unit Leader with Tony Dalton and Pat Shaffrey as treasurer and secretary respectively and Fr Stephen Maher remained chaplain. The Section leaders were: Cub, Richard Byrne; 6th Troop, John Larney; 7th Declan Sheehan; 8th Pat Stephenson; Venturers Dermot Rafter. By October all sections were up and running and engaging in week-end hikes and outings. At Christmas the 6th went to Aughavanagh Hostel, the 7th and 8th to Knockree Hostel, the Cubs had their Christmas Party. The Annual Investiture took place in January and the Cheese-and-Wine fund-raising function in the RFC premises in February. At Easter all three scout troops camped at Larch Hill. The Unit participated in a Thanksgiving Service marking the 75th Anniversary of World Scouting. The Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland joined with the other scouting organisations in Ireland in an Ecumenical Service held in Blackrock College. The St Mary's Unit was asked to look after the choral singing and verse-speaking, so Miss Cranny and Fr Peter Raftery were drafted in to create a choir from among the members of the unit. This involved a lot of work and regular practices in the cold, dark evenings of February and



Guard of Honour at the Mansion House Dublin, for the National Council, CBSI, 1988.

March. The result was a credit to their mentors and the college because they acquitted themselves with distinction in their appearance, discipline and performance. Chief guests were His Excellency, the President, and His Excellency, the Apostolic Nuncio, members of the Hierarchy and the Diplomatic Corps. The choir gave fine renderings of an old Irish folk song, My Singing Bird, Beethoven's Ode To Joy and the hymn O Praise Ye The Lord and as the whole assembly rose to their feet, Let There Be Peace. The solo part of this last was sung at short notice by Michael McCarthy of 6th Year. Peter Gilligan recited Cuigi na hEireann and former Leader Pat Leahy acted the part of Lord Baden-Powell. Other St Mary's scouts had solo parts in the verse-speaking recital. It was a contribution to an important occasion of which to be proud.

Changes in the leadership in 1982-83 included Pat Stephenson taking over as treasurer from Tony Dalton, Jerry Coughlin replacing him in the 8th, Michael Power taking on the 7th and Ian Delaney the Venturers. The total unit membership was now 150 in 3 Troops of 35 each, Cub Pack of about 35 and Venturers for 16-18 year-olds. Inverin in Galway and Aughavannagh were the Christmas venues, while the Cubs partied in the Den. 6th and 7th participated in a Scout Craft weekend in Larch Hill, winning the Fr Ailbe Trophy for spreading the brotherhood of scouting.

Ian Delaney took over as treasurer in 1983-84 while Brian Leahy replaced him with the Venturers. Pat Leahy took over the 7th. The Christmas venues continued to be Knockree and Aughavannagh. After that the weekends were crowded with regional activities, camp fires, camp craft, quizzes and Regional Mass. Early in the year the Unit Council decided to extend the Scout Den and to form a second Cub Pack. The plan was aired at the Cheese-and-Wine function and warmly received by the parents and friends. The Venturers' spirit was revived under Brian Leahy with Peter Graham's help. They met every second Sunday and planned their activities which included Ten-Pin Bowling at Stillorgan, week-ends in Blackwater, Co Wexford and Ballymoney also in Wexford, the houses provided by Peter Graham and the Funge family. At Easter they took bicycles on the train and hostelled in Aghadoe, Killarney,

making a 100-mile Ring of Kerry cycle trip. For the Summer Camp they chose Glenbeigh, county Kerry.

In 1984-85 a new post of Unit Trainer was created and Tom Shanahan took it on. Pat Shaffrey replaced him as Unit Leader and Linda Roberts took on the job of Unit Secretary. Pat McCarthy took over 6th Troop, Ronan Hughes the 8th and John Larney the Venturers. The new Cub Pack was formed and Inez Crowe became its first Leader. Tigh Linn was an enjoyable alternative to Aughavannagh for the 7th at Christmas. A Unit Social was held in Courtown Hotel for 25 leaders, at which Mr Michael and Mrs Hassett, Regional Commissioner, were guests of honour. The Unit collected £200 for the mission in Brazil of former chaplain, Fr David Darcy who was home on leave and joined Fr Maher in a Mass to celebrate the topping out of the new Den Extension. The 6th stayed at home for a change for summer camp, joining 10,000 scouts from all over the world in a Scout Jamboree at Portumna. The President, Dr Hillery, performed the opening ceremony. The Venturers ventured to France to brush up on their oral French. The campsite outside Paris was ideal for touring the countryside and the city.

Liam Byrne and Mary Irving became the Cub Pack Leaders in 1985-86, Eddie Byrne took on the 6th, Dermot Rafter the 8th, while Inez Crowe replaced Tom Shanahan as Unit Trainer. The new Den Extension was beginning to come into full use, although there were still a few things to be done, space heating, hot water, tarmacadam on path, which necessitated further fund-raising. There were two Investiture ceremonies in early December on successive Sundays. Tigh Linn, Knockree and Killarney were the venues for the Christmas weekends.

The post of Unit Trainer was abolished in 1986-87. Richard Byrne became Unit Leader, Leonard Lynch took over the Cub 'A' Pack, Martin Watts the 7th and Pat Leahy the Venturers and Pat Shaffrey reverted to secretary once more. A Cake Sale was held in the Den and it was hoped it would become an annual fund-raising event like the Cheese-and-Wine Party which by now had become as much a part of the college scene as the annual Musical or Sports Day. Former Unit Leader Tom Shanahan became Regional Commissioner, taking over from Michael Hassett, and was the first Scouter from the Unit to take the post.

Morgan Crowe became Unit Treasurer in 1987-88 while David Fitzsimons took over the Cubs 'A' Pack and John Nolan the 6th Troop from Edward Byrne who moved to



8th Troop at Dublin Airport before departure to Summer Camp in Wisconsin, USA, 1990.

the Venturers. A break with tradition was embarked upon when it was decided to invite girls into the Venturers. It was not without controversy but opinions were freely aired before the decision was made. In the event it proved an excellent move. The Scout Troops went hostelling in Wicklow at Christmas, the 5th Year Venturers to Killarney and the 6th Year to Newport, Mayo. During the year the chaplain, Fr Stephen Maher, and his immediate predecessor, Fr David Darcy, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of their ordination and honoured the Unit by concelebrating Mass in the Den which was followed by a get-together in the true spirit and tradition of St Mary's scouting. A very sad sequel to this happy event was the shocking news of the death of Fr Darcy from cancer just when a fruitful life on the missions seemed to be opening up for him. Scouting in St Mary's is deeply indebted to him.

6th Year Venturers were the group into which the girls infiltrated, very tentatively, at first. The first outing went with a bang, at least for some, when they went ice-skating in Dolphin's Barn Ice Rink. A weekend in Tigh Linn helped to meld the different elements which hikes and carol-singing for charity further strengthened. The first Investiture of girls took place in January 1988 in the College Chapel. Elaine McDwyer had the honour of being No.1.

The Annual Investiture ceremony took place on December 2 in 1989-90 and the Cheese-and-Wine fund-raiser in the RFC premises for a change. It was well attended. April 9-16 was designated Bob-a-Job Week and generated a tidy sum. To mark the College's Centenary, the St Mary's Scouting Unit organised an At Home in Kenilworth which featured such esoteric events as Wellington-boot Throwing, Tug-of-War, Hot-Dog-Eating, Abseiling, Obstacle Racing.

SUMMER CAMPS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Camp-Site</i>	<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>Leader</i>
1981	Youlbury, Ox. (7th)	Fr S. Maher	John Sheehan
	Walesby, Notts. (8th)		Dermot Rafter
	Downe, Kent (6th)		Ian Delaney
	Courtown (Cubs)		Anne Costello
1982	Walesby (7th)		Declan Sheehan
	Phasel's Wood (8th)		Pat Stephenson
	Youlbury (6th)		John Larney
	Lough Dan (Cubs)		Richard Byrne
1983	Chalfont, Bucks (7th)		Michael Power
	Torquay, Devon (8th)		Gerry Coughlin
	Aberdeen (6th)		John Larney
	Lough Dan (Cubs)		Richard Byrne
1984	Aberdeen (7th)		Pat Leahy
	Youlbury (8th)		John Larney
	Chalfont Heights (6th)		John Larney
	Courtown (Cubs)		Richard Byrne
1985	Downe, Kent (7th)		Pat Leahy
	Deal, Kent (8th)		Ronan Hughes
	Portumna Jamboree (6th)		Edward Byrne
	Courtown (Cubs)		Byrne/Crowe

1986	Youlbury (7th)	Pat Leahy
	Walesby (8th)	Dermot Rafter
	Downe (6th)	Edward Byrne
	Courtown (Cubs)	Byrne/Crowe
1987	Walesby (7th)	Martin Watts
	Machynlleth, Wales (8th)	Dermot Rafter
	Walesby (6th)	Edward Byrne
	Courtown (Cubs)	Lynch/Crowe
1988	Chalfont (7th)	Martin Watts
	Walesby (8th)	Dermot Rafter
	Youlbury (6th)	John Nolan
	Aughavannagh (A Pack)	Leonard Lynch
	Courtown (B Pack)	David Fitzsimons
1989	Castleconnell (7th)	Paul Roche
	Lough Dan (8th)	Dermot Rafter
	Downe (6th)	John Nolan
	Smarmore, Ardee (A)	A-M. Griffin
	Courtown (B)	Mary Irving
1990	Walesby (7th)	Paul Roche
	Wisconson, USA (8th)	Dermot Rafter
	Walesby (6th)	Niall Tracy
	Saggart (A & B)	Griffin/Hickey

ORIENTEERING

The Orienteering Club was set up by Mr Noel Doyle the geography professor and Jim Kirby of the senior staff in 1983-84 and was affiliated to the Leinster Schools Orienteering Association, and from its inception took part in the Leagues and Championships organised by the Association. In 1984-85 they helped organise an event in Tiglin in county Wicklow. In the 1985-86 season the Club took part in a number of inter-school events. Colm Stephenson came 5th on the Three Rock course in the M15 classification while Robert Daly and Daniel Keogan were 5th and 8th respectively in the Phoenix Park. Laurence Doddy did well to come in in the first ten on the Killiney Hill run. At an event at Tiglin, the St Mary's club helped in the organisation, manning the starting and finishing posts and selling the maps. The LSOA Championships were held in Ballinasloe in April in good conditions and St Mary's just missed out on winning the Bank of Ireland trophy. In May an award ceremony was held for the best orienteer in the different age groups. Robert Daly in M17, Laurence Doddy in M15 and Darragh O'Toole and Karl Dunne in M13 were the winners.

1986-87 was an equally successful year for orienteering in St Mary's. After initial recruiting by Mr Doyle and Mr Kirby, 2nd Year were taken out to Bushy Park to show them what it was all about in a mini-orienteering event. In the New Year came the Leagues, in which style, points and time all counted. The League finals were held in the Pine Forest and the members acquitted themselves well.

The 1987-88 year had hardly begun when recruiting for the Orienteering Club got underway. On March 8, they had an outing to Hollywood. Entries were enormous until it was discovered that the Hollywood in question was in Wicklow county and not in the county of Los Angeles.



Inaugural Debs' Dance, Gresham Hotel, 1982.

DEBS DANCE

In October 1982, the 6th Year of 1981-82 held a Debs Dinner Dance in the Gresham Hotel to mark the cutting of their umbilical cord with the college that nurtured them so assiduously through their years of formation. This event signalled their entry into the great world 'out there' where they were to put to good use the knowledge, skills and wisdom they had acquired at their parents' expense and in the sweat of their teachers' brows. It was to be the first test of their ability to handle the new-found freedom and responsibility that came with their new status of grown-ups. If that night was any indication, their lessons had been well learned. It was a colourful and memorable evening, enjoyed not only by the 6th Year and their ladies, but by the guests who included the President, Fr O'Reilly, the Dean, Fr Godfrey, the teaching staff, Mr Christy Maguire, President of the PPU and Mrs Maguire, Mr Bill Fagan, President of the RFC and Mrs Fagan, Mr Brian Cotter, rugby coach, and Mrs Isobel Cotter, senior school secretary. The school captain, John O'Connell was flanked by his colleagues, Alan Delaney, who acted as MC, and Leonard Lynch.

The Annual 'Debs' Dance has been a feature of the school calendar since that day. The evening begins with the boys, together with the ladies they are escorting and the boys' parents, meeting in the college for refreshments as an introductory get-together, before the couples set out for the hotel booked for the occasion. Parents and staff members provide the chaperones for the evening.

THE PAST PUPILS' UNION

The successive Presidents at this period were Matt Gilsean, Christy Maguire, Douglas Thornton, Brian Whelan, Enda Hession, Eamonn Fitzgerald, Brian Cotter, Barney Moran and Frank Dowling.

The Union continued to flourish to the end of the decade in all its branches and activities.

Since the Annual General Meeting, at which the President of the coming year is elected, took place generally in May of each year, the Union year began at that time and not in September with the beginning of the school year. This made for some overlapping in reporting events chronologically, especially as some Union events took place during the school summer holidays. Happily for historians, a change was effected in 1985 and the second Sunday in September was decided on as the most suitable date for the Annual General Meeting and election of officers for the coming year. In 1988 a Past Pupils 'Diary' was brought out for the first time, containing the names and addresses of all paid-up members of the Union, and has since proved very useful.

Annual Mass

The Annual Mass for the deceased past pupils and members of the staff in November had become one of the enduring events of the Union year, the attendance growing in numbers every year.

Annual Dinner

After the Annual Mass, the Annual Union Dinner was probably the most important event of the year. As had become customary, it was held during this period in the college itself in late November, the numbers attending growing from 125 in 1981 to 166 past pupils and 25 guests in 1990. Since the capacity of the college hall is only, at a squeeze, 200, it was found necessary before the decade ended to turn away quite a number who wished to attend. A happy fault, but perhaps alternative arrangements could be made. On one occasion the Junior Staff Room adjoining the hall was pressed into service for the overflow, but this destroyed the unity which should mark the occasion and was not considered a success.

Annual Dance

The Braemor Rooms in Churchtown, the Gresham Hotel, and the Montrose were the venues for the first three Supper dances with varying results. Then it was decided to try the Grange Golf Club, of which many past pupils are members, and this proved so successful that that was the venue for the rest of decade. A feature of the dance has always been the raffle run by the Ladies Committee, without which it would be impossible to continue the function. The main prize for the raffle has occasionally been donated by a travel firm, such as Irish Continental Lines in 1981-82.

Lorcan Gogan Memorial Debate

This Annual Debate, between the past and present pupils, inaugurated in 1980-81 in memory of former president of the Union and of the rugby club, Lorcan C. Gogan, quickly established itself as one of the highlights of the Union's annual activities. Paddy Funge presented a trophy to be awarded every year to the student adjudged the best speaker at this debate.

Ten Years Out

A function inaugurated for younger members of the Union and called 'Ten Years Out' was organised in 1981-82 as part of the 'Farewell Party' in honour of Père Barry on the occasion of his retirement from active teaching in the college after 47 years.

This event has been reported elsewhere in this book. Held in the college hall, the event continued to grow in popularity throughout the decade as it gave an opportunity to the more recent past to get together with their own age groups in a way in which the Annual

Dinner does not allow. It also gave an opportunity of meeting the staff on a more equal footing which was welcomed by their former students. In 1985-86 the format was changed from a Cheese-and-Wine affair to a Beer occasion which found much favour. In 1987-88 the Rugby Club and Guinness Group Sales generously donated a barrel each, as did the Club and Furstenburg in 88-89. Over 100, along with members of the staff and the community, attended the function in the Centenary Year. It is in the nature of things that those who left in the more recent past were more numerous than those longer out, life and work having the tendency to scatter people, but it is still considered a worthwhile project in the effort of attaching the past to the school.

Golfing Society

The President's Prize in 1981-82 was competed for in Milltown and over 90 played. Matt Doolan won the Union Cup. The second outing, to The Grange, saw the inauguration of the Memorial Trophy, subscribed for by friends of the late Benny Lynch. Benny's brothers and his son all took part and the Trophy was presented by Judge Kevin Lynch to the winner, Martin Murray, who was due to take over as captain from Diarmuid O'Donovan the following year. The annual outing of the sister unions, Blackrock, Rockwell and St Mary's was moved to Milltown this year and its success rescued this valuable event from extinction. Robbie Burke won the President's Prize and Union Cup, and Martin Murray retained the Benny Lynch Trophy in 1983-84. The tenure of the President continued for fifteen months 1984-85 in order to bring the Union year in line with the school year, so, there were two Union Golf Outings, the first in which Frank Murphy won the Cup and President's Prize, and the second when the winner was Tim Kelly. In September, Canice Wolahan won the Benny Lynch Trophy. In 1985-86 Brian Williams was the winner of the Benny Lynch, and a nephew of Benny, Niall Lynch, won the President's Prize and Union Cup. Thomas Murphy won the President's Prize and Union Cup at Milltown in 1986-87 off a 19 handicap, while Sean Cantwell (18) won the Benny Lynch. 74 played in the President's Prize in 1987-88 when John Hughes was the winner, AIFC Rathmines donating the prizes. By a quirk of fate, the 1989-90 competition was won by the in-coming Union President, Dan Coveney, with his brother Brian as runner-up. Over 100 played. A new trophy was on offer in the Combined Unions Outing, presented by Kimmage Holy Ghost Community and named the 'Kimmage Cup'. All five CSSp unions were well represented in the 73 players who contested the event. Templeogue won by one point from St Mary's. The Cup was accepted by Fr Noel Redmond and John Murphy. Blackrock union won the Kimmage Cup in 1988-89 with St Mary's once more runners-up. Each Union contributed £50 towards the prize fund. Templeogue won in 1990 and the proceeds of the outing, amounting to £600, were presented to Fr Brian McLaughlin, the Provincial.

Union Day

The spoil-sport weather almost washed out the 1981-82 Union Day held as usual in 'glorious' June in Kenilworth. Only the Soccer went ahead, but Johnny Bowden's tea in the cricket pavilion was all the more welcome. Soccer, cricket and tennis were all keenly contested before a large crowd in 1983-84 and again in 1984-85, but in 1985-86 weather once more spoiled things and the May 11 date had to be changed to June 8 when the sun shone down benignly on a happy crowd. The venue was changed to Templeville in 1986-87. A worried call to the Met Office on the morning of the first Sunday in June brought the news that the day would be cool and dry with a few scattered showers – it was wet and cold. But it mattered not. Tennis players had an enjoyable mixed doubles tournament, the cricketers smashed boundaries in all directions and the soccer was keenly contested.

Meanwhile, indoors the youngsters were fully catered for with an inflated play-castle, sack and egg-and-spoon races. Union Day in 1987-88 was cancelled because of the tragic death while attending the European Cup in Germany of Donal Lonergan, whose bereaved parents were visited by the Union President and Vice President. 1988-89 was a re-run of the wonderful day experienced on the first visit to Templeville two years previously. For the Centenary Year, there was a return to Kenilworth. Weather once more was unhelpful but a Seven-a-Side Soccer Tournament with teams representing the last 15 years of school-leavers (with an occasional 'ringer' thrown in for good measure) proved highly successful, while the more sedate 'oldies' took to the cricket and Johnny Bowden's tea-rooms, and the children to the 'inflated castle'.

Annual Retreat

The Annual one-day Retreat was revived in 1983-84 and held on Good Friday as had been the custom for many years. Past student Fr Brian Gogan, led the group of past students through a series of reflections culminating in the Solemn Good Friday liturgy celebrated with the community. During the 1984-85 Retreat, the discussions led to the formation of a Prayer Group of past pupils with their wives, meeting to discuss various aspects of faith, Christianity and their lives in relation to God. Fr Brian and Douglas Thornton continued to organise these Prayer Meetings throughout the rest of the decade, meeting every Tuesday from 8-10 p.m. in the college, except for the months of July and August. New members are most welcome. In 1989-90 Fr Ronan Grimshaw of Templeogue College conducted the Retreat, which began at 9.30 a.m. and ended with the Good Friday liturgy shared with the community at 3 p.m.

Parents Children Faith

The PCF Movement is very successful in St Mary's with over 100 parents and children taking part. There are five groups in formation and the students are drawn from 2nd to 5th Year. Each group consists of approximately ten parents and twelve students. The parents meet separately to discuss topics of faith. They meet five or six times a year, again in groups, with the students, and discuss these topics.

Aid-Link

Aid-Link was founded as a joint venture between Blackrock College and St Mary's in 1983. Its aim is to provide funds for various Third World countries under the direction of the Holy Ghost Fathers. The committee raises funds which are then matched by various national and international funds when a project is approved. Aid-Link has raised directly funds totalling £85,000 and this sum has been multiplied by funds from other bodies in Ireland and the European Community so that a total of £450,000 had, up to 1988, been donated by Aid-Link to Third World projects. Brian Whelan was the Union representative. In 1988 the Union was rather low on funds and sent only £500 to Aid-Link but this sum was matched by Aid-Link and forwarded to Fr Austin Healy, a past pupil, to help in the building of a church in Kenema, Sierra Leone.

Career Guidance

Paddy Fearon continued to organise with Mr Kevin Lewis, the school's careers guidance teacher, the most helpful series of talks to the 5th and 6th Year students from experts in every aspect of future employment in which the students might afterwards be engaged, business, industry and third-level education. They also organised the 'mock interviews' set up to allow 6th Year students obtain experience how to approach and conduct

themselves in job interviews, including the preparation of a curriculum vitae to present to a prospective employer.

Marian Boys Club

Union participation in the running of the Marian Boys Club in Gardiner Street ceased although individual members sat on the Management Committee under the chairmanship of Dermot Sullivan, in a private capacity. Since the work no longer functioned as an outlet for Catholic Action for the Union, in 1981-82 Dermot promised the Union that he hoped to have something definite to report in the near future. Following a meeting between Dermot and the President and Vice president of the Union in 1984-85, it was decided that the Union should maintain its links officially with the club and to this end a member would be appointed to represent the Union on the club committee. In November 1985 the Union officers and representatives of the club, Dermot Sullivan and Dermot Smyth, met in the Club premises and the Union members were greatly impressed with the state of the premises, which were being used by the Dublin Youth Theatre, and with the work being done to foster the dramatic ability and flair of the young people. Apart from this use of the club premises on behalf of the youth of the area, there is no longer any boys club attached to the house. In 1987-88 Douglas Thornton was asked by both the Union and the club to investigate the legal position of the club since it no longer functioned as a boys club *per se* and the possibility of its sale to the Youth Theatre.

Lenten Lectures

1983-84 saw the Union involved in assisting the College in the provision of a series of lectures during Lent for parents of the boys. Four topics were discussed the first year; adolescence, alternative careers, spiritual awareness and understanding of the media. Among the speakers were Ken Sparrow, past student and managing director of a technical equipment company, who died tragically young shortly afterwards, Fr Michael Paul Gallagher, SJ, wellknown sociologist, Fr Colm Kilcoyne, Director, Catholic Communications, and Mr John Waldron. The evenings proved to be most successful and repeated the following year with equal success. Unfortunately, this interest was not maintained and the project was abandoned.

Past Union Presidents

A pleasing and beneficial innovation towards the end of the decade was the practice of getting all available past presidents of the Union together for an informal meeting at which they were apprised of the condition of the Union and its forthcoming activities. Many organisations fail to make use of the fund of knowledge and wisdom and experience available in their own membership, and it is good to see that the St Mary's Union is not myopic. A score of past presidents attend these meetings.

ST MARY'S LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Floodlighting was added to the amenities provided in the St Mary's Lawn Tennis Club at Belmont Avenue in 1981-82. Michael Houlihan was president and Paddy Funge vice-president, Michael Heney, hon. sec. and Nigel Bennett, hon. treas. It was a year that also saw the official opening of the four new all-weather courts. The tennis 'year' runs from November to October which is near enough to the school year for chronology purposes. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Hon. Alexis Fitzgerald, TD, performed the official opening in April at a gala occasion. Present among the long list of dignitaries were past student, Gerard Brady, TD, Minister of State at the Dept. of the Environment,

*The Lord Mayor,
The Hon. Alexis
Fitzgerald,
performing the
opening ceremony of the
new Tennis Courts at
Belmont Avenue, 1982.*



Aldermen and Councillors of Dublin Corporation, representatives of all sections of the tennis world, local residents and general public, as well as the club members. The event was widely covered by press and television.

The second major event in the year was the visit of the club's friends from Holte-Schloss in Germany. Fund-raising by a sub-committee headed by Tom McKeogh realised £2,000 to cover the expenses of the visit which included an exhausting schedule of events facing the 20-strong party which arrived. A press reception was attended by the Deputy Lord Mayor and the President of the Irish Lawn Tennis Association and other guests. The week-long visit was a resounding success and culminated in an invitation to the junior members to visit Germany the following year. The juniors were the outstanding playing section in the club, winning the Saab Trophy at their first attempt. This tournament is open to clubs in the Dublin 4 and 6 areas. Through the year the newly installed lights extended the playing hours, and, indeed, the playing season, a change with which the club was slow to come to terms. However, it had the merit of making the club eligible for a much wider variety of competitions played in autumn and winter. In addition, the club received a growing number of requests to stage tournaments, requests the club found difficult to accept because of the anxiety of the members to use the courts themselves. The club captains were Colm O'Connor and Liz McCarthy.

ST MARY'S RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

1981-82 was the year that Ireland won the Triple Crown for the first time since 1949 and the St Mary's RFC was doubly proud of the part two of its members played in these victories, Ciaran Fitzgerald, Ireland's captain and inspiring leader, and Paul Dean at centre. Earlier in the season Fitzgerald had been prevented by injury from playing against the touring Australians who won 16-12. Terry Kennedy, and Paul Dean, playing in the centre, also played and Tony Ward, who had played a major part in the Munster victory over the Tourists, was restored to out-half in the absence of the injured Campbell. Dean, Kennedy and Andreucetti were capped for Leinster, Fitzgerald, Quaid and McGuire for Connaught, though this galaxy of stars was not enough to bring success to the senior side.

However, this was more than made up for by the J3 who won both League and Moran Cup, J4 who won the J4 League, J5 who won the O'Connor Cup and the J8 who won the Guilfoyle Cup.

1982-83 was notable more for the honour bestowed on one member of the club than on the trophies garnered. Ciaran Fitzgerald became the 8th Irishman to captain the British and Irish Lions on an overseas tour, when he was picked to lead them to New Zealand. Fitzgerald was the subject of unprecedented vituperation from the British Press – in particular the 'quality' papers – which laced every report on the squad, before and during the tour, with snide remarks on his capacity for and his conduct of the position of captain. This opposition was found incredible by the press and people in the southern hemisphere and went a long way to undermining the spirit among the tourists and affecting their play. It was an altogether unhappy chapter in rugby's history, but through it all Fitzgerald comported himself with dignity, and even with good humour which won over all but his most wilful detractors.

At club level J1 were victorious in the Junior League under the captaincy of Eddie Wigglesworth, managed by Louis Roche and coached by Rodney O'Donnell. As the competitive season ended, the J8 literally 'stole' the Guilfoyle Cup from a very heavy and confident Palmerston outfit with a truly 'kamakazi' performance of commitment and dedication. The club's list of Interpros was as impressive as ever and included Terry Kennedy, Paul Dean, Declan Fanning, John O'Connor, Alex O'Regan, Tony Ward, Ciaran Fitzgerald, Hugh McGuire, Declan Howard and Jack Mannion. Newcomer to the club, scrum-half Alex O'Regan gained his 'B' international against England, while Tony Ward made a moving return to Lansdowne Road from the wilderness, when called from the bench as a sub against England. A very successful club seven-a-side was organised by Robin Bailey, coaching co-ordinator. Mervyn Johnson and Denis Nagle were joined on the ARLB by Joe Gallagher, while Tommy Kearns became Vice President of the Association.

The weekly dances organised by Gerry Ebbs and John Fair continued to be the financial mainstay of the club with considerable help from the monthly socials organised by Frank Kennedy and his team. Colm Bevan worked wonders at the Annual Dinner as did Eileen Treacy and 'Les Girls' on all occasions. The St Mary's Darts team won the Inter-Club competition under the captaincy of 'Shark' Murphy. Johnny Moloney branched out into the coaching field this year when appointed to take charge of the Leinster U-20 squad.

One sad occasion during the year was the retirement from the game through injury of Tony Hickie. Tony suffered a bad back injury when playing for the club and after recovery he was advised to hang up his boots. His injury points up the wisdom of the club in having qualified medical men in attendance at all matches. In this regard Dr Deasy and Dr Fogarty have been a tower of strength, not only to the club but to the Leinster Branch; Frank Dowling's attention to Tony Hickie on the occasion of his injury contributed greatly to his subsequent recovery, while numerous players owe their recovery from muscular injury to the attentions of Mick Glynn. The club owes a large debt to these and others down through the years.

1983-84 was another low-level year in achievement when compared with the halcyon days of the '70s. Only the J4 League title was won when victory in at least six other competitions seemed on the cards when the season opened. The frustration began when the U-19s went under to Trinity in the final of the McCorry Cup, a trophy St Mary's had not won since its inaugural year. The senior side fought a magnificent League campaign but were beaten in the final by Terenure. Hoping to do better in the Cup, they let victory over UCD slip away in the semi-final. A League and Cup double for the J4 under Dino Andreucetti looked a distinct possibility but a below-par performance against Old Belvedere in the semi put paid to that and they had to be content with the League Cup.



Ciaran Fitzgerald leading the charge to win the Triple Crown for Ireland, 1982.

Honours were profuse. Tony Ward, Ciaran Fitzgerald, Declan Howard, Hugh McGuire, Jack Mannion, Declan Fanning, Paul Dean, Terry Kennedy and Alex O'Regan were all honoured by their Provinces, as were Derek Dowling, Carl Egan, Dermot Quigley, Jody Fanagan, Brian Ahearne and Jonathan Garth at junior level. Peter Donnelly joined his clubmates in the Referees' Association, while Paddy Bolger and Vinnie McGovern continued their good work on the Branch, as did Johnny Moloney with the Leinster underage team. New floodlights were installed in November for training and a new perimeter wall in December, all due to the efficiency of a sub-committee of J. B. Sweeney, Brian Cotter and Arthur Costello. Michael Fanagan took over the running of the Club Dinner from Colm Bevan, who had assumed the duties of President, and maintained the standard.

If the previous year was considered a low point in the club's fortunes, it was nothing to 1984-85 when a whole series of disasters struck starting with the tragic and totally unexpected death of the president, Ken Sparrow, after only a few months in office. Ken was an outstanding student and a keen sportsman at school, and involved himself wholeheartedly in the affairs of the club and Union after leaving school. His loss to the club and Union was very great. Next came the resignation for domestic reasons of Jack Bagnall, the vice-president who would normally have taken over. This left the running of the club to the other officers, who did a commendable job. The next calamity that struck very nearly did for the club entirely. A case of suspected hepatitis was diagnosed among a few members, but spread quickly and soon 35 were laid low. The club moved quickly and marshalled the best health advice to remedy the situation, which allayed any anxieties among members and visiting teams, coupling with this excellent public relations work, although for a time it seemed to some as though the club might have to close down permanently. However, the club rose to the occasion and a spirit that had been dormant re-emerged to meet the challenge.

With the health hazard dealt with, the club endeavoured to shake itself free from the trauma and take up the threads on two fronts. The problem had brought to the fore the need for greater participation in the running of the club by more of the members. At two emergency general meetings, a number of sub-committees were formed to raise funds and raise morale by various activities. The second front was the playing field, and there every team gave its all to prove the club was alive and well. Four finals were contested, J1 which

was won, J2 which was won, J3 which should have been won but was lost by a point, and the President's Shield in Arklow, also won by the J1. On the international scene, St Mary's provided the captain of both Irish teams 'A' and 'B', in Ciaran Fitzgerald and Declan Fanning. Declan also captained the Leinster team. Paul Dean joined Ciaran on the Irish team that went on to win the Triple Crown and toured Japan with such success. Declan Ahearne was a Final Irish Trialist and a 'B' International. Alex O'Regan played for Leinster and Jim McShane for Connaught. Three of the coaching positions in Leinster were filled by St Mary's men, as eloquent a testimony as any to the expertise available to the club.

1985-86, without being a vintage year, was not without its successes. J1, captained by Frank Kennedy, coached by Rory O'Connor and managed by Dermot Tuohy won the League. J2 won the O'Connell Cup. J. Murphy was captain, Paul McInerney the manager, Greg Maher coach. The J3 League was won with B. Kennedy as captain, G. Browne coach. J8 won the Greenlea Cup. B. O'Sullivan was captain and Greg Maher coach.

1986-87 was a good year for a change. The Seniors, captained by Noel McCarthy, coached by Rory O'Connor and managed by Terry Young, won the Leinster Cup and only just failed to bring off the Cup and League double, losing the semi-final to Trinity by a point. J1 went down to Wanderers in the semi-final of the Metropolitan Cup. The J2 reached the League final and the Cup quarter-final. J3 won their League as well as the Old Wesley inaugural Festival competition. The J4 lost the quarter-final of the Winters Cup to the eventual winners, Greystones. The J5 went out similarly in the semi-final of the O'Connor Cup to eventual winners, Old Belvedere. J6 lost out in the final of the Fox Cup to Wanderers, and J7 went out at the semi-final stage to Blackrock. Paul Dean won four more Irish caps, while Ciaran Fitzgerald was a sub. Interprovincial honours went to Declan Fanning, Terry Kennedy and Paul Dean for Leinster, Ciaran Fitzgerald, Noel McCarthy and Mick Tarpey for Connaught. Vincent Cunningham, Tony Kavanagh and Kevin Potts were on the Championship-winning Leinster U-20 team coached by Johnny Moloney.

1987-88 ushered in a whole series of innovations under the Presidency of Jim Murray, opening up the club to the era of sponsorship, aimed at putting new technology at the service of the club in order to maintain the club's position at the forefront of the Irish rugby scene. The first sponsorship deal brought the Club £3,500 worth of Sony video equipment to be used for videoing 1st XV matches and the Cup and League finals of the other grades, and for coaching. The Insurance firm of Norwich Union sponsored to the tune of £1,500 the production of a club brochure by Liam Naughton and Derry O'Connor, on sale at every home game and inserted with the teams of the day. A new scoreboard was sponsored by Coyle, Hamilton Insurance with £2500. The short tour to Moseley RFC was sponsored by the Bank of Ireland (£2,000) and Xtra-Vision (£500). However, such are the financial demands of even the amateur game at this level that the club still came up with a deficit at the end of the year.

The 1st XV were runners-up in the new Leinster Senior League and reached the semi-final stage of the Cup. The J1 also reached the final of their League. The J2 won their League under Niall Rynne, managed by Sean Jennings and coached by John McCullogh and Tony Pacitti. The J3 did the double, winning their League and the Moran Cup. They were captained by John Boyle, managed by Brendan Spring and coached by David Hooper and Glen Tracey. The J4 reached the semi-final of their League and the quarter-final of the Cup. The J5 reached the quarter-final of the O'Connor Cup, the J6 and J7 both reached the semi-final stages of their cups. On the International front, Paul Dean increased his tally of caps to 26. Vincent Cunningham, having played for Leinster and Ireland U-21, gained his first full cap against England and was then picked for the Irish Tour to France. Interprovincial honours came to Kevin Potts, Declan Fanning, Carl Egan and Derek Dowling. Tony Gillen played for the Leinster U-23 team. Noel McCarthy was

*Leinster Senior
Cup Winners, 1987*

Back:

*T. Young (Manager),
G. Maher (Assistant
Manager), S. Hennessy,
M. Tarpey, C. Egan,
K. Potts, T. Gillen,
V. Cunningham,
C. Fitzgerald,
R. O'Connor (Coach).*

Front: *T. Kennedy,
J. Cullen,
D. Fanning,
N. McCarthy (Captain),
L. Roche, (President,
St. Mary's RFC),
J. Kennedy, D. Dowling,
D. Gardner.*



honoured with the captaincy of Connaught, where he was joined by Mick Tarpey and Ray Hernan. The club's referees were increased by the appointment of Declan Campion to the Leinster panel.

J. B. Sweeney was President for the Centenary Year. At his election he called for volunteers to put shape and order into the club premises. He organised sponsorship from Roantree & Son, Ltd. and with its aid, Bobby Coan marshalled a team of volunteers to carpet and wall-paper the clubhouse giving it a 'new look'. On the playing side, honours continued to pour in. Gareth Halpin, Matt McCarthy, Michael McLoughlin, Turlough Meagher and Darren Walker gained U-19 Interprovincial caps. Vincent Cunningham was capped for his province and for the Ireland U-25 team. Declan Fanning captained Leinster once more. Noel McCarthy captained Connaught in the Interpros and against the touring All-Blacks. Ray Hernan, Bill Mills, Tony Gillen and Sean O'Beirne also gained Interpro caps. Kieran Carville and Dave Nixon played for the Connaught U-20 team, and Philip Kenny on the Irish and Leinster U-20 team. Fergus Dolan, Kevin Potts and Niall O'Kelly were on the Irish Colleges XV. Last, but not least, veteran Terry Kennedy played on the Irish team in the Bahamas in the U-35 World Cup.

The 1st XV, captained by Steven Hennessy, did well enough under Rory O'Connor, John Pine and Greg Maher in the Senior League to ensure that they would be among the nine best teams in Ireland to form the 1st Division of the new All-Ireland League. Junior 1 reached the League final and the Metropolitan semi-final. J2 won the Albert O'Connell Cup and reached the League semi. Their Cup Final against Lansdowne was spectacular and possibly the match of the season in any grade. J3 won their League and the Wesley Junior Festival and reached the semi-final of the Moran Cup. J4 won the Winters Cup and reached the quarter-final of the League. J5 contested the final of the O'Connor Cup heroically against Terenure but to no avail.

The 7-a-Side team of Ray Hernan, Vince Cunningham, Noel McCarthy, John Kenny, Ben Kealy, Tommy Moran and Declan Fanning won the Old Belvedere Sevens. This was the last year for Paddy Bolger on the Leinster Branch executive as hon. treasurer. He was always an outstanding ambasador for the club. Vincent McGovern continued as club representative with the Branch. In a general meeting held in May, members were canvassed concerning the possibility of more permanent funding for the club. Following this meeting, details of a planned-giving campaign were circulated to the members.

An extract from the Report of the Hon. Secretary, Liam S. Birkett, for the 1986-87

season sums up much of what had been said and written about the St Mary's Rugby Football Club down through the years since its foundation in 1900.

The spirit of St Mary's has always prevailed. This spirit which we speak of, is hard to define. It is the combined effort of the entire membership of the Club, embracing those who are brilliant footballers, administrators, alickadoos and those who are not – but who have the same determination, commitment and love for this rugby club. The club has a tyrannical influence on all who join, that brings out the best in them when the club needs it most.

Thanks to the energy of enlightened presidents, executives and a dedicated membership, the club enjoys a very enviable position in the Irish rugby world. We have the best clubhouse and facilities in the country, a very healthy financial situation, current and on-going. We are fortunate in having a band of Past Presidents and Executives who continue to support the Club. Having served the Club in office, they unselfishly make themselves available at all times. It is a formidable asset that cannot appear on any balance sheet. But all of us are caretakers. We do not own the Club. We are merely minding it for those who are to follow and bring it new glories. The entire membership can be proud of their achievements. We have taken what we were given and built upon it, acknowledging that one could not be done without the other.

In winning the Senior Cup the Club finished on the highest possible note. That final is being hailed as the state of the art example for all those who want to play good rugby. It is satisfying to record that, at all levels, the St Mary's game is referred to by all opponents and critics as the attractive, open, running game. This reflects on everyone associated with the teams. To what more could we aspire?

VOCATIONS

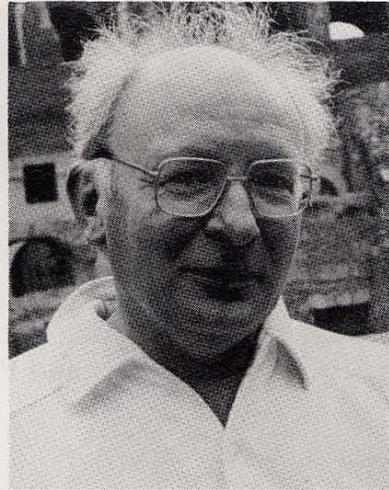
<i>Name</i>	<i>At School</i>	<i>Ordination</i>	<i>Order/Diocese</i>
Gareth Byrne	(1970-79)	1985	Dublin Diocese, Coolock.
Gary Byrne	(1973-80)	1987	Monterey Diocese, USA.

James McNulty, CSSp.

In July 1990, Fr. Hugh O'Reilly's third term of office came to an end and Fr. James McNulty became President and Superior of St. Mary's. Born in Mohill, Co. Leitrim, in 1928, he was educated in Blackrock College and professed with the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1948. He graduated from UCD in 1951 and professed in St. Mary's, Trinidad, for three years, before returning to Kimmage where he was ordained in 1957. He was appointed to Nigeria the following year and taught there until the Biafran War disrupted missionary work. After Biafra, he worked in the US for two years before being appointed to Blackrock College where he taught until he went to Zambia in 1974. On his return to Ireland he taught in Blackrock until his appointment to Willow Park, of which he became Principal in 1984. He was appointed to St. Mary's in 1990.



Brian McLaughlin, CSSp.



Peter Byrne, OSA.

Fr Brian McLaughlin

Just in time for the celebration of the centenary, a past student of St Mary's, Fr. Brian McLaughlin, was honoured by being elected Provincial Superior of the Holy Ghost Congregation in Ireland. Fr Brian Marcus McLaughlin, the nephew of another past student, Fr John McLaughlin, whose career has already been sketched, was born in Dublin in 1940. He came to St Mary's in 1948 to Junior 1 and obtained his Leaving Certificate with honours in 1958. He went to the Novitiate of the Holy Ghost immediately after leaving school and was professed a year later. He attended UCD from Kimmage Manor before going to Rome for theology studies. He was ordained there in 1967 and in the following year was appointed to the missions in Brazil where he worked until 1984 when he he was made Provincial Secretary. He held this position for three years before returning to Brazil. In the Irish Chapter meeting in 1987 he was elected Provincial Superior in Ireland for three years. At school Fr Brian was the recipient of the Gold Medal for Religious Knowledge in 6th Year. He had been a member of every school rugby team from the time he entered and ended up on the SCT that were beaten in the semi-final by Terenure only after a replay. Playing at wing-forward, he scored in the first two cup matches with opportunist tries in the defeat of Mountjoy (11-0) and Roscrea (12-6). The quarter-final defeat of Clongowes (9-5) was the shock of the competition since the light St Mary's pack was giving away stones, but future Irish International scrum-half Jimmy Kelly scored twice to win the day. Fr Brian has continued to follow the fortunes of St Mary's teams ever since with the keenest interest, as his vociferous support of them at all levels will testify.

Fr Peter Byrne, OSA

A second past pupil besides Fr Brian McLaughlin was honoured by being chosen as head of his Religious Order in Ireland, and that was Fr Peter Byrne, OSA, who was elected Provincial Superior of the Augustinians in 1988. Peter was in St Mary's from 1943 to 1953, a classmate of such luminaries as Colm Brennan, Tim Kelly, Matt Doolan, the late Noel Banahan, Peter Thornton and Tom Garvey. He was on both the JCT and SCT and Captain of the School in his final year. He joined the Augustinians and was ordained priest in 1959. Just prior to his appointment as Provincial he was Prior of John's Lane Church in Dublin's inner city where he engaged in a massive task of re-roofing the church and repairing the gothic steeple which is one of the outstanding landmarks of Dublin's cityscape.

Epilogue

THE FINAL YEAR of Fr O'Reilly's Presidency was the College's Centenary Year. In order to ensure the proper celebration of this significant event, a Committee was formed which devised a year-long programme of events which would feature all the various activities both of the Past and Present students and staff.

1989

28 September – Centenary Year Opens: Solemn High Mass Rathmines Parish Church, 3 p.m. – Archbishop Desmond Connell, President Dr P. Hillery, Lord Mayor; Solemn Blessing of School Extension, unveiling of Plaque by Minister for Education; Open Day, Refreshments

12 November – College Operetta: Gala Evening

17 November – PPU Centenary Dinner, College Hall



SUPERIORS OF THE FIVE HOLY GHOST COLLEGES

*Fr. A. Lehane (St. Michael's), Fr. J. Hurley (Rockwell), Fr. J. McNulty (St. Mary's),
Fr. S. Kealy (Blackrock), Fr. R. Grimshaw (Templeogue).*



SOME OF THE CENTENARY COMMITTEE

Back: *L. Birkett, R. Redmond, Dr. B. Deasy, E. Fitzgerald, B. Cotter, P. Leahy,*
 Front: *F. Conlon, M. MacCormac, Fr. J. McNulty, B. Strahan, B. Moran, D. Sullivan.*

1990

- 23 February* – Centenary Banquet, Burlington Hotel – 8.30 p.m. Black Tie.
- 25 March* – SCT Invitation Seven-a Side Festival – St Mary’s RFC, Templeville Rd.
- 26 March* – Junior Centenary Function, Harcourt Hotel
- 29 April* – St Mary’s Scout Unit – Invitation inter-school event, Kenilworth Park.
- 10 May* – PPU President’s Centenary Golf Outing
- 20 May* – St Mary’s Lawn Tennis Club – Centenary American Tournament
- 23 September* – Gala Centenary Concert, National Concert Hall
- 26 October* – Centenary Dinner Dance: Burlington – 9 p.m. Dress Informal

Centenary Committee

Rev. Hugh O’Reilly, CSSp, President of College; Professor Michael MacCormac, Chairman; Bernard Strahan, Hon. Sec.; Frank Conlon, Headmaster; T. B. Kearns, PPU; R. Redmond, PPU; D. Thornton, PPU; D. Sullivan, PPU; B. Moran, PPU; John Hussey RFC; P. Leahy, Scouts; N. Bennett, LTC; E. Fitzgerald, Financial Controller; L. Birkett, PRO; B. Whelan, Centenary Fund; Dr Deasy, Parents; B. Cotter, Sports; P. Funge, Cultural; T. Newell, Students.

Apart from devising and carrying out a calendar of events for the year, the Committee

set up a Centenary Fund to raise money to equip a laboratory in the new Senior School extension. This equipment cost £35,000-£40,000. The PPU presented Fr Hugh O'Reilly with £5000 from its own funds, at the Centenary Banquet, to start the ball rolling.

By far the most prodigious event was the opening day of the year-long programme, which has already been featured in the Prologue.

The Centenary Musical

As with every other occasion during the centenary year, the annual musical production took on an extra verve which resulted in performances which surpassed those of previous productions. This was no mean feat since the work chosen, *Fiddler on the Roof*, was ambitious in the extreme, musically and histrionically, and might have been truly considered beyond the powers of secondary school boys and girls. In the event, the cast surpassed itself in both the singing and acting, while the general production values were of the highest order, reflecting greatly on all those involved. With a cast of 21 speaking parts, boys' chorus of 26 and a girls' chorus of 21, the musical and acting resources of both St Mary's and Notre Dame were stretched. Nor must Duane Byrne, in the non-speaking part of the *Fiddler*, be forgotten. Duane is a Feis Ceoil gold-medallist. It was a worthy offering for the Centenary Year. The Junior School was not to be outdone in the centenary year. In March they presented not one but two colourful productions, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, with Paul Byrom in the main part, and *Hiawatha*, with Mark Hogan in the lead.

The Centenary Annual Dinner

On November 17, 1989, the Union held the Annual Dinner. In expectation of greatly increased numbers for the occasion this particular year, it was thought that it might

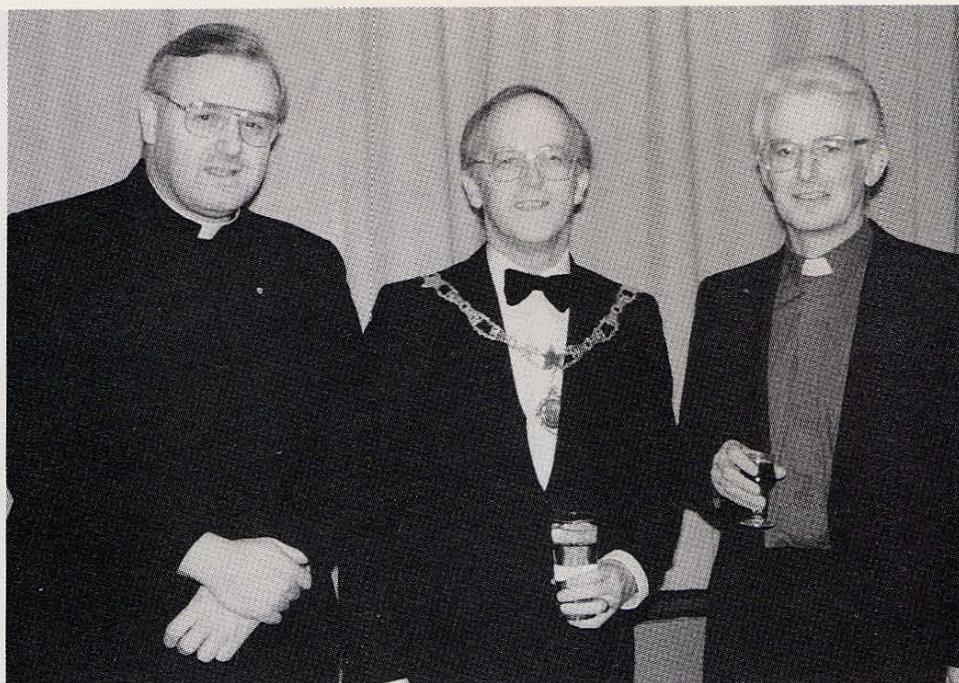


Paul Byrom – Joseph



Mark Hogan – Hiawatha

*CENTENARY
ANNUAL DINNER
Fr. P. Raftery,
Mr. Dan Coveney
(Union President
1990-1991),
Fr. B. McLaughlin,
Provincial.*



be held outside the college in larger premises. Happily, it was decided to hold it in the college. It was a tight squeeze for the 290 who attended, but was very enjoyable and successful.

The Centenary Banquet

The Centenary Banquet took place on February 23, 1990, in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, attended by 600 guests, including past students, parents, friends and well-wishers of the College. It was a gala occasion, with past student radio personality, Val Joyce, acting as M.C. There were three toasts. The first, to the President of Ireland, was proposed by the

*CENTENARY
BANQUET
Prof. M. MacCormac,
Archbishop Gerada,
Apostolic Nuncio,
Dr. B. Deasy.*





CENTENARY BANQUET

*Archbishop Gerada, Apostolic Nuncio, Mr. F. Dowling (PPU President 1989-90),
Fr. B. McLaughlin, Provincial.*



CENTENARY BANQUET

Prof. M. MacCormac, Bishop Donal Murray, Alderman S. Haughey, Lord Mayor.

President of the Union, Mr Frank Dowling. The second, to His Holiness the Pope, by Very Rev. Brian McLaughlin, Provincial Superior, was responded to by His Excellency, the Papal Nuncio, Most Rev. Emmanuel Gerada, D.D. The third, to the College, was proposed by Prof. Michael MacCormac, Chairman of the Centenary Committee, and responded to by Rev. Hugh O'Reilly, President of St Mary's.

The Centenary Sevens

At the end of the football season, St Mary's inaugurated a Senior Schools Seven-a-Side competition in the grounds of the St Mary's RFC in Templeville Rd in which 20 teams competed, including two from St Mary's. A magnificent Cup, to be competed for annually, was presented by the College, to be known as the St Mary's College Centenary Seven-a-Side Cup. Entered were, St Conleth's; CUS; CBC Monkstown; King's Hospital; St Paul's; Presentation Bray; Terenure; Clongowes; De La Salle Churchtown; St Gerard's; Rockwell; Belvedere; Newbridge; Roscrea; St Michael's; Templeogue; Castleknock and Blackrock. St Mary' beat CBC Monkstown, CUS and Belvedere to get into the semi-final where they met Rockwell, whom they defeated 15-0. Blackrock had beaten Castleknock and Roscrea to get to the semi where they beat Terenure who had accounted for St Michael's and Pres Bray. Rockwell had beaten Monkstown and St Gerard's. The final was a pulsating one between two teams who exhausted themselves in their efforts. St Mary's deserved to win if for no other reason than they had to come from behind to catch up with their rivals to win 18-16. It was a match worthy of the occasion and a victory made all the sweeter because of the team they had managed to beat, even if it was at the last gasp. Form was vindicated when CBC Monkstown beat Roscrea in the Plate Final confined to teams beaten in the first round. CBC had contested the final of the Old Belvedere Sevens with St Mary's a short time before.



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, CENTENARY SEVENS WINNERS
 Back: J. Kelly, J. Flynn, E. Rennick, C. Lucey, N. Campion.
 Front: R. McBrien, C. McCarthy, W. Power (captain), B. Cotter, E. Ormond.

The Junior Centenary Function

On March 26, 1990, two very recent past pupils, John Whelan and Michael McLoughlin (1989 school leavers), organised a centenary function for younger past pupils in the Harcourt Hotel. It was an outstanding success with over 180 attending, and not only gave great enjoyment to all who took part but even managed to return a modest profit for the Fund. The organisers deserved the highest praise for both their initiative and efficiency.

Centenary Golfing Outing

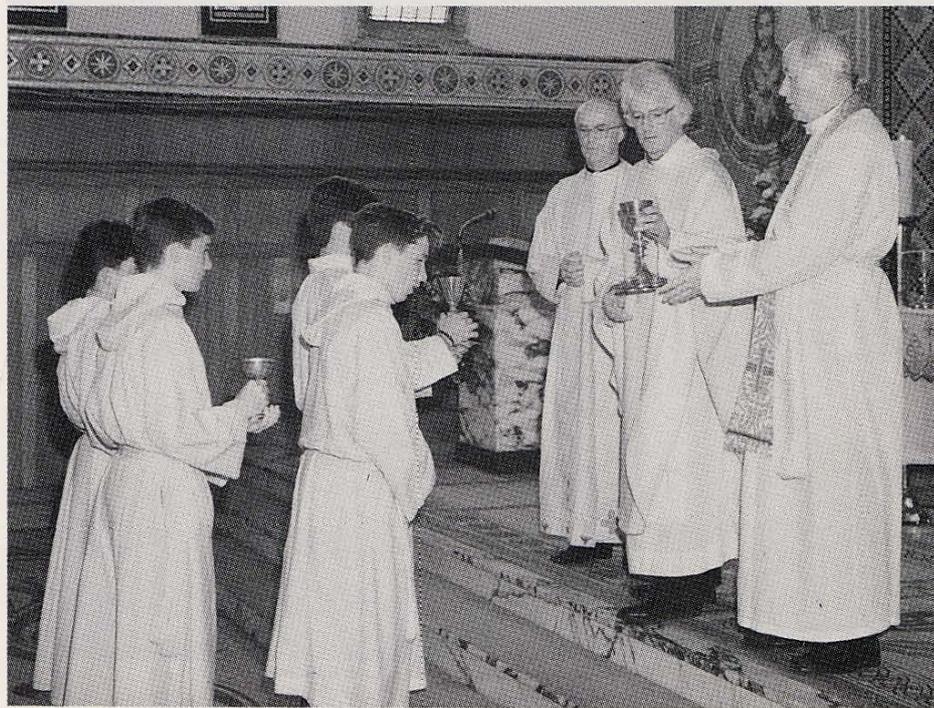
On May 10, 1990, the President's Cup Golf Outing took place as usual in Milltown G.C. It was only a coincidence that the winner was the next year's Union President, Dan Coveney, and that the runner-up was his brother, Brian. It was a well attended outing with over 100 players, so the competition was keen. Unfortunately, only 69 of these stayed on for the meal and the prize-giving. It was decided later that in future, the prize-winners would be from those attending the dinner. However, the day was a financial success as well as being most enjoyable. John Parry of AIB Finance & Leasing generously sponsored the prizes.

St Mary's LTC

In the Centenary Year the Club played its part in the festivities by organising an American Tournament in May 1990, which was attended by the College President, Fr Hugh O'Reilly. The Club was represented on the Centenary Committee by past student, Nigel Bennett.

A Special Centenary Mass

On September 8, 1990, the 100th birthday of the College, a Concelebrated High Mass took place in the College Chapel. The chief Celebrant was past-student, Very Rev. Brian McLaughlin, Provincial Superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Ireland. The Superior General was represented by Fr Michael Doyle, First Assistant in Rome. The concelebrants were the Community and representatives from the other Spiritan Communities in Ireland. Also invited were the Staffs of both Senior and Junior Schools and the Centenary Committee. In the course of his homily, Fr McLaughlin, said:



Fr. B. McLaughlin, Provincial, with Fr. J. McNulty, President, Fr. S. O'Shaughnessy, Vice-President, receiving the gifts at the Centenary Mass, September 1990, in College Chapel.

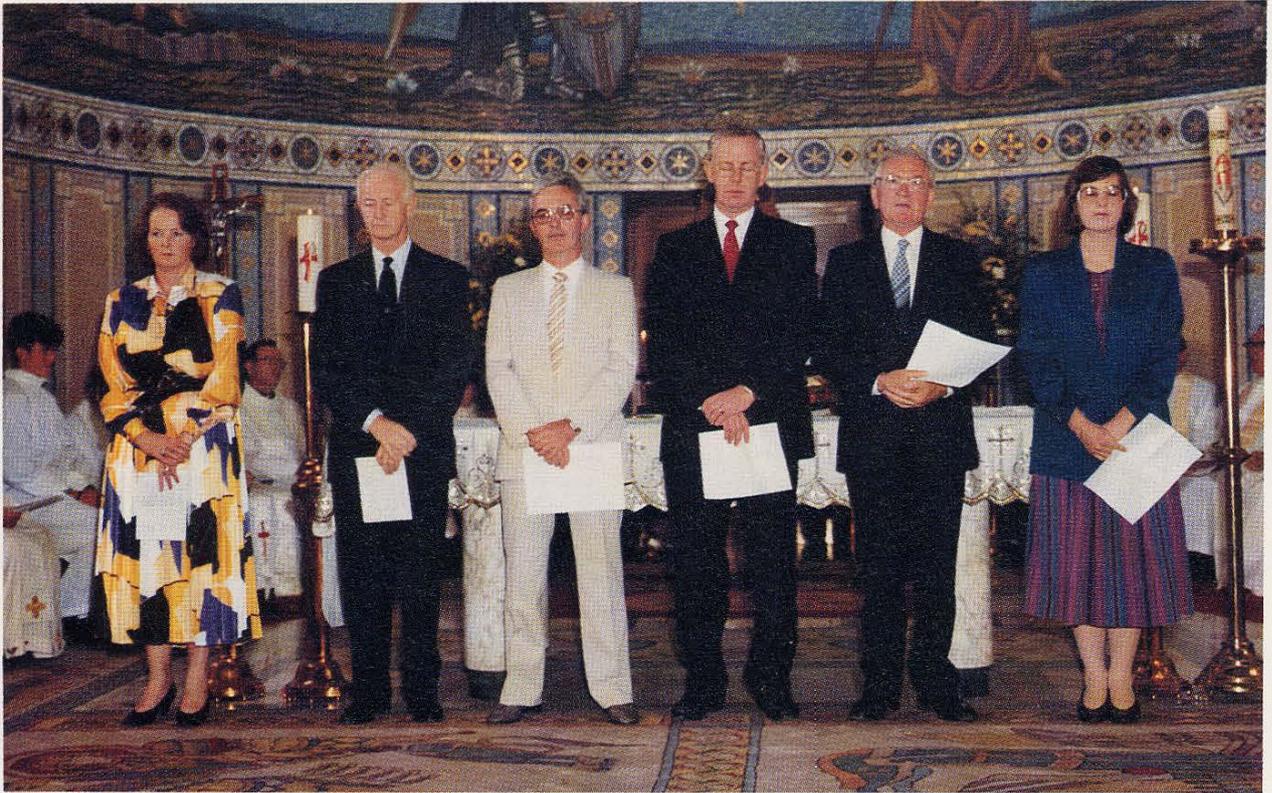


*Assembled Holy Ghost Fathers at the special Centenary Mass
in the College Chapel, September 1990.*

Today we celebrate two extremely important birthdays – Our Lady's and the birthday of St Mary's College and Community, because it was on this day, September 8, in 1890, that the first thirty-four boys registered here in St Mary's. . . Our principal feeling today must be one of thankfulness – thankfulness that St Mary's was born and came into being one hundred years ago and thankfulness that it now begins another year of life.

It is fitting that the members of the St Mary's Community should invite other Holy Ghost communities to celebrate this day with them because it is very much a Congregation day. . . It is also appropriate that the community in St Mary's have also invited to share this special day the members of the teaching staff and, in this special year, the members of the Centenary Committee.

It is on a day like this that the members of the Holy Ghost Congregation



Mrs. Wall, Prof. MacCormac, Mr. B. Strahan, Mr. E. Fitzgerald, Pól Uasal MacMurchú, Mrs. McCabill, readers at the Centenary Mass in College Chapel.

have a particular sense of the motto of the congregation, *Cor Unum et Anima Una*, – One Heart and One Soul. I wish that the family of St Mary's – the staff, religious and lay, past pupils and present, would live out in practice, through their co-operation with one another, through their friendship, one heart and one soul as the school begins its one hundred and first year and a new decade.

The Centenary Celebration Concert

One of the final events of the year-long celebrations was a Gala Concert in the National Concert Hall on September 23, 1990. Mr Anthony Byrne (Piano/Musical Director), Mr Alan Smale, RTE (Violin), Ms Carolann Lowe (Soprano) and Mr Frank Dunne (Tenor) were the principal artistes, while Special Guest-Artistes were four St Mary's past students, Philip Martin (Composer/Pianist), Ulick O'Connor (Poet/Playwright), Neil O'Shea RTE (Narrator/Presenter) and Niall Toner (Entertainer). The Concert was devised and directed by Paddy Funge with the assistance of Liam Birkett.

Anthony Byrne and Alan Smale combined in Elgar's *Salut d'amour*, Kreisler's *Praeludium und Allegro*, Beethoven's *Sonata in A minor*, Kreisler's *Liebeslied*, and T. C. Kelly's *The Lark in the Clear Air*. Carolann Lowe sang *Wee Hughie* by John Larchet; Schubert's *Liebhaber In allen Gestalten*; an aria from Menotti's *The Consul*; and *The Jewel Song* from *Faust*. Frank Dunne sang Arthur Sullivan's *Once Again*; *Take a pair of Sparkling Eyes* from *The Gondoliers*; *Roses of Picardy* by Haydn Wood; Donizetti's *Una Furtiva Lagrima*. Carolann and Frank combined in *Leave me not to pine* from *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Brindisi* from *La Traviata*. Ulick O'Connor entertained with his reminiscences of St Mary's and literary figures of the Dublin scene. Niall Toner sang some of his favourite country-music ballads to his own guitar accompaniment.

Pianist/composer Philip Martin gave a programme of Chopin and Debussy and one of his own compositions, variations on *Tabhair dom do lámh*. Finally, the entire company joined in Thomas Arne's *The Lass with the delicate air*, and *The Voices of Spring* by Strauss.

Centenary Dinner Dance

The final event of the Centenary was the Dinner Dance held in the Burlington Hotel on October 26, 1990, to raise funds for the Centenary Committee, which had chosen a new Science Laboratory for the school as their objective. Over 500 people attended and had a most enjoyable evening. It was a fitting and lucrative ending to magnificent celebrations.



The College Crest woven by Mr. J. Field