



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2025

FOR THE CHARITIES COMMISSION OF
NORTHERN IRELAND



**NMA IS DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION
OF THE HISTORY OF THE PORT OF NEWRY**

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NIC 100431

COMPILED BY JAMES MC AREVEY.

Our Cover Photo



This surreal image of forked lightning above the iconic Haulbowline Lighthouse at the mouth of Carlingford Lough comes from, "Photography by Ann Bruen".

Ann, the highly acclaimed photographer from the picturesque village of Omeath, shot this "Once in a lifetime image" from the shore at Ballagan, Co. Louth on the evening of Monday 8th September 2025.

Her striking image was nominated as "Photo of the Week" in "Amateur Photographer Magazine" in early October, a well deserved accolade for this highly talented young woman.

**Understated as ever, Ann commented,
"Don't believe I will ever be lucky enough to capture a
lightning shot above Haulbowline like this again.
Right place, Right time,
Bucket List Shot"**





Chairpersons Foreword

And so another year has passed and once again NMA has acknowledged significant events and individuals from our rich tapestry of maritime heritage. We have also contributed to stakeholder groups connected to strategic projects proposed for Newry.

At times this has been a frustrating process, with little visible progress, as in the development of a Park at the Albert Basin. This project was passed by the full Council in October 2017 and over 8 years later there is no tangible progress. A willingness to proceed is hard to detect from the Council especially when aligned with the progression of the so called "Civic Centre"

The latter scheme has been robustly opposed by Ratepayers, Traders and the local clergy who presented a petition with the signatures of 2,600 parishioners protesting against this madness. The will of the people is clearly being ignored by officials and Councillors alike but we will continue to advocate for the people of Newry highlighting what they are demanding, Build the Park now !!!

And clearly, what they are opposed to, an unwanted, unneeded, financial millstone in the form of a "Vanity Project" behind our magnificent Newry Cathedral. Our Council currently is running at a deficit of £68 millions and they wish to create even more debt !!!

We have also worked tirelessly, establishing links in Bolton and Birmingham, to have a working group set up to promote the tourism and recreational potential of the Newry Inland Canal and this has been set up in recent months. Our Treasurer, Helena Young, gives more detail in an article in this Report.

The final stage of the Greenway between Victoria Lock and the Border was opened on Thursday 10th July and has been very well received and subscribed to. NMA has been involved in the Greenway scheme since the inception of the project in 2012 and we are very proud of our contribution to the successful transition of a vision to reality. We were pleased to renew our friendship Mr Eamon Mc Manus, now retired, who was the original driver of this innovative recreational development.

Sadly, Fisher Park featured in the press this year for all the wrong reasons. Foreign nationals were living illegally in tents there for over a year culminating in the murder of a man in June. Despite our best efforts, the Council failed to evict them and yet this happened very swiftly following the tragedy. We are now actively engaged with Council officials in having this little oasis restored to the Public Realm and hope to see it reopened early next year.

I look forward to another successful year ahead for NMA as we continue the preservation and active promotion of our maritime heritage, and particularly thank our Corporate Members for their continued support, which enables the delivery of our projects.

**James Mc Arevey,
Chairperson,
January 2026.**



80th Birthday Celebrations for Fr. Pat Tumilty O.P Canal Court Hotel, Newry. Monday 10th March, 2025.



We were pleased to be amongst the guests invited to the Canal Court Hotel to celebrate the 80th birthday of Fr. Pat Tumilty O.P. Fr. Pat, who is a native of Dromalane, has been assigned to the Newry Dominican Community since 2020 and is now virtually retired. We were pleased to be joined on the day by the Provincial of the Irish Dominican Province, Fr John Harris.

Colleagues of Fr. T, clerical and secular, joined in the party as well as his siblings, Sally, Martin and Ann and members of the extended family circle. Fr. Tumilty has officiated many of our events over the years and we were very pleased to make a presentation to him as a token of our appreciation as well as conveying Happy Birthday wishes to him. Here is to many more ,Fr. T.





80th Birthday Celebrations for Fr. Pat Tumilty O.P Canal Court Hotel, Newry. Monday 10th March, 2025.



St. Patricks Day Parade, Newry. Monday 17th March 2025.



Once again were pleased to participate in the Annual Parade hosted by our local Council.

For many years now, we have also organised transport for Camlough Brass and Reed Band around the route, courtesy of our Corporate Member, **SUREFREIGHT**. The band have supported many of our events in the past and it is nice to be able to assist them in some small way.

Long time SUREFREIGHT driver, Neil Weir, was once again entrusted with the task and his immaculately presented Scania certainly turned heads along the way.

Sadly, we lost 2 musical stalwarts this year. In June, Kevin Dinsmore passed away and this was followed in September with the death of a life long member, Frank Mc Cabe. May Kevin and Frank rest in peace.





Fr. Norbert Barry O.P

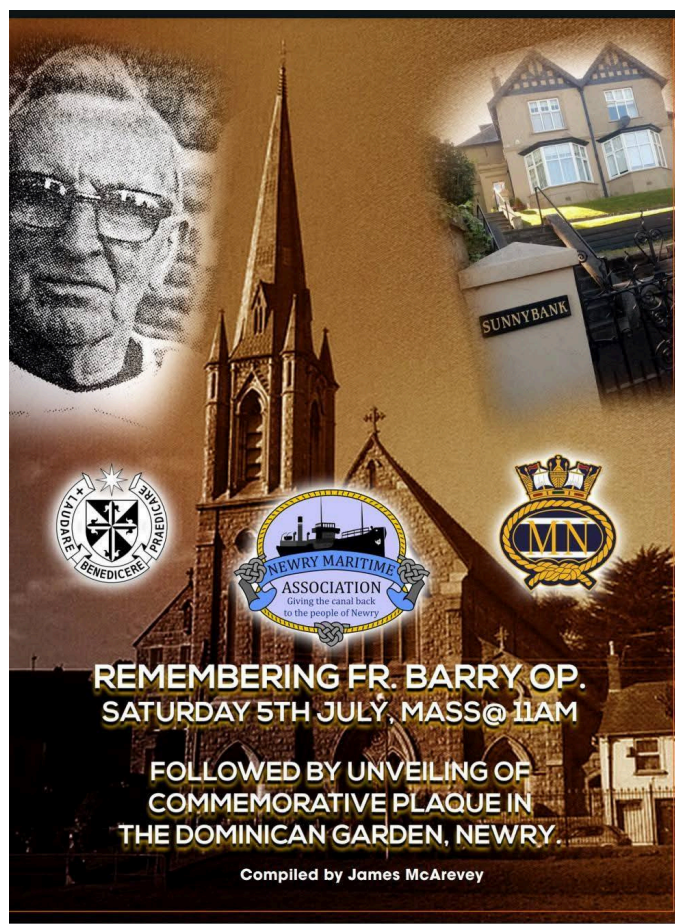
Tribute Event.

Saturday 5th July 2025.

On a lovely Summer Saturday we paid tribute to the legendary Fr. Barry with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in the Dominican garden. The unveiling was carried out by The Prior, Fr. Patrick Desmond O.P, a native of Cork, and he was joined by the previous incumbent, Fr. David Tohill O.P, who is now assigned to Dundalk Priory.

Our event was well attended, reflecting the popularity of this Newry priest who served an incredible ministry of 72 years!!! This was our first "Big Ticket" event of the year and reflected a lot of hard work and research and we are indebted to Maud Hamill and Chris Cassidy for their ongoing help and support.

The presence of Kathy Mc Caughey and the Choir Studio and their beautiful musical contribution added greatly to the integrity of the occasion. Kathy and the girls are always on hand to support, not just us, but our entire community and their fundraising for good causes is legendary. To date, "The Choir Studio" have raised an incredible £85,000 for local charities!!! THANK YOU LADIES.



Newry Maritime Association
Newry, Co. Down

newrymaritimeassociation@gmail.com
T: 078 5652 0029

Fr. Norbert Barry O.P Tribute Event. Saturday 5th July 2025.



Photos by: Maud Hamill



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Fr. Norbert Barry O.P Tribute Event. Saturday 5th July 2025.

Photos by: Maud Hamill

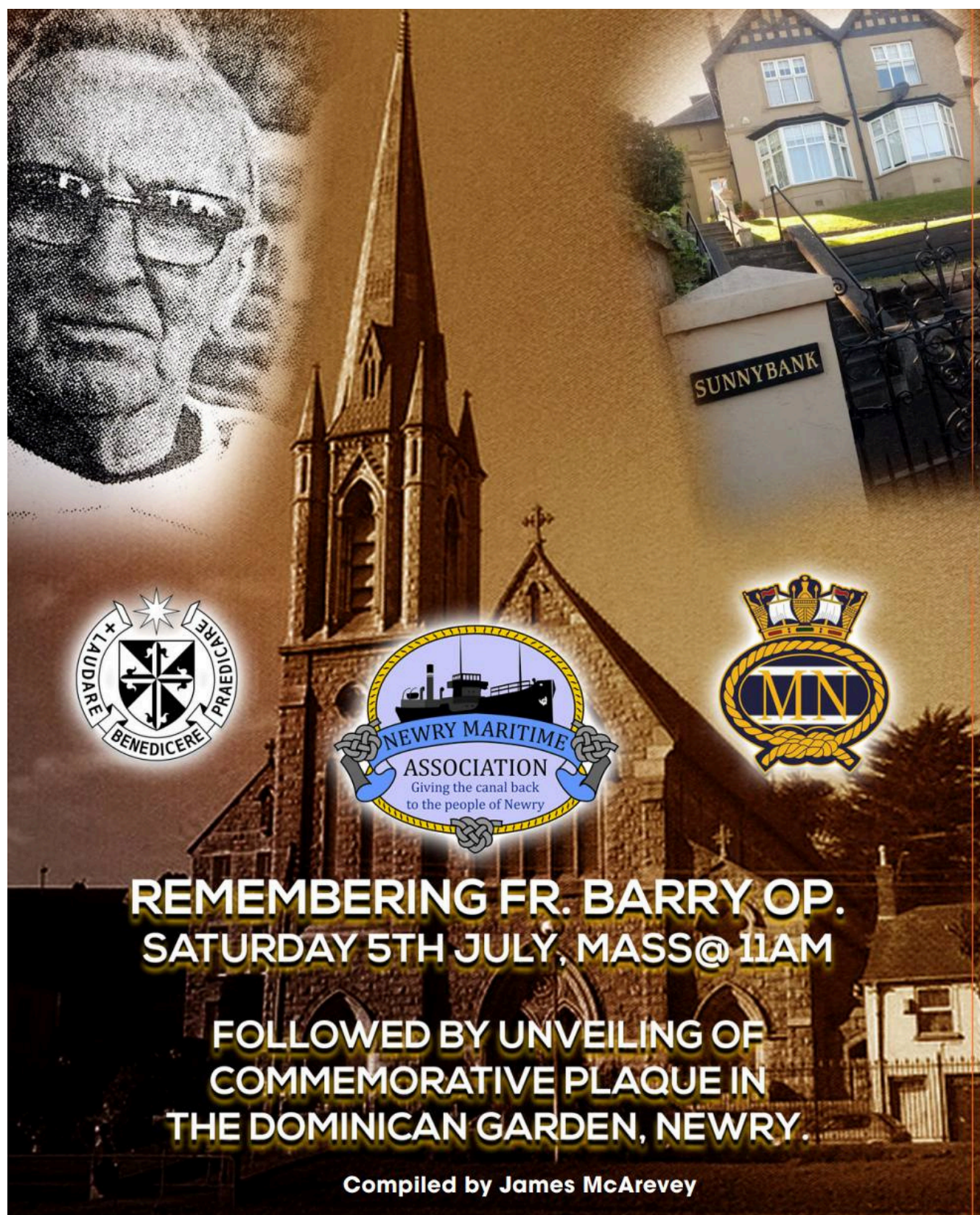


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Fr. Barry leaflet

We reprint the leaflet which we published for the event.



REMEMBERING FR. BARRY OP.
SATURDAY 5TH JULY, MASS@ 11AM

**FOLLOWED BY UNVEILING OF
COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE IN
THE DOMINICAN GARDEN, NEWRY.**

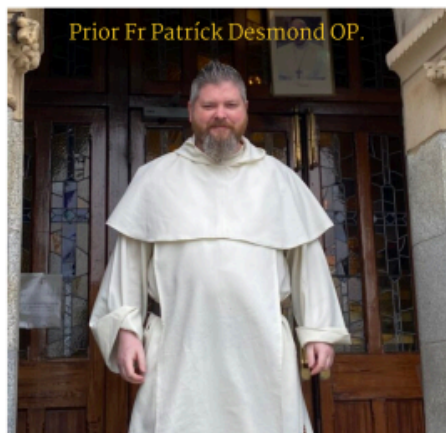
Compiled by James McArevey

Remembering Fr Norbert Barry OP.



All at NMA wish to sincerely thank the Prior and his Confreres for their engagement in this project. Special thanks to Fr. Noel Mc Keown and Fr. Pat Tumilty for their help with research and background information.

Our Dominican community in St. Catherines Newry are,
Prior Fr Patr  ck Desmond OP.
Sub Prior Fr Donal Mehigan OP.
Librarian/Archivist Fr Noel Mc Keown OP.
Fr Pat Tumilty OP.
Fr Adrian Farrelly OP.
Secretary/Bursar Fr. Ruaidhr   Grieve OP.



We extend our best wishes and hearty congratulations to Fr. Pat Tumilty who today is celebrating the 55th anniversary of his ordination in Dublin on 5th July 1970. Fr Tumilty is the sole Newry man attached to the Irish Province of the order whilst Fr David Rocks is attached to the English Province. **Congratulations, Fr T.**

Remembering Fr Norbert Barry OP.

In The Beginning.....James and Margaret.

The Port of Newry is acknowledged as a key driver in the good fortunes and development of our town and particularly after the completion of the Newry Inland Canal in 1742.

The original stretch of the Ship Canal was built from Newry to Lower Fathom in 1767 at the behest of the merchants of Newry who wanted access to deeper water and hence, larger ships.

Between 1842 and 1850 the final stretch of the Canal was constructed along with Victoria Lock and the Albert Basin giving us the present day infrastructure.

The importance of Newry as a port is further highlighted by the fact that Haulbowline Lighthouse, at the mouth of Carlingford Lough, was commissioned as the result of a strong lobby by Newry shippers and traders to the Ballast Board in Dublin.

With the opening of the lighthouse in September 1824 the safety of ships navigating the dangerous approach to the Lough was greatly improved. The busy port sustained very many families over generations, providing much needed employment both landside and at sea.

Research into the family background of the late Fr Norbert Barry clearly illustrates that his was one such family.

James Mc Veigh, his maternal Grandfather, was a young sailor from the townland of Fathom, famed for its cohorts of accomplished seafarers who have a special niche in the annals of our maritime history.

On 28th February 1865 he married Margaret Byrne, a farmer's daughter from neighbouring Cloughogue, in St. Josephs Chapel, Meigh.

Handwritten marriage record from 1865. The document is a form with columns for names, ages, and other details. It is signed by the Superintendent Registrar and the witnesses. The names of the couple are James Mc Veigh and Margaret Byrne. The date is 28th February 1865. The location is St. Josephs Chapel, Meigh.

He was aged 22 and his bride was just 19. The young couple initially set up home in Queen Street Newry, moving to Mill Street and then to William Street, a thriving commercial hub, where they had a Temperance Hotel.

Their marriage produced 6 children, 2 boys and 4 girls, and James (jnr), like his Father, answered the call of the sea.

Around 1888, a young seaman from Cork took up lodgings with the family.

Matthew Francis Barry, known as Frank, had begun his seafaring career with an old established firm, Walmsley's of Liverpool.

He later came to Newry and secured employment with the Newry Salt Company as a seaman.

James Mc Veigh (snr) was now the Harbour Master of Newry Port, appointed in 1874, and sadly died from Pneumonia on 20th February 1890 aged just 47.

His death certificate records that Frank Barry was present at the time of death.

Handwritten death certificate record for James Mc Veigh. The document is a form with columns for names, ages, and other details. It is signed by the Registrar and the witnesses. The name of the deceased is James Mc Veigh. The date is 20th February 1890. The location is Newry.

His son, James a foreign going seaman, succeeded him as Harbour Master and retired on medical grounds in 1933.

Sadly, he died on 5th December 1935 at his residence, No 6 Bridge Street.

Margaret carried on in business following her husband's death, running the boarding house in William Street and a public house just around the corner at 5 Needham Place.

She died on 3rd September 1917 in Bridge Street aged 71.

Handwritten death certificate record for Margaret Byrne. The document is a form with columns for names, ages, and other details. It is signed by the Registrar and the witnesses. The name of the deceased is Margaret Byrne. The date is 3rd September 1917. The location is Bridge Street, Newry.

The Next Generation.

Frank and Catherine.

Following the death of James Mc Veigh (snr) , Frank Barry remained as a lodger with the family. Career wise he was making quite an impression with the Newry Salt Company as a result of his diligence and skilful seamanship. By the mid 1880s he was Captain of one of their steamers and recognised as a leading Master Mariner in the Port.

Romance was also blossoming for Frank in William Street and he began a relationship with Catherine Mc Veigh, the second of four girls in the family. Captain Barry married his sweetheart, a newly qualified teacher, in The Star Of The Sea Chapel, Rostrevor on 5th November 1896. As can be seen from the marriage certificate, **she signed as "Kate " Mc Veigh and her elder siblings, James and Annie, were witnesses.**

The future looked bright and promising for this young professional couple who started their married life in William Street before moving to Avoca House on the Dublin Road.



In 1898 Captain Barry took up a new position with the Clanrye Steamship Company of Newry in what would have been regarded as a promotion in recognition of the ability of this high flying young officer.

In April 1900 he was appointed Captain of a new build steamer for the company, "SS Kilbroney". The vessel was built by Irvine Shipbuilders in Ayr and loaded a cargo of coal in Ardrossan for Newry. Captain Barry set off on her maiden voyage on 15th April 1900 and some hours into the journey the ship began to list and as the coal shifted the list got worse. Being the experienced seaman he was, Frank Barry realised the situation was hopeless and just off St Johns Point Co Down, he gave the order to abandon ship. The men took to the lifeboats and shortly afterwards, "SS Kilbroney "sank.

At a subsequent Board of Trade inquiry in Dublin on 31st May 1900 the Captain and crew were fully exonerated and the Board found liability with the builders owing to poor stability of the ship. By this stage the Barrys had 2 children, Leilia (1898) and William (1900) and these were followed by James, Francis, Kathleen, Irene and Bertrand in 1911.



House Flag of Clanrye Steam Ship Co, Newry

The Next Generation.

Frank and Catherine.

Frank Barry continued in his employment with Clanrye and in 1906 he was once again given command of a new build vessel. "SS Retriever" was the flagship of the fleet and at 483 tons was one of the largest steamers coming into Newry Port.

The ship was built by Ailsa Shipbuilders of Troon and was launched on 18th August 1906. Throughout his years as Master of the "Retriever" Frank was accompanied by Paddy O'Neill as Mate, a very experienced mariner from The Ballagh, outside Newcastle. Frank was certainly on an upward trajectory and in 1903 himself and Kate set about building 2 prestigious villas on the Dublin Road.

These were completed in 1905 and the enterprising couple advertised them, initially for rent, and then for sale. At the time they were living at Avoca House on the Dublin Road.

By this time the Barrys were a comfortable middle class family living in suburbia assisted by a servant, Mary Griffin, from Glen Hill. By a cruel twist of fate, beyond their control, their lives were irreversibly shattered on 31st August 1912.

On Thursday 30th August Frank Barry navigated Narrow Water for the last time as he sailed the "SS Retriever" to Garston for a cargo of coal, a routine trip that he had undertaken countless times previously.

TWO SEMI-DETACHED
VILLA RESIDENCES
WITH BUILDING GROUND
Suitable for the Erection of four SINGLE
VILLAS,
FOR SALE.

TO BE SOLD BY
PUBLIC AUCTION,
In the COMMERCIAL NEWS-ROOM,
NEWRY,
On FRIDAY, 21st JUNE, 1907,
At the hour of ONE o'clock p.m.,

ALL THAT PLOT OF GROUND, the property of CAPTAIN MATTHEW F. BARRY, situate on the Dublin Road, Newry, containing a frontage of 208 feet, and upon a portion of which there are built two beautiful 4 semi-Detached Villa Residences. The entire Plot, with the Buildings thereon, is held under Lease dated 6th October, 1902, for a term of 999 years from the 1st May, 19 2, and subject to the Yearly Head Rent of £20 16s 0d.

The two Villas, which have recently been erected, are of most modern design and structure, and are let to the following tenants:—

Villa No. 1, W. R. BELL, Esq.,	Yearly Rent, ..	£45 0 0
Villa No. 2, FREDK. FERNIS, Esq.,	Yearly Rent, ..	£45 0 0
Total Rents received from the two Villas now erected.		£90 0 0

There is ample space for the building of four additional Single Villas, and owing to the excellent position and the increasing popularity of the Dublin Road for Residential Houses, no difficulty is anticipated in obtaining good tenants.

The entire Plot, with the two Villas thereon will be offered for Sale as one lot; but if not sold the Premises will be offered for Sale (by way of Sublease) in five Lots as follows:—

LOT 1. Upon which the two Villas already named are erected, subject to an Annual Rent of £12.

LOT 2. Suitable for the erection of a Single Villa, subject to an Annual Rent of £5.

LOT 3. Suitable for the erection of a Single Villa, subject to an Annual Rent of £5.

LOT 4. Suitable for the erection of a Single Villa, subject to an Annual Rent of £5.

LOT 5. Suitable for the erection of a Single Villa, subject to an Annual Rent of £3 16s 0d.

Intending Purchasers can inspect the Map of the entire Plot, or of the separate Lots, at the Office of the undersigned Solicitors.

For further particulars as to Title, Conditions of Sale, &c., apply to

Garston was the main port of export for the Lancashire coalfields and as many as 20 steamers could depart on a tide for Irish ports. Loading of the vessel completed at 10pm on Friday night the Mate, Paddy O'Neill, went to the Captains cabin and informed him. "Well, we may as well make a start" replied the Captain and minutes later the "Retriever" slipped her moorings in the North Dock and Captain Barry cautiously navigated through the busy port. Suddenly, the ship veered out of control and collided with an incoming Spanish coaster, "SS Lista" and the latter sank in the dock within minutes without fatalities.

The crew of "Retriever" ran to the wheelhouse to find Captain Barry lying dead beside the wheel. An inquest in Liverpool on Monday 2nd September found that Captain Barry had died from an aneurism.

His body was taken home onboard the Dundalk and Newry Steampacket Company vessel, "SS Iveagh" arriving in Newry early on Tuesday morning. Relays of seamen and dockers carried the Captain to his home on the Dublin Road and the next day he was carried for the whole journey from his home to St Marys Cemetery. Captain Barry was just 45 and now Kate (35) was a widow with 7 children aged from 14 to under a year and more sorrow was to come. Kate was 8 months pregnant with the couples 8th baby when Frank died.

1	James Barry	2	Matthew Barry	3	John Barry	4	William Barry	5	Thomas Barry	6	Charles Barry	7	John Barry	8	William Barry	9	Thomas Barry	10	Charles Barry	11	John Barry	12	William Barry	13	Thomas Barry	14	Charles Barry	15	John Barry	16	William Barry	17	Thomas Barry	18	Charles Barry	19	John Barry	20	William Barry	21	Thomas Barry	22	Charles Barry	23	John Barry	24	William Barry	25	Thomas Barry	26	Charles Barry	27	John Barry	28	William Barry	29	Thomas Barry	30	Charles Barry	31	John Barry	32	William Barry	33	Thomas Barry	34	Charles Barry	35	John Barry	36	William Barry	37	Thomas Barry	38	Charles Barry	39	John Barry	40	William Barry	41	Thomas Barry	42	Charles Barry	43	John Barry	44	William Barry	45	Thomas Barry	46	Charles Barry	47	John Barry	48	William Barry	49	Thomas Barry	50	Charles Barry	51	John Barry	52	William Barry	53	Thomas Barry	54	Charles Barry	55	John Barry	56	William Barry	57	Thomas Barry	58	Charles Barry	59	John Barry	60	William Barry	61	Thomas Barry	62	Charles Barry	63	John Barry	64	William Barry	65	Thomas Barry	66	Charles Barry	67	John Barry	68	William Barry	69	Thomas Barry	70	Charles Barry	71	John Barry	72	William Barry	73	Thomas Barry	74	Charles Barry	75	John Barry	76	William Barry	77	Thomas Barry	78	Charles Barry	79	John Barry	80	William Barry	81	Thomas Barry	82	Charles Barry	83	John Barry	84	William Barry	85	Thomas Barry	86	Charles Barry	87	John Barry	88	William Barry	89	Thomas Barry	90	Charles Barry	91	John Barry	92	William Barry	93	Thomas Barry	94	Charles Barry	95	John Barry	96	William Barry	97	Thomas Barry	98	Charles Barry	99	John Barry	100	William Barry
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The baby, christened Frances Josephine, was born in Avoca House on 23rd December 1912. The little baby faced challenges and to compound her Mothers already devastating grief, passed away in May 1913. Today our focus is on her second born child who is very fondly remembered in Newry and further afield.

Fr Norbert Barry OP.

1900 / 1997.

William Gerard Barry was born in William Street, Newry on 24th May 1900, his older sibling, Leilia, having been born in 1898.



Young William attended St Josephs convent school in Edward Street and became an altar boy in St Catherines. His secondary level of education was delivered at St Colman's College Newry before entering the Dominican college in Newbridge, Co Kildare in 1917, a location that would play a key role in his clerical career. It was during his time at Newbridge he succumbed to the Spanish Flu Pandemic and became very ill. A young neighbour and Dominican priest, Fr. Antonious Hanratty, died in Cork from the malaise but thankfully, young William survived and in 1918 took the Habit at Tallaght.

In Tallaght, William was given the religious name, Norbert, and was ordained at Clonliffe College, Dublin on Saturday 20th December 1924. He celebrated his first Mass in St Catherines the next day.....Sunday 21st December. His first posting was to Newbridge College in 1926 where he would spend the next 18 years serving as Dean, Teacher of Christian Doctrine and 2 terms as Prior. Norbert certainly a strong impression in Newbridge, a trait of his future ministries, making improvements to the Chapel and buying land adjacent to the college to allow for expansion. He also fostered a strong devotion to Our Lady of Fatima during his long tenure.

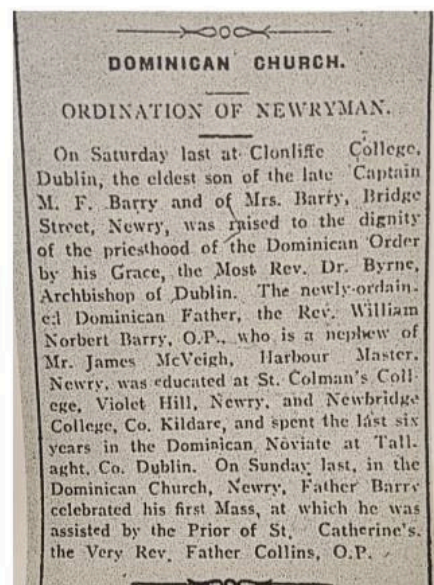
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Fr Barry was bereaved by the loss of his sister, Irene in 1933. Aged just 22, she had been in poor health throughout her short life. His youngest sibling, Bertrand, born in Avoca House Newry followed him into the Dominican order and was ordained in 1935. His religious name was Reginald and he became Vicar General in Trinidad before being assigned to Washington. The Barry family received a hammer blow when Fr Bertie and his brother, James a retired bank official in Cork, both died on the same day, 9th September 1974.

In 1944 Fr Barry was transferred from Newbridge and over the next 16 months he served in Drogheda, Cork and Galway proving himself to be a very capable administrator and Pastor.

The Provincial assigned Fr Barry to Waterford as Prior in 1946 and he remained in post there until 1953 and once again he channelled his energies into improving the chapel and blending into the community.

He proved to be very popular in Waterford and the parishioners were saddened in 1953 when Fr Barry was moved, again as Prior, To St. Magdalene's Drogheda. Once again his boundless energy was manifested in the improvements he made to the Church and Priory, including the building of a private oratory for the Brothers. After a double term as Prior in Drogheda and 35 years since his ordination, "Wee Fr Barry" was finally assigned to his beloved St Catherines in his native Newry in 1959. Sadly his homecoming was tinged with sadness as his Mother, the Matriarch of the family, passed away in May 1959 and Norbert officiated her funeral.



Fr Norbert Barry OP.

1900 / 1997.

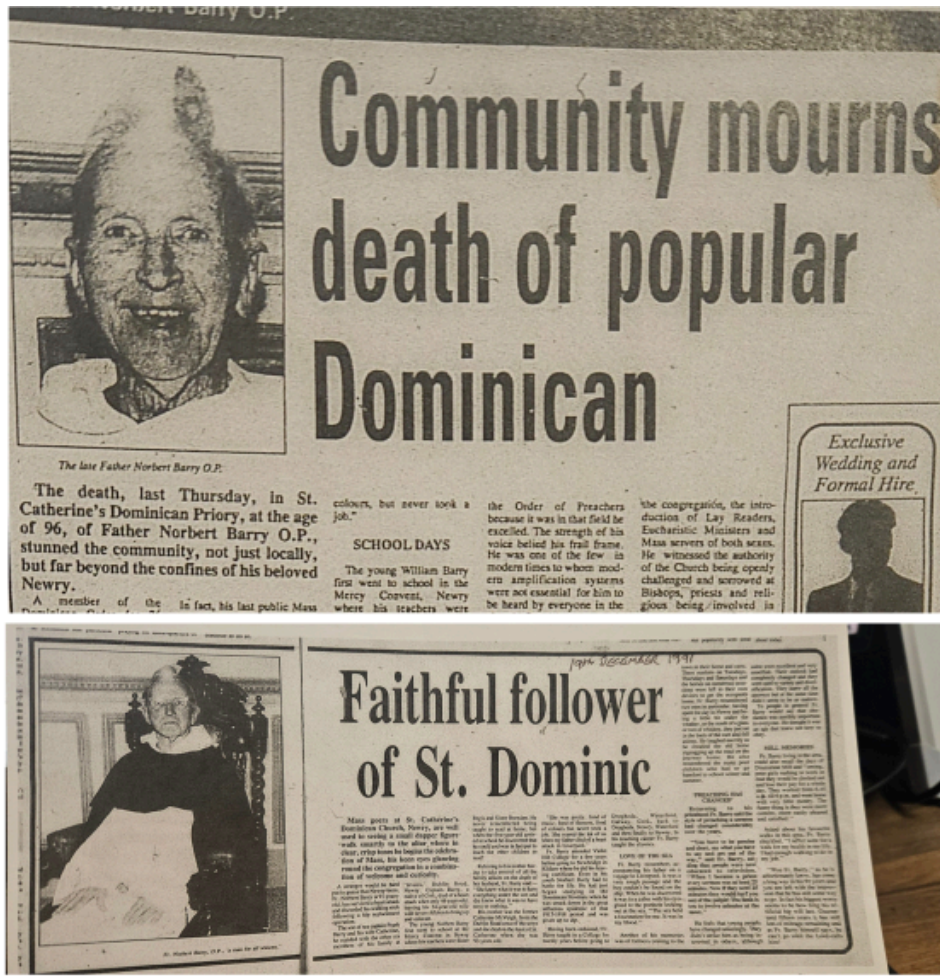


The following year, 1960, he was appointed as Prior of St Catherines for a 3 year term, the first Newry man to hold the position.

Once again his hands on industrious approach came to the fore and major improvements were made to St Catherines. He also promoted devotion to the then Blessed Martin De Porres and whose canonization he lived to see. A lasting legacy of his time as Prior is the beautiful shrine to St Martin which he commissioned in 1962.

In 1963 Fr Barry was on the move yet again. This time it was a return to Waterford where he served as a member of the community there for a 5 year term. In 1968 Fr Barry received his final assignation, a return to Newry and St Catherines.

He had now ministered for 44 years since his ordination and there was more to come, a lot more!!! At a Mass to celebrate his 90th birthday he famously stated that older members of the Province should not be put out to "Roost or Rust" and neither could be attributed to him.



Fr Norbert Barry passed away on Thursday 16th January 1997 in the Priory in Newry after 72 years and one month as a priest. With his passing many links to the past were cut also. There had been transformative changes in Newry during his lifetime. The port, railways, mills, tanneries and traditional lines of employment had disappeared. A new road had seen the heart of old Newry ripped away, including the street where he was born.

Ireland had been partitioned and he witnessed the worst years of "The Troubles" during his long final sojourn in Newry.

At his funeral Mass in St Catherine's, The Provincial of the Irish Province of the Dominican Order, Fr Larry Collins OP described Fr Barry as "A true follower of St Dominic" and concluded his remarks by stating, "We will never see his like again"

Thank You.

I wish to record sincere thanks to my very good friends, Maud Hamill a noted historian and genealogist, and Chris Cassidy Heritage Officer at Newry City Library for their support and guidance with this project. A big thank you also to Kathy Mc Caughey and The Choir Studio who brought an added dimension to our tribute to Fr Barry their inspiring musical contribution.

We are indebted to Moira Mc Court and the ladies in the Dominican Hall for the excellent catering services. Thank you, ladies.

55 Years of Service to God and his Church. Fr. Pat Tumilty O.P Saturday 5th July 2025.



Photos by: Maud Hamill

Following on from our tribute to Fr. Barry in the garden, it was time to adjourn to the Dominican Hall to celebrate the achievements of another Newry man, Fr Pat Tumilty O.P. Fr. T has memories of Fr. Barry from his time as a Mass Server in St. Catherines and he is a man for whom he has the greatest respect. Fr. Tumilty was ordained in Dublin on 5th July 1970, 55 years ago to the day.

The Hall was full of well wishers and Martina and her team of volunteers were ready to dispense their hospitality. We had a specially decorated cake for the occasion and sandwiches from Moira Mc Court were very well received. Being the epitome of humility that he is, Fr, T seemed taken aback by the reception that he received but it was no less than he deserved. Fr. Tumilty has willingly devoted his life to the service of others and the hallmarks of his ministry are, he is non judgemental and he doesn't subscribe to condemnation. His mantra, "The door is always open to everyone" says it all about this quiet, unassuming and humble man.

We wish Fr. Tumilty many more happy years of his well earned retirement.





Newry Maritime Association
Newry, Co .Down

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Bolton Party Visit Newry. Canal Court Hotel.

Monday 4th August / Thursday 7th August 2025.



Martin Donaghy is a Labour councillor in Bolton where he has resided since leaving school and going to England to serve an engineering apprenticeship just over 50 years ago. His brother, Michael, lives there also and both originate from Bessbrook and we are delighted to have them as members of NMA.

In 2004, Martin was elected Mayor of Bolton and he and Michael brought a party from Bolton council over to Newry and the Canal Court Hotel. This has become customary, with the group visiting Newry every year since. This year was no exception and we were pleased to welcome them to Canal Court at the beginning of August. The highlight of their visit was a trip on Newry Canal to Warrenpoint with Cunningham Charters on board their new cruiser, "Sea Quest". The party were really struck by the amazing scenery and commented positively on the huge tourism potential offered by the Canal and its environs. We look forward to extending a warm welcome to the group in 2026.





Remembering the Red Star Ferry. Omeath.

Thursday 14th August 2025.

Photos by: Helena Young



The Red Star passenger ferry service operated across Carlingford Lough between Warrenpoint and Omeath for over a century. The service ceased when the last boatman, Brendan O Neill, retired in 2018.

In August 2023 we held a commemorative event in Warrenpoint at the old pier and we decided to conclude the project with an event in Omeath in tribute to those ferrymen from the village who contributed to the service. The well attended event took place on a beautiful summers evening in August against the magnificent backdrop of a tranquil Lough resplendent in the evening sunshine.

We were pleased to deliver the project in association with Omeath Historical Society and Omeath Tidy Towns. Our plaque was jointly unveiled by Mrs Majella Anderson, whose family were involved in Omeath and Barry "Dollar" Duffy whose Grandfather, Paddy, was the only Newry man to operate a boat in the combine.

Post event hospitality was held in the Strand Hotel and Brendan O Neill facilitated a Q&A session to conclude what was a highly successful evening. We wish to thank Brendan Hardy and the team at M&M Steel Fabrications who kindly donated our plaque stand.

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Congratulations to Pipe Major David Hanna MBE and Altnaveigh Memorial Pipe Band.



Competing at the Worlds Piping Championships in Glasgow,

Saturday 16th AUGUST 2025



The band excelled and obtained 3RD PLACE IN Grade 4A and this was all the more remarkable given that this was the first year that the band had competed at this level. Special, thanks to Pipe Major David Hanna who always facilitates our events whenever possible and we look forward to further projects in the future.

David is pictured receiving the 3rd place trophy after the placement in Glasgow. The hard work is paying dividends and the only way is up.

Congratulations and well done to Altnaveigh Memorial Pipe Band and we wish you continued success in the coming competitive year.

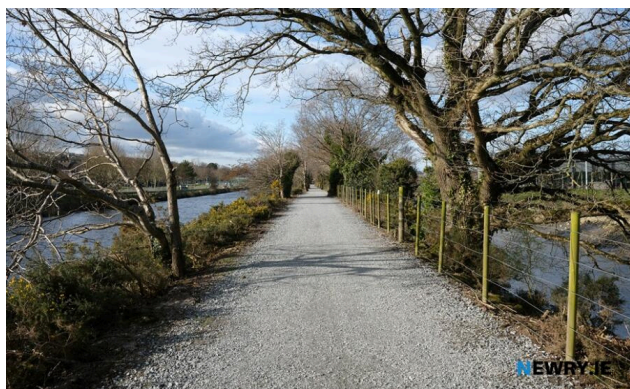
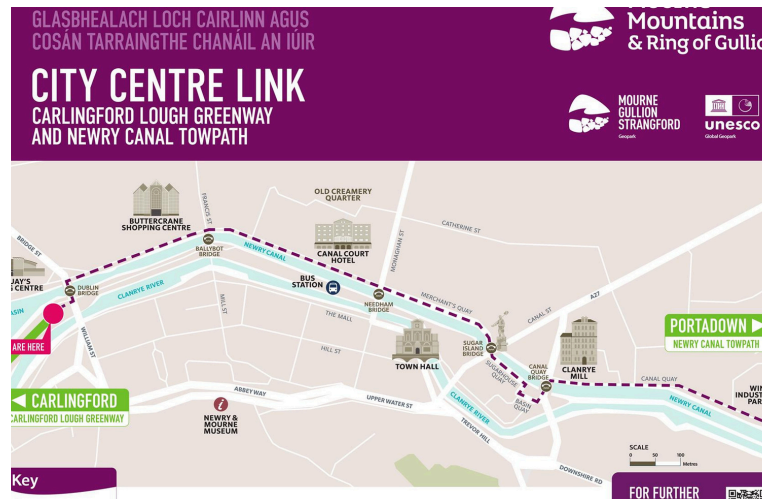
Official opening of the Carlingford Lough Greenway.Omeath, Friday 12th September 2025.



We were pleased to be amongst the invited guests to an event in the village of Omeath to mark the completion of the Carlingford Lough Greenway.

Mainly following the track bed of the old Newry/Greenore Railway, the Greenway offers stunning views across the Lough and Newry River. The well appointed Grand Central Hotel was the venue for the Presentations and hospitality and the hotel is an integral part of the tourism offering of the village.

We were pleased to meet with retired Council officer, Mr Eamon Mc Manus, who spearheaded the Greenway project in Newry back in 2012 and with whom we worked closely. Also in attendance was NMDDC Capital Projects Officer, Mr Seamus Crossey, who was responsible for the delivery of the Northern section from Victoria Lock to the Border.



Tribute to Bishop John
Crawford O.P,
The Square, Warrenpoint.
Saturday 20th September 2025.



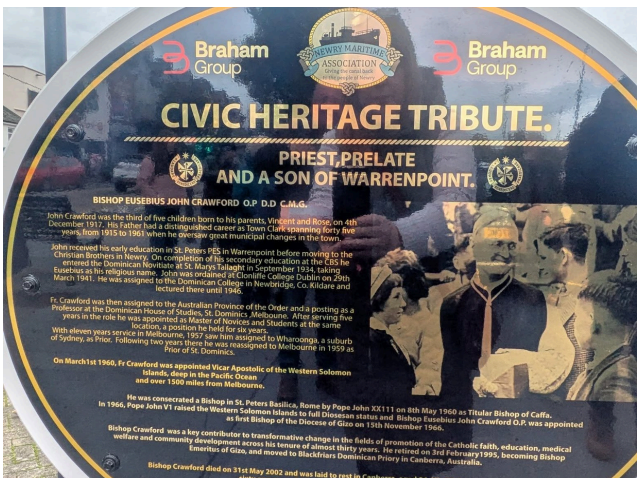
On a very windy Saturday at the end of September we unveiled a commemorative plaque for one of Warrenpoint's most illustrious sons, John Crawford, a member of an old and highly respected family in the town.

John became a Dominican priest and was consecrated a Bishop in 1961 and appointed to the Western Solomon Islands, a post he held until his retirement in 1995. The Prior of St Catherines, Newry, Fr Patrick Desmond O.P, unveiled our plaque for his fellow Dominican.

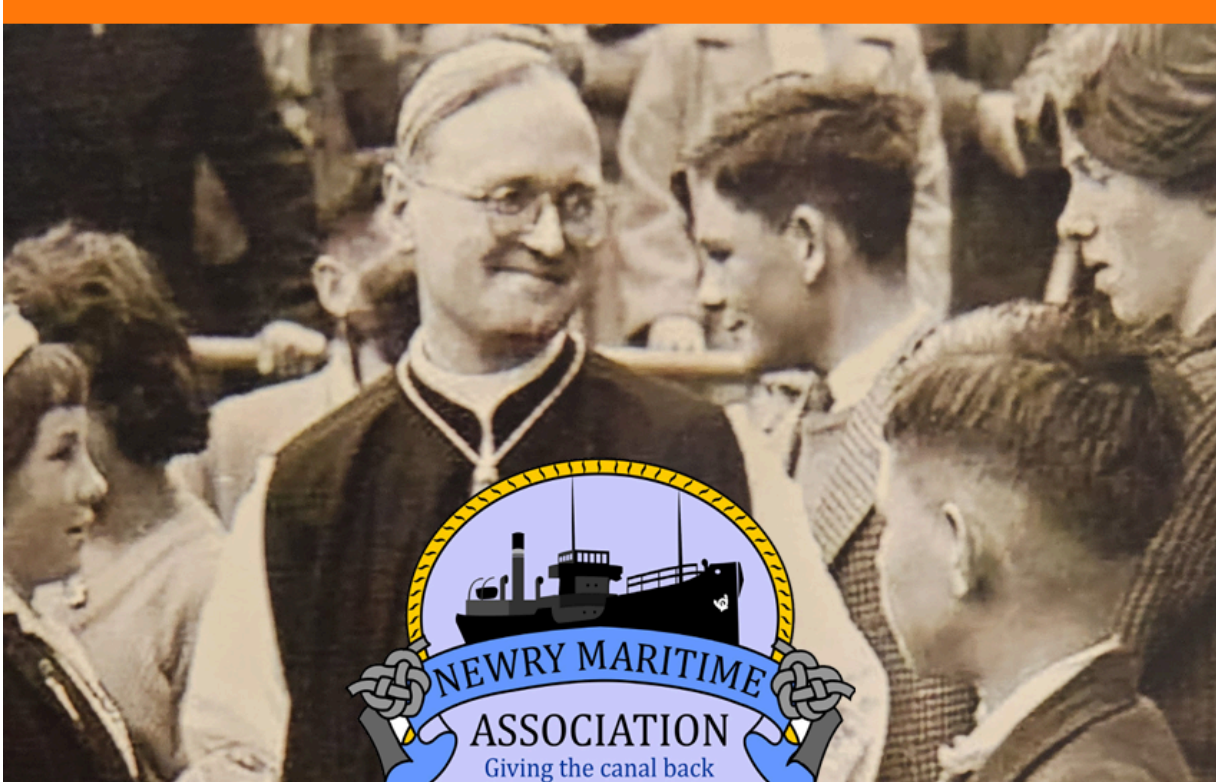
We wish to thank The Braham Group for their very generous sponsorship of this event and also Mr Brendan Hardy and the team in The Posh Pig Bar and Restaurant who very kindly hosted post event hospitality.

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We are pleased to publish the leaflet from the event.



Braham Group

Braham Group

Remembering Bishop Eusebius John Crawford OP. D.D C.M.G.



**PRIEST, PRELATE
AND
A SON OF WARRENPOINT.**



The Square, Warrenpoint. Saturday 20th September 2025.

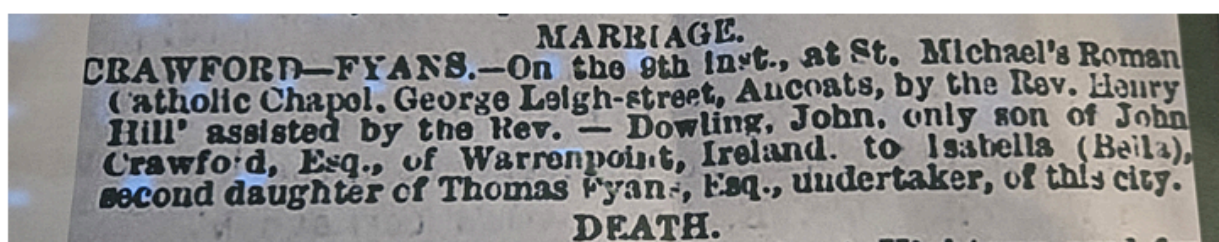
Today we remember, and pay tribute to, a local man from an old established family from Warrenpoint whose religious calling brought him to the opposite side of the world to continue his Ministry. As the first Bishop of Gizo, and a Dominican, he laboured in the Western Solomon Islands for 42 years.

Compiled by James Mc Arevey.

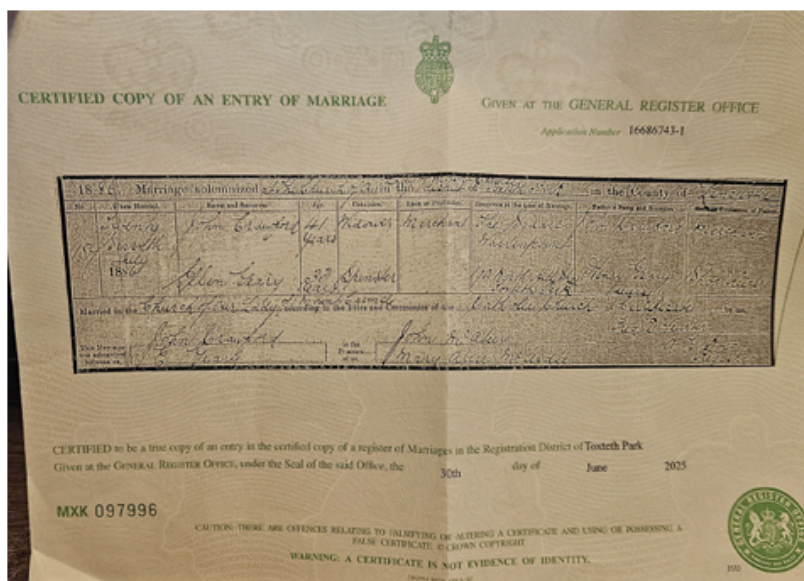
The Crawford Family.

THE CRAWFORDS CAME TO IRELAND FROM LANARKSHIRE, SCOTLAND CIRCA 1770 AND SETTLED IN THE TOWNLAND OF AUGHNAMOIRA WHICH OVERLOOKS THE SALT MARSH OF THE NEWRY RIVER AND LIES OPPOSITE THE TOWNLAND OF FATHOM IN CO. ARMAGH.

Following a tenancy dispute, John Crawford (Great Grandfather of the Bishop) relocated with his family to Warrenpoint in 1824, aged 14. He was apprenticed to Daniel Dougherty, who was a ships chandler in The Square, for a period of 7 years. In later years, John took over the business and expanded it into a vibrant entity.



His son, John, left Warrenpoint to pursue a career in merchandising in Liverpool where he married Isabella Fyans, a daughter of a prominent local undertaker, in St. Michael's RC Church, Ancoats on 9th April 1877. Returning to Warrenpoint they had two children in quick succession. Annie, born 1878, became a nun with the Order of Mercy in Newry. Her sister Elizabeth was born in 1879 and married a doctor in Kenya, Dr. H. L. Henderson. Sadly, their Mother, Isabella, died after an illness on 22nd April 1881 at the age of 32. Romance however blossomed again for this young Irish merchant and on 27th July 1886 he married Ellen Geary in The Church of Our Lady in Toxteth. Ellen was a daughter of Harry Geary, a well known Liverpool shopkeeper. John and Ellen returned to Warrenpoint and John took the reins of the family business in The Square.



MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE FOR JOHN CRAWFORD AND ELLEN GEARY

Their marriage was blessed with 5 children, 4 boys and 1 girl, John Geary, Henry (HJ), Vincent, Margaret and Thomas.

In the census of 1901 all the children are living at home but by 1911, 2 are missing. Henry Joseph (HJ) had emigrated to America whilst Vincent had a teaching post in Scotland. In 1915, Vincent was appointed as Town Clerk for Warrenpoint, a position which he held until his retirement in 1961. John Geary (Jack) became a teacher in St Peter's PE and remained in post for over 40 years. Thomas became a Marconi radio operator with the Merchant Navy and was employed by Harrisons of Liverpool.

SORROW and TRAGEDY.

THE CRAWFORD FAMILY ENDURED AN "ANNUS HORRIBILIS" IN 1926.

Sr Mary (Annie Crawford) died from Meningitis in May 1926 in the Convent of Mercy Newry. She was just 48 years old.

On 9th July Ellen Crawford passed away and just 3 months later her youngest son, Thomas, was killed in a railway accident in Lancashire. He was on leave from his ship and was due to sail for Galveston in Texas a few days later. Thomas was buried in England. On 5th November John Crawford, the family Patriarch, passed away at home aged 81.

In July 1927, Elizabeth Henderson (sister of Annie) died in Kenya and like Annie, she too was 48. Previously, Jack (b 1888) and Vincent (b 1891) had married. Vincent married Rose Kelly from Church St. in the town with the wedding being held at St. Josephs Church, Berkeley Road in Dublin on 7th February 1917. Just 2 years later, Jack followed suit and he too got married in St. Josephs Church. This time the church was in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal and Ellen Gallagher was a local girl. Our focus is now on Vincent Crawford and his wife Rose (known as Rosie) who was the daughter of a retired Liverpool policeman, John Kelly.

Just like his parents, Vincent and Rose had a family of 5 but this time there were 2 boys and 3 girls. Their first child was John who was born on 4th December 1917 and followed by Cherry, Ellen, Margaret and Vincent. Cherry never married and lived at home whilst her sisters embraced married life. Vincent pursued a career in the Irish Army, married and raised his family in Dublin. He retired as GOC Western Command, Irish Army.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Charles Mc Dermott in the Presence of us, Joseph Carroll Josephine Mc Dermott

1917. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Joseph in the Registrar's District of N. City Dublin in the County of Dublin

No. (1)	When Married (2)	Name and Surname (3)	Age (4)	Condition (5)	Rank or Profession (6)	Residence at Time of Marriage (7)	Father's Name and Surname (8)	Rank or Profession of Father (9)
209	February 7th 1917	<u>Vincent Crawford</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Full Butler</u>	<u>The Square</u>	<u>John Crawford</u>	<u>Barber</u>
		<u>Rose Kelly</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>Church St. Warrington</u>	<u>John Kelly</u>	<u>Retired</u>

Married in the Roman Catholic Church of St. Joseph according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by us, John Garry Crawford Mary Kelly

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Vincent Crawford in the Presence of us, John Garry Crawford Mary Kelly

1917. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Joseph in the Registrar's District of N. City Dublin in the County of Dublin

No. (1)	When Married (2)	Name and Surname (3)	Age (4)	Condition (5)	Rank or Profession (6)	Residence at Time of Marriage (7)	Father's Name and Surname (8)	Rank or Profession of Father (9)
		<u>Vincent Crawford</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Full Butler</u>	<u>The Square</u>	<u>John Crawford</u>	<u>Barber</u>
		<u>Rose Kelly</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>Church St. Warrington</u>	<u>John Kelly</u>	<u>Retired</u>

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE OF ROSE AND VINCENT CRAWFORD

1917. Birth of John Crawford O.P. 1917 1917

No. (1)	When Born (2)	Name and Surname (3)	Age (4)	Condition (5)	Rank or Profession (6)	Residence at Time of Birth (7)	Father's Name and Surname (8)	Rank or Profession of Father (9)
21	September 7th 1917	<u>James Henry</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Barber</u>	<u>The Square</u>	<u>John Crawford</u>	<u>Barber</u>
		<u>Cherry</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>Church St. Warrington</u>	<u>John Kelly</u>	<u>Retired</u>
22	September 7th 1917	<u>Cherry</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Barber</u>	<u>The Square</u>	<u>John Crawford</u>	<u>Barber</u>
		<u>Cherry</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>Church St. Warrington</u>	<u>John Kelly</u>	<u>Retired</u>
23	September 7th 1917	<u>Cherry</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Barber</u>	<u>The Square</u>	<u>John Crawford</u>	<u>Barber</u>
		<u>Cherry</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>Church St. Warrington</u>	<u>John Kelly</u>	<u>Retired</u>
24	September 7th 1917	<u>Cherry</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Barber</u>	<u>The Square</u>	<u>John Crawford</u>	<u>Barber</u>
		<u>Cherry</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>Church St. Warrington</u>	<u>John Kelly</u>	<u>Retired</u>
25	September 7th 1917	<u>Cherry</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Barber</u>	<u>The Square</u>	<u>John Crawford</u>	<u>Barber</u>
		<u>Cherry</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>Church St. Warrington</u>	<u>John Kelly</u>	<u>Retired</u>

BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF BISHOP JOHN CRAWFORD, O.P.

A True Follower of St. Dominic. The Ministry of John Crawford.

JOHN CRAWFORD ATTENDED THE LOCAL ST PETERS PE SCHOOL IN WARRENPOINT AND THEN, LIKE JACK, HE WAS A PUPIL OF THE CBS SECONDARY SCHOOL AT THE CAR STANDS, MARGARET SQUARE, NEWRY. PART OF THE UPPER STOREYS OF THIS STRIKING RED BRICK BUILDING ARE STILL INTACT TODAY BUT THE GROUND FLOOR HAS BEEN REDEVELOPED AND OVER A 1/3RD DEMOLISHED.

It was whilst at school in Newry that John became familiar with the Dominican Order with whom the Christian Brothers always had a strong affinity.

This was mainly due to the fact that both communities were drawn from across the island and they shared common ground whereas they wouldn't have had the same familiarity with the Diocesan priests.

In September 1934, John entered St. Marys Novitiate in Tallaght, Dublin to study for the priesthood, taking the religious name Eusebius, and on 29th March 1941 he was ordained a priest at Clonliffe College, Drumcondra, Dublin for the Dominican Order. The following year he obtained a Degree of Lectorate in Sacred Theology and was appointed to Newbridge College in Co Kildare where he lectured for the next 4 years. His prowess for academia had been noted and a decision made to keep him as an educator in the Order rather than deployed on parish work.

In 1946 Fr John Crawford received his next assignment. He was appointed Professor at the Dominican House of Studies at St. Dominics, Melbourne, Australia. Not just a shunt down the road !!! He taught until 1951 when he became Master of Novices and Students. He was accorded a signal honour in 1955 when he was chosen as one of three Dominicans to represent Australia and New Zealand at the General Chapter in Rome.

This was a man going places on an upward trajectory.

John received his next assignment in 1957, a transfer 600 miles North of Melbourne, as Prior of Wharoonga. The Dominicans had established a House of Formation for students entering the Order in this suburb of Sydney in 1948. Around the same time, Cardinal Norman Gilroy the Archbishop of Sydney created the Parish of the Holy Name as a parish of the Archdiocese of Sydney and placed it in the care of the Dominican Order. John Crawford ministered here for 2 years until 1959 when he was recalled to Melbourne as Prior of St Dominics. The man from Warrenpoint had covered a lot of ground in just 18 years and there was a lot more to come !!



Christian Brothers' Schools, Newry.

"Salve Regina"



HINDSIGHT, THEY SAY, IS A WONDERFUL THING AND AS WE LOOK BACK ON THE FORMATIVE YEARS OF THE CAREER OF FR. JOHN CRAWFORD HIS DESTINY WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY HIS SUPERIORS MANY YEARS PREVIOUSLY. JOHN WAS A PAWN TO DELIVER A MUCH BIGGER GAMEPLAN.

There had been talks about introducing the Dominicans to the Solomon Islands since 1937 amid concerns that the Marist Order lacked the capacity to serve all the islands but the outbreak of WW2 in 1937 halted progress. There was a hiatus after the War ended in 1945 and then the subject was broached again but with renewed vigour.

At the invitation of the Holy See, the Dominican Friars entered into partnership with the Dominican Sisters and lay associates in 1954 to open a mission in the Solomon Islands. The first mission party left Sydney on 20th January 1956 destined for the islands. To facilitate communication between these widely separated places a second hand naval boat was acquired and outfitted in 1957. Renamed "Salve Regina", it was then sailed from Sydney to Nila on Poporang Island, the voyage taking 2 weeks !!! The vessel saw service until 1970 when it was wrecked on a reef in Choiseul Bay. The ship was replaced with a purpose built vessel, "MV Demonic" in 1973.

The Dominican party meanwhile purchased "Loga" an old Lever Brothers plantation, a short canoe trip from Gizo.

In 1960 the Mission became the Vicariate Apostolic of the Western Solomon Islands with Fr John Crawford appointed as Vicar Apostolic on 1st March 1960. On 8th May 1960 in St Peters Basilica in Rome, Pope John XXIII consecrated 14 new Bishops, one of whom was Eusebius John Crawford as Titular Bishop of Caffa. Shortly afterwards, Bishop Crawford returned on holidays to Warrenpoint and whilst home, celebrated Mass in St Catherines Newry on Sunday 24th July 1960.

The plan had come to fruition in The Solomons with the Dominicans in charge and the chosen one at the helm.

No doubt, Bishop Crawfords role in The Solomons was the envy of many dreaming of living on sun kissed islands in the Pacific Ocean. However, the reality was very different. The islands had been occupied by the Japanese during WW2 and in early 1942 the Americans unleashed a fierce bombardment which succeeded in driving the Japanese out. Strategically, the islands were very important and control gave the Americans the upper hand in the surrounding area and vital control off important shipping lanes.

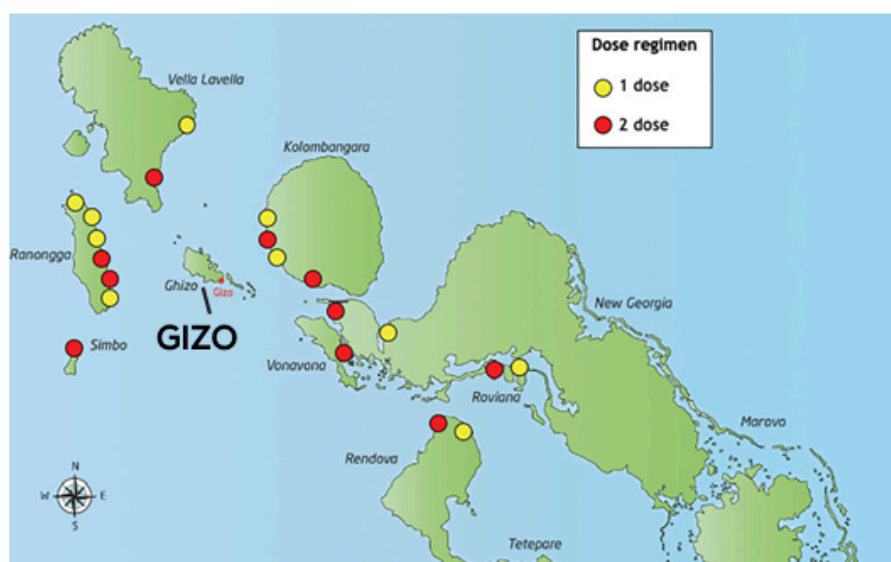
Gizo was virtually obliterated during the intense fighting and recovery was painfully slow after the conflict had ended. Building projects were undertaken using second hand materials left by the Japanese and American armies and Gizo was anything but a Pacific paradise.

On arrival the Bishop lived in a native house "among the coconuts" and then a lay missionary from Canberra, Joe De Dassel, built a new house for him on the Mission station of Loga. In 1962, Bishop Crawford made an extensive tour of the islands on "Salve Regina" and also by canoe into more remote areas. This had been the first visit by a Bishop in many years. On 18th June 1964 he opened St. Peter's Cathedral in Gizo, a plain, fit for purpose wooden structure.

In December 1966 Pope Paul VI gave the Vicariate Apostolic full Diocesan status and on 15th November 1966 Eusebius John Crawford was appointed Bishop of Gizo. Cometh the hour, cometh the man and Bishop Crawford was now centre stage. Also in 1966, a telephone exchange and a radio station were opened. Gizo also got its first cafe and tea shop and an electricity generating plant was opened. A Township Advisory Committee was established in 1968 to facilitate cooperation between church, state and commerce with the aim of progressing for the common good and Bishop Crawford was an important and highly respected contributor.

The Diocese of Gizo is one of three Dioceses in the Solomon Islands and was formed from the Vicariates of North and South Solomons in the early 1960s. It encompasses three Provinces: Choiseul, Santa Isabel and the Western Province. It spreads over an area of 12,600 square kilometres populated by 129,000 people, of whom approximately 14,000 are Catholics. There are seven Parishes, in the Diocese).

There are a few larger settlements. Gizo, a town of 3,500, is the headquarters of the Diocese and is an administrative centre for the Western Province. Noro, the official overseas port for the



area, has a fish cannery and other light industry. At Ringi Cove is one of the few sustainable logging industries in the Solomons, and Taro, the Provincial Centre for Choiseul also is a small administrative centre. Otherwise, most of the people of this area live in small coastal villages, accessible only by outboard powered canoes.



ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL IN GIZO

Civic Recognition.

HM Queen Elizabeth II celebrated the Silver Jubilee of her coronation in 1977 and in an Honours List published on 11th June 1977, Bishop Eusebius John Crawford was awarded a C.M. G.

A C.M.G. Is a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St. George and is awarded for Distinguished Service in a Foreign Country or in Relation to Foreign or Commonwealth Affairs.

This includes individuals holding high office or those rendering extraordinary service.

The man from Warrenpoint had made his mark and was deservedly acknowledged.



Retirement

Bishop Crawford retired from active Ministry in the Diocese on 3rd August 1995 having overseen transformative changes which brought his diocese into the 20th century. He chose Blackfriars Priory in Canberra, Australia for his retirement sojourn and was appointed Bishop Emeritus of Gizo. During his retirement he visited his hometown regularly, renewing old acquaintances and meeting lifelong friends. He often said that he accredited his achievements to his formative years living at home in an ordered environment where everything was done to plan.

Bishop Crawford Passed away on 31st May 2002 and was laid to rest in Canberra, far from his native Warrenpoint. He was an achiever and his legacy is the vibrant modern Diocese which he has shaped in Gizo. His Ministry extended across 61 years, of which he served as a Bishop for 42 years.

He may have been Bishop Crawford, Bishop of Gizo but he always remained John Crawford from Warrenpoint on the shores of Carlingford Lough.

1962 PRICE 10

BISHOP GOES BY CANOE TO CONFIRM CHILDREN

His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. E. Crawford, Bishop of the Western Solomons Vicariate and native of Warrenpoint, has just completed his first comprehensive tour of his territory.

Travelling by mission launch—the M.V. Salve Regina—the master and navigator a Dominican lay-brother—Bro. Paul conducted Dr. Crawford to the remote villages and out-lying mission centres of his Vicariate and there the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to children and adults many of whom were seeing their Bishop for the first time.

It was the first time that Confirmation had been administered at Gizo and the natives made it a big occasion.

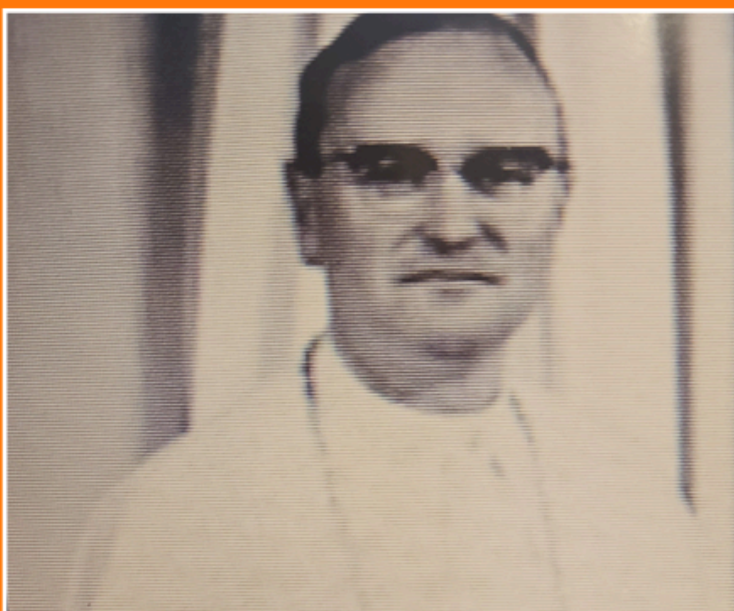
Part of his Lordship's tour was conducted by canoe from Kandova to Lamberate.

His Lordship's visit to the far distant lands was the first undertaken by a Bishop for many years past.

MOVING INTO NEW "PALACE"

Since his arrival at Loga, off Gizo, Bishop Crawford has been living in a temporary, native style house "amongst the coconuts," as one of the boys described the "palace."

This residence was situated on top of a hill on the island, and it was decided, for various reasons, to build, when opportunity presented itself, near the



Sincere thanks to,



Our Corporate Member, The Braham Group,
for their generous sponsorship of our tribute to a local man.



Historian, archivist and good friend of NMA, Maud Hamill.
Chris Cassidy, Heritage Officer Newry City Library, for his advice and direction.
The Prior, Fr. Patrick Desmond O.P., and the Dominican Community of St. Catherines, Newry.
Hugh Heatley Warrenpoint

150th Anniversary of St. Catherines Dominican Church, Newry.

Friday 17th October 2025.



Photos: Newry.ie



We were privileged to attend the 150th anniversary of the opening of this magnificent church, filled to capacity for the occasion, in the presence of the Master General of the Order ,the Irish Provincial and the Newry Dominican community.

The Dominicans have always been well supported in Newry since their arrival in 1871 and equally have supported our community through good times and bad. A strong bond was forged over the decades with the Dockers and Port Workers with the latter tending the Dominican garden in a voluntary capacity. Today, there are just 2 Newry priests attached to the Order. Fr Pat Tumilty O.P is a member of the Irish Province assigned to Newry whilst Fr David Rocks O.P is attached to the Belgian Province.

Following the very inspiring Mass, hospitality was provided in the Church Hall.



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Launch of Archbishop Francis Carroll SMA Exhibition, Newry City Library. Tuesday 21st October 2025.



Photos: Newry.ie



NMA launched their exhibition charting the career of Archbishop Carroll SMA in Newry City Library ahead of the tribute event in Newry Cathedral on the following Saturday. We commissioned 5 pop ups and we also obtained the portrait of the Archbishop which the Council had painted in 1985.

We wish to thank Council officials, Alan Freeburn and Declan Carroll for their help and assistance with arranging the loan of the portrait and also, Chris Cassidy Libraries NI, for his help with the exhibition.



Tribute to Archbishop Francis Carroll SMA D.D DPh, Newry Cathedral and Garden, Saturday 25th October 2025.

Photos by Rowan Hand



And so, following on from the launch of our exhibition a few days earlier the big day had arrived and our tribute to a famous son of Newry was about to be rolled out in Newry Cathedral. This magnificent edifice was designed by the prominent Newry architect, Thomas Duff, who also designed the cathedrals in Armagh and Dundalk.

The venue was most appropriate as the Cathedral had featured prominently in the life of Francis Carroll, son of a Docker from nearby Castle St.

Francis was baptised, received Holy Communion, Confirmed and ordained here in 1936 ahead of his priestly ministry of 42 years in Liberia. With his passing, his journey ended where it had begun.....Newry Cathedral

The venue was selected at the suggestion of Canon Francis Brown, Administrator of Newry Cathedral Parish, who was the Chief Concelebrant of the Mass dedicated to the Archbishop with 5 priests on the altar.

Tribute to Archbishop Francis Carroll SMA D.D DPh, Newry Cathedral and Garden, Saturday 25th October 2025.



Photos by Maud Hamill



The beautiful musical contribution from Kathy Mc Caughey and members of "The Choir Studio" lent added solemnity and integrity to the ceremony. On 14th October 1980 Archbishop Carroll was carried from "His" Cathedral at the conclusion of his Requiem Mass as the Cathedral choir sang "How Great Thou Art". Most poignantly, Kathy and "The Choir Studio" concluded proceedings with the same hymn almost 45 years later !!!



Tribute to Archbishop Francis Carroll SMA D.D DPh, Newry Cathedral and Garden, Saturday 25th October 2025.

Photos by Maud Hamill



We moved outside to the Cathedral garden and were most fortunate to avail of a window of sunshine in what was a day of very inclement weather. This oasis of tranquility was a blaze of colour thanks to the hard work and effort from Siobhan Burns and her team of dedicated volunteers.

The Community Leader of SMA Dromantine, Fr. Joe Egan, unveiled our commemorative plaque to Archbishop Carroll and spoke in glowing terms of his immense contribution to the Order.

We wish to thank Brendan Hardy and the team at M&M Steel Fabrications who kindly donated our plaque stand.

Tribute to Archbishop Francis Carroll SMA D.D DPh, Newry Cathedral and Garden, Saturday 25th October 2025.



Photos by Maud Hamill



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Tribute to Archbishop Francis Carroll SMA D.D DPh, Newry Cathedral and Garden, Saturday 25th October 2025.

Photos by Maud Hamill

With all the formalities concluded we adjourned to the well appointed Newry Parish Centre where guests were treated to hospitality and had the opportunity to network and socialise.



Tribute to Archbishop Francis Carroll SMA D.D DPh, Newry Cathedral and Garden, Saturday 25th October 2025.



Photos by Maud Hamill



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Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council



Comhairle Ceantair
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agus an Dúin
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and Down
District Council

ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS CARROLL S.M.A. D.D. D.PH.

MISSIONARY, DIPLOMAT, ACHIEVER. A PROUD NEWRY MAN.

FRANCIS CARROLL WAS A MEMBER OF AN OLD ESTABLISHED, AND HIGHLY RESPECTED, NEWRY FAMILY. HIS RELIGIOUS VOCATION WITH THE SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS (SMA) SAW HIM ENGAGE IN MISSIONARY WORK IN LIBERIA FOR A PERIOD OF 42 YEARS. A SKILLED DIPLOMAT, HE ROSE TO HIGH OFFICE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WHILST DELIVERING SEISMIC CHANGE IN HIS IMPOVERISHED ADOPTED COUNTRY.



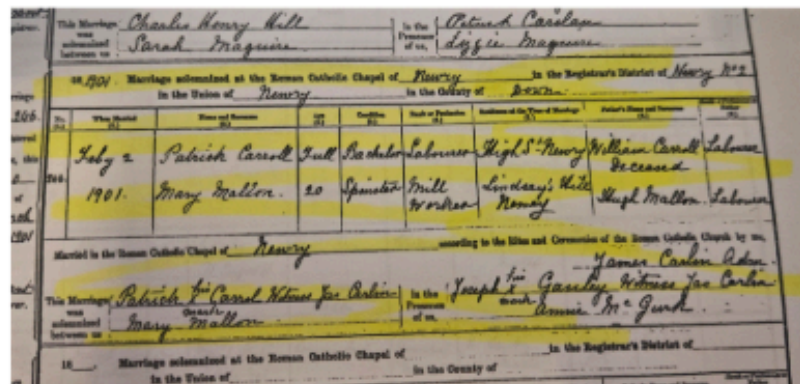
COMPILED BY JAMES MC AREVEY.



THE CARROLL FAMILY.

Paddy Carroll was born in Drogheda on 13th April 1880 and came to Newry in his teenage years where he obtained employment as a docker in the bustling port.

A young couple, Hugh Mallon and Ellen Moore, married in their native Mayobridge on 26th November 1876 and they too came to Newry in search of work. They rented a house in Church Street. The first of their 5 children, Mary/ Minnie, was born there on 15th January 1879 and is one of the present day St. Patricks Ave. 1900. She was just 40 years old.



Marriage Certificate of Paddy Carroll and Mary Mallon

Mary, the eldest child, was now employed as a reeler in a local mill and had made the acquaintance of a certain Paddy Carroll. Romance blossomed between the industrious young couple and they were married in Newry Cathedral on 2nd February 1901. They moved in with Marys family before renting a house in High Street where their first child, Hugh, was born on 2nd December 1901. Paddy and Mary would be blessed with 12 children, 8 boys and 4 girls, a stiff challenge in hard times. The family had a sojourn in Boat Street before making their final move to 71 Castle Street. It was here that their 5th child, Margaret Mary, was born in 1908.

Their 6th child, Mary Josephine, was born in 1910 but sadly succumbed to Measles on 3rd June 1913, aged 3.

	12 Nov 88				formerly P. Hall		12 Nov 88	1988	neglect.
271	10 ¹² breed 71 Cont 88	Jones	L	Peterson 71 Cont 88	formerly K. Hall	Autumn	L. Carroll K. Hall 71 Cont 88	71 72	R. Hood
					formerly K. Hall			1988	neglect.
272	10 ¹² breed 71 Cont 88	Homan	L	Feltz Homan 71 Chap 88	Regan Homan	Blackout	A. Homan K. Hall 71 Cont 88	71 72	R. Hood

Birth Certificate of Francis Carroll

The next baby to arrive at 71 Castle Street was a boy who was destined for a brilliant career as a Missionary and Diplomat. Francis (Frank) Carroll was born on 16th June 1912 and was the 7th child born to Paddy and Mary. Francis was followed by another 5 siblings making a family of 12 with 11 living and well. The Port had a key role to play in sustaining many families, like the Carrolls, across Newry with the meagre pay packets eagerly awaited. Paddy Carroll was a well known activist in the Port, always fighting for better conditions for his colleagues.

This was recognised by no less a personage than James Larkin when he addressed Newry Dockers at the Steampacket during the Dock Strike of 1907 which was led locally by Killeavy man, James Fearon. NMA unveiled a plaque commemorating the strike on Merchants Quay in 2015.

FRANK CARROLL.

THE FORMATIVE YEARS, SUCCESS AND SORROW.

Frank attended the Christian Brothers schools in Newry from 1916 until 1927 when he answered his vocation to become a Missionary priest. He left Newry CBS and entered the SMA junior secondary school, The Sacred Heart College, Ballinacorney, Co Mayo, and a year later he was promoted to the senior school, St Josephs College, Wilton, Cork, where he graduated in June 1931. In the Autumn of that year he entered the Society's Novitiate and House of Philosophy at Kilcolgan, Co. Galway.

Frank was admitted as a member of the Society on July 2 1933 and studied Theology in the major seminary at Dromantine until June 1937.

He was ordained to the priesthood in Newry Cathedral on 20th December 1936 by Dr Edward Mulhern, Bishop of Dromore, one of a group of 18 from Dromantine that day.

At that time, it was customary for a student to provide a chalice for his ordination with the cost then being around £25, a prohibitive sum for a working class man with a large family to support, but Paddy Carroll faced the challenge.

Joseph Fisher & Sons were a staple of the Port as major coal and timber importers and ship owners. Fishers were a staunch Unionist family and Frank Fisher assumed control when his Father passed away in 1902 making the firm second only to Kellys of Belfast as coal importers. Mr Fisher was also the Kings Deputy Lieutenant for Co Down. Paddy went to see him and explained his predicament, asking if he could borrow the money and make weekly repayments. Knowing Paddy to be a reputable man of integrity, Mr Fisher readily agreed.

Weeks later, Paddy made his final payment and called into Mr Fishers office to inform him. Mr Fisher thanked him and enquired about his newly ordained son. Paddy informed him that he was finishing his studies in Dromantine and then he was being assigned to Liberia. Frank extended his best wishes for the future to Fr. Carroll and as Paddy was leaving the office, Mr Fisher called him back, opened a drawer in his desk and took out an envelope which he gave to Paddy.

"For your son, with my best wishes, Paddy". The envelope contained £25 !!!

The euphoria of the ordination was short lived as a terrible tragedy was visited on the family shortly afterwards. On 17th February 1937 Paddy Carroll and his eldest son, Hugh, were engaged with other dockers discharging a load of coal from the Glasgow registered vessel, "SS Marion". In those days, this was a labour-intensive job with the coal being shovelled into large wooden tubs and then hoisted from the hold by a steam winch. It was whilst a tub was being winched up that a large lump of coal fell out and struck Hugh Carroll on the head. The young married man, seriously injured, was conveyed to Newry General Hospital where he died that evening. Living in Mary Street, he was survived by his wife, Rosanna (nee Fullerton) whom he had married on 28th March 1932 in Newry Cathedral. They had 2 young sons, Rodney and Teave. The latter became a priest and was ordained by his Uncle, Archbishop Carroll, in Newry Cathedral in 1975.



The Ministry of Francis Carroll S.M.A.



Having completed his studies at Dromantine in the Summer of 1937, the newly ordained Fr. Carroll was assigned to the S.M.A. Mission in Liberia, West Africa. When he arrived in Liberia, in October 1937, Bishop John Collins appointed him to the Monrovia district. There had been 4 previous attempts to establish the Church in Monrovia before roots were set down in 1921.

Frank joined a missionary staff of 5 serving the main station at Monrovia, a second residential station at Kekru, and 5 outstations. There was a mammoth task to be addressed but the young priest from Castle Street wasn't fazed and manfully faced the stern challenges before him. His was to be a dual role, combining religious and secular duties for the common good. Liberia was an impoverished country, hampered by poor communication and infrastructure. Most of his jurisdiction was accessible only by sea and was the least developed area of this fledgling state.

Factor in the geographical location, a few degrees from the Equator, the lack of medical facilities and the isolation and one can understand why the area was known as "The Whiteman's Grave". Sadly it became the resting place of many members of the Society with others ravaged by ill health and disease.

I would suspect that Frank drew heavily from his working class roots in Castle Street where problems were just irritants to be dealt with. His colleagues, like himself, were young and inexperienced but Frank had a vision and the ability to deliver. A very charismatic young man, he endeared himself to the indigenous population as he set about improving their basic standard of living. His primary focus was on education and he cultivated a strong relationship with the Government education department and leading officials. At the same time he promoted the Faith and tended to the spiritual needs of the locals. Frank's efforts didn't go unnoticed. He won a reputation as a man of honesty, integrity and commitment. Frank Carroll was making a difference in Missionary and Secular circles and his ever growing list of important contacts ensured progress across the board.

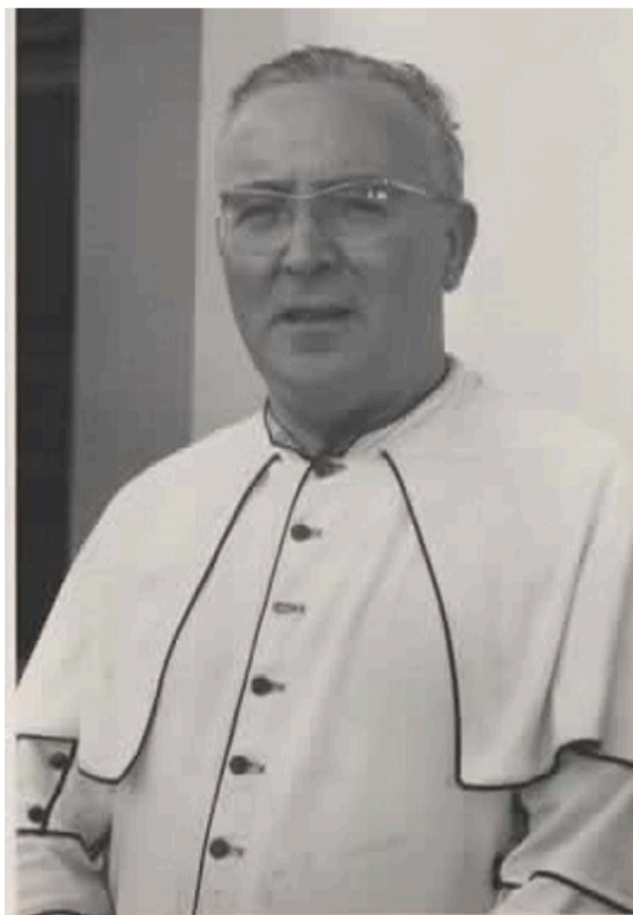
Major recognition first came Frank's way in 1946 when President Tubman conferred him with the "Star of Africa" award and over the next 3 decades Frank received every major Civic Recognition from the Government of Liberia. His ability to deliver and cement relations between Church and State was also noted by his peers in religion. In October 1946, Bishop Collins appointed Frank as Superior of Bassa district, about 70 miles East of Monrovia.

Promotion and Sadness.

In 1950 the Holy See decided to divide the Vicariate of Liberia into 2 separate jurisdictions, namely the Vicariate of Monrovia and the Prefecture of Cape Palmas. On 18th November 1950, Francis Carroll was appointed Prefect Apostolic and established his headquarters in the town of Cape Palmas where he was to serve for the next decade. Sadly, his Father Paddy, passed away on 29th October 1959 and the following year Frank was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Monrovia in December 1960.

Just 2 months later in February 1961, Frank was devastated by the passing of his beloved Mother, Mary. He had just returned to Liberia weeks earlier after a holiday at home. In March his good friend and mentor, Bishop Collins, passed away after a period of ill health Francis was consecrated a Bishop on 21st May 1961 in St. Peters Basilica in Rome by Pope John XXIII and he was also named Apostolic Inter Nuncio to Liberia on 9th November that same year. Just 24 years after his arrival as a newly ordained priest in Liberia, Frank Carroll had proved his worth and had, quite rightly, received due recognition.

Dr Carroll was the second Bishop from our district to be consecrated by Pope John within a year. Warrenpoint born Dominican, Eusebius John Crawford O.P., was consecrated Bishop of the Western Solomon Islands on 8th May 1960.



Just over a year after the elevation of Francis to the Bishopric, in June 1962, the Carroll family were devastated by a tragic bereavement. Their sister, Ellen, was married to a foreign going seaman, Edward O Hare (55) from Cecil Street, where she lived with her 80 years old mother in law, Margaret. Edward, like so many of our local sailors, had commenced his seafaring career with Joseph Fisher & Sons at the age of 14 and then graduated to deep sea vessels travelling the world.

He received an award for bravery in 1952 for rescuing 2 men who were in danger of suffocation in a gas filled tank on board the Esso tanker, "SS Wallowa".

In June 1962 he joined the bulk carrier, "MV Hudson Point" in Liverpool ahead of a voyage to the USA. Just 2 days after his arrival, as the ship was being readied for sea, Edward was tragically killed when he accidentally fell into the ships hold. His Father, Michael lost his life when "SS Inniscarra" was torpedoed off Cork in 1918 and a brother, James, was one of 17 who perished when the "SS Osworth" was lost in a storm in Mid Atlantic.

Those of a certain vintage will recall the other two Carroll sisters who ran a thriving confectionary shop in the family home in Castle Street. Some called it Smiths shop and others, Carrolls. This was because Winnie was married (Mrs Smith) and Peg (Margaret) wasn't. Either way, the sisters enjoyed great footfall from the pupils attending the 4 schools run by the Christian Brothers and the Poor Clare Nuns.

Honours and Elevation.

Bishop Carroll forged ahead with his Missionary work and oversaw countless projects across the fields of education, medicine and social development whilst endearing himself to the local populace as "Fr. Carroll". On 14th January 1964 he was consecrated an Archbishop and on 7th March 1966 Pope Paul VI appointed him Apostolic Pro-Nuncio to Liberia, the Papal Ambassador. Over the years he had promoted good relations between Church and State and now he was a key member of the Vatican Diplomatic Corps.

Sunday 17th August 1975 was a red letter day for the Carroll family. Francis travelled home to ordain his nephew, Teave, a priest in Newry Cathedral. Teave, whose Father, Hugh, was tragically killed at the Albert Basin in 1937 was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Westminster and later became Parish Priest of Holloway in London.

Major secular recognition came his way in 1975 when the highest honour of Liberia was conferred on him by the President, William R Tolbert Jnr. Dr Carroll was admitted into membership of The Most Venerable Order of Knighthood of The Pioneers with the grade of, Knight High Commander. The President in his address said, "In 1937 you journeyed to Liberia to begin what only can be rated as a most impressive career as one of the greatest Missionaries within the territorial confines of Liberia" He then went on to give an overview of the career of the Archbishop in Liberia.

" Your eminently remarkable and enduring achievements as head of the Diocese of Monrovia include leading roles in bringing into fruition, a medical school, The Dogliotti College of Medicine of the University of Liberia, and the establishment of the Catholic Hospital of Congotown, the founding of Carroll High School in Grassfield Nimbo County. St. Marys High School in Saniquellie, St. Pauls Seminary and College in Gbarnga as well as Church edifices to the glory of God such as the Cathedral in Monrovia and Our Lady of Lebanon Church in Sinkor"

He continued,

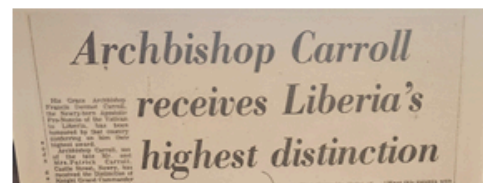
"For 38 unbroken years of kindness, patience and perseverance among the people of Liberia, during which you rendered exemplary self sacrificial service,

For the monuments of which today stand in living testimony in those areas of this country which have come under your inspiring influence,

Monuments not only of Church edifices, schools and social institutions, but perhaps the greatest of all, The innumerable people whose lives have been deeply touched by your genuine friendship and fatherly guidance and who appreciatively and affectionately until now continue to refer to you as "Father Carroll",

For your efforts in solidifying the already cordial and friendly relations between the Republic of Liberia and the Vatican State.

What an accolade for the man from Castle Street !!! This was the pinnacle of recognition from the Government of Liberia. Previously, he had been decorated three times for outstanding services to the nation across Education, Health, Social Welfare and Evangelism. He had enacted transformative change across the board.



Farewell.

Although still a relatively young man, the years of a heavy workload, delivered in a hostile climate were taking their toll and in February 1976 Frank tendered his resignation as Archbishop whilst continuing in his role as Pro-Nuncio.

In April 1979 Pope John Paul II accepted his resignation from this role also. Dr Carroll then retired to the SMA house at Tenafly, New Jersey, United States but within months he suffered a heart attack. Following convalescence, he decided to return home to Newry.

Sadly, he had a further heart attack and passed away in the family home on 10th October 1980, aged just 68.

Francis had a brief sojourn after a career spanning over 42 years of dedicated service. Over 100 clergy presided at his funeral Mass in Newry Cathedral and he was interred in the family grave in St. Marys Cemetery.



The Legacy of Francis Carroll

Education, Medicine, Religion



Carroll High School, Yekepa



St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital



Sacred Heart Cathedral, Monrovia

Sincere thanks to,

Sincere thanks to everyone who assisted with this project, especially,

Mr Tony Carroll and the extended Carroll family.
Canon Francis Brown and the team in Newry Parish Centre.
Siobhan Burns and the volunteers in the Cathedral Garden.
Maud Hamill and Chris Cassidy for detailed research.
Fr Joe Egan and the SMA Community in Dromantine.
Kathy Mc Caughey and The Choir Studio.
Piper Bernie Mc Cabe.
Kerri Morrow and NMDDC.



Remembrance Sunday. Newry. Sunday 9th November 2025.



Once again, we participated in the annual commemoration organised by the Royal British Legion. There was warmth in the sun on a beautiful Autumnal Sunday morning as we watched the well marshalled parade arrive at the Cenotaph led by the Hunter Moore Memorial Flute Band.

Two wreaths are laid on behalf of Newry Maritime Association.

A "Fisher Flag" wreath, sponsored by Mrs Susan Fisher and family, is laid in remembrance of all those who sailed with the Fisher fleet. The tribute was laid by James Mc Arevey this year.

We also lay the only tribute to the Merchant Navy who played such a key role in both world wars. Winston Churchill referred to the civilian sailors as "The Fourth Force".

This wreath, sponsored annually by our esteemed members and sisters, Helena Carr and Bridie Kane, was laid by Claire Toal.

The sounding of The Last Post and Reveille is always the poignant highlight of the ceremonial and it drew added attention this year.

The event came to a close with a haunting lament on the pipes played by Pipe Major David Hanna MBE from Altnaveigh Memorial Pipe Band.



Three generations of the Morrow family played the tribute. Allen Morrow, his son Brian and Grand Daughter Emily are members of Commons Silver Band. Miss Mary Morrow, sister of Allen, was employed in Fishers shipping office for almost 45 years and was present on the day.





Launch of Canal Regeneration Project. 10th November 2025. Helena Young.

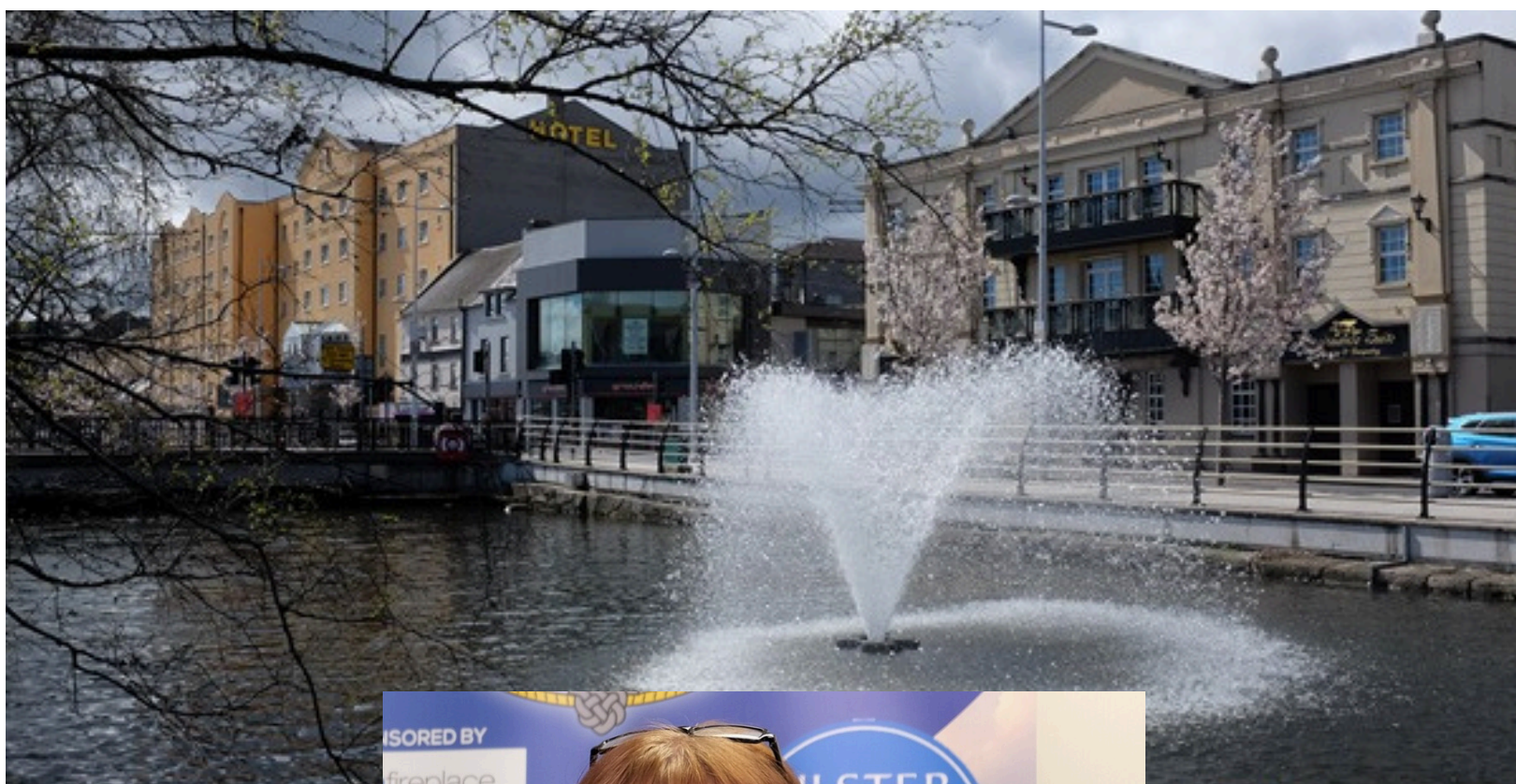


November saw the first meeting of a joint working group which has been set up with the aim of regenerating our historic Newry Canal.

The group includes councillors and officers from Newry Mourne and Down and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon councils.

The working group will explore, promote, and support the regeneration of Newry Canal through collaboration, research and stakeholder engagement. It will also identify and pursue funding sources for regeneration projects and support the development of a long-term vision and strategic framework for the regeneration of Newry Canal.

During the months leading up to the formation of this group councillor Helena Young of the Newry Maritime Association had organised and facilitated meetings with both Birmingham City Council and Bolton City Council to discuss their journey in regenerating their canals.



It is hoped that now that there is a dedicated working group there will be a real appetite and focus on making significant progress with the plans and aspirations for the canal. There are so many opportunities to explore, particularly with recreation, tourism, active travel and economic development and of course celebrating our Maritime history, which Newry Maritime Association has a vested interest in.

In August of this year NMA hosted a delegation of councillors from Bolton when we travelled along the canal by boat from the Albert basin through the wonderful Victoria Lock on to Warrenpoint Harbour. It was a glorious journey and it showed our canal from a very different perspective there is so much untapped potential.

This welcome new focus on Newry Canal will also tie in with the plans for Newry City Park on the Albert Basin site. With the addition of a 15-acre Park and the ambition and vision of a regenerated canal this could provide the opportunity to ensure that this wonderful asset should be the Jewel in the Crown of Newry.



Yesterday Once More. Newry City Library. Wednesday 10th December 2025.

Photos by Helena Young

Our busy schedule of events concluded with a very special event in the heritage section of Newry City Library. All at NMA were really pleased to receive a donation of three incredibly detailed models of Newry registered ships from a Lisburn based model maker, John Mc Aleavey, a sprightly and very talented crafter. We were pleased to host hospitality for John, his wife Anne and invited guests to mark the handover of the models. The ships in question are, "SS Portadown", "SS Ulidia" and "SS Pine", all members of the famed fleet of Joseph Fisher & Sons based in the Albert Basin.



"SS Ulidia" built in 1903, is the only ship in the Fisher fleet that never docked in Newry. At 5,000 tons grt, she was built for foreign trade mostly in the Baltic and Mediterranean. .never repeated this exercise and the ship was sold off in 1916. The other two steamers were mostly deployed in the home trade across Ireland and Britain.



Yesterday Once More. Newry City Library. Wednesday 10th December 2025.



Photos by Helena Young



Although living in Lisburn for nearly half a century, John Mc Aleavey now 82, was born in Pool Lane, Newry in what was known as "Sailortown". John went to sea when he was 16 years old with the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company on their vessel, "Empress of England". He then joined "MV Walnut", a collier in the Fisher fleet and the second to carry the name.

A serious workplace accident terminated his seafaring career and he took up employment in the coal yard. After 5 years he followed the emigrant trail to London where he trained and qualified as a State Registered Mental Health Nurse. Romance blossomed also and he met Anne, a native of Ballybay, and they married in London in 1969. The couple returned to the North in 1972 and John took up employment in Armagh and worked as a mental health nurse until his retirement.

Crafting ships models became a passion starting with "SS Walnut" in 1970 and over the years he has built more than 25 bespoke and detailed models. His collection reflects various genres from sailing to fishing and steam to diesel. We are privileged to be gifted these 3 fine specimens from the Fisher fleet. These models are an obvious labour of love..... the level of detail is unreal.

Yesterday Once More. Newry City Library. Wednesday 10th December 2025.



Photos by Newry.ie



Our models are displayed in specially commissioned polycarbonate cases. Polycarbonate is a particularly durable material which is largely used in civic protective settings such as security screens, traffic light covers and emergency response vehicles.

We are indebted to Michael Mc Caul Signs, NMA Corporate Member and preferred sign maker, for their fabrication. Although not an item in their portfolio of manufacture, they readily agreed to facilitate us as long standing customers and the finished goods really compliment their occupants. Thank you Michael and all the team.

Once again we are very pleased to have delivered this project in association with Chris Cassidy, Heritage Officer in Newry City Library, and we are donating the models on permanent loan to Libraries NI. Chris is a good friend and mentor to NMA and the Community and Voluntary Sector across Newry and District. Chris and Oliver Mc Geough also facilitated our post-event hospitality which was very well received by all in attendance.



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NMA CORPORATE MEMBERS 2025.

A very special thank you to all our valued Corporate Members who supported us across 2025. Without your financial support we would be unable to deliver a schedule of events as we do annually. Your support helps us to preserve and actively promote our rich tapestry of maritime history and those who created it.

"Support the businesses that support our community"



Carlingford Lough Ferry departing from Greencastle, Co. Down on passage to Greenore, Co. Louth.

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Michael Mc Caul Signs.
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