

GROWING-UP IN THE CURRAGH CAMP IN THE 1950's

MY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

By: MICHAEL KELLY

My Parents **John** and **Teresa Kelly**, came to live in the Curragh Camp in **September 1947**. My late Father **John** R.I.P. was a native of Dublin. He was stationed in the 3rd Bn., Connolly Barracks, and my Late Mother **Teresa** R.I.P. was a native of Naas. I was just 3 Months old at the time. My Sister Kathleen, was born in September 1948. We lived at No.1 Connolly Terrace. It was the Block directly in front of Connolly Canteen. And I have 3 younger Brothers – Frank, Ger and Brendan.

We lived in Connolly until December 1952. I can still remember living there. Our neighbours were the Whyte's, Dignam's, Coughlan's, Colemans, Wally Tobin, Paddy Tobin the Quinns, McBrides, Smyth's, and the Gannons . They were all very good neighbours, and my late Mother always spoke very fondly each of them, down through the years. One instance which she frequently mentioned, was the time in 1951, when her Mother sadly passed away, and Mrs. Coughlan, who had a young family herself, looked after both myself and my Sister for the couple of days while they were attending the Funeral in Naas, , and when my Mother returned, **Mrs. Coughlan** had made her a Soda Cake and left it on the window sill for her . She always spoke very fondly of this. I also remember both Joe Whyte (Jnr) and Michael Dignam R.I.P. bringing both myself and my sister to the Matinee in the Curragh Cinema on Sunday afternoons. among the Girls that I remember living in **Connolly** at that time were:- Kay Dignam, Kathleen Whyte, Maureen Whyte, Patricia Coughlan, Maureen Coughlan, Pauline Tobin, Valerie Tennyson, Marie McBride R.I.P., Carmel Shaw, Kathleen McGrath, Ann McGrath, "Bonnie" Lahert, Ann Furlong, Helen Furlong, Criona Rowe, Maura McNamara, Eva Christie, Olive Coleman, Maura Quinn, Nettie Quinn, Phylis Quinn, Ann Delahunt, Teresa Coyle, Monica Smyth, Helen Pickering, Ann Confrey, Ann Murtagh, Mura McMahan, Christina McMahan, Mary Dillon, Mary McHale, Patsy Stewart, Nancy Ryan, Babrara Mullins, Bernadette Neenan, Mary Neenan, and Mary Cowley.

I started School at the age of 4, but my first recollection of School was when I was with **Mrs. O'Brien** in High-Infants at the age of 5. We were living in Ceannt at the time .She was a very good Teacher and was very popular with both Pupils and parents alike . The Classroom was downstairs in the Main School Block. She had 2 Sons in the School herself – David, R.I.P., and Eoghan who was in my Class.

And She prepared us for our **1st Holy Communion** which we made on **30th May, 1953**. I remember the day very well. And as was customary at the time, after Mass, we went to **Donnolly Swift's** to have my Photograph taken and afterwards, my Father brought me to Dublin on the Bus. I remember going to visit my Grandfather who was in Hospital, and I remember that he gave me 2 Half-Crowns.

We went to Woolworths afterwards in Henry St., and came home later in the evening. It was a very memorable day for me, and I still have the Holy Picture which each of us got at the time, and which is signed by the late Fr. Hayden. (See Attached)

We lived in "5 D Block" Ceannt from Dec 1952 until April 1957. There were 5 Blocks in total . I went into **1st Class** in September 1953. Our Teacher was a Mr. **Hickson** . I remember him as been a very dapper man with a moustache, who always wore a Suit and a Hat . He drove a black Ford Prefect Car. Among my classmates and others attending the School at at the time were:- Patsy Whyte, Joey Quinn, Joe Donoghue, Liam Hartley, Brendan Drury, Christy O'Neill and his brother George R.I.P, Peter McNamara R.I.P., (a Brother of the Site Administrator Matt) Who died as a result of a tragic accident in 1958), John Joe Doyle, Nicholas Whyte, Sean Toman, Andy Hayes, Harold Refus, Billy Mullery R.I.P., Jimmy Carney R.I.P., Eddie Cramer, Sean Harpur, Seanie O'Brien, Anthony O'Brien, Liam Bolger, Martin Kelly, John Joe Neenan , Liam Heffernan, Roy Clarke, Brian McCarney, Brendan Brophy, Johnny Dolan, Junior Tyrell, Seanie Curran, John Joe Curran , Jude Curran, Seanie Curran, Donal Douglas, Michael Campbell, Gus Reilly, Seamus Campbell, Dominic Heavey, Paddy Geary (R.I.P), Maurice Doyle, Michael Dignam (R.I.P), Philip Synott, John Joe Dwyer, Phil McGrath R.I.P., Tony McGrath, Don McGrath, Liam McGrath, Jimmy McGrath, Philip Synott, Michael Synott, Michael Quinn R.I.P., Raymond Stewart, Joseph Stewart R.I.P., Frankie O'Leary R.I.P., Seamus Furlong, Eddie Shaw, Peter McGlynn, Frankie Mullins R.I.P., Michael Mullins, Christy Mullins, Raymond Coleman R.I.P, Tony Dwyer, Donie Dwyer, Johnny Stone, Eddie Stone, Pat Sweeney, Vincent Cullen, Michael Power, Seamus Power, Tony Power, Charlie O'Neill, Mickey O'Neill, Jimmy O'Neill R.I.P., Michael McHale, Tommy McHale, Frankie Quinn (O'Higgins Tce), Michael Lydon, Dick Keogh, Tommy Murphy R.I.P., Seamus Dillon, Michael Tracey, Paddy Phillips, Eddie "Junior" Tucker, Christy Coyne, Eddie Dillon, Raymond O'Leary, Noel O'Connell, Sean Quinn, Marty O'Brien, Sean Callaghan, Johnny Reddy, Frank McNamara, Dick Roche, Arthur Farrell, Sean Sutton, Liam Sutton, Hubert McLoughlin, Dermot Clohessy, Paddy Kelly R.I.P. (The Kelly Family lived in a House in front of the Curragh Racecourse. There was about 6 Children in the Family, and they used walk into School across the Plains every day, and possibly having the best attendance record of us all), Tony Stokes, Martin Reilly, Finbar Reilly, Michael Reilly, Harry Sheridan, Jimmy Gray, Des Butler, Paul Butler, Sean Casey, Fred Reilly, Billy Pearson , Phil Lahert, "Son" Lahert, Eoghan O'Brien, Bart Scanlon (A nephew of Mr. Breen the Headmaster), Joe Wilson, Ciaran "Dec" Houlihan, Joey Kelly, Michael Cahill, David Cahill, Sean O'Shea, J.J. Coy, Peter Quinn, Seamus Whyte, Christy Brennan, Michael McBride, Pat Donoghue, Joe Donoghue, Nicky Cunningham, Luke Kelly, Sean Murphy, Eddie Byrne, , Pat Byrne, Barry Nulty, Ciaran McGoldrick, Michael Casey, Larry Gorman, Martin Duhig, Liam Cowley, Christy Rainbow , Bobby Delaney, Damian Delaney, Tony Delaney, Brendan O'Leary, Liam Stubbs, Andy Foley, Liam Foley, Robbie Heavey, Sean Switzer, Pat Hayes, Charlie McAlister , Don McAlister, Paul Darling,

Reggie Darling. And from Brownstown and Maddenstown Brian Flanagan, Larry Hunter, Johnny Keating, Billy Keating, Dermot Keating, Chris Purcell (R.I.P), Paddy Carey, Tommy Delaney, Jim Cummins, Paddy Burke, Tommy Carey, Michael Brophy, Pat Barrett, Seanie Johnston, Jimmy Lloyd, Sean Lloyd, Sean Murtagh, Paddy Shanahan (R.I.P). Among our neighbours in Ceannt were:- Mick Quinn R.I.P. , Joe Stewart R.I.P. John Anderson, John Mullery R.I.P. Larry Keane R.I.P., Bill Brennan R.I.P., Martin Ambrose R.I.P., Dick Ivers R.I.P., Paddy Tracey R.I.P., Tom Synott R.I.P, Luke Kelly R.I.P. (He died while serving with the U.N. in the Congo as a result of a traffic accident), Frank Mullins R.I.P. , Jack Nagle R.I.P, and Mickey Gray R.I.P. And among the Girls that I can remember living in Ceannt around that time were ;- Anne Marie Stewart, Anne Sammon, Breda Kane, Maura Quinn, Nettie Quinn, Phyllis Quinn, Marie Sinnott, Patsy Sinnott, Betty Reilly, Marie Kearney, Ann Sheridan, Rosanna Sheridan, Persus Gallagher, Renee O'Leary, Mary Rooney, Kathleen Power, Olivia O'Connor, Ann Sullivan, Agnes Kane, Margaret Kane, Mona Kane, and Mary Anderson, . And among the Girls who were living in McDermott which I can remember are Patsy Stewart, Patrica Stokes, Elizabeth Duffy R.I.P., Catherine Cramer, Marie Cramer, and Helen Pickering. That is all the names that I can recall from memory, and I know that there are lots more, so apologies to anyone that I may have omitted.

An incident that sticks out in my mind from around 1954/1955 concerns Tommy Murphy, (A brother of Mary, who is married to Eddie Dillon) who at the time were living in Clarke. I remember the Headmaster – Mr. Breen coming in to the Classroom to tell us that Tommy was seriously Ill and that we were to Pray for him as he wasn't expected to recover. Thankfully, Tommy did make a full recovery, and went on to lead a full life. He married Rose Keating from Brownstown, and having joined the FCA in his spare time, he attained the Rank of Sgt Major in McGee Barracks, Kildare before his Retirement, which was a marvellous achievement. Sadly however, he passed away a couple of years ago. R.I.P.

When we went in to 3rd Class, our Teacher was **Mr. Fitzgerald (Fitzy)**. However, he took very Ill, and he was out sick for a long time. And in his place for a while, we had Mr. Hogan- who was also the Scout Master, and **Mr. "Bob" Ford**. I can still remember Mr. Ford Placing the Map of Ireland on the Blackboard, and pointing at it with his Cane and saying in his deep voice that Ireland was "An Machra Mooooor Na Heireann". Both Mr. Fitzgerald and Maxie Hannigan from the Swimming Pool, were in the mid-50's, the first owners from the Curragh of a Heinkel "Bubble Car". The Headmaster – Mr. Breen I remember, drove a Morris Minor.

I remember O'Donnell's Grocery Shop been burned to the ground in the mid-50's. . And possibly the main reason is that it was a Sunday afternoon, and there was no Matinee on in the Curragh Cinema . So there was dissapointment all round . We moved to No.39 McDonagh Terrace (1 C Block) in **April 1957**. It was the Block facing the Ball Alley.

We lived in one end of the Block and the Heffernan Family lived at the other end. Our neighbours were The Conway's, Clarkes, Brennan's, Drury's, Harpur's, O'Neills, Bennets, and Dick Ivers. And among the Boys who lived in McDonagh were Brendan Drury, Danny Conway, Roy Clarke, John Harpur, Nicky Harpur, George O'Neill R.I.P., Christy O'Neill, Paul O'Neill, Eamon Heffernan, Brian "Gozzy" Heffernan, Liam Heffernan, "Fuddy" Heffernan, R.I.P. Seanie O'Brien, Anthony O'Brien, Gerard O'Brien, Martin Kelly, Liam Bolger, Liam Cowley, Billy O'Brien, Brian McCarney, Sean Geary, Paddy Phillips, Martin Phillips, Johnny Dolan, Harry McCarney, Willie O'Brien, Raymond Coleman, Michael Cambell, Seamus Cambell, Reggie Darling, Paul Darling, Sean Powell, Noel Powell, Barry Nulty, Michael Cahill, David Cahill, Dermott Clohessy, Michael Brophy, John Joe Curran, Jude Curran, Liam Hartley, Joe Donohue, Pat Donoghue, Gerard Donoghue, Junior Tyrell, Pat Hayes, George Hayes, Andy Hayes, Dessie Hayes. R.I.P., Peter McGlynn, David Hyland, Billy Hyland and Paul Hyland R.I.P., who we all remember as being a great Swimmer, and he went on to win numerous Irish titles. He was trained by Sgt. Mickey Cullen at the Curragh Swimming Pool, and afterwards at Gormanstown College where Mickey Cullen was the Swimming and P.T. Coach. He also represented Ireland in the European Catholic Student Games, and in the process he won 1 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals. He also achieved the qualifying standard for the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, but unfortunately no Irish Swimming Team was sent that year. He was possibly the best Athlete ever to come from the Curragh Camp. But Paul sadly passed-away on 1st September 2013 last. May he rest in Peace.

And among the Girls that I can remember who lived in McDonagh at the time were:- Joan Drury, Joan Clarke, Ena Conway, Marie Conway, Anne Harpur, Joan Harpur, Kathleen O'Neill, Helen O'Neill, Ann Ivers R.I.P., Joan Ivers, Miriam Heffernan, Mary Dillon, Helen Coleman, Pauline McGlynn, Maureen O'Brien, Maura O'Brien, Helen O'Brien, Anne Dolan, Mary Dolan, Mary Duhig, Cecellia Geary, Anne Cowley, Rose McCarney, Rose Smyth, Monica Smyth, Mary Bolger, Mary Eggar, , Margaret Eggar, Brenda McCourt, Roisin Hartley, Bernadette Neenan, Mary Neenan, Lily Dillon, Lena Dillon R.I.P., and Judy Hyland.

I made my Confirmation on 21st May 1957. My Mother brought me in to Newbridge on the Bus on a Saturday afternoon a couple of weeks before it, to buy my Confirmation Suit in Roycroft's, which is now trading as Terry Michael's. And that night, I was allowed to go to the Curragh Cinema to see Elvis Presley's first Film "Love Me Tender". I remember it so well.

We were confirmed by the late Bishop Keogh who was assisted by Monsignor Miller from Newbridge. And that night, I remember going to the Cinema in Sandes with the late Frankie Mullins R.I.P., to see a Film called "Captain Lightfoot", starring Rock Hudson. I still have very fond memories of that day.

The great Tipperary Hurler – Tony Wall, who was Captain of the Tipperary Team that defeated Galway in the All-Ireland , used to practice his Hurling skills in the Ball Alley in McDonagh, where he would beat a sponge ball around the ball Alley for a couple of hours each evening . He was an Army Officer, and he was stationed in the Military College at the time. He attained the Rank of QMG before his retirement. I meet him occasionally, and he is in good form. I remember the Taxi Driver – **Busty Smyth** from Athgarvan , who used to be parked outside Reggie Darling’s . He gave a very good Taxi Service, and he could always be relied on, especially for collecting any of the Mothers or Children from the Families Hospital.

Our Teacher for 4th, 5th and 6th Class was **Mr. McCormack**. He eventually Retired as the School Principal . We remember him going out to Tom Sheehan’s House, which was next-door to the School, to listen to the Derby which was Broadcast on Radio, and hoping that his Horse would win, and if he arrived back smiling, it would mean less homework. But if his Horse lost - “Sin Sceil Eile” .

He was also involved in the running of the local **Boy Scout Troop – The 7th Kildare**. As was both **Reggie** and **Paul Darling**. The 1st Scoutmaster that I remember was **Mr. Hogan**. But he transferred to the Boys National School in Tullamore. And I remember around 1960, we went on Summer Camp to Belvedere Estate, which is just outside Mullingar, with the Tullamore Boy Scouts. It was very enjoyable. I also went on 2 Summer Camps to Bunclody . **Mr. Fitzgerald** took over from Mr. Hogan as Scoutmaster, and then we had a fellow called **Sean Trodd** ,who was serving in Ceannt Barracks and then I think another Teacher - **Ciaran Sheedy** took over from him . The original Scout Hut was at the Gable-End of the Main Hospital and it moved afterwards to the “Old Laundry Building” in McDermott Barracks. **Ciaran Sheedy** left shortly afterwards, and went to RTE , and some of the Plays that he wrote were subsequently Broadcast on RTE . I really enjoyed my time in the Scouts, and great credit is due to all that were involved in the successful running of it.

All the Altar Boys would have to report to the Headmaster **Mr. Breen** on the Friday afternoon, to be allocated what Masses or Benediction they had to serve at during the following week. The Old Church on O’Higgins Road was still occupied at this time, as the new one didn’t officially open until **November 1959**. At the time, there were 3 Chaplains – **Fr. Boylan**, **Fr. Hayden** and **Fr. McGuirk** . And we used to always love to see **Fr. McGuirk** arriving to say Mass, as he would always say the Mass very quickly. **Fr. Brophy** arrived in the Curragh around that time too, as did **Fr. Rougeot** for a while I think that he was from **Belgium** . **Peter Hickey** was the Sacristan, and he would look after us all very well. He resumed as Sacristan in the New Church, and I think that **John Mullery** R.I.P., took over for a while and afterwards, **Mr. McCormack** R.I.P. from Pearse took over from him, and his Son-in-Law – **Gerry Mara**, took over from him, but he sadly passed-away a while ago . R.I.P.

Both The Curragh and Sandes Cinema were always very popular. The Manageress of Sandes – **Miss Carson**, would always have a list of the Films that would be shown for the month in McAteers, where **Johnny Taylor** R.I.P. was the Barber . Johnny was a great cinema-goer . I remember Josie Brogan, and Mrs. Owens and Frank Poole working in the Cinema. I remember the first Film to be shown in Cinemascope in the Curragh was “The Robe” . However, one of the most popular Films to be shown in the Curragh Cinema around that time was “**Shake Hands With the Devil**”, Starring James Cagney and Don Murray. It was set in 1921, during “The Troubles” in Ireland.

One of the main reasons that it was so popular was because (as mentioned previously by Joey Kelly) it featured **Sgt. Peter Dignam** R.I.P. driving an Armoured Car in one of the scenes . I remember the Cinema was packed to capacity, and a great cheer went up when this scene came up. It was Peter’s claim –to-fame, and he always spoke of it fondly down through the years. Peter was a very jovial character, who always seemed to be in good humour. Sadly he passed away a number of years ago. The Actor Don Murray who also starred in the Film, made another Film in Ireland in 1966 called “The Viking Queen” . I was stationed in Clancy Barracks Dublin at the time, and we were employed as Extra’s in Ardmore Studios, Bray, for which we received £5 per Day, and £10 for the August Bank Holiday Monday. Quite good money in those days. And while Don Murray never seemed to have made the big time in Hollywood, he actually starred in 2 Films with Marilyn Monroe – “Bus Stop” and “Niagara”, for which he received an Oscar Nomination.

The Curragh Male Voice Choir was re-formed in 1958 with **Mrs. Maura Butler** as the Choir Mistress. She was a perfectionist who was very dedicated and she put in a lot of long hours and very hard work in preparation for the Consecration of the New Church which was officially opened in **November 1959** by Bishop Thomas Keogh. I was also a Member of the Altar Boys, and there used to be 2 Masses daily, one at 7.30am, and the other at I think 9am. And **Mr. Breen**, the Headmaster would allocate which Masses each of us had to serve at. During Lent, the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross would be said on alternate nights.

The Shops in the Curragh during this time were Michael Collins, Austin O’Donnell, Pat Maginn, (who had a shop in both McDonagh and Pearse), Easons and the (Garrison in Ceannt which was managed by Paddy O’Connor, R.I.P. and the one in McDonagh which was managed by Mick Dunne), Farrells, Reggie Darlings, Sheehans (Shoemakers), McAteers , Miss Purtells (Drapery), Dobbyn’s,(Joe O’Connor R.I.P. and his brother Peter and Seanie and Anthony O’Brien used to Deliver and Sell the Papers for Miss Dobbyn) , Todd Burns – which had 3 Departments – Drapery, Grocery and I think a Chemist . But it was burned down in 1960, on a Sunday night , just before a Battalion left for a tour of Duty in the Congo . The Manager at the time was a **Mr. Clune**, who worked in **Clery’s** in Dublin afterwards.

A lot of the residents in the Curragh at the time would have had accounts in Todd Burns, and they would have been paying-them off on a weekly-basis, and as all the records were lost in the Fire, **Mr. Clune** relied on the honesty and goodwill of those who would have had outstanding accounts to continue with their weekly payments . And I have no doubt whatsoever, but that there was an excellent response to this request, and that all outstanding accounts were cleared fully, which says a, lot for the Residents of the Curragh at that time. And I think that Miss Kennedy who may have worked in Purtells previously, opened a Drapery Shop there afterwards ,Higgins Drapery, and the Butcher shops – Orfords and Conlans, Young’s Chemist, Gross Jewellers, and Sandes . I remember Peggy Reddy and Molly working in Ceannt Garrison, and Amy Breen , Carmel Fahy, Eddie”Junior” Tucker and Billy Pearson working in Collins Shop.

I remember Carmel Tracey working in Powells, Gertie Mooney working in Purtells, Dermot Feeley working in Young’s Chemist, Paddy Phillips working in Maginns . I remember Josie Geary, Marie Murphy, Ann Coy, and Paddy Potts working in Sandes, where Miss Carson R.I.P. was the Manageress. She was very good to the Military in general, and she would always open her Cinema and Recreational Room and have a Free Film Show on Christmas night. When she retired, she received a Presentation from the **Curragh Community**, and she was very sadly missed. I remember Paddy Potts as been a great Billiard and Snooker Player as was Miss Carson, and Dick who worked there.

The Annual National School Sports were held in the “Gym Field” every year. It was always a great day, and what would have made it more special is the fact that everyone got a Ticket for a free Ice Cream. And there would be a Film Show in the “Old Gym” that evening. Another thing that I remember was the day around 1958 that a Salesman from Dublin, visited the Boys School, with plans to Form a School Harmonica Band. He assured us that when the Band was formed and after plenty of Practice and Rehearsals, we would be playing at Concerts throughout the Country. However, we had to purchase the Harmonica’s from him at a cost of I think 7s/6d. (Approx 50 cents in today’s money), but quite a lot in those days. However, quite a lot of the Pupils purchased the Harmonica’s, and I think that he may have come back to the School on a couple of occasions to give us Lessons. He also gave us some Sheet Music, and I remember one of the Songs on it being “The Rakes of Mallow”. But he hasn’t returned since. But we still live in hope!!

I remember sitting for my Primary Certificate in 1959 . There were 3 Subjects – Maths, Irish and English. I remember the day very well, as we were not allowed home at lunchtime, and my Mother brought me down my Lunch. (I still have the Certificate, and I have attached a Copy, dated June 1959, and also a copy of my First Holy Communion Certificate dated 30th May, 1953). I remained in the National School in 7th Class for another year. We moved House to No.1 W.O. Connolly (beside Connelly Canteen), in November 1959.

Our neighbours at the time were the McConnon Family . I remember "Bud" Fisher as being the Canteen Manager at the time. And there was also a Film Show in the Recreation Room in Connolly Canteen every Wednesday evening at 5.30 for all the Children. I think that it cost something like a few old pence each for admission. And the Film would be shown later that night for the Adults .The films were shown by the late Christy Reidy. R.I.P. I remember that there was a "Bat Man" Serial, which ran for I think 15 Weeks. And it starred "J.Carroll Nash" as the Baddie. We used to all really look forward to it each week.

I remember the travelling "Roadshows" that used to visit the Curragh every year. They would stay for a week, and they would perform in the Curragh Cinema. Among the Shows that I remember are; "George Daniels", The Hypnotist's - "Paul Goldin" and "Edwin Heath". They were always very enjoyable. And I also remember another Variety Show in "Sandes" around that time. There was a Talent Contest, and I remember the late "Paddy Geary" (A Brother of Josie) singing in it. He sang a Jimmy Rogers Song which was very popular at the time called "Kisses Sweeter than Wine". He really looked the part, as he had his hair combed-back, and he had his coat collar up and he was clicking his Fingers, and as far as I can remember, he won it. Paddy was a great character and was very popular with everyone.

I enrolled in the Curragh Technical School in 1961. The School Principal at the time was Mr. Paul Flynn. And the rest of the Teachers as I remember were:- Miss Casey (Book Keeping). (She later married Paddy Costigan, who worked in the Curragh Post Office), Miss McDonagh,(Domestic Science) Mr. Forde (Science), Miss Cunningham (Irish), and I think Mrs. Crowe (English) . The School Caretaker was Jerry Keoghane, and he would always have the fires lit in the Classrooms bright and early each day . Each year all the Vocational Schools in the County would compete in a Feis, which was held in the Old Gymnasium. And all the Schools would assemble in front of the Water Tower, and parade down to the Gym. And I can remember the late "Busty" Coy R.I.P. , playing the Accordion for the Irish Dancing Competitions . And among the Pupils at the School around that time were:- Noel O'Connell, Michael Power, Kenneth"Buck" Brannigan , Liam Hartley, Patsy Whyte, Bobby Delaney, Michael Quionn R.I.P., Tony Power, Joey Quinn, John Joe Doyle, Chris Purcell R.I.P., Larry Hunter, Joe Donoghue, Jim Cummins R.I.P. , Paddy Quill, Joe Wilson, Peter McGlynn, Seamus Murphy, Peter Duggan, Henry Duggan, Johnny Reddy, Andy Hayes, Charlie McAlister, Brian Flanagan, Gerry Moran, Brian Doherty, Joe O'Connor R.I.P., Jimmy Lloyd and Sean Johnston . And among the Girls that I can remember are Patrica Stokes, Rose McCarney, Mary Dillon, Margie Doyle, Kathleen Whyte, Ann Callaghan, Mary Dolan , Kathleen Kelly(My Sister), Margaret English, and Patrica Howe. I remember going on a School Day trip to Tramore in 1962.

I left the School in 1962 to join the Army Apprentice School in Naas, along with Peter McGlynn, Andy Hayes and Johnny Reddy who also joined the Air Corps as Apprentices. However some 25 years later, , I returned to the Curragh Vocational School in 1987 for 2 years, as part of the Army Class to undergo the Leaving Certificate Course, which I completed successfully in 1989 .

My late Father – John took up an Appointment as Range Warden when he retired from the Defence Forces in April 1974. And both of my parents lived at 6 Owen Row Road until 1980. They then went to live in Avondale Drive in Kilcullen. They always spoke very fondly of all the friends that they made down through the years, and the time that they spent living in the Curragh and they were both very sad when they eventually had to leave. Sadly however, my Father passed-away in December 1985, and my Mother passed-away in May 2009. May they both Rest in Peace.

I was a member of the Defence Forces for 40 years, and was based in the Curragh for the most of it . I Retired in October 2002, and took up a Civilian Appointment at the Main Transport Technical Stores, until I retired in October 2012. I still manage to keep in touch with my former work colleagues. I have very happy and cherished memories of my time growing-up in the Curragh. And I always look-back on it very fondly. And while there are some excellent articles about the Curragh Camp generally on the Site, this article which I have compiled is my own personal memory of my time growing-up in the Curragh in the 1950's and the early 1960's . I hope that you enjoyed reading it, and that there was something in it that you can identify with.

Thank you!

Michael

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PRIMARY BRANCH

PRIMARY SCHOOL
CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the pupil named
overleaf completed the sixth standard of
the programme of instruction in national
schools and passed the primary school
certificate examination, which comprised
written tests in Irish, English and
Arithmetic, conducted by the Department
of Education in June, 1959.

*The following are the subjects of the prescribed programme
of instruction for the sixth standard in national schools:—*

Obligatory Subjects : IRISH, ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, HISTORY,
GEOGRAPHY, MUSIC, NEEDLEWORK (Girls).

Optional Subjects : DRAWING, PHYSICAL TRAINING, RURAL
SCIENCE or NATURE STUDY, COOKERY
(Girls), LAUNDRY WORK (Girls) or DOMESTIC
ECONOMY (Girls), MANUAL INSTRUCTION
(Boys).



AN ROINN OIDEACÁIS
BRAINSE AN BUNOIDEACÁIS

**TEISTIMÉIREACHT AR
BUNOIDEACAS**

dearbú é seo sur chríochnaí

Micéal Ó Ceallaigh

AN SÉU RANG DE CLÁR AN TEAGAISIC
SNA SCOILEANNA NÁISIÚNTA AGUS
SUR ÉIRIÚ LEIS AN DALTA SAN SA
SCRÚDÚ SCRÍOFA SA ŠAEILZE, SA
BÉARLA AGUS SAN UIMHÍOCT A
TIONÓLAÓ AG AN ROINN OIDEACÁIS I
MÍ AN MEICIM, 1959, LE HAŠAIO NA
TEISTIMÉIREACHTA AR BUNOIDEACAS.

T. Ó Karfearcaigh

RÉDAÍ

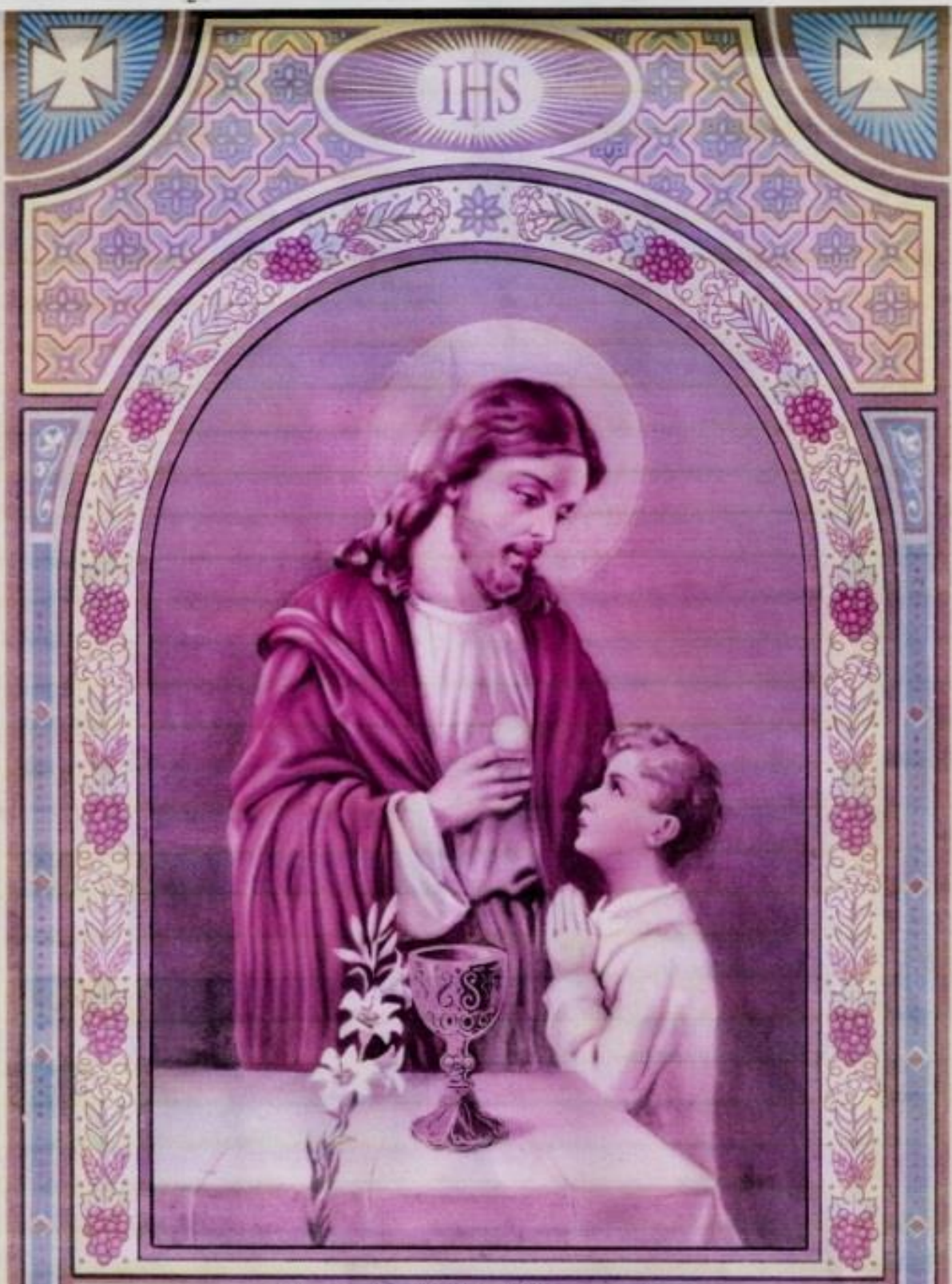
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ORDAÍCE LE HAŠAIO AN TSÉU RANG I SCOILEANNA NÁISIÚNTA—

ÁDAR ÉIREANACA:

ŠAEILZE, BÉARLA, MATAMAIICIC, STAIR,
TÍNEOLAÍOCT, CEOL, ODAIR ŠHÁTAIDE
(CAILÍNÍ).

ÁDAR NEAMHÉIREANACA:

LÍNÍOCT, CORPOILÍÚINT, TUACEOLAÍOCT
NÓ EOLAS AR NÁDÚR, CÉCAINEACHT
(CAILÍNÍ), NÍOCLÁN (CAILÍNÍ), NÓ TÍOR
(CAILÍNÍ), LÁMHOILÍÚINT (DUADEALÍ).



Souvenir of First Communion

Michael Kelly

received His First Communion on The 30th May 1953

Baptised _____ Confirmed _____

Rev. F. Hayden C. F. Priest