

The Very Reverend Patrick C. Canon Lynch



Patrick Lynch* was born on the 18th April 1907 in Ballyjamesduff, County Cavan, Ireland. He was educated at St Patrick's College Cavan between 1919 and 1924 and then St Patrick's College Carlow from 1924 to 1931. He was ordained in Carlow on 11th June 1931 by Bishop Matthew Cullen of Kildare and Leighlin for the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh in Scotland.

His first posting was unusually as an assistant Priest in St Patrick Kilsyth to Patrick Canon Macnamara where he was to serve for just a year until 1932. More usually, newly ordained Priests or Priests who were coming to Scotland for the first time, were posted into the large metropolitan parishes in Edinburgh – such as St Mary's Cathedral or St Patrick's Edinburgh – closer to the Bishop. It is perhaps a measure of the trust and seniority of Canon Macnamara, who was shortly later to become Monsignor Macnamara, that he was entrusted with the induction of a newly ordained Priest into a new country.

Fr Lynch's career in Scotland then continued after his induction in Kilsyth with a posting as assistant Priest to St Maries' Kirkcaldy from 1932 to 1934. His first posting as Parish Priest was Our Lady of the Waves at Dunbar from 1934 to 1936. Fr Lynch then went in 1936 to Our Lady of Lourdes Blackburn again as PP where he was to spend the whole of the war years and on until 1948.

From 1948 to 1949 Fr Lynch served a short term in St Joseph's Whitburn.

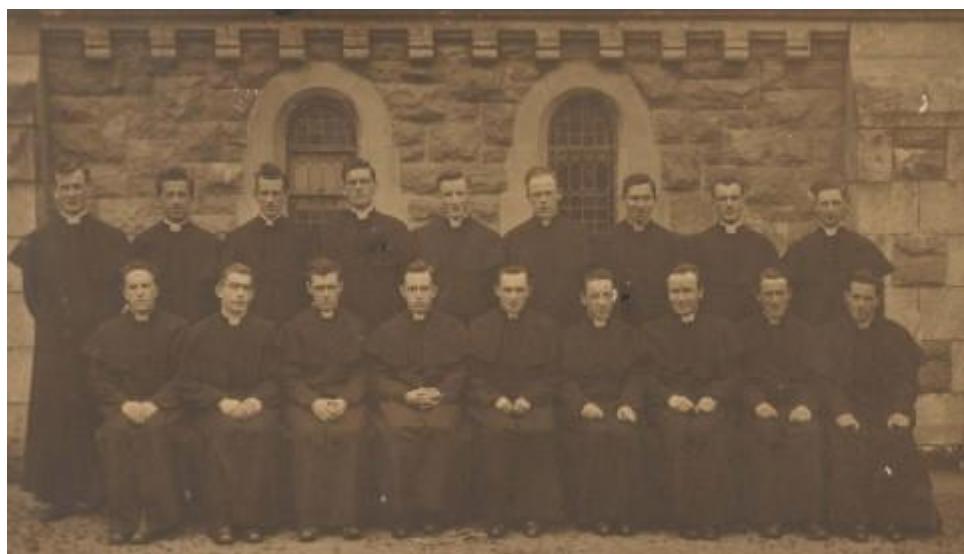
Thereafter he spent 12 years as Parish Priest of St Kenneth's in the Parish of Lochore from 1949 to 1961 - following directly on in the footsteps of Thomas Canon McGarvey who had been the Parish Priest of Lochore immediately before him, up until 1949. During this period, he was also charged with building the neighbouring church of St Bernard's Ballingry in Fife which was dedicated in 1959.

After this 12-year posting in St Kenneth's he was charged with the founding of a new parish, St Mark's Parish Oxbangs, which he did in 1961 and he was also the builder of St Mark's Parish Church which was dedicated the following year in 1962 and where Fr Lynch stayed until 1965.

His final parish was St Margaret's Dunfermline where he was installed as a Canon of the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter of St Mary's in Edinburgh becoming 'Canon' Lynch in 1974. Around this time Canon Lynch's health had been giving cause for concern and arrangements were already underway for his retirement when he died at Dunfermline on 14th November

1984, at the age of 77 and after 53 years of devoted service to the People of God in the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh.

Faithful servant of God. May he rest in peace!



Ordination Class of 1931 St Patrick's College, Carlow, Ireland. *

Back Row: Fr J. Smyth, Fr F. Quinn, Fr P. Gormley, Fr H. Prior, Fr D McGillicuddy, Fr J. Sheehy, Fr M. O'Connor, Fr J. Clougher, Fr J. Stack.

Front Row: Fr W O'Farrell, Fr W. Devine, Fr D. Kennedy, Fr P. Lynch, Fr P. Keane, Fr P. Smyth, Fr P. Bates, Fr J. McNamara, Fr J. O'Shea.

The following is a short article from the '*Carlovian*' 1963 edition page 21, which is an annual publication in County Carlow, Ireland recounting stories of interest, Irish culture and local history.

'In September 1961 the task of forming a new parish in a big new housing scheme in the Edinburgh district of Oxbangs was given to Fr Patrick C. Lynch... It is a big undertaking but already Fr Lynch's popularity is already paying dividends. These good people are solidly behind him and despite the fact of having to face a debt of £50,000 he is proud of his new parish and its people... Last year [1961] he had the honour of being appointed the president of the Scottish Re-union. [ed - it was not uncommon for Irish Priest on the Scottish Missions to have a reunion association at their old college an appoint office bearers to organise events on an annual basis.]

* *Photographs courtesy of the Delany Archive of Carlow College Ireland. Our thanks also to Bernie Deasy archivist. © Delany Archive*