

# ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, POYNTZPASS & ITS PARISH PRIESTS AND CURATES 1788 - 2002

BY MICHAEL ANDERSON



*St. Joseph's Today*

St. Joseph's Poyntzpass, is one of four Churches in the parish of Ballymore and Mullaghbrack, the others being St. James's Tandragee, St. James's Markethill, and St. Patrick's Ballyargan. It is not known exactly when the two separate parishes of Ballymore and Mullaghbrack were united, but there is evidence to suggest that the amalgamation took place sometime during the latter half of the eighteenth century. The present Parish Priest resides in Tandragee, as has been the case with each of his predecessors for at least 200 years. The parish had two Curates throughout most of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, one residing in Markethill and the other in Poyntzpass; but in 1995 this was reduced to one and then in 2004 the last Curate in Markethill, Fr. Daly, was not replaced. St. Joseph's, after St. James's Grange, County Louth, which was built in 1762, is the second oldest church in the Archdiocese of Armagh still using the original building. It has not been possible to establish the exact date when

it was built but it would be reasonable to speculate that, with the lease for the ground having been signed in June 1792, the church would have been completed about 1794. On 9th June 1792 the **Rev. John Maguire (1792 – 1798)** and twenty-three local men signed an Indenture with Alexander Thomas Stewart of Acton for the '*piece of ground designed for a Chapel and Chapel Yard*'. Those who signed it were presumably all from the Poyntzpass area. They were: Nicholas Carr, Patrick Campbell, Bernard Cole, Arthur & James Convery, Bryan & Henry Deery, Michael & Peter Doran, James Goodfellow, Hugh Hanlon, John Keenan, Henry Loy, Anthony Magennis, Peter Mullan, John Murray, John McDonnell, Patrick McGuill, Patrick McShane, Hugh O'Hare, John Sheals, Henry & Neil Shiels.

Alexander Thomas Stewart, who signed the lease with Fr. Maguire and the others, was a descendant of the





**The oldest headstone in St. Joseph's Graveyard - Michael McGill, 22 April 1813**

*Stewart died in Dublin about the year 1802. The Acton estate has since been purchased by Major Close for nearly £100,000.*

A further inscription in different writing states ‘*Bequeathed to Col. Blacker by J. Temple Reiley, 31 July 1846*’. The only other information in relation to the building is an anecdote related by a local parishioner. She recalled her father, who was born in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, stating that a bottle of whiskey had been built into the wall behind the altar. The stonemasons apparently had it to refresh themselves from time to time but they were caught unawares one day by the sudden and unexpected arrival of the Parish Priest. They hid the bottle in the wall but the priest remained on the scene all day and they had to build on top of it!

**Rev. Henry Campbell (PP 1798 – 1819)** succeeded Fr Maguire as Parish Priest. A small damaged ciborium from that period has been in the storeroom for as long as anyone can remember. The duty stamps on it are for the year 1807 or 1808, thus making it the oldest artefact associated with St Joseph's. The sundial made by Thomas McCreash, at present on the south wall of St. Joseph's, bears Fr. Campbell's name and the year 1817. Fr. Campbell was transferred to Armagh in 1819 and remained there until his death in 1827.

**Rev. Arthur McGuirk, (PP 1819 – 1831)** was Parish Priest during the time when St. James's Church was built in Markethill in 1829. There is a permanent memorial to him on the east wall of St. Patrick's Church, Ballyargan. A sundial also made by Thomas McCreash in 1826 has the following inscription (partly from Alexander Pope).

*Memento Mori*

*Years following years steal something every day,*

*At last they steal us from ourselves away,*

*This plainly shews to foolish man*

*That this short life is but a span.*

*Latitude 54D 14M North*

*Made by Thomas McCreash*

*Anno Domini 1826*

*The Reverend Arthur McGuirk PP Ballymore.*

Fr. McGuirk either resigned or was removed as Parish Priest in mysterious circumstances in 1831 and went to Kildress where he lived for a further thirty five years on a small farm of eleven acres. It has not been possible to confirm or deny one theory that he was involved in an altercation at Moy fair, which had serious consequences. During his time in Kildress he was paid a pension by the Parish of Ballymore and Mullaghbrack, much to the annoyance of his successors who had to pay this sum out of the income they received from the parishioners. Fr. McGuirk died in 1866 at Kildress and is buried in Carrickmore.

**Rev. John Coyne, (PP 1831 – 1837)** succeeded Rev. McGuirk as Parish Priest and at this time the Catholic population, based on the area of the Acton division of the Church of Ireland, was 1,371. Fr. Coyne was responsible for the local school achieving National Board status in April 1832. The application submitted to the Commissioners of Irish Education was signed by John Dickson, MP, George Bennett, James Hamilton, John Little, George Crothers, John Crothers, all Protestant signatories, while John Madden, James Magill MD, Felix Rice, Patrick Conroy (Teacher), William Quinn CC and John Coyne PP, were the Catholic signatories. An 1835 OS Map of the area shows the school just above the Chapel. The old school was demolished in 1982 to make way for a new parochial hall.



**An early photograph of St. Joseph's**

Fr. Coyne began a register of births and marriages in the parish in June 1831, and during 1832 he recorded approximately 240 baptisms and 46 marriages together

**Parish Priests of Ballymore and Mullabrack Parish during the 20th century.**



*Rev. Cornelius Shortt  
1918-1925*



*Rev. Patrick Macken  
1925-1929*



*Rev. Charles Montague  
1929-1941*



*Rev. Brian Hackett  
1994-2002*



*Rev. Patrick Hughes  
1941-1952*



*Rev. Terence Kelly  
1988-1994*



*Rev. Patrick McNulty  
1971-1988*



*Rev. Bernard Donnellan  
1952-1971*

with details of sponsors, witnesses and the fees paid. The announcement that he was being transferred to Dundalk at the end of 1836 resulted in a sudden increase in the number of marriages during his last three months in the Parish. The number of marriages performed during the period was almost equal to that for the entire year following. He was obviously a popular man with his flock! Fr. Coyne died in Dundalk in 1837.



**St. Joseph's c. 1900**

**Rev. Edward Campbell, (PP 1837 – 1859)** renovated Ballyargan church shortly after he was appointed to Ballymore and Mullabrack. He was also responsible for the building of the present St. James's Church in Tandragee, during the early 1850s. In 1855 he had to appoint a new teacher, Peter Murphy, to the local school in Poyntzpass. This was because the former incumbent, Patrick Conroy, failed to pass an annual inspection, 'owing to old age and infirmity', and as a result the school was struck off the roll of National Schools. It was restored to National School standing in the autumn of 1855. In 1858 Fr. Campbell was given permission to appoint a 21 year old Work Mistress by the name of Mary Ann Campbell, who gave 'instruction in dressmaking, white work, plain and fancy work and knitting', two hours, five days per week. Attendance for the half-year ending September 1855 averaged only 43 pupils out of a total enrolment of over 100. Fr. Campbell died at Ballymacnab in 1860.

**Rev. Canon Daniel O'Toole, (PP 1859 – 1883),** succeeded Fr. Campbell. In a schedule sent by Fr. O'Toole to the Bishop in September 1863 he recorded:

*'We have a library in each parish with nearly 200 vols. In each library. Catechism is taught in each chapel from 3 to 5 each Sunday, Fr. Quinn in Mullabrack, Fr. O'Toole Tandragee, P/Pass and Ballyargan alternatively. The people here like very well and pay to have their chapel well-lighted and ornamented for vespers but are not so anxious about attending them. The month of May is established here and we have two Novenas but badly attended.'*

A chalice dating back to early part of Fr. O'Toole's

pastorate and bearing the inscription 'IN USUM ECCLESIAE POYNTZPASS A.D. 1863,' is still in use in the church. A small ciborium from the period of the same pastorate is interesting. The assay marks show that it was made in Dublin in 1876 and that the lid was made in London in 1904. It bears the inscription 'IN USUM ECCLESIAE SANCTI JACOBI APUD MULLABRACK 1879'. With almost a quarter of a century of service Canon O'Toole remains the longest serving Parish Priest. He resigned in 1883 due to declining health and old age and died in 1886 at Ballymacnab.

**Rev. Thomas Nugent (CC 1872 – 1874)** is the first Curate who can definitely be linked to Poyntzpass. He is recorded as dying in Rostrevor on 25 March 1874; a bachelor aged 28 years and a clergyman. Fr. Larry Murray, the Armagh diocesan historian who died in 1941, recorded in his notes that he 'never did duty', thus adding to the intrigue about him. I have been unable to locate his final resting place. Could he be the unknown person who is buried in front of the altar in St. James's Church, Tandragee?



**The altar of St. Joseph's c. 1950**

**Rev. James Donnelly (PP 1883 – 1897)** was responsible for the building of new schools in Tandragee and Ballyargan and a new vestry in St. Patrick's Ballyargan. In 1887 he purchased, at a cost of £12, a new 'solid oak Harmonium' for St. Joseph's Poyntzpass.

In a Schedule to the Bishop, undated, but obviously 1896 or 1897, he stated that in the Poyntzpass area there are 'about 100 people in the Apostleship of Prayer, 7 circles of the Living Rosary and about 150 vols. in the library'. Catechism

**Curates who served in Poyntzpass.**



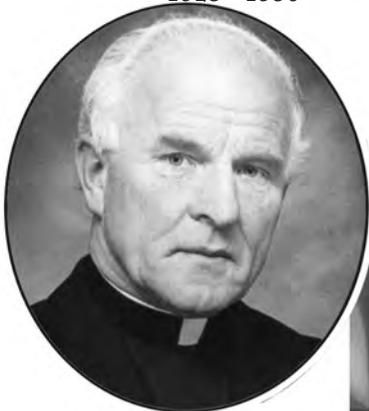
*Rev. Daniel Meenagh*  
1925 - 1930



*Rev. Bernard Magennis*  
1931-1937



*Rev. Michael Flynn*  
1937 - 1941



*Rev. Desmond Corrigan*  
1984 - 1995



*Rev. Patrick Gallagher*  
1941 - 1952



*Rev. John Murphy*  
1978 - 1984



*Rev. Patrick McKee*  
1952 - 1956



*Rev. Oliver Breslan*  
1971 - 1978



*Rev. Sean Quinn*  
1965 - 1971



*Rev. Bernard Treacy*  
1956 - 1965

was being taught in the Chapel and the teacher was Rose Matthews. He requests the bishop, while on his visit, to make some observations on ‘*intemperance, drinking, company keeping, night walking and their consequences*’. Fr. Donnelly was transferred to Carrickmore in 1897 and died there in 1916.

**Rev. Patrick McWilliams (CC 1888 – 1889)** spent one year in Poyntzpass and then five years in Killeavey before moving to Limerick where he joined the Jesuit Community. He ministered there for the next fifty-five years of his life until he died in 1950.

**Rev. John McDonnell (CC 1889 – 1891)** spent little over a year in Poyntzpass before moving on and eventually becoming Parish Priest in Kildress where he died in 1934.

**Rev. Joseph Toner (CC 1891 – 1893)** was born in the USA but was educated and then ordained in Ireland after his parents returned home. He moved back to Pittsburg in the USA and ministered there until his death in 1926. The late Fr. Pat Loughlin remembered him coming back to Poyntzpass on holidays.

**Rev. Hugh Taggart, (CC 1893 – 1896)** was involved in an incident that made headlines in the local press during his time in Poyntzpass. In August 1893 about two hundred and fifty members of the Catholic Total Abstinence Society held their annual excursion to Warrenpoint where they spent a pleasant day. Before their departure one or two revolver shots were heard in the vicinity of the Orange Hall and as the train was about to move off a female member of the excursion party was attacked. In the evening a crowd had gathered for the return of the excursion and some jostling took place but, had it not been for the influence Fr. Taggart had with his people, a conflict would undoubtedly have occurred. Rev. Mr Archer the Episcopalian minister was also on the scene and tried to restrain the other side but reports stated that his efforts were not very successful. The following Sunday a large group of Catholics held what the ‘*Newry Reporter*’ referred to as ‘*an Indignation Meeting*’ in the Federation rooms, Poyntzpass. With Mr Francis Blacker presiding, Mr Charles Loy, seconded by Mr James Shiells, proposed and it was unanimously resolved ‘*That we repudiate the imputation on the Catholic people of Poyntzpass and district, that we intended to wreck the Orange Hall on return from the Catholic excursion from Warrenpoint on Sunday last 26 Aug.*’. Fr. Taggart was curate when a concert was organised in the courthouse Poyntzpass on Monday 14 January 1894 by the ‘*Local Lighting Committee*’; to raise funds to defray the expenses incurred by the erection of new lamps in the village. In an early photograph of St. Joseph’s, one of these lamps can be seen at the entrance gate. Fr. Taggart eventually became Parish Priest in Ballinderry and died there in 1940.

**Rev. Daniel Gormill, (CC 1895 – 1902)** succeeded Fr. Taggart as Curate in Poyntzpass. He died in Carrickmore in 1911.

**Rev. Bernard Lavery, (PP 1898 – 1918)** was Parish Priest when major renovations were carried out to St Joseph’s church about 1907. The window above the altar bears the inscription: *PRAY FOR THE INTENTION of ANN THERESA MURRAY, GOVAN SCOTLAND & BENEFACTOR to this CHURCH 1907*. The late Michael Waddell recalls that his parents went on their honeymoon for the day, after being married in St. Joseph’s on 17 November 1907, and Fr. O’Brien, who married them, went on the same train to Armagh with them to order new seats for the church. According to local tradition there were two galleries in the church, with the altar at the centre of one of the sidewalls. There was an earthen floor. A photograph owned by Terry Murray shows the church with three doors, one in the gable wall and two in the sidewall where the present main entrance is now situated. The gable door was closed during these renovations. Tradition suggests that it had been intended that a porch or other structure had been planned for this gable wall. This was to be the main entrance with a pathway straight down to the footpath. It was due to this that permission was never given for any burials where the new pathway might have gone. The door, which was adjacent to where the altar now is, was also closed up. The peaked wall above it and the present entrance were removed. The windows were replaced, the second gallery removed and the altar placed on the west-facing gable. The earthen floor was replaced with a wooden one, the joists being laid on the earthen floor.

Writing about the people in 1911, Fr. Lavery had this to say, ‘*The people here are far from perfect but I don’t think they would, all things considered, suffer very much by comparison with any other people in like surroundings*’.

In 1917 a holy water font to the memory of Barney Conlon, blacksmith, was donated by his daughter.

**Rev. Francis Ward, (CC 1902)** only spent a short while in Poyntzpass before being moved to Caledon. He died in Middletown in 1942.

**Rev. James Clarke, (CC 1902 – 1905)** spent three years in Poyntzpass before moving to a similar position in Camlough. He was Parish Priest in Clonoe when he died in 1938.

**Rev. Matthew O’Brien, (CC 1905 – 1909)** was curate in Poyntzpass during the major renovations to St. Joseph’s in 1907. He then spent twenty years in Ballymacnab before being granted sick leave. He went back to Dunamore to live with his brother and died there in 1934.



*St. Patrick's Ballyargan*

**Rev. Peter O'Connor, (CC 1909)** was remembered for his charitable work. He died in Bessbrook in 1937.

**Rev. Michael Quinn, (CC 1909 – 1912)** On leaving Poyntzpass in 1912 Fr. Quinn went to Africa where he ministered for twenty-two years. He returned to Ireland and died in Eglishe in 1953.

**Rev. John Hoey, (CC 1912)** spent a short time in Poyntzpass. He was reputed to have taken a particularly tough stance on 'company keeping'. Fr Hoey moved to Ballygawley but after a disagreement with Cardinal Logue, he went to S. Dakota, USA. He died there at the early age of fifty-one in 1936.

**Rev. John Devlin, (CC 1913 – 1915)** subsequently served as curate in Loughgilly where he died there in 1944.

**Rev. Eugene Shortt (CC 1916 – 1925)** was the older brother of **Rev. Cornelius Shortt, (PP 1918 – 1925)**. He was curate in Poyntzpass for the entire period of his brother's pastorate. The late Frank McCourt who served at Mass for Fr. Shortt, recalled being on the way to Ballyargan one Sunday morning when the old car broke down at the Goat's Bridge. Fr. Shortt insisted on carrying the toolbox with them for the remainder of journey, reckoning that if someone came along they couldn't steal the car without having the tools to get it going again! Frank insisted that the toolbox was 'half-a-ton in weight'

The late Peter Campbell recalled that Fr. Shortt and his brother had many heated debates with each other

over a small piece of ground ('an acre or two') that they had in Tandragee. Peter built a byre on it for them and they would have argued about the type of cattle that they should buy, and what crops they should grow. Peter and his wife were married after a very short courtship and Fr. Eugene was against the marriage. On their wedding day he was in St Joseph's Church and came on to the altar and said 'I thought this was all off'. Fr. Cornelius performed the ceremony. The Campbells went on to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary in 1993! Fr. Eugene died, aged 90 in Keady, in 1939 while his brother Cornelius died in Tandragee in 1925.

**Rev. Patrick Macken (PP 1925 – 1929)** was popular with all sections of the community. He died suddenly in Tandragee at the age of fifty-two. Tandragee branch of the British Legion expressed regret at his passing and conveyed the condolences of the branch to his bereaved family. Fr. Macken is the only priest who served in Ballymore and Mullabrack and who is buried at St Joseph's. The graveyard, which lies to the north and south of the chapel, dates from about the same time as the chapel itself. The local tradition is that the first person to be buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery was drowned in Hare's bog in the town land of Aughantaraghan.

There is an interesting story in relation to the late Billy McGivern, who is also buried here. During the early part of his life Billy was involved in an accident with a mowing machine and lost his leg. At that time he was a member of the local Presbyterian Church nearby and it was only natural that his severed leg should be buried

there in the adjoining graveyard. Some years later Billy became a Catholic and when he died he was buried in the graveyard of his adopted Church, St Joseph's.

**Rev. Daniel Meenagh, (CC 1925 – 1930)** is remembered by everyone in Poyntzpass as a *'great preacher'*. Fr Daniel would stride back and forth with *'the sweat pouring from him'*. Fr Montague, PP at the time, referred to him as a *'talking machine'*. He was also renowned as a healing priest and great numbers used go to him for cures. The Daly family called a daughter Meenagh, because an older child who had been seriously ill with TB made a full and unexpected recovery which was attributed to Fr Meenagh. He is also reputed to have cured the late Paddy Convery who had been told in hospital in 1936 that he would never walk again following a serious injury to his kneecap. Fr Meenagh died at Castleblayney in 1954.

**Rev. Charles Montague, (PP 1929 – 1941)** oversaw a number of improvements to St Joseph's. Electricity was installed in 1936 replacing the oil lamps and candles. A new sanctuary lamp, the gift of Rose and Sarah Conlan, was installed and new pillars and a wall were erected at the entrance to the grounds in 1933. The finely engraved sundial, which had for years lain neglected under the stairway (probably from the 1907 improvements), was re-erected on the south wall. Fr. Montague was also responsible for the re-building of St. Patrick's Ballyargan in 1932 and was buried there following his death at Tandragee in 1941.

Fr. Montagues' curates were Fr. Meenagh (Poyntzpass), the renowned preacher, and Fr. Mone (Markethill) who drove a sporty MG. Several parishioners recalled that Fr. Montague often spoke about *"being well fixed, for I have a talking machine in Poyntzpass and a flying machine in Markethill"*.

**Rev. Bernard Magennis, (CC 1931 – 1937)** was a friendly cheerful man who liked to do a spot of hunting and shooting now and again, and this he frequently did with Paddy Watters and Joby Canavan. He will be particularly remembered as the man who started the Pioneers Total Abstinence Association during the summer of 1931. Fr. Magennis later became Parish Priest in Mullaghbawn and died there in 1977.

**Rev. Michael Flynn, (CC 1937 – 1941)** Fr. Flynn became Parish Priest in Ballymacnab in 1965 and in 1970 resigned and went to Los Angeles, where he died in 1993.

**Rev. Patrick Hughes, (PP 1941 – 1952)** was very interested in farming and was a noted judge of cattle. He is remembered for organising a formal dress dance in the hall on the hill on a very cold night, which almost caused a split in the area between those who wanted it and those who didn't. During his time the ex-army huts on Mr. Best's ground were acquired for a parochial hall. In 1950 Fr. Hughes reported that there were 72 homes with 298 Catholics in the Poyntzpass area. He later became PP in Carrickmore and died there in 1974.

**Rev. Patrick Gallagher, (CC 1941 – 1952)** was a keen handball player and was one of the prime movers in the restoration of the handball alley in 1943. Locals who played with him included Hadden and Tommy Morrow, Mick Waddell, Tom Burns, Colin Baxter and Jim Lennon. He was also responsible for the re-forming of the Flute Band, which had earlier been disbanded. He became Parish Priest in Mullaghbawn and died there in 1979.

**Rev. Patrick McKee, (CC 1952 – 1956)** was responsible for starting the 1/- (5p) per week collection for building of the new school. Frank McCourt, who was single and at an age when he was unlikely to get married, jokingly said that there wasn't much point in him paying due to the fact that he wouldn't get much benefit from it. Fr. McKee retorted that he had a better chance than he, Fr. McKee, had. He became Parish Priest in Cooley and died in Drogheda in 1979.

**Rev. Bernard Donnellan, (PP 1952 – 1971)** had a late vocation having been a Barrister in the English Courts prior to studying for the priesthood. During his time the old parochial hall attracted dancers from far and wide who came to hear such famous dance bands such as the *'Melody Aces'* and the *'Clippertones'*. The ground for the new school in Poyntzpass was purchased for £800 towards the end of 1960. In a letter to the Cardinal at the time it was pointed out, that with a 75% grant the cost to the parish would be reduced to £200. The new school was built and completed in 1964.

Mrs Kitty Trainor succeeded Ned and Ellen McDonnell as Sacristan in 1959, a position that she was to hold for over forty years. Charles O'Loughlin presented a ciborium to St Joseph's during Fr. Donnellan's pastorate. It bears the inscription *'PRAY FOR DONOR CHARLES LOUGHLIN POYNTZPASS 1953'*

Fr. Donnellan resigned as PP in 1971 and died the following year in Newry. He is buried in Relicarn graveyard between Scarva and Tandragee.

**Rev. Bernard Tracey, (CC 1956 – 1965)** was responsible for the erection of St. Joseph's School

and a new marble altar to replace the old wooden one. The old Stations of the Cross were replaced by a new set with various individuals contributing towards the cost of these. Fr. Tracey died in Newry in 1982.

**Rev. Sean Quinn, (CC 1965 – 1971)** was particularly interested in the various clubs and societies in Poyntzpass. He was a leading figure in getting bowls started in the old parochial hall. Fr. Sean also played a leading role in the setting up of the Tandragee, Poyntzpass, and Markethill (T.P.M.) branch of the Credit Union. He reformed the Dramatic Society which went on to stage many memorable shows. Fr Quinn is now Parish Priest in Termonfeckin.

**Rev. Oliver Breslan, (CC 1971 – 1978)** is one of three brothers who served as priests in the Diocese of Armagh. Shortly after he arrived in Poyntzpass the parochial house in Church Street and all his belongings were burned in an accidental fire. He became the first priest to occupy the newly built parochial house beside the school. Fr. Breslan is currently Parish Priest in Coagh.

**Rev. Patrick McNulty, (PP 1971 – 1988)** Fr. McNulty oversaw the building of the new parochial house in Poyntzpass, which was completed in 1973 at a cost of approximately £7,500. In 1975 oil fired central heating and a new P.A. system were installed in St. Joseph's. A new electric organ was purchased in the mid-seventies. Organists over the years have been Mrs. Ryder, Sheila Canavan, Sarah Rafferty, Pat Burns, Nan Canavan, Ann & Terry Cloughley, Catherine Watters, Clodagh Anderson, Marianne O'Loughlin and Orla McClory.

Fr McNulty died at Pomeroy in 1996.

During the period 1982-1984 a new Parochial Hall was built, mostly by voluntary labour, at a total cost of £55,000. The new hall was blessed and declared open by Thomas Cardinal O Fiaich on 2 May 1984. The members of the committee were; Michael Anderson (Chairman), Desmond Canavan (Secretary), Tom Canavan, Vincent Canavan, Pat Crossan, Dan Crossan, Nicholas Garvey, Arthur Lavery, Frank Lavery, Tommy McSherry, Raymond McSherry, Carmel Magennis (Treasurer), Jim Magennis, Fergal Murphy, Seamus Murphy, Terry Murray, Jim O'Loughlin, Pat Turley.



**The official opening of St. Joseph's Parochial Hall 1985**

In June 1983 a unique event in the history of St. Joseph's took place when Fr. Michael Rodgers was ordained to the priesthood by Tomas Cardinal O Fiaich.

**Rev. John Murphy, (CC 1978 – 1984)** Fr. Murphy had a unique experience when he appeared in the film '*Never take No for an Answer*' which was filmed while he was in Rome about the year 1968. Fr. Murphy later became Parish Priest in Kilsaran, but is now retired.

**Rev. Terence Kelly, (PP 1988 – 1994)** Fr Kelly carried out major renovations on St. Josephs, which necessitated the closure of the Church for a considerable time. He was transferred to take up the post of Parish Priest of Ballinderry in April 1994.

**Rev. Desmond Corrigan (CC 1984 – 1995)** was the last priest to serve as curate in Poyntzpass. Fr Corrigan continues to live in the Parochial House in Poyntzpass.

**Rev. Brian Hackett, (PP 1994 – 2002)** was appointed Parish Priest in April 1994 in succession to Fr. Kelly. During his pastorship the church of St Joseph's celebrated its bi-centenary on Sunday 27 November 1994 with Fr. Hackett being the fifteenth Parish Priest to be associated with it. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Gerard Clifford with the priests and people of the parish of Ballymore and Mullabrack. Fr. Hackett retired in 2002 due to ill health and became CC in Ballygawley.

Fr. Hackett was succeeded by the present Parish Priest **Rev. Michael Woods.**

## LIST OF PARISH PRIESTS

1788-1794	Rev. John Maguire
1798-1819	Rev. Henry Campbell
1826-1829	Rev. Arthur McGurk
1830-1837	Rev. John Coyne
1837-1859	Rev. Edward Campbell
1859-1883	Rev. Daniel O'Toole
1883-1897	Rev. James Donnolly
1898-1918	Rev. Bernard Lavery
1918-1925	Rev. Cornelius Shortt
1925-1929	Rev. Patrick Macken
1929-1941	Rev. Charles Montague
1941-1952	Rev. Patrick Hughes
1952-1971	Rev. Bernard Donnellan
1971-1988	Rev. Patrick McNulty
1988-1994	Rev. Terence Kelly
1994-2002	Rev. Brian Hackett
2002 -	Rev. Michael Woods

## LIST OF CURATES

1872-1874	Rev. Thomas Nugent
1888	Rev. Patrick McWilliams
1889-1891	Rev. John McDonnell
1891-1893	Rev. Joseph Toner
1893-1896	Rev. Hugh Taggart
1896-1902	Rev. Daniel Gormil
1902	Rev. Francis Ward
1902-1905	Rev. James Clarke
1905-1909	Rev. Matthew O'Brien
1909	Rev. Peter O'Connor
1909-1912	Rev. Michael Quinn
1912	Rev. John Hoey
1913-1915	Rev. John Devlin
1916-1925	Rev. Eugene Shortt
1925-1930	Rev. Daniel Meenagh
1931-1937	Rev. Bernard Magennis
1937-1941	Rev. Michael Flynn
1941-1952	Rev. Patrick Gallagher
1952-1956	Rev. Patrick McKee
1956-1965	Rev. Bernard Tracey
1965-1971	Rev. Sean Quinn
1971-1978	Rev. Oliver Breslan
1978-1984	Rev. John Murphy
1984-1995	Rev. Desmond Corrigan