

Céad Mile Fáilte

A hundred thousand welcomes to the church of the Sacred Heart and to the parish of Dunhill and Fenor. Whatever the reasons for your visit to our church, we hope that it will bring a blessing to you and to us. We are Roman Catholic Christians and the church is a place where we gather to pray, to hear the Gospel preached, and to share in the Eucharist. You may or may not share our beliefs but you can surely share our enjoyment of this beautiful church.

The Sacred Heart

Devotion to the heart of Jesus as a symbol of his love for humankind dates back to the 11th century. It was greatly spread as a result of the visions received by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th Century.



This detail from the east gable window shows the traditional symbol of a heart surmounted by a cross, bleeding and pierced by a spear and the crown of thorns – symbols of Christ's passion. The flames represent the transformative power of divine love.

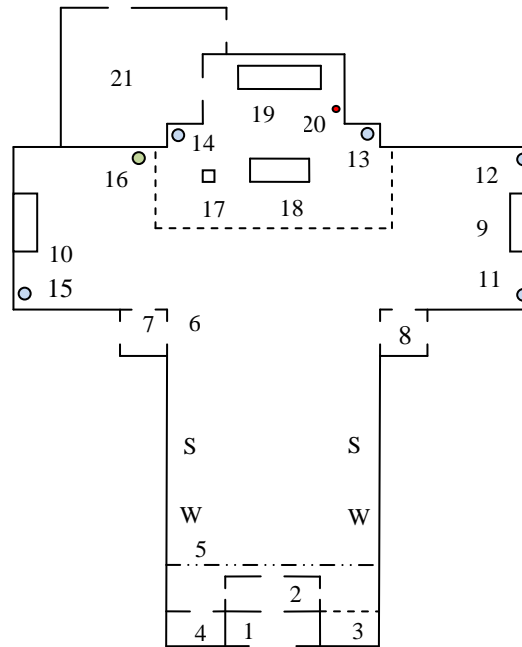
A Brief History

Long ago the area was served by three parishes: Dunhill, Reisk, and Islandikane. In about 1760 these were replaced by the joint parish of Dunhill and Fenor. There are now two churches in the parish: Sacred Heart church here in Dunhill, and Immaculate Conception church in Fenor. The parish is in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore.

There are many sites in the parish where Celtic churches existed and there are ruins of a 13th century church. The first church to be built on the present site was erected in 1798 and this was replaced in 1820 by a new church. The present church was built in 1884.

The parish priest responsible for the new church was Rev. Fr. John Dowley who died in 1894. The architect was Walter G. Doolin. There is more history on the parish website.

What You See Inside the Church



ENTRANCE (1 and 2): This is a double porch.

BAPTISTERY (3): Traditionally, baptisms were carried out near the main door of the church. Nowadays, baptisms are celebrated near the altar.

STAIRS AND GALLERY (4 and 5): Access to the gallery is by the stairs in the corner.

WALL PLAQUES (6 and 7): In memory of Rev. Fr. Maurice Keating, P.P. who died in 1899 and Rev. Fr. Gerard Purcell, P.P., who died in 2011.

SIDE ENTRANCE AND WALL PLAQUE (8): In memory of Rev. Fr. Michael Walsh, P.P., who died in 1862.

CONFESSIONALS (9 and 10): Where the priests hear confessions. Confessions are also heard near the altar during reconciliation services.

SAINT THERESE'S STATUE (11): This is St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Normandy, 1873-1897, "the Little Flower", a Carmelite nun shown carrying roses with roses at her feet.

SACRED HEART STATUE (12): This shows Jesus with a flaming heart encircled by a crown of thorns. The heart represents Jesus' love for humanity.

SAINT JOSEPH'S STATUE (13): St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, is shown carrying the child Jesus and a bunch of lilies.

MARY'S STATUE (14): Mary is shown standing on a globe and on the biblical serpent which has an apple in its mouth – from the story of the Garden of Eden and the *Medal of the Immaculate Conception* or *Miraculous Medal* of Saint Catherine Labouré.



SAINT PATRICK'S STATUE (15): St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He was the first bishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland. He died c. 460.

FONT (16): Baptisms are carried out using this font.

AMBO (17): Where the scriptures are proclaimed and where the priest delivers his homily.

ALTAR (18): Where the priest celebrates the sacrifice of the Mass, the memorial of Jesus' passion and death. The Mass is also a celebration of the Lord's Supper, i.e., the Eucharist.

HIGH ALTAR (19): The original altar at which Mass was celebrated before the Second Vatican Council (1962 - 1965). The Eucharist is kept in the tabernacle (little dwelling).



SANCTUARY LAMP (20): The small red lamp on the wall near the altar. It indicates that the Eucharist is present in the tabernacle.

SACRISTY AND PARISH OFFICE (21):

Where vestments and sacred vessels are kept, where the priest and attendants vest and prepare for the ceremony, and where the parish office is situated.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (S):

Fourteen tableaux of the passion, death, and burial of Jesus. Photo close-ups are on the parish website.



STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS (W): The main west gable window shows Jesus and his Sacred Heart, his mother Mary, and her husband Joseph. Photo close-ups are on the parish website.



Detail of Jesus from the west gable window.

What You See Outside the Church

THE BELL TOWER: This dates from 1820 when the previous church was built. It is still in use..

GRAVEYARD: There are almost 300 graves here. Many of them have no headstone or other visible feature. However, they are all marked on the graveyard plan which is available on the website. The oldest dated headstone is 200 years old.

Five priests are buried here:

Rev. Fr. John Dowley, P.P. Died 1894.

Rev. Fr. Michael McGrath. Died 1899.

Rev. Fr. Daniel Morrissey, P.P. Died 1955.

Rev. Fr. Martin Murphy, P.P. Died 1983.

Rev. Fr. Martin Canon Power, P.P. Died 1924.



A Few Prayers

[Jesus said] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you."

[Gospel of St. John, 14:1-2]

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
[Psalm 23]

O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing,
I adore you, I love you, and with a lively sorrow for
my sins, I offer you this poor heart of mine.

[Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus]

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
[A Traditional Irish Blessing]

Information

Website:

<http://www.dunhillandfenorparish.ie>

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The Church Of The Sacred Heart

Dunhill

