

## Céad Mile Fáilte

A hundred thousand welcomes to the church of the Immaculate Conception 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 Immaculate Conception

The Catholic Church teaches that, because of Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden, all human beings are conceived with a human nature that is deprived of original holiness and justice. This deprivation is called original sin. Jesus' mother, Mary, is the only exception as she was conceived without any stain of original sin. Hence her title *The Immaculate Conception*.

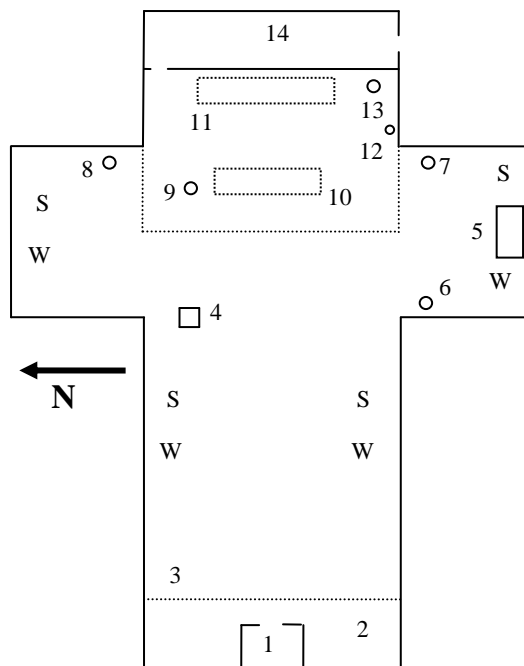
### A Brief History

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 in Dunhill, and Immaculate Conception church here in Fenor. The parish is in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore.

In 1893 the church in Fenor was slightly shorter than the present one. It was rectangular in shape, probably too small for the congregation, and needed a new roof. The eastern end of the church was demolished and extended to include the two transepts with their fine Romanesque arches. The thatched roof was replaced with a tiled roof and new stained-glass windows were fitted. The new church came into use in 1894 but was not completed until 1897.

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

## What You See Inside the Church



**ENTRANCE (1):** The entrance porch is where notices are displayed and where leaflets and Catholic newspapers are available. The font contains holy water which reminds people of their baptism. They use it to bless themselves by making the sign of the cross as they enter or leave the church.

**BAPTISTERY (2):** Traditionally, baptisms took place inside the church near the main door. In large churches the baptistery was a separate building near the door. Nowadays baptisms take place near the altar.

**GALLERY (3):** Useful on occasions when the church is full. Access is by the stairs in the corner.

**FLOOR PLAQUE (4):** In remembrance of Rev. Fr. John Murphy C.C. who died in 1887, aged 33 years, in the 8th year of his ministry..

**CONFESSIONAL (5):** Where the priests hear confessions. Confessions are also heard near the altar during reconciliation services.

**SAINT JOSEPH'S STATUE (6):** St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, is shown carrying the child Jesus and a bunch of lilies. The tradition is that the end of his staff burst into flower when he was chosen as Mary's husband.

**MARY'S STATUE (7):** 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 (Miraculous Medal)* of Saint Catherine Labouré.



**SACRED HEART STATUE (8):** This shows Jesus with a flaming heart encircled by a crown of thorns. The heart represents Jesus' love for humanity.

**AMBO (9):** Where the scriptures are proclaimed and where the priest delivers his homily.

**ALTAR (10):** The table where the priest celebrates Mass, the memorial of Jesus' passion and death. It is also a celebration of the Lord's Supper, i.e., the Last Supper of the Gospels.

**HIGH ALTAR (11):** 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 (12):** The small red lamp on the wall near the altar. It indicates that the Eucharist is present in the tabernacle.

**FONT (13):** Baptisms are celebrated near the altar using this font.

**SACRISTY (14):** Vestments, missals, lectionaries, candles, etc., are kept here. The priest and altar servers vest here before a service.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS (S):** Fourteen wall-mounted tableaux in the nave and transepts depicting the passion, death, and burial of Jesus. Photo close-ups are on the parish website.



**STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS (W):** The main window shows Mary and her parents, St. Anne and St. Joachim. Photo close-ups are on the parish website.



Detail of Mary from the east gable window.

### What You See Outside the Church



**TYMPANUM:** The tympanum above the main door shows Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the family carpentry.

**GRAVEYARD:** There are 300 graves here, all marked on the graveyard plan on the website. Rev. Fr. Gerard Purcell, P.P. who died in 2011, and Rev. Fr. James Kirwan who died in 1928 are buried here.

**CRUCIFIX:** The large crucifix near the main door came from Mount Melleray Abbey. It shows Jesus wearing a crown of thorns and nailed to his cross.

### 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 Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have  
recourse to thee.

[Miraculous medal prayer]

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>

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/DunhillAndFenorParish>

**Parish Office:**

Tel/Fax: 051 396892

eMail: [office@dunhillandfenorparish.ie](mailto:office@dunhillandfenorparish.ie)

# The Church Of The Immaculate Conception

Fenor

