

Representative Church Body Library, Dublin

C12

Records of St. Colman's Cathedral, Cloyne, County Cork.

1663 - 1956

Collection of chapter archives (including a book of abstracts of chapter meeting proceedings, dating from 1663); chapter accounts (including expenses, receipts etc.), dating from the 1660s; together with legal documents; leases; and miscellaneous correspondence. The collection provides a detailed insight about the workings of a cathedral; its income and expenditure; the functions of the dean and chapter, their incomes and expenses; as well as the costs involved keeping the cathedral church, chapter house and related buildings in good repair; and general administrative business.

For background information, refer to: Richard Caulfield, *Annals of the cathedral of St. Colman, Cloyne* (Cork, 1882), and for biographical material: W. Maziere Brady, *Clerical and parochial records of Cork, Cloyne and Ross*, 3 vols. (Dublin, 1863).

From the Dean of Cloyne, the Very Rev. George Hilliard, 1996

1. Accounts and Financial Papers, including trusts and bequests left to the dean and chapter.

1. Loose chapter accounts for the period 1660-1678 inclusive, [except for the years 1664 and 1665 which are missing]. Each annual account entitled is: 'An account for ye chapter of Cloyne'.

These annual accounts are in the form of balance sheets; each is signed by the oeconomist to the dean and chapter, and ratified by the chapter clerk. They list money received from rent of tithes belonging to the parish of Cloyne on one side, with various disbursements (mostly for repairs to the cathedral, chapter house, and on the wages of cathedral employees and workers), listed on the other.

The oeconomists during this period were as follows:

Henry Ruge 1660-67; John Mascall 1669-1674; John Ruge, 1675-. The clerks to the dean and chapter were Thomas Franklande 1660- c. 1663 and John Mascall c. 1668-1674.

[13 items].

2. Rev. Robert Carleton's account,[oeconomus from 1715, who later became Dean of Cork in 1721], for the period 25 March 1716-25 March 1717, and 25 March 1717-25 March 1718.

Divided into receipts (including receipts from the parish of Cloyne), and a detailed list of disbursements. Later ratified by Thomas Squire [Precantor in the cathedral, see Brady, ii, 150], and Walter Atkin, 1 Dec. 1721, with a further note that they were again exhibited and examined on 17 May 1722.

3. Similar account signed by Mr Lukey [Rev John Lukey, prebend of Kilmaclenin, who took the chapter oath and was chosen oeconomus in Nov. 1718 (Brady, ii, 186)].
4. Account of half year's rent due to the dean and chapter of Cloyne cathedral, 25 March 1721, and what rent had been received by Thomas Squire, oeconomus, by Sept. 1721. Signed by William Vayle, notary public.
5. Account of half year's rent due Sept. 1722, signed by William Vayle and Thomas Squire.
6. Rev. Mr Ryder;s account for the year 1727-1728, signed by Mr Ryder, 25 March 1727, with additional information about arrears and rent for the year 1729.

[Rev. Thomas Ryder was elected oeconomus, 13 Nov. 1724, and was later fined 20s for non-attendance at chapter meetings in 1746 (Brady, ii, 68)].

[Very fragile, torn in places].

7. Rev. Mr Cooper's account of the economy of Cloyne, 1731-1733.

[Cooper was appointed a vicar choral from 1704, took the chapter oath in 1725, and was elected

oeconomus, 1730, see Brady, ii, 172].

8. Rev. Mr Cooper's account as oeconomist, c. 1733.

[Fragile, page is torn. Lists disbursements only].

9. Account of crops (barely, oats, wheat and peas) and tithes sold by various tenants of the dean and chapter, 1742.

[The latest date on this document is 7 Aug. 1742].

10. Chapter account book, 1743-1798: hard cover volume, containing the accounts of several oeconomists to the dean and chapter of Cloyne, itemising debts and credit, including a rental for the tithes and lands belonging to dean and chapter. March 1743-Sept. 1798.

[A succession of oeconomists are covered by this volume beginning with the Rev. Dr. Robert Berkeley (younger brother of Bishop Berkeley), oeconomus 1742- 1763; and terminating with Rev James Hingston, who took the chapter oath in 1779, and became oeconomus in 1791. Others include: Rev. Edward Kippax; Rev. Joseph Stopford; Rev. James Mockler; Rev. William Berkeley (son of Robert Berkeley), treasurer of Cloyne; and the Rev. John Lawless].

An inscription on the last page reads: 'This book was lent to me by the Very Rev. James Howie, Dean of the cathedral church of St. Colman, Cloyne, 27 Dec. 1875, and I finished my abstracts thereupon on 31 Dec. 1875', signed Richard Caulfield LLD FSA, Royal Institution Cork with a Greek [?] inscription below.

[Binding is broken]

11. Bundle of receipts, including a receipt issued by the office of the late Bishop of Cloyne [Charles Crow], to the dean and chapter of Cloyne, for houses held by the chapter, and for one year's proxies, signed Henricus Huttson [clerk?], 1726; together with various other receipts for goods supplied, salaries or pensions paid, and loans or debts covered, 1731-1733, paid out by the oeconomus to the dean and chapter [Mr Thomas Cooper], by the hand of Mr James Hanning [notary public].

Names mentioned as recipients of money from the dean and chapter, mostly salaries as follows: Ann Bolton, Thomas Burn, George Chinnery, James Coles, Stephen Cotts, James Dolen, Jane Dub...[?], Joesph Franklin, Patrick Galwey, James Hanning, Thomas Holmes, Thomas Kearney, Walter Lavit, John Mansfield, Mrs Alyce Pritchard at Coppinger's House [?] (relating to debt of Mrs Ferry), James Sommerville, William Vayle, Abraham Wright. 1726-1733.

[33 items].

12. Account of the dean and chapter of Cloyne cathedral, 1869-1878, compiled by Rev. William Rogers, oeconomus.

This document is in the form of a balance sheet, outlining income derived from rent charges and arrears of rent on one side, with expenditure divided into the following main sections: 'salaries', 'cathedral expenses', and 'incidental expenses', on the other.

13. Bundle of cheque stubs and receipts, mostly for payments made by Rev. H.J. Fleming, Dean of Cloyne, including receipts issued on behalf of the Cloyne Glebe Fund, 1879-1895; together with stub of a cheque book belonging to the cathedral Select Vestry's bank account in the Bank of Ireland, Midleton, 1 Jan. 1906-30 Sept, 1907.

[29 items].

14. Small bundle of letters, mostly from solicitors or the Finance Dept. of the RCB, concerning the legacy of £100 bequeathed to the dean and chapter of Cloyne, by Sir Warren Roland Croke-Lawless.
23 June - 7 Nov. 1932.

[The interest derived from this legacy was ordered to be used for the maintenance of the Lawless family grave and tablets in the cathedral church, while the balance could be used as the dean and chapter saw fit].

15. Small bundle of papers relating to the Harrison Trust, including extracts from the chapter books relating to the trust, to which the dean and chapter were appointed new trustees in Jan. 1887.
4 Nov. 1932 - 6 Jan. 1933.

This trust was bequeathed by the Rev. Henry Harrison, vicar of Castelyons, who died in 1745 [see Brady, ii, 95-96], for assisting the Protestant poor of that parish. In the late 1880s, it appears that the dean and chapter were to administer the fund, on receipt of a list from the rector of Castlelyons. Some of the letters in this bundle reveal information about the poor who received support during the 1930s. [8 items]

2. Chapter Books and other Administrative Papers concerning the Dean and Chapter

1. Book of abstracts from early chapter books of the dean and chapter of St. Colman - referred to as volumes 1 and 2 [no longer extant], outlining orders, resolutions, and other items of business of the chapter.
14 July 1663 - 26 July 1787.

Most of the contents of this book were compiled c.1773, (see pp 1-138), and added to in a different hand between 1774 - 1787 (see pp 138 - 164). There is an index at the back, to subjects and place-names, for the original main body of text (pp 1-138); and on the fly-leaf page is a sketch of the stalls in the cathedral, showing the location of seats belonging to dignitaries and prebendaries. The number 8 is marked on the front cover of the volume - indicating its original position in the sequence of diocesan records.

The book opens with the list of chapter members recorded at the chapter meeting held on 14 July

1663, under Henry Rugge, dean, and continues to reveal a wealth of information about the business of this cathedral chapter, until the late eighteenth century.

Orders and rules made at these meetings could be strict - if a vicar or prebendary was ordered to preach for example (according to a list posted on the chapter door), and failed to turn up at the service, he would forfeit 20 shillings, unless he had agreed in advance with an orthodox minister of the diocese to perform the duty on his behalf. Fines were also imposed for failing to wear a surplice, tippet and hood when preaching. Failure to attend a chapter meeting or visitation also resulted in a heavy fine (p6). However, church officers were well looked after - the verger as ordered to receive a new gown every three years (p9).

The contents of the book also reveal that the administration of the chapter was closely bound up with the day to day management of the diocese of Cloyne as a whole. On the death of a bishop, for example, the dean and chapter would appoint guardians of the spiritualities. Thus, in 1753, Rev. Robert Berkeley DD was elected treasurer of the cathedral and vicar general of the diocese on the death of his father, George Berkeley, Bishop of Cloyne (pp111-112).

Lands in other parts of the diocese were also administered by the dean and chapter of the cathedral at Cloyne. A house in Youghal (p2), a house and land in the town of Cloyne (p3), and the mill of Cloyne (p14), were leased by the dean and chapter from the diocesan see. Two documents of particular relevance to the chapter's property contained within the abstract book are: 1) An extensive 'terrier of tithes and lands belonging to Cloyne', compiled by John Rugge, oeconomist, 12 July 1700 (pp37-45); and 2) A 'rentroll of land belonging to the chapter of Cloyne and yearly expenses of the dean and chapter, 1766' (pp130-131).

2. Chapter book of the dean and chapter of St. Colman's, containing the minutes of chapter meetings held in the chapter house of the cathedral church.
1795-1881 [with odd entries for the years 1882-1897].

Although the outside cover of this volume states that it covers the years 1795-1904, the latest year it covers is in fact 1897. There is, however, a complete run of minutes between 1795 and 1881 followed by odd minutes up to the year 1897.

Meetings were usually held twice a year, occasionally three times. The members of each chapter (dean, precantor, chancellor, treasurer, archdeacon and several prebendaries) are listed at the beginning of each minute, after which the principal heads of business are described. Often, the accounts of the chapter oeconomy were read and passed first, followed by various orders and resolutions, many relating to the lands in the control of the chapter.

These lands included an assortment of glebes and other properties located throughout the wider environs of the diocese of Cloyne, together with the chapter farm, chapter house and related buildings in the cathedral yard.

Regular business attended to included filling vacancies, looking after the needs of the organist and choir members, administering who should sit in the seats of the cathedral, and overseeing the erection of any tablets or monuments within the building.

The chapter meeting held on 7 March 1878, marked a significant change in the administration of the cathedral following disestablishment of the Church of Ireland. It was resolved that the chapter should meet to form a cathedral select vestry. Thereafter, at each meeting the chapter adjourned to form a select vestry. A rector was also appointed to the parish of Cloyne, and a building committee formed to build a glebe house for the incumbent of the union of Cloyne with the parishes of Kilmahon and Ballycotton.

A number of odd references at the end of the volume refer to routine appointments made by the

chapter. These include notes about the Harrison bequest to the cathedral (see also /1/15 above), and loose agreements appointing lay officers of the cathedral, including John Daly as organist in March 1874 (his contract was later terminated in Nov. 1882), and Richard Bourke, as caretaker c. 1874; as well as an agreement with John Sullivan, to slate a house in the cathedral yard, 1874.

[Leather bound volume. Very fragile binding. Some pages are badly water damaged]

3. Chapter book of miscellaneous business, mostly devoted to the restoration of Cloyne cathedral, which began on 21 Oct. 1891, and was completed by 17 Dec. 1894. Also includes minutes of chapter meetings for odd dates between 21 Dec. 1882 and 2 Dec. 1889, and again between 24 Oct. 1916 and 6 Dec. 1832; and meeting minutes of the select vestry of the parish of Cloyne for May, Aug. and Nov. 1907.

Entries concerning the restoration include minutes of meetings between the parishioners of Cloyne with the dean of the cathedral [Horace J. Fleming] and the chapter; minutes of the restoration working committee, and several balance sheets itemising receipts and expenditure from the restoration fund.

All of the entries of chapter meetings between 21 Dec. 1882 and 2 Dec. 1889 have been cancelled out, for some unknown reason - they do not appear elsewhere. In addition, there are chapter minutes for the following dates: 24 Oct. 1916; 30 Sept. 1919; 23 Jan. 1923; 15 Sept. 1926; 1 Dec. 1931; 4 Feb. 1932; 8 Nov. 1932 and 6 Dec. 1932, (a note informs us that the regular book covering these dates had been mislaid).

The select vestry minutes are for the year 1907 only, but include a list of select vestry members and of parochial nominators for 1907-08, together with details of special offertories and collections, Easter 1907-Easter 1908.

There are also some more details about the Harrison bequest on the flyleaf cover, together with a note that the volume was rebound by W.J. Wilson, Dean of Cloyne, Jan. 1932.

4. Duplicates or rough minutes of chapter meetings for the following dates: 6 June 1862; 19 June 1863; 8 July 1864; 19 July 1865; 20 July 1866; 19 July 1867; 22 Nov. 1867; 24 July 1868; 9 July 1869; 10 Sept. 1869; 9 Sept. 1870; 23 Dec. 1870 [Fragile] and a second copy of same with very rough minutes for 28 Dec. 1870; also, and undated list of chapter members, under Very Rev. James Howie, Dean.

[14 items].

Note on the back of one rough minute states that they were later entered in the chapter book.

5. Citations from the Very Rev. James Howie, Dean of St. Colman's cathedral, summoning members of the cathedral chapter to convene a meeting of the chapter. Various dates between 27 May 1863 and 1 July 1870.

Signed by Rev. William Rogers, registrar and chapter clerk. All are original citations, stamped with the chapter seal. (For further information about the chapter seals, see Caulfield, Annals, p. 46.)

[11 items].

3. Legal Documents, including leases, concerning property belonging to the Dean and Chapter

1. Copy of indenture for lease of the grist mill Cloyne, made 1 May 166[6].
Between 1) Elizabeth Synge, of Cloyne, widow, and Henry Ruge, Dean of Cloyne on her behalf, and 2) Thomas Knowles, Cloyne, wherein 1) will lease the grist mill of Cloyne, with cabins, gardens and lands, now in possession of Connor [?] McCarty, miller, to 2), for a term of 70 years, in return for yearly rent of £20 stg. paid unto 1) quarterly by 2), who will also do suit in the Lord Bishop of Cloyne's courts leet and baron.
The copy was made 17 July 1668.

[Fragile. Already in two pieces, and hard to read].

2. Copy of bond between:
1) Benjamin Lukey, vicar of the parish of Carrigtohill [1676-1698] in the diocese of Cloyne; William Wakeham Esq. and William Devereux, churchwardens of the said church, and, 2) James Cotter of Ballinsperry, in the same parish, knight, dated 16 July 1695 and confirmed by the dean and chapter of Cloyne, September 1703.
Wherein 1), with the consent of the dean and chapter of St. Colman's cathedral, Cloyne, have granted to 2) one vault tomb or sepulchre in the body of the church, in the north west end, 16 feet x 13 feet, to hold for ever, on the site where 2) some years past had erected a monument on the north wall paying 1) the rent of 6 shillings, 8 pence, whenever 2) or his heirs and assigns had occasion to open the burying place, in consideration for breaking church ground.
Signed by William Vayle, notary public; registrar decani et capituli, for the dean and chapter of the cathedral church at Cloyne, in 1703.

- 3A & 3B. Two leases for the plot of ground in the town of Cloyne called the 'dean's garden', bounded on the west side by Church Street, on the north side by a house and garden (formerly in the tenancy of Rev. George Cotter, but now the residentiary preacher's house and garden), and on the south side with the road leading to the commons. The said plot is glebe belonging to the deanery of Cloyne.
The leases are both on terms of 40 years, for the annual rent of 40s, and are dated as follows: 29 Sept. 1786, between 1) Rev. and Honourable John Hewitt, dean of St. Colman's Cloyne [1779-1804] (Brady, ii, 205, informs us that Hewitt had 'great difficulty renewing leases on account of his absence') and 2) James Hanning of Cloyne, gentleman [notary public for the diocese?], witnessed by Abraham Forster and William Power; and, 24 Sept. 1817, between 1) Rev. Alexander Arbuthnot, dean of the cathedral church [1816-1823], and 2) the same James Hanning, of Kilcrone.

[The second lease, /3B, is very fragile indeed].

4. Copy of mandate from John [Gregg], Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross [1862-1878], to the dean and chapter of Cloyne, summoning them to choose a proctor to appear at the synod or provincial council to be held in St. Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, on 14 Sept.

1869.

Dated 25 Aug. 1869. The mandate is discussed at the chapter meeting held on 10 Sept. 1869, (see Chapter Book, 1795-1897, /2/2, above).

[Very fragile, writing is faded].

5. Lease with solicitor's note attached for the parochial school house for Cloyne, 7 Dec. 1887, between:
 - 1) The Representative Church Body,
 - 2) Very Rev. Horace Fleming, dean and rector of the parish of Cloyne,
 - 3) Henry Davis Smyth, Cloyne, William Pole of Glengar, Castlemartyr and Richard Creed of Cloyne.

Whereas there is a great need for a parochial school house in the said parish of Cloyne, the select vestry of the said parish have elected a committee to erect a suitable school house, of which 3) are trustees. 1) demises (without warranty of title), to 3) the parcel of ground containing 69 perches, being part of the field attached to the alms house of Cloyne, near the town of Cloyne, in the barony of Imokilly, for the term of 99 years, paying the yearly sum of 10s, over and above all taxes. 3) to hold in trust for on behalf of the parish for the purpose of a parochial school and lecture room.

Signed and sealed by all parties, with note attached.

[For further documentation about the school in Cloyne, refer to the diocesan archives, D. 16/13, concerning Bishop Crow's school].

4. Miscellaneous material relating to the Cathedral

1. Schedule of parish records belonging to Cloyne parish, 26 Feb. 1881.

The schedule lists registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, and also contains some notes about the contents of other cathedral records, including account books and vestry books.

The document makes sad reading when compared with the scant parochial documentation that has actually survived for the parish of Cloyne: many registers were lost in the bombing of the Four Courts in 1922 (see Parish register list P290).

[1 item].

2. Inventory of church plate and parochial documents in the cathedral church, Cloyne, received from the Very Rev. H. Fleming, the late dean, by W. J. Wilson, the new dean of Cloyne, 2 Aug. 1918.

[1 item].

3. Letter from W.H. Hill and Son, Architects and Civil Engineers, 28 South Mall, Cork, to Very Rev. W.J. Wilson, dean of Cloyne, concerning repairs that are required for the east window of the cathedral, 14 Oct. 1925.

4. Small bundle of letters to and from Beamish and Sullivan, Insurance Agents, of Cork and Dublin, and the Sun Insurance Company, Dublin; insurance policies and endorsements for storm and fire insurance cover for the cathedral of St. Colman's, Cloyne.
13 Dec. 1929-10 Feb. 1950.
5. Forms of appointment signed by Michael Cooney, on his appointment as caretaker of St. Colman's cathedral, Cloyne, and of its adjoining grave yard, by the select vestry of the parish of Cloyne and Ballycotton.
26 Aug. 1956

[2 items].

6. List of significant structural improvements made to the cathedral church at Cloyne, between 1660 and 1732, extracted from the accounts and chapter books.

[1 item, ?20th century]

7. Copies of the inscriptions on two ancient tombstones in the immediate vicinity of the font with a note that the font was probably a gift of John Pooley, bishop of Cloyne. The tombstones date from *c. 1200* or earlier: one has a cross flora with the words 'Taisn, 1577' on one side and 'HIS Maria' on the other. The second is inscribed with the letters 'DS', a horse shoe and 'MS', and is said to be the burial place of the Smyths of Rathcoursey.

These copies are written on paper mounted on wooden boards and may have served as caption boards. For further details about inscriptions on monuments in the cathedral, see Caulfield, *Annals*, p. 43.

8. Book of memorabilia including presscuttings, correspondence (including letters from and obituary of the sculptor, Albert Bruce-Joy), committee meeting minutes, subscription lists, and draft inscriptions relating to the Berkeley Memorial erected in the north transept of the cathedral in memory of George Berkeley, bishop of Cloyne, 1734-52, in September 1890.

The volume was compiled by H. Kingsmill Moore, Principal of the Church of Ireland Training College and Hon. Sec. of the memorial Fund Committee, who transferred it to the Dean and Chapter for safekeeping.

For a contemporary account of the ceremony held to celebrate the erection of the monument in the cathedral see *The Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette*, 1890, pp 792-3.