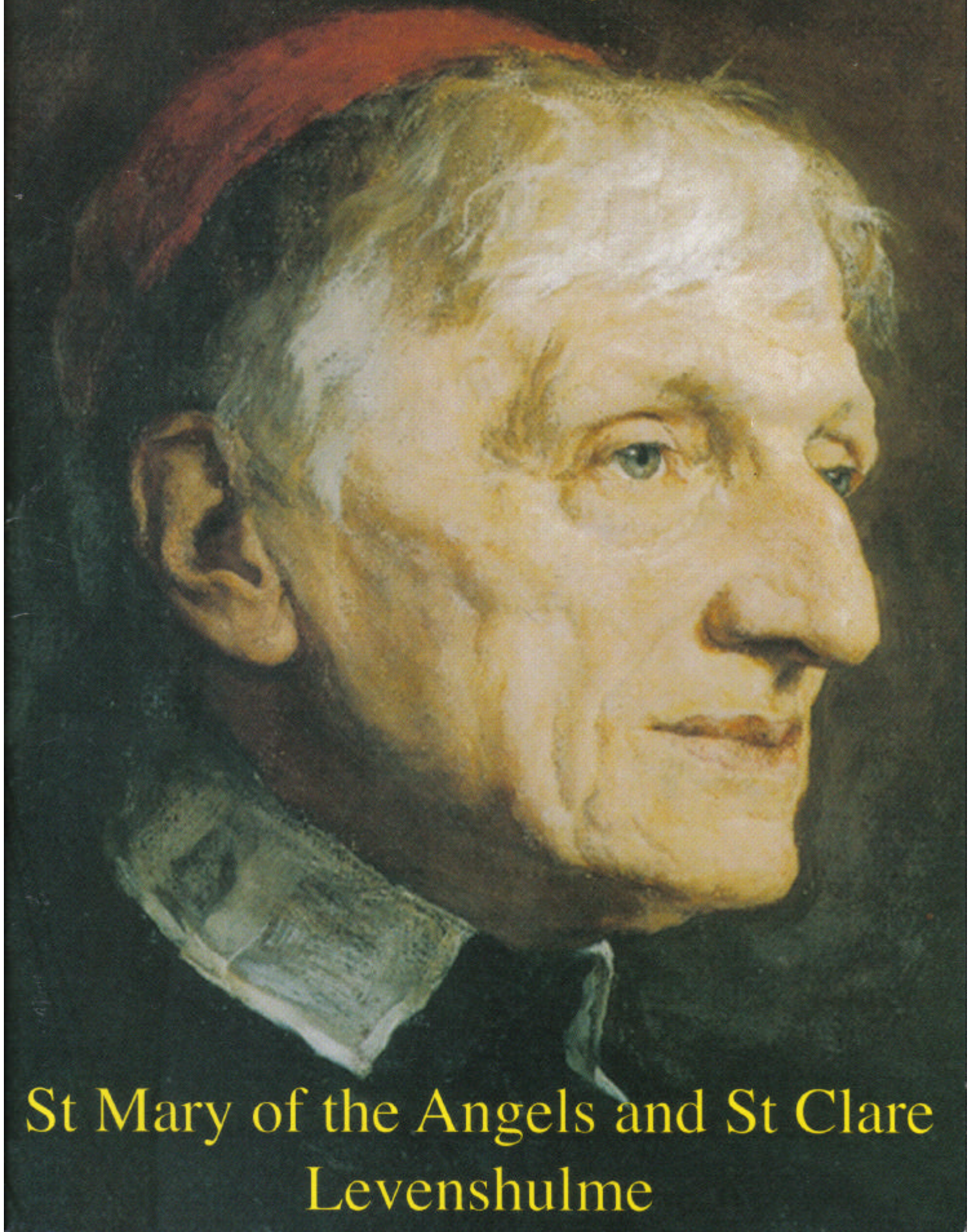


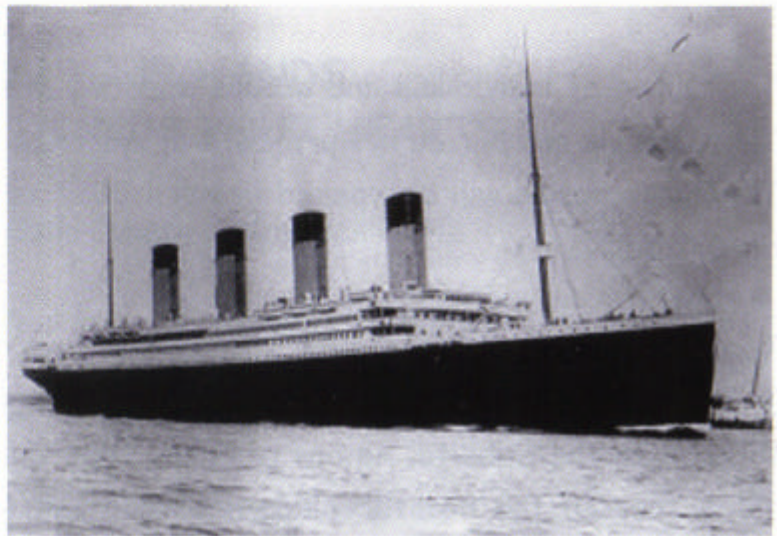
The Emissary 2010



St Mary of the Angels and St Clare
Levenshulme

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MAYO'S TITANIC EMIGRANTS

For many families in the parish emigration from rural Ireland is part of their history, but who is familiar with Mayo's Titanic history? On 10th April 1912 fourteen emigrants from the Lahardane area in North Mayo set out together for a better life in America. Three were returning emigrants, successful women, and the youngest of the Addergoole



Fourteen, Annie McGowan, 17 years, was born in Scranton Pennsylvania. By 15th April eleven had perished in the icy waters off the Great Banks of Newfoundland when RMS Titanic the unsinkable, most modern ocean going passenger vessel sank on its maiden voyage. Mayo's loss from Addergoole Parish is the largest proportionate loss from any European locality in this historic maritime disaster. Two crew members from Castlebar also perished.

The memorial in St Patrick's Church Lahardane, erected in 2002, near to where the baptismal font once stood, commemorates Addergoole's tragic loss. A soft day in September 2009 brought a coach load of St Mary's parishioners to view the memorial and hear Addergoole's Titanic story. The memorial is now a well known stopping point for visitors. A commemorative Mass is said yearly accompanied by a unique ceremony. At 2.20am on 15th April the Timoney Rural Bell in the church grounds (silent for the rest of the year) is tolled by the relatives. Sorrowful tolls for the eleven who were lost and joyful tolls for the three saved. Several people gathered for the ceremony in the early hours of the morning of 15th April 2010. Fourteen lanterns were lit to represent the Addergoole Fourteen.

The world will focus again on the Titanic maritime disaster in April 2012 for the centenary commemorations. Lahardane and its locality will be centre stage, along with Belfast where the ship was built, and Cobh its last port of call. The Addergoole Titanic Society has exciting plans for its part in these commemorations.

Already one stained-glass window and the three road signs have been sponsored.

The Society created the Mayo Titanic Time Capsule to help fund our plans. Each £2 donated secures a link in a virtual chain to the wreck of the Titanic, 12,600 ft down on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

The names of individuals and groups donating are recorded and will be placed in the Time Capsule and buried in April 2012 at Addergoole's Titanic Memorial.

The time capsule will be opened in April 2037 and who knows what history will then have to tell!

Read more about Addergoole's Titanic Story on our website: www.mayo-titanic.com . The very personal stories of human tragedy, and the aftermath in the area, glow through on the website. As one resident from Cuilnakilleg townland, who as a 17 year old, witnessed the heartbreaking news reaching Lahardane recalled when she was in her nineties: *"Lord, it was terrible!"*

For many of you, come back to Lahardane for the cultural week 8th - 15th April 2012, and for others visit us for the first time. All will be very welcome.

Michael Molloy (ATS PRO)

on behalf of the Addergoole Titanic Society



Parishioners of St Mary's visited the Addergoole Titanic Memorial last year.