

DUBLIN DIOCESAN ARCHIVES: MURRAY PAPERS

In this issue we begin the publication of a guide to the papers of Dr Daniel Murray (1768-1852), during his reign as archbishop of Dublin from 1823 to 1852. These papers constitute a source of prime importance for the history of the Catholic church in the first half of the nineteenth century. We are very grateful to His Grace, Dr Dermot Ryan, archbishop of Dublin, for permission to publish this guide and to Dr Kevin Kennedy, the diocesan archivist, for facilitating the work in every way and establishing the earlier short list on which this present one is based. The preparation of the present guide is the work of Mary Purcell.

NOTE ON CLASSIFICATION OF FILES

MARY PURCELL

The Murray Papers are contained in a series of files, numbered consecutively, beginning with file 30/7. Within these files the contents have been sorted into folders titled according to origin or subject matter, e.g. Irish Bishops, Foreign Bishops, Holy See, Education, Famine Relief, etc.

Documents in each folder are in chronological order and are easily located. A letter from Dr Doyle (J.K.L.) written to Murray on 17 February 1829 is in the file for that year, 31/2 and in the folder 'Irish Bishops'; in the catalogue for file 31/2 the letter is no. 5. Some files contain non-Murray material. Since this is intended as a guide to the archives, those files are included.

FILE 30/7: 1823

Pastoral

- 1 Pastoral address by Murray announcing the cure of a religious at Ranelagh Convent through the intercession of Prince Alexander Hohenlohe; also included are doctors' certificates regarding same and the evidence of nine persons. 15 August 1823.

Irish Bishops

- 2 (Copy from Thurles Archives). Murray to Dr Laffan, archbishop-elect of Cashel re the administration of the diocese while Laffan is still vicar-capitular, the procedure to adopt when the papal Brief arrives. He recommends that Laffan completely overlook and keep silent about the opposition of some Cashel priests to his appointment. Murray has Dr Everard's crozier, which Laffan can have, but he gave the mitre etc. to Maynooth College; he thinks that Everard's ring was sent to Dr Wright. 4 April 1823.

- 3 (Copy from Thurles Archives). Same to same, notifying him that he (Murray) will arrive by mail coach for the consecration and would like to be met at the stopping place (Littleton). Don Juan and Mr Coyne will be with Murray. Dr Curtis has to return north so he sends apologies at being unavoidably absent; Drs Kelly and Magauran have also been obliged to return home and cannot come to Cashel. 1 July 1823.
- 4 Note in Murray's hand concerning compensation decided upon by M. MacPhartlan and N. Kearns to be paid by Revd Mr Campbell to Rev. Mr Toole for house, land and holdings lately occupied by him. 23 September 1823 and 2 October 1823.
- 5 Latin draft (Murray's handwriting) for a letter of recommendation to be given to a candidate for the priesthood of Dublin diocese on setting out for his studies at Saint Sulpice. 1823.
- 6 Dr Coppinger, Cloyne, to Murray; he gives particulars of a Cloyne priest who became mentally unbalanced and is now renouncing the priesthood and becoming a Protestant. Coppinger does not know how to act in the matter. 22 January 1823.
- 7 Same to same. He encloses a letter for forwarding to Dr England. Lord Colville seems to have strangely mistaken Murray's address. He gives a message for Dr Crotty about a delayed letter. 1 February 1823.
- 8 Dr Doyle, Kildare and Leighlin to Murray. Doyle's suggestions on how bishops should be elected in future. 31 March 1823.
- 9 Dr Curtis, Armagh, to Murray. He is sorry to hear that Dr Troy has fever but hopes that he is recovering; he gives his suggestions as to the method of electing future bishops; he concludes by giving his opinion on Dr M.'s (Milner's?) Oath formula; if certain clauses in this are included he fears it would cause a schism, although these clauses may be orthodox in themselves and cautiously worded. 20 April 1823.
- 10 Same to same. He announces the death of a curate from typhus fever; he expected much of this priest but his health was not equal to his zeal; the two remaining curates are zealous and proper, 'but like all coming from Maynooth, they cannot bear much fatigue.' 19 August 1823.
- 11 (On same paper as preceding). Draft of a letter from Murray to the Marquis of Wellesley, the lord lieutenant, concerning a school he wishes to build for poor children near Townsend Street. He asks that this school be included in the grants being advanced for the building of schools in Ireland. 25 August 1823.

- 12 Dr Curtis to Murray. He read Murray's pastoral address in the papers; he thinks it unwise to publish the like (cf. 1 above) considering what those who attack the church say about miracles and Catholic belief in them. 20 August 1823.
- 13 Dr Laffan to Murray. He encloses a copy of a letter which came to him from the pope and was addressed to the four metropolitans; he does not know whether they also received copies. He asks should he send a copy to his suffragans; being but recently appointed he is not yet *au fait* with the correct procedure in these matters ; he apologises for troubling Murray. 31 December 1823.
- 14 (Enclosed in the preceding). A copy of the pope's letter to the four archbishops in Ireland, thanking them for their October letter of congratulations on his elevation to the papacy, on their own behalf and that of their suffragans; he appreciates their sentiments of devotion to the Holy See. 22 November 1823.
- 15 Laffan to Curtis enclosing a copy of 14 above. He is glad to hear from Murray that Curtis has recovered from his recent illness. 31 December 1823.

Foreign Bishops

- 16 (Two copies). The archbishop of Paris to 'all whom it may concern'. He tells what he has ordered to be done with money left by the late superior of the Irish College, the Abbe Walsh, in accordance with the wishes of the deceased: (1) A bourse has been founded in Saint Sulpice seminary for a student to be chosen by the archbishop of Dublin; (2) any further profit from the money invested cannot be used for anything without the consent of the archbishop of Dublin. 4 December 1823.
- 17 Same to same. Concerning representations made to him by the Abbe Kearney, superior of the Irish College, Paris and administrator-general of British establishments and colleges in France, the arch-bishop has decided that the terms of the Lyndham and Mahon foundation made in 1381 cannot now be fulfilled, so he has made the following arrangements: (1) 300 Masses a year are to be celebrated for the intentions of the founders; (2) a priest, preferably of Dublin diocese, appointed by him, is to be charged with the acquittal of this obligation. 10 December 1823.

Dr Milner

- 18 Dr Milner (Vicar Apostolic of midland region, England) to Murray. He is grateful for Murray's letter and for the confidence he places in him, despite the allegations made against him (Milner) in letters to Cardinal Quarantotti and Curtis by Dr Poynter (V.A. London

district). He regrets that Curtis thinks he (Milner) should not have chastised Poynter 'for his unmerciful abuse of me'. He only told the whole truth. He refers to the late Fr Gandolphi; he means to send Murray's letter to the Gandolphi family to console them. He thinks Rome is coming round to his (Milner's) point of view; this must be due either to the 'exit of my sworn foe, Castlereagh', or his opposition to the proposed Oath. He comments on the Oath and the Veto etc. etc. 28 January 1823.

- 19 (On same paper). Milner to Dr Doyle, Kildare and Leighlin. As he has not Doyle's address he asks Murray to copy and forward this. He mentions one of his own controversial pamphlets and asks Doyle to take up the controversy which now becomes 'quite Irish'; also he is at an age when he must prepare for death, leaving controversial for ascetical works. 28 January 1823.
- 20 Printed copy of a Lenten pastoral sent by Milner to Troy. 2 February 1822.
- 21 (On same paper as preceding). Troy to Doyle, Kildare and Leighlin, sending him Milner's Pastoral and requesting him to return it; with a note from Doyle when returning the Pastoral to Troy; he says that Dr Marum (Ossory) highly approves of the regulations concerning 'station dinners'. 3 April 1822.
- 22 A printed statement sent by Milner to Murray; the author is M.A.G. Barb. O'Connor; content deals with Catholic miracles, especially Prince Hohenlohe's. 15 December 1823.
- 23 Cardinal Bertazzoli to Murray and the Irish bishops. He is in receipt of the honour of being made cardinal protector of Ireland's College in Rome and is grateful. Re the oath formula he refers them to the letter of Propaganda 6 January 1776, addressed to the then bishop of Ossory. No date, 1825?

Roman Agent

- 24 Brother Colgan, Rome, to Fr Meyler. The bill for the gold fringe for the cope is far more than expected; is he to pay it or cancel order? He gives details of the dimensions of the fringe, the material in stoles, the handwork, etc. and asks Meyler to send him instructions at once. He gives news re Miss Finn who is better and has arrived safely in Leghorn; the books are already packed. 17 May 1823.
- 25 Same to same. A long letter re the cope, stoles and mitre. The costs were not really exorbitant as he thought; he went around Roman shops enquiring and found that the price asked was fair. He describes how they are being sent. Signor Argenti is going around with an injured air because the matter was not mentioned to him first, and is

- now raising difficulties about sending the articles. He is sorry to hear of Troy's death; he himself does not feel well. He is enclosing the ring with the mitre. 14 June 1823.
- 26 G.G. Argenti to Murray. He is sorry to learn of Troy's death but is consoled that Dublin has been provided for in the person of Murray. He refers to the pallium and bull, also to investments in Troy's name in Luoghi di Monti; he is seeing to this; if continuing as agent he will attend carefully to all the business of Dublin diocese. All the Argenti family send their congratulations to Murray. (At end of letter Felice Argenti, G.G.'s brother, adds a few lines of condolence on Troy's death and congratulation to Murray on becoming archbishop of Dublin) 14 June 1823.
- 27 Same to same. On hearing of Troy's death he applied for the usual faculties for Murray, those which his holiness usually grants to all the archbishops of Ireland; the pope granted these, also the parish requested by Murray and he encloses document about this. The secretary of Propaganda is anxious that he, G.G. Argenti, should take up other work in the Dateria and he wonders if Murray would employ his brother Felice as his agent. 3 July 1823.
- 28 Same to same. He expects that the letters, faculties etc. have arrived. He repeats the suggestion concerning his brother Felice which he made in his last letter. Murray knows Felice well; G.G. and Felice Argenti live together, so in difficulties Felice would have G.G. to consult. Fr Coughlan (Colgan? cf. 24 and 25 above) gave him mitre, cope etc. which Murray got Fr Meyler to order. He explains difficulties about forwarding them; he will not send them until he has Murray's instructions. The Galway affair will not be settled until Propaganda meets. The pope had a fall and there are various rumours as to how he really is. G.G. Argenti will keep Murray posted. 12 July 1823.
- 29 Same to same. He describes the pope's death and the usual customs observed by the cardinals on the following days. Other cardinals are arriving in Rome for the conclave to elect a new pope. September 1823.
- 30 Same to same. He relates the preliminary proceedings and the beginning of the conclave. Concerning the cope, etc. of which Fr Coghlan (Colgan?) wrote to him, proposing to send them by a Fr Swords; he thinks it better to write to Swords first to know if he will be responsible, since, as he explained, there is an English law against importing such articles. If Murray is satisfied he will send them through Swords. 18 September 1823.

- 31 Same to same. Great applause greeted the election of Pope Leo XII. His health is not good so, although the new pontiff is only 63, there are fears that his pontificate may not be long. He (G.G. Argenti) is looking after the things being sent from Livorno. He encloses Troy's last letter to him, also detailed accounts of their financial transactions; 25.91½ *scudi* are owing to Argenti; he explains what he has done re the Luoghi di Monti investments. 29 September 1823.
- 32 Same to same. The pope's ill-health was aggravated by the new cares of his office; prayers were ordered for him in the churches; at one stage all the cardinals went to the papal palace; some said that he had congestion of the lungs, others said he had dropsy. He has since improved. The parcel is being dispatched from Livorno. At the end of the page Argenti's brother, Felice, adds a note with good wishes. 25 December 1823.

Ordinary

- 33 Lord Donoughmore to Murray. He thanks him for his letter with the enclosure; he believes from what it says that representations were made in Rome by a high official in favour of his friend, Dr Collins, he is glad that all is going well. 7 January 1823.
- 34 Fr Wm O'Brien, Cloyne diocese, to Murray. Writing from Carnew, Co. Wicklow, he says that he is to receive the Protestant sacrament and make his recantation next Sunday, but is now filled with horror at the thought of what he did in withdrawing from his diocese and offering himself as a convert to the Protestant archbishop of Dublin. He asks for an interview with Murray, with a view to being affiliated to Dublin diocese or to be admitted to a Jesuit or Franciscan house in Dublin. He adds another short note asking for an interview. (Cf. nos 6 and 7 above). 18 January 1823.
- 35 Lord Donoughmore to Murray. He wonders why Rome is delaying to fill the vacant archbishopric. The British foreign secretary Canning is rumoured as having told the Hanoverian minister to the Holy See that the British government would approve of Dr Collins' appointment. He imagines that the delay may be caused by a malicious lie spread attributing freemasonry to Collins, but he does not believe that the cardinals would credit this. He heard that the Catholic question is to come up at the first session of Parliament; he comments on this and on what Canning is likely to do. He himself will be early in his seat at Parliament; he heard that there is 'a strong muster of the Orange factions in County Waterford and other places.' 26 January 1823.

- 36 Letter of freedom to marry signed by C. Callaghan, P.P., Bray. 7 February 1823.
- 37 Legal document regarding a bond signed by Allen Dowell, Dublin, to pay Henry Dowell, Dublin, £12,000; if he pays £6,000 within an agreed period, the above will be null and void. Written statements on back of bond as to what he repaid and when, state that money is still owing on 24 February 1832 . Date on bond is 22 February 1823.
- 38 Judith Everard to Murray. Her brother-in-law is trying to deprive her of property in Fethard. She came to Dublin at great expense to see Mr Barron, but he had left for London. She asks Murray to help her defray expenses of journey and lodging and promises never to trouble him again. She is sorry for displeasing him in the past. 11 March 1823.
- 39 H. Parnell to Murray. He presented the petition entrusted to him by Murray and gave notice that he intended to bring in a bill on 7 June. He has asked Scully to help him prepare the bill. The enquiry into the Sheriffs conduct should prove very useful to religion and the reform of the administration of justice; it will also expose the enemies of Catholics in their true colours. 10 May 1823.
- 40 Fr Johnston, P.P., Castlekevin, to Murray. He has been long complaining of his curate, Mr Murphy, who will not carry out his duties but calumniates him and the parishioners; Murphy imposed on Troy; he was a Carmelite but left that Order; spends his time in Round-wood alehouses all Sunday, neither saying nor hearing Mass; he reads Murray's letters aloud, as he used to read Troy's, 'to the dregs of the people in the shebeen houses.' He cannot tolerate Murphy any longer and asks that he be removed. 23 May 1823.
- 41 Henry Goulbourn, Irish Office, London, to Murray. He received Murray's letter about the chaplaincy in Newgate. The court of King's Bench does not consider that there is any legal ground for interference, therefore Murray's views cannot in any measure be forwarded. 10 June 1823.
- 42 Lord Fingall to Murray. Writing from London, he recommends Mr Turnerelli (Murray had T. design and sculpt the high altar in Pro-Cathedral) to execute a statue of Troy if such was being contemplated. Grattan highly esteemed Turnerelli and so do the Grattan family. He explains why Turnerelli did not sculpt the statue of Grattan. There will not be a chance of presenting the address to the king as there will be no levee. The king's health is better but he is not allowed to undertake any exertion. Fingall is ill himself, this is a trial when away from home. 26 June 1823.

- 43 Fr Quinn to Fr Rogers, Dunleer. As Roger's uncle has refused the parish of Louth that has been given to Fr Haly, Curtis instructs Quinn to inform Rogers that he appoints him his successor as vicar of Dunleer district; if this is agreeable to Rogers all the necessary faculties will be granted him. Quinn congratulates Rogers on the promotion and hopes to have the pleasure of introducing him soon to 'the gentlemen of your jurisdiction'. 7 July 1823.
- 44 Certificate sent by Mullins, Office of Royal Docks, to Murray stating that Thomas Neale, builder of the new school at Poolbeg St, has half the work of his contract completed. 26 July 1823.
- 45 Fr Trappis, Manchester, to the parish priest of Lazy Hill Chapel, Dublin, asking for the baptismal entry of William Toole who needs this to claim his mother's property; she died in America, without heirs and without having made a will. 4 August 1823.
- 46 Fr. H. Nolan, the pro-cathedral, to Murray. He gives particulars of a baptismal register entry found not in Anne Street but in St Michan's; Fr Tristram has asked him to inform Murray of the mistake. (N.B. St Michan's formerly on street known as *North* Anne Street). 13 August 1823.
- 47 (On same paper). A draft of a letter in Murray's hand to Johnston, secretary to the lord lieutenant, the Marquis of Wellesley. Referring to Johnston's letter (49 below) stating that His Excellency was considering Murray's request of 25 August (cf. 11 above). Murray asks if he can hope for a favourable answer. 6 October 1823.
- 48 Sr M.F.G. Delahoye, Shipton Mallet, to Fr Glynn, Liffey Street (chapel closed on consecration pro-cathedral in 1825). She thanks him for sending on the accounts of the miracles and is amazed at the prejudices of Irish magistrates regarding same; the English papers published that (prejudiced) version of the affair. Her superior wrote to Prince Hohenlohe for prayers; he promised them on certain dates June to September for the intentions of some people 'in the world'. Not a word about praying for the U.K. as the papers stated. Sr Weld is now out of danger. 21 August 1823.
- 49 Johnston, secretary to the lord lieutenant, to Murray (cf. 11 and 46 above). His excellency received Murray's of 23 August and is taking the request into consideration. 30 August 1823.
- 50 C. O'Toole, Hillsborough Hall, to Murray. He has just received Murray's letter of 25 August (cf. 4 above). Having heard that Murray wished him to give up Saggard he sent his case to Mr Byrne, the landlord, who undertook to settle matters; but he agrees to accept the judgment of the two clergymen appointed by Murray to decide the case. 31 August 1823.

- 51 Fr Forster (evidently Prince Hohenlohe's secretary) to Murray; he sends a large packet of letters by a religious travelling to Havre du Grace and asks that letters to and from Ireland and the prince be addressed c/o same. So many letters come, all requiring replies, that postage has become too expensive. He heard that the theology professor in Carlow College has returned to Ireland in ill health. The prince and M. Michel join him in sending regards to Murray; prayers for all people of Ireland, Scotland and England will be said on the first day of each month at 9 a.m. 13 October 1823.
- 52 Sr Gertrude White, Warrenmount Carmel, to Murray on the financial state of the convent following on the departure of nuns to the Blackrock house, to whom their dowries, etc. were given. She encloses financial statements; they cannot pay the workman and had to let him go. If Sr Fitzgerald goes, and her health is very bad, they in Warrenmount will be extremely badly off. 28 November 1823.
- 53 John Litton, Leeson Street, to Murray. With reference to Murray's letter to Mr Goulbourne dated 31 October 1823, and asking financial aid for the building of a Free School, the commissioners of Schools state that the allocation of that fund has been postponed to the first Tuesday in January, following which date Murray will be written to. 4 December 1823.
- 54 Report of the Female Day School in St Andrew's parish for 1823. 1823.
- 55 Collection of affidavits, in different hands, with signatures, attesting to the miraculous cure at Ranelagh convent (cf. 1, 12 and 22 above). Also a page of a Belfast weekly, *The Irishman*, with letters and editorial comment denying the possibility of miracles and deriding the alleged miracle in Dublin. Date of newspaper 29 August 1823. Dates of affidavits 6 to 15 August 1823.
- 56 Ten printed copies (in Latin) of subjects for consideration at the summer conferences of the Dublin clergy, May to October 1823.
- 57 Notice from Murray to his clergy with a printed list of nine reserved cases in Dublin diocese. 1 June 1823.

Holy See

- 58 Propaganda to Murray with fifteen letters enclosed covering faculties granted by the Holy See. Regret is expressed at the news of Troy's death; besides the enclosed faculties Murray is also empowered to ordain 30 clerics *in titulo missionis* for Dublin diocese; he may have St Andrew's as well as retaining that of the Immaculate Conception

as his mensal parishes; further faculties will be applied for and forwarded to him later; Propaganda will appoint a priest to ask for the pallium on Murray's behalf, since Fr Meyler, who was to do this, has left Rome, and G.G. Argenti, who was to deputise for Meyler, is not a priest and cannot exercise that office. 23 June 1823.

- 59 Propaganda to Murray. Enclosing a printed list of the faculties granted (rescript No. 6). The Prefect congratulates Murray on becoming archbishop of Dublin and assures him of his happiness in assisting him in any way he can. July 1823.
- 60 Propaganda to Murray concerning the request of Dr Doyle, Kildare and Leighlin, for the perpetual reservation to him of Tullow parish, mensal parish of his two predecessors, and asking the same for Carlow parish, now vacant and where he intended establishing his episcopal see. This request is granted; also his further request about making over his revenues (*in commendam*) from the one-time abbey of St Fintan to the Presentation nuns for their Maryboro' foundation. The prefect and secretary of Propaganda ask Murray's advice about the parochial and abbey revenues. 6 December 1823.
- 61 Transcript of bull sent from Rome with the pallium to Murray (cf. 62 below) on Murray's appointment as archbishop of Dublin. 13 December 1823.
- 62 Cardinal Somaglia, prefect of Propaganda, to Murray. He is very pleased to forward the pallium and bull of appointment to Murray. 20 December 1823.