

# **Representative Church Body Library, Dublin**

## **MS 713**

### **Records of the Community of St John the Evangelist, Dublin**

**1893-2019**

The Community of St John the Evangelist (CSJE) was founded by the Revd Fletcher Sheridan Le Fanu, Vicar of St John's, Sandymount, in 1912 as a group of women leading hidden, dedicated lives of prayer. The Community expanded into Wales in 1952 where they took over the Diocesan Retreat House at St David's.

In 1959 the community took over the running of St Mary's Home in Pembroke Park, Dublin, from the Community of St Mary the Virgin. The Home subsequently passed into lay control and closed in December 2019, when the last remaining residents moved to St John's Home, Merrion Road. This connection explains the provenance of its records in this collection (see section 12).

Following the death of Mother Catherine Margaret in 2000 it was decided not to elect another Mother Superior.

**1. Annals**

1. 1893-1932
2. 1932-1939
3. 1939-1951
4. 1951-2000 [CLOSED]

**2. Rough Notebooks for the Annals**

1. 1943-1948
2. 1956-1970
3. 1981-1985 [CLOSED]
4. 1993-1996 [CLOSED]

**2a. Chapter Minute Books**

1. 1949-1964
2. 1959-1974
3. 1974-2000 [CLOSED]

**2b. Role of Professed Sisters, 1912-72**

**3. Account Books**

1. 1915-1918
2. 1962-1973
3. 1962-1986
4. 1969-1975
5. 1969-1976
6. 1973-1981
7. 1974-1979
8. 1975-1980
9. 1979-1988 [CLOSED]
10. 1980-1992 [CLOSED]
11. 1981-1995 [CLOSED]
12. 1988-2003 [CLOSED]
13. 1989-1998 [CLOSED]

**3a. Visitors' book, 1978-2009**

**3b. Registers of Services**

1. 1988-2004

**3c. Diaries [CLOSED]**

1. 1994-96
2. 1997-99
3. 2000
4. 2001
5. 2002
6. 2003
7. 2004
8. 2005
9. 2006

**4. Correspondence**

1. Letters from religious communities, 1910-1971 (1-28)
2. Letters from the Rt Revd Thomas Hannay CR, Visitor of CSJE, 1943-1970 (1-19)
3. Letters from Wardens of CSJE, Revd Victor Shearburn CR, Revd Donald Patey CR, Revd Cedma Mack CR, 1953-1973 (1-24)
4. Letters and death notices rel. to the death of Mother Edith [Edith Harland Whiteman], 1958 (1-73)
5. Letters rel. to the move from Bridgend to Dublin, 1996 (1-3) [CLOSED]
6. Letters rel. to the death of Mother Catherine Margaret, 2000 (1-47) [CLOSED]

**5. Legal Papers**

1. Trust deed and related papers, 1933-1934
2. Papers rel. to a bequest by Francis C.H. Moore, 1939
3. Papers rel. to properties at Ballywaltrim and St John's Road, Sandymount, 1938-1948

**5. Constitutions and Related Documents**

1. Revised rule, 1975
2. Revised customary, 1976-1980
3. Revised statutes, 1977
4. Revised statutes, 1977-79
5. Constitution of the Company of St John the Evangelist by the Cross, undated
6. Form for the reception of a Companion, undated
7. Rule of the Associates of the Community of St John the Evangelist, undated.
8. Form for the admission of an Associate, undated
9. Forms of services, undated

**6. Annual Newsletters**

From CSJE to Companions, Associates and Friends,  
1960-66, 1973-1996 (1-29)

**7. Miscellanea**

1. *Manual of the Guild of St Patrick*: copy of the Revd Fletcher Sheridan Le Fanu, founder of CSJE, admitted to the guild, 17 March 1912.
2. Extract from Early Class by F.S. Le Fanu, 19 December 1912
3. List of members of the Community, 1912-1997, with brief annals 1912-90
4. *Community of St John the Evangelist* (16 pp, printed at the Commonwealth Press, Letchworth Garden City, ?1930)
5. Notes of a sermon preached by the Warden of CSJE, Fr Donald Patey CR, at the installation of Sister Bernadine Margaret as Mother Superior, 24 January 1956
6. Retreat cards, 1959-65
7. *The Community of St John the Evangelist* (20 pp, printed, ?1962-3)
8. A short account of the Community, August 1989
9. An account of the Community, November 1998
10. Text of an article on the Community by Jennifer Moreton, 2002
11. Photocopies of articles in *Church Review* [Dublin & Glendalough diocesan magazine] rel. to CSJE
12. Postcard of the sanctuary of the chapel of the convent in Sandymount.
13. Anniversary cards of deaths and profession dates of sisters, 20<sup>th</sup> c.
14. Fourteenth annual report for St Mary's Home under the care of the Community of St John the Evangelist, 1973.

**8. Office Books (bound in velvet and decorated with Celtic motifs)**

1. *The hours of prayer from lauds to compline compiled from the Sarum Breviary and other rites* (London, 1910)
2. *Litanies; to which are added the way of the cross and hours of the passion*, trans. J.M. Neale (Coventry, 1903)
3. *Divine service. A complete manual of worship for assisting and communicating at the holy sacrifice* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., London, undated).
4. *The English liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer with additional collects, epistles and gospels* (London, 1909)

**9. File of drawings and designs for embroidery work**

**10. Miscellaneous Printed Service Books**

1. *The order for placebo or vespers for the dead* (St Mary's Convent, Wantage, 1919)
2. *The hours of prayer from lauds to compline from the Sarum breviary and other rites* (London, 1953)

3. *Services and ceremonies for the presentation of Christ, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and the Easter vigil* (Church in Wales Publications, 1971)
4. *Itinerary, At the Office of Chapter, At the Admission of an Associate, At the Admission of a Postulant, At the Reception of the Habit, At the Taking of Final Vows at Mass, At the Reception of an Assistant Superior, Form for the Reception of a Companion.*

**11. Photograph Albums**

- 1-5. Albums of photographs of members of the community, community events and premises in Dublin, St David's and Bridgend [undated]

**12. Records of St Mary's Home**

1. Preachers' book for the chapel  
2004-2019 [last service held in December 2019 when St Mary's Home closed]
2. Copy of printed history: St Mary's Home, published in 2004 [annotated with corrections]