

## A brief history of the Church of St Patrick in Grangetown Cardiff.

On January 8<sup>th</sup> 1866, Fr Fortunatus Signini of the Fathers of Charity opened a school in Grangetown. This school ( in the Brickyard as it was called then) was first used for Divine Worship in 1869.

Since that time the St Patrick's Church and school have seen many changes, many priests in residence, tragedies and disappointments and many successes.

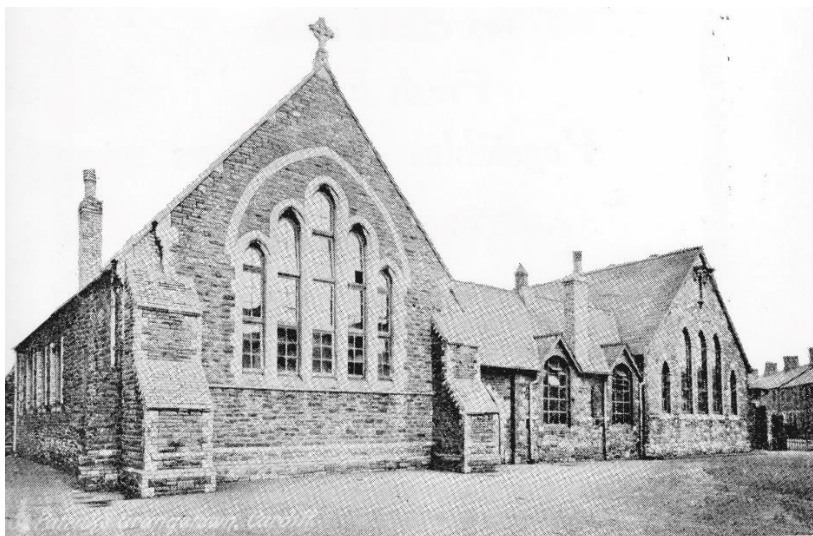
This is a brief history taken from old documents, memories of parishioners past and present. Grateful thanks must be given to Terry O'Reilly, Joe O'Reilly and Olwen Hall who through the years have aimed to record the history of our Church and School for those who might be interested and those who in the future might wonder what has gone on before.

### Early Days

It was not, until March 1873, that there is any record of a building called St Patrick's School. In that year it is recorded that it served the needs of about 500 Catholics in the Grangetown District and the school had an average attendance of just over 100 children.

In 1882 Canon Hallahan arrived to take over the growing district of Grangetown and immediately set to work building a small Church adjacent to the school. This opened its doors for worship on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1882.

In 1887, Fr O'Dwyer succeeded Canon Hallahan and he remained until 1891.



Unfortunately there is no information regarding Fr O'Dwyer. However, should any details be found, these will be added to this record. Pictured above is the school. Hanging on the right of the building is the school bell. This would sound to herald the beginning of the

school day and children from quite far away would hasten to school lest they should be late.



Interior of the original St Patrick's Church. Durham St.

There are few photographs showing details of the original Church, but a few details are worth noting: the large statue of St Patrick on the left and the statue of the Sacred Heart also on the left.

In 1891 Fr W H Brady became Parish Priest and he set himself the task of improving the school accommodation in 1897 and 1901. Fr Brady also realised that the Parish was growing and all the worshipers could not be accommodated in the small Church. So he secured a site for a new larger Church and Presbytery in Grange Gardens This land was bought in 1911 and the Presbytery built in 1912. Until the new Church could be built the remainder of the site was cultivated as allotments by two parishioners : Mr Michael Harrington and Mr Jeremiah Canty. This arrangement continued until funding could be secured to begin building the Church.

In 1916 Mgr H Irvine succeeded Fr Brady and was keenly interested in music. He will be remembered for his enthusiasm in developing and encouraging the church choir and enjoyed singing Vespers and Holy Hour on Sunday evenings. Together with his curate, the Reverend Michael Davis, Mgr Irvine continued to raise funds so that the building of the new church could commence.