

**P34**

**Christian  
Brothers  
Schools  
Limerick**

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## **Introduction**

This collection consists of a small number of school registers and other records relating to Christian Brothers Schools in Limerick. These records were deposited with Limerick Archives in 2002.

The Christian Brothers first came to Limerick in June 1816 at the bequest of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick, Reverend Dr. Charles Tuohy. In September 1816, the Brothers commenced teaching in the Assembly Rooms, Charlotte Quay in September 1816. In November 1821, the Christian Brothers purchased the Lancastrian School in Clare Street (St. Michael's parish), which remained in their possession until 1888. In 1824, they had to vacate the Assembly Room premises but with the help of Bishop Tuohy they were able to open a temporary school in the grounds of the diocesan college, Corbally. On 1 September 1825 a half-acre of ground at Sexton Street was rented from Mr. Samuel Dixon and the building of a new school and monastery was completed on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1829. It was opened for admission of boys on 16 June 1829 and 408 attended. There was one large classroom upstairs, and another downstairs with over 200 boys in each. On 28 April 1838, they took charge of the school in Thomondgate belonging to Reverend Richard Walsh PP, at the request of Bishop Ryan, and in September 1844 a new school building was opened in Thomondgate (parish of St. Munchins). On 3 September 1845 a school was set up at Creagh Lane/Bridge Street. It was purchased for the Brothers by the parish priest of St. Mary's for £200 and a further £500 was spent on renovations. It was officially opened on 2 February 1846. The building originally had been erected in 1764 as the city courthouse. Therefore by 1852, there was four Christian Brothers Schools in Limerick, the schools in Sexton Street and Clare Street, and the two schools in St. Mary's parish and St. Munchins parish,

Between 1858 and 1870 the Christian Brothers opened a number of schools in county Limerick, namely in Newcastle West (1858), Rathkeale (1859), Bruff (1860), and Doon (1870). However the next significant development in Limerick City for the Christian Brothers was the laying of the foundation for Brother Welsh Memorial School on land purchased by the Brothers in John Street, Limerick, and the transfer of the Clare street pupils to this new school.

The financial security of the Christian Brothers was threatened by Bishop O'Dwyer in 1895 when he stated that he would not allow any more collections to be made at church gates for the Brothers and in 1896 he announced his intention to open national schools in St. Mary's and St. Munchins parishes. This dispute has been documented in Robert Ahern 'A History of the Christian Brothers in Limerick', *Old Limerick Journal* (Volume 21, Autumn 1987).

The collection is arranged into four sections. Section A consists of school registers for the various Limerick City schools, dating from . It has not been possible to determine the origin of a small number of registers, which is noted in the list. Section B consists of records examination results received by pupils in the Limerick Christian Brothers Schools, between 1899 and 1920. Section C consists of a record of donors and donations received by the Christian Brothers between 1885 and 1893. Section D consists of newspaper cuttings relating to Christian Brothers in Limerick between 1886 and 1898. This collection will be most useful to family historians as the school registers generally include details relating to name and address of parents of the pupil, the occupation of the pupil's father, and whether the pupil was transferred to another school or began employment. It will also be useful to researchers of nineteenth century education trends, and local historians.

For additional archive material relating to the Christian Brothers in Ireland, researchers should consult the Allen Library, Edmond Rice House, the Irish Christian Brothers St. Mary's Provincialate Archives, and the Irish Christian Brothers St. Helen's Provincialate Archives. Contact information can be found in *Directory of Irish Archives* 4<sup>th</sup>. (2003).

## A School Registers

### (i) St. Michaels Parish School (1856-1886)

School registers for St. Michaels Parish School. Details recorded for each pupil include date of admission, number on registry, residence, age, classroom admitted into, occupation of parents, date of leaving school and proficiency on leaving in reading, arithmetic, grammar, geography, book keeping and mathematics. Includes column titled 'observations' with entries such as 'went to another school', 'most inattentive', 'went to business'. Includes printed classification sheet explaining how class and proficiency levels are to be entered. Includes also comments to students transferred between the various classrooms in St. Michaels and pupils transferred to other Christian Brother Schools in Limerick.

3 volumes.

1	8 December 1856-16 November 1886 Appears to relate to classroom number 1.	c. 50 ff
2	24 November 1856-26 November 1876; 18 January 1881-25 January 1887 Appears to relate to classroom number 2.	c. 50 ff
3	30 November 1876 – 24 May 1877 Classroom number 5. Includes list of pupils dated 13 March 1898 with details of exams passed.	c. 50 ff

### (ii) Cecil Street Rooms (1856-1884)

- |   |                       |  |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| 4 | c. 1856-c. March 1884 | School Registry for Cecil Street Rooms.<br>Details recorded for each pupil include date of admission, number on registry, residence, age, classroom admitted into, occupation of parents, date of leaving school and proficiency on leaving in reading, arithmetic, grammar, geography, book keeping and mathematics. Includes column titled 'observations' with notes regarding pupils such as to 4 <sup>th</sup> , to 5 <sup>th</sup> '6 <sup>th</sup> room' '7 <sup>th</sup> room', 'to 8 <sup>th</sup> room' and 'Mr. Walsh, 9 <sup>th</sup> School' |
|   |                       | c. 40 ff   |

### (iii) Northumberland Rooms, St. Michael's Lane (1856-1887)

- |   |                                 |   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 5 | 1 December 1856-26 January 1887 | School Registry for Northumberland Rooms, St Michael's Lane, Class Room Number 1. Details recorded for each pupil include date of admission, number on registry, residence, age, classroom admitted into, occupation of parents, date of leaving school and proficiency on leaving in reading, arithmetic, grammar, geography, book keeping and mathematics. Includes column titled 'observations'. |
|---|---------------------------------|---|

Includes printed classification sheet explaining how class and proficiency levels are to be entered.

c. 120 ff

**(iv) St. Munchins Parish, Thomondgate (1883-1925)**

6                      9 April 1883-7 October 1925                      Admissions Register of  
St. Munchin's, Thomondgate,  
Limerick. Details recorded

include pupils name, number on register, date of admission, date of birth, residence, occupation of parents, last school attended by pupil, highest standard in which pupil was there examined, successive standards in which pupil was presented in this school (date entered), subject and stages passed by pupil in Kensington Examination, grade passed by pupil in intermediate examination, date of leaving, and notes on character and conduct of pupil. Includes also alphabetical index to entries recording pupil's name and his number on the register. Includes printed instructions on how entries should be made in the register.

c.70 ff

**(v) Sexton Street (1883-1923)**

7                      2 October 1883-17 August 1891                      School Register for Sexton Street  
School, Number of School '8'.  
Details recorded include date of

admission, pupil's name, residence, proficiency, class, extra subjects, occupation of parents, date of leaving school, proficiency on leaving and grade of intermediate of any passed on leaving school, and general observations. General observations include entries such as 'in 10<sup>th</sup> room', 'to 9<sup>th</sup> school as monitor' and 'to business'. The left-hand corner of each page is generally occasionally initialed by the Brother, who made the entries. Includes additional list of students and exams passed. Includes printed classification sheet explaining how class and proficiency levels are to be entered. Includes some reading passages with words translated to Irish and book keeping notes at rear.

c. 25 ff

8                      3 June 1890- 3 September 1906                      Admissions Register No 1, Upper  
Schools, St. Michael's Place.

Details recorded include: pupils name, number on register, date of admission, date of birth, residence, occupation of parents, last school attended by pupil, highest standard in which pupil was there examined, successive standards in which pupil was presented in this school (date entered), subject and stages passed by pupil in Kensington Examination, grade passed by pupil in intermediate examination, date of leaving, and notes on character and conduct of pupil. Includes also alphabetical index to entries recording pupil's name and his number on the register. Includes printed instructions on how entries should be made in the register.

c.14 ff

- 9      10 September 1906-12 September 1923      Admissions Register [No.2] of Upper Schools, [St, Michael's Place], Limerick. Details recorded include pupils name, number on register, date of admission, date of birth, residence, occupation of parents, last school attended by pupil, highest standard in which pupil was there examined, successive standards in which pupil was presented in this school (date entered), subject and stages passed by pupil in Kensington Examination, grade passed by pupil in intermediate examination, date of leaving, and notes on character and conduct of pupil. Includes also alphabetical index to entries recording pupil's name and his number on the register. Includes printed instructions on how entries should be made in the register.

c. 100 ff

**(vi) Additional Registers (1856-1886)**

- 10      3 December 1856- 1858;  
[ ] July 1865-13 October 1884      School Registry for Christian Brothers School, 2<sup>nd</sup> School, (school unidentified)
- Details recorded for each pupil include date of admission, number on registry, residence, age, classroom admitted into, occupation of parents, date of leaving school and proficiency on leaving in reading, arithmetic, grammar, geography, book keeping and mathematics. Includes column titled 'observations'. Includes printed classification sheet explaining how class and proficiency levels are to be entered. Includes note 'a list of the names of the boys of No. 1 school has been commenced on the outside E.H.B'. Includes 'New List of the boys of 22nd School'

c. 50 ff.

- 11      1 December 1856-24 April 1876;  
9 November 1880-[ ] September 1886      School Registry for Christian Brothers School, 7<sup>th</sup> Room (School unidentified).
- Details recorded for each pupil include date of admission, number on registry, residence, age, classroom admitted into, occupation of parents, date of leaving school and proficiency on leaving in reading, arithmetic, grammar, geography, book keeping and mathematics. Includes column titled 'observations'. Includes printed classification sheet explaining how class and proficiency levels are to be entered. No entries made between 1876 and 1880 and annotations in pages include remark initialed by J.J. B 'to be kept in future'.

c. 70 ff

**(vii) General Admissions Register (1890-1915)**

- 12      c. April 1890-11 June 1894  
17 August 1911-15 November 1915      Admissions Register No. 2 consisting of general admissions into Limerick Christian Brothers schools in the first section

(1890-1894) and intermediate school register in the second section (1911-1915). Details recorded include: pupils name, number on register, date of admission, date of birth, residence, occupation of parents, last school attended by pupil, highest standard in which pupil was there examined, successive standards in which pupil was presented in this school (date entered), subject and stages, date of leaving, and notes on character and conduct of pupil. Details regarding results achieved in S. Kensington and Intermediate Exam not generally recorded. Results are recorded in P34/13. Includes also alphabetical index to entries recording pupil's name, his number on the register, and whether name is on general register or intermediate register. Includes printed instructions on how entries should be made in the register. c.30 ff

### **B Examination Results**

- 13      1899-1920      Roll and examination results books listing pupils name, date of birth, examination number and results achieved at intermediate exams. Entries generally arranged by year and by category of exam with headings such as 'senior and middle', 'junior', and 'preparatory'. Results are indicated by 'H', 'P' or 'F' for honors, pass or fail. From 1914 onwards the mark received in each subject is also generally noted. Includes occasional notes regarding prizes won by pupils, percentage of pupils passing exams, underage pupils and other matters.

c. 160 pp

### **C Financial Records (1885-1893)**

- 14      25 May 1885-[] November 1893      Volume consisting of financial records and accounts of Christian Brothers Schools, Sexton street, Limerick. Volume includes list of donors and donations received by the school, 1880-1890; list of collectors at each of the church and sums received; rough accounts of house and schools in preparation for entry to the official account book.

c. 60 pp.

### **D Newspaper Cuttings (1886-1898)**

- 15      13 October 1886-23 March 1898      Volume of newspaper cuttings relating to Christian Schools in Limerick. Newspaper cuttings relate mainly to intermediate examination results; appeal for funds for Christian Schools in particular the J. P Walsh Memorial Schools; Irish National Education Bill (1892); Bruff Scandal 1897.

c.100 pp

