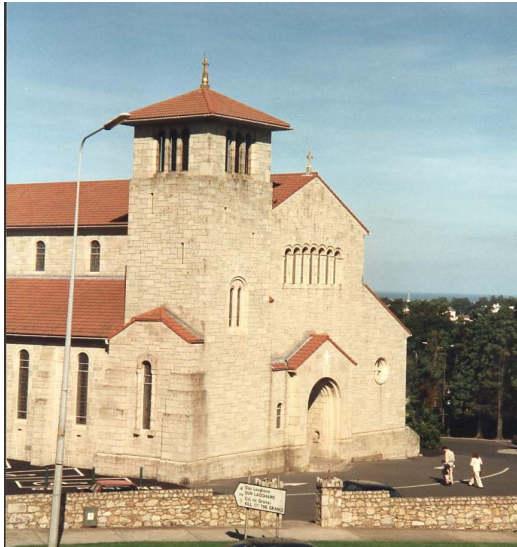


OUR WALK STARTS AT FOXROCK CHURCH AT THE TOP OF KILL LANE



The first mention of Foxrock in the title of a parish was in 1917, when the parish of Cabinteely and Foxrock was established. It was not until 1971 that the separate parish of Foxrock was created. The present church, designed by architects Robinson & Keefe, was opened on June 23rd 1935 by Archbishop Byrne.

Loreto Convent

This building was originally known as Foxrock Lodge. One of its more notable occupiers was William Wellington Bentley, the original developer of Brighton, Westminster and Torquay Roads. Bentley took up

2



residence in 1861 but, by 1867, had run into financial difficulties and had mortgaged all the land. In 1941, the house was acquired by the Loreto Sisters, who opened its doors as a school on September 8th 1941.

3



Knocksinna House

Knocksinna (from the Irish *Cnoc an tSionnaigh*) is a mid-19th Century house. It is currently the Portuguese Embassy.



New Park Lodge

Directly across from Knocksinna House, with its back to the main Bray Road, is New Park Lodge. It was originally a coaching inn known as 'The Cat and Bagpipes'. Later, as a private

house, it had many owners. James Quigley had an extensive dairy farm here in the mid 1880s

4

5



Galloping Green

Weston St. John Joyce in his book 'The Neighbourhood of Dublin' attributes the name to a miniature racecourse, which existed here for many years. Others say it got its name from the need to gallop through the area because of highwaymen lying in wait. Byrne's pub has belonged to the same family since its establishment in 1879.

No. 1 Galloping Green

Undoubtedly, this house was the venue for many a lively traditional music session. Seán Ó' Riada, founder of Ceoltóirí Chualainn, lived here for a time. Ó' Riada is also remembered for the music he wrote for 'Mise Eire' and for his two Masses.



6



No.1 Grange Cottages

Crossing the road at the traffic lights, we come to a row of very attractive cottages. No.1, on the corner of Brewery Road, was the local forge which was run by the Murray family for four generations. The forge had some interesting customers, including Boss Croker, whose famed horse, Orby, was the first Irish-trained horse to win the Epsom Derby in 1907.

Brewery Road

- 7 We turn left onto Brewery Road, which gets its name from the extensive brewery owned by the Darley family. There is still evidence of the old stone walls behind D.C.C. House, built on the site of the brewery in 1982.

8 Stillorgan Reservoir



The first stone of the reservoir was laid by the

Lord Lieutenant, Lord Carlisle, on November 10th 1862. The second reservoir was built in 1884. , Stillorgan's water reserves would serve the needs of the city of Dublin for two days.

9 Stillorgan Railway Station



Immediately after the reservoir is a private house, which was built as a station house on the Harcourt Street-Bray line. It was intended that this station would serve the Stillorgan/ Foxrock area but, at the request of the developers, Fox and Bentley, another station was built at Foxrock.

10 St. Joseph's

Now hidden behind a new housing development called Silver Pines, this house was built in 1864 as a convalescent home for the poor and under-privileged who had only hovels and tenements to return to on discharge from hospital. In 1963, it ceased accepting patients and reopened in 1964 as St. Joseph's House for Adult Deaf and Deaf Blind

11 Sheils Houses

In 1869, Charles Sheils, a wealthy Co. Down merchant built 24 houses to give '*gentle ladies of slender means*' self-contained, rent-free accommodation for life. These attractive terraced houses are dominated by a Gothic-Revival clock

tower with carved stone gargoyles. In 1988, the development was renamed 'The Chase' and privatised.

12 Leopardstown Park House

Directly across the roundabout at the top of Brewery Road is the entrance to Leopardstown Park House, through the gates of the Business Park. It was built in 1796 by Sir Charles Henry Coote, M.P. for Maryborough. In 1877, the house was purchased by James Talbot Power of the whiskey distilling family and, after his death, was passed over, in trust, as a hospital for the treatment of officers and men of His Majesty's Army and Navy. It continues in use as a hospital to this day.

13 Leopardstown Racecourse

The area now known as Leopardstown got its name from *Baile na Lobhar* ('town of the lepers' or Leperstown). The church of St. Stephen was established in 1379 here for the benefit of leprosy patients discharged from St. Stephen's Hospital in Dublin. For part of the 19th Century there was a Benedictine monastery on this site. Leopardstown Racecourse opened on August 27th 1888. Ten shillings bought a return train ticket from Harcourt Street and admission to the Grandstand. Four shillings bought a third class ticket and the People's Stand. Irish aviation history was made at Leopardstown Racecourse in August 1910 when the Aero Club of Ireland held its inaugural meeting.

Silver Park

- 14 After the Sunshine Home, and on the same side of the road, is the playing field of the Kilmacud Crokes. This area has traditionally been known as Silver Park. It derived its name from a great collection of silver coins and ornaments found here together with spearheads and other implements of war.

Taunus, Leopardstown Road

- 15 In the house named 'Taunus'. on the left after 'Fey Yerra'. at the age of five, Samuel Beckett attended a kinder-garten school run by two German ladies, the Elsner sisters, who featured in Beckett's 1950 work 'Molloy'.

We now continue to White's Cross (originally White Cross), turn right and retrace our steps to Foxrock Church.

The Foxrock Walks

Short Local History Walks
Time. 1½Hr.
Approx.

No. 3 Foxrock To Cornelscourt
Distance 5 Km.

