

Feature

# From the hills of Donegal, Bishop Coll begins his ministry in Ossory

Words: Fr Richard Scriven  
Photos: John Mcglone

From the Hills of Donegal to the Banks of the Silvery Nore, with a stop in Maynooth, Letterkenny, Rome, Carlow, Belfast and Donegal Town, Fr Niall Coll's pastoral ministry began in Ossory on Sunday 22nd January when he was ordained and installed as Bishop of Ossory.

After nearly two years of an interregnum Fr Niall Coll was ordained by Archbishop of Dublin, Dermot Farrell, in the presence of Fr Coll's family and friends, priests and parishioners of the forty two parishes of Ossory.

A native of St Johnson, Co Donegal, Fr Coll was ordained by Bishop Seamus Hegarty in 1988. He now becomes the 96th bishop of Ossory.

Bishop Coll was joined in St Mary's Cathedral by his family: parents Willie and Kathleen, sisters Anne Marie and Caitriona, brother Gerard and extended family.

Accompanying Bishop Coll were also classmates from Maynooth and Rome, former colleagues from St Mary's College Belfast, and parishioners from his various pastoral appointments.

Every parish in the diocese was represented as we witnessed Bishop Coll being ordained by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dermot Farrell, assisted by Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare and Leighlin and formerly Apostolic Administrator of

Ossory and Bishop Alan McGuckian of Raphoe.

A procession of forty-two banners representing the forty-two parishes of the diocese of Ossory begun the liturgy.

Grouped and identified by colour the parishes are now organised in 13 different pastoral areas.

Priests had already taken their place in the Apse and the South Transept.

Secondary school students greeted those attending, bringing them to their seats and giving them the booklet for the day.

A group of eight secondary school students from Loreto, Presentation, CBS and St Kieran's, under the direction of Master of Ceremonies Fr Roderick Whearty, assisted at the altar.

A choir of 80 with 20 musicians under the direction of Fr Scriven and John O'Neill gave the sacred music; much of the music had been chosen by the new bishop.

At 3pm twenty-two bishops entered in solemn procession to the singing of Holy is God by the choir.

Fr Coll was accompanied by two priest chaplains: Fr Brian Griffin, Parish Priest of Castletown and Camross, and Fr Stephen Gorman, Curate at Convoy in Co Donegal.

During the Prayer of Consecration the chaplains held the Book of the Gospels open over the head of the new bishop.

Standing at the cathedra



Mary Egan from Ballycallan Parish greets Bishop Coll

