

THE MARCUS MCGRATH
STORY

MARCUS MCGRATH was born on the 18th of January 1874 and
baptised on the 21st of January 1874 in Newmarket-on-Fergus, County Clare in Ireland to Thomas
McGrath and Bridget Scanlon
The baptism sponsors being James and Honara Keogh

Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881	
Name:	Marcus Mcgrath
Gender:	Male
Birth date:	18 Jan 1874
Birthplace:	Newmarket, Clare, Ireland
Father's name:	Thomas Mcgrath
Mother's name:	Bridget Scanlon
Indexing project (batch) number:	C70155-4
System origin:	Ireland-EASy
Source film number:	255896
Reference number:	v 4-1 p 284

Marcus studied for the priesthood at St Patrick's College, Maynooth in Co Kildare, Ireland from 1895 to 1901. Marcus was ordained as a priest in 1901

1901 – Census of Ireland							
Residents of a house 2.8 in Collegeland (Maynooth, Kildare)							
Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation
McGrath	Marcus	24	Male	M	Catholic	Clare	Student
A copy of the census is reproduced below							

Marcus was appointed Curate in Ruan in April 1905 - October 1911

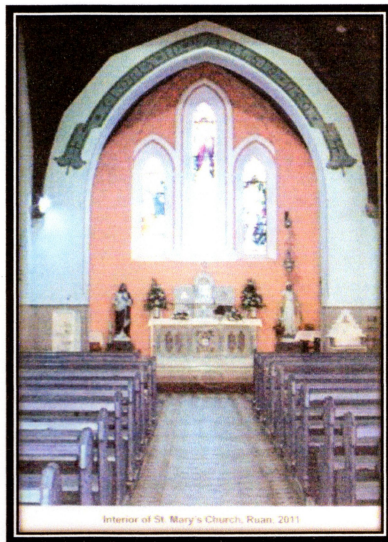
1911 – Census of Ireland

Residents of a house 14 in Ruan Commons (Ruan, Clare)

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Forename</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Relation to head</i>	<i>Religion</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Occupation</i>
McGrath	Marcus	37	Male	Head of Family	Catholican	Co Clare	Assistant Priest

A copy of the census is reproduced below

1911 – Through an injury to the parish priest Fr. Garry, “the collection of the money for the erection of the new church fell on the shoulders of Fr. McGrath.”



St. Mary's Church, Ruan

1911 - 2011



"And when this, St. Mary's Church, is finished may it be for us not only a House of Prayer but a Temple of Peace where all our little feuds and factions, contentions and animosities are buried for ever"

Bishop Fogarty on the occasion of the blessing of the foundation of St. Mary's Church in 1911

St Mary' R.C Church

Ruan

1911 - 2011

The name Ruan comes from the Irish name for Alder tree, Ruadan. The bark of the alder tree was used in olden day times to dye wool red. Frost's 'History of Clare'.

The most ancient church in this part of the parish is the 13th century Teampeall Hugh O'Connell in Aughim Kelly (source: the diocesan archives) .

The next church was Teampeall na Raha in Ballymacrogan - in the old graveyard there is the ruin of a church which dates from the late 15th century .

A thatched church was later built on the site where the priest's house now stands - the church building was there 1786. The thatched church was slated in about 1834 but by the early 1900s Bishop Fogarty said that the church was no longer viable.

Fr. Marcus McGrath was a curate at Ruan from April 1905 – October 1911.

In the bishop's Visitation Book it is stated that the first stone of the new church was put down by Fr. Marcus McGrath C.C, on the 17th May, 1910.



There was debt of £400 when the Church was dedicated in 1911. In 1912 a letter from Fr. Marcus McGrath to the bishop states that Mr. Henry Keller had agreed to put up wainscoting and altar rails at a price of £31 each.

Clarecastle

17. 12. 12

My Lord,

as requested,

I beg to submit to Your
Lordship the charges
for some of the extras
in connection with the
building of New Church
at Ruam.

The following were agreed
on between Mr. Garry & Mr. McIlrath.

Wainscotting £ 3/-

Altar rails £ 3/-

Seats without hinges 36/- each.

Your Lordship's

Obedient Servant

M. McIlrath.

1928 – Marcus died aged 54 on the 30th of November 1928 in Clarecastle near Ennis, County Clare in Ireland

The death was not recorded until Q1 of 1929 and they got his age wrong

Ireland, Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958

Name:	Marcus McGrath
Registration district:	Ennis
Event type:	DEATHS
Registration quarter and year:	Jan - Mar 1929
Estimated birth year:	1877
Age (at death):	52
Film number:	101737
Volume number:	4
Page number:	125
Digital folder number:	4202044
Image number:	00333

19 29 DEATHS Registered in the District of <u>Ennis No 2</u> in the Union of <u>Ennis</u> in the County of <u>Clare</u>										
No. (1)	Date and Place of Death. (2)	Name and Surname. (3)	Sex. (4)	Condition. (5)	Age last Birthday (6)	Rank, Profession, or Occupation. (7)	Certified Cause of Death and Duration of Illness. (8)	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant. (9)	When Registered (10)	Signature of Registrar (11)
173	19 28 Hartfield November Clarecastle	Marcus McGrath	M	Declined	52	Roman Catholic gn. blacksmith	Influenza of lungs 12 months Certified	Mary J. Liddy Present at death Clare Castle	January 19 29	Thomas Coughlin Registrar

The Saturday Record and Clare Journal

PUBLISHED: SATURDAY, DEC. 8, 1928.

Registered for Transmission as a Newspaper.

DEATH.

McGRATH—November 30th, 1928,
Rev. Marcus McGrath, C.C.,
Clarecastle, Co. Clare. Office
and Requiem Mass at Clarecastle
on Monday.

Death Of Rev. Marcus McGrath, C.C., Clarecastle,
Saintly Churchman Laid To Rest,
Impressive Funeral Scenes.

The combined parishes of Ballyea and Clarecastle have suffered a double loss within a comparatively short time, by the death of the Very Rev. Canon Bourke, P.P., in April last, and the death of the Rev. Marcus McGrath, C.C., on Friday last. The late Father McGrath, who was only in his 54th year had been in indifferent health, for some years past, but it was only during the past fortnight that his illness took a serious turn and he gradually sank, until the end came peacefully on Friday last. Deceased was a native of Newmarket-on-Fergus, his father the late Thomas McGrath, having for years carried on a successful victualling and grocery business, and which is still in existence, and owned by Fr McGrath's sister-in-law, his brother having died a couple of years ago. A sister of Fr McGrath's, Mrs Hare, also died in Limerick, quite recently, and another sister in America is the only survivor of the family.

Deceased showed an early vocation for the priesthood. His preliminary studies were pursued at St Flannan's College where he was chosen by the Bishop to go to Maynooth. Here he was reputed to be one of the most talented students, and having completed his ecclesiastical course, was ordained in 1901. He was well known for his athletic prowess, and was reputed to be the best hundred yards runner of his day. Immediately after his ordination he was sent to Glasgow where he ministered for about two years, under Archbishop Eyre. On his return he was appointed C.C., in Killenena where he will always be remembered by the people there for his great love of fishing. From Killenena he was transferred to Ruan and owing to the illness of Father Garry, the Parish Priest, the collection of the money for the erection of the new church fell on the shoulders of Father McGrath. In this respect he worked assiduously, and the splendid church today in Ruan stands as an everlasting monument to the memory of a beloved priest. From Ruan Fr McGrath was transferred to Roscrea. It was here that his health got its first check, he having contracted pleurisy and pneumonia. As soon as circumstances permitted, he was transferred to Clarecastle, where for the past seven years he had laboured unceasingly for the glory of God, and was held in the highest esteem by everyone of his parishioners.

Imbued with that sense of responsibility associated with diocesan labour, he consecrated his life to the salvation of souls. To know him was to love him, and in his Tribunal of Penance he was the wise counsellor, gentle and encouraging, none feared to approach him, for all the beauty and pathos of human sympathy were lovable attributes of his priestly life. As he moved about the sorrowful, he bought his gentle compassion to bear upon their sufferings, his radiant presence and cheerful personality consoled the afflicted. In the humble abode of the poor, his unassuming charity was always in evidence to bring a ray of sunshine into their lives, and the sick found in him one whose every act reflected affectionate care and fraternal kindness.

Those were the noble qualities that comprised the priestly character of Fr. McGrath and enhanced the exalted sanctity of his life to in the love and reverence of all sections of the community.

Apart from his spiritual duties and responsibilities, Fr. McGrath evinced a keen interest in the welfare of his people in general, not unmindful of healthy recreation to elevate the mind and exercise the body, he encouraged every commendable form of entertainment. Being an expert cricketer in his day he took a deep interest in the game, and followed the results of all the principal matches with the greatest interest.

To the Lord Bishop of the Diocese we join the laity in extending our heartfelt sympathy in the sad loss of a distinguished churchman and faithful servant.

On Sunday evening the remains were removed to Clarecastle Church, followed by a very long concourse of people representative of the combined parishes. The members of the Men's Branch of the Holy Family Confraternity marched in processional order after the remains.

His Lordship, Most Rev Dr Fogarty, Lord Bishop of Killaloe, presided at the Solemn Office and Requiem High Mass in Clarecastle Church on Sunday morning. The assistant priests at the throne were the Right Rev. Monsignor Mahon P.P., V.G., Nenagh, and the Very Rev. Canon S Slattery, P.P., Quin. The celebrant of the Mass was the Rev J Smyth, C.C., Kiltrush; deacon, Rev Ml Quin, M.A., S Flannan's College; subdeacon, Rev J O'Connor, C.C., Borrisokane, and the Master of Ceremonies, Very Rev J. Meade, Adm., Ennis. Chanters - Rev P. Cahill, C.C., and the Rev Martin Murray, C.C., Clonlara.

The final Absolution having been pronounced by his Lordship, the coffin was borne from the High Altar to its last resting place, just outside the front door and close to the grave of the late Canon Bourke. His Lordship recited the last prayers, and as the coffin was being consigned to its last resting place, many and silent prayers were offered up for the repose of the soul of one whose memory will be held in the highest esteem by parishioners of Ballyea and Clarecastle.

May his soul rest in peace is the sincere and ardent wish of both the clergy and laity alike.

The following members of the clergy also attended the funeral:-

In the choir were - Very Rev.Canon McMahon, P.P., Carrigaholt; Very Rev.Canon O'Kennedy, President St.Flannan's College; Very Rev.Canon O'Dea, P.P.,Newmarket-on-Fergus; Very Rev. Canon Hannon, Miltown Malby; Very Rev.Canon Molony, P.P., Lorrha; Very Rev.Canon Clancy, P.P., Killaloe; Very Rev.Canon Glynn, P.P., Dunkerrin; Rev.J.J.McCready, P.P., Crusheen; Rev.J.Clancy, P.P., Toomevara; Rev.D.Courtney, P.P., Kilmaley; Rev.M.Dinan, P.P., Freakle; Rev.A.McNamara, P.P., Killenena; Rev.Fr.Wallace, P.P., Cratloe; Rev.J.Enright, P.P., Killimer; Rev.M.I.Madden, Adm. Kilmihill; Rev.W.Grace, P.P., Kildysart; Rev.J.Gavin, P.P., Tubber; Rev.J.Carey ,P.P., Coolmeen; Rev. M.Hogan, P.P., Silvermines; Rev.Patk.Devanny, P.P., Castleconnell; Rev.M.O'Houlihan, P.P., Ruan; Rev.P.Barrett, P.P., Clonlara; Rev. J.P.O'Gorman, P.P., Bodoke; Rev.W.Marrinan, P.P.,Kilnamona ; Rev.J.Clune, P.P., Borrisokane; Rev.P.J.O'Dea, P.P., Kyle and Knock ; Rev.D.O'Dea, C.C., Silvermines; Rev.R.Burke, C.C., Kilmaley; Rev.M.J.Grace, Adm.Roscrea; Rev.M.Flannery, C.C., Terryglass; Rev.C.Spain, C.C., Templederry; Very Rev.Fr.Chrysostom, O.F.M., Guardian, Ennis; Rev.Fr.Enda, O.F.M.,do; Rev.Fr.Edmund,O.F.M.,do; Rev.J.Rodgers, M.A., St.Flannan's College; Rev.M.Hamilton, M.A., do; Rev.M.J.Baker, do; Rev.M.T.Cosgrave, B.A.,B.D.,B.C.L., do; Rev.J.Clune, Vice-President, do; Rev.T.Sammon, C.C., Cooraclare; Rev.P.J.Hewitt, C.C., Doonbeg; Rev.M.McKenna, C.C., Puckaun; Rev.T.Nealon, C.C., Kilmurry Ibricane; Rev.W.O'Kennedy, C.C., Cloughjordan; Rev.R.J.Hayes, C.C., Newmarket-on-Fergus; Rev.P.Gaynor, C.C., Birr; Rev.J.O'Dea, C.C., Killaloe; Rev.E.Vaughan, C.C., Sixmilebridge; Rev.J.F.Houlihan, C.C., Kinnity; Rev.D.McNamara, C.C., Killimer; Rev.J.McDonnell, C.C., Newmarket-on-Fergus; Rev.M.Gavin, C.C., Carrigoran; Rev.Joseph Barry, C.C., Dorra; Rev.Jeremiah Cahir,C.C., Mullagh; Rev.Martin Murray, C.C., Clonlara; Rev.John Clancy, C.C., Scariff; Rev.Michael O.Rahilly, C.C., Miltown Malby; Rev.T.Maher, C.C., Kilrush; Rev. Rev.P.Cahill, C.C., Ennis; Rev.M.J.Crowe, C.C., do; Rev.J.Kennedy, C.C., Corofin; Rev.J.J.Ryan, C.C., Crusheen; Rev.P.Barry, C.C., Clarecastle; Rev.T.Meehan, C.C., Nenagh; Rev. J.F.Kelly, C.C., Tulla; Rev.T.Dooly, C.C., Killaloe; Rev.John Hannon, C.C., Ballywilliam; Rev.Thomas Molloy, C.C., Roscrea; Rev. W.M.Moloney, C.C., Corofin; Rev.T.D.Tuohy, C.C., Roscrea; Rev.C.Culligan, C.C., Kilkee; Rev.P.J.Scanlon,C.C., Portroe Nenagh; Rev.P.Smyth, C.C., Quin; Rev. T.Daly, C.C., Ruan; Rev.P.O'Halloran, C.C., Nenagh; Rev.T.Cleary, C.C., Kilkee; Rev.James Kennedy, C.C., Kilmaley; Rev.A.Ryan, C.C., Ballynacally; Rev.J.F.Austin, C.C., Cranny; Rev.D.Flannery, C.C.,Kilkishen.

The Saturday Record and Clare Journal Ennis: Saturday Dec. 8th 1928

The Saturday Record of the 15th of December 1928 reporting the death of Marcus is reproduced on the next page

LATE FR. McGRATH.

At the meeting of the Clare Co. Board of the G.A.A. on Saturday. Rev. M. Hamilton, M.A., chairman presiding, Mr. Vincent Murphy proposed a vote of sympathy with the relatives of the late Fr. McGrath, C.C., Clarecastle, who, he said, had been a great athlete and fostered the G.A.A. in every way.

Mr. Forde seconded.

Fr. Hamilton recalled the fact that the late Fr. McGrath had always taken a great interest in Gaelic pastimes and had been a splendid athlete in his young days.

A Month's Mind is a Requiem Mass which is celebrated about one month after the person's death, in memory of the deceased

The Late Rev.M.McGrath..C.C.

The Month's Mind of the late Rev.Marcus McGrath, was celebrated at Clarecastle , on Thursday 3rd January.

His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Fogarty presided , attended by the Very Rev. Dean McInerney, P.P.,VG, Kilrush, and Very Rev.Canon Slattery P.P., Quin. Celebrant, Very Rev. Canon O'Kennedy, B.A.,B.D ., President of St Flannan's College; deacon, Rev. J. Kelly, C.C.,Tulla; subdeacon, Rev.Crowe, C.C.,Ennis; Rev.J.Meade , Adm. Ennis, was master of ceremonies.

Chanters – Rev.P.Cahill, C.C.,Ennis; and the Rev.M.Murray, C.C., Conclara. In the choir were the Very Rev.J.Canon Hannon P.P., Miltown Malbay; Very Rev.D. Canon O'Dea, P.P., Newmarket-on-Fergus; Very Rev.J.Canon Cunningham, P.P., Templederry; Rev. P. Gunning, P.P., O'Callaghan Mills; Rev.W.Grace, P.P.,Kildysart; Rev.M.J. Houlihan, P.P., Ruan; Rev.D. Murphy, P.P., Ballynacally; Rev.J.McCready, P.P., Crusheen; TheVery Fr. Chrysostom, O.F.M., Ennis; Rev.Fr. Senan, O.F.M., Ennis; Rev.Fr.Enda, O.F.M., do; Rev. P.J.Vaughan St Flannan's College; Rev.M.Baker, do; Rev.W.Moloney, C.C.,Corofin; Rev.J.Kennedy, C.C.,Corofin; Rev.J.Foggerty, C.C., Miltown Malbay; Rev.J.Kennedy, C.C., Kilmaley ; Rev.J.Ryan, C.C.,Crusheen; Rev. J.Smyth, C.C., Kilrush; Rev.W.Scanlon,C.C.,do; Rev.P.Smyth,C.C.Quin; Rev.T.Daly, C.C.,Ruan; Rev.D.Flynn, C.C.,Lorrica;Rev.J.Roche, C.C., Nenagh; Rev.J.Barry, C.C.,Doora; Rev.M.G.Gilligan, C.C.,Kildysart; Rev.J.McDonnell,C.C.,Newmarket-on-Fergus; Rev.P.K.Hayes,do; Rev.D.O'Donough, C.C.,Toomevara; Rev.P.Spain, C.C., Templederry; Rev.P.Barry, Adm.Clarecastle; Rev.M.Hogan, C.C., do.

The Saturday Journal and Clare Champion. Ennis: January 1929

We wish to record our appreciation to Fr. O'Neill, the Parish Priest of St Mary's Church in Ruan, County Clare in Eire for the valuable contributions he made which greatly assisted in the writing of this article

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.

Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

FORM A.

No. on Form B. *11*

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

Number	NAME AND SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (See Backing) and SEX.		NAME, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.				WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Dead (see Backing) State City, Town, or Locality.	
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Age of Males.	Age of Females.		Whether "Married," "Widowed," "Single," or "Single."	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage, if no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.	Total Children born alive.	Children still living.			
1	<i>Marcus</i>	<i>McGrath</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Catholicism</i>	<i>Read + write</i>	<i>37</i>		<i>Assistant Priest</i>	<i>Single</i>					<i>in County</i>	<i>Read + English</i>	
2																
3																
4																
5																
6																
7																
8																
9																
10																
11																
12																
13																
14																
15																

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII., and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Michael Leonard Signature of Enumerator.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

Marcus McGrath Signature of Head of Family.

A transcription of the 1901 census showing Marcus and some of his fellow students is reproduced here

McGrath	Marcus	24	Male	-	Catholic	Clare	Student	Read and write	Irish and English	Not Married
Molony	John	24	Male	-	Catholic	Clare	Student	Read and write	Irish and English	Not Married
Smyth	James	23	Male	-	Catholic	Clare	Student	Read and write	Irish and English	Not Married
Roche	John	22	Male	-	Catholic	Clare	Student	Read and write	Irish and English	Not Married
O'Dea	John	24	Male	-	Catholic	Clare	Student	Read and write	Irish and English	Not Married
Honlehan	Timothy	24	Male	-	Catholic	Cork	Student	Read and write	Irish and English	Not Married
Smyth	John	24	Male	-	Catholic	Co Donegal	Student	Read and write	Irish and English	Not Married
Higgins	Edward	25	Male	-	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Student	Read and write	Irish and English	Not Married
O'Farrell	Bernard	25	Male	-	R Catholic	Co Meath	Student	Read and write	Irish and English	Not Married
Murphy	John	23	Male	-	R Catholic	Co Meath	Student	Read and write	Irish and English	Not Married
Kelly	Joseph P	23	Male	-	R Catholic	King's Co	Student	Read and write	English and Irish	Not Married
Mooney	Thomas	22	Male	-	R Catholic	W Meath	Student	Read and write	English and Irish	Not Married
O'Reilley	James	23	Male	-	R Catholic	W Meath	Student	Read and write	English and Irish	Not Married
Elliott	William	20	Male	-	R Catholic	Derry	Student	Read and write	English and Irish	Not Married
McAuly	John	23	Male	-	R Catholic	Antrim	Student	Read and write	English and Irish	Not Married