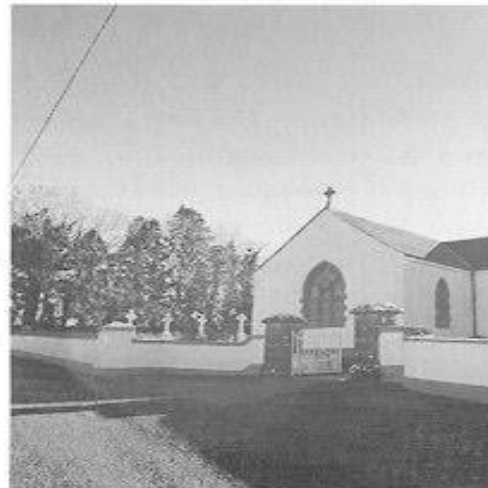


The Parish Church

The Parish Church

The original church was dedicated to St Thomas the apostle, hence its name (from the old Irish word Cill meaning Church). The present church was built by Foster Blake of Knockmoy Abbey, who had donated the site, laid the foundation stone. The first priest of the time was Father Patrick Bodkin Quinn. Richard Gregory of Drogheda was the architect at a cost of £1,000. Father P. O'Connor was the parish priest when the church was completed. In 1865 Jerome Fahey added a belfry and bell at the behest of his predecessor Father Patrick Quinn. The church was replaced and gables were raised. The builder was Martin Linane, who was the contractor. Father Patrick Geraghty erected a marble altar at the bequest of a Miss Sherrin in 1904. In 1947-48 the church was renovated and a tower was added at a cost of £1,000. The contractors were the contractors. Father Denis Hehir was parish priest at the time and John Larkin who was then the administrator. The Father John Keeley memorial chapel, "Our Lady of the Rosary", which was added in 1950 is by Evie Hone. Father Kevin East and is buried in Kinvara. Father N. Kelly reordered the interior of the church in 1960. The rails were removed and the wooden altar was replaced by moving the marble altar forward. Dr. Joyce of Gort presented a new sanctuary lamp. A beautiful grotto to "Our Lady of Lourdes" was erected in the grounds when Father Jennings was Parish Priest. There has been no resident priest since Father Jennings died in 1999. Father Paddy Callinan served Peterswell and Kilbeacanty parishes until last year. Now Father Derek Feeney Parish Priest serves Peterswell and Kilchreest.



Peterswell