Irish Capuchin Archives

Descriptive List

Papers of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary, County Donegal

Collection Code: IE/CA/DL

A collection of records relating to the Capuchin Franciscan community in Donegal and in particular to the foundation known as Ard Mhuire Friary (also known as Ards Friary)

Compiled by Provincial Archivist

September 2019

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Identity Statement

Reference Code  IE/CA/DL
Title  Papers of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal
Creation Dates  1796-2017, predominately 1930-2000
Creator(s)  Irish Capuchins
Level of Description  Fonds
Extent  4 boxes, comprising 102 files and 99 items

Context

History

In March 1930 the Capuchin Franciscans purchased Ards House near Creeslough in County Donegal. The Order procured Ards House and its 100-acre demesne from the Irish Land Commission who had acquired the estate from its previous owners, the Stewart-Bam family. The Ards estate, situated on a sheltered inlet of Sheephaven Bay, had a long history. The picturesque and mostly forested estate, located about fourteen miles from Letterkenny, was acquired by the Wrays, Williamite settlers from Yorkshire, in about 1700. The original house at Ards was constructed by the Wray family in 1710. In the eighteenth century, William Wray was described as ‘a celebrated figure, eccentric and autocratic, though kind and generous’. As a consequence of his extravagance and accumulating debts, William Wray was forced to sell his estate at Ards for £13,250 to Alexander Stewart (1731-1846) in 1781. Stewart was a younger brother of Robert Stewart, First Marquess of Londonderry (1739-1821), and an uncle of the renowned statesman, Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh (1769-1822). Alexander Stewart served as High Sheriff of County Donegal from 1791-2, was a Member of Parliament from 1814-8, and was an owner of extensive properties at Ards, Doe Castle, Dunfanaghy, and Letterkenny in County Donegal. He carried out extensive renovations to the Wray estate and towards the end of his life rebuilt Ards House into a two-storied Georgian mansion with an elaborate façade and expansive interior public rooms. The house was designed by John Hargrave (c.1788-1833) and was completed in about 1830. By the early twentieth century ownership of the Ards estate had passed to Lady Ena Dingwall Tasca Stewart (1885-1945) who inherited the property from her grandfather in 1904. In 1910, Lady Ena Stewart married Sir Pieter Canzius Blommestein Bam (1869-1928), a South African soldier, politician and businessman. From this point on, the property was known as the Stewart-Bam estate. Ards House and its 2,000-acre estate remained in the family’s possession until its acquisition by the Irish Land Commission in 1926.

The Commission assigned the northern portion of the estate to the Department of Lands for afforestation. This portion of the estate, covering over 1,200 acres, is now managed by Coillite, the state-run forestry body, as Ards Forest Park, which is an important tourist and public amenity in the locality. The remaining portion of the former Stewart-Bam estate was divided among tenants. Ards House and its demesne of over 100 acres was left unoccupied and gradually fell into disrepair. About this time, the Irish Capuchins were seeking a suitable location for a novitiate for the education of friars and students. In March 1930 the Capuchins purchased Ards House from the Irish Land Commission for £4,500. Extracts from the minute book of the Irish Capuchin Provincial Council provides some further information:

7 February 1930

It was decided that, the permission of the Bishop of Raphoe having been obtained for a foundation in his Diocese, to purchase Ards House and a portion of the demesne from the Irish Land Commission and to apply to Rome for sanction.
5 March 1930

*It was decided that the purchase of Ards House in the Diocese of Raphoe for a canonical foundation be completed immediately and that provision be made for heating, lighting, and furnishing it and that Fr. Colman Griffin OFM Cap. be appointed Guardian of the new foundation, which will be known as Ard Mhuire Friary, dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

The first community in the newly established Ard Mhuire Friary consisted of the above-mentioned Fr. Colman Griffin OFM Cap., who was joined by Fr. Peter Kelleher OFM Cap. and Fr. Andrew Carew OFM Cap. Ards House, while solidly built (some of its stone walls were nearly three feet thick), was apparently not as commodious as exterior appearance would lead one to believe. It was also evident that the interior layout and facilities would require significant adaption to suit the needs of a religious community. An [article](#) on the history of Ard Mhuire provides the following details on the challenges facing the friars upon their arrival in Donegal:

> Fr. Colman, recalling their arrival, said they found the place under a mantle of snow (it was mid-March 1930). In every way, it was a rather dismal, depressing scene. Ards House had been vacant for a long time, the only occupiers being Paddy and Mrs O’Brien, who had shared the care-taking chores. In the intense cold, the absence of heating and lighting offered a cheerless prospect. The solitary concession was a fire in one room. They had brought bedding, but settling down in unaired, damp-ridden rooms posed a hazard to health. ... First priority was an internal restructuring to comply with the needs of community life. What had been a room for dancing was converted into an oratory where Mass was celebrated. Gradually, the transformation took place, two massive mantle pieces which had to be removed were later erected in Glenveigh Castle. It was the same outside. The expansive grounds had been neglected for years, resembling a wilderness; roads and paths were blocked by fallen trees. ... Progress was satisfactory enough to have the first novices brought to Ard Mhuire in January 1931. Bit by bit, the community, supported and encouraged by the local people, changed the former manor house into a friary that lacked none of the essentials. (CA/DL/6/22).

Ard Mhuire Friary quickly developed as focal point for the education of Capuchin friars for the priesthood as the Order’s novitiate and later as a house of theology. It was at Ard Mhuire where Capuchin clerical students spent their final four years of training before ordination. The entire course of their training took at least eight years from the completion of secondary school studies, with a year-long novitiate, three to four years of philosophy scholarship at university and a final four years of theological studies at Ard Mhuire.

In the 1950s an increase in the number of vocations made it necessary to find more space at Ard Mhuire. It also became evident that the former Ards House would require extensive renovations. A serious fire in December 1944 had caused significant damage to the old mansion (see [CA/DL/3/10]) and it was clear that the building would need substantial repair work. The condition of the old friary had by this point deteriorated considerably. The roof was developing cracks and the oldest part of the building, the elaborate façade, was physically crumbling. Three separate plans were drawn up for the proposed alterations to the existing building, but all proved unsatisfactory. A decision was therefore made to build a new friary and house of studies along with a public church able to accommodate three hundred worshippers. Designs for the new buildings by the architect, [James Rupert Boyd Barrett](#) (c.1904-1976), were approved and the new friary and church were formerly opened on 13 November 1966. The old friary building was demolished shortly afterwards. The new buildings cost over £200,000 to complete. Money for the project was gathered through missions in the United States as well as subventions from the Order’s leadership in Rome. There were also several bequests and further donations. A collection in the diocese of Raphoe raised a total of £16,000. The new house of studies at Ard Mhuire provided accommodation for forty students, eight priests and six lay brothers. The new chapel was designed to meet the demands of the liturgical requirements of the Second Vatican Council with provision made for the concelebration of Mass and an extensive sanctuary specifically designed for ordination ceremonies.
In September 1972 the Irish Capuchins decided to centralize theological studies and transfer their novices to Dublin. In the wake of the Second Vatican Council, it was felt that the Ard Mhuire was too remote and that friars studying for new forms of ministry should live in locations which offered more scope for and access to different kinds of social and pastoral work. This change had obvious implications for the future of Ard Mhuire which would now have a vastly diminished community of friars. During the forty-one years in which theological studies continued in the Donegal friary, one hundred and ninety-two students were ordained to the priesthood. Many of these friars went on to minister in overseas missions, mainly in the United States and in Africa where the Irish Capuchins had established custodies. Concerns were expressed by the then Bishop of Raphoe, Anthony McFeely (1909-1986), that Ard Mhuire would be closed and that the Capuchins would leave Donegal. At the Capuchin Provincial Chapter in 1973, it was decided to explore alternative pastoral and social uses for the Ard Mhuire foundation. In the summer of 1974, Ards Friary opened as a retreat house for use by both religious and lay communities. More attention was also paid to the use of the friary’s grounds as a public amenity. The old walled gardens of the former estate and the adjoining forest walks had been open to the public since the Capuchins acquired Ards House in 1930 and from 1972 on the friary itself was opened up for various uses including social events for local lay organisations, outreach and fundraising conferences, and functions for charitable and religious purposes. In 2002 a new reception area and coffee shop were added. At the end of 2006 changes were made in relation to the management of the conference and retreat centre which ensured a greater role for the clergy of the diocese of Raphoe. Extensive renovations were made to the centre from 2007 to 2013 with the costs borne by the local diocese. Today, Ard Mhuire serves as the retreat and conference centre of the diocese of Raphoe. Priests and religious from many congregations and dioceses continue to make use of the centre for retreats. Ards Friary also offers conferences amenities for lay organizations with an emphasis on facilitating periods of rest, relaxation, reflection, prayer and vacation.

Archival History

The fonds form part of the archival collection of the Irish Province of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. The collection is held at the Provincial Archives, Capuchin Friary of St. Mary of the Angels, Church Street, Dublin 7.

Content and Structure

Scope and content

The collection consists of records relating to the Capuchin Franciscan community in Donegal and in particular to the foundation known as Ard Mhuire Friary (or Ards Friary) located near Creeslough in the county. Most of the records post-date 1930 when the Capuchins acquired ownership of Ards House, the former Stewart-Bam mansion, which they re-named Ard Mhuire and transformed into a theological seminary. The fonds includes legal records relating to the acquisition of Ards House from the Irish Land Commission, financial and business records, and photographic records assembled by individual members of the Capuchin community residing at Ard Mhuire. The collection also contains records relating to physical alterations to the Ard Mhuire foundation including correspondence, architectural plans and financial records relating to the construction of a new friary and house of studies on the existing site in the 1960s. Other records in the collection relate to Ard Mhuire’s use (particularly from 1972 onwards) as a retreat and conference centre in the diocese of Raphoe. The fonds also contains historical research, newspaper clippings, photographic records and ephemera compiled by various Capuchin friars relating to the history of the locality including material on the
previous owners of Ards House in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Much of this historical research was amassed by Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. (1912-1995) who spent nearly sixty years of his ministry as a Capuchin friar at Ard Mhuire.

System of arrangement

The material has been catalogued (2019) and a new arrangement has been imposed upon the fonds. The collection has been divided into eight principal series. One of the series (relating to property and lands) has been further divided into three sub-series. The papers in each of the sub-series represent either a particular area of activity, a subject or a specific document or record type and have been arranged accordingly. Within the various divisions all the papers have been arranged chronologically.

Postnominal Abbreviation

The Capuchin Franciscans are an order of friars within the Catholic Church, among the chief offshoots of the Observant Franciscans (Order of Friars Minor) founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1209. The Capuchins have used several postnominal abbreviations during their existence. In Latin, the Order is officially referred to as the Ordo Fratrum Minorum Capuccinorum (Order of Friars Minor Capuchin) usually abbreviated to OFM Cap. Up until about the second decade of the twentieth century the postnominal abbreviation of OSFC (Latin: Ordinis Santi Francisci Capuccinorum) was widely used. The text of this catalogue broadly reflects this change and utilises the older postnominal abbreviation of OSFC to refer to friars living from the foundation of the Capuchins in 1520 up until the first decades of the twentieth century.

An aerial view of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary and Retreat Centre, Creeslough, County Donegal, in 1980.
Access and Descriptive Control

Language
Most of the material within this collection is written in English. Some specific material is in Latin and Irish.

Physical characteristics
The papers are generally in good condition

Finding Aid
Descriptive catalogue

Archivist’s note
Catalogue compiled by Provincial Archivist

Conventions
ISAD(G), 2nd ed. (2000); Irish Guidelines for Archival Description (2009)

Date of description
September 2019

Access Conditions
Access is open to bona fide researchers

Reproduction Conditions
Reproduction and licensing rules available on request

Allied Materials
The Papers of the Stewart-Bam family, the owners of Ards House (later Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary), are held in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (D4137 and D2784/19).


Illustrations

A view of Ards House, Creeslough, County Donegal, c.1910. The image shows the Stewart-Bam mansion which was acquired by the Capuchins in 1930.

Views of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary (formerly Ards House), Creeslough, County Donegal.
Photographic images showing the new Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary and House of Studies and the old Friary building (formerly Ards House) in 1965. The image (bottom right) shows the shell of the old Ard Mhuire Friary during demolition work in 1966.

A group of Capuchin friars on the staircase in the old Ard Mhuire Friary in c.1955.
1. The Sale of Ards House and Estate

Level: Series
Dates of Creation: 1926-1931
Scope and Content: The series contains documents relating to the sale of Ards House and its 2,000-acre estate by the Stewart-Bam family. The estate was acquired by the Irish Land Commission in 1926. The Capuchin Franciscans purchased Ards House and a portion of its demesne in 1930 and converted it for use as a friary and theological seminary.
Format: Manuscript; typescript; printed; photographic print; newspaper clipping
Extent: 4 files and 1 item

CA/DL/1/1  Auction Brochure for Ards House and Estate
c.1926
Item
Printed; photographic print
7 pp
Brochure advertising the sale of Ards House and Estate. The brochure has photographic prints of Sheephaven Bay, Ards House, and the associated workmen’s cottages. It is noted that the sale includes 2,000 acres. Ards House comprises a stone-built Georgian style residence with ‘six reception rooms, a billiard room, 19 principal bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a nursery suite, splendid servant’s quarters, ample garages and stabling, 20 cottages and beautiful pleasure grounds’. The brochure provides details on various facets of the property and notes that the owner (Lady Ena Stewart-Bam) ‘has been in negotiation with the Irish Land Commission, who are quite prepared to give every facility to an intending purchaser’. The agent is noted as Messrs Battersby & Co., 39 Westmoreland Street, Dublin. The brochure also notes:
- The sale of the historic ‘Doe Castle’ ruin with about 30 acres of demesne land.
- The potential sale of ‘furniture which includes some old and rare pieces and a valuable library’.
- That the ‘Ards Estate has been in the possession of the Stewart family for about 150 years. The first Stewart of Ards and the First Marquess of Londonderry were only brothers. The present head, Lady Stewart-Bam of Ards, is selling the property as her husband’s chief interests are in South Africa’.
- That the price for the freehold is £50,000 including sporting and fishing rights.

CA/DL/1/2  Newspaper Clippings re Sale of Ards House and Estate
5 Mar. 1927-24 Apr. 1929
File
Clipping; photostat copy
3 items
Advertisements from the Irish Times (5 Mar. 1927), the Londonderry Sentinel (15 Dec. 1928) and the Derry Journal (24 Apr. 1929) for the sale of ‘the well-known and historical mansion of Ards and its demesne’. The Irish Times advertisement includes a brief account of the Stewart-Bam ownership of the estate. The Sentinel article advertises a ‘two-day dispersal sale of stock, crop, farming implements’ and other sundries at the Ards Estate farmyard on 19-20 Dec. 1928. The Derry Journal advertisement itemizes the contents of the
house (including furniture, oil portraits, silver, linen and ‘an extensive library of books’) which will be offered for sale at a series of auctions from 6 May 1929.

CA/DL/1/3  Letters from Bishop William Mac Neely
11 Jan. 1930-18 Mar. 1930
File
Manuscript; typescript
6 items
Letters from the Most Rev. William MacNeely, Bishop of Raphoe (1888-1963), to Fr. Aloysius Travers OFM Cap. re arrangements for the purchase of Ards House by the Capuchins. A letter of 1 Mar. 1930 expresses his pleasure on hearing that ‘negotiations with the Land Commission have been successful. About the time of taking over the property, really it does not matter; just make arrangements as you consider convenient’. A letter on 18 Mar. 1930 affirms that the friars ‘may fix up an Oratory at once ... as soon as things are in order’.

CA/DL/1/4  Irish Land Commission Sale
22 Jan. 1930-16 Apr. 1931
File
Manuscript; typescript
16 items
File relating to the purchase of Ards House and a portion of the former Stewart-Bam estate by the Irish Land Commission to the Capuchin friars. The purchase (for £5,500) was finalized in April 1930. The file includes valuation reports, receipts (from the Irish Catholic Church Property Insurance Ltd.) and correspondence with the Land Registry Office, solicitors and the National Bank Ltd. Letters from the Forestry Department refer to the proposed acquisition of a portion (33 acres) of the lands adjoining Ards House for £330.

CA/DL/1/5  Copy Circular Letter from Provincial Minister
5 Mar. 1930
File
Manuscript; typescript
2 copies; 2 pp
Copy circular letter from Fr. Kevin Moynihan OFM Cap., Provincial Minister, announcing the purchase of Ards House by the Capuchin Order. The letter reads:

It is more than 350 years since the Franciscans laboured “for the glory of God, and the honour of Erin” in the historic Abbey of Donegal. Now they are returning and let us hope that this new Friary of the Order will be a centre of spiritual force, the influence of which will be felt, not only in Tirconail, but in the whole of the north of Ireland.

He also expresses his gratitude to Fr. Aloysius Travers OFM Cap. whose ‘untiring energy’ ensured the acquisition of the property. A note (added by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap.) states that a meeting of the Provincial Definitory on 5 Mar. 1930 confirmed the plan to purchase of Ards House for a canonical foundation. It is also noted that Fr. Colman Griffin OFM Cap. was appointed guardian of the new foundation.
2. Property and Lands

Level: Series
Dates of Creation: 1931-1987
Scope and Content: This section includes legal records relating to the management of properties at Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary. The series also includes papers relating to the construction, renovation and repair history of Ards Friary and the Capuchin House of Studies. A sub-series includes correspondence, architectural plans, and financial records relating to the construction of a new friary and theological seminary on the existing Ard Mhuire site in the 1960s.
Format: Printed; bound volume; manuscript; typescript; photostat copy; photographic print
Extent: 22 files and 5 items

2.1. Leases, Valuations and Sales

Level: Sub-series
Dates of Creation: 1965-1985
Format: Manuscript; typescript; photostat copy
Extent: 6 files

CA/DL/2/1/1 Valuation of Ard Mhuire Friary
30 July 1965-1 Mar. 1971
File
Typescript; photostat copy
19 items
File relating to an application seeking a remission on the valuation (and rates) paid on Ard Mhuire Friary. It is noted that the Friary ‘is used exclusively as a theological training centre for the Capuchin Franciscan Order, which is a charitable religious organization, in which students are prepared for the missionary and apostolic work of the Order, both at home and abroad’. The correspondents include Fr. Berchmans McCarthy OFM Cap., guardian, Donegal County Council, James P. Sweeney, Falcarragh, County Donegal, solicitor, and Donal O’Buachalla & Co., property consultant, 86 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. The file includes demand notices (and receipts) for rate payments.

CA/DL/2/1/2 Correspondence re Trustees’ Appointments
11 June 1970-4 Aug. 1976
File
Typescript; manuscript
15 items
Correspondence of Ronan Daly & Hayes, 12 South Mall, Cork, solicitors, with Fr. Nicholas O’Brien OFM Cap., Provincial Secretary, re an application for an order from the Charitable Commissioners vesting the Ard Mhuire Friary and adjoining lands (consisting of 167 acres 3 roods and 15 perches in the townland of Ards and 38 acres 2 roods in the townland of Rinnsligo, County Donegal) in new trustees (appointed by the FMC trust). Reference (19 Mar. 1976) is made by Fr. Nicholas to the difficulties in locating documents in relation to the purchase of the Ards property from the Irish Land Commission in 1930:

A search made in the Provincial Archives revealed ecclesiastical documents only (sanction by the Holy See, the local Bishop etc.) I had enquiries made both here in Dublin and in Letterkenny of solicitors
whose firms might have been involved in the sale negotiations, but the results were negative. It is possible that the deal was made directly with the representatives of the Land Commission.

CA/DL/2/1/3  
**Correspondence of Ard Mhuire Friary Guardian**  
17 Jan. 1977-21 Nov. 1978  
File  
Manuscript; typescript  
8 items  
Correspondence Fr. Thomas Rocks OFM Cap., Guardian, Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary, with Fr. Brendan O’Mahony OFM Cap., Provincial Minister, and Fr. Nicholas O’Brien OFM Cap., Provincial Secretary, mostly regarding property and financial matters pertaining to the Ards foundation. The subjects include improvements to the Friary and Retreat House, the potential sale of a tract of land called ‘Manus Lough’, the financial demands of the Ards community, the leasing of a camping site to the CBSI, and the potential lease of the disused pier at Sheephaven Bay. The file includes a schedule denoting the subventions from the Provincial (Central) Fund to the Ard Mhuire building fund from 1950-77. A letter (18 Feb. 1977) from Fr. Nicholas reads:

*The first agreement for the use of the pier (then known as “the flagstaff”) was made by the then Guardian – Fr. Cassian O’Shea, [who was guardian from 1937-43] with “Irish Minerals Co.” of Arklow. ... And it was during this time that the pier as we know it today was constructed including the extension back to the friary grounds and the protecting wall – later the shed and repair workshop was added.*

CA/DL/2/1/4  
**Letters re Sale of Cottages**  
16 Aug. 1984-5 June 1985  
File  
Typescript  
6 items  
Letters from James P. Sweeney & Co., Falcarragh, Letterkenny, County Donegal, solicitors, and Seán Ó hUadhaigh & Son, 20 Eden Quay, Dublin, solicitors, re negotiations for the sale of cottage and plots of lands at Ards, Creeslough, to Anne Green and Monica Cassidy. The correspondence refers to the need for consent forms from the Commissioner of Charitable Donations and Bequests, information re title from the Land Registry, and a memorandum and articles re the vesting of certain lands at Ards with named trustees of the FMC Trust (enclosed).

CA/DL/2/1/5  
**Draft Lease**  
c.1985  
File  
Typescript; manuscript  
3 pp  
Draft lease from Fr. Patrick Flynn OFM Cap., Guardian, Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary, County Donegal, to Brendan McFadden, Greenhill, Dunfanaghy, County Donegal, of a portion of lands for five years at an annual rent of £1,550. With draft instructions for the ‘letting of land and farm buildings at Ards’.
CA/DL/2/1/6  Correspondence re Proposed St. Colmcille Heritage Centre  
File  
Typescript  
10 items  
File relating to the proposal from Bord Fáilte to build a heritage and exhibition centre celebrating the life and times of St. Colmcille on the site of the Capuchin Retreat House at Ards, Creeslough, County Donegal. The correspondents include Fr. Fidelis O’Connell OFM Cap., Fr. Patrick Flynn OFM Cap., Fr. Eustace McSweeney OFM Cap., Provincial Minister, Fr. F.X. Martin OSA, and Dermot A. Walsh, Chairman, Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo Tourism. It was noted that the ‘location of Ards Friary for this project would ensure that the monastic theme would have a real and live meaning and would enhance the existing and well supported facilities’. The project was not ultimately realized.

2.2. General Building Repairs and Land Maintenance

Level: Sub-series  
Dates of Creation: 1931-1987  
Format: Manuscript; typescript; copy sketch map  
Extent: 5 files and 4 items

CA/DL/2/2/1  Letter re Fishing Rights  
17 May 1931  
Item  
Manuscript  
2 pp  
Letter from Hugh A. Law (1872-1943), Marble Hill, County Donegal, to Fr. Colman Griffin OFM Cap., guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, seeking permission to place trout fry in a lake located on the friary estate.

CA/DL/2/2/2  Land Improvement Project  
1958-1960  
File  
Printed; copy sketch map  
6 pp  
Specifications for a local government land improvement scheme for the Ards Estate. Includes sketch maps of the old friary residence and adjoining farmyard with a legend indicating the scrubland to be removed and the existing drainage system. The specification and map were sent to the guardian of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary.

CA/DL/2/2/3  Copy Extract from Register of Freeholders  
30 Aug. 1961  
Item  
Typescript  
4 pp  
Copy extract from the Register of Freeholders re ‘a right to pass and repass on foot and with horses or other animals … over parts of the lands of Cashelmore and Doocashel Glebe’ in County Donegal. It is noted that the Capuchin friars are the owners of these lands by a deed registered on 14 Jan. 1931.
Afforestation Scheme
1966-1971
File
Printed; typescript
14 items
File of documents (mainly from the County Donegal Committee of Agriculture) re a scheme to encourage landholders to plant trees on their lands in the county. The file includes information sheets and blank application forms relating to the proposal to plant conifers for a ‘shelter belt scheme in arable fields which cannot be cultivated in the usual way, on steep banks or hillsides, rocky or broken ground practically bare of vegetation, ... and in swamps and bogs which cannot be reclaimed for agricultural purposes’. The file also includes a letter from A.M.S. Hanan re an article for the Royal Forestry Society on ‘southern hemisphere conifers in Ireland’ (12 Feb. 1970).

Correspondence with A.H. Masser Ltd.
File
Manuscript; typescript
11 items
Correspondence (with invoices) of Fr. Berchmans McCarthy, guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, with A.H. Masser Ltd., Kylemore Road, Dublin 10, re the installation of a washing machine.

Correspondence re Widening of Friary Road
File
Typescript
3 items
Correspondence of Fr. Berchmans McCarthy, guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, with Bord Fáilte Éireann, re an application for a grant to widen the road above the Friary as it would be ‘immense benefit to tourism in the area’.

Contract with Irish Shell Ltd.
16 July 1971
Item
Typescript
3 pp
Letter from Irish Shell Ltd. to Fr. Pacificus Jennings OFM Cap., guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, enclosing a contract agreement for the supply of fuel oil to the friary.

Utility and Maintenance Work on Ard Mhuire Friary
22 July 1975-22 Sept. 1976
File
Typescript
17 items
Correspondence re plumbing and electrical work on Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary. The file includes a Bill of Quantities (and costs) for ‘sundry works in connection with proposed alterations to mechanical, electrical and sanitary plumbing services’ at Ard Mhuire. The correspondents include Fr. Simeon
Breen OFM Cap., guardian, J.R. Boyd Barrett, 5 Camden Place, Cork, architect, Fr. Anthony Boran OFM Cap., Provincial Minister. Some of the letters refer to the deferment of plans for the painting of the Friary church and choir.

**CA/DL/2/2/9**  
**Tender re Building Work on Retreat House**  
17 Nov. 1987  
Item  
Typescript  
2 pp  
Tender from Neil Sheridan & Son, Drimeason, Creeslough, County Donegal, for extensive building works on the Capuchin Retreat House at Ard Mhuire.

### 2.3. Construction of New Ard Mhuire Friary and House of Studies

**Level:** Sub-series  
**Dates of Creation:** 1958-1965  
**Format:** Printed sketch map; bound volume; manuscript; typescript; photographic print  
**Extent:** 11 files and 1 item

**CA/DL/2/3/1**  
**Architectural Plans and Drawings**  
Nov. 1958-July 1965  
File  
Printed  
17 items  
Architectural plans (elevations and sections), designs, drawings and sketches for the new Capuchin House of Studies and Ard Mhuire Friary and Church, County Donegal, prepared by James Rupert Boyd Barrett (c.1904-1976), architect, 5 Camden Place, Cork. The file includes the following architectural records:

1. **Sketch plan for House of Studies, Ard Mhuire Friary**  
   Date: Nov. 1958  
   Number: Sketch 1  
   Scale: 1 inch to 16 feet  
   Sheet size: OS; 104 cm x 77 cm  
   Note: With colour washes

2. **Sketch plan for basement and ground floors of the House of Studies**  
   Date: 5 Jan. 1959  
   Number: Sketch 2  
   Scale: 1 inch to 16 feet  
   Sheet size: 69 cm x 67 cm  
   Note: With colour washes

3. **Sketch plan of alterations to accommodation block of the House of Studies**  
   Date: 5 Jan. 1959  
   Number: Sketch 3  
   Scale: 1 inch to 16 feet  
   Sheet size: 69 cm x 67 cm  
   Note: With colour washes

4. **Elevations and sections for alterations to the House of Studies and Friary**  
   Date: 7 Apr. 1959  
   Number: Drawing 5
5. Sketch, elevation, floor plan and axonometric view of the Friary
Date: 14 Jan. 1960
Number: Sketch 1
Scale: 1 inch to 32 feet
Sheet size: 117 cm x 69 cm
Note: With colour washes

6. Elevation and sections of the House of Studies
Date: 9 Oct. 1962
Number: Drawing 8
Scale: 1 inch to 16 feet
Sheet size: 126 cm x 71 cm
Note: With colour washes

7. Floor plans (ground, first and second) of the House of Studies
Date: 15 Oct. 1962
Number: Drawing 7
Scale: 1 inch to 16 feet; 1 inch to 22 feet
Sheet size: 130 cm x 72 cm
Note: With colour washes. The sheet shows the location of the Old Ard Mhuire Friary (formerly Ards House) with a note indicating that this is ‘to be demolished’.

8. Revisions to ground floor plan of the House of Studies
Date: Jan. 1963
Number: Drawing 3
Scale: 1 inch to 8 feet
Sheet size: 114 cm x 67.5 cm
Note: The sheet is torn and frayed. Careful manual handling is required.

9. First-floor plan of the House of Studies
Date: Jan. 1963
Number: Drawing 4
Scale: 1 inch to 8 feet
Sheet size: 110 cm x 67 cm

10. Revisions to second-floor plan of the House of Studies
Date: Jan. 1963
Number: Drawing 5
Scale: 1 inch to 8 feet
Sheet size: 110 cm x 67 cm

11. Survey of proposed Ard Mhuire Friary and the House of Studies
Date: 26 July 1963
Number: No file number given
Scale: 1 inch to 32 feet
Sheet size: 76 cm x 61 cm
Note: The survey was completed by E.G. Pettit, consulting engineer, 7 South Mall, Cork, for J.R. Boyd Barrett. The survey shows the location of the Old Ard Mhuire Friary (formerly Ards House) relative to the site of the new House of Studies.

12. Details of Altar Rail in Ard Mhuire Friary Church
Date: 1965
Number: Drawing 53
13. Details of seating in Ard Mhuire Friary Church
Date: Nov. 1965
Number: Drawing 54
Scale: ½ inch to 1 foot
Sheet size: 72 cm x 48 cm

14. Sketch plan of sanctuary layout in Ard Mhuire Friary Church
Date: 24 Aug. 1965
Number: No file number given
Scale: 1 inch to 4 feet
Sheet size: 66 cm x 56 cm

15. Design for layout of sacristy in Ard Mhuire Friary Church
Date: Oct. 1965
Number: Drawing 52
Scale: ½ inch to 1 foot
Sheet size: 61 cm x 36 cm

16. Details of choir stalls in Ard Mhuire Friary
Date: Mar. 1965
Number: Drawing 40
Scale: 3 inches to 1 foot; 1 inch to 1 foot; ⅛ inch to 1 foot
Sheet size: 94 cm x 70 cm

17. Landscaping and garden plan for Ard Mhuire Friary
Date: July 1965
Number: No file number given
Scale: 1 inch to 16 feet
Sheet size: 92 cm x 67 cm
Note: The plan was compiled by Powers of Waterford.

CA/DL/2/3/2
Photographs of Model of House of Studies and Ard Mhuire Friary
c.1960-1963
File
Black and white print
30 cm x 25.5 cm; 25.5 cm x 20 cm; 21 cm x 16 cm; 20 cm x 16 cm;
16.5 cm x 12 cm
17 items
Photographic prints of an architectural model of the new Capuchin House of
Studies and Ard Mhuire Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal. The model was
prepared by James Rupert Boyd Barrett, architect, 5 Camden Place, Cork. The
photographs show the model from various perspectives.

CA/DL/2/3/3
Letters from J.R. Boyd Barrett
File
Typescript
75 items
Letters from James Rupert Boyd Barrett, architect, 5 Camden Place, Cork,
regarding design work, tenders, bills of quantities and furnishings for the new
Capuchin House of Studies at Ard Mhuire Friary in County Donegal. The letter
recipients include Fr. Conrad O'Donovan OFM Cap., Fr. Berard Creed OFM
The file also includes receipts and certificates of payment for construction work on the House of Studies.

**CA/DL/2/3/4**  
**Bill of Quantities**  
Apr. 1963  
File  
Bound volume; typescript  
212 pp  
Bill of Approximate Quantities for the Capuchin House of Studies at Ard Mhuire Friary, County Donegal. The volume was prepared by James Rupert Boyd Barrett, architect, 5 Camden Place, Cork, and James Sheehan, chartered surveyor, 20 South Mall, Cork. The scope of the work is described as follows:  
*The work consists of the erection of a House of Studies, consisting of a three-storey classroom and cell block; single storey parlours, kitchen and refectory blocks; chapel, choir, sacristy, Third Order etc.; drains, sewerage disposal, drives, paths, yard, playing pitch etc., and demolition of the existing buildings.*

**CA/DL/2/3/5**  
**Letters re Construction and Furnishing of New Ard Mhuire Friary**  
31 Dec. 1963-12 Sept. 1969  
File  
Typescript  
19 items  
Letters from James Sheehan, chartered quality surveyor, 20 South Mall, Cork, J. Varming & S. Mulcahy, consulting engineers, 4 Northbrook Road, Dublin 6, Gunning & Son Ltd., ecclesiastical art manufacturers and church furnishers, 18 Fleet Street, Dublin 2, Murphy-Devitt Studios, stained glass manufacturers, 63 Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Dublin, and J & C McLoughlin, constructional engineers, Jamestown Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8, re payments for the building, furnishing and decoration of the new Ard Mhuire Friary and Capuchin House of Studies. The recipients include Fr. Conrad O'Donovan OFM Cap. and Fr. Nicholas O’Brien OFM Cap.

**CA/DL/2/3/6**  
**Letters from P.J. McLoughlin & Co.**  
28 Jan. 1964-15 Nov. 1968  
File  
Typescript; manuscript  
23 items  
Letters from P.J. McLoughlin & Co., builders and public works contractors, Ardnacassa, County Longford, re their work on the new Capuchin Friary and House of Studies at Ard Mhuire in County Donegal. Letter recipients include Fr. Conrad O’Donovan OFM Cap. and Fr. Nicholas O’Brien OFM Cap. Most of the letters are acknowledgments of payments received for contracted work on the building project.

**CA/DL/2/3/7**  
**Silver Circle Draws for Building Fund**  
1965-1966  
File  
Manuscript; typescript; printed  
105 items
File relating to the promotion of a series of Silver Circle draws in aid of the building fund for the new House of Studies and Ard Mhuire Friary, Cashelmore, County Donegal. The file includes letters (mainly from the local clergy) in support of the fund, promoters’ cards and ephemera, legal permits, and bank statements and receipts associated with the fund. The file also includes a list of parishes in Donegal in which the promotion of the fund was permitted.

Note: See also CA/DL/6/12.

CA/DL/2/3/8  Demolition Sale Inventory
12 Oct. 1966
File
Printed
3 copies; 20 pp
An inventory for furniture and interior fittings belonging to ‘Ard’s Castle’ (presumably Ard Mhuire Friary), Creeslough, County Donegal, to be sold at a demolition sale on 12 Oct. 1966. The auctioneers are noted as Quinn Bros. & McGowan, Longford. The building contractors are P.J. McLoughlin & Co., Longford.

CA/DL/2/3/9  Invitations to Opening of New Ard Mhuire Friary
3 Nov. 1966-10 Nov. 1966
File
Manuscript; typescript
47 items
Letters to Fr. Hilary McDonagh OFM Cap. responding to invitations to attend the blessing and opening of the Capuchin House of Studies and the new Ard Mhuire Friary on 13 Nov. 1966. The attendees included many local parish priests, Capuchin friars, members of other religious congregations and various lay people involved in the construction of the buildings. The file also includes a copy of the official declaration of the blessing of the foundation (in Latin) signed by Fr. Conrad O’Donovan OFM Cap., Provincial Minister, a list of donations to the building fund, an invitation card to the solemn blessing and opening and a menu card for the celebratory dinner.

CA/DL/2/3/10  Bills of Costs for Construction of New Ard Mhuire Friary
1967
Item
Typescript
1 p
Bills for construction work on Ard Mhuire Friary and the Capuchin House of Studies in County Donegal. The costs include fees payable to J.R. Boyd Barrett, architect, J. McLoughlin & Co., builders, James Sheehan, surveyor, and to various other firms and individuals for furnishing and decorating the buildings.

CA/DL/2/3/11  Stations of the Cross Installation
29 Aug. 1969-29 June 1970
File
Manuscript; typescript
8 items
Correspondence of Fr. Berchmans McCarthy OFM Cap., guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, with Gill & Gunning, church furnishers, 50 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, regarding the installation of a set wooden Stations of the Cross in the new church at Ard Mhuire Friary.

CA/DL/2/3/12  Ard Mhuire Auction
1969-1971
File
Manuscript; typescript
2 items
Letter from Lionel Percy, Bunlin Lodge, Milford, County Donegal, to Fr. Pacificus Jennings OFM Cap, guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, re items which he would like to acquire before the demolition of the old Ard Mhuire Friary building. The items include the ‘mahogany bookcases in the library’ and ‘the stone steps outside the building’. The file also includes an inventory for an auction of mainly livestock and agricultural equipment at Ard Mhuire on 13 Mar. 1971.

3. Community Records

Level: Series
Dates of Creation: 1931-2005
Scope and Content: This section includes files relating to the Capuchin community resident in Ard Mhuire Friary. The series includes records relating to various aspects of their religious life, to their ministries and their interactions with the clergy of the diocese of Raphoe and with various lay fraternities and associations.
Format: Manuscript; typescript; printed; bound volume
Extent: 17 files and 14 items

CA/DL/3/1  Official Dedication of Ard Mhuire Friary
28 Jan. 1931
Item
Manuscript; typescript
Latin
3 pp
Official dedication of the foundation at Ard Mhuire to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The document is signed by Fr. Kevin Moynihan OFM Cap., Provincial Minister. With manuscript and typescript copies.

CA/DL/3/2  Letter re Stained Glass for Ard Mhuire Oratory
25 Feb. 1931
Item
Typescript
1 p
Letter from Earley & Co., stained glass manufacturers, 4 Upper Camden Street, Dublin, to Fr. Aloysius Travers OFM Cap. re measurements for the ‘eleven lower panels of windows’ in the oratory of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary.
Diocesan Faculties
4 May 1931-15 Dec. 1947
File
Manuscript; typescript
2 pp
Letters from the Most Rev. William MacNeely, Bishop of Raphoe (1888-1963), granting diocesan faculties to the Capuchin friars of Ard Mhuire. The letter of 4 May 1931 reads:

I hereby grant to the Fathers at Ard Mhuire the faculties of the diocese as our priests usually enjoy them. Apart from general or provincial reservations, there is no peculiar limitations with us, except in regard to makers of poteen or sellers of spirits (even licit) outside licensed premises.

List of Benedictions
21 May 1931
File
Manuscript; typescript
3 items

Travel Concessions for Ard Mhuire Friars
4 Feb. 1935-31 Dec. 1942
File
Typescript
2 items
Letters re reduced travel rates for Capuchin friars of the Ard Mhuire community on the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railways.

Visitation of the Ard Mhuire Community
18 June 1937
Item
Typescript
1 p
Report of the canonical visitation of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary by Fr. Aloysius Travers OFM Cap. It is noted that the community consists of eighteen students of theology, four priests, and three lay brothers. It is also noted that Fr. Aloysius examined the ‘Mass books and account books of the House’.

Letter re Retreat
26 Nov. 1937
Item
Manuscript
1 p
Letter from Fr. J. Carr, parish priest, Convoy, County Donegal, expressing his gratitude to the Capuchin community for their hospitality during a recent retreat at Ard Mhuire.
Horarium

c.1940

File
Manuscript; typescript
4 pp

English and Latin

Horarium for the Capuchin students at Ard Mhuire Friary. Horariums are the name given to the daily schedule for those living in a religious community or seminary. Details are given in respect to the hours of lectures in theology and sacred scripture and the names of the lecturers and clerics in the community.

Note: A list of missions and retreats given by the Capuchin fathers is endorsed on the reverse of one the pages. The list is on headed paper from Lalor Ltd., Church Candle Manufacturers, 14 Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin.

Theatrical Programmes

Feb. 1941-Jan. 1949

File
Printed
3 items

Programmes for ‘New Year’s Entertainment’, ‘It’s the trade mark Counts’, and ‘Professor Tim’ presented by the theological Students at Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary. The programmes list the characters and the actors (friars) playing these parts.

Correspondence re Fire in Ard Mhuire Friary

11 Dec. 1944-14 Dec. 1944

File
Manuscript; typescript
4 items

Letters referring to a serious fire in Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary on 10 Dec. 1944. The file includes a letter from the Most Rev. William McNeely, Bishop of Raphoe, to Fr. Andrew Carew OFM Cap. He wrote:

After the terrible tragedy at Roddens’ here [in Letterkenny], our minds are very much on that kind of thing. And now Ards is next on the casualty list, followed by the nuns [Sisters of Mercy] of a house-burning at Moville. Everyone is now looking for the local chimney sweep, fearing the effects of turf fires on flews constructed for coal fuel.

The file also includes letters conveying thanks to An Garda Síochána at Creeslough and to the Derry City Fire Brigade.

Third Order of St. Francis Confraternity at Ard Mhuire

8 Dec. 1952-19 Nov. 1952

File
Manuscript; typescript
5 items

File relating to the establishment of a lay confraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis attached to Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary. The file includes a letter from the Most Rev. William McFeely, Bishop of Raphoe, granting permission for the establishment of a branch of the Third Order of St. Francis.
CA/DL/3/12  Record Book of the Father Mathew Total Abstinence Association  
1953-1965  
File  
Bound volume; manuscript  
16.5 cm x 9.5 cm  
14 pp  
Record Book of the Father Mathew Total Abstinence Association attached to Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary. The volume contains lists of life and temporary members of the Association and records members who were given temperance badges. The book appears to have been compiled by Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap.

CA/DL/3/13  Indulgences for Marian Year  
11 Nov. 1953  
Item  
Printed  
1 p  
A list of (plenary) indulgences for Marian Year as contained in a decree of the Sacred Penitentiary. The document is stamped with the seal of the Most Rev. William McNeely, Bishop of Raphoe.

CA/DL/3/14  Deliveries of Foodstuffs to Ard Mhuire Community  
Sept. 1966  
Item  
Typescript; printed  
2 p  
Schedule of fruits and foodstuffs available from A. Morgan & Son, direct fruit importers, 6 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.

CA/DL/3/15  Faculties for Ard Mhuire Community  
16 June 1960-11 June 1972  
File  
Printed with manuscript additions  
7 items  

CA/DL/3/16  Community Car Insurance Policy  
4 Jan. 1968  
File  
Typescript; printed  
2 items  
Letter to Fr. Berchmans McCarthy OFM Cap, guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, from the Irish Catholic Church Property Insurance Company, 9 College Green, Dublin 2, enclosing a copy of car insurance policy for the community car.
CA/DL/3/17  Correspondence re Post Service
14 May 1968-17 June 1968
File
Manuscript; typescript
6 items
Correspondence of Fr. Berchmans McCarthy OFM Cap, guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, regarding his wishes for improvements in the Post Office delivery service in the Cashelmore district in County Donegal.

CA/DL/3/18  Correspondence with Córas Iompair Éireann
7 Nov. 1968-27 Nov. 1968
File
Typescript
3 items
Correspondence of Fr. Berchmans McCarthy OFM Cap, guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, with Córas Iompair Éireann re travel concessions on rail and bus fares for the Capuchin community.

CA/DL/3/19  Letter re Quest
1 Dec. 1968
Item
Typescript
1 p
Letter from Fr. Patrick Deegan, parish priest, Frosses, Lifford, County Donegal, to Fr. Berchmans McCarthy OFM Cap, guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, re a quest to fund the repair of two churches in his parish.

CA/DL/3/20  Correspondence re Aerial Photographs of Ard Mhuire Friary
File
Manuscript; typescript
13 items

CA/DL/3/21  Letter re the Derry Peace Women
Aug. 1972
Item
Manuscript
2 pp
An anonymous letter to Fr. Pacificus Jennings OFM Cap., guardian, complaining about the presence of the Derry Peace Women group at Ard Mhuire Friary. The letter reads: 'It would fit them better to remain at home and do some house-work ... and make peace with some of their relations and neighbours'.
CA/DL/3/22  Memorandum on the Future of Ard Mhuire Friary  
1973  
Item  
Typescript  
3 pp  
A memorandum outlining ‘some reasons for retaining our foundation in the Diocese of Raphoe’. The document provides bullet points on the rationale for retaining Ard Mhuire Friary. The document notes:  
To give up Ard Mhuire would not be good for the Province. It would mean bad distribution of Friars in the country, virtually confining them to three cities, Cork, Dublin and Kilkenny. Ard Mhuire can now be said to be our only country house. ... Ard Mhuire is [also] one of the few foundations of clerical religious in Northern Ireland.  
Reference is also made to the attitudes of the local parish clergy and lay community who are very favourably disposed to the friars remaining in the locality.

CA/DL/3/23  Forty Hours Exposition List  
1974  
Item  
Typescript  
1 p  
List with dates for the Forty Hours Exposition and Devotion (Quarant’ore) in various churches in the diocese of Raphoe. The date specified for Ard Mhuire Capuchin Church was 10 Feb. 1974.

CA/DL/3/24  Community Prayers  
c.1975  
File  
Typescript  
2 copies; 7 pp  
Prayers sheets used by the Capuchin community, Ard Mhuire Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal.

CA/DL/3/25  Order of Holy Week Ceremonies  
c.1975  
Item  
Typescript  
1 p  
Oder of Holy Week Ceremonies at Ard Mhuire Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal.

CA/DL/3/26  Minutes of Community Meetings  
File  
Typescript  
22 items  
Minutes of the meetings of the Ard Mhuire Capuchin community. Reference is made to the daily horarium, regular observance, the management of the retreat centre, community responses to questionnaires from the Provincial Minister, and matters pertaining to the general maintenance of the friary.
CA/DL/3/27  Carol Service
Dec. 1977
Item
Typescript
1 p
Programme and schedule for a carol service at Ard Mhuire Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal.

CA/DL/3/28  Letterkenny Regional Technical College Chaplaincy
1982-1983
File
Typescript; printed
3 items
Report of Fr. Paul Murphy OFM Cap., chaplain to Letterkenny Regional Technical College in County Donegal (10 May 1983). The file also includes a prospectus and student union’s handbook for the college (1982-3).

CA/DL/3/29  Community List
5 Dec. 1982
Item
Typescript
1 p
List of community members at Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary, County Donegal. Fr. Fidelis O’Connell OFM Cap. (1927-2007) is noted as guardian of the fraternity.

CA/DL/3/30  Correspondence re the Disposal of Ard Mhuire Friary Library
File
Manuscript; typescript
3 items
Correspondence relating to the disposal of the books from the library of Ard Mhuire Friary. A letter from Fr. Eustace McSweeney OFM Cap. to Fr. Benedict Cullen OFM Cap. affirms that ‘Fr. Raymond Murray took all the books that you suggested for the Cardinal Ó Fiaich Library and Archive in Armagh’. Fr. Eustace confirmed that the books will be stamped as suggested. The file includes a copy letter from the Most Rev. Seán Brady, Archbishop of Armagh, expressing his gratitude to the friars ‘for the wonderful collection of books which you have gifted to the Cardinal Ô Fiaich Library and Archive. I understand that it is a very large collection of valuable books, many of great scholarly interest and value’.

CA/DL/3/31  Minutes of Community Meeting and Questionnaire
Nov. 2005
File
Manuscript; typescript
2 items
Minutes of meeting of the community at the Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary on 25 Nov. 2005. The file also includes the responses of the community to a questionnaire re the ministries of the friars in the locality and their interactions with the laity and other religious.
4. Retreat Records

Level: Series
Dates of Creation: c.1950-2007
Scope and Content: The series includes records relating to the use of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary as a retreat centre in the diocese of Raphoe. The section includes material pertaining to retreats given to both the diocesan clergy and other religious as well as lay people, parish communities and school groups.
Format: Typescript; printed; photographic print; photostat copy
Extent: 9 files and 4 items

CA/DL/4/1 Schedules for Weekend Retreats for Lay Men
c.1950-1960
File
Printed
4 items
Daily schedules for religious retreats for lay men at Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal.

CA/DL/4/2 Retreat Fliers for Ard Mhuire Friary
c.1970
File
Printed
11 items
Fliers advertising retreats at Ard Mhuire Retreat Centre, Creeslough, County Donegal. One of the fliers has photographic print of the exterior of Ard Mhuire Friary and the Retreat House.

CA/DL/4/3 Letters from Bishop Anthony McFeely
6 June 1972-9 July 1973
File
Typescript
2 items
Letters from the Most Rev. Anthony McFeely, Bishop of Raphoe (1909-1986), to Fr. Nicholas O’Brien OFM Cap. and Fr. Berard Creed OFM Cap. thanking the Capuchin friars for placing Ard Mhuire at the disposal of diocesan priests for their annual retreats. Bishop McFeely also refers to the plans for the Friary. He writes: ‘We understand, of course, that the future of Ards presents you with a difficult problem; we only hope that the Fathers can remain’.

CA/DL/4/4 Retreat Timetable
File
Typescript
3 copies
Daily retreat timetable at Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal.

CA/DL/4/5 Religious Retreat Photographs
c.1975-1985
File
Black and white print; colour print
30 cm x 25.5 cm; 25 cm x 20 cm; 21 cm x 16.5 cm
8 items
Photographic prints of retreats for religious congregations at Ard Mhuire Retreat House, Creeslough, County Donegal. The file includes prints of the Franciscans Together Retreats at Ard Mhuire in August 1977 and in August 1978. The latter has an annotation attached giving the names of the retreat participants which included Capuchin friars, Observant Franciscans (OFM) and Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood (FMDM).

CA/DL/4/6 Schedule of Retreats
Item
Printed
2 pp
Schedule and list of retreats at the Ard Mhuire Retreat Centre, Capuchin Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal. The list refers to the groups (both religious and lay) who have booked retreats in the Centre.

CA/DL/4/7 Derry Diocesan Retreats
1985-1993
File
Typescript
2 items
Schedules for retreats for priests of the diocese of Derry in Ard Mhuire Retreat Centre in June 1985 and in May 1993.

CA/DL/4/8 Franciscan Retreat
OS
C.1985
Item
Colour print
40.5 cm x 30 cm
Photographic print of a Franciscan retreat at Ard Mhuire Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal. The group includes Fr. Benjamin O’Connell OFM Cap., Fr. Adrian Curran OFM Cap. and Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap.

CA/DL/4/9 Retreat Programme
1986-1990
File
Printed; typescript
3 items
Programmes for retreats at Ard Mhuire Retreat Centre, Capuchin Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal. The list refers to the groups (both religious and lay) who have booked retreats in the Centre.

CA/DL/4/10 Cumann na Sagart
Apr. 1997
Item
Printed
4 pp
Programme for ‘Cumann na Sagart’ on the subject of St. Colmcille held in Ard Mhuire Retreat Centre from 1-3 Apr. 1997.

CA/DL/4/11 Religious Education Retreat
12 Oct. 2000
Item
Typescript
1 p
Letter re a retreat at the Ard Mhuire Centre for the Convent Grammar School, Strabane, County Tyrone.

CA/DL/4/12 Retreat Centre Fliers
2005
File
Printed
4 items
Fliers advertising the Ard Mhuire Retreat Centre, Creeslough, County Donegal. One of the fliers provides the programme for retreats from 1 Jan. 2005- 8 Dec. 2005. The fliers have photographic prints of the exterior of the Retreat Centre.

CA/DL/4/13 Circular Letter and Statement re Future of Retreat Centre
File
Typescript; photostat copy
4 pp
Statement read at all Masses at Ard Mhuire Friary Church re the future of the Capuchins in Donegal. The statement reads:

Our higher superiors now face the possibility of having to minimize or withdraw us from our retreat house ministry. They are also pursuing the possibility of inviting the involvement of other religious in this ministry. However, the bottom line is that we have no plans nor intention of leaving Ards.

The file includes a circular letter from Fr. Eustace McSweeney OFM Cap., Retreat Director, re changes in the management of the Ard Mhuire Retreat Centre which will see a greater input from the clergy of the diocese of Raphoe. With a copy clipping of an article titled ‘Donegal friary to end spiritual retreats’. Irish Times, 17 Mar. 2006.
5. Photographs

Level: Series
Dates of Creation: c.1900-c.2000
Scope and Content: The section includes photographic images of both the old Ard Mhuire Friary (formerly Ards House, the seat of the Stewart-Bam family) and the present-day Friary and House of Studies (now a retreat and conference centre) built upon the same site in the 1960s. There are also images of Capuchin friars who resided at Ard Mhuire and prints of the surrounding towns, scenic landscapes and sites of historical and religious significance.
Format: Photographic print; postcard print; photoengraving plate; negative film; typescript; manuscript
Extent: 24 files and 30 items

CA/DL/5/1  The Stewart-Bam Residence
  c.1900-1920
  File
  Black and white print; copy print
  28 cm x 22 cm; 28.5 cm x 17.5 cm; 18 cm x 13 cm; 11 cm x 8.5 cm
  23 items
  File containing photographic prints of the Stewart-Bam residence at Ards House, Creeslough, County Donegal. These are images of the residence (and former owners) before the Capuchin friars took possession of Ards House in 1930. Some of the prints were reproduced in *A history of Ards* (1991) by Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. The file includes:
  - Copy print of the gardens at Ards House in 1859. Fr. David notes that this photograph was taken by David Knox (1821-1895).
  - Sir Pieter von Blommenstein Bam in the uniform of a Lieutenant Colonel during the Boer War in South Africa, c.1900.
  - *The staff of Ards House in 1906*. The photograph is annotated on the reverse with the names of the male and female servants.
  - *Servants and staff welcoming the newly married Ena Dingwell Tasca Stewart-Bam and Sir Pieter von Blommenstein Bam (d. 20 Dec. 1928) at Ards House in 1910*. The smaller copy of the print has the following annotation: ‘Taken over 20 years ago, at some kind of reception given to the Stewards by his tenants xx – Sir Peter and Lady Stewart. Arrow on photograph points to present gardener (W. Barr)’.
  - *An original print of a group with two jarveys outside Ards House in about 1910*.
  - Copy print of a sketch map of the Ards Estate Home Farm Offices, the property of A.J.R. Stewart.
  - *Ena Dingwell Tasca Stewart-Bam on the front stairway in Ards House in c.1910*.
  - A woman with a young child (presumably tenants) outside a cottage on the Ards Estate.

CA/DL/5/2  Doe Catholic Church, County Donegal
  c.1910
  Item
  Colour postcard print
  14 cm x 9 cm
Colourized postcard print of the Catholic Church in Doe, Ballymore, County Donegal. It was published by S.R. Butler & Sons, Carndonagh, County Donegal.

CA/DL/5/3 First Capuchin Community in Ard Mhuire

C.1930

File

Black and white print; copy print

20 cm x 14.5 cm; 11 cm x 8.5 cm; 16.5 cm x 11.5 cm

3 items

Photographic prints of the first community in Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary. The copy print is annotated as follows: (left to right): Fr. Cassian O’Shea OFM Cap., Fr. Colman Griffin OFM Cap. (guardian), Fr. Felix Guihen OFM Cap. Standing: Fr. Andrew Carew OFM Cap. and Fr. Columban McGarry OFM Cap. The larger print is annotated as follows: seated: Br. Leopold (novice); Fr. Andrew; Fr. Colman (guardian), Fr. Eunan, Br. Carthage. Standing: Br. Theodore (novice), Br. Robert (novice), Br. Norbert (novice), Fr. Eugene (Novice Master), Br. Evangelist (novice), Br. Colman (laybrother), Br. Roger (novice), Br. Alexius (laybrother), Br. John (tertiary).

CA/DL/5/4 Capuchin Friars at Doe Castle

12 July 1930

File

Black and white print

11.4 cm x 6.7 cm

2 copies

Photographic print of Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. with five other Capuchin friars and a young girl. The photograph was taken at Doe Castle, County Donegal. One of the other friars is Fr. Bonaventure Murphy OFM Cap. Note: A manuscript annotation on the reverse reads: ‘Taken at Doe Castle, July 12th, 1930’.

CA/DL/5/5 The Ard Mhuire Community

C.1935-1955

File

Black and white print

14 cm x 9 cm; 9 cm x 6.5 cm; 8.5 cm x 6 cm

3 items

File of photographic prints of Capuchin friars (and students) at Ard Mhuire Friary in County Donegal. One of the prints shows Fr. Colman Griffin OFM Cap., guardian from 1930-7, with students in the community.

CA/DL/5/6 Lay Group at Ard Mhuire Friary

C.1935

Item

Black and white print

16.5 cm x 12 cm

Photographic print of a large group of lay persons outside the main entrance to Ard Mhuire Friary. The group may have been assembled for a religious ceremony. The group includes some members of An Garda Síochána.
CA/DL/5/7  Minister General at Ard Mhuire Friary
1937
File
Black and white print
9 cm x 6.5 cm
3 items
Photographic prints of the visit by Fr. Virgilio da Valstagna OFM Cap., Capuchin Minister General, to Ard Mhuire Friary. The file includes a group photograph of Irish friars with Fr. Virgilio.
Note: A manuscript annotation on the reverse of one of the prints reads: ‘Ard Mhuire, 1937, Front, left to right, Frs. Andrew, Cassian, Colman (Provincial Minister), Sylvester Mulligan, Fr. Minister General, Frs. Killian Flynn (Prefect Apostolic of Victoria Falls), unknown, Felix and Columban’.

c.1937
Item
Black and white print
21.5 cm x 17 cm

CA/DL/5/9  The Ordination of Fr. Theodore Murphy OFM Cap.
19 June 1938
Item
Black and white print
11 cm 6.7 cm
Photograph of Fr. Theodore Murphy OFM Cap. (1912-1993) on the occasion of his ordination in County Donegal.

CA/DL/5/10  Capuchin Community at Ard Mhuire Friary
1939
Item
Black and white print
9 cm x 6.5 cm
Photographic print of a group of student friars at Ard Mhuire Friary.

CA/DL/5/11  The Old Ard Mhuire Friary
c.1940-1950
File
Black and white print; postcard print; photoengraving plate
30 cm x 25.5 cm; 30 cm x 18.5 cm; 21 cm x 16 cm; 16.5 cm x 11 cm; 13 cm x 8.5 cm
55 items
File containing photographic prints of the old Ard Mhuire Friary (formerly Ards House), Creeslough, County Donegal. A small number of these prints were reproduced in A history of Ards (1991) by Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. The file includes:

- A view of corn harvesting in August 1940. The photograph is captioned: Left to right: Paddy McGinley, Paddy Ward, Br. Ronan
McCabe OFM Cap., Willie Barr and Anton McBride in the fields around Ard Mhuire Friary.
- A large crowd assembled at the front of Ard Mhuire Friary for a religious ceremony.
- The gates to the demesne of the Ards estate.
- ‘Rear view of Ards House’.
- ‘Ards House from the Flagpole’.
- Ards House as seen from Sheephaven Bay. A boat with two individuals on board is present in the Bay.
- Exterior (front) views of the gardens and the old Ard Mhuire Friary building.
- The statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the front lawn of the old Ard Mhuire Friary.
- Br. Louis O’Meara OFM Cap. turning the pages of the psalter in the choir (formerly Ards House dining room) in the old Ard Mhuire Friary.
- A Capuchin friar perusing the bookshelves in the library of the old Ard Mhuire Friary.
- A Capuchin friar talking to a lay individual at the portico entrance to the old Ard Mhuire Friary.
- Aerial view of the old Ard Mhuire Friary.
- A view of the Friary from across Sheephaven Bay.

Note: The file also includes a photoengraving plate (mounted on a wooden block) for a photographic image of the old Ard Mhuire Friary. One of the prints has a Christmas greeting from Br. Benedict Cullen OFM Cap. and Br. De Sales Cullen OFM Cap.

Conservation note: One of the prints has suffered a small burn mark.

**CA/DL/5/12**  The Oratory in Ard Mhuire Friary
- c.1940
- Item
- Black and white postcard print
- 13.5 cm x 8.5 cm
- Postcard print of the oratory in the old Ard Mhuire Friary.

**CA/DL/5/13**  Forests around Ard Mhuire Friary
- c.1940
- File
- Black and white print
- 22 cm x 16.5 cm; 17.5 cm x 13 cm; 13 cm x 8.5 cm
- 5 items
- Photographic prints of forest scenery around Ard Mhuire Friary. One of the prints is annotated: ‘The Cork Tree / Isabella Bay’. Another of the prints is credited to Charles A. Jones, 136 St. Stephen’s Green, Dublin. The remaining print is titled ‘The Mulberry Tree’ and shows the old Ard Mhuire Friary in the background.

**CA/DL/5/14**  St. Eunan’s College, Letterkenny
- c.1940
- Item
Black and white postcard print
14 cm x 9 cm
Postcard print of the exterior of St. Eunan’s College, Letterkenny, County Donegal.

CA/DL/5/15  **Boarders at Coláiste Bríghde, Falcarragh**
c.1944
Item
Black and white print
11 cm x 8.5 cm
Photographic print of the female boarders at [Coláiste Bríghde](#), Falcarragh, County Donegal. Coláiste Bríghde was one of four preparatory colleges founded between 1926 and 1929 to provide secondary education for aspiring primary school teachers.
Note: A manuscript annotation on the reverse reads: ‘Coláiste Bríghde, Falcarragh, c.1944 / Chaplain, Fr. Danny Molloy’.

CA/DL/5/16  **Picnic at Ard Mhuire Friary**
c.1945
Item
Black and white print
11 cm x 8.5 cm
Photographic print of a family picnicking on the grounds of the old Ard Mhuire Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal.

CA/DL/5/17  **Old Ard Mhuire Oratory**
c.1945
Item
Black and white print
21.7 cm x 16.8 cm
Photographic print of a solitary Capuchin friar at prayer in the oratory of the old Ard Mhuire Friary.

CA/DL/5/18  **Main Doorway of the Old Ard Mhuire Friary**
c.1945
Item
Black and white print
15.2 cm x 9.6 cm
Photographic print of the main doorway looking out onto the front garden at Ard Mhuire Friary.

CA/DL/5/19  **Ordination of Fr. Cyril Kelleher OFM Cap.**
1946
File
Black and white print
21.5 cm x 16.5 cm
2 items
CA/DL/5/20  Pieter Stewart Bam  
23 Jan. 1949  
Item  
Black and white print  
21 cm x 16 cm  

CA/DL/5/21  St. Eunan’s Cathedral, Letterkenny  
c.1950  
Item  
Black and white print  
21.5 cm x 16.5 cm  
Photographic print of the exterior of St. Eunan’s Cathedral, Letterkenny, County Donegal.

CA/DL/5/22  Postcard Prints of the Old Ard Mhuire Friary  
c.1950  
File  
Black and white and colour prints  
14 cm x 9 cm  
65 items  
Colourized postcard prints of the exterior of the Old Ard Mhuire Friary. The postcard is captioned as follows: ‘Franciscan Friary, Ards, Co. Donegal’. It was published G. Kelly, Ballyshannon. (57 copies). The file also includes one copy of a postcard image of an aerial view of Ard Mhuire Friary and adjoining grounds. It was published by Margaret Joyce Ltd., Dublin / successor to Valentine & Sons Ltd., Dundee and London.

CA/DL/5/23  Student Friars playing Football  
c.1950  
Item  
Black and white print  
12.2 cm x 6.7 cm  
Photographic print of several student friars playing football a beach near Ard Mhuire Friary.

CA/DL/5/24  Holy Year Cross on Muckish Mountain  
15 Aug. 1951  
File  
Black and white print; typescript; negative film  
21 cm x 15.5 cm  
4 items  
Photographic prints of Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. (1912-1995) and Fr. Ephrem O’Sullivan OFM Cap. (1904-1958) blessing a Holy Year Cross atop Muckish Mountain (Derryveagh Mountain Range, County Donegal) on the Feast of the Assumption (15 August) in 1951. The file includes a note written by Fr. David giving information on some of the people in one of the photographic prints. See also CA/DL/6/10.
Photographic Album of the Ard Mhuire Community
c.1953-1955
File
Bound volume; black and white prints
21.8 cm x 18 cm
48 pp
Bound volume containing photographic prints of student friars at the Ard Mhuire House of Studies. Some of the prints are captioned. The album includes images of student friars at work (potato harvesting, bailing hay and routine household work) and at recreation (theatrical plays, weekend retreats, sleighing on snow-covered hills, and visits to the beach). Locations visited by the friars include Burtonport, Errigal Mountain, Aranmore, Doe Castle, Fanad and Kindrum. The album contains several views of the old Ard Mhuire Friary and surrounding gardens. A small number of prints show friars examining what appears to be unexploded ordnance on the shoreline. Other prints show ordinations at Ard Mhuire in 1955. Fr. Eustace McSweeney OFM Cap. and Fr. Donal O’Mahony OFM Cap. are present in some of the prints.
Conservation note: The volume is in fair condition. Several the pages and prints are detached from the volume. The loose prints have been reattached using plastic clips. Careful manual handling is required.

Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. at Ard Mhuire Friary
1954-1979
File
Black and white print; colour print
24.5 cm x 19 cm; 12.5 cm x 9 cm; 11 cm x 9 cm
11 items
File of photographs of Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. (1912-1995) at Ard Mhuire Friary, County Donegal. Some of the prints show friends and relations visiting the friary and adjoining grounds. Most of the prints are annotated with details and dates on the reverse.

Marian Shrine in Milford
1954
Item
Black and white print
21 cm x 16 cm
Photographic print of the Marian Shrine in Milford Bakery and Flour Mills, County Donegal. The shrine was erected in 1954.

Friars in Ard Mhuire
c.1955
Item
Black and white print
14 cm x 9 cm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item Type</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA/DL/5/29</td>
<td><strong>Capuchin Friars at devotions in Ard Mhuire Friary</strong></td>
<td>c.1955</td>
<td>Black and white print</td>
<td>10.9 cm x 6.5 cm; 14.8 cm x 9 cm</td>
<td>Photographic prints of Capuchin friars at devotions in the old Ard Mhuire Friary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA/DL/5/30</td>
<td><strong>Friars in Ard Mhuire</strong></td>
<td>May 1955</td>
<td>Black and white print</td>
<td>6.5 cm x 6.5 cm</td>
<td>Photographic print of a group of Capuchin friars in front of a Raidió Éireann van at Ard Mhuire Friary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA/DL/5/31</td>
<td><strong>Capuchin Friars with Bishop William MacNeely</strong></td>
<td>c.1955</td>
<td>Black and white print</td>
<td>20.5 cm x 15.5 cm</td>
<td>Photographic print of two Capuchin friars with the Most Rev. William MacNeely, Bishop of Raphoe (1888-1963). The print is from the <em>Derry Journal</em>, Shipquay Street, Derry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA/DL/5/34</td>
<td><strong>Friars at Sheephaven Bay</strong></td>
<td>c.1960</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Black and white print
21 cm x 16 cm
Photographic print of Fr. Senan Dooley OFM Cap. and two other Friars
(possibly Fr. Pacificus Jennings OFM Cap.) on the beach at Sheephaven Bay
near Ard Mhuire Friary.

**CA/DL/5/35**  Demolition of Old Ard Mhuire Friary
c.1964-1967
File
Black and white print; colour print
21.5 cm x 16.5 cm; 12.7 cm x 9 cm; 9 cm x 9 cm
25 items
Photographic prints of the demolition of the old Ard Mhuire Friary. Some of
the images also show the shell of the former Ards House and construction
work on the new Friary building and oratory. Several of the prints show the
two buildings during the transition phase of construction of the new House of
Studies and friary. A small number of the prints have annotations on the
reverse:
- ‘Ceiling of choir, in old house, Ards, a few days before it was
demolished’.
- ‘Demolition of old Ards House in progress’.
- ‘Ards, Autumn 1964’.

**CA/DL/5/36**  Ard Mhuire Friary Road Signage
c.1965
File
Black and white print
14.5 cm x 9 cm
2 items
Photographic prints of a ‘fingerpost’ road sign noting the direction and
distance to Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary (2¼ miles). The signage is an old-style
directional ‘fingerpost’ produced by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

**CA/DL/5/37**  Fr. Conrad O’Donovan OFM Cap. and Fr. Colga O’Riordan OFM Cap.
c.1965
Item
Black and white print
11.5 cm x 9 cm
Photographic print of Fr. Conrad O’Donovan OFM Cap. and Fr. Colga O’Riordan
OFM Cap. in the garden at Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary.

**CA/DL/5/38**  The Opening of the New Ard Mhuire Friary and House of Studies
13 Nov. 1966
File
Black and white print
22 cm x 16.5 cm; 11 cm x 10 cm
6 items
Photographic prints of Fr. Conrad O’Donovan OFM Cap., Fr. Nicholas O’Brien
OFM Cap., Fr. Virgilius Murtagh OFM Cap., Bishop Anthony McFeely and other
clerics at a reception to celebrate the official opening of the new Ard Mhuire
Friary.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Reference</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA/DL/5/40</td>
<td>Student Friars in Ard Mhuire</td>
<td>c.1968</td>
<td>Photographic prints of student friars in Ard Mhuire Friary. The file includes images of the students at recreation and prints of the Friary Church. Note: The manuscript annotation on reverse reads: ‘Students, Ards’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA/DL/5/42</td>
<td>Ard Mhuire Friary and Community</td>
<td>Mar. 1968</td>
<td>Photographic prints of the exterior of Ard Mhuire Friary and the Capuchin community bathing in the waters of Sheephaven Bay. The prints are date-stamped on the reverse.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Photographic print of Fr. Nicholas O’Brien OFM Cap. and Godfrey Mannion OFM Cap. outside Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary.

CA/DL/5/45  The Oratory at Ard Mhuire Friary  c.1970  
File  
Black and white print  
21.5 cm x 15.5 cm; 20.5 cm x 16 cm; 16.5 cm x 11 cm  
5 items  
Photographic prints of the interior (and High Altar) of the Oratory in Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary. The prints have annotations on the reverse: ‘Fr. Augustine [Donal] O’Mahony OFM Cap.’ and ‘A. O’Shea, Art Studios, Letterkenny’. The prints were probably for publication in *Eirigh*, a Capuchin periodical.

CA/DL/5/46  Capuchin Friars celebrating Mass at Ard Mhuire Friary  c.1970  
Item  
Black and white print  
22.5 cm x 20 cm  

File  
Black and white and colour print  
21.5 cm x 15 cm; 14.5 cm x 10 cm; 13 cm x 9 cm; 9 cm x 9 cm  
53 items  
Photographic prints of exterior views of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary and the Retreat Centre, Sheephaven Bay, and the estate’s surrounding gardens and grounds (including some images of snow-covered buildings). Some of the images are in the form of printed prayer cards.

File  
Colour postcard print  
15 cm x 10 cm; 14 cm x 9 cm  
65 items  
File of fifteen colour postcard prints showing various views (exterior and aerial) of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary and Retreat Centre, Creeslough, County Donegal. There are multiple copies of some of the postcards and most are annotated on the reverse with captions and information regarding printers and publishers.  
Note: Printed titles on the postcard include ‘Capuchin Franciscan Friary’, ‘Ard Mhuire, Creeslough, County Donegal’, ‘Capuchin Theological Seminary, Ard Mhuire’ and ‘Centre for Retreats, Conference and Seminars’.
CA/DL/5/49  Ordination of Capuchin Friars at Ard Mhuire Friary  
14 June 1970  
Item  
Black and white print  
21.5 cm x 16.5 cm  

CA/DL/5/50  Ordination of Capuchin Friars at Ard Mhuire Friary  
11 June 1972  
Item  
Black and white print  
21 cm x 16 cm  

CA/DL/5/51  Capuchin Friars at Ard Mhuire Friary  
c.1975  
Item  
Black and white print  
21.5 cm x 16.5 cm  

CA/DL/5/52  Capuchin Minister General at Ard Mhuire Friary  
Dec. 1979  
File  
Colour print  
25.5 cm x 20 cm; 17.5 cm x 12.5 cm; 13 cm x 9 cm  
3 items  

CA/DL/5/53  Capuchin Minister General at Ard Mhuire Friary  
Feb. 1993  
File  
Black and white print; newspaper clipping  
25.5 cm x 20 cm  
3 copies  
Photographic print of Fr. Flavio Roberto Carraro OFM Cap., Minister General, with the friars of the Capuchin community at Ard Mhuire Friary. The group includes Fr. Fidelis O’Connell OFM Cap. Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap., Fr. Benjamin O’Connell OFM Cap., guardian, Fr. Silvester O’Flynn OFM Cap., and
Fr. Joachim Lyttle OFM Cap. The file also includes a newspaper clipping of the photograph with caption details.

CA/DL/5/54  **Stained Glass Windows in Ard Mhuire Friary Church**  
c.2000  
File  
15 cm x 10 cm  
13 items  
Photographic prints of the stained-glass windows in Ard Mhuire Friary Church. The file includes two-page description of the windows with reflections on their symbolism and meaning. With a roughly drawn sketch map showing the positions of the windows in the church.

6. Newspaper Clippings

**Level:** Series  
**Dates of Creation:** 1910-2017  
**Scope and Content:** The series contains newspaper and magazine clippings relating to the history of the Capuchin friars in Donegal and to their residence at Ards Friary.  
**Format:** Newspaper clipping; manuscript  
**Extent:** 15 files and 19 items

**CA/DL/6/1**  **Marriage of Sir Pieter Bloommesteen Bam and Ena Stewart of Ards**  
27 July 1910  
Item  
Clipping  
1 p  
Clipping of a photograph (and article) from the *Liverpool Daily Post & Mercury* referring to the wedding of Captain Sir Pieter Canzius Van Bloommesteen Bam and Ena Dingwall Tasca Stewart of Ards House, County Donegal, at St. Andrew’s Church, Wells Street, London, on 26 July 1910.

**CA/DL/6/2**  **Lady Stewart-Bam at Ards House**  
14 Jan. 1911  
File  
Clipping  
4 items; 2 pp  
Clipping of an article titled ‘Lady Stewart-Bam at Ards House’ published in *The Gentlewoman* magazine. The article refers to the marriage of Captain Sir Pieter Canzius Van Bloommesteen Bam and Ena Dingwall Tasca Stewart of Ards House, County Donegal, on 26 July 1910. The article also provides an account of the Stewart-Bam residence in Ards, County Donegal. With a photographic print of Lady Stewart-Bam and Ards House. The article reads:

*Lady Stewart-Bam, although the heiress to an Irish estate, was not born in Ireland: but here heart is often with her people there, and she loves nothing so much as to find herself surrounded by those who hail from the “distressful Isle”. She told the writer that when she settles down in her own home in London, she intends to have none but her “own people” about her as servants.*

Note: The file includes a photostat copy of the article.
CA/DL/6/3  Advertisement for Sale of the Ards Estate
Mar. 1927
File
Clipping
4 items; 1 p
Clippings from Country Life advertising the sale of the ‘well-known and historical Mansion of Ards and its demesne … extending to 2,000 acres’. The file includes photostat copies (and information re) the article.

CA/DL/6/4  New Capuchin Home
May 1930-July 1930
File
Clipping; manuscript
4 pp
Clipping from an article titled ‘New Capuchin Home’ from The Father Mathew Record (May 1930) referring to the opening of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary in County Donegal. The article reads:

On the shores of Sheephaven Bay, there stands Ards House, the former home of the Stewart family. This house and adjoining estate have been in the hands of the Irish Land Commission, and the Capuchin Fathers purchased the residence and part of the surrounding land. ... The house is large and commodious, and is in splendid condition, having been occupied until quite recently.

The file also includes a similar article published in the Franciscan Annals (May 1930) and a copy of a poem by Máire Ní Shioradáin titled Failte, composed for the friars on assuming ownership of Ards House.

CA/DL/6/5  Ordinations of Friars in Letterkenny
23 Dec. 1931
Item
Clipping
1 p
Clipping of an article from the Derry Journal referring to the ordinations by the Most Rev. Bernard O’Kane, Bishop of Derry, of Capuchin friars in St. Eunan’s Cathedral, Letterkenny. The clipping is super-imposed onto an article titled ‘Doe Castle / Historic Donegal Landmark / Lecture by Mr. E. Durning’. The text of the lecture is in Irish.

CA/DL/6/6  Ordinations of Friars in Letterkenny
6 June 1932-18 June 1934
File
Clipping
2 items
Clippings of articles from the Derry Journal referring to the ordinations by Bishop William MacNeely of Capuchin friars in St. Eunan’s Cathedral, Letterkenny. It is noted that Margaret Pearse, sister of Patrick Pearse, attended the ceremony on 5 June 1932.

CA/DL/6/7  The Coming of the Friars to Ard Mhuire
8 Sept. 1933
Item
Clipping
1 p
Clipping of a poem by Lizzie MacDerby (dated 6 Aug. 1933) referring to the arrival of the Capuchin Franciscan friars in County Donegal. The poem was published in the *Derry Journal*.

**CA/DL/6/8**

**With the Capuchin Franciscans at Ard Mhuire**
13 Dec. 1935
File
Newspaper clipping
2 copies; 2 pp
Clipping of an article titled ‘With the Franciscan Capuchins at Ard Mhuire, County Donegal’ by J.D. The article was published in the *Derry Journal*. The article provides a history of Ards House and refers to the life of the friars in the house with reference to significant geographic and topographical features of the locality.

**CA/DL/6/9**

**The Marriage of Pieter Stewart Bam and Margaret Kitson**
18 Feb. 1948
Item
Magazine
24 pp
A complete copy of *The Tatler and Bystander*, 18 Feb. 1948, which includes an article (and photographic print) re the wedding in London of Pieter Stewart Bam (1914-2001) and Margaret Agnes Kitson. A manuscript annotation notes that ‘Pieter Stewart Bam is the son of the former owner of Ards House’.

**CA/DL/6/10**

**Muckish Mountain**
15 Aug. 1951
File
Newspaper clipping
4 items
Clippings (from the *Derry Journal*) re the installation of a Holy Year Cross atop Muckish Mountain (Derryveagh Mountain Range, County Donegal) on the Feast of the Assumption. Includes a photographic print showing Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. and Fr. Ephrem O’Sullivan OFM Cap. (1904-1958) who blessed the Cross.
Note: In 2000, a large metal cross was placed on the summit, replacing the wooden one (erected in 1951) which had been destroyed in a storm. See also *CA/DL/5/24*.

**CA/DL/6/11**

**Ordination of Capuchin Friars at Ard Mhuire**
15 May 1958
Item
Clipping
1 p
Clipping of an article (with photographic print) of the ordinations of Capuchin friars at Ard Mhuire Friary. The print shows Fr. Mark Coyle OFM Cap., Fr. Donatus McNamara OFM Cap., Fr. Eustace McSweeney OFM Cap., Fr. Flannan Buckley OFM Cap., Fr. De Sales Cullen OFM Cap., Fr. Benedict Cullen OFM

Note: See also CA/DL/5/33.

CA/DL/6/12  The Building of the New Ard Mhuire Friary
9 May 1964-12 Feb. 1966
File
Clipping
7 items
Clippings of articles referring to the building (and funding) of the new House of Studies and Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary, Creeslough, County Donegal. The file includes:

- ‘New Capuchin Friary for Ard Mhuire / to replace former landlord mansion’. The Derry People, 9 May 1964. The article has an extensive photograph of the building site with the old Ard Mhuire Friary in the background.
- ‘The visitor to Ards is mystified’ by John Moore, referring to the history of the Capuchins in Donegal and to the new Ard Mhuire Friary.

CA/DL/6/13  New Friary for Capuchin Order opened at Ards
11 Nov. 1966-19 Nov. 1966
File
Newspaper
9 items
Complete copies of the Derry Journal (15 Nov. 1966, 18 Nov. 1966 and 19 Nov. 1966), Donegal Press (18 Nov. 1966), Donegal Press (18 Nov. 1966), and Donegal Democrat (18 Nov. 1966) which include extensive reportage on the opening of the new Ard Mhuire Friary and Capuchin House of Studies. Includes photographic prints of Bishop Anthony McFeely (1909-1986) blessing the new church and friary and various friars and attendes at the celebration. The file also includes some loose clippings of articles (from the Irish Press and Irish Independent) covering the opening.

CA/DL/6/14  Demolition for a Stately Home
25 Nov. 1966
Item
Clipping
1 p
Clipping of an article titled ‘Demolition for a Stately Home’ published in the Derry Journal. The article refers to opening of the new Ard Mhuire Friary and House of Studies and recalls the history of the friars in Donegal since they acquired the former Ards House in 1930. The article includes a photographic print of Fr. Fergus Lawless OFM Cap. (1904-1991), Regular Superior, Capuchin Custody of California, in the oratory of the ‘soon-to-be demolished’ old Ard
Mhuire Friary. It is noted that Fr. Fergus entered the old friary in 1933 and was ordained in St. Eunan’s Cathedral in Letterkenny.

CA/DL/6/15

Ards House
Feb. 1967
Item
Copy clipping
8 pp
A photocopy of an article titled ‘Ards House’ published in *The Father Mathew Record* (Feb. 1967), pp 17-24. The article was written by Edward MacIntyre with an introduction by Fr. Benedict Cullen OFM Cap. The article provides a history of Ards House and the former Stewart-Bam estate. The article headings are as follows: The Lifford Inquisition, John (‘half-hanged’) MacNaughton, The builder of Ards House, Road from Letterkenny, Magistrate, Beggard the Estate, Uncle of Lord Castlereagh, Land Acts, Chapel and Choir, and A Greater Landlord. The article also publishes two images of Lady Ena Stewart and the staff of Ards House.

CA/DL/6/16

Ordination of Capuchin Friars at Ard Mhuire
21 May 1967
Item
Copy clipping
4 pp

CA/DL/6/17

Pageants and Plays in Ards
Jan. 1968
File
Copy clipping
3 items
Copy articles on performances given by Capuchin students and others in Cresslough Hall, Ards, in aid of the new church building fund. The report refers to a performance of John B. Keane’s three-act play ‘The Year of the Hiker’. The articles are taken from the *Donegal Democrat*.

CA/DL/6/18

The Coming of the Capuchin Franciscans
Nov. 1969
File
Newspaper clipping
3 items
> Note: The file also contains a complete copy of the Golden Jubilee Supplement to the *Donegal Democrat* (Nov. 1969) in which the article appeared.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CA/DL/6/19</th>
<th>Vocations Workshop in Ards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c.1970</td>
<td>Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper clipping</td>
<td>1 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clipping of an article referring to a vocations workshop held in Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary. The undated article is from the <em>Donegal Democrat</em>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CA/DL/6/20</th>
<th>Consecration of the Most Rev. Anthony McFeely, Bishop of Raphoe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 June 1965</td>
<td>Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>8 pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A complete copy of the <em>Derry Journal</em> (29 June 1965) covering the consecration of Most Rev. Anthony McFeely as Bishop of Raphoe in St. Eunan’s Cathedral, Letterkenny, on 27 June 1965.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CA/DL/6/21</th>
<th>Capuchin Friars fishing in Donegal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 June 1973</td>
<td>Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper clipping</td>
<td>1 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clipping of a photographic print showing three (unidentified) Capuchin friars fishing at a lough in County Donegal. The clipping is taken from the <em>Sunday Times</em>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CA/DL/6/22</th>
<th>Ards House: Now Ard Mhuire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 Oct. 1977</td>
<td>Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clipping</td>
<td>1 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clipping of an article titled ‘Ards House: now Ard Mhuire’ published in the <em>Derry Journal</em>. The article explores (in some detail) the history of Ards House and the early years of its occupation by the Capuchin friars.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CA/DL/6/23</th>
<th>A Visit to Ard Mhuire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 Dec. 1984</td>
<td>File</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper clipping</td>
<td>2 copies; 3 pp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CA/DL/6/24  Great Tales from Creeslough and Dunfanaghy
Jan. 1986
Item
Copy clipping
1 p
Copy clipping of an article re the history of Creeslough and its environs. The article also refers to a meeting held in Ard Mhuire Friary at which a local history committee was established.

CA/DL/6/25  Death of Bishop Anthony McFeely
11 Oct. 1986
Item
Clipping
1 p
Clipping of an article from the Strabane Chronicle referring to the death of the Most Rev. Anthony McFeely, Bishop of Raphoe. The article includes a photographic print of the bishop at the official opening of the new Ard Mhuire Friary in November 1966.

CA/DL/6/26  A Servant's Recollections of Ards House
22 July 1987
Item
Clipping
1 p
Copy clipping of an article on the experiences of Catherine McGarvey who in 1907 (aged 15) entered the service of Lady Ena Dingwell Stewart at Ards House. The article was published was published in the Irish Press (22 July 1987). The article has lengthy recollections of her experiences as a servant to the Stewart-Bam family. It reads:

All the time in Ards, the house staff were completely insulated from the outside world. Catherine only saw her parents at Sunday Mass in Doe Chapel, and then only for a few snatched seconds as she hurried back to the big house.

CA/DL/6/27  Temperance Association Meeting
20 Aug. 1988
Item
Clipping
1 p
Clipping of a photograph of Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap., Ard Mhuire Friary, with members of the St. Michael’s Centre of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association, Creeslough, County Donegal.

CA/DL/6/28  Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. and Ard Mhuire
File
Copy clipping
2 pp
Clipping of articles from The Tirconnail Tribune titled ‘From Ballyvourney to Creeslough / Fr. David of Ards’ and ‘The Death of Fr. David, Ards Friary’ referring to the life of Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. The articles refer to Fr.
David’s experiences as student in Rome during the Second World War, to his life as a friar in the old Ard Mhuiire Friary, and to the history of Ards House and its occupants.

CA/DL/6/29  Only Capuchin Friary in the West / In Praise of Ard Mhuire  
6 Jan. 1994  
File  
Newspaper clipping  
2 pp  
Clippings of an article from the Irish Catholic and Ireland’s Own titled ‘Only Capuchin Friary in the West / Ard Mhuire sees many changes’ and ‘In Praise of Ard Mhuire, Donegal’. The articles refer to the history of Ard Mhuire Friary and in particular to its transformation into a retreat and conference centre in the diocese of Raphoe.

CA/DL/6/30  Owencarrow Viaduct Disaster  
Jan. 1995-Jan. 2005  
File  
Copy clipping  
8 pp  
Copy clippings of articles from the Derry Journal and the Irish Times referring to the anniversaries of the Owencarrow Viaduct Disaster (30 Jan. 1925) near Creeslough, County Donegal.

CA/DL/6/31  Br. Edward Dunne OFM Cap. / New Order Sisters to help Donegal Capuchins  
File  
Newspaper clipping; copy clipping  
2 p  
Clipping of an article from the Donegal Democrat (30 Jan. 2002) referring to the golden jubilee of Br. Edward Dunne OFM Cap. (1930-2012). The article refers to his memories of the old Ard Mhuiire Friary and to the fire in the house in December 1944. The file also includes a clipping from the Irish Catholic (19 Feb. 2004) referring to the arrival of two European religious sisters of the Spiritual Family the Work (FSO) to assist the Capuchins at Ard Mhuiire Retreat Centre in Donegal. With a photographic print of Sr. Christiane and Sr. Maria who are working in the diocese of Raphoe.

CA/DL/6/32  Ards Retreat Centre  
12 Oct. 2006  
Item  
Newspaper clipping  
1 p  
Clipping of an article by Pat O’Leary from the Irish Catholic on the history of the Ard Mhuiire Retreat Centre.

CA/DL/6/33  Guardian bids farewell to Ards  
27 July 2007  
Item  
Copy clipping  
2 pp
Copy clipping from the Donegal Democrat (27 July 2007) referring to the departure of Fr. Eustace McSweeney OFM Cap. from Ard Mhuire Friary. Includes photographic print of Fr. Eustace.

CA/DL/6/34  **New Methods at Friary**
17 Feb. 2017
Item
Clipping
1 p
Clipping of an article titled ‘New Methods at Friary / Piers and retreats: a day’s work at Ards’ from the Donegal News (17 Feb. 2017). The article refers to the closure (due to safety concerns) of the old pier at Ard Mhuire.

7. Historical Research

Level: Series
Dates of Creation: c.1910-2005
Scope and Content: The series contains records compiled mainly by Capuchin friars relating to the history of the locality around Ard Mhuire Friary including material on the previous owners of Ards House in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Much of this historical research was amassed by Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. (1912-1995) who spent nearly sixty years of his ministry as a Capuchin friar in County Donegal.

Format: Manuscript; typescript; newspaper clipping; photographic print; pencil on card
Extent: 5 files and 19 items

CA/DL/7/1  **Headed Notepaper from Ards House**
c.1910
Item
Printed with manuscript additions
1 p
Headed note paper titled: ‘Ards, Cashelmore, County Donegal, Ireland’. A manuscript annotation reads: ‘Note paper of Ards House ere it became a Friary’.

CA/DL/7/2  **Notes on the History of Ards House**
c.1930
File
Manuscript; typescript; newspaper clipping
10 pp
Notes compiled by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. and Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. on the history of Ards House and its acquisition by the Capuchin friars in 1930. Extensive reference is made to the previous occupiers of the estate:

The Sampsons, the Wrays, the Stewarts, one of whom was married to Lady Isabella Toler, granddaughter of the notorious Lord Norbury are gone, and the Capuchin Fathers are in their ancient home. In the graveyard at Clonhahorky, can be seen the grave of the second wife of the first Wray of Ards, and in the grounds of Ards, some trees recall the birthdays of members of the Stewart family. To the Capuchins however, a stronger appeal is made by a lonely tomb in the graveyard around Doe
Castle, the last resting place of a Franciscan Friar, Rev. Father Dominick Curden “who departed this life August ye 17th. 1809, aged 85 yrs”.

The file includes a newspaper cutting of a poem titled ‘On the return of the Brown-Robed Friars to Donegal’ by Bernard A. Furey.

CA/DL/7/3  Copy Ordnance Survey Map
c.1930
Item
Printed
Sheet No.: Donegal, Sheet No. 26
Scale: 6 inches to 1 mile
Sheet size: 100 cm x 68 cm
Copy ordnance survey map (Dublin, 2nd ed., 1905) showing the Ards Estate and surrounding townlands and localities. Notable features include Ards House and demesne, Ards farm, the largely forested estate, St. Michael's Catholic Church, Cashelmore, Doe Castle, Sheephaven Bay, and Creeslough.

CA/DL/7/4  Note re the Friar’s Room in Ards House
c.1930
Item
Manuscript
2 pp
Note by Fr. Stanislaus Kavanagh OFM Cap. re the existence of an apartment in the Ards House called ‘the Friar’s Room’. It reads:

The morning after the building and property were taken over from the Land Commission Holy Mass was celebrated in the portion of the building assigned an oratory. In the course of the day one of the fathers remarked to the steward “I expect this is the first time Mass was said here”. The steward was doubtful and mentioned a tradition prevalent ... [that] one of the apartments is called “The Friar’s Room”. The explanation given is that about 100 or 150 years ago a friar was accustomed to visit the family and inhabited that room. The steward presumed that when he came, he said Mass in the building.

CA/DL/7/5  Letter from Louis J. Walsh
29 Mar. 1930
Item
Typescript
2 pp
Letter from Louis J. Walsh (1880-1942) to Fr. Colman Griffin OFM Cap., guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, welcoming the arrival of the Capuchins in County Donegal. He writes:

I hope ... above all that the Holy Mass is being offered up every morning in the halls where alien lords revelled and plotted against our religion and our race. ... Your monastery will add wonderful richness to the spiritual life of Tir Chonaill and of Ulster and bring down countless blessings on us all.

He also suggests that Ard Mhuire Friary would serve as excellent location ‘in which lay men could make retreats’.
CA/DL/7/6  The Return of the Franciscans to Tyrconnell
Item
1931
Manuscript
1 p
An extract from an article by Capt. Francis McCullagh titled ‘The Return of the Franciscans to Tyrconnell’ published in *The Capuchin Annual (1931)*, pp 33-8. The article refers to the establishment by the Capuchin friars of the Ard Mhuire novitiate (formerly Ards House) in County Donegal.

CA/DL/7/7  Schema for Ard Mhuire Friary Archives
C.1931
Item
Manuscript
2 pp
A draft schema for the compilation of the Ard Mhuire Friary archives. The schema was devised by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. and refers to some of the foundational documents which should be obtained and secured for safe keeping. Reference is made to documents from the Land Commission, correspondence with the Bishop of Raphoe and letters from the Capuchin General Minister re the establishment of a novitiate at Ard Mhuire.

CA/DL/7/8  Ards and the Wray Family
C.1935
Item
Typescript
8 pp
An article on the history of the Wray family in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The Wrays were the owners of the Ards Estate before it was purchased by the Stewarts in 1781. It is noted that in about 1700 William Wray ‘bought 5,000 acres of land between Dunfanaghy and Doe from William Sampson’. The article adds:

> In 1781 the estate was sold to Mr Alexander Stewart, brother of the first Marquess of Londonderry and uncle of the infamous Lord Castlereagh, for the sum of £13,250 in order to meet the owner’s debts.

An appendix to the article includes some brief notes on the Stewarts of Ards compiled by Fr. T.J. Walsh, a diocesan priest in Cork.

CA/DL/7/9  The Old Metal Man
30 Nov. 1935
Item
Typescript; manuscript; clipping
2 pp
Copies of a poem titled ‘The Old Metal Man’ referring to the acquisition of Ards House by the Capuchin friars. The poem reads:

> Gone, gone the Ascendancy, “gentry” and others
  That lorded it over the old native clan,
> Replaced by the people, the friars and brothers,
> Whilst still to the fore stands the Old Metal Man.

The file includes a clipping of the poem published in the *Derry Journal* on 30 Nov. 1935.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item Type</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA/DL/7/10</td>
<td>Poem on Ard Mhuire</td>
<td>Feb. 1936</td>
<td>Manuscript</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Transcript of a poem titled ‘Ard Mhuire’ by Peter Kelly published in <em>Ireland’s Own</em>, 20 Feb. 1936, at p. 17. The poem refers to the presence of the Capuchin friars in Donegal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA/DL/7/11</td>
<td>Extracts from Patent Rolls and Civil Survey</td>
<td>c.1940</td>
<td>Manuscript</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Extracts by Fr. Angelus Healy OFM Cap. from the Patent Rolls of James I (1611) and the Civil Survey (1654) re the occupiers of lands around Ards in County Donegal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA/DL/7/12</td>
<td>Letter re Stewart Ancestry</td>
<td>9 Sept. 1957</td>
<td>Typescript</td>
<td>1 p</td>
<td>Letter from Dr. Harry C. Trimble to Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. requesting information on the Stewart family, the former owners of the Ards Estate. He writes: Several of my ancestors came to the United States from County Donegal more than a century ago. The maiden name of our great-grandmother was Jane Elizabeth Stewart. She was born about 1790 and was marked to William Wilkinson in County Donegal. ... It has been suggested that our great-grandmother was related to the Stewarts of Ards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA/DL/7/13</td>
<td>History of Dunfanaghy and Environs</td>
<td>c.1974</td>
<td>Copy print</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Photostat copies from an unidentified publication referring to the history of Dunfanaghy and its hinterland with reference to the Stewart family of Ards.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| CA/DL/7/14 | The Blue Lady of Ards                             | 1977      | Photostat copy | 3     | Extracts from by John J. Dunne *Haunted Ireland / her romantic and mysterious ghosts* (Belfast, 1977) re an apparition called ‘The Blue Lady of Ards’ which supposedly haunted the old Ard Mhuire Friary. The text reads: She did not make her presence felt until after the mansion had been taken over by the Capuchins and became their house of theological studies for Irish novices. ... It is reported that the apparition was seen on
top of the oak staircase in the mansion. The stairs were horseshoe-shaped, forming a horseshoe meeting at the landing above. A priest is said to have seen the ghost, a lovely lady in blue, at the top of the stairs, just as he was about to ascend them.

CA/DL/7/15 The Capuchins in Donegal

C.1980
Item
Typescript; manuscript
6 pp
A short article by Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. on the history of the Capuchin friars in County Donegal. The article refers to the importance of the missionary work performed by the friars who were ordained in Ard Mhuire. Reference is also made to the financing of the building of the new friary and church in the 1960s. The article reads:

In the year 1930 the Irish Capuchin Franciscans took over the old Stewart mansion in County Donegal and fitted it out as a theological seminary. Between 1931 and 1972 over two hundred priests were ordained at Ard Mhuire. They are now working in almost every continent.

CA/DL/7/16 Letter from Dermot MacIntyre

17 Oct. 1986
Item
Typescript
9 pp
A letter from Dermot MacIntyre to Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. referring to the history of the former Stewart-Bam residence in Ards. He writes:

In regard to Ards and Ards House, I have just found an old notebook of my father’s. He used to jot down bits and pieces on anything to hand and in this old notebook he has an entry dated, Friday, December 30, 1910. He writes: ‘Was at a dance in Ards House last night given by Sir Pieter Bam. Charlie Coll and I played for them. Bam came in about 9 o’clock. I did not like it all but would rather be in the poorest thatch house in Doe, with the Gaelic sounding round me, than in the midst of it all. Bam does his best to unbend, but it is plainly an effort and he seems to know himself that it won’t be successful. His wife is outrageously proud. She sat all the time like an incarnate goddess and noticed no one. Such pride is a sin against Heaven. You would think the ordinary people were less than dogs to her. Her sister is not one whit better’.

Further extracts from his father’s journal refer to the landlord’s relationships with the workers and tenants on the Ards estate, to the histories of various local churches, to a Feis at Doe Castle in 1910, and to the building of the Lough Swilly railway in Donegal.

CA/DL/7/17 Hugh A. Law and Marble Hill House

C.1987-1990
File
Photographic print
5 items
Photographic prints of a hand-drawn portrait of the Irish nationalist politician, Hugh A. Law (1872-1943) and his residence at Marble Hill House, Dunfanaghy, County Donegal. The portrait is dated 12 Sept. 1928.

**CA/DL/7/18**

**Doe Castle**  
c.1990  
File  
Typescript; postcard print  
14 pp  
An article on the history of Doe Castle on the shores of Sheephaven Bay near Creeslough, County Donegal. The article was compiled by Sheila MacMahon. A note from the author to Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. is extant on the reverse of the last page. The file includes a colour postcard print of a painting of Doe Castle and a short re the restoration by a local branch of the Legion of Mary of broken or neglected Penal-era Mass Rocks in the area around Doe.

**CA/DL/7/19**

**Uproar in Dungloe**  
1993  
Item  
Printed  
24 pp  
A copy of *Uproar in Dungloe* by Naoi nGiallach. The text refers to the famous personages from Dungloe including the 1916 Rising and War of Independence veteran, Joseph Sweeney (1897-1980).

**CA/DL/7/20**

**Recollections of Peadar MacMahon**  
Oct. 1994  
Item  
Typescript  
19 pp  
Personal recollections, family history and local folklore in Donegal collected by Peadar MacMahon and submitted to Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. The memoir includes a short chapter titled ‘Anahire or Aultcrum / Ards House / Creeslough’.

**CA/DL/7/21**

**Poems**  
c.1995  
File  
Typescript  
2 items  
Two poems by Eddie McClafferty titled ‘Doe Chapel’ and ‘The Sand Eel Strand on Sheephaven Bay’.

**CA/DL/7/22**

**Illustration of Ard Mhuire Friary**  
20 Jan. 1996  
Item  
Watercolour on board  
25.5 cm x 17.5 cm  
A watercolour illustration (possibly by Br. John Manley OFM Cap.) of the exterior of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary.
CA/DL/7/23 Illustrations of Trees at Ard Mhuire

Illustrations of Trees at Ard Mhuire
c.1995
File
Pencil on card
23 cm x 18 cm; 20.5 cm x 15 cm
3 items
Sketches of Oak and cedar of Lebanon trees on the grounds of the Ard Mhuire Friary.

CA/DL/7/24 Letter re Local Folklore

Letter re Local Folklore
5 Jan. 2005
Item
Typescript
1 p
Letter from Colette Gallagher to Fr. Eustace McSweeney OFM Cap., guardian, Ard Mhuire Friary, conveying a local tradition re the existence of a ‘half-way house between Ards Friary and Rossnowlagh’.

8. Printed Material and Ephemera

Level: Series
Dates of Creation: 1796-2006
Scope and Content: The series contains printed ephemera mostly pertaining to the history of Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary and the surrounding locality.
Format: Printed; typescript; manuscript; newspaper clipping
Extent: 6 files and 7 items

CA/DL/8/1 The Calvinistic and Socinian systems

The Calvinistic and Socinian systems
Date: 1796
Author: Andrew Fuller
Publisher: London: Printed for, and sold by T. Gardiner, No. 19, Princes-Street, Oxford-Street / Sold also by W. Button, No. 24, Pater-Noster-Row and J. Mathews, Strand.
Language: English
Full title: The Calvinistic and Socinian systems examined and compared as to their moral tendency in a series of letters. Addressed to the friends of vital and practical religion. The third edition. By Andrew Fuller.
Physical description: [4], xiv, 329, [1] p; printed arms of Alexander Stewart on inside front cover; 18 cm x 11 cm
Physical condition. Bound in contemporary hard covers with gilt title to spine. Internally, the volume is firmly bound.
Note: A manuscript note found in the volume reads: ‘Alexander Stewart took over Ards House and grounds [County Donegal] from William Wray in 1782. He died in 1831’. The volume formed part of the library of Ards House when the Capuchins acquired the property in 1930. The contents of the library were apparently auctioned before the Capuchins took up residence, but this volume was probably retained and was later transferred to the Irish Capuchin Archives.
CA/DL/8/2  Lenten Regulations and Pastoral Letter
1932-1967
File
Printed
3 items
Copy of the Lenten Pastoral Letter (with Lenten Regulations) from the Most Rev. William MacNeely (1888-1963), Bishop of Raphoe, for 1932. The file also includes printed Lenten Regulations for the diocese for 1964 and 1967.

CA/DL/8/3  Flier for Ard Mhuire Friary
c.1955
File
Printed
9 copies; 4 pp
A vocations’ flier for the House of Theological Studies at Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary. It is noted that ‘since 1932 Ard Mhuire has produced well over a hundred priests. They are now labouring on the Irish Capuchin foreign mission in Africa, in the United States of America, and at home in Ireland’. The flier also has a photographic print of the exterior of the old Ard Mhuire Friary (formerly Ards House).

CA/DL/8/4  Flier for New Doe Chapel
c.1960
Item
Printed
4 pp
A flier seeking support for the construction of a new chapel (St. Michael’s) at Cashelmore, Doe, County Donegal. The leaflet notes that ‘St. Michael’s Church, Cashelmore, is probably the oldest church being used by the Catholics of the diocese of Raphoe. Two inscriptions set in the eastern wall inform us that the church was built by Father Bernard Rodan in 1784 and re-built by Father Peter Gallagher in 1830’.

CA/DL/8/5  The Father Mathew Record
File
Printed
3 items
Articles on Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary published in The Father Mathew Record, an Irish Capuchin periodical magazine. The file includes:
- The opening of the new Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary. The Father Mathew Record, Jan. 1967, pp 12-29. With numerous photographic prints of the official ceremony which was held on 13 Nov. 1966.

CA/DL/8/6  Guide to Ards Forest Park
c.1980
File
Printed
2 copies; 36 pp
A guide to Ards Forest Park and Sheephaven Bay published by Irish Forest and Wildlife Service. The book has been annotated by Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. The guide reads:

_The Stewart family held Ards until 1926, the property being known as the Stewart-Bam estate in its later years from the marriage in 1910 of the heiress, Miss Eva Stewart to Sir Pieter Bam, a native of South Africa. The great estate was finally broken up following its acquisition by the Irish Land Commission in 1926 and the area that was to become our Forest Park came into our possession in 1929._

**CA/DL/8/7 Fanad / Peninsula Scenic Tour**

1983

Item
Printed
4 pp

An illustrated guide to the Fanad peninsula with images of the principal towns, features and sites of historical interest in the area. Includes a fold-out map.

**CA/DL/8/8 Directory for the Diocese of Raphoe**

1985

Item
Printed
4 pp

Telephone directory for priests, religious foundations, schools and hospitals in the diocese of Raphoe.

**CA/DL/8/9 Information Fliers for Creeslough and Port-na-Blagh**

1987

File
Printed
2 items

Information fliers advertising various amenities at Creeslough, Dunfanaghy and Port-na-Blagh in County Donegal.

**CA/DL/8/10 Mass Celebration on Medal Hill (Doe Chapel)**

Aug. 1988

File
Printed; clipping
2 items; 11 pp

Booklet for a Mass Celebration on Medal Hill (formerly Doe Chapel) near Creeslough in County Donegal to mark Fr. Theobald Mathew’s temperance gathering at the same location on 15 June 1841. The commemorative mass, which was celebrated by friars from Ard Mhuire, was held on 21 August 1988.

Note: The file also includes a photostat copy of a letter from Andrew MacIntyre (25 Feb. 1955) to Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. referring to Father Mathew’s temperance meeting at Cashelmore, County Donegal, in June 1841. For more on this local commemoration see **CA/FM/RES/4/1/3** in the Research and Commemorative Papers relating to Fr. Theobald Mathew.
CA/DL/8/11  A Guidebook to Creeslough-Dunfanaghy
1988
Item
Printed; manuscript
84 pp
A guidebook to the Creeslough-Dunfanaghy locality published by the Doe Historical Committee. The booklet contains an illustrated chapter titled ‘The Peninsula of Ards’ which explores the history of the Ards estate and Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary and Retreat House. With inserts, photographs and a ‘a progress report on the work of the Doe Historical Committee’ written by Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap.

CA/DL/8/12  A History of Ards
1991
File
Printed; typescript; manuscript
3 copies; 124 pp
A History of Ards by Fr. David Kelleher OFM Cap. published by Ard Mhuire Capuchin Friary. The booklet traces the history of the Ards estate from its occupation by the Wrays and the Stewarts to the arrival of the Capuchins in 1930. The chapter headings include: Life in the old mansion, The auction (1927), From manor house to Capuchin Friary, Novitiate and House of Theology, Life in the Friary, and Retreat House. The file also includes typescript and manuscript drafts of the text.
Note: Some of the photographs which appeared in the publication are extant at CA/DL/5/1.

CA/DL/8/13  Artefact from Walled Gardens at Ard Mhuire Friary
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