Here in St Mary’s Church we have two memorials to the soldiers of “The Great War” (1914-1918).

At the rear of the Church is a brass plaque which is The Abbey Grammar School War Memorial.

The War Memorial to The Abbey Boys is dedicated to the memory of thirty-nine of its former pupils who died serving in the uniformed military services during The First World War. It also has the school crest and the date 1660. One name listed is that of the son of The Reverend Denis Hanan, who was Rector of St. Mary’s Church from 1883-1914.

The inscribed dedication on the abbey grammar school war memorial reads:

“To the glory of god and in proud and grateful memory of the old abbey boys who gave their lives in the Great War.”

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The stained glass East Window in St. Mary’s Church was commissioned in 1917 in commemoration of the triple deaths which befell the Bell family in 1916. Captain R. W. Bell and his brother-in-law Colonel Lyle both died on the Western Front in July 1916. The Reverend Bell, father of Captain Bell, died five months later. The four panes of the window depict “The Adoration of Christ by the Magi”, and show The Holy Family in the stable at Bethlehem; with the Magi presenting their gifts to the Infant Jesus. The Child is held by his mother, Mary; his father Joseph and two angels are looking on. The style of the stained-glass artwork is very intricate and delicate, with detailed renditions of two lambs, The Dove of Peace and many beautifully painted flowers (including red poppies) and leaves.

Across the panels in Gothic-style lettering are the words “THEY FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPPED HIM”. At the base of each panel is a small image of Christ and a Dedication. From left to right, the four images are of Christ bearing The Cross, Christ Crucified, Christ ascending to Heaven accompanied by two angels, and Christ seated in Heaven surrounded by angels.

Welcome to St Mary’s Church of Ireland
Tipperary Town
1832 – 2014
Rector:
The Very Reverend Gerald Field

St Mary’s 1780 taken from our parish records

Historical information provided by Des Murrane
St Mary’s is the oldest landmark in Tipperary Town. 1832 is the date cut into the stone over the main door, and its steeple signposted this settlement for some 30 years before the consecration of St Michael’s. Exactly one hundred years before 1832 the previous church was described as having “a Steeple of brick tho’ it be itself of stone. Ye East window is sashed” In 1780 the old church was described as being “in most perfect repair in particular without and within and makes the most respectable appearance”.

History indicates that there was a church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary on the site in 1296 and later in 1336 Tipperary Town and this church were burnt down by the O’Briens. It has been an ecclesiastical site since the 13th Century with several churches being built to replace those that suffered the ravages of time.

One of the most unusual event to take place here at St Mary’s was on June 6th 1753 when a Limerick man, Henry Grady, abducted Susannah Grove during a Sunday service being conducted by the Rev. John Armstrong. The doors were barricaded to prevent pursuit. The Reverend Armstrong became rector of this church in 1770.

Foundations for a new church started in 1820, as the Abbey School was being built at the same time. The Board of First Fruits provided the plans. Local parishioners objected but were silenced by James Reine, the architect, who reminded them that they had contributed £2,800 pounds, then the contractor went broke and withdrew. Everything from the old church except the organ was sold and work recommenced in 1827 to be completed in nine months. It was probably completed and in use by 1830. At the time this church was completed the District served a Church of Ireland population of around 630.

St Mary’s is part of the Cashel Union of Parishes which consist of the following churches:

- Baillintemple (St. Mary’s, Dundrum) / Cashel (The Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist & St Patrick’s Rock Cashel) / Clonbeg (St Sedna in the Glen of Aherlow) / Magorban / Tipperary town (St Mary’s).

Worship is held at St Mary’ every Sunday at 11.30am to which all are invited.

Further information regarding the Church of Ireland can be found on the web site.

http://ireland.anglican.org

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Some interesting points about St Mary’s

It is the oldest graveyard in town with over 3000 recorded burials.

The grave of Christopher Emmet grandfather of the Irish patriot Robert Emmet is located in the grounds.

The grave of Ellen O’Leary Poet, and sister of the Fenian John O’Leary is located in the grounds.

There has been a military connection with St Mary’s as far back as the 1780s; this can be seen through our records.

There are 9 Commonwealth war graves and 11 other military related graves dating 1880 – 1920

A piece of social history may still be seen in the remnants of the gas lighting system which was once used in the 1800s.

On some of the pews and within the organ recess can be seen markings left by parishioners from the late 1800s to the early 1900s.

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Historical information provided by Des Murrane