



Tower History

Mt. St. Alphonsus, Limerick



Mt St Alphonsus

The church and tower of Mt St Alphonsus, known and loved locally as "the Fathers" is situated on the South Circular Road Limerick. There are 10 bells with a tenor weight of 22cwt and are tuned to E#. Pre-Covid, Sunday ringing was from 11:30 to 12:00 for Mass all year, and on Monday nights at 19:30 from September to May. Please contact the Tower Sec for current ringing arrangements.

Due to the proximity of a number of schools and the high density of residential housing peal ringing is not freely available - please contact the Tower Sec if you want to arrange a peal ring as early as possible when planning to visit. Visitors are always welcome, and every effort will be made to accommodate your requirements.

The Church and Monastery were built in 1852 and was the first house of the Redemptorist Order in Ireland. The idea of adding a tower and a set of bells originated with Mr John Quin, a Tea Merchant, of Ellen Street, Limerick, who was already a benefactor, having donated the High Altar

to the Church.

Messrs Goldie and Childe of London were chosen as Architects and the Contractors were John Ryan of Waterford. After contracts were signed work began in 1876. The foundations were dug to solid rock at around 15 ft. and all the stone used was quarried nearby at Boherbuoy. The foundation stone was laid by John Quin on 19th June 1876 and the Cross blessed and hoisted into position on September 12, 1878. "The Freemans Journal" of 25th March gives the cost as £8,000.

The contract for 9 bells went to John Murphy, Bell Founder, Thomas Street, Dublin, at a total cost of £1,195. The Architects originally wanted the bells fixed for chiming but thanks to the persistence of John Murphy, that they should be able to be rung by individual ringers, a set of 8 bells in the key of D for pealing and one stationary "C" for chiming, arrived in Limerick on Thursday, 13th March, 1878. The receipt for the transportation cost shows £12 Dublin to Limerick. Sadly John Murphy did not live to hear his peal of bells ring out over Limerick as he died just 6 weeks before they were installed.

As ringers grew older so did the bells and by 1945 it was apparent that the bells could not go on ringing much longer. A visit by an expert from Loughborough confirmed the worst fears and the bells finally fell silent on April 18, 1946 after 67 years of faithful service. In June 1947

the bells were removed from the tower to Taylors in Loughborough, where they were recast and augmented to return as today's set of ten bells.

Link to tower on web site

<https://bellringingireland.org/tower/limerick-mount-st-alphonsus/>

Bell Weights & Inscriptions

dove.cccb.org.uk/detail.php?tower=16216