

Letters from Limerick

to the New Zealand Diaspora 1919–2018

**Letters from the Flavin, O'Connor, Connolly and Sheahan families
of West Limerick and Kerry, Ireland**

**to their O'Connor, Nicholl, O'Neill and Walsh cousins
of Riversdale and Dunedin, New Zealand**

Transcriptions by Patrick N. O'Neill and Joseph J.N. O'Neill

Edited by Patrick N. O'Neill

Preliminary Edition

Canberra

8 April 2020, corrected 26 August 2021



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Preview Edition (Flavin extract), 16 December

2019 Preliminary Edition, 8 April 2020

Revised, 26 August 2021 (see Foreword)

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Foreword

My great-grandfather John O'Connor left Ireland probably in 1877, and was killed by a bolting horse near Riversdale, New Zealand in 1896. My Aunt Margaret Walsh told me recently that contact with Ireland was lost after the first generation left, because of illiteracy; however, after the visit to Ireland during the First World War of her mother cousin, Isaac O'Connor,¹ her mother Catherine O'Connor Nicholl continued to write to cousins in Ireland, and as shown below, this correspondence continued right up to Catherine Nicholl's death in 1970.

Over the years since 1877—and despite the illiteracy of that first emigrant generation—the links back to Ireland have been kept alive: first by New Zealand soldiers on leave from the Western Front; by correspondence between first cousins during the Thirties; by my mother's visit to Ireland in 1950, the resulting correspondence that continued for the next 50+ years, and the support to Fr Mark Connolly during his missionary years in Africa; by my sisters' and my visits in 1984/1987; my parents' further visits in 1985 and 1991; and most recently by my own family's visit in 2019.

In October 2019, when I visited cousin Mike Connolly in Welwyn Garden City, I promised him that I would make an edition of the letters his mother and others had sent from Ireland to New Zealand over preceding decades. Mike had told me that he did not know of anyone in Ireland who had any old letters from New Zealand, but this project had been in my mind for some time, as a way of thanking our Irish relatives for their hospitality, and as a way of strengthening the family bonds that have been kept up over the years.

My mother Elizabeth Nicholl visited Limerick in December 1950 after her Holy Year Pilgrimage, with Mary Walsh (later Sister Mary Justin), as her travelling companion. Mum continued to correspond with relatives in Ireland and the United Kingdom until her death in 2013. Most of letters presented here were gathered together at home (6 City Road, Dunedin) in successive archiving efforts from 1982 to 1993, and again after Mum's death in 2013. From 1987, when I left Dunedin, there was no active separation of letters from Ireland into separate files, and therefore there are likely to be many more letters written during this period that have not yet been found; they will be scattered through my parents' personal correspondence for those years. The letters are now part of the Papers of John and Elizabeth O'Neill, preserved in the Hocken Library in Dunedin, New Zealand.

¹ I originally had Margaret's uncle Morgan visiting Ireland during the First World War, but have since been reminded that Morgan did not make it to Ireland before he was killed in action: Morgan's letters home from the front mention his desire to visit Ireland, but state that leave to Ireland had been cancelled in February 1918; Morgan was killed on 20 April 1918. [Correction made on 26 August 2021.]

To fulfill this project, Rebecca O'Neill photographed the folders of Irish material at the Hocken Library in December 2019. During January 2020, with Canberra enveloped in bushfire smoke, my son Joseph and I shared the transcription effort.

On a visit to New Zealand in March 2020, I found more letters in the boxes at the Hocken Library, and also gathered a few additional items from cousin Pauline Herron, mostly letters from Fr Mark Connolly to Sister Mary Justin. These latest additions are not yet transcribed. I also scanned Mum's photos taken in Ireland and England in 1950, and these photos are now most of the illustrations.

These matters might have rested for quite some time, while other priorities prevailed. It would take quite some time to work through this collection, editing, dating, footnoting.

However, I have been prompted into action by two messages forwarded to me by Kathleen Doczy, of Chicago, in which Nora Ghauri commented firstly on my December 2019 preview edition, and secondly on a photo I had recently distributed that was taken by my mother in Limerick in 1950:

Thank you for sending me the O'Neill family connection, it was lovely and touching to read especially since I knew him when I was young. Paddy and Molly [Flavin] were nice people. His sister Mary McEvoy was also a lovely neighbour and our next-door neighbour. It's good to know that the letters were kept and are now in the family history for all to see.

Thanks for the Glenagragra connections with Flavin and Mike Long's photo. That is how I remember Mike riding his bike before he left for the USA. It's lovely to see how the photo is still making connections around the world today and bringing back memories. I was a bit too young to remember the girls visiting Flavin's. There were quite a few young men in the neighbourhood who would have taken interest in the girls.

So I have decided to release this unfinished edition pronto. Who knows which of us will still be around long enough for a perfected edition? I hope there are some amongst you now on coronavirus lockdown who will have the time to enjoy reading this collection. I will welcome any comments or corrections to patrick.n.oneill@gmail.com, or on my Facebook post, or on my website, pko-genealogy.id.au.

Patrick O'Neill, Canberra

5 April 2020



Figure 1 The Flavin family with Elizabeth Nicholl in Glenagra, Co. Limerick, December 1950



Figure 2 The Flavin home in Glenagra, Co. Limerick, September 2019

[Google Maps link](#)

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**Figure 3 Elizabeth Nicholl and Mary Walsh nearing Bombay on the
SS Stratheden, January 1951**

Note the Kodak Box Brownie camera bag.
Elizabeth used her 1934-model Six-20 Brownie Junior until 1971.



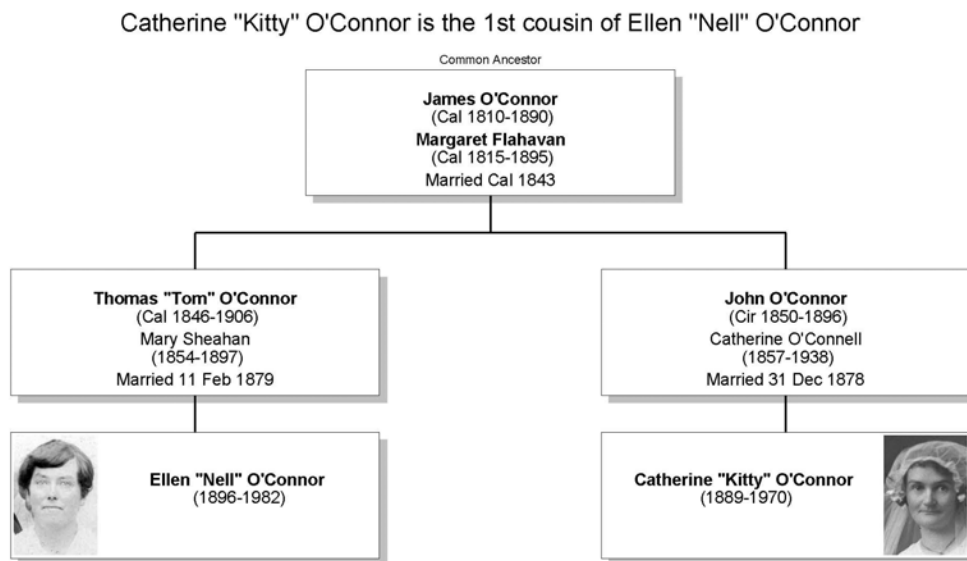
Figure 4 The O'Connor family at Kingston Crossing, Southland, New Zealand, 1909

Margaret Ferris (1880–1939), Michael “Morgan” 1883–1918, Jim (1886–1938)
 Catherine Nicholl (1889–1970), Catherine nee O’Connell (1857–1938), John (1894–1953)

The original of this photograph still hangs in the O’Neill home in Dunedin. According to Letter 7, a copy was also hanging in the Flavin home in Ireland in 1950.

Part 1: Nell O'Connor, 1919

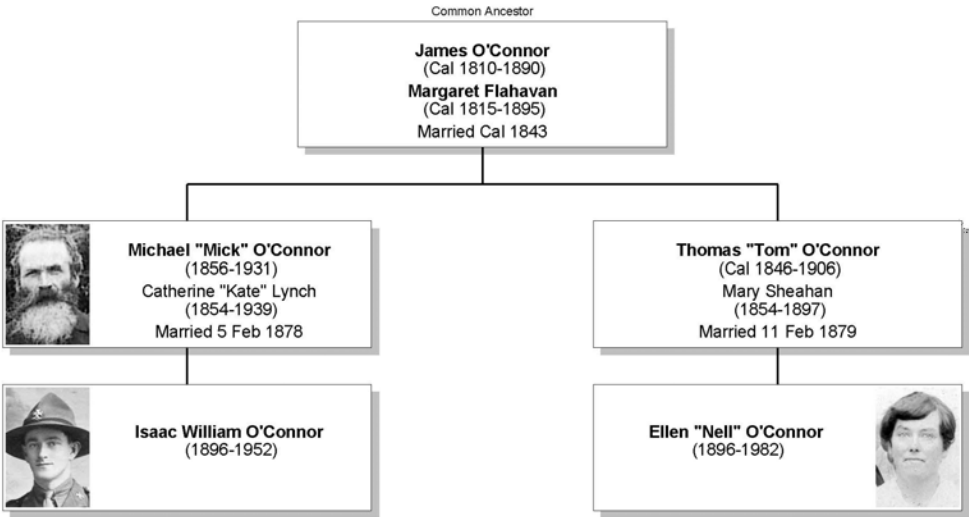
Isaac (Ike) O'Connor was gassed (a second time) on the front lines in France on 30 September 1917, and was admitted to the No. 2 New Zealand General Hospital at Walton-on-Thames on 12 October 1917, and transferred to the NZ Convalescent Hospital at Hornchurch near London on 25 October. From 23 November, he was on leave, with instructions to report to the No. 3 NZ General Hospital at Codford, near Salisbury, by 10 December 1917.¹ This was probably when Isaac made one of his visits to Ireland, as there is no other period of leave marked in his military service file. His daughter, Carole Perwick, however, thinks that Ike visited Ireland three or four times.



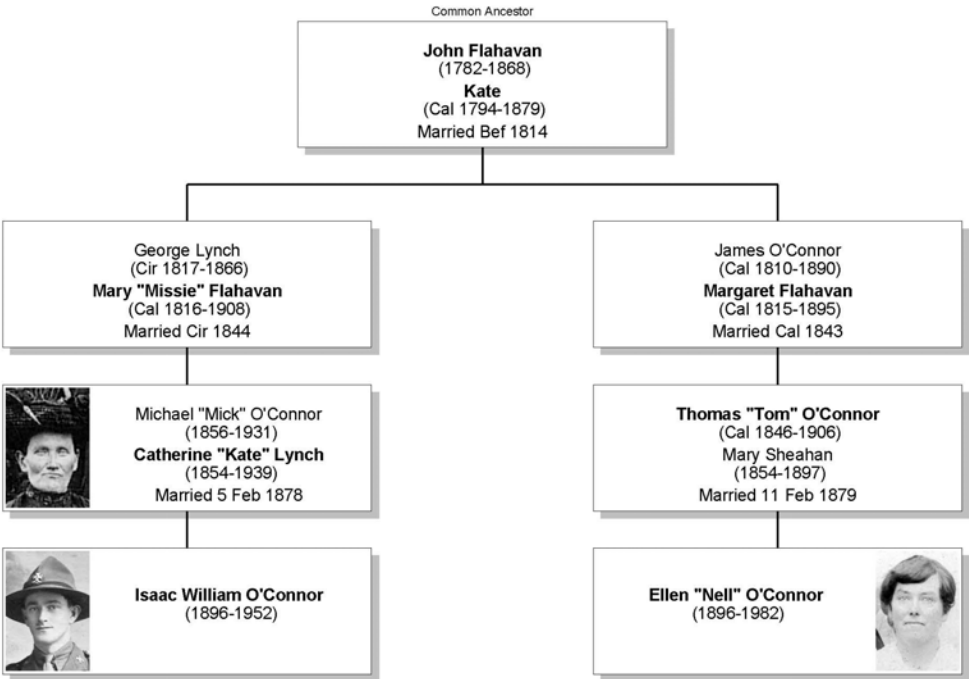
Nell is doubly related to Ike O'Connor:

¹ Archives New Zealand, item R24062163, pp. 4, 6; R...

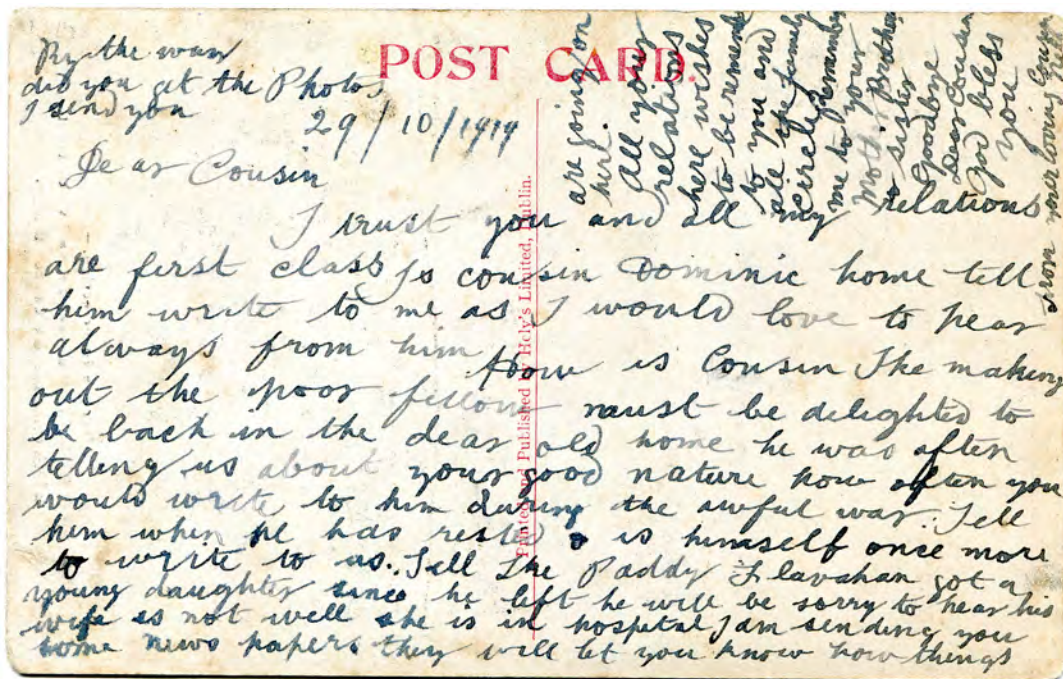
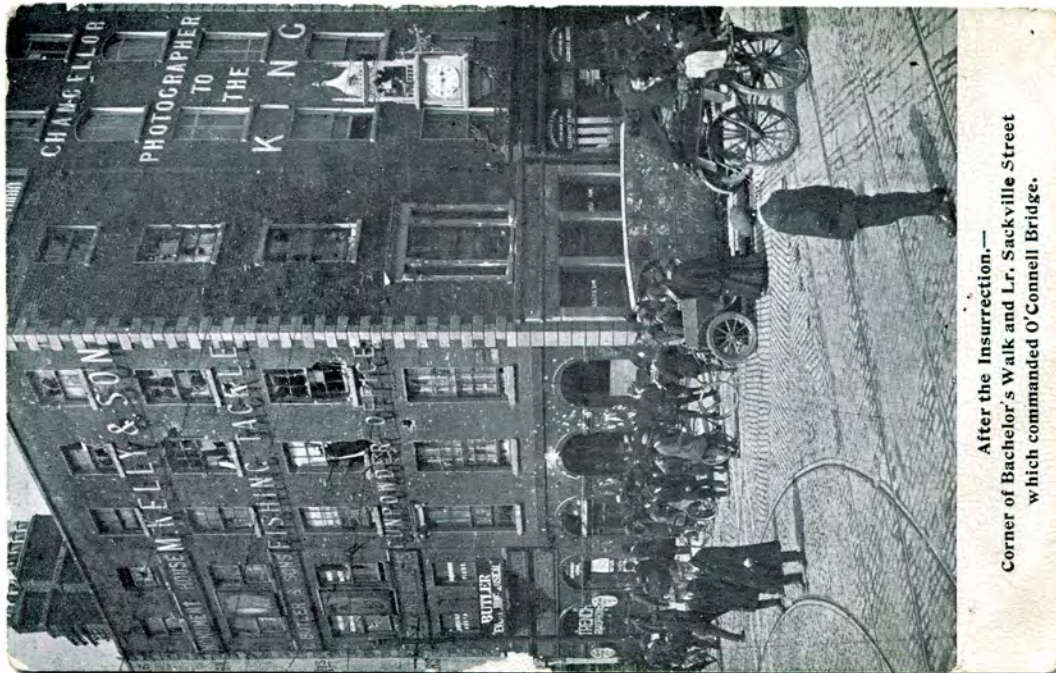
Ellen "Nell" O'Connor is the 1st cousin of Isaac William O'Connor



Ellen "Nell" O'Connor is the 2nd cousin of Isaac William O'Connor



1. Nell O'Connor to Catherine O'Connor (later Catherine Nicholl), 29 October 1919²



² There were two Catherine O'Connors at this time who were first cousins, one the daughter of John O'Connor and mother of Elizabeth O'Neill, the other the daughter of Mick O'Connor. However, the final greeting to family confirms that this card is addressed to Elizabeth O'Neill's mother, whose wartime letters to her soldier brother and cousins are also preserved.

29/10/1919

Dear Cousin

I trust you and my relations are first class. Is cousin Dominic home? Tell him write to me as I would love to hear always from him. How is Cousin Ike making out? The poor fellow must be delighted to be back in the dear old home. He was often telling us about your good nature, how often you would write to him during the awful war. Tell him when he has rested & is himself once more to write to us. Tell Ike Paddy Flavahan got a young daughter since he left.³ He will be sorry to hear his wife is not well, she is in hospital. I am sending you some news papers, they will let you know how things are going on here.

All your relations here wishes to be remembered to you and all the family circle. Remember me to your Mother, Brother & Sister.

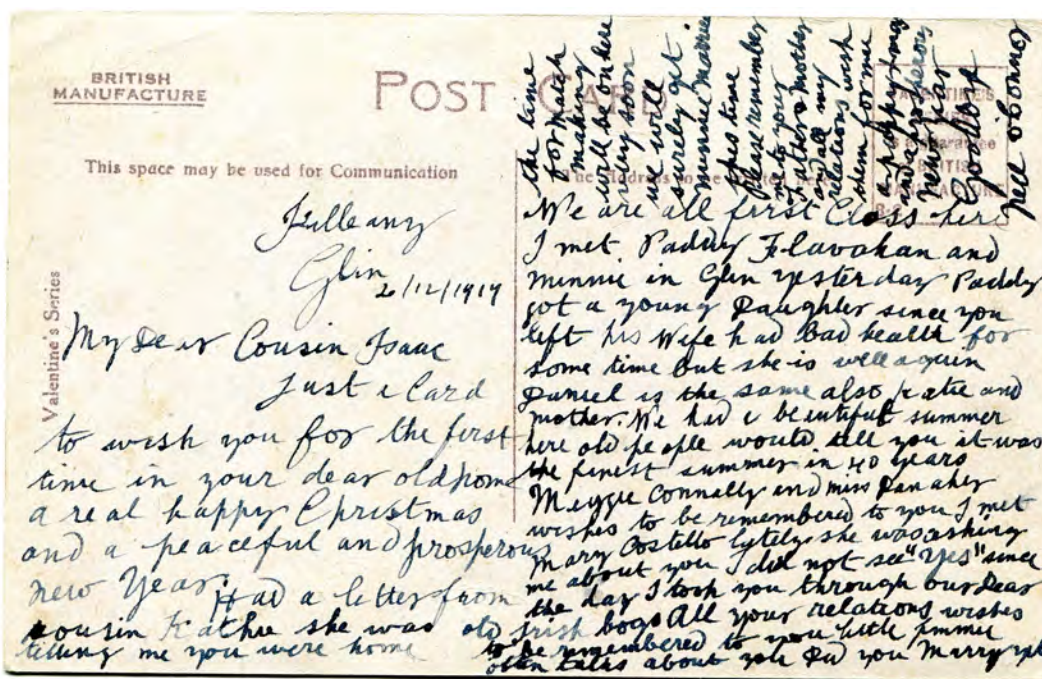
Goodbye, Dear Cousin, God bless you.

From your loving Cousin Nell

By the way, did you get the Photos I send you?

³ Johanna "Hannie" Flavin was born at Glenagra on 8 October 1919. Nell is using here the older spelling of the surname.

2. Nell O'Connor to Isaac O'Connor, 2 December 1919



Killeaney, Glin

2/12/1919

My Dear Cousin Isaac

Just a Card to wish you for the first time in your dear old home a real happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

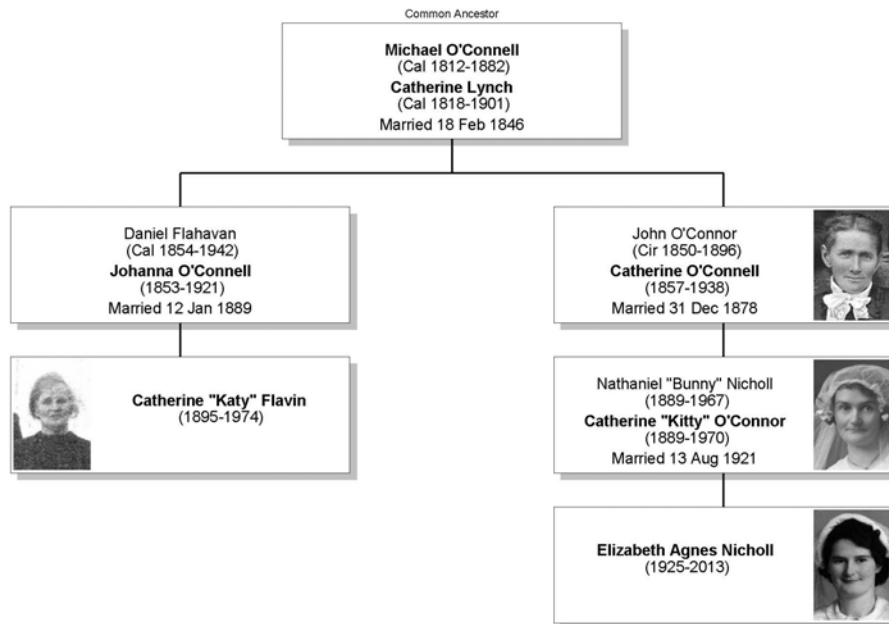
Had a letter from cousin Kathie, she was telling me you were home.

We are all first Class here. I met Paddy Flavahan and Minnie in Glin yesterday. Paddy got a young Daughter since you left. His Wife had bad health for some time but she is well again. Daniel is the same, also Katie & mother. We had a beautiful summer here, old people would tell you it was the finest summer in 40 years. Meggie Connolly and Miss Danaher wishes to be remembered to you. I met Mary Costello lately & she was asking me about you. I did not see "Yes" since the day I took you through our dear old Irish bogs. All your relations wishes to be remembered to you. Little Jimmie often talks about you. Did you marry yet. the time for Match Making will be on here very soon, we will surely get Minnie married this time. Please remember me to your Father & Mother and all my relations. Wish them for me a happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year. Goodbye. Nell O'Connor

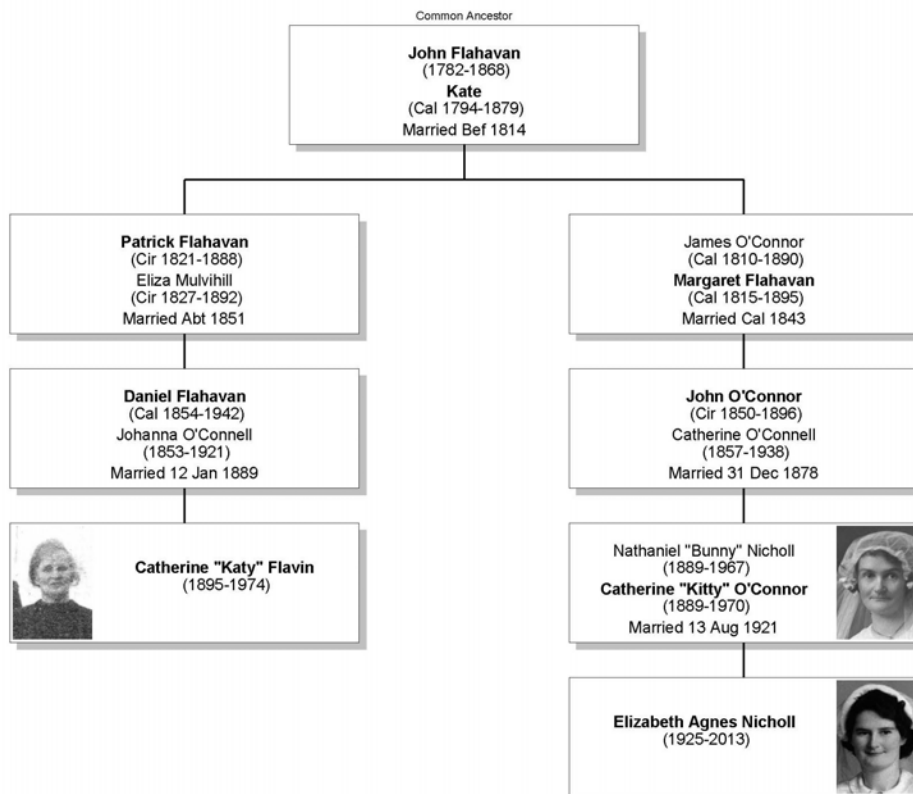
Part 2: The Flavins

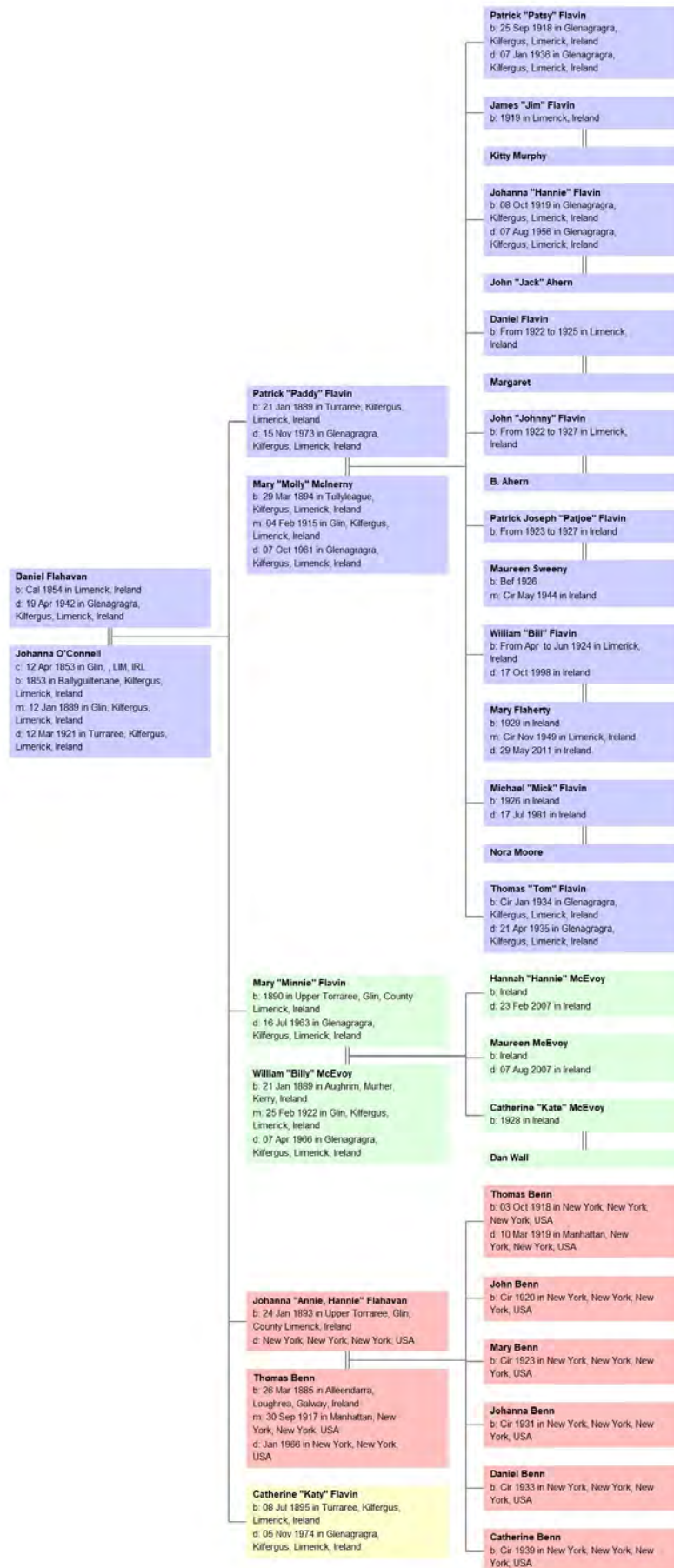
Elizabeth Nicholl's grandmother corresponded with Katie Flavin in the 1930s. Elizabeth herself stayed with Katie Flavin's brother Paddy in December 1950, and they continued to correspond until Paddy's death in 1973.

Elizabeth Agnes Nicholl is the 1st cousin once removed * of Catherine "Katy" Flavin



Elizabeth Agnes Nicholl is the 2nd cousin once removed * of Catherine "Katy" Flavin





3. Katie Flavin to her aunt Catherine O'Connor née O'Connell,
27 March 1930

Limerick
Atlea,
27.3.30

Dear Aunt Kate.

Just a line
hoping it will find you in
good health, as you are
the only Aunt I now
have from ^{R.I.P.} mother's side
I'd like to hear that you
would be getting on well.

I have 3 aunts at Father's
side aunt Mary is about
80 years it is a big
age, & she is in fair

Turraree, Athea, 27.3.[19]30

Dear Aunt Kate⁴

Just a line hoping it will find you in good health, as you are the only Aunt
I now have from mother's side R.I.P. I'd like to hear that you would be
getting on well. I have 3 aunts at father's side Aunt Mary⁵ is about 80
years it is a big age, & she is in fair

⁴ Mrs Catherine O'Connor née O'Connell (1857–1938), sister of Kit Flahavin's mother Johanna Flahavin née O'Connell (c. 1857–1921?).

⁵ Mary Sheahan née Flahavan (1854–1939). The other two aunts were probably Joanna Flahavan (1857–1937), and Kate Culhane née Flahavan (b. 1858).

good health,
 Old Mike Wandle
 of Glenagragla was
 buried a short time ago
 he was 90 years of age
 his wife is still living.
 Patrick Lynch of Gloska
 was buried also, he would
 be a first cousin of your
 brother Jim who
 lives in the Shop is still
 living & he is over 80
 years.
 Yes Connolly that is
 your sister Mary's husband

is still alive he is about
 92 years of age.
 You feel lonely now
 aunt Kate without your
 dear friend Mary Wandle
 I had a letter from
 Mrs Nicholl & she gave
 all news, John Wandle
 is alive we gave him
 the news & he felt
 lonely he has nobody but
 himself left now.
 I answered Mrs Nicholl's
 letter, this old man
 of the Wandles is as

good health.

Old Mike Windle⁶ of Glenagragra was buried a short time ago he was 90 years of age his wife is still living.

Patrick Lynch of Glosa⁷ was buried also, he would be a first cousin of yours his brother Jim⁸ who lives in the shop is still living & he is over 80 years.

Jer Connolly⁹ that is your sister Mary's¹⁰ R.I.P. husband is still alive he is about 92 years of age.

You feel lonely now Aunt Kate without your dear friend Mary R.I.P. Windle¹¹ I had a letter from Mrs Nicholl¹² & she gave all news, John Windle¹³ is alive we gave him the news & he felt lonely he has nobody but himself left now.

I answered Mrs Nicholls letter, this old man of the Windles is as

⁶ Michael Windle, death registered at Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, Jan–Mar 1930, age 88.

⁷ Probably Patrick Lynch, death registered at Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, Jan–Mar 1930, age 76.

⁸

⁹

¹⁰

¹¹

¹²

¹³

deaf as his dear sister, so
you ~~get~~ could get nothing
out of him so he asked
~~me~~ me to write to ye
& do the best I could.

I have no more to
say at present, but
hoping to hear from
you soon again

Wishing you &
yours every day's
happiness

from your
loving niece,

Hil. Flavin.

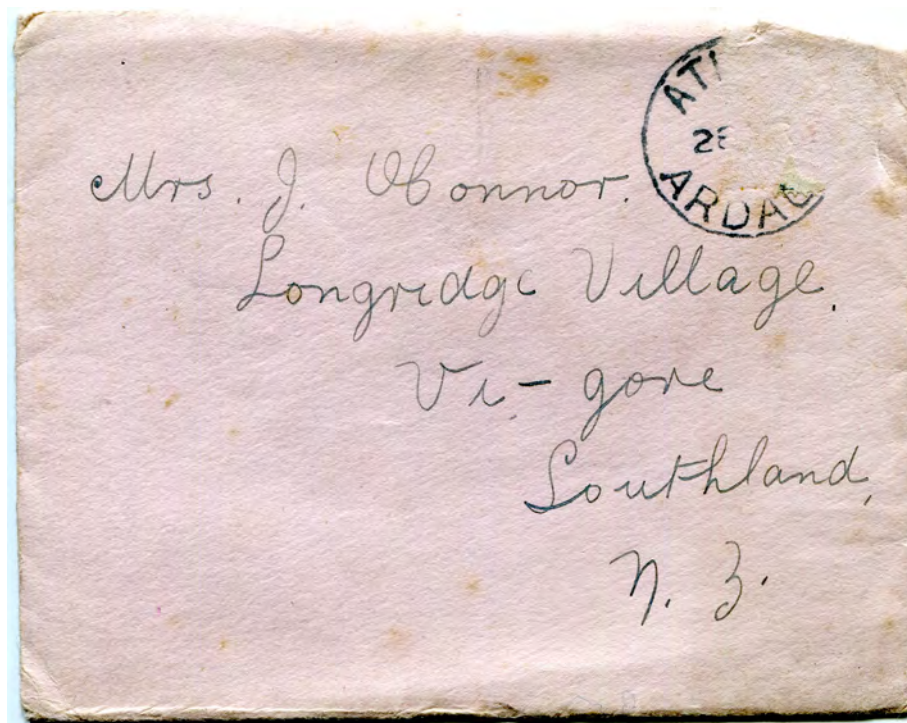
deaf as his dear sister, so you could get nothing out of him so he asked me to write to ye & do the best I could.

I have no more to say at present, but hoping to hear from you soon again

Wishing you & yours every day's happiness

From your loving niece

Kit Flahavin



This envelope is stored amongst the O'Connor Family First World War correspondence, also now at the Hocken Library. It probably goes with this letter.

4. Katie Flavin to her cousin Catherine Nicholl née O'Connor,
30 December 1933

Lorraine
Athea.
30-12-33

Dear cousin Katie

As I have
been waiting this long
time to hear from
you, I said tonight I'd
wait no longer, but I
would write a few lines
to you. I answered your
last letter Katie

Turraree, Athea

30.12.33

Dear Cousin Katie

As I have been waiting this long time to hear from you, I said tonight I'd wait no longer, but would write a few lines to you.

I answered your last letter, Katie;

where-ever the mistake
was made, but I do hope
that you have met no
trouble. How is mother
also your sister & family
& brother & family &
Isaac & his people?
do hope ye are all well.
your own husband &
children likewise.
Isaac did not
write in a long time.

I love to hear from ye, if
any of ye wrote I'd be
satisfied.

My sister has only
the 3 of a family 2 girls
my brother has 4 only 1
girl. uncl John wife is
still living & in good health.
Aunt Mary husband is
still living & he is only
a few years from the
hundred. Is Connolly I
mean.

where-ever the mistake was made, but I do hope that you have met no trouble. How is mother also your sister, & family & brothers and family & Isaac¹⁴ & his people. I do hope ye are all well, your own husband & children likewise.

Isaac did not write in a long time I love to hear from ye, if any of ye wrote I'd be satisfied.

My sister¹⁵ has only the 3 of a family 3 girls my brother¹⁶ has 7 only 1 girl Uncle John's wife¹⁷ is still living & in good health. Aunt Mary husband is still living & he is only a few years from the hundred. Jer Connolly I mean.¹⁸

14

15

16

17

18

Times are very bad in
Ireland at present, but
the weather was very
favourable. We are just
after spending Xmas, & it
was the finest weather
the oldest people
remember, we had to
go before day about 1½ hours
to have the first Mass on
Xmas morning. Answer this
without fail as I'd be Hattie
longing to hear from you.

Times are very bad in Ireland at present, but the weather was very favourable, We are just after spending Xmas, & it was the finest weather the oldest people remember, we had to go before day about 1 ½ hours to have the first Mass on Xmas morning. Answer this without fail as I'd be longing to hear from ye.

Katie

5. Katie Flavin to her cousin Catherine Nicholl née O'Connor,
5 October 1934

Lurrance
Athea,
Oct. 5-1934

Dear Cousin Id.

Your very
welcomed letter arrived
here a few weeks ago,
glad to hear from
all once again.

I do hope that
your dear mother is
well again, as she is
the only one of the

Turraree, Athea, Oct. 5 1934

Dear Cousin K.

Your very welcomed letter arrived here a few weeks ago, glad to hear from all once again.

I do hope that your dear mother is well again, as she is the only one of the

family now left,

We have had very bad weather here in Ireland this summer it is nothing but rain with about ten weeks & with a few days we have great cold & showers of hail, people are not finished with the harvest work yet although it is the fifth of Oct.

we are just digging out the potatoes, we have hay, oats, & turf secure.

Since I wrote last cousin Pat Connolly buried his eldest girl Mary^{R.I.R.} at the age of fourteen, she was in poor health since her grandfather died she lived three months.

He had her with five doctors, so all

family now left.

We have had very bad weather here in Ireland this summer it is nothing but rain with about ten weeks, & with a few days we have great cold & showers of hail, people are not finished with the harvest work yet although it is the fifth of Oct.

We are just digging out the potatoes, we have hay, oats, & turf secure.

Since I wrote last cousin Pat Connolly¹⁹ buried his oldest girl Mary R.I.P. at the age of fourteen, she was in poor health since her grandfather died she lived three months.

He had her with five doctors, so all

didn't do. Catherine is
lonely now. it was well
he married secondly
he has someone to
share his trouble.

Old John Windle is
in fair good health,
also has two nephews
Johnny & Harry they are
lonely now since they
buried their mother.

Uncle John's wife is
in good health.

didn't do. Katherine²⁰ is lonely now, it was well he married secondly he has someone to share his trouble.

Old John Windle²¹ is in fair good health also his two nephews Johny & Harry they are lonely now since they buried their mother.

Uncle John's wife is in good health.

²⁰

²¹

Do you ever hear from
 Nell Connor now, she was
 home from Cork, she has
 two children, also the
 rest of the friends are
 well, father is in
 fair good health
 he will be 81 next
 it may please God.

The times are hard in
 Ireland now, but it seems
 to be all over America
 is just ~~the~~ as bad
 + I suppose your own

Do you ever hear from Nell O'Connor²² now, she was home from Cork, she has two children, also the rest of the friends are well, father²³ is in fair good health he will be 81 next Xmas please God.

The times are hard in Ireland now, but it seems to be all over America is just as bad & I suppose your own

²²

²³ Daniel Flahavan (1855–1942).

country is tough enough,
hoping all your children
are well by now, also
your husband & the
rest of your people,
not forgetting Isaac
he was a very nice fellow.
I hope to hear
from you soon again.
Your loving Cousin
J. L. Flahaven.

country is tough enough.

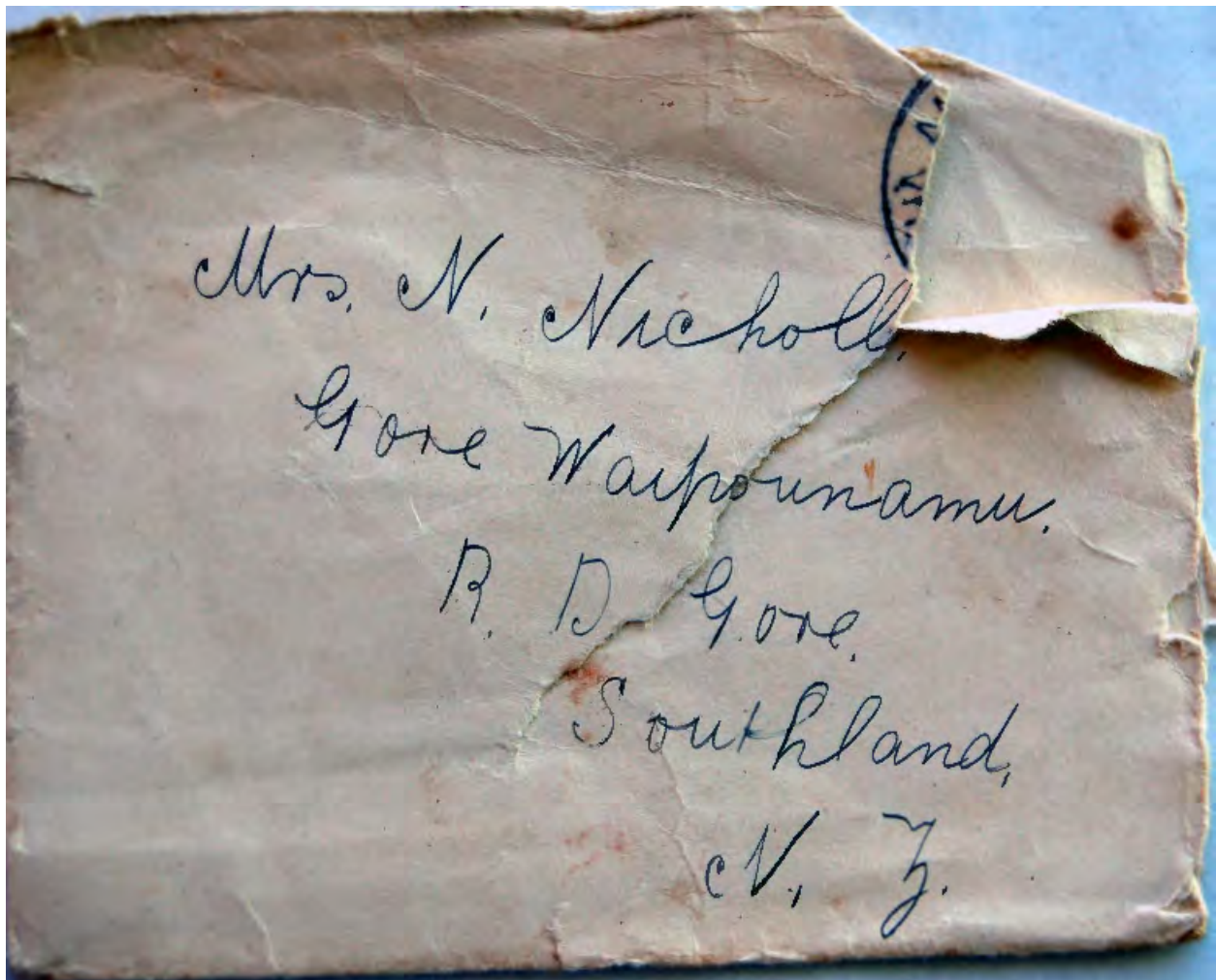
Hoping all your children are well by now, also your husband & the rest of your people, not forgetting Isaac²⁴ he was very nice fellow.

I hope to hear from you soon again

Your loving cousin

K. Flahavin

Katie Flavin, envelope addressed to her cousin Catherine Nicholl née O'Connor, 1930s; probably goes with Letter 4 or Letter 5.



²⁴ Isaac O'Connor (1896–1952), who visited Co. Limerick in 1919.

6. Elizabeth Nicholl to her mother Catherine, from Lanark, 2 December 1950

Lanark.
2nd December, 1950.

Dear Mum,

This finds us still in Scotland and Lanark is under snow. We had expected to be in Ireland by now but as there are only two boats a week we won't go till Tues. We're enjoying life here now anyway, & don't know anyone in particular in Dublin. Still we didn't realize it was such a short time till 21st Dec & that we won't have quite a fortnight in Ireland.

Last remembers when I last wrote but we've been to Edinburgh & to Glasgow for a day. We're lucky being so handy to those places, & we've also been to Loch Lomond. We've had a few frosty days & sunshine but Thurs night it started to snow & last night it froze, so there's an

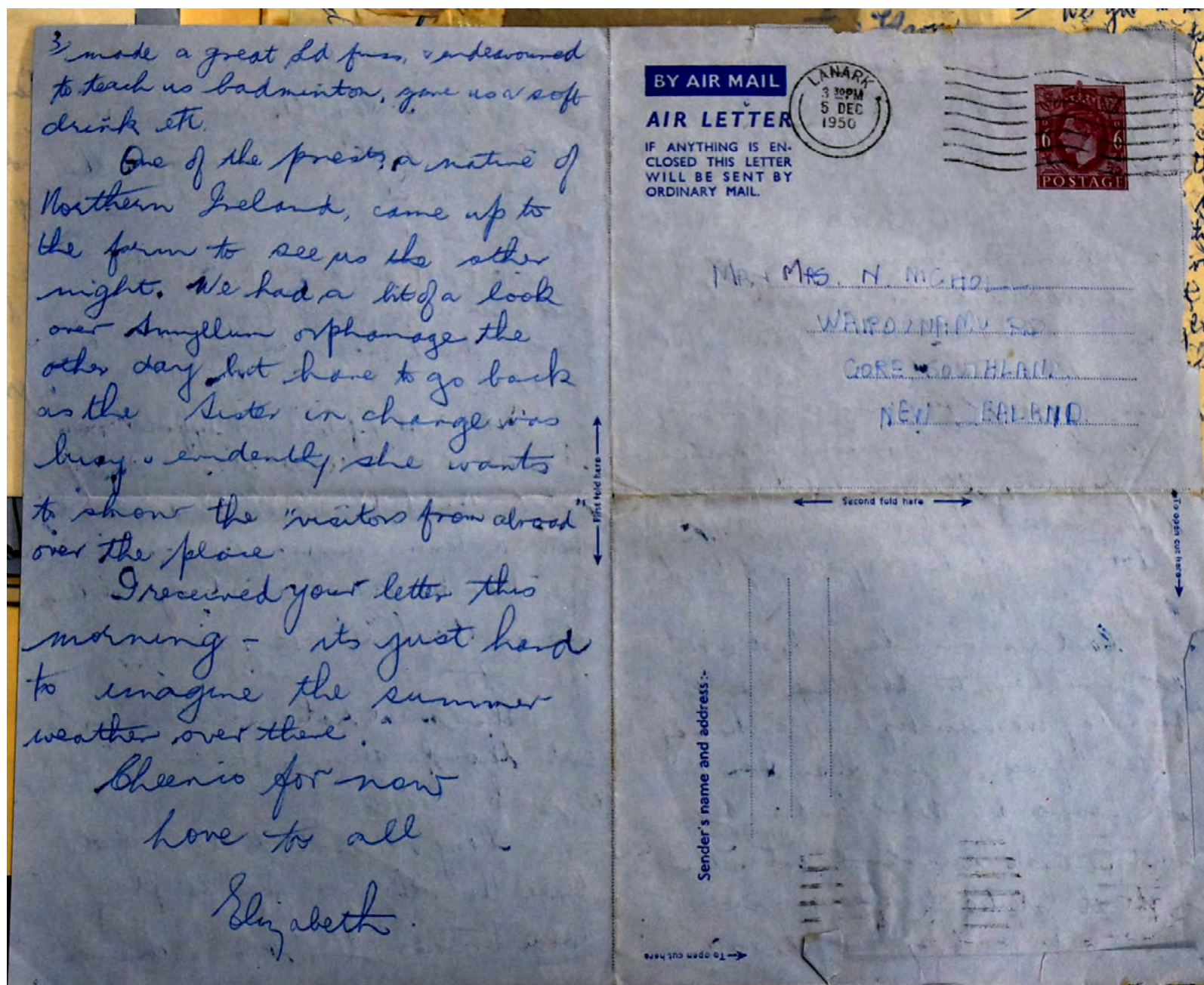
3/4 inch or two of snow in the paddocks. Today the lads & I went up to Mrs. Mortimer's sisters, & the main road has a good inch of ice on it.

Last Sat. we went to see Mrs. Lockhart's sister, & she'd had a letter from Mrs. L. since she went back to Bkch.

I had my first toboggan today when we were at Aunt Ellen's. I went out to see where the lads were & found them across a couple of paddocks with a sledge, sliding down the hill. It was good fun too.

The meat ration has been further cut though mince etc are expected to work extra.

Mum, I went to the school hall the other night to play table tennis & the man in charge



7. Elizabeth Nicholl to her mother Catherine, from the Flavin home, Glenagragra, 11 December 1950

Flavin
Glenagragra
Catherine Limerick
11th Dec

Dear Mum

1. I hope the best of the night for Mary & I have spent in the last night hand-matters used to sleep. We arrived in London on Wed. morning. I asked in letter from Cousin M. Paddy for so we wrote & said we'd come over. But we received a lot of mail in Dublin but haven't had time to answer any of it. We had a good look around London in the 3 days we were there & the night before we left we were at John Lockhart's brothers place. They want us to call there on the way going back but will only have an hour between trains so I don't know how well managed. taxi are pretty expensive, but I think they want to send a record over for John so I'd like to get it.

2. We got to Limerick at 1.30 pm but had to wait for a bus to Glen at 6.15 - we arrived at Glen at 8.15. We met by the Mrs. Flavin & Mick. We called at some second cousin or other for a cup of tea. I saw the 7 mile line by car, which was enough for the occasion. At home there are John, Pat, Mick & Jim, they work about about 1/2 of the car. It's a bit of a mess, I'm afraid one in England & while the first, I've worked on in Ireland with a wife & a child. But night they said we'd be going to the Mess with an ass but we went by car, and passed Dublin's first foot bridge & people walking to the 3 mile from home to Arthur. Mick & Paddy & John & Jim play the violin. Last night we went to the dance about a mile from home with Jim & Mick again in the car. It was a great dance & we were doing a bit better than we've seen before & there were twice as many boys & girls. It was like half past the dancing kept going & we stop at the shops & we

[...] Flavin, Glenagra, Athea, Limerick

Mon 11th Dec 1950

Dear Mum

For the last 2 nights Mary & I have slept in the bed where Grandmother used to sleep. We arrived in Dublin on Wed morning & I received a letter from Cousin Paddy, so we wrote & said we'd come over on Sat. We received a lot of mail in Dublin but haven't had time to answer any of it. We had a good look around Dublin in the 3 days we were there & the night before we left we were at John Lockhart's brother's place.²⁵ They want us to call there on the way going back but we'll only have an hour between trains so I don't know how we'll manage. Taxis are pretty expensive, but I think they want to send a record over for John so I'd like to get it.

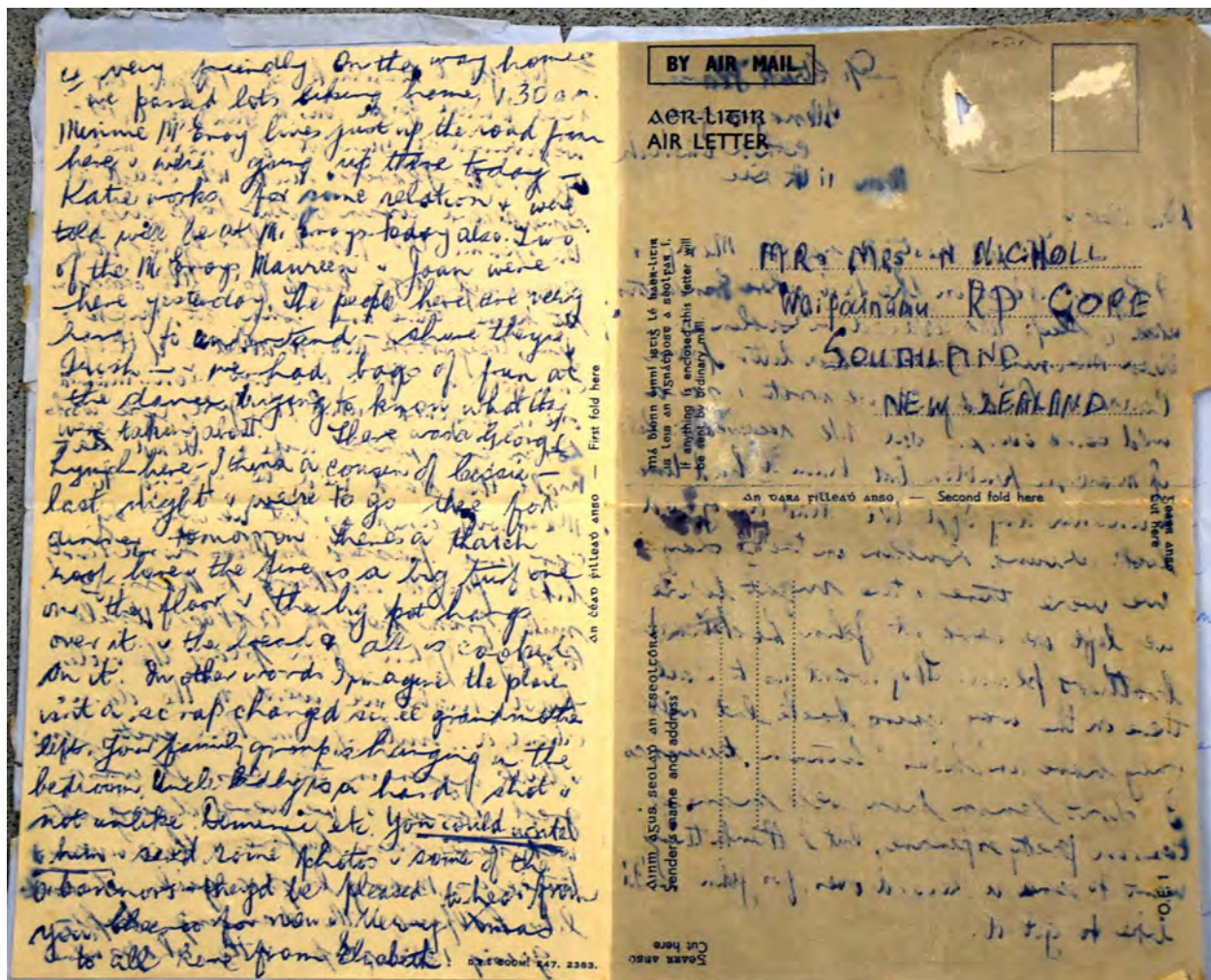
We got to Limerick at 1.30pm but had to wait for a bus to Glin at 6.15—we arrived at Glin at 8 & were met by Mr & Mrs Flavin & Mick. We called at some second cousin or other for a cup of tea & came the 7 miles here by car,²⁶ which seemingly was hired for the occasion. At home there are John, Pat, Mick & Jim, they work round about if they can get it. There are two sons married, one in England—while the girl, Jose, works for an uncle whose wife is dead.²⁷ Sat night they said we'd be going to Mass with an ass but we went by car, and passed endless horse & cart, bikes & people walking to Mass—3 miles from here to Athea.²⁸ Uncle Paddy & John & Jim play the violin. Last night we went to the dance about a mile from here with Jim & Mick again in the car. It was a great dance & we were doing sets we'd never seen before & there were twice as many boys as girls. It wasn't like Balfour, the dancing kept going non stop, & the chaps were

²⁵ Elizabeth's sister-in-law was Jessie Margaret Nicholl née Lockhart (1924-2005).

²⁶ Actually 6.2 miles, or 10 km from Glin to the Flavin home.

²⁷ Probably for a brother of Molly Flavin née McInerney.

²⁸ Actually 4.2 miles or 6.7 km from the Flavin home to Athea.



very friendly. On the way home we passed lots biking home, 1.30 a.m. Minnie McEvoy²⁹ lives just up the road from here & we're going up there today—Katie works for some relation & we're told will be at McEvoy's today also. Two of the McEvoy's, Maureen & Joan, were here yesterday. The people here are very hard to understand—shure they're Irish—we had bags of fun at the dance trying to know what they were talking about. There was a George Lynch here—I think a cousin of Cissie—last night & we're to go there for dinner tomorrow. There's a thatch roof here & the fire is a big turf one on the floor & the big pot hangs over it & the bread & all is cooked on it. In other words I imagine the place isn't a scrap changed since grandmother left. Your family group is hanging in the bedroom. Uncle Paddy is a hard shot & not unlike Dominic etc. You could write to him & send some photos & some of the O'Connors—they'd be pleased to hear from you. Cheerio for now & Merry Xmas to all. Love from Elizabeth

²⁹ Minnie McEvoy (1890–1963), Paddy Flavin's sister. In a letter to her parents from London on 3 November 1950, Elizabeth wrote, "By the way I didn't get a reply from Aunt Minnie." This explains how Paddy Flavin came to write to Dublin urging Elizabeth Nicholl and Mary Walsh to come to Limerick—Elizabeth had written to Paddy's sister Minnie.

8. Elizabeth Nicholl to her fiancé John O'Neill, from the Flavin home,
13 December 1950

C/o Cousin Paddy Flavin,
Glenagragra,
Athena,
Co. Limerick.
Eire

13th December 1950

Dear John,

Time has flown since I last wrote to you, in fact you'd be surprised what a busy life this life of leisure is. The last few days we were in Scotland there were about 6" snow on the ground. There had been hard frosts too & there was an inch of ice on the road. It was pretty though, fun too. I had my first experience of sliding down the side of a hill through the snow on a sledge over the moor with 10 yr old Peter. Joseph was a golf "fiend" & we'd hoped to take a lesson from him but the snow prevented it.

Our crossing from Glasgow to Dublin was excellent. It was just getting dark as we left & we saw the lights of the ships as we went up the Clyde.

We arrived at our destination in Clontarf

To: Mr. John O'Neill, 5 Ainslee Place, Dunedin, N.E. 1, New Zealand.

Postmark: Baile Atha Cliath [Dublin], 13 [December 19]50

c/o Cousin Paddy Flavin, Glenagra, Athea, Co. Limerick, Eire

13th December 1950

Dear John,

Time has flown since I last wrote to you, in fact you'd be surprised what a busy life this life of leisure is. The last few days we were in Scotland there were about 6" snow on the ground. There had been hard frosts too & there was an inch of ice on the road. It was pretty though, fun too. I had my first experience of sliding down the side of a hill through the snow on a sledge over the moor with 10 yr old Peter. Joseph was a golf "fiend" & we'd hoped to take a lesson from him but the snow prevented it.

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13 Dec 1950

before 10 on Wed morning & "set to" on the
 mail there forms. and again I have to thank
 you for your letter awaiting me. Two letters
 which rather surprised me were ① from Una
 informing me she was going to Auckland on 18th
 Jan. & had booked passages for us both on the
 plane from Auckland to Dunedin on 27th Jan.,
 & accommodation in Auckland on 26th. It cost
 me 7/- to send her a telegram just to say "No"
 as we won't have arrived at Auckland on 27th.
 I will go. I can't imagine what further arrangement
 she will make for me. She's a great kid, our Una.
 ② from above named Cousin Paddy (i.e. Nanna's
 first cousin) asking us to visit him, informing
 me I had crowds of relatives over here. And
 so our stay in Dublin was brief, as we left
 again on Sat morn. Mr. & Mrs. Morrissey, their 10
 yr. old son, bolm, and the boarder, Mr Dillon
 were the occupants of 1 Castle Rd., & they
 were exceptionally nice people. (My perfectly
 good pen has let me down badly of late - strange
 to say Mary's has too, so they may be getting
 tired. I shall proceed with a Flavin pen).
 Though we had only 3 days in Dublin

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Though we had only 3 days in Dublin

3

13 Dec 1950

we were satisfied & felt we knew the city quite well. We visited Mrs O'Halloran (sister of Bridie - ex. Mater, Wn) whose husband is a cop & sons are Lenton & Aidan - note the Irish names. That evening we were in a cafe & had decided to go to a picture we'd picked out in the paper. We casually asked a girl sitting opposite where this theatre was. She was so surprised to see our N.Z. badges and to realize we really were such seemingly rare specimens as New Zealanders, that she insisted we be her guests at the Abbey Theatre; one of Dublin's attractions. Professor Timi was the play showing & we enjoyed it immensely. Beforehand our friend Helen, showed us some points of interest round the city & took us to St. Patrick's pro. cathedral. This girl knows her Irish history to the letter & has "Ireland" very much at heart. It's really amazing; we never know what we're going to do next, e.g., next day while on a bus we passed Mater Hospital, so left the bus at the next stop, and actually had the nerve to ask to have a quick look round. The chapel is a fine one, and the hospital a 400 bed one. Still I consider, out this is a rain drop from the chimney!! or call it a bit of fire if you like!

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*This is a rain drop from the chimney!! or call it a bit of Eire if you like!

(4)

13 Dec 1950

N.3. Mater miser - though the Dublin sisters don't realize they exist at all. One, however, has a sister at Mater in Auckland. That evening we went to the Theatre Royal, where a stage show is shown before the picture. I enjoyed the former immensely but merely sat out the picture for Mary's benefit.

Friday was a holy day of obligation & Mr Dillon took us to Mass by car to St. Patrick's - it was packed to capacity & standing room at the sides-back was all taken up too. Being a holiday the whole city & country seemed to have accumulated in O'Connell St. & there were endless queues waiting for buses about 5-6pm - greater crowds than we'd seen anywhere in England. We took up positions in the 3rd row queue for Ballsbridge where we visited the Lockharts, Jess's uncle's home, St. Rita's. It's one of Dublin's "luxury" homes, & Mary & I had remarked that they looked rather smashing as we passed in a bus that afternoon, not knowing we would be visiting one so soon, or at all for that matter. Inside the front hall is a large statue of St. Rita, but in every room in the house is a statue of this saint.

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³⁰ Jess Lockhart of Christchurch had married Elizabeth's brother Jack Nicholl in April 1948.

13 Dec 1950

In almost every room too is an electric fire place. Jean's room is magnificent, something previously seen by me at least only in magazines, & then much above the usual standard. Her car is a 1950-52 Hudson. During the war Jean entertained the troops, also aboard American ships - plays the bag pipes, dances etc. The whole place just reeked of L.S.D. even to the immense box of chocolates hoarded round. Two sons are married but Pat has a bakery factory in Dublin, & of course he has a car too. He was busy at work but his mother phoned him to come home to meet us - a very nice chap too. The remainder of the family have the Chicken Inn Restaurant in Dublin. So far I've only mentioned the "material value" of the Lockhart family & I've made a poor attempt of it too, but what I'm really aiming at is the great contrast between Dublin's luxury homes and the primitive thatched cottages of Co. Limerick. Before doing so though I must remark on the kindness shown us by the Lockharts. They played us a record on the radiogram - singing

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13 Dec 1950

by a friend of theirs - they hope to get another record made to send back to Jess's father with me. Of course I'm not mentioning Jess's rich relations to anyone in N.Z., & am merely telling you as a point of interest. Both Jean & Mr. Dillon of 1 Castle Rd. would have taken us for drives over the weekend but we had decided to leave the city, and so set off at 10^{am} by train, arriving at Limerick 1.30pm. We spent the afternoon in that town, & though it's quite big I was amazed at the absence of traffic - I know now though it's because people just don't possess cars, at least the majority of them. We left Limerick by bus at 6.15, arriving at Glin at 8pm. There we were met by Mr. & Mrs. Flavin and Mick and came the remaining 7 miles by car. It seems this car belongs to a neighbour but is at our disposal while we relatives from N.Z. are here - & I should say from Australia for everyone in Ireland thinks N.Z. & Aussie one & the same place. Needless to say I've been kept busy enlightening these people & endeavouring to stress there is a vast difference.

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13 Dec 1950

It's three miles to Achea & going to Mass (by car) on Sun. we passed a stream of horse & cart, donkey & cart, bicycles and pedestrians along the road. It seemed unbelievable, but that is only one point of contrast between Dublin's luxury homes and country life. We are now staying in the house in which my grandmother lived and which she helped to build and am even sleeping in her bed. At present I'm sitting over a glowing turf fire & it's over this fire all the cooking is done. - however I'm not here for cooking purposes!!

Pat Mick & John are at home here, while Jim & Joan are working about 7 miles away - still Joan was here the night we arrived & is here today - a mere 7 miles bike ride here & back is nothing to these people. Mick & Jim are Mary's & my ages respectively & all are fairly quiet but just the nicest kids. We'd imagined them to be about 16-18 till their mother told us their ages. Jim John & Paddy the father, play the violin, and dancing is most popular. We've had a few sets (but

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13 Dec 1950

here in the house while Sunday night we went to a dance - it went till 1.30am. Again as we drove home we passed others biking. The Irish lads were very bright & friendly, & though we didn't tell a soul it seemed to have gone round the hall like wildfire that we were from N.Z. Some were a bit difficult to understand - we visited nearby cousins on Monday & fair go - they couldn't understand a word we said, nor could we imagine what they were trying to say either! John was with us and acted as interpreter!!

We walked 3 miles yesterday to visit another family of relatives, but had no difficulty in language. Two members of this family are in Liverpool, one a priest & they'd like us to meet them - so would we, but we have arranged to return to London via Holyhead. Pat brought us home by horse & cart - he's about 30 & a typical Irish Pat, very entertaining.

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³¹ Father Michael Culhane (1920–2010), later Canon Culhane; and his parents Michael Culhane (1872–1955) and Mary "Moll" O'Connor (1881–1945). Mary was a second cousin of Paddy Flavin, and Paddy's unmarried sister Katie Flavin was their live-in housekeeper. The family lived in the townland of Turraree.

9.

13 Dec 1950

It would be impossible to explain just how far behind our country theirs is - and in any case that would not be tactful. The farms here are very small, average 20 acres, and it is usual for the farmers to obtain casual labours during the winter - when they can get it. I'd give anything to have a few hundred to spare (him!) for fare for some of these Irish cousins ^{to come} out to N.Z.

However there's something about these happy-go-lucky Irish. This evening there was a young crowd in - one played the violin & we had a few sets. They are real screams & Mick Long in particular provided first class entertainment. They heard Mr. Peter Trane had died in N.Z. ^{by car or by phone} & are planning to go over for the funeral. He produced an old hat & decided bedpans in N.Z. as a tramp.

Enough about here for now - it isn't the sort of place one can put down on paper, which reminds me - I should imagine the writer of the "Desire" article could be an ex-public servant of Wgton who sat with another lady, opposite Mary & I at meals in Rome &

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³² Peter Fraser, Prime Minister of New Zealand 1940–49, died on 12 December 1950.

10.

13 Dec 1950

we were amused by "What did you think of it today, girls? Wasn't it soul-stirring?" till "soulstirring" became a byword for us, & we always knew what was coming.

I notice by your last letter re your long days work that my remarks in my last letter were a bit previous re early rising, so I take it all back. However by the time you get this you'll be on holiday - hope you have good weather. It's a bit Irish over here at present!!

This may not arrive in time for Xmas but my intentions were good. I'm sorry it's so poorly written too, but fair go - pen trouble and writing amid conversation of the kitchen - you see I can't write in bed as we have only candle light!!

Best wishes for now John and very best wishes for a happy & holy Christmas and a smashing New Year.
Yours with love
From Elizabeth.

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Cheerio for now John and very best wishes for a happy & holy Christmas and a smashing New Year.

Yours with love

From Elizabeth

9. Paddy Flavin to Catherine Nicholl, Kingston Crossing, Southland, New Zealand, 17 December 1950

Idenagragra Attea
17. 12. 1950

Dear Mrs Nicholl,

It is with the greatest of pleasure I sit down to write you a few lines hoping they finds you, your husband & Family in the best of health, no doubt you will be surprised to get a letter from a person whom you never have seen or known or perhaps never heard much about, Well I must explain myself to you, I am a brother of Katie Flavin of Lurrara Up, Attea Co Limerick, I think she used to write to you some time ago & you to her, but I have lost track those letters for years, I live in the home, where your Dear Mother ^{was} born, & I am delighted to have to say that your Daughter Elizabeth has come to see the old home of her Grandmother, she is at present with us here, she & her Companion, Mary Walsh, came to us on the 9th of December & they are leaving us on 18th, They are very jolly Girls & I am glad to say that they came to a jolly crowd of young boys & girls in this district,

Glenagra, Athea

17.12.1950

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17 Dec 1950

I we would like if they could stay longer,
 I have explained to Elizabeth, about all her relations
 but she could not see half them, as time did not
 allow, however we took her to James O'Connor & Family
 he is your first Cousin, also to Culhane, another
 first ^{Cousin} was married there, she is dead, they visited
 Lynchs of Glasha, & Mrs P. Sheahan of Newtownsunder
 & a few more, so that is all I have to say to you
 at present, wishing to hear from you when the
 girls arrive back & sooner if you have the
 opportunity, so I will finish up by wishing you
 & yours a happy & prosperous New Year &
 the best of good luck, from your Cousin,

Patrick Flavin
 Glonagragra
 Athea
 Co Limerick
 Eire

I forgot to mention
 that they also have seen
 Katie & Minnie. Flavin
 Minnie Mo is married ⁱⁿ ~~the~~
 the old home of ~~Patrick~~ Katie
 is housekeeping for Culhane
 who was married to Minnie Connors
 your first Cousin

& we would like if they could stay longer, I have explained to Elizabeth about all her relations but she could not see half them , as time did not allow, however we took her to James O'Connor & Family, he is your first Cousin, also to Culhanes, another first cousin was married there, she is dead, they visited Lynchs of Glasha, & Mrs P. Sheahan of Newtownsandes & a few more, so that is all I have to say to you at present. Wishing to hear from you when the Girls arrive back & sooner if you have the opportunity, so I will finish up by wishing you & yours a happy & prosperous New Year & the best of good luck, from your Cousin, Patrick Flavin, Glenagra, Athea, Co Limerick, Eire.

I forgot to mention that they also have seen Katie & Minnie Flavin. Minnie is married in the old home & Katie is housekeeping for Culhane who was married to Minnie Connors your first Cousin.



Figure 5 Michael Culhane (1872–1955) and sons and grandson, and housekeeper Katie Flavin (1895–1974), Turraree, Limerick, December 1950



Figure 6 Katy Barrett (of Turraree, soon to be a nun in Scotland) and Mick Griffin (of Glenagra) en route to Mass in Athea, Limerick December 1950



Figure 7 Ita Kelly née O'Connor (1911–1977) with James (b. 1944) and David (b. 1946), Ballyguilteneane, Limerick, December 1950



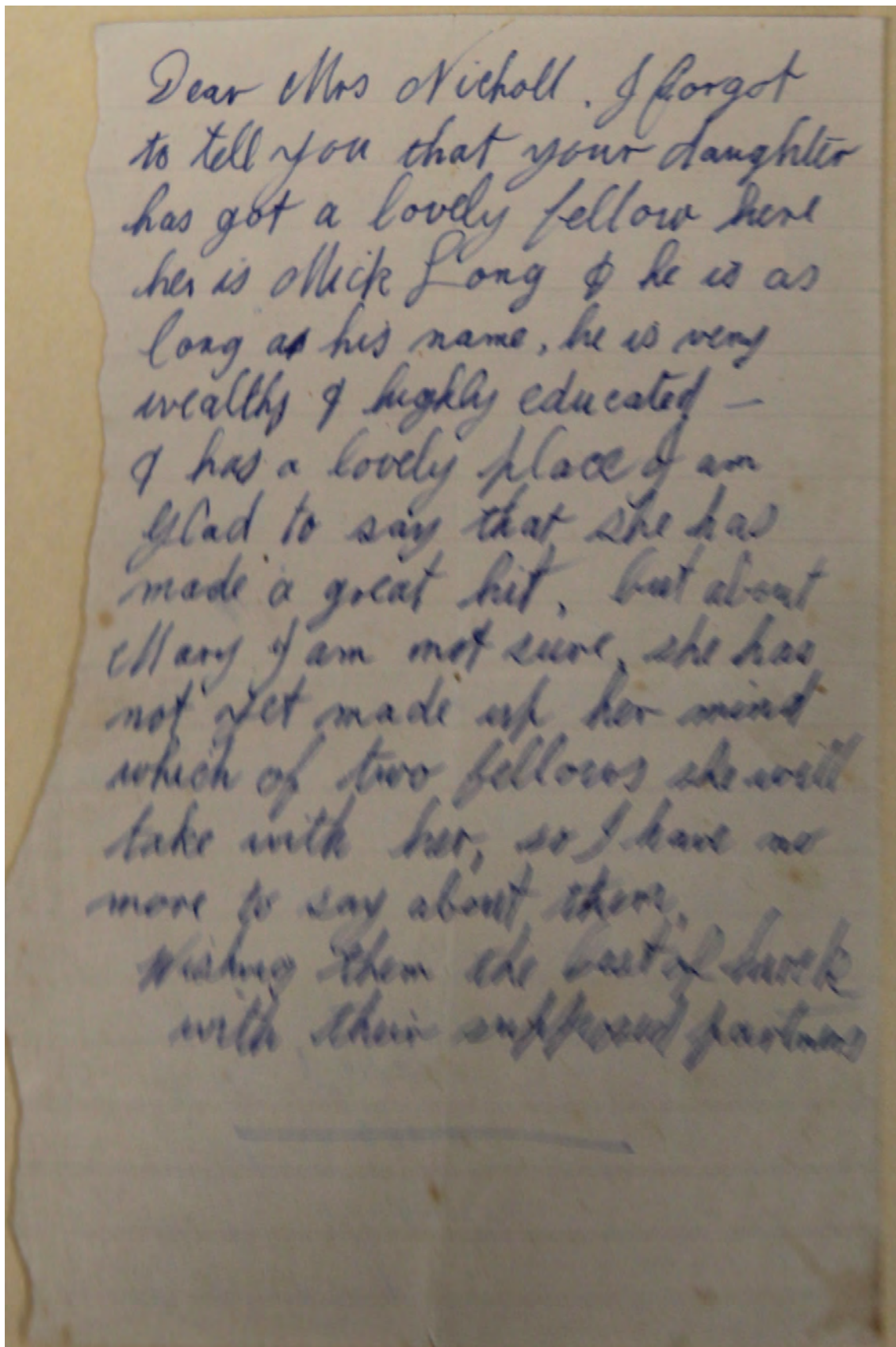
Figure 8 **Mick Long of Glenagra in Athea, Limerick, December 1950**



Figure 9 "A picnic in Eire." "This was taken at home three years ago."

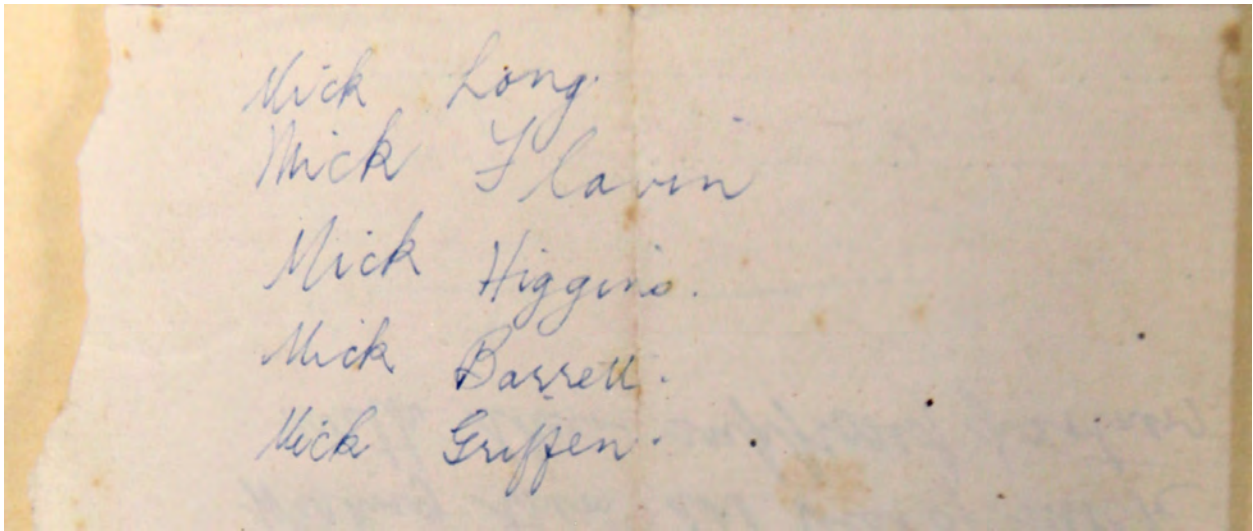
Could this be the O'Connor siblings and in-laws, of which Phine Connolly was one? See also Letter 173.

10. Paddy Flavin to Catherine Nicholl, Kingston Crossing, Southland, New Zealand, 1950



Dear Mrs Nicholl. I forgot
to tell you that your daughter
has got a lovely fellow here
her is Mick Long & he is as
long as his name, he is very
wealthy & highly educated -
& has a lovely place & am
glad to say that she has
made a great hit, but about
Mary I am not sure, she has
not yet made up her mind
which of two fellows she will
take with her, so I have no
more to say about them.
Wishing them the best of luck
with their supposed partners

Dear Mrs Nicholl, I forgot to tell you that your daughter has got a lovely fellow here, he is Mick Long & he is as long as his name, he is very wealthy & highly educated, & has a lovely place. I am glad to say that she has made a great hit, but about Mary I am not sure, she has not yet made up her mind which of two fellows she will take with her, so I have no more to say about them, wishing them the best of luck with their supposed partners.



Annotation on rear by Elizabeth Nicholl:

Mick Long, Mick Flavin, Mick Higgins, Mick Barrett, Mick Griffin.

11. Elizabeth Nicholl to her mother Catherine, 19 December 1950

Brunswick Square
London.
19th Dec. 1950.

Dear Mum,
Just a note in answer
to your letter received today
on our arrival back from Eire.
We had a great time there,
there were dances at the house
any night there was none at
the hall, & the young crowd are
very entertaining.

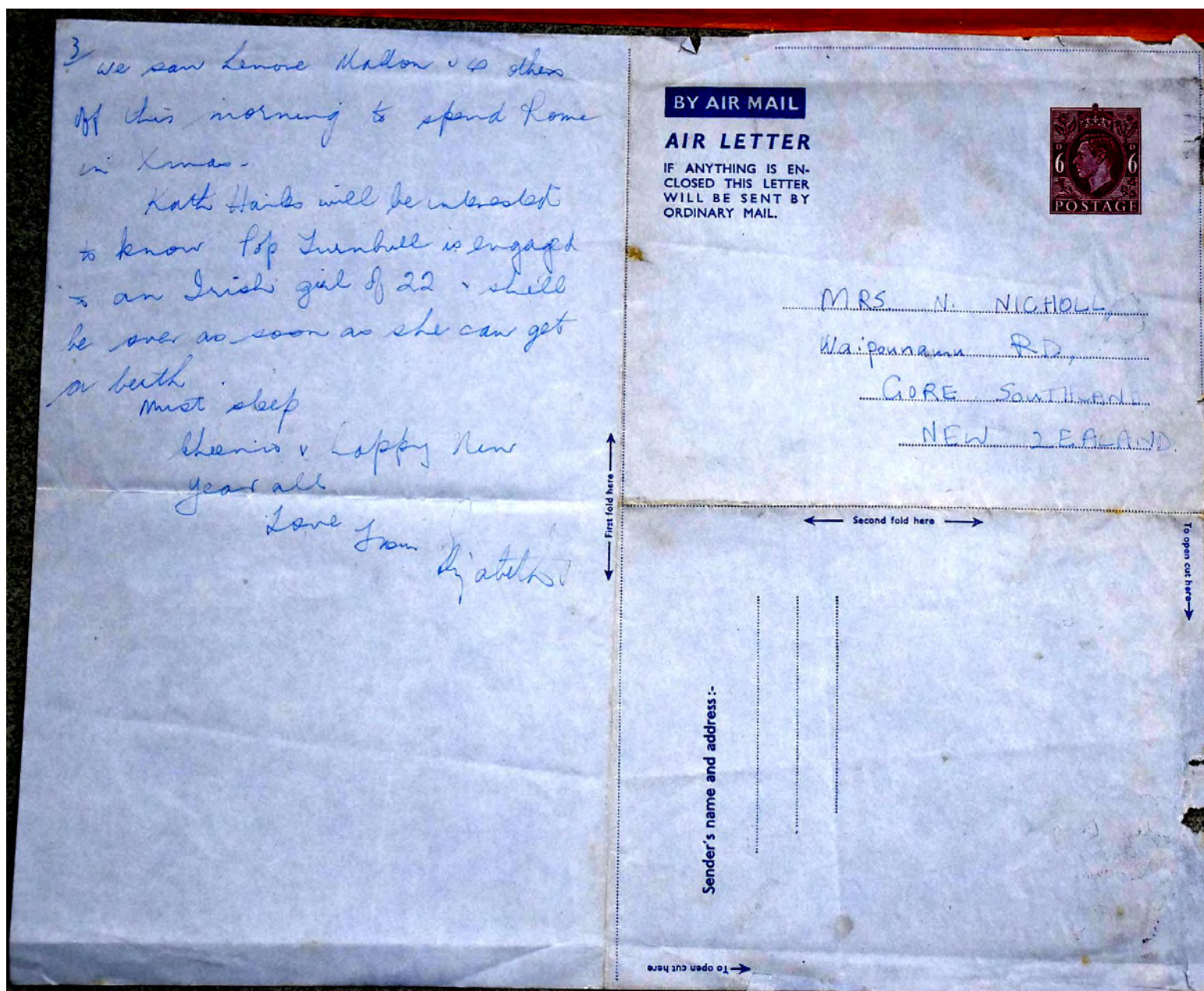
Everyone in the district
seems to remember Ike - a nice
looking young man. We met
a lot of relations come on
Grandmothers - some on Grandfather's
side. A granddaughter of Jim O'Connor
(cousin of Johnnie) is very like Jennifer.
There are also Lynches (Geo)

We visited not far from Paddy's.
Kate Flavin is a good sort & is
housekeeping for a relative & his 2
sons. She'll probably be writing
anyway as she's lost your address.

A railway strike started in Eire
yesterday, so Mary & I were on the
train nearly all day - it being slow we
left Limerick 3 hrs. earlier but got to
Dublin the same time as scheduled. We
had a good crossing, spent the night
on the train - we left Flavin's about
4 to 9 yesterday & got here about 8 am.
today so are very tired.

Was speaking to an ex-Dunedin nurse
on the phone tonight - may see her before we
leave on Thurs.

I meant to mention before I got Dr.
Marlow's book alright but didn't have
it when you first wrote.



12. Elizabeth Nicholl to her fiancé John O'Neill, 21 December 1950

"Southdown"
 Tilbury Docks.
 London, 21/12/50

Dear John, I have just had a laugh at the
 Shiremag. I've headed this - as I did on this morning
 when I jumped on a tube train & the doors shut before I could
 get on - she went sailing back to the Strand, the station
 just met. Left. However, I headed & she arrived back in no
 time as she discovered her mistake & got the next train
 back. We arrived on board about 12.30 pm but did not sail till
 1.15. It was on 3 North Cabins. Miss Duhig & the shared lounge cabin
 on the outward voyage - though I should say she's a good, not an
 unusual character.

A few more remarks about our stay in Eire. Most days we
 visited relatives round about, and though our first
 entry into an Irish cottage was a rather surprise we
 were feeling more at home by the time we left.
 That of the cottage are said the same, that is, of course, the floor
 the kitchen, no electricity (a few battery radios) a bucket of
 water at the back door from the nearby stream. They grow milk
 on the roof under a large chimney, while all houses have a small oil
 lamp in under the picture of the Sacred Heart, and a holy water
 font at the door. In Ireland one misses one's self each time, we
 leave the house. Mary of the elder women still wear
 a black up a & down instead of a coat. Almost every
 house we visited told us of members of the family who
 had emigrated to America & England. It came a great
 pity into my heart, how small little land and there so little employment
 in Ireland.

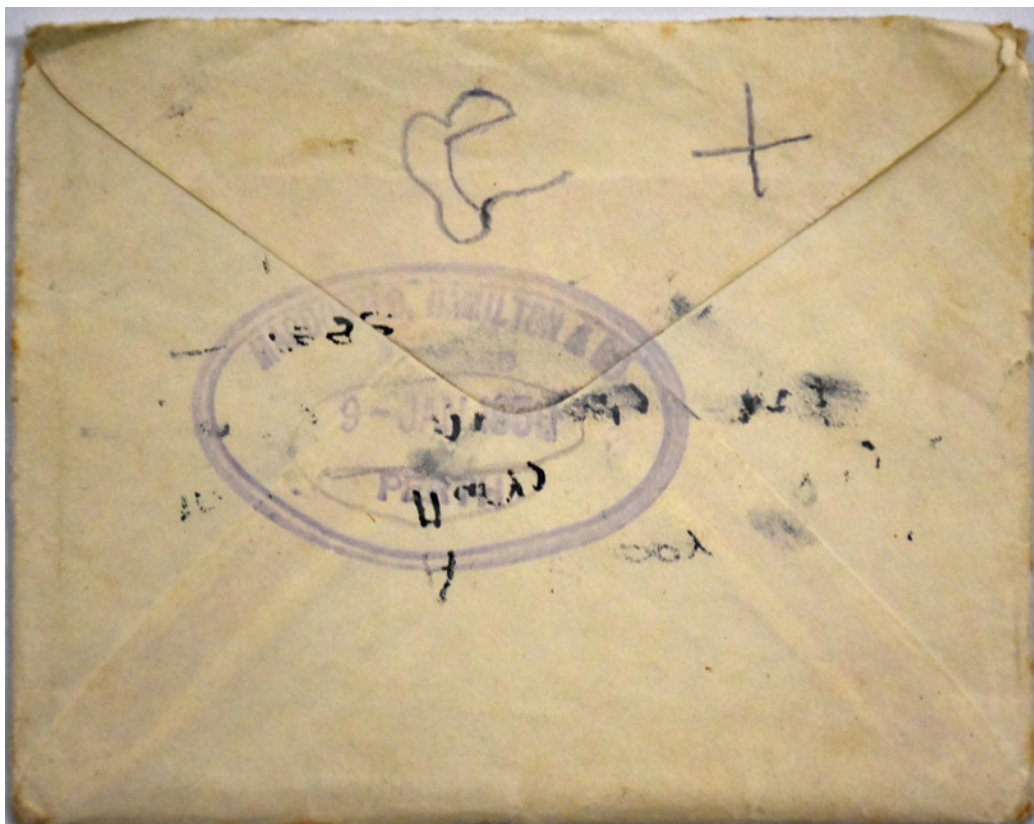
We expected a quiet time with our country relatives but
 for 30 days parties. We arrived late last night, next night
 there was a dance at a nearby hall till 1.30 am & from then on
 apart from 2 nights when there were dances at the hall - all the
 boys & girls from round about gathered at Flavin every
 night and danced till about midnight - 3 am. Once though
 they were the most entertaining crowd one could wish
 to meet. They need to play the violin or accordion for
 us, saying then they'd have turn about giving
 us a song - all could sing & dance too, they were.

I was on the Irish rail & had one set after another
 of all the places were been to (except Rome etc. of course) and
 beyond our stay in Co. Limerick last, for though the people
 are poor, they're happy. After this, care free land, the deep
 we stay in London with its grey skies & endless bus queues was
 enough for us.

We left Tilbury on about 9 am. on Mon by car to Epsom, &
 from there by bus to Limerick. We expected to have 4
 hours there before our train left for Dublin & had
 hoped to make good use of this time & especially to send a
 post parcel to people we'd stayed with in Limerick & England.
 However the Irish banking strike commenced that day
 & we had to leave on a train 3 hrs. earlier - realising
 it didn't arrive in Dublin any earlier than the
 one we planned to travel on, i.e. 6.30 pm. On arrival
 in that city we found the station bright with many
 Christmas trees with bright lights - both men
 were wandering round with placards saying 'Strike
 on here etc. We'd come to a dead end as the usual boat
 train from King's Bridge Station to the port wasn't running.
 The only alternative was a taxi - a mere 12 mile
 jaunt!! The crossing was grand - it was an exceptional
 nice boat & actually we slept a good part of it in the
 lounge like many others; we arrived at Holyhead
 about midnight. A few words with the customs
 officials etc. & we were soon on the train London
 bound. We arrived at our destination in London
 about 8 am. & soon met other Flavins who informed us
 those who were leaving for home were leaving their
 hotel before 9. After breakfast we hurried round to
 their hotel to find they'd already left. We took the
 underground & after a few changes of train arrived
 at Victoria Station in time - much to our



13. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth Nicholl, 29 December 1950



29. 12. 1950

My Dear Cousin Elizabeth,

A few lines, just to thank you for your kind & lovely letter which I received on + Mas eve, thanks also for the photos, they came out all right. & all my thanks for the letter & its contents, which you handed to me at Glin, as we were about to separate, I must say you were too good in that line, for indeed I did not expect any thing like that from you, I did not think we did much for you or your Companion, we did our best, we know we are a bit behind the times, but I hope you were pleased with our best, I suppose you missed the young boys & girls of Glinagragua for a few ~~ten~~ nights, if you did not, they missed you & Mary, we do be gambling at night, but no dance since you left, Well we are all well since, & all the relations you visited were asking for you both, I am glad to tell you that every where you went, they said you were very nice & friendly girls & much like the people of our own isle, every one praised you both

2.

Well Elizabeth. I must tell you about the Wren boys, they went on the wren as we call it, the Pioneer crowd amounted to 20 boys, lovely dressed with banners & sashes & so on, they travelled all St Stevens day through country & town & were back at 8 o'clock P.M., they collected £o. 15. they had 4 Fiddles & 2 drums & flute, they were a lovely little crowd, you knew nearly all of them, they used be here every night with ye, then the other crowd had only 10 boys, & they did in fact better, they gathered £21, this was chicks crowd & a few of the elder boys. they took the car with them & travelled at lot, they will have two wren dances or parties as we call, & both crowds will be at both dances that is how they manage, they will have everything such as Stout; minerals, wine, bread jam butter ham. tea & sugar & so on, dancing & drinking 8 P.M. to 4 A.M., this is as good as I can explain it, we regretted that time did not permit you to remain until after the holidays, for I am sure you would be delighted to see these wren boys, as you could not explain rightly, you should see them

3
 Now I see by your letter that ike is back.
 I forgot to tell you to tell Jke to write to me,
 I spent a few weeks with him one time over 30
 years ago. as I have no more to say now I will
 finish. I am posting this about the new year, so
 as it will be before you with Gods help. hoping
 you are enjoying you voyage back home. a
 am glad you were not caught by the railway strike
 which is on yet, so bye bye from you old Cousin
 Paddy Flavin, Molly is putting on a bit of a note
 too to you. I forgot to tell you, that the boys are
 getting ~~their~~ their photos & I will send them to you
 when you are back home. Mary Long will take
 them when we get a fine day. The wren boys I mean,
 I will get them done up & send them to you, it may
 be a couple of months this would happen. write a
 line when you arrive, we have plenty frost here now
 so Good bye & Good luck FROM. PADDY

to Elizabeth &
 Mary

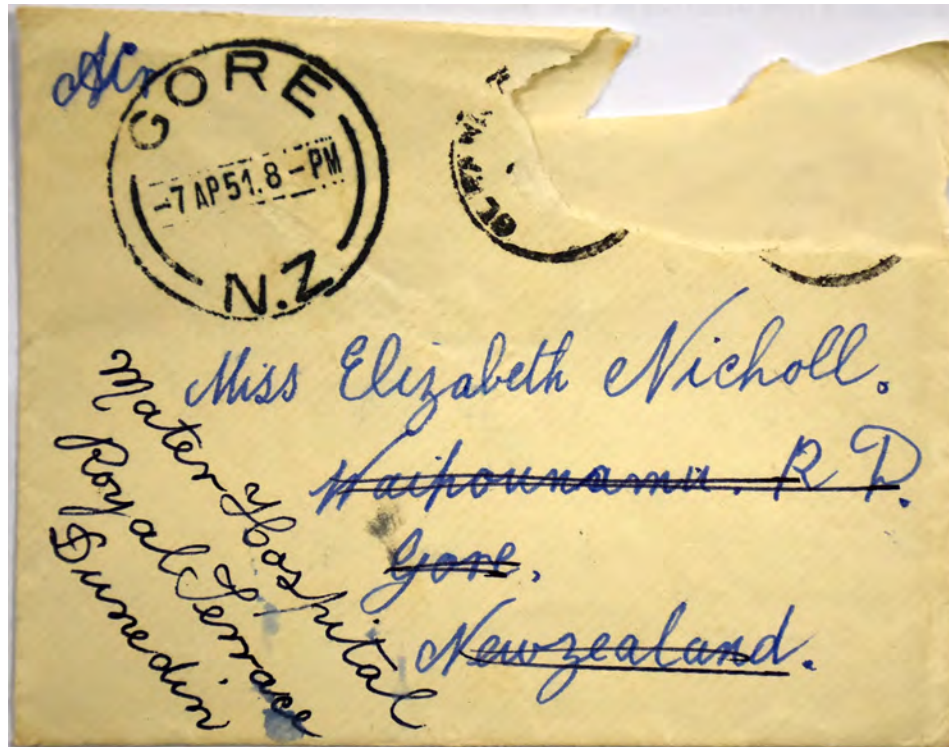
14. Molly Flavin to Elizabeth Nicholl, 29 December 1950

Glenagry
Athena.
29-12-50.

My dear Cousin Elizabeth,

just a few
lines to let you know we received your
lovely letter, & Photos on Christmas Eve.
The Photos came out lovely. Well Cousin
we missed yourself & Mary very much,
& we miss you still, & all the lads
miss ye, & when they were going out
in the Wren they were saying if
Elizabeth & Mary were here now they
would enjoy the Wren. I havent much
news Paddy told you everything, we will
get the Wren boys to take their Photos
& we will send them to you. I hope ye
have a nice voyage & that the weather is
fine, we have frost at present. I will finish
now. All the best to you & Mary.
From Mrs Molly Flavin & family.
We will be expecting a few lines when ye land
P. S.

15. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth Nicholl, 22 March 1951



21

Well now, all the relations here are good, & like you see them. Hanne is where she was last year & we would badly want her as Molly is not too strong & she has a lot little work to do but we do all we can for her. I had a letter from your Mother & I did not write to her yet. I also we had a letter from Mary your Companion, she was speaking to M^cElligot & un. M^cElligot was very thankful to you for going to see this & un. I was speaking to him since now I must finish this time hoping this finds you as gay as you were when we were together, so good luck & a prosperous year to you & all your people
From Paddy Flavin

From Patrick Flavin, Glenagragua
Wife, & Family / Attea, Co Limerick
22.3.1950

Dear Cousin Elizabeth,
It is about time for me to answer your very welcome letter which I received about 2 weeks ago, & for which I was anxiously awaiting for, delighted to hear you had such a grand voyage so fine & sunny, & that you arrived home safe, Indeed I must tell you that we have different weather here since you left, as a matter of fact it is nothing better than what you see it. during your short stay here, only that the days are getting longer.

2

With a couple of days it shows a slight improvement but still cold, I would have written sooner but I was laid up with cold & so was Molly any one of the boys did not get any cold except a slight one, but ^{we} got it bad enough, but Thank God we are nearly all right now, there did a flu break out all over the Island, but it was a mild nature. yet a ~~terrible~~ terrible lot of old people died from it, Well about the snaps. it is hard to get them together to take them but soon please God, if we only got 6 or 7 of them, just to show

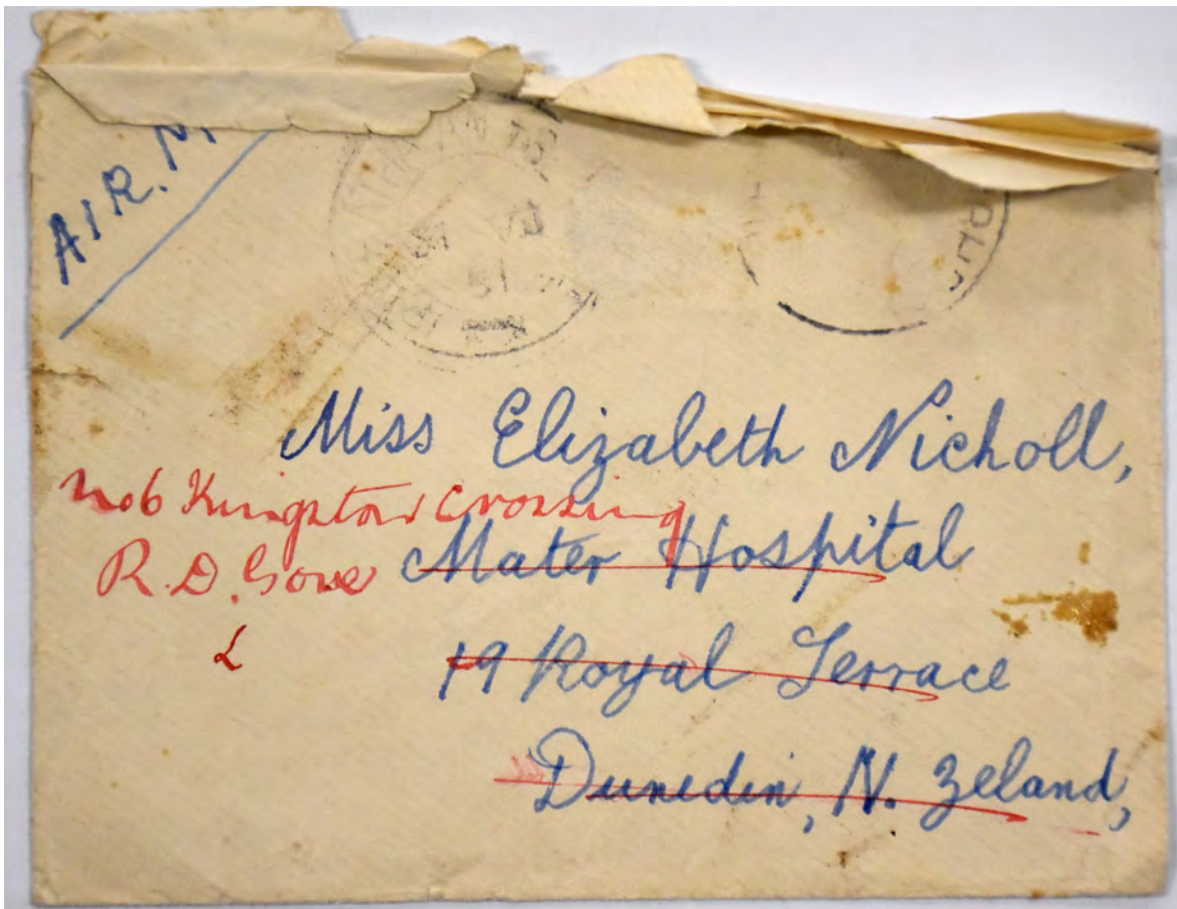
3

you the way they dress up. Well Elizabeth, all the young boys & girls that you knew in Glenagragua had a lovely time during the 7 week of Lent they carried on a concert & play in different towns & villages all round, they made over £100 & all this will be spent in a few outings during the summer, those who took part in it were Mick, Jer. & Mary Long, Mick & Jim Flavin, Mick & Kate Barrett, Willie & Nora Higgins, Paddy Galey, & Dan Enright that is the lot they were very good, mind you

16. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth Nicholl, 27 July 1951

Glenagragua Cthca
27. 7. 51
My Dear Cousin Elizabeth,
A few lines in answer to
your most welcome letter which
I received a few weeks ago,
sorry for been so slow in
answering you. But this is our
busy period of the year, so
far as fuel & hay saving is
concerned, Well Cousin I am
glad that all your people are
well. as we are also at present,
I. G., I must slip on to the
end of your letter by saying
Congratulations to you on
your coming marriage. if the
buds you send

My Dear Cousin Elizabeth, A few lines in answer to your most welcome letter which I received a few weeks ago, sorry for being so slow in answering you, but this is our busy period of the year, so far as fuel & hay saving is concerned, well cousin I am glad that all your people are well as we are also at present, T.G., I must slip on to the end of your letter by saying Congratulations to you on your coming Marriage, if this finds you single



2

& the same if you are
 Married & many happy ^{years} of
 success & happiness to you &
 your Dear Husband J. O'Neill,
 I am very glad that you have
 the courage of sleeping with
 a man, as I thought when you
 were here with us that you
 were a very shy girl, however
 you fulfilled the promises of
 your engagement to your
 Dear fellow, all the young
 boys here & girls too, wish
 you a long & happy life
 in Marriage & all the other
 thing that follow Marriage
 so much for that

& the same if you are Married & Many happy years of success & happiness to you & your Dear husband J.O'Neill, I am very glad that you have the courage of sleeping with a man, as I thought when you were here with us that you were a very shy girl, however you fulfilled the promises of your engagement to your dear fellow, all the young boys here & girls too, wish you a long & happy life in Marriage & all the other thing that follow Marriage so much for that

3

Now ~~Dear~~ Cousin, a lot of the
 boys & girls here are in England
 but our boys are at home
 now. John & Jim is working
 in the fuel production scheme
 in the bogs. You remember
 where they are, across the road,
 Mick has a little lorry
 & Pat & I at home with me,
 so we have enough to do, as
 I am not so well since you
 see me. However I work away
 lightly & so help to carry on,
 all the lings are at home &
 Mick Barrett is at home.
 Kate Barrett is in Glasgow
 at school & intends to be a nun

Now Dear Cousin, a lot of the boys & girls here are in England but our boys are at home now, John & Jim is working in the fuel production scheme in the bogs, you remember where the are, across the road, Mick has a little lorry & Patjoe at home with me, so we have enough to do, as I am not so well since you see me, however I work away lightly & so help to carry on all the longs are at home & Mick Barrett is at home, Kate Barrett is in Glasgow at school & intends to be a Nun

4

Willie Higgins is in England
 Nora at home intends going to
 England for the winter, our
 John is going too to England.
 Well Cousin I suppose your
 eMan John O'Neill is Irish
 do I understand that he has
 a brother in Co Kilkenny in
 Eire, about the ^{time} ~~of~~ our
 grandmother left here about 40
 years ago, there did a family of
 the O'Nills leave here the same
 time. I remember hearing Isaac
 tell my Father when he was
 here with us, that a son of
 that O'Neill was married near
 your people, & had a family of

Willie Higgins is in England Nora at home intends going over to England for the winter, our John is going too to England, Well cousin. I suppose your Man John O'Neill is Irish do I understand that he has a brother in Co Kilkenny in Eire, about the time our Grandmother left about 70 year ago, there did a family of the O'Nills leave here the same time, I remember hearing Issac tell my father when he was here with us, that a son of that O'Nill was married near your people, & had a family of 9

27 July 1951

3
 if he is any member of this
 family, you have a long way
 to go Elizabeth, you might
 drop a line again before
 the year ends & when your
 honeymoon is well over,
 & let me know if he is any
 of them offshoots, Now all
 the friends here are well,
 but Cousin Ellie Connor,
 a Mrs Lucy, she buried her
 husband a month ago,
 your mother used to write
 to her, so she will know,
 at present we have
 Father Michael Culkane at
 home on holidays, he was here
 last night

If he is any member of this family, you have a long way to go Elizabeth, you might drop a line again before the year ends & when your honeyMoon is well over, & let me know if he is any of them O'Neills, now all the friends here are well, but cousin Ellie O'Connor, a Mrs Lucy, she buried her husband a month ago, your mother used to write to her, so she will know, at present we have Father Michael Culhane at home on holidays, he was here last night

6
a gay young priest. too bad
you did not see him,
Congratulations are sent to
you from the following,
the Long Family, Barretts,
M & Ewys, Higgins, Griffin
Lynchs, Connors, Kellys
Culhans, & last the Flavin
Family, so good luck to
you & your husband
From your
poor old Cousin & friend
Paddy Flavin
I had a letter from Issac

A gay young priest. Too bad you did not see him, Congratulations are sent to you from the following, the Long family, Barretts, McEvoy's, Higgins, Griffin, Lynchs, O'Connors, Kellys Culhanes & last the Flavin family, so good luck to you & your husband From your poor old cousin & friend Paddy Flavin

I had a letter from Issac

17. Mollie Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 29 July 1951

29-7-51.
Glenagrapra.
Athea.
^{Cousin}
Dear Elizabeth
A few lines
hoping it will find you in the
best of health. & we were
delighted to hear you are
getting married & I wish you
the best of Luck & happiness.
Father Michael Culhane
was here yesterday evening
& he said he had a card from
you at Christmas he was
sorry he didn't see you &
Mary. Well Cousin Elizabeth
I haven't much to say. Paddy

Dear Cousin Elizabeth A few lines hoping it will find you in the best of health. & we were delighted to hear you are getting married & I wish you the best of luck & happiness. Father Michael Culhane was here yesterday evening & he said he had a card from you at Christmas he was sorry he didn't see you & Mary. Well cousin Elizabeth I haven't much to say.
Paddy

has you told everything.
Well now I will finish
wishing you & your man
the best of Luck +
Happiness

I remain
Your loving Cousin +
Friend. Good Luck.
Mrs Hollie Flavin.

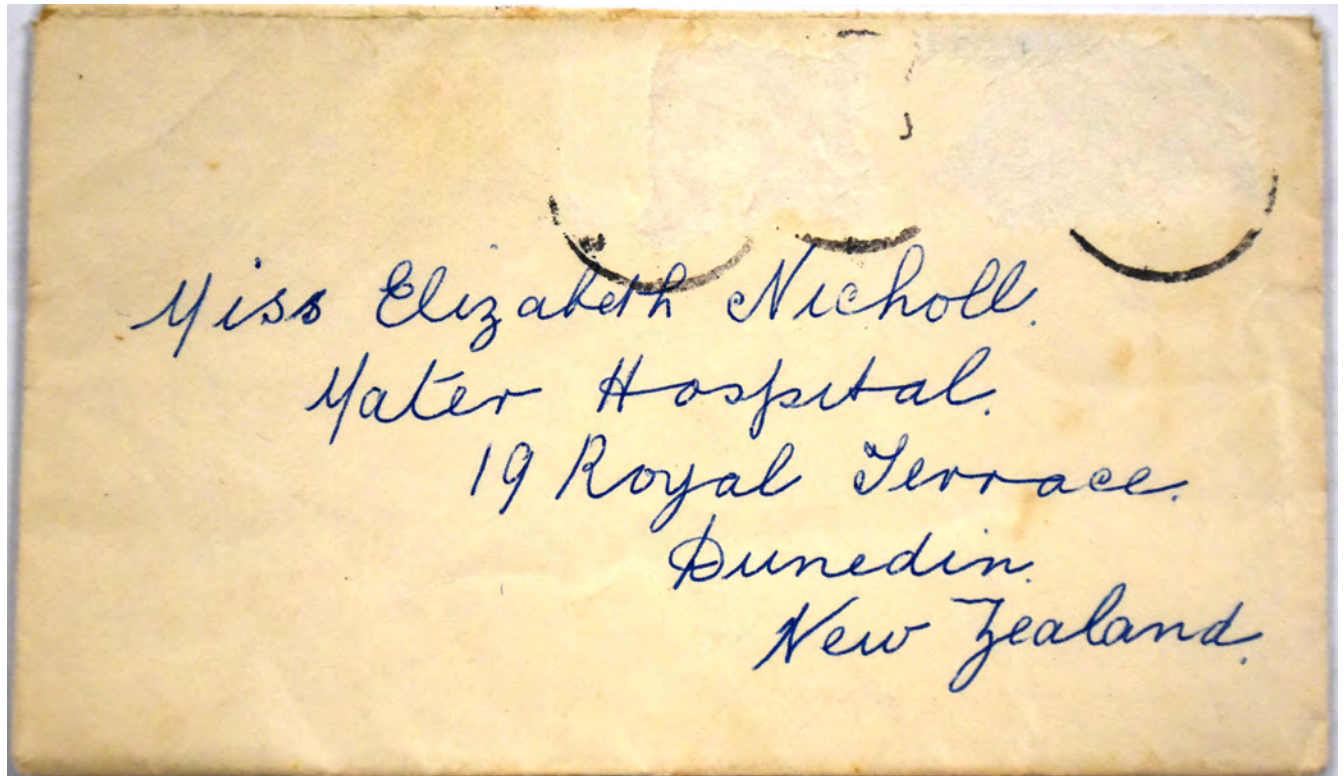
Lynches Long family
Barrets
McEvoy Kelly
Higgins Bulhane
Liggins
O'Connor
Paddy Flavin

Has told you everything. Well now I will finish wishing you + your man the best of Luck & Happiness I remain your loving cousin + Friend. Good Luck. Mrs Mollie Flavin.

(Elizabeth O'Neill notes:)

Lynchs, Barretts, McEvoy's, Long Family, Kellys, Higgins, Culhane, Griffins, O'Connors & Paddy Flavin.

18. Katie Flavin to Elizabeth Nicholl, July 1951



of John O'Keill & yourself
 & then I'll tell you if he
 is Irish enough.

Suppose you will give up
 the nursing then you
 will have your own
 nursing to do when the
 young O'Keills will arrive.

I have no more to
 say at present.

All the best from
 your loving cousin Thatie
 & that your marriage
 may be a holy & happy
 one, remember me to Isaac
 if you ever write to him.

Turrower Lr.
 Glin,
 Co. Lint.

Dear Cousin Elizabeth.

I received
 your most welcomed
 letter a few weeks ago,
 very glad to hear from
 you also to hear that
 you landed safe. I had
 a letter from your
 mother too. I am answering
 the two of them, my
 brother Paddy had a

letter from our friend
Mary have you seen
her since? it was nice
of her to write he also
had a letter from Isaac.

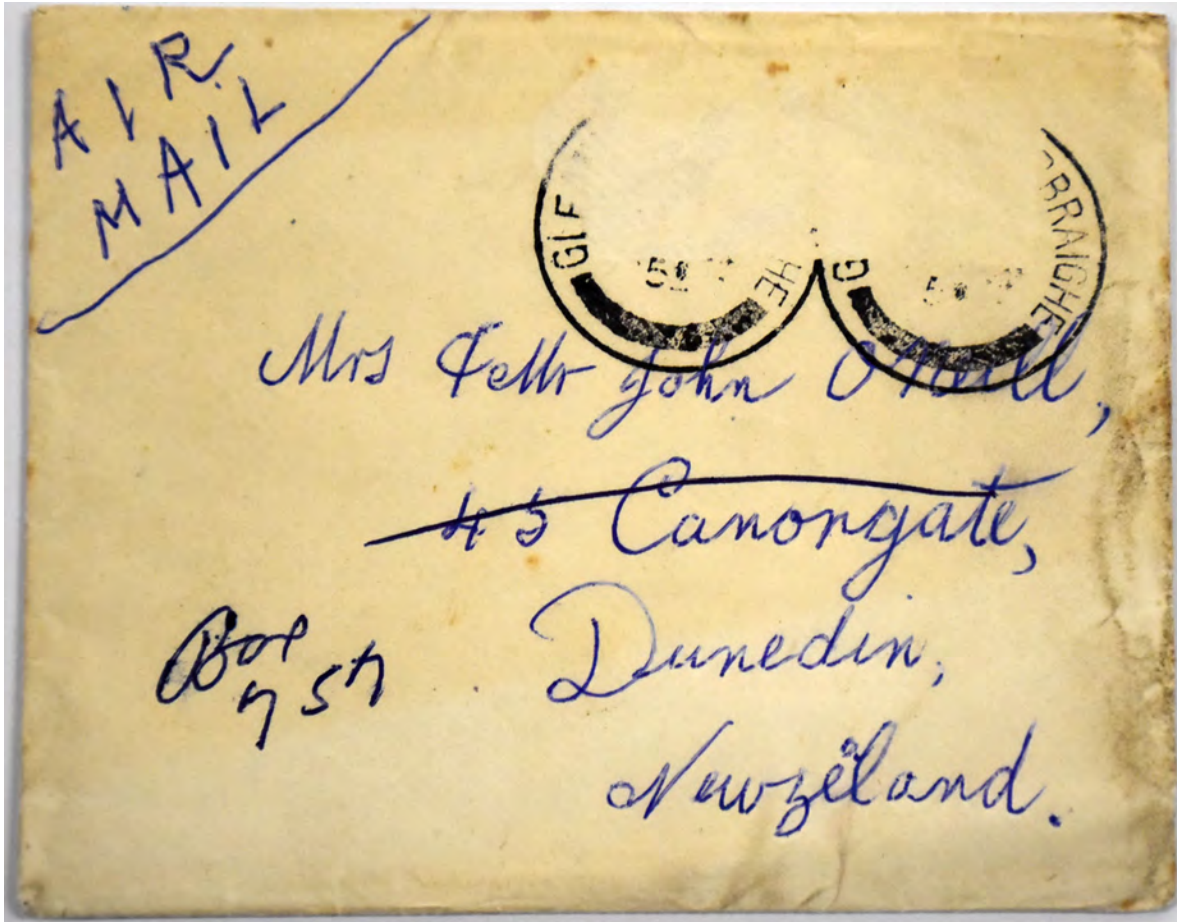
Well Elizabeth I
suppose you have
forgotten all about dear
old Ireland since you
met John O'Keefe. Perhaps
he may have friends in
Ireland too his ~~name~~
name in Irish anyway
the two of you might
visit Ireland sometime.
all the young people

around Paddy enquires
for you. Betty Barnett
is gone to Scotland
in the mean.

Pat & Jim Bulhane
are hale & hearty all
the time none of them
married yet. Jim told
me that he had the last
dance with you the last
night at Yullans. He liked
you very much' he said
you made up with him
very quickly.

When you
marry. Send the photos

19. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 7 and 17 July 1952



Glenagragra
Athea,
7-7-52.

Dear Elizabeth

Just a few-
lines hoping you and your
husband are going on well.
We are very thankful to
you for the lovely Photos
They are very nice
Yourself + your husband
are very nice. I don't
be feeling very good.
Sometimes, I am getting
the infections all the time.
I have no more news now
Paddy has you told all the
news.

Good Bye now & the
best of Luck to you &
your husband.
From Molly Flavin
Paddy & family.

19. 7. 1952

Dear Mrs O'Neill.

Just a few lines hoping they
finds you & your Husband in
the best of health & spirits,
as we are fairly well here at
present. Thank God. Well
Elizabeth I thank ~~you~~ ^{you} very
much for the photos you send
they are lovely & they brings
back to my mind the remark
that Mary Walsh made when
you were over here, I hope you
do remember, when she gave me
a small snap of John O'Neill,
she said, Mick Long could not
take ~~the~~ ^{the} John's place,

Now I am not surprised
 he is a fine man God bless him
 & you & give you both many
 years of success & happiness.
 together with ^{the} natural gifts of
 God, Well now at long last
 I got a little snap of the
 when boys, I got them a few
~~times~~ but they came out bad,
 indeed they did not come good
~~this~~ time, but I will send it to
 you anyway, they are Ls to R
 Front Row PA Higgins, Mick Barrett
 & William Flavin, Captain,
 Middle Row, Pat Joe Flavin D. Barrett
 Jim Flavin, Mick Long, Ger Griffin
 Moss Higgins back, Ger Long, Mick
 Mick Flavin | Griffin

3

they are too small, it was
 Mary Sheehan that took them,
 you know she is a sister to the
 boy that was killed in Keshora,
 she is back from America,
 she came with the remains of
 her brother, Pat, who was brought
 back to Ireland to be buried,
 he was buried on the Family
 Plot the first week of March
 1952, his remains was brought in
 to Listowel station, 5 miles from
 his native place & such a sight
 was never seen in Listowel, the
 funeral was over 2 Miles in
 length, certainly over 300
 Motor Cars,

4
 Now Elizabeth all the ~~friends~~
 friends are fine & all the people
 here in the neighbourhood
 are fine also, we have the
 harvest finished up, you
 know, the hay saved the
 fuel secured, you know the
 turf, Johnny is in England
 over a year, Dan is coming on
 a holiday this year, he is in
 England 4 years, so with all
 I have no more to say but that
 all the boys & girls you knew
 wishes to be remembered to you
 I remain your fond Cousin
 Paddy Flavin, Glenageary
 Aheer Co Limerick
 E. R. F.

20. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 16 December 1952

16. 12. 1952

Dear Cousin Elizabeth,
 A few lines in answer to your
 letter which I got a while
 ago, sorry for delaying an
 answer, but we were busy at
 the time & I forgot about it
 since, glad to hear all your
 friends & mine, as well. I am
 sorry to hear about Ike, R.P.
 Well you will be pleased I hope,
 to hear that my daughter
 Hannie got married on the
 15 of November to a neighbour
 only 5 miles from us. his name
 is John O'Searne.

Corrigkerry, Ardagh
 Co. Limerick.

2.

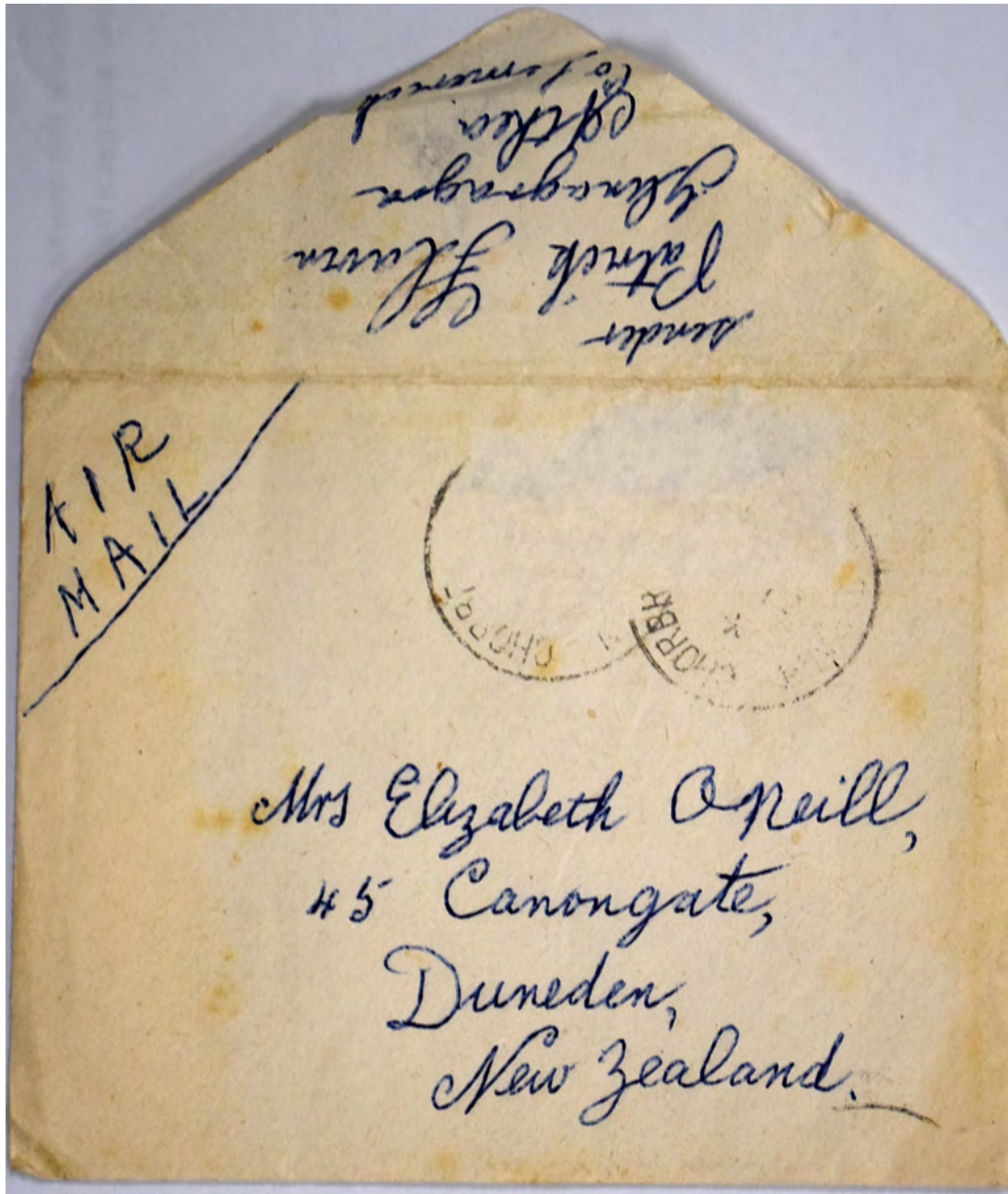
he is a farmer, has a big
barn, but not all good land
he keeps 8 cows & a horse,
& she is happy & comfortable,
Thank God, on the same day
& in the same Church, your
Cousin, Meenie Connors got
married too, to a second
Cousin of her own
John Warrahan, a farmer,
you know James Connors
daughter, sister to Mr Kelly.
You may have met her
in London, also we had 2
other marriages. Mary Long
to James Collins, carrying on a
big business in Athlone

3

& Maureen Langan to
Pat M^cE Kinerney, a carpenter,
& near Cousin to my Wife.
Molly, Mick Long is off for
America in January,
my son Dan was home for
a fortnight in August
his Wife & two Children also,
John is still in England,
not coming for X Mas,
so all the Cousins are all
fine. The O'Connor family
& Kellys, Culhanes, Sheahans
M^cEvoy's & so on. this is
all the news I have for you
as other ~~happings~~ happenings
would not interest you

4
~~My~~ My son Bill has a new
 house built in our land,
 he is not living in it yet,
 he was only renting the
 place he was in. So now
 I have no more to say,
 Wishing you & your husband
 a happy Xmas & a merry
 & prosperous New Year,
 all our family at home & abroad
 are well, myself is the worst
 health is not good, so don't
 forget me in your prayers,
 Good bye & Good luck to you
 & yours, From your Cousin
 Paddy Flavin, Glingraeger
 Athea, Co Limerick

21. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 1 September 1953



Glenagragra Athen
Co Limerick (19. 1953)

Dear Cousin, It is time for
me to answer your letter
which I received last June,
but I suppose you may have
heard the sad news of the
death of Mary Sheehan,
sister to Patrick Sheehan
who was killed in ~~Korea~~
Korea, she was killed in a
motor accident in Rochester
America. herself & two more
girls were coming from a
dance, when a car drove
through them killing Mary

2

& another girl from Mayo
 the third escaped with
 a light louse, Mary lived 10
 minutes & had the priest
 the other was killed outright
 it was an awful shock to
 all of us, & her poor mother
 is in an awful way since,
 I hope you do remember them
 Sheahans in Lestrin, Newtown
 she was in America when you ^(saw her)
 were in Ireland, so that is the
 cause of I delaying an answer
 to your letter. Well now, I
 am glad to tell you that your
 Cousin Jimmy Culhane got
 Married

about 3 month ago. the girls
name is White from Athera
they are quite happy & all the
rest of the Culhane family are
well, so are the Connors.

Lynchs, McEloys & so on.

I told you that Mick Long
is gone to America & doing well
there, & also I am glad to have
to tell you that my daughter
Hanna had a ~~young~~ daughter a
few days ago, & is all right.

Now Congratulations to you
& your husband, & I hope
the next one will be a
helper for John. A Son.
Please God

4
Now all the young boys
& girls here are all the same, a
big amount of them are at
present in England. my son John
is still in England. 2 years
now since he went there, he has
a good job, he works in the
Aston Motor Works, & Dan works
in the railway, drives a Motor
truck. he & his Wife has 4 in
family, 2 twins about 3 months
ago, girls, we have 3 boys at
home. Mick Jim & Pajol.
Molly is fairly good, & myself
about the same, I do hope your
mother, father, & all the family are well
& forgetting uncle Johny & Family. so
Good luck to you all from
& Molly (Cousin Paddy Flavin

22. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 12 December 1954

12.12.1954 Glenagra, at the, Co Limerick EIRE

Dear Cousin Elizabeth,

A few lines hoping they will find you in good health also your husband & Family, as we are still in the lands of the living L. G. — Well Cousin there are a lot changes here since you were here, almost all the young boys & girls are gone to England, & some of them married & a few of them gone to America, so this is the way & that is the world, two of our boys are still at home, they have a truck & are out every day so we are as lonely every day as if we had no Family, Well Elizabeth I would send a card to Mary Walsh, but I do not know where she is, so let her know we were asking for her. & I am glad she took a holy life for herself I hope all the relations out there are keeping well, all the cousins here are all well, So Good luck to you & yours, From

Paddy Flavin, Molly & Family

Dear cousin Elizabeth, A few lines hoping they will find you in good health also your husband & family, as we are still in the lands of the living T.G.- Well cousin there are a lot changes here since you were here, almost all the young boys & girls are gone to England, & some of them married & a few of them gone to America, so this is the way & that is the world, two of our boys are still at home. They have a truck & are out every day as if we had no family, Well Elizabeth I would send a card to Mary Walsh, but I do not know where she is, so let her know we were asking for her, I am glad she took a holy life for herself I hope all the relations out there are keeping well all the cousins are all well, so good luck to you & yours, From Paddy Flavin, Molly & Family.

23. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 10 December 1955

Mrs George Lynch was born
 last July, also a son was born
 for Willie Flavin & Mary & his
 name is John Francis. This is
 the sixth one. Annie has one &
 expecting one, Dan has 4 &
 expecting one, so you see it is
 a tight race yet with the
 Flavin & Nicholl grand children
 the McEvoy's are all well &
 so are all the cousins, except
 Jim Connors, he is not so good
 now I have no more to say
 to you, but good luck to you
 & all & a happy Xmas & prosperous
 New Year. Also congratulations
 to you on your John Francis
 From Paddy Flavin

Glenageary
 10. 12-1955-
 Co Limerick
 KIRE

Dear Cousin, A few lines
 hoping they will find you
 husband & family in the best
 of health, as we are so at
 present Thank God. Sorry
 for not writing to you so soon
 but when I got your letter
 last April we were knocked
 about a bit, my wife, eddy
 was very ill with pneumonia
 & no great hopes for her for
 a good while. she spent 8 weeks
 in bed, but thanks to God &
 our poor old Doctor she is
 well again, & in fact better—

than ever², Well Elizabeth
 all the young boys you
 knew are nearly gone to
 England & America, Mick Long
 is doing fine in America, he
 is in the air force. Of course
 you could expect. he wouldn't
 be satisfied in the ground,
 My son John came back
 from England last March
 when his Mother was sick
 & he stayed at home with us,
 he got married on Tuesday.
 29 November ~~to~~ sister in law
 of Hannis, her name is
 Bridie Oherne, I gave him
 the home & place,

³
 Jim is getting married in
 January next, he has a little
 truck with a couple of years
 & is doing all right, he has
 purchased a house in the east
 side of the County, so we
 have only Mick & Pat Joe to
 go & Mick is working with
 a building contractor & has
 his own car, About the
 Culkhanes, Well Jim got
 married in the home farm &
 Pat purchased a farm & got
 married, the boy that was
 married (Dan) he is in
 hospital at present. he got
 a bad stroke, supposed to be
 polo.

24. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 5 September 1956

5. 9. 1956 Glensage
Atlea
Dear Cousin Elizabeth,
A few lines hoping they will
find you, husband & family in
the best of health, as we are not
too bad ourselves at present I G,
Well I know you will not like
to hear of the death of our
daughter, Hannie, you may have
heard it from my sister Kate.
It was very sad & very hard on
us old people but nothing
could be done, she had an
operation on May 18th for a
tumor. & found some other
thing wrong as well, a cancer
in the liver, she got over the
operation but did not get strong,
she died here with us & was

2

Buried on the 8 of August
 last, I could not have written
 sooner, I was not able, she left
 2 little children a boy aged 7 Months
 & a Girl aged $3\frac{1}{2}$ years we are
 caring the Baby Boy & her
 husband has the Girl, although
 he has no one in the house with
 only an old aunt of his, they
 were happy if left together
 she had a good man, May God
 have mercy on her poor soul,
 all the friends are well & that
 is all I can say this time, but
 Pleas God we will be able to
 write again at Y Mass. Pleas
 let Mary Walsh know of this
 & all the best luck to you husband
 & Family From Paddy Flavin
 Glenacragga & the a Clink

As you can see by the date
this is going astray with over
a month. By mistake I addressed
it to cv. Y instead of New Zealand
& yesterday I got it back.
I mailed another to your Mother
the same day, I wonder did I
address it right. Paddy Glavin

25. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, New Zealand, 8 December 1958

8. 12 1958
Dear Elizabeth
Thanks very
much for your Xmas Card &
letter, & I should have answered
letter which I got in summer,
but my son Mick is after
been in hospital for 6
months. with a touch of T B,
but he's home & fine T G.
I had a little snap of him
Pat & myself & Molly, I sent
to your Mother, I thought I
had more of them, but failed
to find them, they are not
much, but it would remind
you of your Touring trip
I might have one later on,
I love to get those little
snaps. from abroad. like your
now

8.12.1958

Dear Elizabeth

Thanks very much for your Xmas Card & letter, & I should have answered letter which I got in summer, but my son Mick is after been in hospital for 6 months, with a touch of T.B., but he is home & fine T.G. I had a little snap of him, Patjoe & myself & Molly, I sent to your Mother, I thought I had more of them, but failed to find them, they are not much, but it would remind you of your Touring trip. I might have one later on, I love to get those little snaps from abroad, like your now.

2

Mick is still under treatment
 he is home two months, he is
 fine I. Y., he was 84 miles
 away from us, in Co Cork,
 but we made the journey 3
 times to see him, you know
 the way poor Molly felt,
 all the relations are well
 Lyncho, Culhane, Sheanans,
 McEvoy & so on,
 you will be glad to hear that
 Mick Long got married in
 America, to a Yankee girl.
 Now as I have no more to say
 but to wish you, your husband
 & family, a very happy Xmas
 & a bright & prosperous N. year
 From Paddy, Molly, Mick
 & Patrice. to Elizabeth & John
 & family

Mick is still under treatment, he is home two months, he is fine T.G., he was 84 Miles away from us, in Co Cork, but we made the Journey 3 times to see him, you know the way poor Molly felt, all the relations are well Lynchs, Culhane, Sheanhans, McEvoys & so on.

You will be glad to hear that Mick Long got Married in America, to a yankie Girl. Now as I have no more to say but to wish you, your Husband & Family, a very happy Xmas & a bright & prosperous N. year. From Paddy, Molly, Mick & Patjoe, to Elizabeth & John & Family.

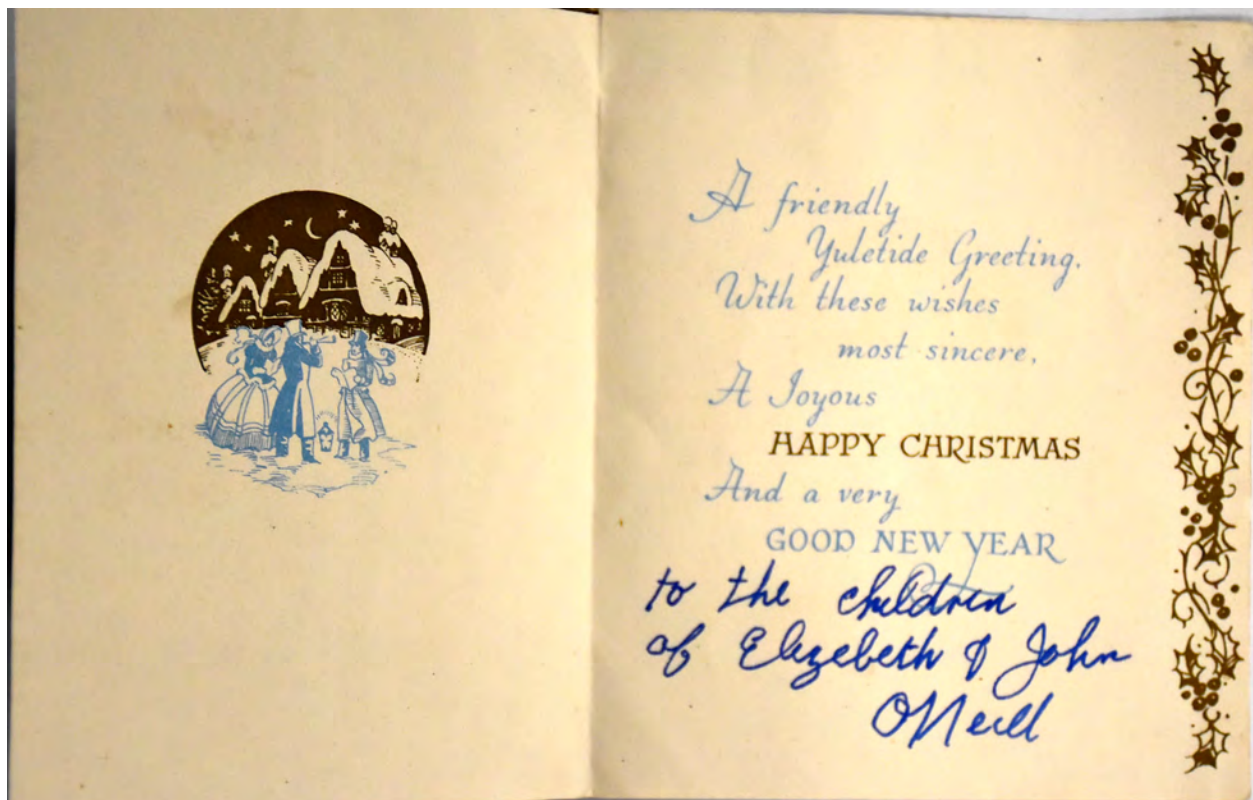
26. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 10 November 1959

10.11 - 59

Dear Mrs O'Neill,

A few lines hoping you husband & family are keeping well, as we are not too bad. Thank God, I am not so good, but I am 71 years you know, & what can I expect. Molly is fairly good now, you know she had a slight stroke nearly a year ago, all the other relations are fine, Mick Barrett got married & his brother Dan got married in England, you remember them & Jer Long got married, I suppose you do not forget all those young boys & girls you met here, they all ask you & Mary, how is Mary Walsh I mean, I have not her address, but if I had I would send her a card, if you are writing to her, let her know we were asking for her & tell her to pray for us, this is what we need now. So God bless you all young & old & a happy Xmas & a prosperous New Year, to you all - From Paddy Flavin Glenagragra Athea (C) Limerick

27. Paddy Flavin to the O'Neill children, Christmas, late 1950s?



28. Paddy Flavin to ??, between 1956 and Oct 1961

at night² only, Well our
 competition runs level almost
 I mean your mothers, I have
 14 Grand Children, I do not
 hear of any other yet, I got
 some lovely snaps from your
 mother a while ago, I was
 delighted to get them, & I was
 expecting some snaps from
 our son Dan, they were with
 us last July for a fortnight
 & they took some ^{bad} snaps, but
 the weather was & no sunshine
 so they may not come out good
 if I get them. I will send
 some, they have 3 sons &
 2 daughters

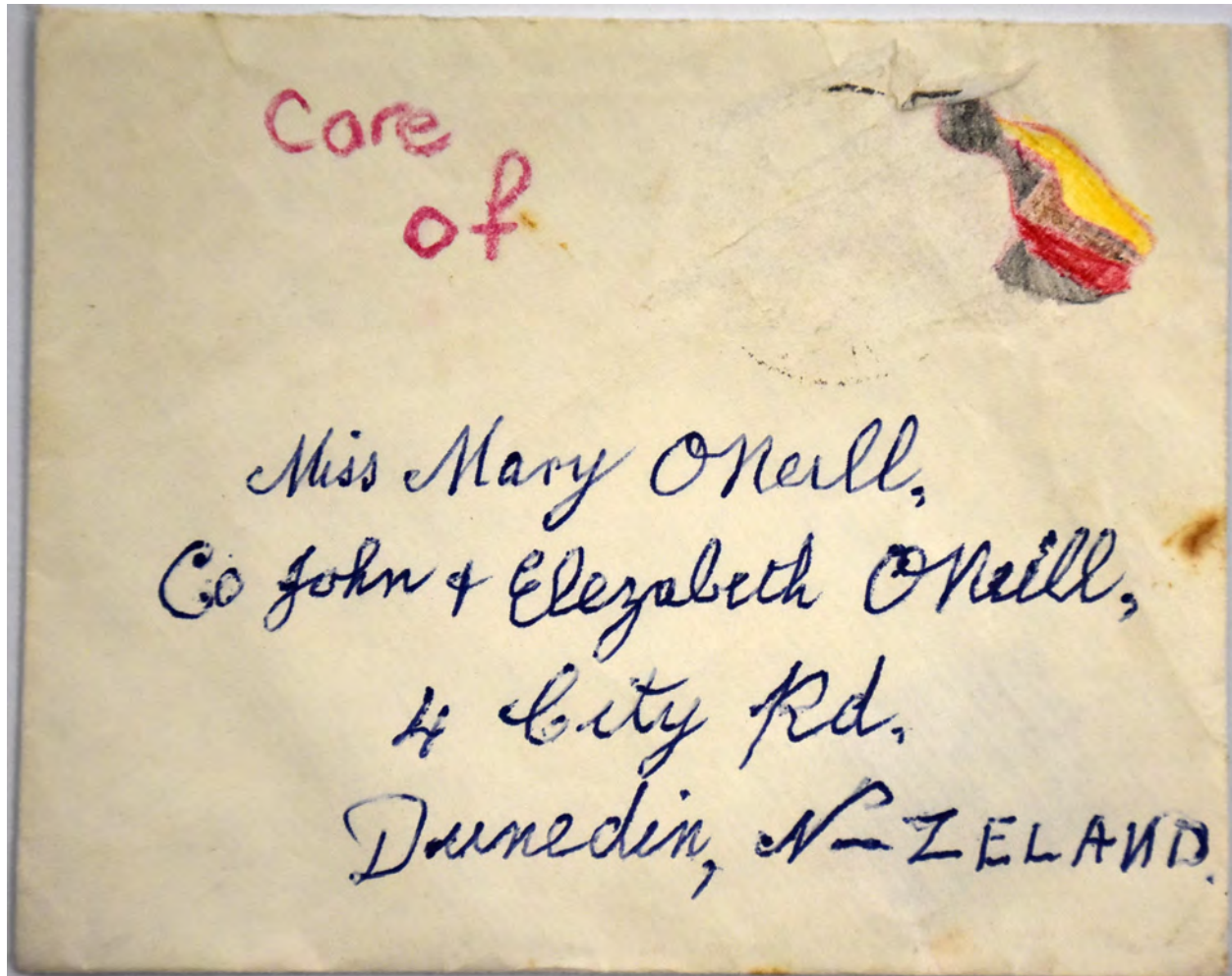
At night only, Well out competition runs level almost I mean your mothers, I have 19 Grand Children, I do not hear of any other , I got some lovely snaps from your mother a while ago, I was delighted to get them, & I was expecting some snaps from our son Dan, they were with us last July for a fortnight they took some snaps, but the weather was bad & no sunshine they may not come out good if I get them I will send some, they have 3 sons & 2 daughters

John ³ has only one, ^a daughter
 he is still in england,
 willie has 6 sons & 3 daughters
 Jim has 1 son, 1 daughter
 & Hannie's little boy & girl
 God rest her soul
 so I have no more news for
 you, wishing you & yours
 a very happy Xmas & a
 prosperous New Year from
 Cousin Paddy, Molly
 & all the boys, &
 Flavin Glenagragra
 Atha Co Limerick

John has only one, a daughter he is still in England, Willie has 6 sons & 3 daughters Jim has 1 son 1 daughter & Hannies little boy & girl God rest her soul so I have no more new for you, Wishing you & yours a very happy Xmas & a prosperous New Year from Cousin Paddy. Molly³³ & all the boys, Flavin Glenagra Atea Co Limerick

³³ Terminus ad quem: Molly died in Oct 1961.

29. Paddy Flavin to Mary O'Neill, 28 August c. 1960



28. August.

Dear Mary, Thanks for
your lovely little letter,
sorry for delaying an
answer, but I was away
for a couple of weeks.
tell Mother & Gran Mother
all the relations in
Ireland are in good form.
J. G. & I will be writing
to them both very soon.
Please God, also, &
Molly is all right again
she was 16 months in bed,
heavy flu^{so} & Cerebro & Good
luck, from Paddy & Molly
remember us to all the friends
& God bless you all

30. Paddy Flavin to Catherine Nicholl, ca 1961

ca 1970
Luttrell Middle
Newtown Sandes

my Dear Cousin I ratel

I was so glad to
get your nice letter & to know your are
keeping well. Do you have great pain in
the back with the arthrities. It is nice
to be able to go to mass & to move
around as it is hard to have to stay
in bed.

I am seventy two now. I have
ten grand children. They are great
company. but sometimes they are
a little too lively. We have two little
boys starting school now. The school
is in the village. about two miles away
I was sorry to hear ye had such a
bad harvest. It is very hard

My Dear Cousin Katie I was so glad to see your nice letter & to know you are keeping well. So you have great pain in the back with the arthritis. It is nice to be able to go to the mass & to move around as it is hard to have to stay in bed. I am seventy two now.³⁴ I have ten grand children. They are great company but sometimes they are a little too lively. We have two little boys starting school now. The school is in the village about two miles away I was sorry to hear ye had such a bad harvest. It is very hard

³⁴ Paddy was born in January 1889, hence the letter is to be dated as some time in 1961, rather than 1970, which I surmised whenever I collected these letters.

31. Paddy Flavin to Catherine Nicholl, 23 November 1961

23. 11-61
Dear Cousin Kathie,
a line to you to convey the
sad news of the death of my
wife, poor Molly, she passed
away the 6th of November after
a short illness of 6 weeks,
she was 67 years,
poor creature got many fits
of illness with 5 or 6 years,
I could not let you know
sooner as I was not well
myself, but I am fair enough
again I.G., as I am not a
good hand at writing, I am a
bit shaky,

Dear Cousin Kathie, A line to you to convey the sad news of the death of my wife, poor Molly, she passed away the 6th of November after a short illness of 6 weeks, she was 69 years, poor creature got many fits of illness with 5 or 6 years, I could not let you know sooner as I was not well myself, but I am fair enough again T.G., as I am not a good hand at writing, I am a bit shaky,

2

you might let Elizabeth
 know, as Elizabeth did know
 her & she might drop a line
 to the Nun, Mary Walsh,
 I might be in better form in
 a week, when I expect to
 have some Memorial cards
 ready, I will ~~send~~ send ye
 some, I cannot say any more
 but pray for her poor Soul
 & pray for us all & we will
 pray for ye, all the relations
 here are the same as usual
 so Good luck to you all from
 your sad hearted Cousin
 Paddy Flavin, Glenagragra
 Athlea Co Limerick

you might let Elizabeth know as Elizabeth did know her & she might drop a line to the Nun, Mary Walshe, I might be in better form in a week, when I expect to have some memoriam cards ready, I will send you some, I cannot say any more but pray for her poor soul & pray for us all & we will pray for ye, all the relations here are the same as usual so good luck to you all from your sad hearted Cousin Paddy Flavin, Glenagra Athesa Co Limerick

32. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 9 December 1961

Glenagragra
Athena, Co Limerick
9. 12. - 61
Dear Cousin Mrs. O'Neill
I enclose x Mas Card &
I am sorry to say I am
not in any way good
owing to the death of my
Wife (Molly,) do not blame
me for not writing sooner
I mislead all addresses. but I
had your Mothers in my head,
so I found Mary's letter, & I
will Please God, write to her
after x Mas, all the are well
& good & that is all I can say
you can spot the poor writing
so x Happy x Mas to you all
From, Dear Cousin Paddy.
Flavin

Dear Cousin. Mrs O'Neill I enclose Xmas card & I am sorry I am not In any way good owing to the death of my wife,(Molly) do not blame me for not writing sooner I mislead all addresses. But I had your Mothers in my head, so I found Mary's letter, & I will Please God, write to her after Xmas, all the are well & good & that is all I can say you can spot the poor writing so X Happy Xmas to you all- From, Poor Cousin Paddy Flavin

33. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 23 November 1962

23. 11. 62

Glensagra Athea
C Linerick.

Dear Elizabeth, a few lines just to
let you that I am still living I-I-
well I hope you & your husband & family
are in the best of form, as I am not too
bad, I do not feel well at times, I suffer
from asthma, & the heart at times, but
the heart do not bother me much now-I-I
John & his wife are coming home in the
first of the year 1963, I have Pat &
Chuck, at night so but they are working
with building contractors every day, so
I am alone by day, there is hardly any of
the young boys & girls that you knew here
now, all gone to the states & England,
all the Connors, Sheahans, Lyncks, all Evays
& Bulhans are the same & so it is. I
Wishing you & husband & family a happy
Xmas & a prosperous new year. From
Paddy Flavin & Sons

Dear Elizabeth, A few lines just to let you that I am still living T.G. Well I hope you & your husband & family are in the best of form, as I am not too bad, I do not feel well at times, I suffer from Artrice, & the heart of times, but the heart do not bother me much now T.G. John and his wife are coming home in the first of the year 1963, I have Patjoe & Mick, at night but they are working with building contractors every day so I am alone by day, there is hardly any of the young boys & girls that you knew here now, all gone to the states & England. All the O'Connors, Sheahans, Lynchs, McEvoy's & Culhanes are the same & so [it hit]- wishing you & husband & family a happy Xmas & a prosperous new year. From Paddy Flavin, & sons

34. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 30 November 1963

~~W~~ 30. 11. 63
Dear Elizabeth & John,
just a line to let you know
that I am still living, I. G.
hoping ye are all in the
best of form, I suppose you
have heard that my sister
Mary was buried last July,
Mrs McEvoy, & we had a very
bad year here & it is still bad,
all the friends & relations are
fine, I just excuse this of writing
I am not able to write, & all I
have to say is to wish you all
a very happy Xmas & a
prosperous New Year,
Paddy Flavin, Glenagragra
Athena, Co Limerick

30.11.63

Dear Elizabeth & John, Just a line to let you know that I am still living, T.G., hoping ye are all in the best of form, I suppose you have heard that my sister Mary was buried last July, Mrs McEvoy, & we had a very bad year here & it is still bad, all the friends & relations are fine, & just excuse this of writing, I am not able to write, & all I have to say is to wish you all a very happy Xmas & a prosperous New, From, Paddy Flavin, Glenagra, Athea, Co Limerick.

35. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, c. 1964

Glenagragra, Athea, Co Limerick
Paddy Flavin

Dear Cousin,

I am sorry for not writing to you oftener, but age & trouble prevents me from writing, sometimes I forget all about it, I suffer a lot from pains in all my bones, but still trying to carry on, you know I suppose that my sister Minnie was buried last July, Mrs M. E. Every you know well all the relations & friends here are all the same, you know of course that there is a share of them dead since you was here, now about all the people you knew here

Dear Cousin, I am sorry for not writing to you oftener, but age & trouble prevents me from writing, sometimes I forget all about it, I suffer a lot from pains in all my bones, but still trying to carry on, you know I suppose that my sister Minnie was buried last July, Mrs McEvoy you know Well all the relations & friends here are all the same, you know of course that there is a share of them dead since you was here, Now about all the people you knew here

2

I will let you know their whereabouts, Mick Long is in America & married to a Yankee girl, his brother Ger is married here in the next parish to us, his sister Mary is married here near us, & one boy Jim at home. Now Mick Barrett is married at home, Kathie is married in England & two more sisters is married in England & one brother Dan, he is in there also married, Now about our own, Bill & his Wife has only 11 Children now, & she is likely enough to have 11 more. God bless them all

3

Jim is married & has 3 children. He lives about 20 miles from here, Dan & John is still in England, but John & his Wife is supposed to be coming home in ~~April~~ ^{time} April to live in the farm, they have only 1 daughter, & Dan has 5: also Fannies, R. 1 P, 1 boy 1 girl her husband got married again so when you have ^{time} you can count them up, the grandchildren I mean, Now the cousins - George Lynches family are all married, all at in this country except one in America, the Calhans are fine

I will let you know their whereabouts, Mick Long is in America & married to a yankie girl, his brother Jer is married here in the next parish to us, his sister Mary is married here near us, & one boy Jim at home. Now Mick Barrett is married at home, Kathie is married in England & two more sisters is married in England & one brother Dan, he is in there also married, now about our own, Bill & his wife has only 11 Children now & she is likely enough to have 11 more God bless them all.

Jim is married & has 3 children he live almost 20 miles from here, Dan & John is still in England, but John & his Wife is supposed to be coming home in April to live in the farm, they have only 1 daughter, & Dan has 5 also Hannies, RIP, 1 boy 1 girl her husband got married again so when you have time you can count them up, the grandchildren I mean, Now the cousins – George Lynchs family are all married, all at in this country except one in America, The Culhanes are fine

4

the O'Connors are fine except
 the old woman, she is bad
 at present, she is away over 80.
 your Jim is dead, if you remember
 Mickie Griffin next door to us,
 he is in America & married,
 Mick. Pat Joe is not married yet
 but always out, Mick works with
 a building contractor, & Pat Joe is
 in garage, so you see I am alone
 only they come back to sleep
 with me. so I am not able to go any
 further, & good luck to you all,
 husband & family, & I am glad
 you a nice family & I hope you
 will have as much more, without
 hurt or harm to you, Cheere
 from Cousin Paddy

The O'Connors are fine except the old woman she is bad at present, she is away over 80. You Jim is dead, if you remember Mikie Griffin nextdoor to us he is in America & Married, Mick. Patjoe is not Married yet but always out, Mick works with a building contractor, & Patjoe in Garrage, so you see I am alone only they comes back to sleep with me. So I am not able to go any further, & Good luck to you all, husband & family, & I am glad you a nice family & I hope you will have as much more, without hurt or harm to you, Cheereo, from Cousin Paddy

36. Paddy Flavin to Catherine Nicholl, 19 November 1966

19.11.66
Glenagragh Athen
Dear Cousin Kathie, I let
me just to let know that I
am still in the lands of the
living, hoping you your husband
& all your family & all their
family's & husbands are in good
form, as I have no one to account
for only myself & my son Mick,
Mick is not married & then we
have no woman, & it is lonely for
me, because Mick works out
every day with a building
Contractor, it is the only good job
here now, a lot of houses all over
the country are built in the new
& were badly wanted, but we
had ~~it~~ bad here this year, very wet

Dear Cousin Kathee, I little line to let you know that I am still in the lands of the living =, hoping you your husband & all your family & all their familys & husbands are in good form, as I have no one to account for only myself & my son Mick, Mick is not married & then we have no woman, & it is lonely for me, because Mick works out every day with a building contractor, it is the only good job here now, a lot of houses all over the country are built in the new & were badly wanted, but we had it bad here this year, very wet

3

I was thankful to her for asking
 I had forgotten that I had a
 letter from during the summer
 I think, so do not blame me for
 not writing sooner, you know
 the memory & right a going &
 badly able to write. Well I hope
 you are keeping the grandchildren
 content, I have 25 grandchildren
 & one expecting, my son Bill & his
 wife has 11 & one expecting
 Dan in England has 5; Jim &
 Natie 2 John 1. & the two others
 Hannahs R 15, all in first rate
 G.G. Hannahs little ^{girl} 14 years &
 she is gone to a convent this year
 she is very quick to learn & she is
 determined to be a nun

2

I do not ~~feel~~ feel not bad of G.
 at times but you^{see} I am 48 years
 so I do not expect to improve,
 all your relations here are good
 but I suppose you heard that my
 sister's husband was buried last
 April & also Dan Culhane's wife
 was buried the same time, she was
 young & left 9 children after her but
 they are all right, Dan's mother
 was Minnie Connors, your first
 Cousin, the Sheans, the Connors
 the Meads, Lynchs, Connollys &
 the two girls of the McEvoy's
 not forgetting Kate & Lavin
 my sister, they are all fine & G.
 Kate was here a few weeks ago &
 she was asking me did I have a
 letter from you

I do not feel not bad T.G. at times but you see I am 78 years so I do not expect to improve, all your relations here are good but I suppose you heard that my sisters husband was buried last April & also Dan Culhams Wife was buried at the same time, she was young & left 9 children after her but they are all right, Dan's mother was Minni Connors, your first cousin, the Sheans, the Connors the Meads, Lynchs, Connollys & the two girls of the McEvoy's not forgetting Katie Flavin my sister, they are all fine T.G. Katie was here a few eeks ago & she was asking me did I have a letter from you

I was thankful to her for asking I had forgotten that I had a letter from during the summer I think, so do not blame me for not writing sooner, you know the memory & sight a going & badly able to write, Well I hope you are keeping the grandchildren content, I have 25 grandchildren & one expecting, my son Bill & his wife has 11 & one expecting Dan in England had 5, Jim 4 Patjoe 2 John 1 & the two Aherns Hannahs R 15 all in first rate T.G. Hannahs little girl is 14 years & she is gone to a convent this year she is very quick to learn & she is determined to be a Nun

4

so you pray for her & also for me
 & I won't forget you & yours, so
 must finish for now, as you see
 by my scribbling. I am not able to
 write, I am not steady, I must send
 a few lines to Elizabeth too

so cheers to you all &
 a very happy Xmas &
 prosperous New Year to you
 & yours, From Cousin

Patrick Flavin

Glenagragga Atha

Co Limerick EIRE

God keep & bless you all

So you pray for her & also for me & I won't forget you & yours, so must finish for now, as you see by my scribbling I am not able to write, I am not steady, I must send a few lines to Elizabeth too so cheers to you all & a very happy XMas & prosperous New you to you & yours, From cousin Patrick Flavin Glenagragra Athea Co Limerick EIRE God keep and bless you all

37. Paddy Flavin to Catherine Nicholl, 5 June 1969

5.6.69
Dear Cousin Kathie,
I got your letter about 2 weeks ago, but I am not so good & I delayed an answer to you but I am glad you are fairly good like myself now, & we are nearly the same age. I am 80 last December well we have summer now here, but it is not a good so far, I have not much news for you, only your first Cousin, Paddy Connolly was buried last January. age 84 years, he is the last one of your aunt Mary's family, also Johnnie Windle of Corrigerry was buried last January

Dear Cousin Kathie, I got your letter about 2 weeks ago, but I am not so good & I delayed an answer to you but I am glad you are fairly good like myself now, & we are nearly the same age, I am 80 Last December Well we have summer now here, but it is not a good so far, I have not much news for you, only your first Cousin, Paddy Connolly was buried last January, age 84 years, he is the last one of your aunt Marys family, also Johnnie Windle of Carrigkerry was buried last January

5 June 1969

②
 he would be a second Cousin of
 yours, I wonder would he be a first
 Cousin of the Harry ~~Windle~~ you
 mentioned in your letter. & you are
 the only first Cousin I have now
 in this world, Now I am not good
 at the pen, & you must excuse me.
 but all the rest of the relations are
 the same. Namely the Kellys, The McEads
 the Bulhans, the Sheahans & not
 forgetting George Lynch who is 84
 but in good health, & many more but the
 memory is failing me. The McEvoy's
 are fine too, they are alone 2 girls,
 I forgot to tell you that my son Mick

He would be a second cousin of yours, I wonder would he be a first Cousin of the Harry Windle you mentioned in your letter, & you are the only first cousin I have now in this world, Now I am not good at the heart you must excuse me. But all the rest of the relations are the same. Namely the Kellys, The Meads the Culhanes, the Sheahans & not forgetting George Lynch who is 84 but in good health, & many more but the memory is failing me, the McEvoy's are fine too, they are alone, 2 girls, I forgot to tell you that my son Mick (Missing Page)

38. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 1 December 1969

1-12-69
Dear Cousin Elizabeth
I am very sorry for your trouble & especially
your poor ^{Mary} May God console her &
May God have mercy on your Father's
soul, I have sent a card to your mother
& I am not well myself, I suffer from
Rheumatism, I am thankful to Joseph
for his letter, and if I am able I will
write him ^{and} you also, if I am in any form
before Xmas, or between the Xmas
I can't explain anything now, but all
the Cousins & Friends are the same
do happiness & health be with you
during the holy season.
Love your old Cousin Paddy Flavin
& all the rest of them them & Mick
I am only trying to write Flavins

Dear cousin Elizabeth I am very for your trouble & especially your poor Mam, May God console her & May God have mercy on your fathers soul. I have sent a card to your mother & I am not well myself, I suffer from Rheumatism, I am thankful to Joseph for his letter, and if I am able I will write him & you one also, if I am in any form before Xmas, or between the Xmas I cant explain anything now, but all the cousins & friends and the same so happiness & health be with you during the holy season, From your old cousin Paddy Flavin & all the rest of them Flavins + Mick I am only trying to write

39. Paddy Flavin to Catherine Nicholl, 15 June 1970

June 15. 70.

Dear Cousin Cathie,
I received your letter last week
& I am glad that you are in fair
health, as I am only middling. I
suffer a little with a hernia, & I
am lazy about an operation at, as
we have awful war weather here
with the last 3 weeks or so, & I am
old for it anyway, I am glad
that all your family & their
families are all good, but I am
sorry about your daughter that
I have gone through all this, but
God will reward her yet with his
Divine Power, may God comfort
her & all the best to you all

Dear Cousin Cathie, I received your letter last week & I am glad that you are in fair health, as I am only middling, I suffer a little with a herney, & I am lazy about an operation at, as we have awful war weather here with the last 3 weeks or so & I am old for it anyway, I am glad that all your family & their families are all good, but I am sorry about your daughter that has gone through all this, but God will reward her yet with his Divine Power, may God comfort her & all the best to you all

2

15 June 1970

Well all your friends & relations
 are all good the Lysches, the
 Kellys, the O'Connors, the Sheahan
 the Meads & McEvoy, or all well
 so is my sister Kate, & my own crowd
 all the Flavins all O.K. Mick is
 the one I live with, he is married,
 but no family yet, but has a
 nice quite girl of a wife, she is
 very good to me, the boys in
 England are coming for a holiday
 in July, Bill has 12 of a family
 there is 2 of them in London
 & the other two boys are fine, no
 day idle & they have a family
 of five each, so all together I have
 20 grandchildren, but you have
 me beating badly in the contest

Well all your friends & relations are all good, the Lynches, the Kellys, the O'Connors, the Sheahan the Meads & McEvoy's are all well so is my sister Katie, & your crowd all the Flavins all OK. Mick is the one I live with, he is married, but no family yet, but had a nice quite girl of a wife, she is very good to me, the boys in England are coming for a holiday in July, Bill has 12 of a family there is 2 of them in London & the other two boys are fine, no day idle & they have a family of 5 each, so all together I have 30 Grandchildren, but you have me beat badly in the rest

15 June 1970

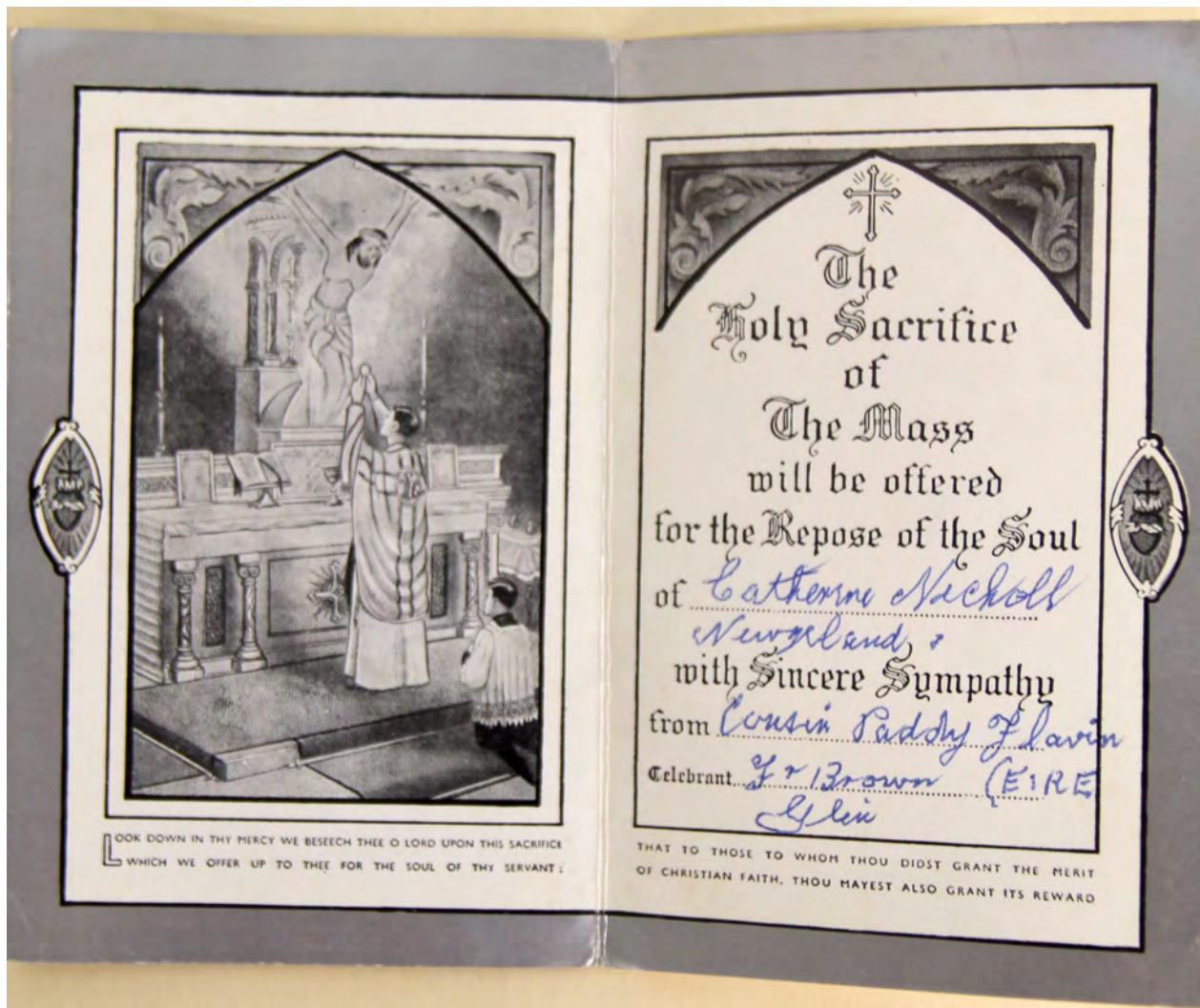
3

So now, I think I have no more
 to say, but tell Elizabeth I wish
 her every day's luck with her
 fine large family & may God
 bless them all & may they be
 happy & prosperous, not forgetting
 herself & her dear husband,
 excuse my old writing as you can
 see it is bad, the sight is bad
 with me, if we get of writing to
 each other again, you might of it
 would let know the name of your
 widowed girl's husband, I suppose I
 heard before, but memory is failing
 no rush about this, so I believe
 From Cousin Paddy, Glenagragua
 Atlea, Co. Limerick - EIR.

So now, I think I have no more to say, but tell Elizabeth I wish her every days luck with her fine large family & may God bless them all & may they be happy & prosperous, not forgetting herself & her dear husband, excuse my old writing as you can see it is bad, the sight is bad with me, if we get out of writing to each other again, you might of it would let know the name of your widowed girls husband, I suppose I heard before, but memory is failing no rush about this, so Cheers from Cousin Paddy, Glenagra Athea, Co Limerick, EIR.

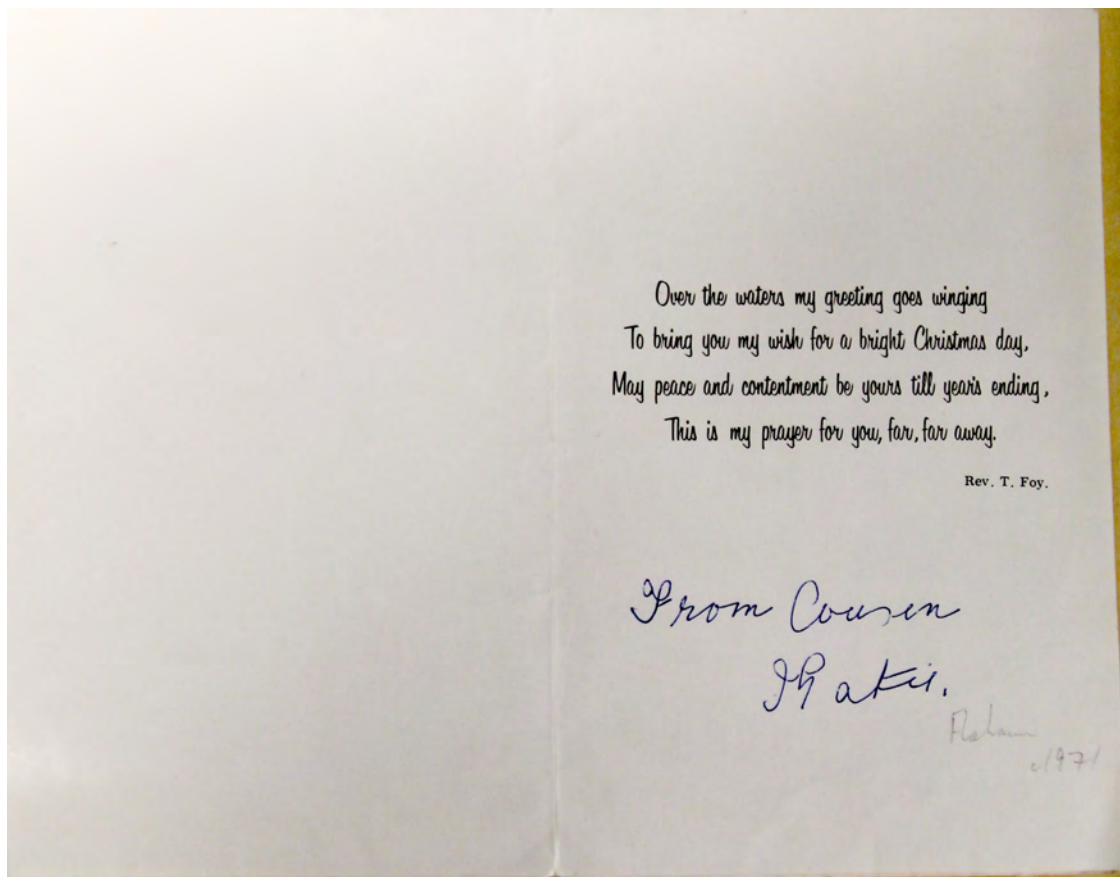
40. Paddy Flavin, Mass Card for Catherine Nicholl, after July 1970





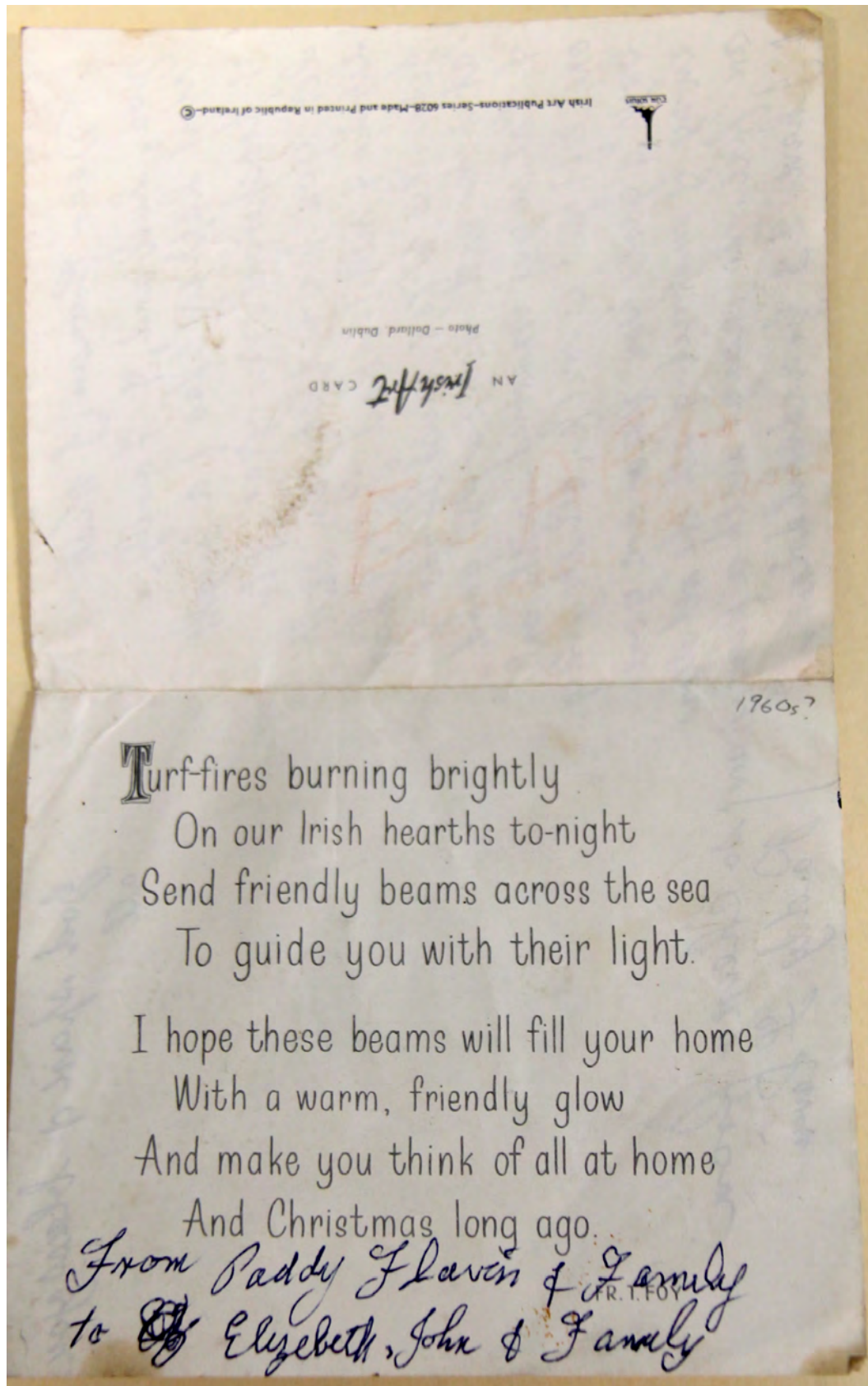
The Holy Sacrifice of The Mass will be offered for the Repose of the Soul
of Catherine Nicholl, New Zeland with Sincere Sympathy from Cousin
Paddy Flavin, Celebrant Fr Brown, Glin (EIRE)

41. Katie Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, c. 1971



42. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill,





Turf-fires burning brightly
On our Irish hearths to-night
Send friendly beams across the sea
To guide you with their light.

I hope these beams will fill your home
With a warm, friendly glow
And make you think of all at home
And Christmas long ago.

From Paddy Flavin & Family
to Elizabeth, John & Family

Dear Cousin, I wish
 you, husband, & Family, a
 very happy Xmas & a bright
 & prosperous new year, & to
 let you know that I am still
 living & not too bad I. G. I have
 John, his wife & daughter age 7
 at home with me now for good
 & Patge got married so the only
 one left yet is Mick, all the young
 boys & girls you knew are gone
 away & married & all the relations
 are fine. no change with a few years
 & I have 23 grandchildren.

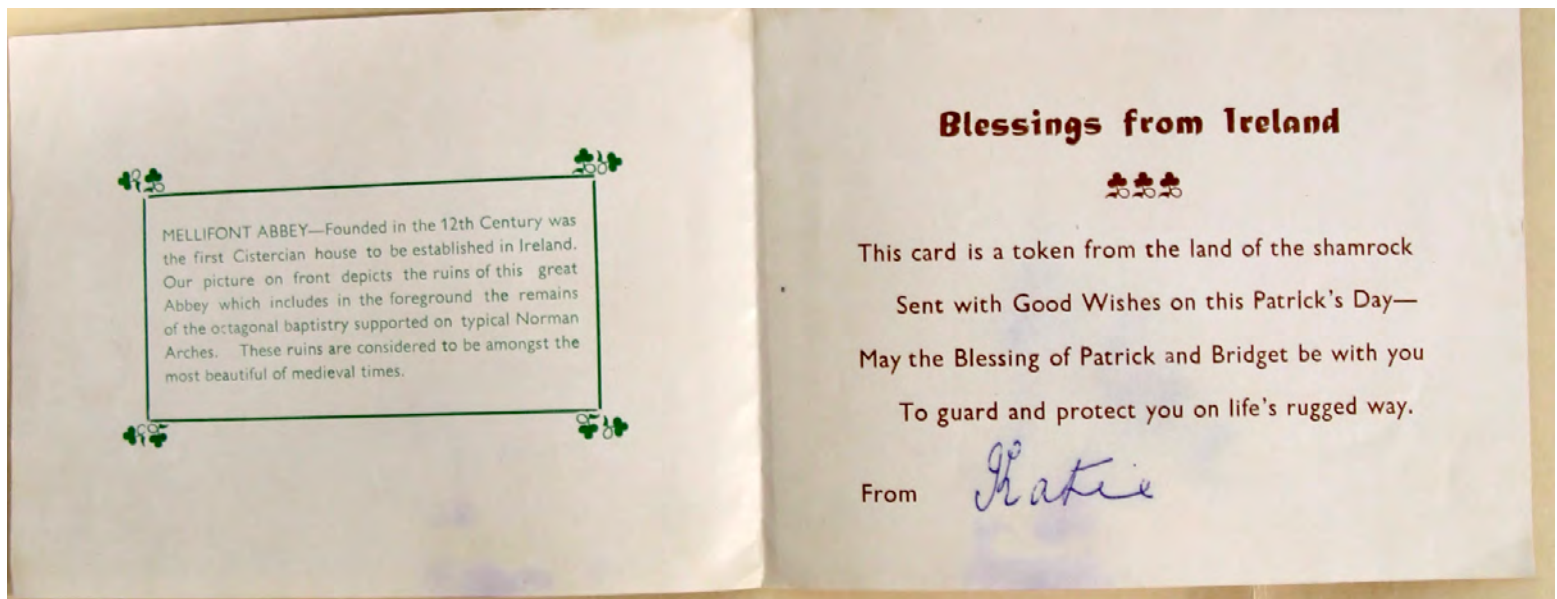
God spare & bless you
 all

So cheers from
 Paddy I. Flavins

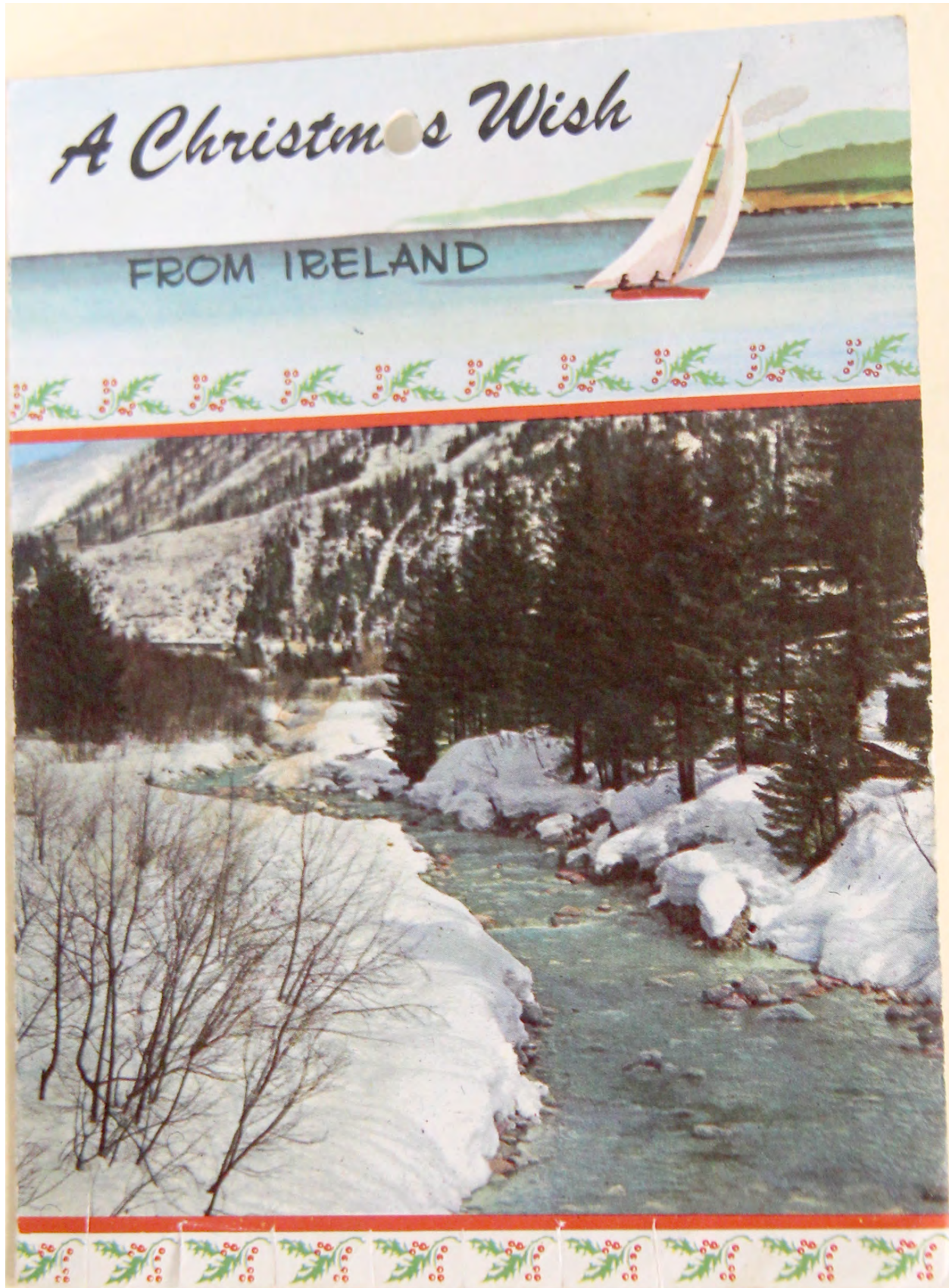
Dear Cousin, I Wish you, husband & family, a bright & prosperous new year, & to let you know that I am still living & not too bad T.G., I have John, his Wife & daughter age 7 at home with me now for good & Patjoe got married³⁵ so the only one left is Mick, all the young boys & girls you knew are gone away & married & all the relations are fine. No change with a few years & I have 23 Grandchildren. God spare & bless you all so cheereo from Paddy Flavin

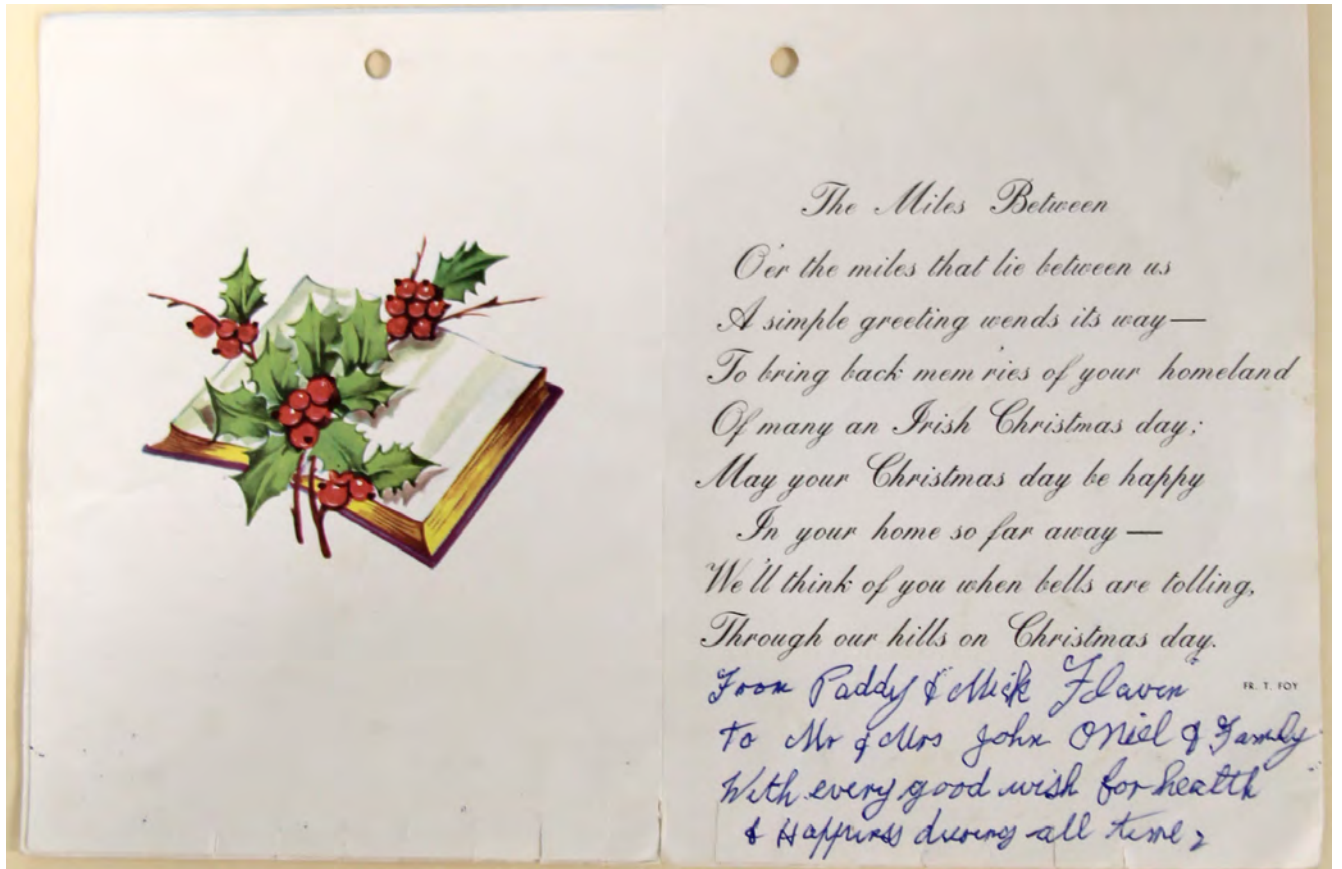
³⁵ When did Patjoe marry?

43. Katie Flavin, St. Patrick's Day card, n.d.



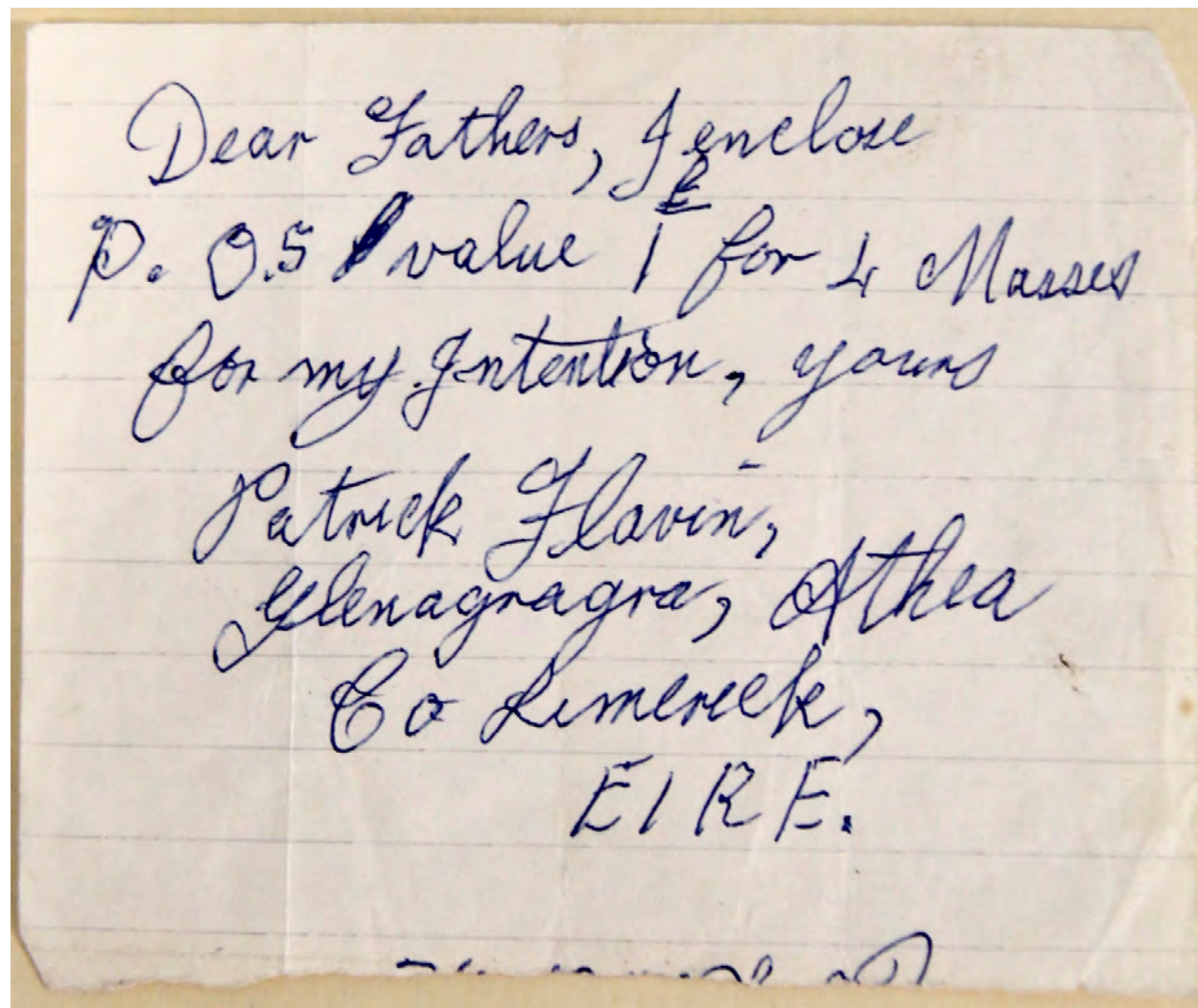
44. Paddy Flavin, Christmas Card to O'Neill family, n.d. 1950s?





From Paddy & Mick Flavin To Mr & Mrs John O'Neil & family With
every good wish for better health & happiness during all time

45. Paddy Flavin, request for Masses, n.d.

A photograph of a handwritten letter on a piece of lined paper. The paper is slightly aged and has horizontal blue lines. The handwriting is in dark ink, likely a fountain pen, and is written in a cursive style. The text of the letter is as follows:

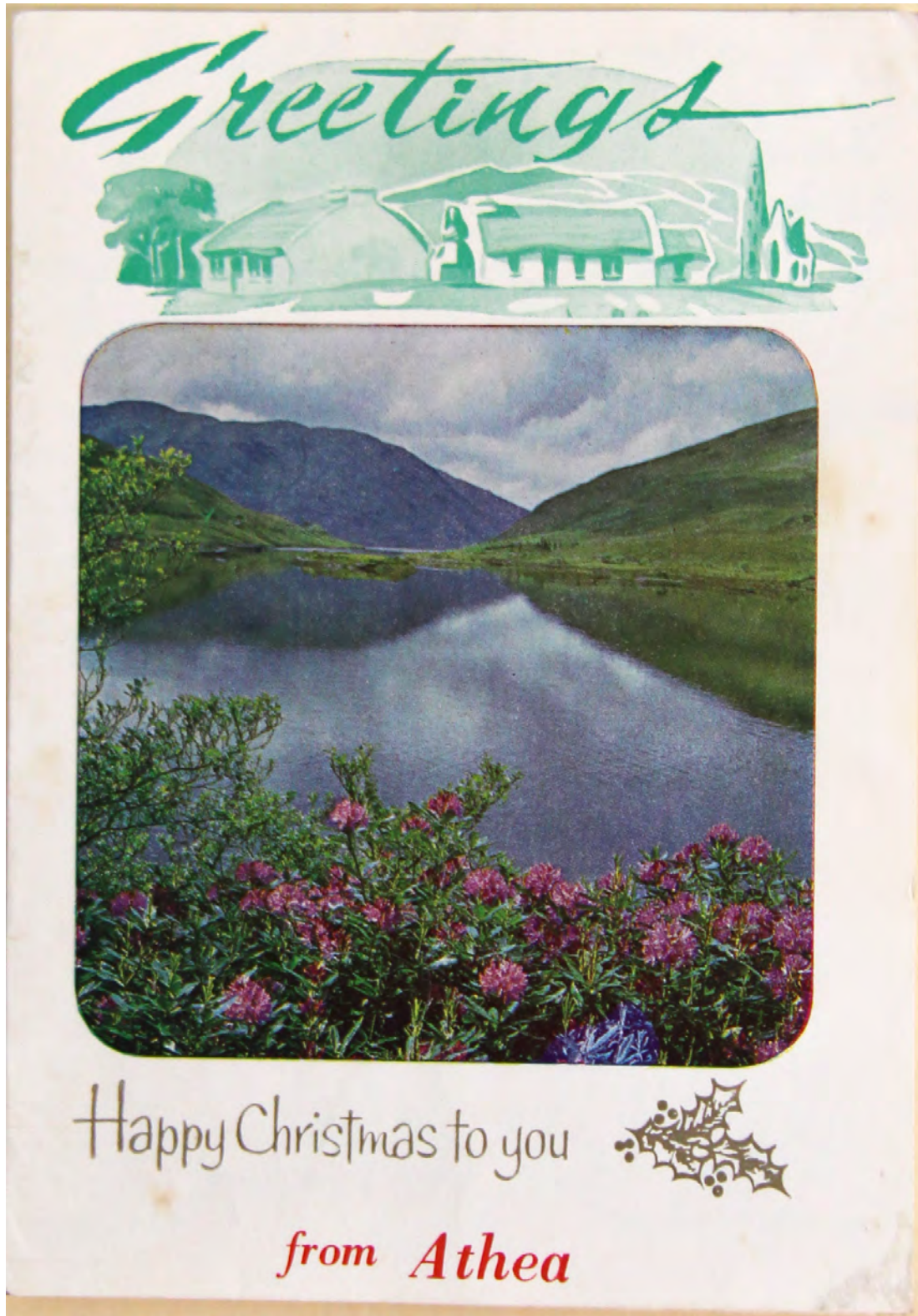
Dear Fathers, I enclose
P.O.5 £ value 1 for 4 Masses
for my intention, yours
Patrick Flavin,
Glenagnagra, Athea
Co Limerick,
EIRE.

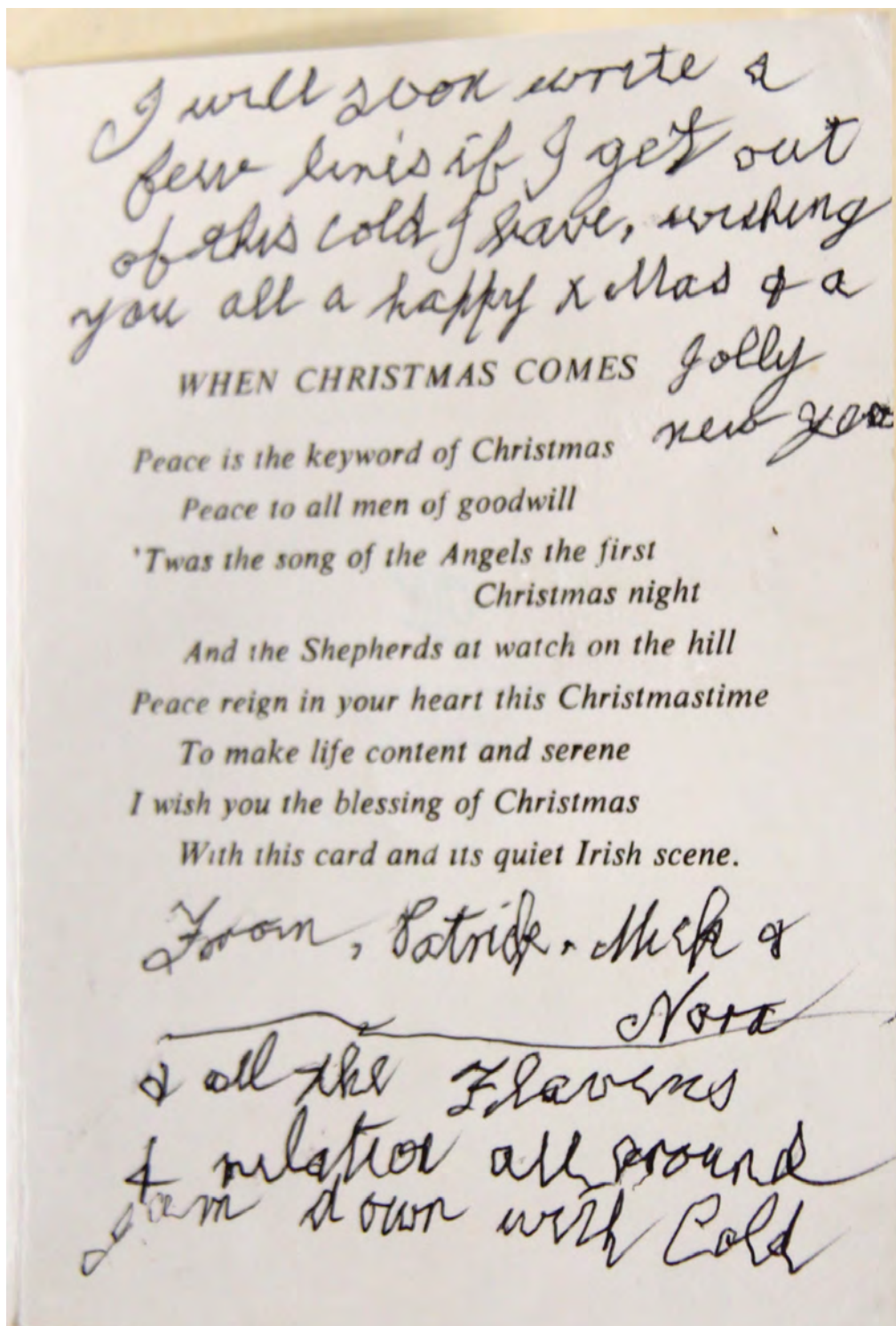
Dear Fathers, I enclose P.O.5 £ value for 4 Masses for my intention, yours
Patrick Flavin, Glenagnagra, Athea Co Limerick, EIRE.

46. Katie Flavin, Christmas card, n.d.



47. Paddy Flavin, Christmas Card, n.d.





I will soon write a few lines if I get out of this cold I have, wishing you
all a happy Xmas & a Jolly new year

From Patrick, Mick & Nora

& all the Flavins & relation all around I am down with cold

48. Paddy Flavin, Christmas card, n.d.



The Miles Between

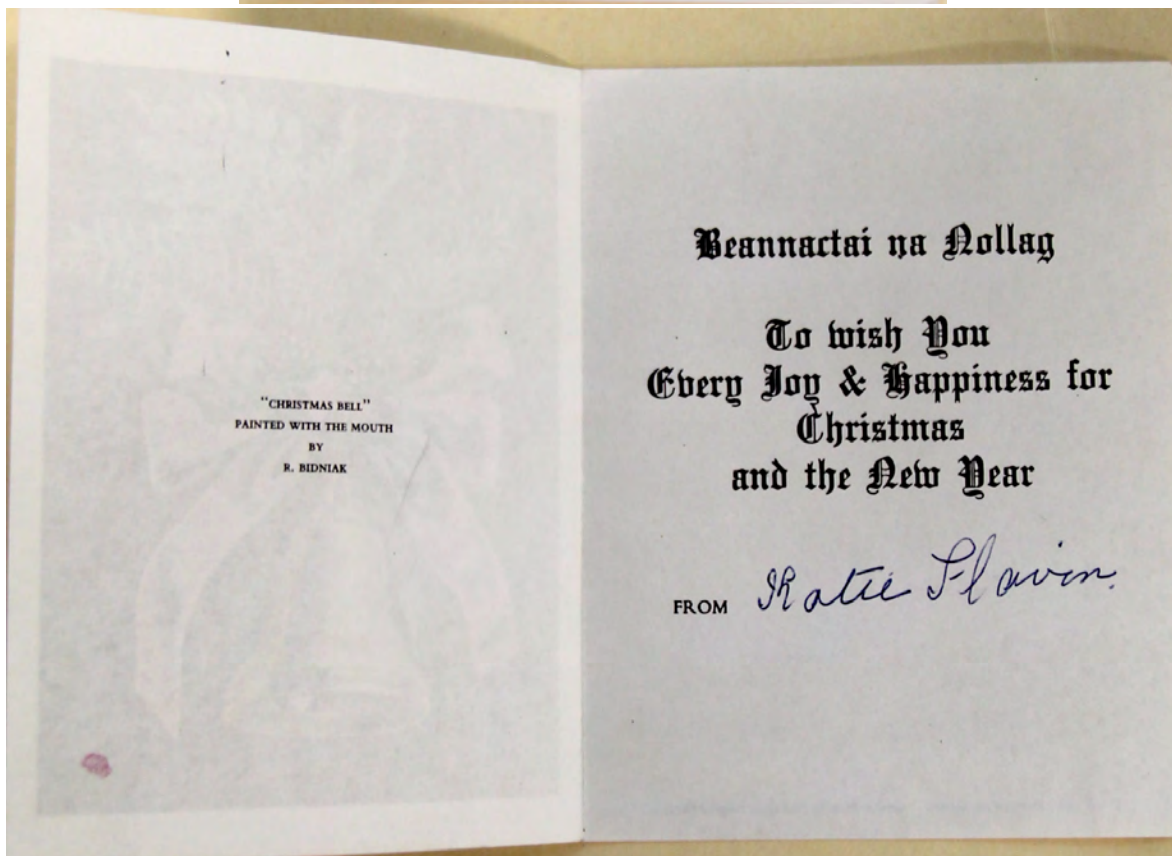
*O'er the miles that lie between us
 A simple greeting wends its way—
 To bring back memories of your homeland
 Of many an Irish Christmas day;
 May your Christmas day be happy
 In your home so far away—
 We'll think of you when bells are tolling,
 Through our hills on Christmas day.*

*From Paddy & Mick Flavin
 Wishing you & all your children
 & grandchildren the best of good luck
 in the new year & for all time*

FR. T. FOY

From Paddy & Mick Flavin Wishing you & all your children &
 grandchildren the best of good luck in the new year & for all time

49. Katie Flavin, Christmas card, n.d.



50. Paddy Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 28 August 1970

August 28, 1970.

Dear Cousin, I got your sad letter 2 days ago, & I am very ~~be~~ sorry to hear of your Mother's death, & also all your relations that are here around, do also sympathise with you & all your sisters & brother, not forgetting your own Family, & husband, as I am not too good, I won't say any more. I might be able to write soon again, so

God bless & keep you all from any further trouble, & God have ^{mercies} on your Mother & Father and all who are gone before them
Yours Cousin Paddy Flavin, EIRE

Dear Cousin, I got your sad letter 2 days ago, & I am very sorry to hear of your Mothers death, & also all your relations that are here around, do also sympathise with you & all your sisters & brother, not forgetting your own family, & husband, as I am not too good I won't say any more. I might be able to write soon again, so God bless & keep you all from any further troubles & God have mercy on your Mother & Father and all who are gone before them yours Cousin Paddy Flavin, EIRE

51. Katie Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, ca 1970-71

ca 1970-71

Tarmon,
Tarheat.
Co Kerry.

Dear Cousin Elizabeth,

I received
your very welcomed letter a
while ago, glad you got my
card, but how foolish of
me not to sign it.

Your dear mother ^{R.I.P}
was very good for writing
I have her two late letters
& her writing was as good
as when she first wrote
not so for me my sight &
hearing & walk are failing.

Dear cousin Elizabeth, I received your very welcomed letter a while ago
glad you got my card, but how foolish of me not to sign it,

Your dear mother RIP was very good for writing I have her two late
letters & her writing was as good as when she first wrote, not so for me
my sight & hearing & walk are failing

but that is no surprise
as I am nearing 46.

My brother Paddy is
keeping meely he is over 80,
he writes to me now &
again & always tells me if
he has a letter from ev, J,

All the old relations
have passed again away
George Lynch is the oldest
& he is not well at present,
Nora & Nell Gannon are
the only two living, & their
children are growing up

But that is no surprise as I am nearing 76, My brother Paddy is keeping nicely he is over 80, he writes to me now & again & always tells me if he has a letter from NZ, All the old relation have passed again away George Lynch is the oldest & he is not well at present, Nora & Nell O'Connor are the only two living, & their children are growing up

ca 1970-71

3

Nora in America has
 two a nun & a brother
 Brother Nell has five
 two girls in America &
 one married was here
 & two boys, I don't think
 any of them are married
 They & Nora & ^{Nell} has
 as sister a man she
 died lately they have no
 young children who would
 correspond with yours,

I must now finish as I am making
 a bad hand of writing wishing you
 husband & all the children a Holy
 & Happy Xmas. Cousin Kate

Nora in America have two, a nun & a Christian Brother Nell has five,
Two girls in America & one married near here & two boys, I don't think
any of them are married. Nora & Nell has a sister a nun & she died lately,
they have no young children who would correspond with yours, I must
now finish as I am making a bad hand of writing, wishing you, your
husband & all the children a Holy & Happy Xmas, Cousin Katie

52. Katie Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, ca 1971

ca 1971

Tarmon
Tarbert,
Co. Kerry,

Dear Cousin Elizabeth,

Hoping all
well, I am a long time
thinking of writing I was so
much in the habit of writing
to your ^{R.I.P.} mother I said I
should write a few lines &
find out how ~~are~~ my cousins
are. I'd love to hear how all
are getting on, but you have no
time now with the children
God Bless them to write
I suppose some of them are

Dear Cousin Elizabeth, Hoping all well, I am a long time thinking of writing I was so much in the habit of writing to your mother RIP I said I should write a few lines & find out how my cousins are. I'd love to hear how all are getting on, but you have no time now with the children God Bless them to write I suppose some of them are (Missing Page)

53. Katie Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, ca 1973

ca 1973

Jurrae.
athea
Co. Limerick.

Dear Elizabeth. A few lines
hoping you, husband, + children
are all well also all my
cousins in E.V. especially
your own sisters husbands,
+ family also brother wife
+ family are all well.
There is a good
few years since you were
here a lot has happened
since, some dead others
married + more of us
very near the grave,

Dear Elizabeth, A few lines hoping you, husband & children are all well also all my cousins in NZ especially your own Sisters husband, & family also brother wife & family are all well. Here is a good few years since you were here a lot has happened since, some dead, others married, & more of us very near the grave,

2

ca 1973

My brother Paddy is 84 +
 has his memory all the time
 he often talks of you he is
 a great - gran - father now.
 if your mother ^{RIP} was alive now
 they'd tell each across the
 water about their grandchildren

Well Elizabeth they have
 dear old Ireland torn asunder
 they have no regard for life
 this I don't know what it will
 come to.

We have frosty weather
 now, I suppose ye have the
 summer now. time is passing
 very quickly I am 78
 I think this will be my last

My brother Paddy is 84 & has his memory all the time he often talks of you, he is a great-gran-father now, if your mother RIP was alive now they'd tell each across the water about their grandchildren. Well Elizabeth they have dear old Ireland torn asunder they have no regard for life there, I don't know what it will come to, We have frostyweather now, I suppose ye have the summer now. Time is passing very quickly I am 78 I think this will be my last-

The McCrags girls got their
new home so I am
here now for whatever
time I'll be left alone,

I will now wish
A Happy & Holy
Christmas to you
husband, children,
& all my Cousins

*Sp. atai Flavim
Lurraae
athea.*

The McEvoy girls got their new home so I am here now, for whatever time I'll be left alive, I will now wish a Happy & Holy Christmas to you husband children, & all my cousins

Katie Flavin, Turraree, Athea

54. Katie Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 1973

1973

Turnance
athea

Dear Elizabeth.

A line to
find out how you & your
family are, I am writing a
few lines as my hands are
getting painful. They might fall
I am 78 so they won't hold much
longer. Paddy is keeping well
he is 85 - we are still in Limerick
here in the North a lot of
lives lost, war is a terrible
thing all the cousins are
well, I hope you will understand
these few lines, hoping husband
& family are well.

Dear Elizabeth. A line to find out how you & your family are, I am writing a few lines as my hands are getting painful, they might fail I am 78 so they won't hold much longer, Paddy is keeping nicely, he is 85 we are still in trouble here in the North a lot of lives lost, war is a terrible thing all the erasers are well, I hope you will understand these few lines, hoping husband & family are well,

send a few lines if you have
time with so many children
around, you God Bless them all
+ yourself + husband

Hattie Flavins,
Lisrarae
Athea
Co. Limerick,
Ireland

Send a few lines if you have time with so many children around you God
Bless them all & Yourself & your husband.

Katie Flavin Turraree Athea Co Limerick Ireland

55. Katie Flavin to Elizabeth O'Neill, 1973

Insurance.
At the

Dear Elizabeth,

A line hoping
all are well.

My brother Paddy ^{R.I.P.}
was buried a month ago,
he was only sick five weeks
he used to work in the garden
at the back of the house &
grow carrots & onions & other
vegetables it was only past time
for him until he fell sick.

I am 79, he was 85. I hoping
you, husband, & family are all
well. Wishing all a Holy & Happy
Xmas

Katie

Dear Elizabeth A line hoping all are well, my brother Paddy RIP was buried a month ago, he was only sick five weeks he used to work in the garden at the back of the house & grow carrots & onions & other vegetables it was only past time for him until he fell sick. I am 79, he was 85. I hoping you, husband & family are all well. Wishing all a Holy & Happy Xmas

Katie

56. Mary Flavin to Mary O'Neill, 8 January 1975

Glenagragia,
Athea,
8-1-'75.

Dear Mary,

I hope these few lines will find you & yours in the best of health as leaves all here T.G. You are surprised I'm sure who is writing to you well I am Bill Flavin's wife Bill is Paddy's son I got to know about you from Katie you will be sorry to hear she died 5th November R.I.P. she came to live with us last December 1973. she wasn't well then & she needed someone

Dear Mary, I hope these few lines will find you & yours in the best of health as leaves all here T.G. You are surprised I'm sure who is writing to you well I am Bill Flavin's wife Bill is Paddy's son I got to know about you from Katie you will be sorry to hear she died 5th November RIP. She came to live with us last December 1973. She wasn't well then & she needed someone

2

8 Jan 1975

to care her I was very fond
of her she was really nice
we gave her a good time
& did all we could for
her she had very high
blood pressure she got a
stroke then in April & lost
the use of her feet the
doctor did all he could
for her she died of heart
trouble she was very happy
here with us it was
Gods wishes to take her.

You must write to me
now Mary & tell me
about yourself did you
ever come to Ireland we
would like very much to

To care her I was very fond of her she was really nice we gave her a good time & did all we could for her she had very high blood pressure she got a stroke then in April & lost the use of her feet the doctor did all he could for her she died of heart trouble she was very happy here with us it was Gods wishes to take her. You must write to me now Mary & tell me about yourself did you ever come to Ireland we would like very much to

3

8 Jan 1975

meet you, you might pay a
trip to Ireland some time.

I am sending you a
card of Katie's thanks
very much for your Xmas
Card & Mass Card & money
which we received for Christmas.

Hope you had a very
nice Christmas & Wishing you
a very Happy New Year.

I will be looking forward
to a letter from you soon.

Good Bye,

God Bless you

Love Mary Bill &

Family

(Flavin)

x x x x

meet you, you might pay a trip to Ireland some time. I am sending you a card of Katie & thanks very much for your Xmas card & Mass card & money which we received for Christmas Hope you had a very nice Christmas & wishing you a very happy new year. I will be looking forward to a letter from you soon.

Good Bye,

God Bless you

Love Mary Bill & Family (Flavin)

57. Mary Ita Flavin to Mary O'Neill, 25 February 1994

25th Feb 94th gbragragra,
Atlea,
Co. Limerick.

Dear Mary,

Just a note to say hello + to thank you for your welcome letter I received a few days ago. I always love to hear from you. Well I'm glad to hear you are all well. We're all fine here too. Thank God.

I've got a new job now, at a Nursing home. I like it there. It's dealing with old people, which I love. The boss is a lovely woman too, as are all the staff. So I've made many new friends there.

I stay there during the week, cause it's quite a bit from my house. But I don't mind, I think it's doing me good to be away from home for a while. I also work in a bar on Friday nights + I love that. It's a bar in a village where my boyfriend (James) is from, so I know most people there.

I hope you enjoy your trip. It sounds very interesting. I'm delighted for your sister. Babies are always really cute at that age.

My cousin had a baby girl 3 months ago + she's lovely now too. Everytime I call to see her I feel like bringing her home.

Give your Mum all our love.

Everyone here sends their best wishes to ye all. We're thinking of going to England on our holidays this year. (James + I) I'm looking forward to it. I've never been out of this country before. So I'll be really excited.

We've got the donkey still. His old now, almost 20 years. But my grandad looks after him well. Giving him sweets + everything. His really spall.

I'll leave you here for now. Write soon. Love to everyone for me. Take care Mary.

All the Best
God Bless
Mary Ita

Glenagragra, Athea, Co. Limerick. 25th Feb '94

Dear Mary,

Just a note to say hello & to thank you for your welcome letter I received a few days ago. I always love to hear from you. Well, I'm glad to hear you are all well. We're all fine here too, thank God.

I've got a new job now, at a Nursing home. I like it there. It's dealing with old people, which I love. The boss is a lovely woman too, as are all the staff. So I've made many new friends there. I stay there during the week, cause its quite a bit from my house. But I don't mind, I think its doing me good to be away from home for a while. I also work in a bar on Friday nights & I love that. It's a bar in a village where my boyfriend (James) is from, so I know most people there.

I hope you enjoy your trip. It sounds very intresting. I'm delighted for your sister; babies are always really cute at that age.³⁶ My cousin had a baby girl 3 months ago & she's lovely now too. Everytime I call to see her I feel like bringing her home.

Give your Mum all our love. Everyone here sends their best wishes to ye all. We're thinking of going to England on our holidays this year. (James and I). I'm looking forward to it. I've never been out of this country before. So I'll be really excited.

We've got the donkey still, he's old now, almost 20 years. But my Grandad looks after him well. Giving him sweets & everything. He's really spoilt.

I'll leave you here for now. Write soon. Love to everyone for me. Take care, Mary.

All the Best, God Bless, Mary Ita

³⁶ Mary's niece Ruth was born in June 1993.

58. Mary Ita Moloney to Mary O'Neill, ???

1

Mary Ita Moloney.
Ketrain middle.
Mayvane.
Kistowel.
Co. Kerry.

Dear Mary.

Just a few lines to say hi.
Thanks for your letter which I recieved a
couple of weeks ago.
I was delighted to hear that you might
be coming back to Ireland.
I'd love to meet you again.
You'll have to call to meet James & see
our house. please let me know when you
are coming so I can arrange to meet you
somewhere. Otherways you could have a
hard job finding me.
Glad to hear all the family are well.
We're all fine here too thank God.
The weather is fine here at the moment.
At least it is not raining for a change.

Mary Ita Moloney, Letrim Middle, Moyvane, Listowel, Co. Kerry

Dear Mary

Just a few lines to say hi. Thanks for your letter which I recieved a couple of weeks ago.

I was delighted to hear that you might be coming back to Ireland.

I'd love to meet you again.

Youll have to call to meet James & see our house. Please let me know when you are coming so I can arange to meet you somewhere. Otherways you could have a hard job finding me.

Glad to hear all the Family are well. We're all fine here too thank God.

The weather is fine here at the moment. At least it is not raining for a change.

2

There's not much happening around here
at the moment.

Work is quite. It always is this time of year.
You're looking forward to the summer when it
begins to get busy again.

The days go by so much quicker when
you're busy.

By your letter you sound very busy.
I bet you haven't time to get bored.

My Mum is great again. Thank God.

She went to the hospital for a check-up
last Tuesday & got the All-clear.

We were delighted, I was a bit worried
about her after she got the mini stroke.
She smokes quite a lot of cigarettes & I
think that's a lot of her problem.

But no matter how much we nag her to
give up. She won't.

I guess she's been smoking so long at
this stage she finds it hard.

But I think for her own sake she should
keep trying.

There's not much happening around here at the moment.

Work is quite. It always is this time of year. I'm looking forward to the summer when it begins to get busy again.

The days go by so much quicker when your busy.

By your letter you sound very busy.

I bet you haven't time to get bored.

My Mum is great again Thank God.

She went to the hospital for a check-up last Tuesday & got the All-Clear.

We were delighted. I was a bit worried about her after she got the mini stroke. She smokes quite a lot of cigarettes & I think that's a lot of her problem.

But no matter how much we nag her to give up, she wont.

I guess she's being smokeing so long at this stage she finds it hard.

But I think for her own sake she should keep trying.

3

Anyway I don't have Much More to say
for now.

I'm afraid theres no gossip at this Side.
please do Write & let me know when your
Coming. I'd ~~be~~ Really love to see you again.
Take Care of yourself.

Give my love to everyone. All here say hello.
Love.

Mary H

xxx

P.S. I am Sending you on
a photo of the wedding. (At last)

Anyway I don't have much more to say for now.

I'm afraid there's no gossip at this side. Please do write & let me know when your coming. I'd really love to see you again. Take care of yourself.

Give my love to everyone. All here say hello.

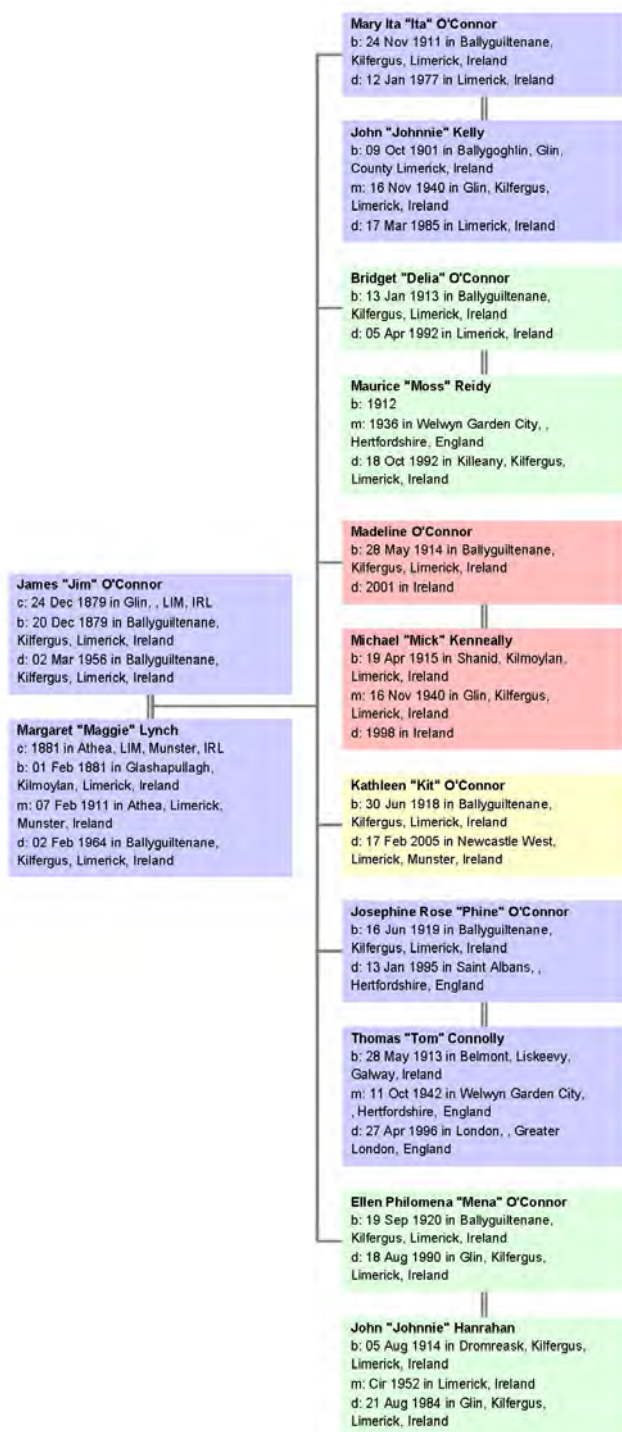
Love

Mary Ita xxx

P.S. I am sending you a photo of the wedding. (At last).

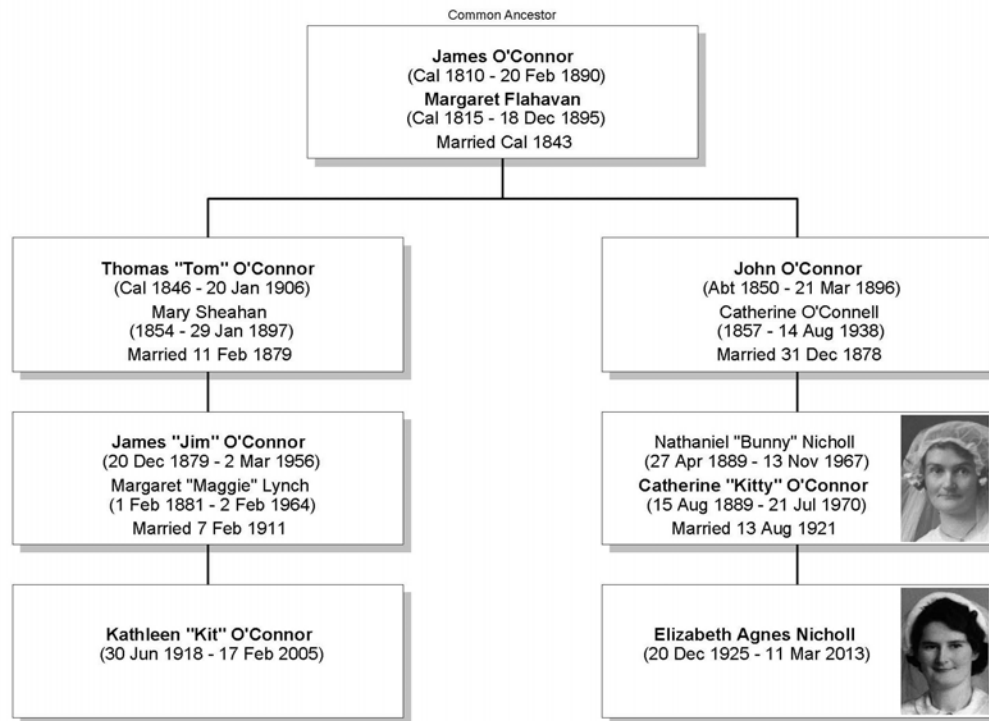
Part 3: Kathleen O'Connor

Kathleen "Kit" O'Connor was one of six sisters (including Phine Connolly, see Part 4) who grew up on the O'Connor farm that Elizabeth Nicholl's grandfather John O'Connor had left in 1877. This collection begins with letters to Elizabeth's mother Catherine, who lived her last few years in Gore, where she died in 1970. I began to write to Kathleen after becoming interested in family history in 1976, and visited her in 1987.

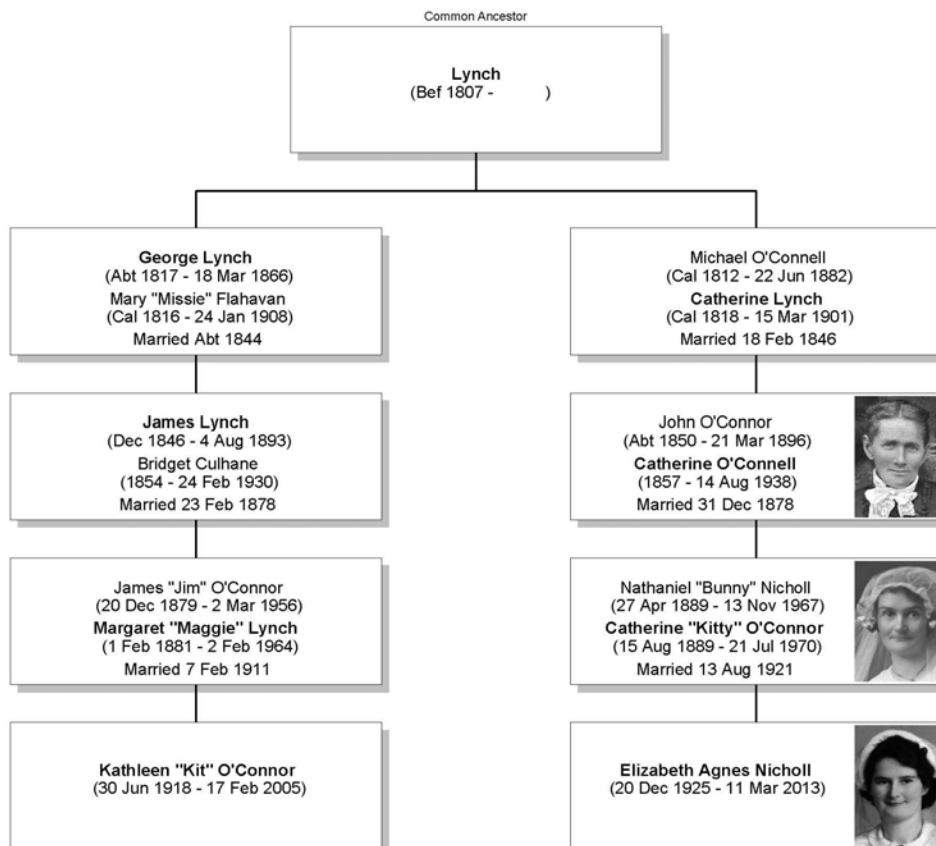


Kathleen O'Connor and Elizabeth O'Neill were related in three ways:

Elizabeth Agnes Nicholl is the 2nd cousin of Kathleen "Kit" O'Connor



Elizabeth Agnes Nicholl is the 3rd cousin of Kathleen "Kit" O'Connor



Elizabeth Agnes Nicholl is the 3rd cousin of Kathleen "Kit" O'Connor

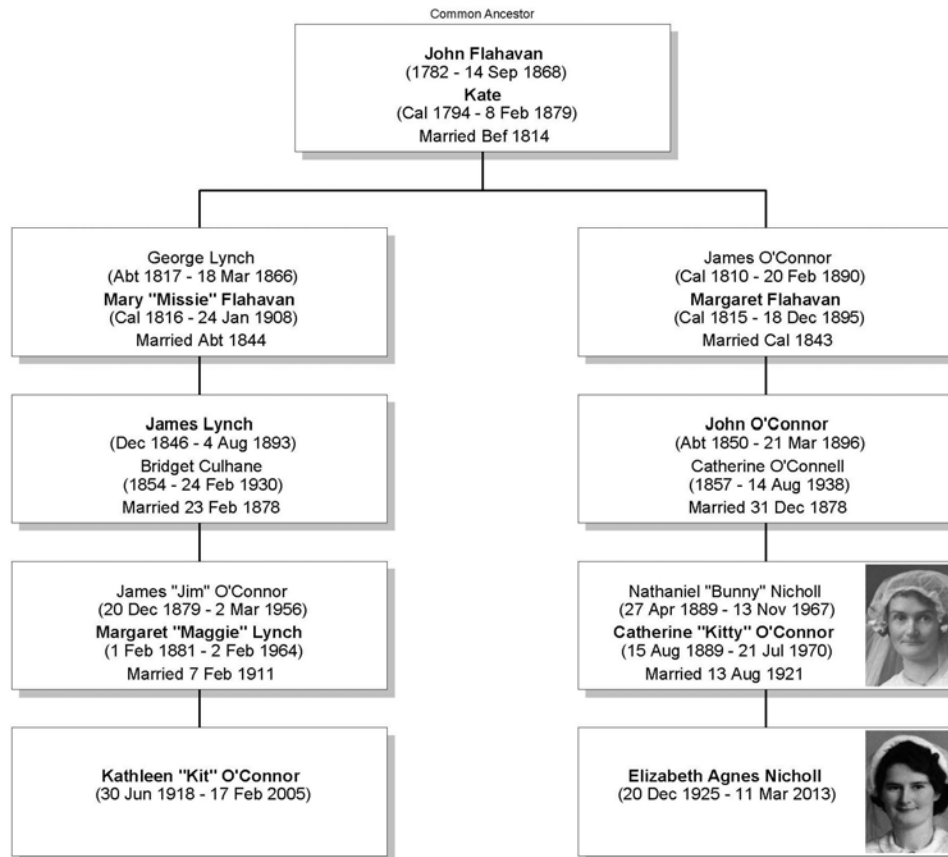


Figure 10 Kathleen O'Connor with Moss and Delia Reidy, Limerick,
21 September 1987



Figure 11 Kathleen O'Connor and her sister Madeline Kennelly, Shanagolden, Limerick, 21 September 1987



Figure 12 Teresa and James Kelly and children Elizabeth, Maureen, Geraldine and John at the 1890s O'Connor home, Ballyguilteneane, 22 September 1987

See Figure 7 for a photo of James at the same place in 1950.

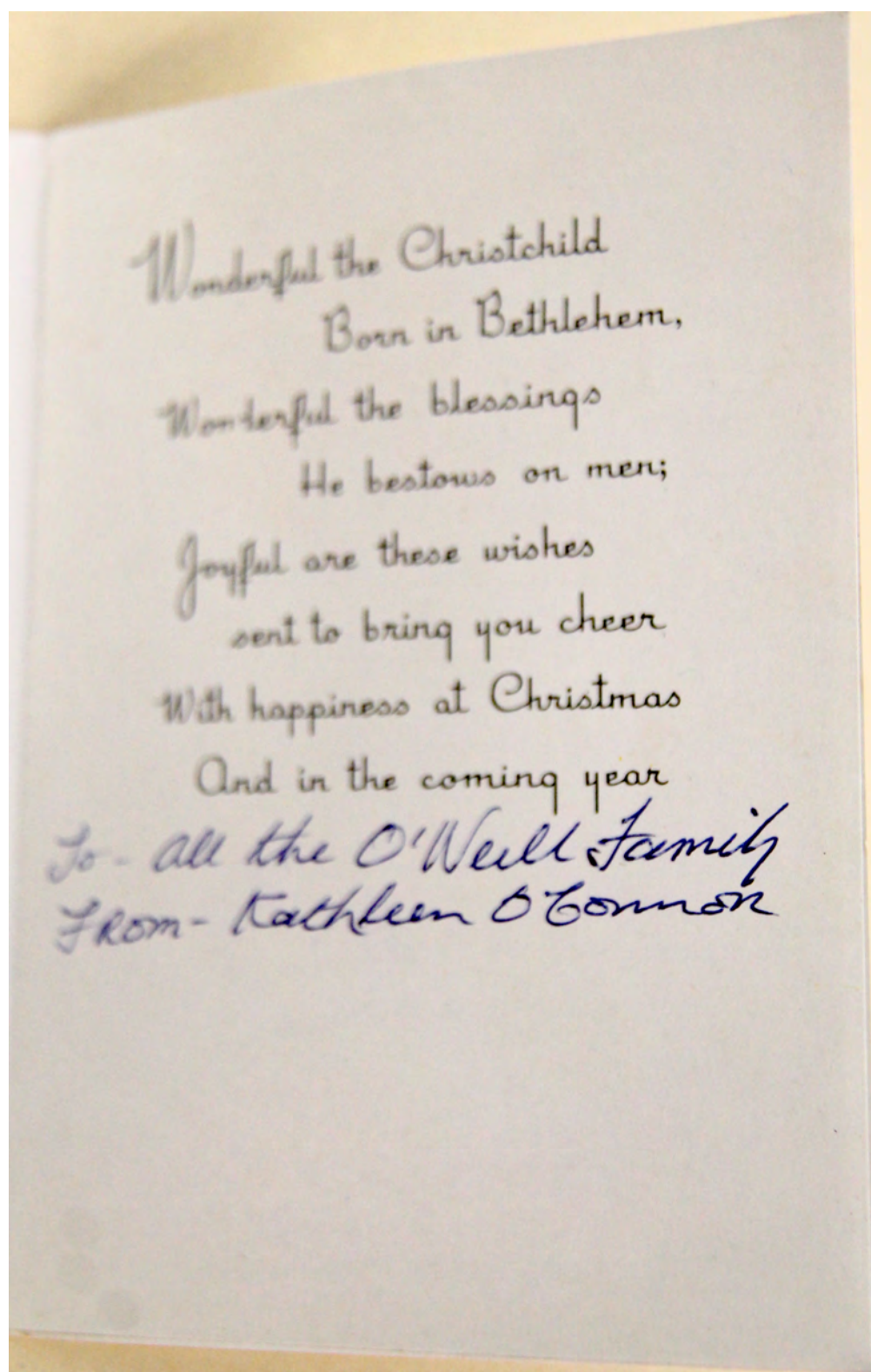
59. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, Dunedin, Christmas





"For out of thee shall come a Governor,
that shall rule my people Israel."

MATT. 2:6



To All the O'Neill Family

From Kathleen O'Connor



Figure 13 Denise Kelly, Emily O'Neill (Aus), Dominic Madden (NZ), Katrina Moor (Aus), Patrick Langan, Kate O'Neill (Aus) and Tom O'Neill at the remodelled O'Connor home, Ballyguiltanane, 25 September 2019

60. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, Dunedin, 3 January 1968

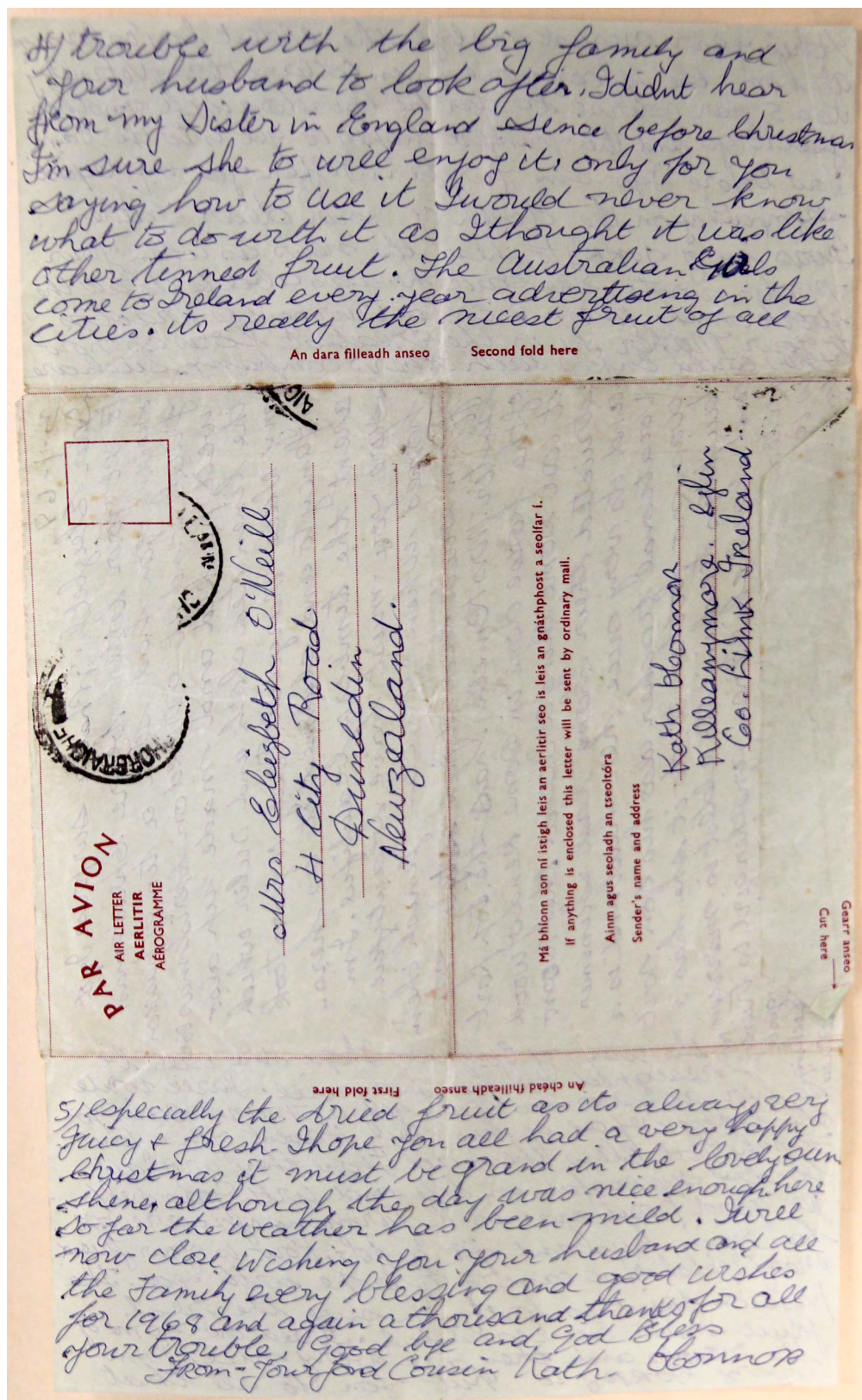
& this year August maybe the eldest boy is farmer
 at home the second one is in College doing Veterinary
 its a 5 year course so far he has done well another
 year to go and the youngest hopes to get into the bank
 Now before I go any further. I offer you my deepest
 sympathy on the death of your dear Father
 I was very sorry to hear the news as when your
 Mother wrote she said he was able to do all the
 work on the farm even to driving the tractor
 to your Mother she is the greatest loss as now
 they could enjoy each others company such as
 3-1-69
 Dear Elizabeth. What a surprise I got
 to get your letter before Christmas
 saying you had sent a tin of passion
 fruit and it arrived on Christmas eve
 well packed and made up also
 the linen tea cloth and ruler which
 my Niece Margaret Reidy 11 years took
 a fancy to and claimed it as hers.
 aren't the timbers beautiful. I'm
 sure you must have beautiful
 homes when you can finish them
 off in such beautiful style. My
 Sister Mrs Kennedy has the top part
 of the house done in some kind of wood
 it cost some thing colossal they recon-
 structed their home last Summer
 and its very nice her husband is a
 Vocational teacher as his son so it
 was no bother to do it she has 3
 daughters teaching the eldest is married
 and has 2 children another girl is training
 for teaching & more at school and the youngest
 is 10 years. Mrs Kellys only daughter is teaching
 in Dublin she is a B.Sc. she is engaged to be married.
 the way of God. so I hope she will be
 resigned to his holy will. I will write
 her as soon as I can get a mass said for
 the happy repose of his soul. Haven't you a fine
 family God bless them all I hope they will all
 be very successful in life and with Gods help
 get good positions, is it farming you are in
 has your husband got a job. How is your friend
 Mary Walsh that came to Europe with you. The
 passion fruit is lovely I'm sure the real
 fruit must be beautiful. I tried out some of
 the recipes and they are very nice. I am
 very sorry to put you to all that

Killeanymore, Glin, Co Limk, Ireland

3-1-68

Dear Elizabeth, What a surprise I got to get your letter before Christmas saying you had sent a tin of passion fruit and it arrived on Christmas eve well packed and made up, also the linen tea cloth and ruler which my niece Margaret Reidy 11 years took a fancy to and claimed it as hers. Arent the timbers beautiful. I'm sure you must have beautiful homes when you can finish them off in such beautiful style. My sister Mrs Kennelly has the top part of the house done in some kind of wood, it cost something colossal, they reconstructed their home last summer and it's very nice, her husband is a vocational teacher, also his son, so it was no bother to do it. She has 3 daughters teaching, the eldest is married and has 2 children, another girl is training for teaching, 2 more at school and the youngest is 10 years. Mrs Kelly's only daughter is teaching in Dublin, she is a B.Sc., she is engaged to be married this year, August maybe, the eldest boy is farming at home, the second one is in collage doing vetinary, it's a 5 year course, so far he has done well, another year to go, and the youngest hopes to get into the bank. Now before I go any further. I offer you my deepest sympathy on the death of your dear Father. I was very sorry to hear the news as when your Mother wrote, she said he was able to do all the work on the farm even to driving the tractor. To your Mother he is the greatest loss as now they could enjoy each other's company. Such are the ways of God, so I hope she will be resigned to his holy will. I will write to her as soon as I can get a Mass said for the happy repose of his soul. Haven't you a fine family. God Bless them all. I hope they will all be very successful in life and with God's help get good positions, is it farming you are or has your husband got a job. How is your friend Mary

Walsh that came to Europe with you. The passion fruit is lovely, I'm sure the real fruit must be beautiful. I tried out some of the recipes and they are very nice. I am very sorry to put you to all that



trouble with the big family and your husband to look after. I didn't hear from my sister in England since before Christmas, I'm sure she too will enjoy it, only for you saying how to use it I would never know what to do with it as I thought it was like other tinned fruit. The Australian girls come to Ireland every year advertising in the cities. It's really the nicest fruit of all especially the dried fruit as it's always very juicy & fresh. I hope you all had a very happy Christmas, it must be grand in the lovely sun shine, although the day was nice enough here. So far the weather has been mild. I will now close, wishing you, your husband and all the family every blessing and good wishes for 1968 and again a thousand thanks for all your trouble, Good bye and God Bless

From your fond Cousin Kath O'Connor

61. Kathleen O'Connor to Catherine Nicholl, Gore, 4 December 1969

4-12-69 Killeamymore
Eglis, Co Limerick

Dear Cousin Bathy

It's a year since I
heard from you and your dear
husband is dead over a year may
God Grant his soul eternal rest

How are you getting along, I hope
your health is fairly good. Suppose
one can't hope to have it good all the
time. How is Elizabeth her husband
and family, my sister had a letter
from her around the time her son
was ordained, eight of us from
Ireland travelled to England for the
ordination, it was a lovely experience
His Mam and Fr. Marik came

Killeanymore, Glin, Co Limerick

4-12-69

Dear Cousin Cathy

It's a year since I heard from you and your dear husband is dead over a year, may God grant his soul eternal rest. How are you getting along, I hope your health is fairly good. I suppose one can't hope to have it good all the time. How is Elizabeth, her husband and family; my sister had a letter from her around the time her son was ordained, eight of us from Ireland travelled to England for the ordination, it was a lovely experience. His Mam and Fr Mark came

to Ireland for a week. he wanted
 to come to say mass & give his blessing
 to those who were unable to go to England
 there were 700 at the ordination and
 reception afterwards at the Roman
 Catholic School, it was the first in the
 parish ~~he~~ it was opened to the parish
 and the Catholic Womens league and the
 C.Y.M.S done all the work and catering
 he hopes to go out to Biafra next
 year B.V. We had a beautiful summer
 J.G. the best in 50 years, it was no
 bother to get the work done and every
 one had better milk yields, so the
 fine weather can do a lot for one
 My Sisters daughter was home from ~~N.Y.~~
 for 9 weeks and her 3 children they
 were charmed with the fine weather as
 its warm & humid in New York her husband
 came for the last 3 weeks. How goes the
 spring & summer work with ye
 I hope it will be a favourable one
 for you. and that you will have
 a very happy & Holy Christmas, Kind
 regards to Elizabeths Family. The passion
 fruit was beautiful and lasted a
 long time it is far to go. Good bye
 God Bless. From - Your loving
 Cousin Kathleen.

to Ireland for a week. He wanted to come to say Mass & give his blessing to those who were unable to go to England. There were 700 at the ordination and reception afterwards at the Roman Catholic School, it was the first in the parish, it was opened to the parish, and the Catholic Womens league and the C.Y.M.S. done all the work and catering. He hopes to go out to Biafra next year D.V. we had a beautiful summer T.G., the best in 50 years, it was no bother to get the work done and every one had better milk yields, so the fine weather can do a lot for one. My sister's daughter was home from N.Y. for 9 weeks and her 3 children, they were charmed with the fine weather as it's warm & humid in New York. Her husband came for the last 3 weeks. How goes the spring & summer work with ye, I hope it will be a favourable one for you, and that you will have a very happy & Holy Christmas. Kind regards to Elizabeth & Family. The passion fruit was beautiful and lasted a long time, it is far to go. Good bye, God Bless, From your loving Cousin Kathleen.

62. Kathleen O'Connor to Catherine Nicholl, Gore, December 1969?

Dec 1969? —
Killeenymore,
Glin
Co Limerick, Ireland

Dear Cathy,

I was delighted to get your letter last week. Isn't it great that you are able to get to Mass it is something to look forward to. Arthritis can be very painful especially in the cold weather. I have it in my fingers ever since I was a young girl, one of my fingers is as big as two in the summer its not so bad except when I milk cows or do painting or out saving hay. Thank God those days of saving are over the tractor does all the work now and milking machines are installed. Some cows wont take to machine milking they have to be milked by hand. We had a very

Killeanymore, Glin, Co Limerick, Ireland

Dear Cathy,

I was delighted to get your letter last week. Isn't it great that you are able to get to Mass, it is something to look forward to. Arthritis can be very painful especially in the cold weather. I have it in my fingers ever since I was a young girl, one of my fingers is as big as two, in the summer it's not so bad except when I milk cows or do painting or out saving hay. Thank God those days of saving are over, the tractor does all the work now and milking machines are installed; some cows won't take to machine milking, they have to be milked by hand. We had a very

good summer I.G. June was
 about the worst month. I never
 remember such a beautiful
 autumn weather it was sun-
 shine up to Nov 1st then the cold
 weather came like a bang
 We have have had heavy
 rain snow frost & sleet and
 its very cold. Cattle had to be
 housed as it was too wet for
 them outside, so it means a
 long winter to tend them. I hope
 you got the spring work done
 and that you have had a
 successful lambing season do
 you go in for dairying. No
 the North of Ireland don't effect
 us I.G. things are quiet at the
 moment no doubt the Catholics
 and the not so well to do Protestants
 get a draw deal, they don't get
 employment or homes. they

good summer T.G.; June was about the worst month. I never remember such beautiful autumn weather, it was sunshine up to Nov 1st, then the cold weather came like a bang. We have had heavy rain, snow frost & sleet and its very cold, cattle had to be housed as it was to wet for them outside, so it means a long winter to tend them. I hope you got the spring work done and that you have had a successful lambing season; do you go in for dairying. No, the North of Ireland don't effect us, T.G. things are quiet at the moment, no doubt the Catholics and the not so well-to-do protestants get a draw deal, they don't get employment or homes, they

Dec 1969?

3

Just have to exist on the dole.
 The Orange man is very black &
 bitter. I met a few protestants
 live in our parish and they are
 very friendly with Catholics.
 Let us hope something permanent
 will be done for the north they
 want their rights as well as any
 body else. My sisters son Rev M
 Connolly sailed for Nigeria last
 Sun 30 Nov. They are very
 lonely after him two others that
 were ordained the same time
 went with him. Isn't there great
 credit due to all those nuns &
 priests that give up their lives
 to minister to the missions as you
 know things are not so good
 out there with War & starvation
 my sister has asked me if any
 one was anxious to help in the

just have to exist on the dole. The Orange man is very black & bitter. Quiet a few Protestants live in our parish and they are very friendly with Catholics. Let us hope something permernant will be done for the north, they want their rights as well as any body else. My sisters son Rev M Connolly sailed for Nigeria last Sun 30 Nov. They are very lonely after him; two others that were ordained the same time went with him. Isn't there great credit due to all those nuns & priests that give up their lives to minster to the missions, as you know things are not so great out there with war & starvation. My sister has asked me if any one was anxious to help in the

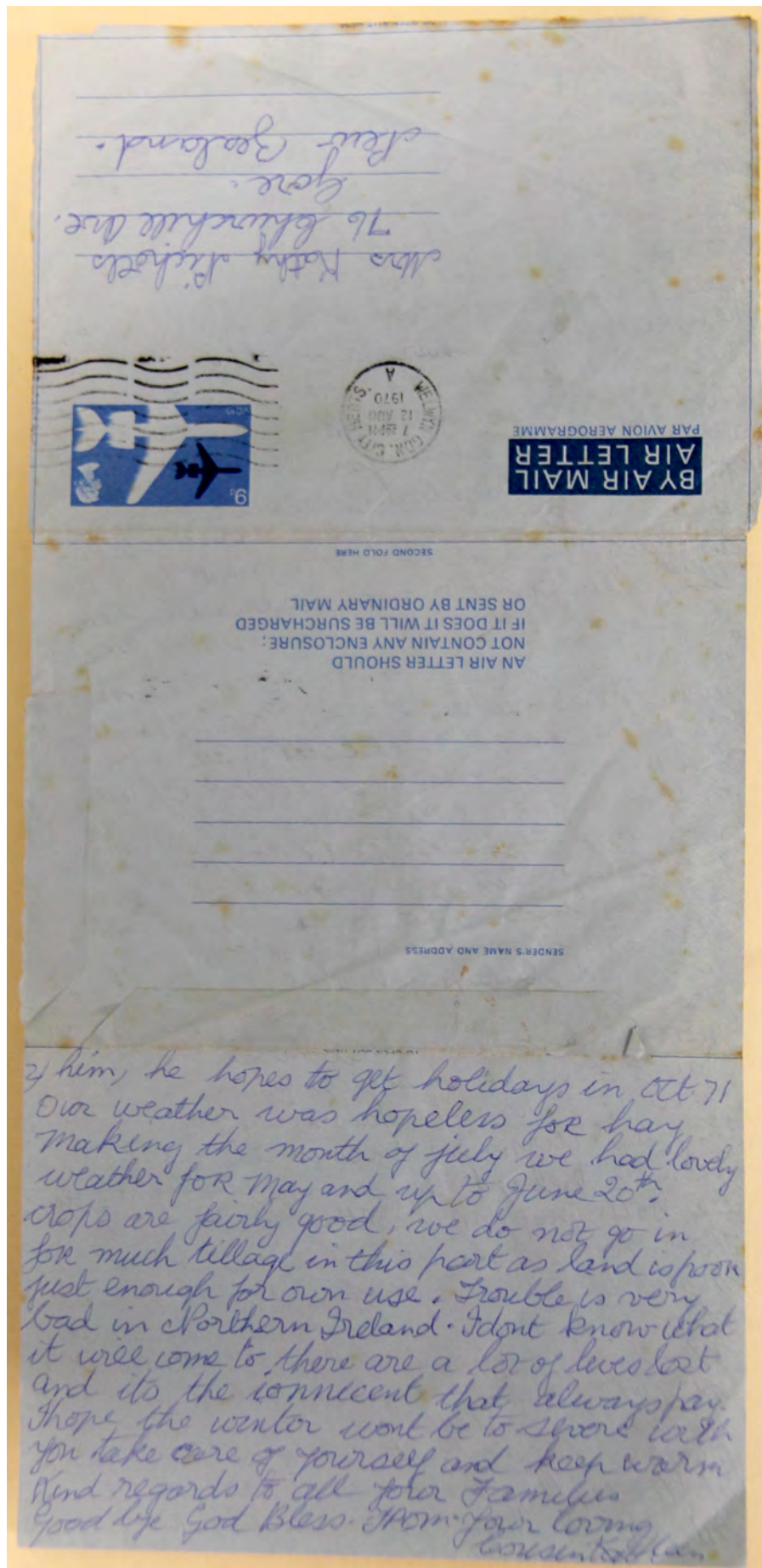
missions, by sending mass offerings they are building Hospitals & clinics out there, Perhaps you & your family and friends might like to help they will say masses out there if you would like to send donations I will enclose the address he is going to. It would be good way to help those poor unfortunate children dying of starvation it would make your flesh creep to see the poor things. God help them. The Irish here have been wonderful to the Biafrans they have collected thousands & have send ship loads of necessities. I must congratulate you on your lovely writing. By the time you get this you will be in the height of your summer. We will be glad to see the days turning again we have only 7 hours daylight & less when the weather is dull & wet. Kind regards to Elizabeth & Family and all yours hoping you will all have a very happy & holy Christmas & every happiness & good health. ~~FOR~~ 1970 God Bless From: Your Cousin Kathleen O'Connor

missions, by sending Mass offerings. They are building Hospitals & clinics out there. Perhaps you & your family and friends might like to help, they will say Masses out there if you would like to send donations. I will enclose the address he is going to. It would be good way to help those poor unfortunate children dying of starvation, it would make your flesh creep to see the poor things. God help them. The Irish here have been wonderful to the Biafrans, they have collected thousands & have send ship loads of necessities. I must congratulate you on your lovely writing. By the time you get this you will be in the height of your summer. We will be glad to see the days turning again, we have only 7 hours daylight & less when the weather is dull & wet. Kind regards to Eleizbeth & Family and all yours hoping you will all have a very happy & Holy Christmas & every happiness & good health for 1970. God Bless
From Your Cousin Kathleen O'Connor

63. Kathleen O'Connor to Catherine Nicholl, 12 August 1970

12 Aug 1970
 Dear Cousin Kathy,
 I was delighted to get your letters one in June, the other a few days ago. I am so sorry to hear that Elizabeth was unwell. I am grateful to hear that it's not anything serious; I trust God will take care of her. She has a fine family God bless them all. He has chosen her to be the Mother of a large family he will provide for them. Glad to hear you were able to visit. It is nice you are living with your own daughter. I will send a picture or if I can get a relic of St. Peter as soon as I get it. It is great to have ^{such} faith in your own particular saint. St. Patrick & Bride O'Connor used to write to you. You have a snap of them. The ~~man~~ woman was their sister. St. M. Rose. She died on June the 16th. She celebrated her diamond jubilee on a wheel chair. She was not well since before Christmas. She was supposed to be coming home on a holiday this year. She had to cancel it. She only lived 6 hours. She got a heavy stroke, it was the kind of death she had hoped for always. She was my Aunt. Her sister Bride is dead for 20 years. She was married to a Woods that must be her daughter in her first communion. St. M. Rose was 77 years. She has 2 sisters living still. They are. Turns one lives in Chicago the other here in Ireland. They are about 75 years. They are both in poor health. I had a letter from Fr. Mark. He was charmed to get the money from you and Elizabeth. He said they were wondering where they could get money to finish some job. They were at woken out of the blue they got poor money. He said it was an answer to prayer. He finds it very hard work at times. They have very bad conditions out there. I hope you will keep praying for

Dear Cousin Kathy, I was delighted to get your letters, one in June, the other a few days ago. I am so sorry to hear that Eleizbeth was unwell. I am grateful to hear that its not anything serious; don't worry, God will take care of her, she has a fine family, God bless them all. He has chosen her to be the Mother of a large family, he will provide for them; glad to hear you were able to visit her. It is nice you are living with your own daughter. I will send on a picture or if I can get a relic of St Rita as soon as I can get it. It is great to have such faith in your own particular saint. So Norah & Bride O'Connor used to write to you. You have a snap of them. The nun was their Sister, Sr M. Rose. She died on June the 16th. She celebrated her diamond jubille on a wheel chair. She was not well since before Christmas. She was supposed to be coming home on a holiday this year, she had to cancel it. She only lived 6 hours, she got a heavy stroke, it was the kind of death she hoped for always. She was my aunt. Her sister Bride is dead for 20 years, she was married to a Woods, that must be her daughter in her first communion. Sr Rose was 77 years, she has 2 sisters living still, they are twins, one lives in Chicago, the other here in Ireland, they are about 75 years, they are both in poor health. I had a letter from Fr Mark, he was charmed to get the money from you and Eleizbeth, he said they were wondering where they could get money to finish some job they were at when out of the blue they got your money, he said it was an answer to prayer, he finds it very hard work at times, they have very bad conditions out there. I hope you will keep praying for



him, he hopes to get holidays in Oct 71. Our weather was hopeless for hay making the month of July, we had lovely weather for May and up to June 20th. Crops are fairly good, we do not go in for much tillage in this part as land is poor, just enough for own use. Trouble is very bad in Northern Ireland. I don't know what it will come to. There are a lot of lives lost and it's the innocent that always pay. I hope the winter won't be too severe with you, take care of yourself and keep warm. Kind regards to all your Families. Good bye, God Bless, From your loving Cousin Kathleen

64. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 29 [August?] 1970

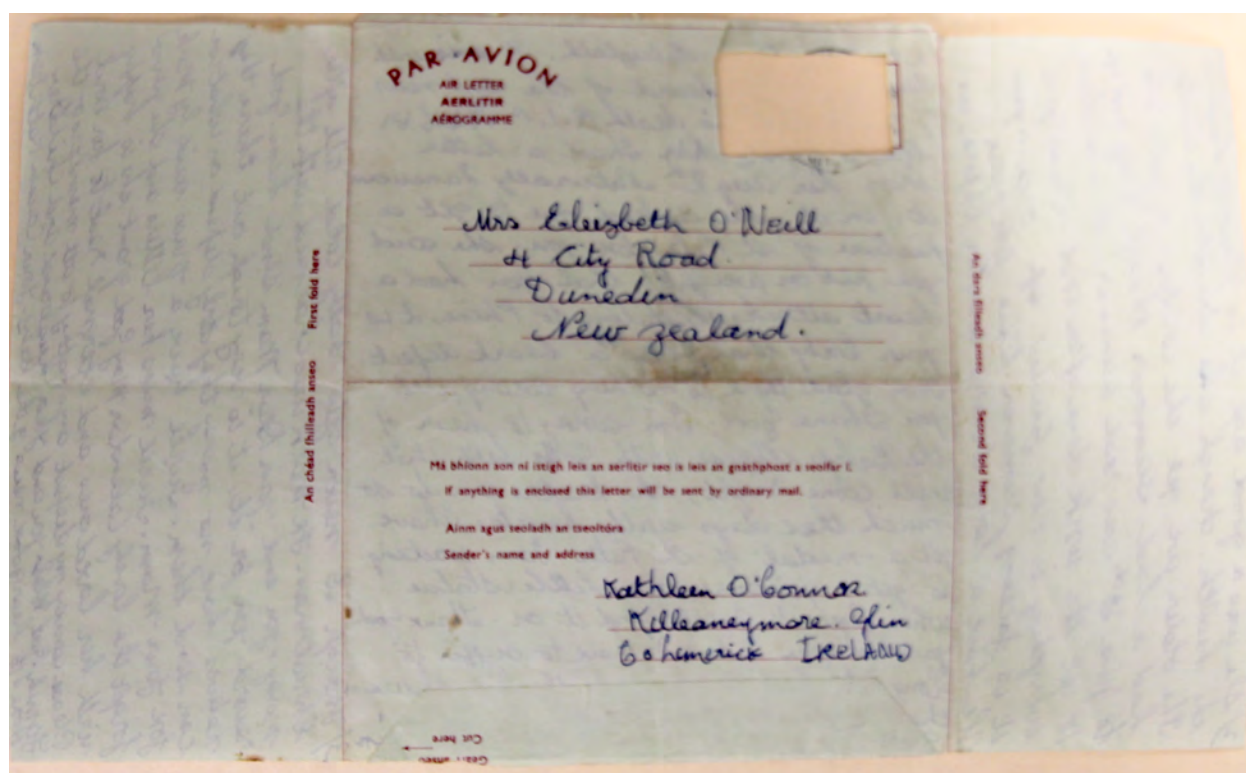
2/ she was a good age. it is great to have the health. though she broadens the winter. The older we get the colder we get. We had a bad summer though may and up to June 20th was real summer, it was slow to get the work done after that. Thank God everything is now finished up. once again it is facing summer time for you. We have a long dreary winter before us

29 [August?] 1970
Elizabeth. It ~~was~~ with
heard of the sad news
is death R.I.P. I had a
I had a letter
from her Aug 8th. Naturally I answered
it. in it she asked me to get a
picture of St Rita for you. She said
you put on weight, that you had a
heart attack. according to Phine, it is
your baby that has a heart defect.
I am glad there is nothing wrong with
you Thank God. I'm sorry to hear of
the Baby's illness with God's help that
will come right, the Doctors can do so
much these days with hearts. I have
got a medal of St Rita I am waiting
to get a picture or a little statue
when I get it I will send it on. Thank God
your mother did not have to suffer so
long she had a good death. I'm sure
that is the way she wanted it. It is
agonies to watch them prolonging in pain

3/ Though it never gets really cold till after
Christmas. Fr Mark was charmed with the
money for and your dear Mam send them. God
reward you for it, it is very tough out there the
natives have no money they only depend on what we
can send them. I will have a mass said by Mark
for your Mam. I will miss her letters and she never
forgot the lovely calendar May God grant she is happy
with her loved ones and eternal rest to her soul
Please convey my deepest sympathy to all members of the
family. God bless you and your husband and children
I have to hear good news of the baby. Your Cousin Kathleen

29 ... Dear Eleizbeth, it is with deep [...] heard of the sad news of y[our mother]'s death R.I.P.³⁷ I had a letter from her Aug 8th. Naturally I answered it. In it she asked me to get a picture of St Rita for you. She said you put on weight, that you had a heart attack. According to Phine it is you baby that has a heart defect. I am glad there is nothing wrong with you Thank God. I'm sorry to hear of the Baby's illness, with God's help that will come right, the Doctors can do so much these days with hearts. I have got a medal of St Rita, I am waiting to get a picture or a little Statue; when I get it I will send it on. Thank God your Mother did not have to suffer to long, she had a good death, I'm shure that is the way she wanted it. It is agony to watch them prolonging in pain. She was a good age. It is great to have the health. Though she dreaded the winter. The older we get the colder we get. We had a bad summer though May and to June 20th was real summer, it was slow to get the work done after that. Thank God everything is now finished up. Once again it is faceing summer time for you. We have a long dreary winter before us. Though it never gets really cold till after Christmas. Fr Mark was charmed with the money you and your Dear Mam send him. God reward you for it. It is very tough out there, the natives have no money, they only depend on what we can send them. I will have a Mass said by Mark for your Mam. I will miss her letters and she never forgot the lovely calendar. May God grant she is happy with her loved ones and eternal rest to her soul. Please convey my deepest sympathy to all members of the Family. God Bless you and your husband and children. Hope to hear good news of the baby. Your Cousin Kathleen.

³⁷ Catherine Nicholl, Elizabeth O'Neill's mother, died at Gore on 21 July 1970.



65. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 18 June 1971

I was writing when he will be home in 2 weeks he told them to
 pray that he would get good connections to make Mary wedding
 in time he expected it would take him 5 days to get home.
 I'm sure Mary would be charmed to get a cable from old Ireland
 I've enclosed the address of where the reception is to be held.
 Mary is coming over to Ireland for the honeymoon. Went over to
 England for a few weeks last year. If I had known all these
 arrangements were coming off I would have preferred to wait till
 this year. I think I told you in my times letter there was a cousin a
 man home from New Zealand came to see her brother who was very
 ill with a heart complaint. She is not going back any more as she
 is not feeling too well. I want the brother buried yesterday R.I.P. he
 left.

Dear Elizabeth,

I was delighted to get your letter. My times I have wondered how
 little Rita is getting along. Well the Lord
 is good, with all the science who knows
 what good tidings is in store. I know
 you are resigned to the will of God, and
 you have a little angel amongst you.
 Yes I am still at Killybegs I travel around to
 all my sisters as they all live locally
 Mrs Kelly still teaches. Do you remember
 Joan she is the only girl, she is married 3
 years has a little boy of 2 years, she teaches
 in Kesh at St Michael's College all boys.
 all science she teaches. her husband has a
 farm and garage business. James the eldest
 boy who is in the farm, is getting married
 in Sept, the next boy is a Veterinary Surgeon
 and practices locally and the youngest is
 working at the new generating station
 Larlek Island a few miles at the West of
 Eglis. Yes your friend was right about Bishop
 Butler he ordained Mark. I can't answer about
 the money. I had a letter from Phine yesterday
 they haven't heard from Mark for 2 months
 he has his own parish now so he is probably
 very busy now with the change over.

I was fair since he left Hospital in Nov. got a set back a week
 ago and died unexpectedly. there are 10 children. he is a great loss
 to them as they are very young. his mother is still alive and is 98
 very good to Mark. I do hope he got the money with the change of address
 there will be a big delay. I am writing to Phine and will tell her.
 If you haven't heard from him Phine will write to you as soon as he
 gets home L.V. Elizabeth you are very good. with your big family you
 have enough to provide for Mary God bless you and your husband and
 family. I hope all of them will find good positions and you face a girl
 in University now. I hope they will be able to find a good
 while, as they go to different towns a cousin of mine lives near them.

18 June 1971

18 [June 1971]

Dear Eleizbeth,

I was delighted to get your letter. Many times I have wondered how little Rita is getting along. well the Lord is good. With all the science who knows what good tidings is in store. I know you are resigned to the will of God. And you have a little angel amongst you. Yes, I am still at Kellys. I travel around to all my sisters as they all live locally. Mrs Kelly still teaches. She is married 3 years, has a little boy of 2 years. She teaches in Listowel at St Michaels Collage all boys; all science she teaches. Her husband has a farm and garage business. James the eldest boy who is in the Farm, is getting married in Sept, the next boy is a Veterinary Surgeon and practices locally and the youngest is working at the new generating E.S.B. station Tarbert Island a few miles at the west of Glin. Yes, your friend was right about Bishop Butler, he ordained Mark. I cant answer about the money. I had a letter from Phine yesterday. They haven't heard from Mark for 2 months. He has his own Parish now so he is probably very busy now with the change over, mabye thinks it not worth while writing when he will be home in 2 weeks, he told them to pray that he would get good connections to make Mary's wedding in time, he expected it would take him 5 days to get home. Im shure Mary would be charmed to get a cable from New Zealand. I will enclose the address of where the reception is to be held. Mary is comming over to Ireland for the honeymoon. I went over to England for a few weeks last year. If I had know all these weddings were comming off I would have preferred to wait till this year. I think I told you in my Xmas letter there was a cousin, a nun home from New Zealand, came to see her brother who was very ill with a heart complaint; she is not going back any more as she is not

feeling to well. Wasn't the brother buried yesterday R.I.P. he was fair since he left hospital in Nov., got a set back a week ago and died unexpected. There are 10 children. He is a great loss to them as they are very young; his mother is still alive and is 88, most of her family are in the religious life. Arent you and Sr Justin very good to Mark. I do hope he got the money. With the change of addresses there will be a big delay. I am writing to Phine and will tell her. If you haven't heard from him Phine will write to you as soon as he gets home D.V. Eleizbeth, you are very good, with your big Family you have enough to provide for. May God reward you and your husband and Family. I hope all of them will find good positions and you have a girl in University, how time flies. I haven't seen Paddy Flavin for a good while as we go to different towns; a cousin of mine lives near him.

4) Reading over your letter again seeing it was the 3rd June you said it was a cold winters night. I had to think you were going into middle winter, once again we are almost at our longest day. I am sure you are glad the days will be on the turn again for you have got central heating. The Kellys are building a new house. Mrs Kelly and her husband Johny will live in the new home they will have central heating. Joan has it in her home its a gift mind for all the new houses have it its as dear as any other fuel. I don't know what they will do if war ever breaks out as there would be no oil. Things are not so good in the north of Ireland though these days there is a bit of quietness. S.E.

An dara fillleadh anseo Second fold here

Mrs Elizabeth A. O'Rell

4 City Road

Dunedin

New Zealand

Má bhíonn aon ní istigh leis an aerlitr seo is leis an gnáthphost a seofar
If anything is enclosed this letter will be sent by ordinary mail

Ainm agus seoladh an tseoltóra
Sender's name and address

K. O'Connor

Ballyquiltan

Apin, Co Limerick

Ireland

aerlitr
par avion

aérogramme

pt

5) Had better send Marys wedding details before space runs out
Mam Margaret Connolly with Edward Joseph Dunne at Our Lady Queen
of Apostles Church Welwyn Gdn City Herts on Sat 3rd July at 4 P.M. and the
reception at The Mayflower Hertingfordbury Herts. We had a very
dry spring and nice sunny weather in May up to the 7th June it turned
very hard and cold I hope it clears for the hay sowing. Did Kay do farming
before she moved to Dunedin I would like a snap of little Rita. I am
still looking for a little statue of St Rita I have got the medal cant
enclose it in this. Well its almost 2.30 A.M. 19th June time I was in Blanket
street I wont be long there now. Good by Lizbeth and God Bless you all
From - Your Fond Cousin Kath. XXXXXXXXXX

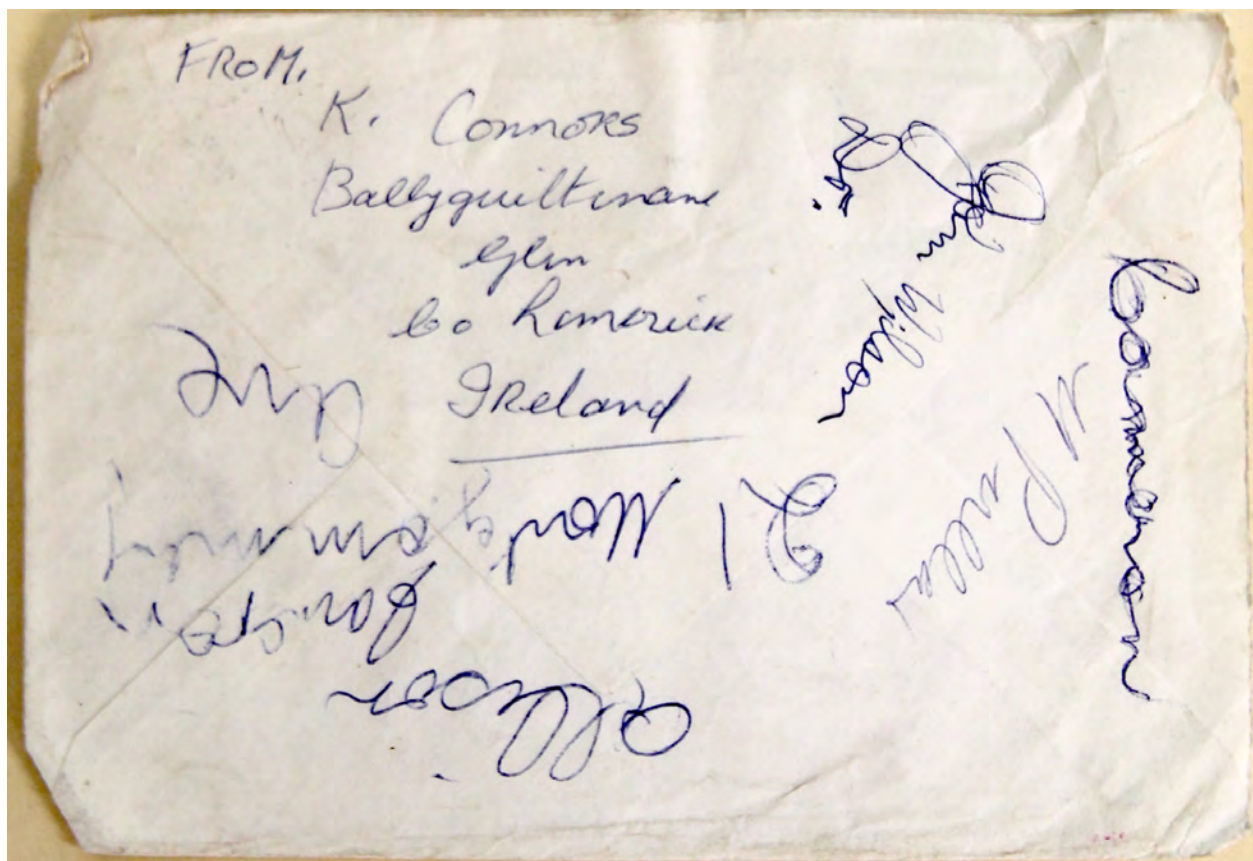
An chead fhilleadh anseo First fold here

Reading over your letter again seeing it was the 3rd June, you said it was a cold winter's night. I had to think you were going into middle winter. Once again we are almost at our longest day. I am shure you are glad the days will be on the turn again for you. Have you central heating. The Kellys are building a new house, Ita Mrs Kelly and her husband Johny will live in the new home, they will have central heating. Joan has it in her home, it's a gift, mind you all the new houses have it, it's as dear as any other fuel. I don't know what they will do if war ever breaks out as there would be no oil. Things are not to good in the north of Ireland though these days there is a lot of quietness T.G.

I had better send Mary's wedding details before space runs out. Mary Margaret Connolly with Edward Joseph Dunne at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Welwyn Gdn City Herts on Sat 3rd July at 4 p.m. and the reception at The Mayflower Hertingfordbury Herts. We had a very dry spring and nice sunny weather in May up to the 7th June, it turned very hard & cold; I hope it clears for the hay saving. Did Kay do farming before she moved to Dunedin. I would like a snap of little Rita. I am still looking for a little statue of St Rita. I have got the medal, cant enclose it in this. Well, its almost 2.30 a.m. 19th June, time I was in blanket street, I wont be long there now. Good bye, Lizbeth and God Bless you all.

From your fond Cousin Kath xxxxxxxxxxxxx

66. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 5 December 1971



5-12-71

Ballyguilteneane
Eglin
Co Limerick

Dear Elizabeth

It's a long time since I heard from you. I hope all is well and that little Rita is much improved. I know she is a full time job to care for her and you are well qualified for the task. I bet you would not part with her for all the gold in New Zealand. God has chosen you both to be parents of a little Angel you will have a good reward. Phine told me some time ago she had a letter from you and about the money which you had send to Fa Mark. I wrote that time to enquire if he had got it. It was a good job to enquire about it. Hasnt your friend Mary Walsh very kind to remember him. Neither of you need of gone to the bother and expense. You have a big family to look after. If the cost of living is anything like its in this part of the world you have a hard task before you. Both food and clothes are a fantastic price here. We changed over to decimal currency last Feb. The shops took advantage and prices soared more rises in the New year. Mary bonny came to

From K. Connors, Ballyguiltenane, Glin, Co. Limerick. Religious Medal enclosed.

5-12-71

Dear Eleizbeth

It's a long time since I heard from you. I hope all is well and that little Rita is much improved. I know she is a full time job to care for her and you are well qualified for the task. I bet you would not part with her for all the gold in New Zealand. God has chosen you both to be parents of a little Angel, you will have a good reward. Phone told me some time ago that she had a letter from you, and about the money which you had send to Fr Mark. I wrote that time to enquire if he had got it. It was a good job to enquire about it. Wasn't your friend Mary Walsh very kind to remember him. Neither of you need of gone to the bother and expense, you have a big family to look after. If the cost of living is anything like its in this part of the world, you have a hard task before you. Both food and clothes are a fantastic price here. We changed over to decimal currency last Feb, the shops took advantage and prices soared, more rises in the New Year. Mary Connolly came to

5 Dec 1971

2

Ireland on her honeymoon nearly 3 weeks. She loves Ireland and all the Family love to come over for a holiday. He had a lovely summer T.R. was very fine up to Nov. no bother to get the work done. I suppose you are no longer interested in Farming. I am shure your mother loved it as she always spoke about the sowing and reaping of the crops, also all the sheep they had. I miss her letters she was great to write and always mentioned you and the Family. I hope you are all enjoying the summer weather. I cannot imagine Christmas day in the broiling sun. Shure you know the kind of weather we get as we had a snow fall when you and Mary came to visit the friends in Ireland. So far we have had a mixed grill of winter, snow ice sleet and rain bitter cold wind from the North. I think I told you James Kelly was to be married in Shet. it was a beautiful day on Our Lady's birthday Shet^{8th} There were 118 guests any of the Connollys did not come for it only Fr Mark. he stayed for 2 weeks it was sad to see him leave as he was going back to his mission the week after. There were a few letters from him he was busy preparing to go to the Irish. What a hard life those priests and nuns have

Ireland on her honeymoon nearly 3 weeks. She loves Ireland and all the Family love to come over for a holiday. We had a lovely summer T.G. was very fine up to Nov., no bother to get the work done. I suppose you are no longer intrested in Farming. I am shure your Mother loved it as she always spoke about the sowing and reaping of the crops, also all the sheep they had. I miss her letters, she was great to write and always mentioned you and the Family. I hope you are all enjoying the summer weather. I cannot imagine Christmas day in the broiling sun. Shure you know the kind of weather we get as we had a snowfall when you and Mary came to visit the friends in Ireland. So far we have had a mixed grill of winter, snow, ice, sleet and rain, bitter cold wind from the North. I think I told you James Kelly was to be married in Spet, it was a beautiful day on Our Ladys birthday Spet 8th. There were 118 guests, any of the Connollys did not come for it, only Fr Mark, he stayed for 2 weeks, it was sad to see him leave as he was going back to his mission the week after. There were a few letters from him, he was busy preparing to go to the bush. What a hard life those priests and nuns have

5 Dec 1971

They give up all for Christ, I don't know about your part of the world, the young girls that entered the convent 16 or 17 years ago are leaving ~~now~~ after all that time, and are married within a year or two. So you think the world is going from bad to worse. The trouble in Northern Ireland gets worse every day, there were 15 people killed last night a catholic public house blown up, and the war in India and Vietnam and its all innocent people have to suffer. My sister Mrs Kelly had an op for a prolapse in Oct she is fine and will be back at school after Christmas D.V. her only daughter Joan (Mrs Murphy) is doing sub for her she is a science teacher she resigned last June as the journey was long as she was the only science teacher she found it very hard, she was teaching ³⁰⁰ boys at St Michael's Liscovel, she has one little boy 2 years old. How is your girl doing in University or have you more than one going now. I wish them all every success at school, I will close hope it finds you all well to enjoy the festive season. Wishing you all a very happy and Holy Christmas and may the New year be full of happiness. God Bless.

From - your fond Cousin
Kathleen O'Connor.

they give up all for Christ. I don't know about your part of the world, the young girls that entered the convent 16 or 17 years ago are leaving after all that time, and are married within a year or two. Do you think the world is going from bad to worse. The trouble in Northern Ireland gets worse every day, there were 15 people killed last night, a Catholic public house blown up, and the war in India and Vietnam and its all innocent people have to suffer. My sister Mrs Kelly had an op for a prolapse in Oct., she is fine and will be back at School after Christmas D.V.; her only daughter Joan (Mrs Murphy) is doing sub for her, she is a science teacher, she resigned last June as the journey was long; as she was the only science teacher, she found it very hard, she was teaching 300 boys at St Michael's Listowel, she has only one little boy 2 years old. How is your girl doing in University or have you more than one going now. I wish them all every success at School. I will close, hope it finds you all well to enjoy the festive season. Wishing you all a very happy and Holy Christmas and may the New Year be full of happiness. God Bless.

From your fond Cousin

Kathleen O'Connor

67. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 9 December 1972

9-12-72. Ballyguilteneane,
Glen
Co Limerick

Dear Elizabeth

It is a long time since I heard from you. I hope ^{letter} this finds you and all the family in the best of health, not forgetting little Rita. I hope there will be something done for the heart condition. Phine told me she had a letter from you during the year. We had a hopeless summer up to July the 14th then it cleared for a short spell to get the hay and turf sowed. It is a miracle we have any potatoes or veg's the ground was so wet + cold I don't know how any thing grew. apples and fruit are scarce. I dare say we can get along without them.

Dear Eleizbeth

It is a long time since I heard from you. I hope this letter finds you and all the family in the best of health, not forgetting little Rita. I hope there will be something done for the heart condition. Phine told me she had a letter from you during the year. We had a hopeless summer up to July 14th, then it cleared for a short spell to get the hay and turf saved. It is a miracle we have any potatoes or veg's, the ground was so wet & cold. I don't know how anything grew. Apples and fruit are scarce. I dare say we can get along without them T.G.

one apple costs $5\frac{1}{2}$ new pence - P
 that would be 1.2 in the old
 money. an orange also cost 5 new pence
 dried fruit is also gone up a lot in
 price Australian seedless ~~raisins~~
 costs 24 new pence per lb.
 currants 15 P and sultanas 17 P so
 you see how the cost of living has
 soared since the change over to
 decimal ^{currency} money the £ is only worth
 100 new pence. I hope you are having a
 nice summer by the time you get
 this the days will be on the turn
 for this side of the globe. We have a
 long winter to go yet. Mrs Kelly
 my sister was not well since
 Easter, she had a prolapse of a
 year ago. she has an over
 active thyroid gland. she was
 down to 8 stone one time she
 weighted 13 stone she has put
 on $1\frac{1}{2}$ stone still looks groggy.

One apple costs 5½ new pence, that would be 1s/2d in the old money. An orange also cost 5 new pence; dried fruit is also gone up a lot in price, Australian seedless raisins costs 24 new pence per lb, currants 15P and sultanas 17P, so you can see how the cost of living has soared since the change over to decimalization money, the £ is only worth 100 new pence. I hope you are having a nice summer, by the time you get this the days will be on the turn for this side of the globe. We have a long winter to go yet. Mrs Kelly my sister was not well since Easter, she had a prolapse op a year ago, she has an over active tyroid gland. She was down to 8 stone, one time she weighted 13 stone, she has put one 1½ stone, still looks groggy,

3

9 Dec 1972

her eyes look very puffed.
 her Dr says its on account of
 all the tablets she has to take as
 she also has high blood pressure
 her ankles were very swollen
 they too have reduced a lot.
 the Dr says it will take a year
 before she is alright. you being a
 nurse what do you think of it
 would she have to have an op.
 Do you remember Mena when you
 were in England she came
 back to Ireland, got married
 she has 4 children 3 boys and a
 girl she is living near Ballyguiltane
 I think you asked me in a letter
 what Mrs Kelly's children were
 doing, Joan is married in Tarbert
 just beyond Glin she gave up
 teaching she has one little boy 3
 years they run a garage business
 James is married at home has a

her eyes look very puffed. Her Dr says its on account of all the tablets she has to take as she also has high blood pressure; her ankles were very swollen, they too have reduced a lot. The Dr says it will take a year before she is alright. You being a nurse, what do you think of it. Would she have to have an op. Do you remember Mena when you were in England. She came back to Ireland, got married, she has 4 children, 3 boys and a girl, she is living near Ballyguiltenane. I think you asked me in a letter what Mrs Kelly's children were doing. Joan is married in Tarbert, just beyond Glin, she gave up teaching, she has one little boy 3 years, they run a garage business. James is married at home, has a

baby 3 months old he lives in the old
 home there, is a new house build a
 couple of hundred yds away, 2 of
 the boys live with Mr & Mrs Kelly.
 one is a Veterinary Surgeon the other
 works with the E.S.B. they are
 not married yet. and another time
 you asked that the children wanted
 to know what was Phine for its
 short for Josephine. I suppose
 you are no longer interested in
 farming or do you go to Gore.
 The trouble in Northern Ireland is no
 better in fact they have started to
 bomb Dublin for the past 2 weekends
 all because there was a leader of the I.R.A.
 arrested & put in jail for 6 months he is
 still on hunger strike but is taking liquids
 Well I will close hope to hear from you
 some time I hope you and your husband
 and all the family will have a very happy
 Christmas and best wishes for New Year
 Good bye God Bless. From Kathleen O'Connor

baby 3 months old, he lives in the old home, there is a new house build a couple of hundred yds away, 2 of the boys live with Mr & Mrs Kelly. One is a Vetinary Surgeon, the other works with the E.S.B., they are not married yet. And another time you asked that the children wanted to know what was Phine for, its short for Josephine. I suppose you are no longer interested in farming or do you go to Gore. The trouble in Northern Ireland is no better, in fact they have started to bomb Dublin for the past 2 week end's all because there was a leader of the I.R.A. arrested & put in jail for 6 months, he is on hunger strike but is taking liquids. Well, I will close, hope to hear from you some time. I hope you and your husband and all your family will have a very happy Christmas and best wishes for New Year. Good bye, God Bless, From Kathleen O'Connor.

68. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 11 December 1973

11-12-73

Ballygeiltenane
glin
be Limerick

Dear Elizabeth.

I hope you are all keeping well since I heard from you in May. Did your friend from Waterford come to see her mother. I am sorry I could not go to see her as I was very busy during the summer. My Sister's Daughter her husband and 3 children were home from New York for 6 weeks it was a hectic time as you know with American kids when they got their freedom in the country they just go wild. Then 6 more came from England for 2 weeks. The weather was not very

Dear Eleizbeth,

I hope you are all keeping well since I heard from you in May. Did your friend from Waterford come to see her Mother. I am sorry I could not go to see her as I was very busy during the summer. My sister's daughter, her husband and 3 children were home from New York for 6 weeks; it was a hetic time, as you know with American kids, when they got their freedom in the country, they just go wild. Then 6 more came from England for 2 weeks. The weather was not very

11 Dec 1973

favourable still it was a break
 and it was good to see them all
 FR Mark came with them, he
 was unsettled after going back to
 the missions its a hard life for
 them. I expect you have heard by
 this that Paddy Flann has passed
 away he died about a month ago
 he got a stroke he lived for 3 weeks
 he was a good age 86 years.
 Katie is the only one left now.
 she lives with 2 nieces (McEnroy's)
 she is holding her own. My
 sister Mrs Kelly had a heart
 attack in August just a week
 before she was due back to school
 after the summer holidays. She
 had an over active thyroid
 gland for the past 18 months
 she was 5 weeks in hospital the
 damage to the heart has made a
 good recovery and the thyroid is

Favourable, still it was a break and it was good to see them all. Fr Mark came with them. He was unsettled after going back to the missions, it's a hard life for them. I expect you have heard by this that Paddy Flavin has passed away, he died about a month ago; he got a stroke, he lived for 3 weeks, he was a good age, 86 years; Kate is the only one left now. She lives with 2 nieces (McEvoy's), she is holding her own. My sister Mrs Kelly had a heart attack in August just a week before she was due back to school after the summer holidays. She had an over active thyroid gland for the past 18 months. She was 5 weeks in Hospital; the damage to the heart has made a good recovery and the thyroid is

11 Dec. 1973

under control 3. Is it a bad sign when she gets pains up the backs of her legs ~~even~~ when she only walks a short distance from the car into church - her daughter Joan who is married in Tarbert is doing sub-jin her she has two boys one H $\frac{1}{2}$ the baby 9 months old as it is only a distance of 6 miles she brings the 2 to Ballyquiltinan every day the elder is going to school with her. I'd say Ita needs to rest more she keeps on the move as she finds the time long if she has not something to do though she can sleep very well. My Nephew Jimmy Reidy has a spina bifida baby. he is ten months old. there is nothing I suppose to be done for him, he got a chest infection and gastro enteritis when only a month old he must be hardy to survive it all.

under control. Is it a bad sign when she gets pains up the backs of her legs even when she only walks a short distance from the car into church. Her daughter Joan who is married in Tarbert is doing sub for her, she has two boys, one 4½, the baby nine months old; as it is only a distance of 6 miles, she brings the 2 to Ballyguiltenane every day, the elder is going to school with her. I'd say Ita needs to rest more, she keeps on the move as she finds the time long if she has not something to do though she can sleep very well. My Nephew Jimmy Reidy has a spina bifida baby, he is ten months old. There is nothing, I suppose, to be done for him, he got a chest infection and gastro entrits when only a month old, he must be hardy to survive it all.

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 there could be anything done for him.
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 came home, by only got 2 years the
 most to live he is a lovely little child
 very cute. Jimmy & his wife are different
 blood groups so you know more
 about it than I, they have 3 other
 children so they are lucky. I-9. They
 would take him to any part of the
 world if they thought there could be
 anything done for him. How have you
 fared with the abortion, they want
 to make it legal here to use contraceptives
 maybe it would be better than murdering
 the unborn child anyway the bishops
 are against it. there are hundreds of
 Irish girls going to England for the op
 as its illegal in this country. Its time
 I asked for little Rita how is she and
 all the rest of the family I hope they
 will all be a success in life. How are
 you enjoying the summer I wish we
 had a good summer here we rarely
 saw the sun we have had a lot of
 rain for the past 3 months. no use in
 grumbling take each day as it comes.
 My very best wishes to you your husband
 and family for a blessed and happy Xmas
 and New Year From your Cousin
 XXXXX Kathleen

He had all the tests done to see if there could be any thing done for him. He was 4 months old before he came home. He only got 2 years the most to live, he is a lovely little child, very cute. Jimmy & his wife are different blood groups, so you know more about it than I. they have 3 other children so they are lucky, T.G. They would take him to any part of the world if they thought there could be anything done for him. How have you fared with the abortaton. They wont make it legal here to use contraceptives, maybe it would be better than murdering the unborn child; anyway the bishops are against it. There are hundreds of Irish girls going to England for the op as its illegal in this country. It is time I asked for little Rita. How is she and all the rest of the family. I hope they will all be a success in life. How are you enjoying the summer. I wish we had a good summer here, we rarely saw the sun, we have had a lot of rain for the past 3 months. No use in grumbling; take each day as it comes. My very best wishes to you, your husband and Family for a blessed and happy Xmas and New Year From your Cousin, Kathleen xxxxxx

69. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 10 December 1974

10-12-74 Killeanymore,
Glin Co. Limerick

Dear Elizabeth

Just a short note hoping it finds you all well for the festive season. It's a long time since I heard from you. Phine told me she had a letter from you and that your daughter Mary was doing voluntary work. Isn't she a wonderful girl, there is so much selfishness in the world today especially the younger ones, they are all for themselves. Ireland has turned out a wretched country with teenage drinking believe it or not there is over four million pounds a week spend on drink for our little nation, of a population something over two million people isn't it shocking.

How is Rita is she around 5 years now. My Nephew's little boy has not made much headway, He is going for further tests this week the local Dr thinks he is not all that bad, had him examined by a children's specialist who thinks he is retarded as well as being paralysed from the waist. I hope the tests prove negative.

Killeanymore, Glin, Co. Limk

10-12-74

Dear Eleizbeth

Just a short note hoping it finds you all well for the festive season. It's a long time since I heard from you. Phine told me she had a letter from you and that your daughter Mary was doing volountry work. Isn't she a wonderful girl, there is so much selfishness in the world to day especially the younger ones as they are all for themselves. Ireland has turned out a wretched country with teen age drinking; believe it or not, there is over four million pounds a week spend on drink for our little nation, of a population something over two million people, isn't it shocking. How is Rita, is she around 5 years now. My nephews little boy has not made much headway. He is going for further tests this week. The local Dr thinks he is not all that bad, had him examined by a childrens specialist who thinks he is retarded as well as being paralysed from the waist. I hope the tests prove negative.

he looks real cute and loves to be amused. They are all crazy about him. Please pray for him and get the children to pray. I suppose you have heard Katie Flavin passed away a few weeks ago. R.I.P. She was a real nice person. My Sister Mary Ita resigned from teaching the end of Sept, you may remember the old School house in Ballyquiltane on your short trip to Ireland its still the same old shanty. They hadnt any heat during Sept as the Cannon wouldnt allow it and the weather was miserable cold + wet. She found the cold to much. She has plenty so the fewest years make no difference to her pension. The second boy who is a veterinary surgeon is getting married 27th Dec. Joan has 3 boys and the elder boy who is in the ~~the~~ farm has one boy 2½ years. As I am rushed for time I will close to wish each one of you the best Christmas ever. Please write & let me know how you all are getting on. You didnt answer my last letter so this will be the last one if you dont write. Good bye God Bless. We had a wretched summer, Prices have gone sky high Petrol is now 65 per gallon What is it with you? From - Kath. O'Connor

He looks real cute and loves to be amused, they are all crazy about him. Please pray for him and get the children to pray. I suppose you have heard Katie Flavin passed away a few weeks ago, R.I.P. she was a real nice person. My sister Mary Ita resigned from teaching the end of Sept. You may remember the old school house in Ballyguiltenane in your short trip to Ireland, its still the same old shanty. They hadn't any heat during Sept as the Cannon wouldn't allow it and the weather was miserable cold & wet. She found the cold to much; she has plenty so the few years make no difference to her pension. The second boy, who is a vetiniary surgeon is getting married 27th Dec. Joan has 3 boys, the elder boy who is in the farm has one boy 2½ years. As I am rushed for time, I will close to wish each one of you the best Christmas ever. Please write & let me know how you are all getting on. You didn't answer my last letter so this will be the last one if you don't write. Good bye, God Bless. We had a wretched summer, prices have gone sky high, petrol is now 65P per gallon. What is it with you? From Kath O'Connor.

70. Kathleen O'Connor to Patrick O'Neill, Dunedin, 18 December 1975

18-12-75

Ballyquiltinane
Glin
Co Limerick

Dear Patrick

I was delighted to get your very welcome letter and to know that mam Dad and all the sisters and brothers are doing well. I. G. also glad that your sister Mary has produced Right to Life newspaper and that the political party are only bluffing. I give her great credit for the work she is doing. I don't know about your part of the globe as regards violence, in the six counties where it's a sort of war between the Catholics & Protestants for the past six years, they care not for a life, they would

Ballyguiltenane, Glin, Co Limerick

18-12-75

Dear Patrick

I was delighted to get your very welcome letter and to know that mam, dad and all the sisters and brothers are doing well. T.G. also glad that your sister Mary has produced Right to Life newspaper, and that the political party are only bluffing. I give her great credit for the work she is doing. I don't know about your part of the globe a regards violence, in the six counties where it's a sort of war between the Catholics & Protestants for the past six years, they care not for a life, they would

2

18 Dec 1975

put a bullet through man
woman or child all the
Innocent have to suffer, and
the guilty ~~are~~ never caught.
also the army are not liked in
the north they cause a lot of
trouble. Thank God in Southern
Ireland we have no trouble.
Some parts of the six counties there
is no trouble even in parts of
Belfast & Derry where all the
bombs and shooting goes on.
I would love to see it peaceful
yes gaelic is still taught in
the schools and in some
parts of Ireland they speak nothing
but Irish they call it the
Gaeltacht. Well Patrick you
have numerous cousins in
Ireland also in America I have
written to them to know if they

put a bullet through man, woman or child; all the innocent have to suffer, and the guilty are never caught; also the army are not liked in the north, they cause a lot of trouble. Thank God in southern Ireland we have no trouble. Some parts of the six counties there is no trouble, even in parts of Belfast & Derry where all the bombs and shooting goes on. I would love to see it peaceful. Yes, Gaelic is still taught in the Schools and in some parts of Ireland they speak nothing but Irish, they call it the Gaeltacht. Well, Patrick, you have numerous cousins in Ireland, also in America. I have written to them to know if they

3

18 Dec 1975

would write to you they have
promised they will when you
write. your letter was not long
in coming. I got it 3 weeks ago.
I would like to know more
about your cousins that came
from N.Z. in July & Sept as you
probably know by now. when
Duh and Pat Ferris came to Ireland
they had left the Irish addresses
in London after them, which your
mam had given them. hadn't
your mam a wonderful memory
to think of all the names & addresses
when she visited Ireland it is 25
years this month since we saw her
and her friend Mary Walsh. well I
remember the day it was very
cold we also had some snow.
They must have found it very cold.
I'd say they enjoyed the experience.

would write to you, they have promised they will when you write. Your letter was not long in coming. I got it 3 weeks ago. I would like to know more about your cousins that came from N.Z. in July & Sept as you probably know by now. When Dick and Pat Ferris came to Ireland they had left the Irish addresses in London after them, which your Mam had given them. Hadn't your Mam a wonderful memory to think of all the names & addresses when she visited Ireland, it is 25 years this month since we saw her and her friend Mary Walsh. Well I remember the day, it was very cold, we also had some snow. They must have found it very cold. I'd say they enjoyed the experience.

18 Dec 1975

4

I have a Nephew of 20 who is most anxious to immigrate to N.Z. or Australia. ^{He} Was delighted to hear he had Cousins. I wonder if Mr Ferris would have work for him my sister Mrs Connolly in England says he deals in motor engineering as my Nephew is a trained welder, cannot get a job owing to the crisis in unemployment, all the students who left School this year cannot find work, those who done their leaving this year are drawing dole. I would be most grateful if your Mam could find out if he could get a job from her Cousin, he is also handy at cars as his elder brother works in a Garage as a mechanic. Well Patrick you will tire of reading and its time I wished you a very happy & holy Xmas also Mam & Dad to each one of your

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Brothers + Sisters may the New
 year be a very happy one for
 all of you. Right now our weather
 is very cold while you are
 enjoying your summer. We had
 the best summer ever this
 year we had weeks without
 rain, We did enjoy it and
 Thanks to our God for it
 Bye + God Bless you all
 your loving Cousin Kathleen

brothers & sisters may the New Year be a very happy one for all of you.

Right now our weather is very cold while you are enjoying your summer.

We had the best summer ever this year, we had weeks without rain, we did enjoy it and thanks to our God for it. Bye & God Bless you all

your loving Cousin Kathleen

This is the list of Cousins ^{18 Dec 1975}

Thomas Bulhane age 14 years

Turraree 521-45-33

Glin

Co Limerick

Margaret Hankahan age 15 years

Ballygoughlan

Glin

Co Limerick

Nora Flavin

Glenagragra

Glin

Co Limerick

Michael & Paul Heffernan.

Killashee

Naas

Co Kildare

Bernedette M^cDonagh

1528 Hone Ave

BRONX 10461

N.Y. U. S America

over

This is the list of Cousins:

Thomas Culhane age 14 years

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Glin

Co Limerick

Margaret Hanrahan age 15 years

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Co Limerick

Michael & Paul Heffernan

Killashee

Naas

Co Kildare

Bernedette McDonagh

1528 Hone Ave

Bronx 10461

N.Y. U.S. America

This is the list of letters
EDDIE and SEAN JORDAN
33-74 - 157 Street
Flushing
N.Y. 11354
U.S. America
Let me know if they write
Michael + Paul Heffernan
1238 Ave Ave
Bronx 10461
N.Y. U.S. America

Eddie & Sean Jordan

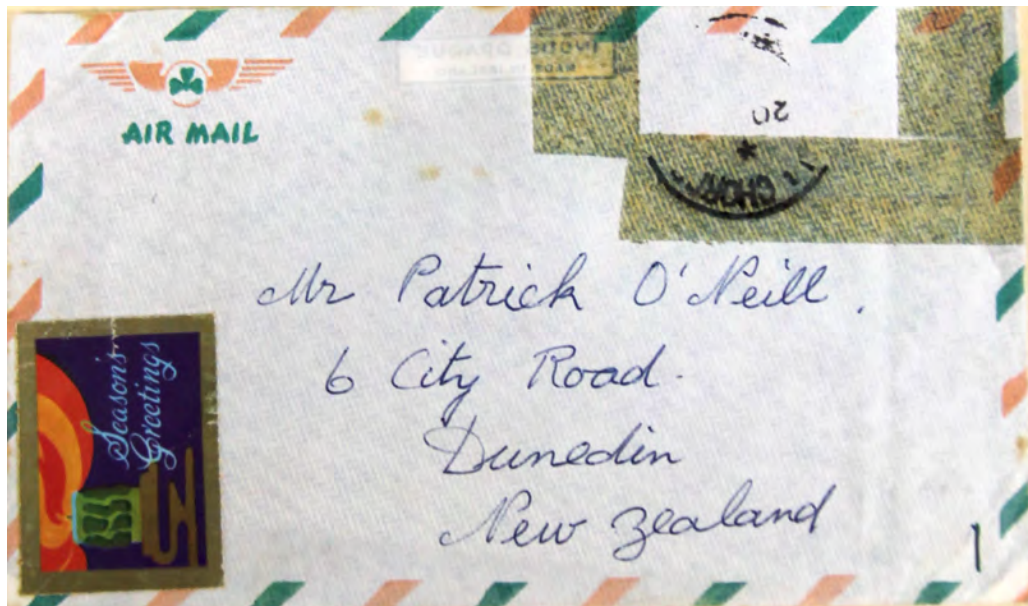
33-74-157 Street

Flushing

NY 11354

US America

Let me know if they write



71. Kathleen O'Connor to Patrick O'Neill, 30 March 1976

to that wonderful sister of yours Mary O'Neill
 she shure nailed them with her questions long
 may she live to fight for the life of the unborn child
 Well have you heard from the Cousins. I had a
 letter from Eddie Jordan he was delighted to hear
 he had Cousins in N.I. he send me his photo to
 send it to you. I cannot enclose it in this. will
 send it later if you have not already got one.

30-3-76
 Dear Patrick I think I owe you a letter
 I hope it finds you, Mam Dad Sisters
 and Brothers all in the best of
 health. Please thank your mam
 for her Christmas card + cuttings
 from Paper. also the Pro Life paper
 I was really shocked to read it.
 How could a Dr be so cruel to
 do such a deed. I gave it around to
 my pieces to read it, they just
 cried. Arent the dear little bundles
 from heaven entitled to a life in
 earth when God created them
 although there are thousands of Irish
 going to England for abortions, I think
 its just the fear and the shame. I am
 shure they have terrible remorse when
 its all over, though now there is a group
 by the name of cherish who meet them
 at the trains and airways to ~~disuade them~~^{dissuade them}
 they house ~~the~~ and help them till
 the baby is born and get it adopted
 for them. Thank God for such good
 people. I admire and give great credit

3) my cephew James Harrahan has not heard from
 your mams Cousin as regards the job he was looking
 for, if he could take him on. He still has got no
 job as training all the time as a welder, he also
 knows a bit about cars as his brother as a
 mechanic, he would love to go to N.I. if it
 was at all possible. How did you enjoy your Summer

Dear Patrick

I think I owe you a letter. I hope it finds you, Mam, Dad, Sisters and brothers all in the best of health. Please thank your Mam for her Christmas card & cuttings from Paper. Also the Pro life paper. I was really shocked to read it. How could a Dr be so cruel to do such a deed. I gave it around to my Nieces to read it, they just cried. Aren't the dear little bundles from heaven entitled to a life on earth when God created them. Although there are thousands of Irish going to England for abortions, I think its just the fear, and the shame. I am shure they have terrible remorse when its all over. Though now there is a group by the name of Cherish who meet them at the trains and airways to dissuade them. They help and house them till the baby is born and get it adopted for them. Thank God for such good people. I admire and give great credit to that wonderful sister of yours Mary O'Neill, she shure nailed them with her questions; long may she live to fight for the life of the unborn child. Well, have you heard from the cousins. I had a letter from Eddie Jordan, he was delighted to hear he had cousins in N.Z., he send me his photo to send it to you. I cannot enclose it in this. Will send it later if you have not already got one.

My Nephew James Hanrahan has not heard from your Mam's Cousin as regards the job he was looking for, if he could take him on. He still has got no job, is training all the time as a welder, he also knows a bit about cars as his brother is a mechanic, he would ove to go to N.Z. if it was atal possible. How did you enjoy your summer

4) Holidays. I expect you have started back at school again what do you intend to be doing now? Spring time in this part of the world it's been a bitter cold March. We had a very mild winter not much rain, no snow very little frost. Remember the year your mam was in Ireland it snowed, it was so cold. I am sure she

5) She and her friend enjoyed it. I believe you have no snow in N.Z. They had 10 in of snow in N.Y. for St. Patrick's day. That is the day N.Y. is given over to the Irish to celebrate his feast day. He is the saint who brought the faith to Ireland as it was a pagan country before the coming of St. Patrick. I suppose you were called after him. I bet it's your little Rita is so like you. I bet you like him and all the O'Neills, right down and down to the bottom. I am sure. Kathleen

aerlitir
par avion

Master Patrick O'Neill
6 City Road.
Dunedin
New ZEALAND

aérogramme

Má bhíonn aon ní istigh leis an aerlitir seo is leis an ngráthphost a sheoltar
If anything is enclosed this letter will be sent by ordinary mail

Ainm agus seoladh an tseoltóra
Sender's name and address

Kathleen O'Connor
Ballyguiltinane
Glen Colmerville
IRELAND.

An dara filleadh anseo Second fold here

An chéad fhilleadh anseo First fold here

Cearr anseo Cut here

holidays. I expect you have started back at School again, what do you intend to be. Its now springtime in this part of the world, its been a bitter cold March. We had a very mild winter, not much rain, no snow, very little frost. I remember the year your Mam was in Ireland it snowed, it was so cold. I am shure she and her friend enjoyed it. I believe you have no snow in N.Z. They had 10 ins of snow in N.Y. for St Patrick's day, that is the day N.Y. is given over to the Irish to celebrate his feast day. He is the saint who brought the faith to Ireland as it was a pagan country before the comming of St Patrick. I suppose you were called after him. Glad to hear little Rita is so well. God Bless you, Patrick, and all the O'Neills. Write soon and excuse writing. From Cousin Kathleen.

72. Kathleen O'Connor to Patrick O'Neill, 9 July 1976

9-7-76
 Dear Pat. Thanks for your most welcome letter which I got after Easter. Please forgive me for not writing sooner. I have had a very busy time since. My Nieces husband met with a car accident which seriously effected his sight at the present he is in Germany (Colonge) for treatment he has had 2 operations, he was seven weeks in the eye hospital in Dublin. Dr could not remove all the glass that embedded at the back of the eye. This machine was the only one in Europe that could get it out. I think they have one in London, but not much good at using it ~~as~~ as its new to him he is in Cologne for a month, it will be 2 more weeks before he is home. I had to look after 4 children the youngest a baby 4 months old the eldest 6. I have a crow to pluck with you. I send you Stephens address in Flushing N.Y. he is home holiday to Ireland for 10 weeks he told me he wrote to you. Got no reply. he was very disappointed he will be home till Sept 4th his Mam + Dad 2 brothers 2 sisters are with him. They are enjoying the freedom of the open country. We are after 2 weeks of lovely sunshine, all the hay + silage got cut + saved in a few days, though it had been very wet up to then. How are you enjoying your winter. Hope its not too cold. Have you heard from your brother John. There did a letter

9-7-76

Dear Pat, Thanks for your most welcome letter which I got after Easter. Please forgive me for not writing sooner. I have had a very busy time since. My Nieces husband met with a car accident which seriously effected his sight, at the present he is in Germany (Colonge) for treatment. He has had 2 operations. He was seven weeks in the eye hospital in Dublin [...] Dr could not remove all the glass that was embedded in the back of the eye. This machine was the only one in Europe that could [get] it out. I think they have one in London, but [...] not much good at using it as its new to them. He is in Colonge for a month, it will be 2 more weeks before he is home. I had to look after 4 children, the youngest a baby 4 months old, the oldest 6. I have a crow to pluck with you. I send you my nephews address in Flushing N.Y., he is home on holidays to Ireland for 10 weeks, he told me he wrote to you. Got no reply. He was very disappointed. I hope you will write to him while he is in Ireland. He will be home till Sept 4th, his Mam & Dad, 2 brothers, 2 sisters are with him. They are enjoying the freedom of the open country. We are after 2 weeks of lovely sunshine, all the hay & silage got cut & saved in a few days, though it had been very wet up to then. How are you enjoying your winter. I hope its not to cold. Have you heard from your brother John. There did a letter

2/ Come ~~for~~ him from N-Z. So far he has not turned up. My Nephew James Hankahan heard from your Mom's cousin, he can not get a Visa to enter N-Z. though he has got no job yet, he passed his exams. Well I hope you get your wish to get a good fall of snow so that you will have a holiday

An chéad fhilleadh anseo First fold here

<p>pt</p> <p>Aim agus seoladh an tseoltóra Sender's name and address</p> <p>H. O'CONNOR, BALLYGULLTENNANE GLIN CO. LIMERICK, IRELAND</p>	<p>aéogramme</p> <p>aerlitir par avion</p> <p>MR. PAT. O'NEILL 6 CITY ROAD DUNEDIN NEW ZEALAND</p> <p>Má bhíonn aon ní istigh leis an aerlitir seo is leis an ngrádhpost a sheoltar, i if anything is enclosed this letter will be sent by ordinary mail</p>
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An dara fhilleadh anseo Second fold here

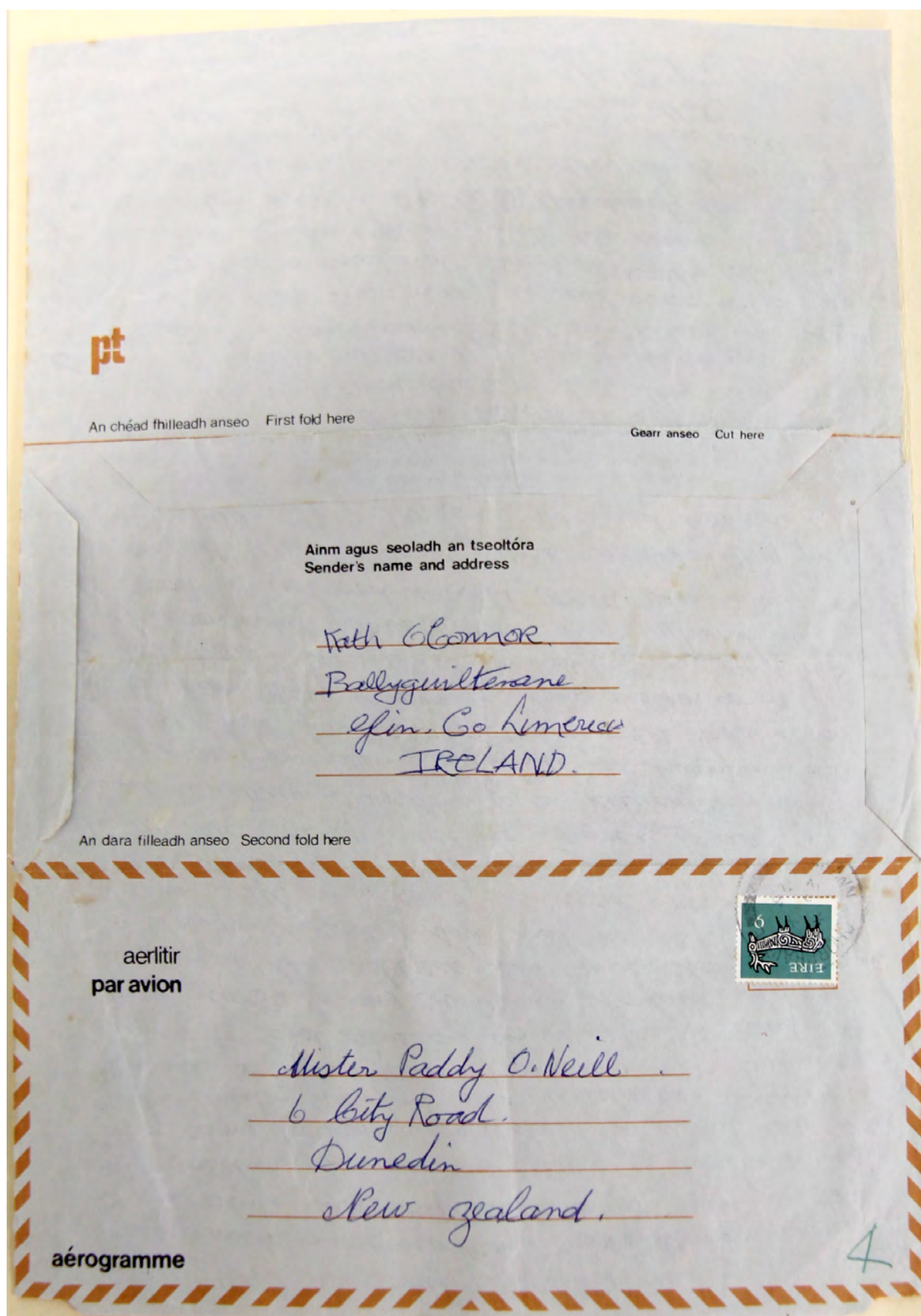
3/ From School. I hope you like secondary school and that you will get on well at your exams. How is the PRO life getting on. I hope your dad wins the case and that he can prove to those that it is illegal to have abortion. Those little bundles from Heaven are entitled to their life whom God created. I hope to hear from you soon again love to all the O'Neills hope Rita is well. This is Eddie Jordan's address while he is in Ireland, Killeenymore, Glin, Co Limerick GOD BLESS. FROM Kathleen

come for him from N.Z. so far he has not turned up. My Nephew James Hanrahan heard from your Mam's cousin. He can not get a Visa to enter N.Z. though he has got no job yet; he passed his exams. Well, I hope you get your wish to get a good fall of snow so that you will have a holiday from School. I hope you like Secondary School and that you will get on well at your exams. How is the Pro life getting on. I hope your Dad wins the case and that he can prove to those that it is illegal to have abortion. Those little bundles from Heaven are entitled to their life whom God created. I hope to hear from you soon again. Love to all the O'Neills, hope Rita is well. This is Eddie Jordan's address while he is in Ireland. Killeanymore, Glin, Co Limerick. God Bless. From Kathleen

73. Kathleen O'Connor to Patrick O'Neill, 28 October 1976

28-10-76, Dear Paddy, I received your two letters which were most welcome. I should have answered before now. I was kept on the go with one thing and another. It was surprising if your brother John came to Limerick City, he didn't come west of the Country to find his relatives. I suppose when you are so far from home, you get disheartened trying to find some one in a strange land. Your Mam wrote to my sister in England, she wrote to John to the address she gave, she invited him to Welwyn Gdn City, she had no reply. I expect he is still in France, he won't ever want to see a grape by the time he finishes picking them. Still it's nice, he is able to travel to all the different countries, travelling is an education in itself. Well, how are you ^{with the} Revenue, no harm in holding out to see how far their bluffing will take them. Glad to hear Mary is going to have another go at the Pro-life News, she is a wonderful girl, then she has got wonderful parents who have put her on the right road to do good in the world. I am sure God loves you all for the good work you are doing for the unborn child. The Jordans returned home on the 9th Sept all very lonely after their long holiday, they are still ~~not~~ settled down. I expect Eddie has written to you and will give you all the news. He and his brothers and 2 sisters do commercials on T.V. They have travelled to a lot of States outside N.Y. and of all they would prefer Ireland, they want Daddy to live in Ireland. I'm afraid Daddy won't do that, the money would never be as good here. My piece's husband James Murphy who had the accident to his eyes is still the same he is after been to Boston in the U.S. States, they want him back again in March at the present they can do nothing as the eyes have got to heal up, he has still no bit of sight. Ask you to pray for him that God will restore his sight also the rest of the family. Well space is running out so I will say farewell. God Bless you and all at home. From Kathleen.

Dear Paddy, I received your two letters which were most welcome. I should have answered before now. I was kept on the go with one thing and another. It was surprising if your brother John came to Limerick City, he didn't come west of the country to find his relatives. I suppose when you are so far from home, you get disheartened, trying to find someone in a strange land. Your Mam wrote to my sister in England, she wrote to John to the address she gave, she invited him to Welwyn Gdn City, she had no reply. I expect he is still in France, he wont ever want to see a grape by the time he finishes picking them. Still its nice he is abel to travel to all the different countries; travelling is an education in itself. Well, how are you fareing with the Revenue; no harm in holding out to see how far their bluffing will take them. Glad to hear Mary is going to have another go at the Pro-Life News. She is a wonderful girl, then she has got wonderful parents who have put her on the right road to do good in the world. I am shure God loves you all for the good work you are doing for the unborn child. The Jordans returned home on the 9th Sept, all very lonely after their long holiday, they are still not settled down. I expect Eddie has written to you and will give you all the news. He and his 2 brothers and 2 sisters do commercials on T.V. They have travelled to a lot of states outside N.Y. and of all they would prefer Ireland, they want Daddy to live in Ireland. Im afraid Daddy wont do that, the money would never be as good here. My Niece's husband James Murphy who had the accident to his eyes is still the same, he is after been to Boston in the U. States, they want him back again in March. At the present they can do nothing, as the eyes have got to heal up, he has still no bit of sight. I ask you to pray for him that God will restore his sight, also the rest of the family. Well, space is running out, so I will say farewell. God bless you at home. From Kathleen



74. Kathleen O'Connor to Patrick O'Neill, 11 December 1976

1976
11-12-75 P.S. Ballyquiltanare
excuse writing as I have a lot of letters to write
glen
Bo Limer
Dear Pat.
Glad to get your letter of some weeks ago. you must have a brilliant brain. you will go far with God's help. no we dont have any latin mass. back in Kerry the next County, a priest said a daily latin mass he was retired, the bishop kicked up about it. quite a lot of people went to the mass I my self liked the old customs I felt I could say a lot more prayers now we dont even have benediction only once a year for the out door

Ballyguiltenane, Glin, Co Limk

11-12-75 [1976]

Dear Pat

Glad to get your letter of some weeks ago. You must have a brilliant brain. You will go far with God's help. No, we don't have any Latin Mass. Back in Kerry, the next county, a priest said a daily Latin Mass. He was retired; the bishop kicked up about it, quiet a lot of people went to the Mass. I myself liked the old customs, I felt I could say a lot more prayers. Now we don't even have benediction, only once a year for the outdoor

Corpus Christi procession through the
 village. I think you asked me one time
 what was the distance between Cghin
 and Jarbert. a little ~~over~~ three miles
 No people don't talk much Irish
 when they leave school they won't
 bother to speak it any more.
 Well it's a language that's not spoken
 in any country. any European
 language is much better to them
 it's nice to be able to talk Irish
 they just won't bother, it's also a
 very hard language. Are you on
 holidays from College. how long
 are the summer holidays, here
 the secondary schools are closed
 for three months, they get 2 weeks
 at Easter nearly 3 weeks for
 Christmas. The primary get 2 months
 in summer. 10 days at Easter 2

Corpis Christi procession through the village. I think you asked me one time what was the distance between Glin and Tarbert. A little over three miles. No, people don't talk much Irish; when they leave school, they won't bother to speak it any more. Well, it's a language that's not spoken in any country. Any European language is much better to them. It's nice to be able to talk Irish, they just won't bother, it's also a very hard language. Are you on holidays from College. How long are the summer holidays. Here, the secondary schools are closed for three months, they get 2 weeks at Easter, nearly three weeks for Christmas. The primary get 2 months in summer, 10 days at Easter, 2

11 Dec 1976

3

weeks at Christmas with the odd holiday thrown in. if the weather was bad after Xmas with snow or ice they would close for a couple of weeks, also if there was much sickness the doctor would have the schools closed. So you work during the holidays. I hope you will have a good time for the gathering of the O'Neills, O'Connors etc. How is the weather is it a good summer. The weather here is very cold and wet. Well in another 10 days they will be on the turn again. I love to see the shortest day pass it is so dreary Nov, Dec, Jan. I have told Eddie Jordan you are expecting

weeks at Christmas with the odd holiday thrown in. If the weather was bad after Xmas with snow or ice, they would close for a couple of weeks, also if there was much sickness the doctor would have the schools closed. Do you work during the holidays. I hope you will have a good time for the gathering of the O'Neills, O'Connors etc. how is the weather, is it a good summer. The weather here is very cold and wet. Well, in another 10 days they will be on the turn again. I love to see the shortest day pass, it is so dreary Nov, Dec & Jan. I have told Eddie Jordan you are expecting

a letter from him. They hope to come to Ireland again next year not all the Family. just the 2 boys Eddie and Sean. They seem to be making plenty of money out of the commercials. other wise they could not afford to come. as the fares are very high. any chance I could ask a favour of you. dried fruit is very scarce here, owing to the floods in California. Well its not that we get the dried fruit from there, its all Australian we get. Some smart bloke came over from the states bought up all the fruit now its not to be got. till the Australian fruit will be ready. Can passion fruit be got only in tins your Grand Mother R. L. P. Sepd a. big tin of it one time it was just beautiful, every one loved it. I enclose £5.00 if you could just send a few lbs of raisins if I get any more dollars from America I will send ~~you~~ it to you. Wishing you a merry Christmas and best wishes for New Year. From - R. O'Connor

a letter from him. They hope to come to Ireland again next year. Not all the family. Just the 2 boys, Eddie and Sean. They seem to be making plenty of money out of the commercials, other wise they could not afford to come, as the fares are very high. Any chance I could ask a favour of you. Dried fruit is very scarce here, owing to the floods in Calafornia. Well, its not that we get the dried fruit from there, its all Australian we get. Some smart bloke came over from the states, bought up all the fruit, now its not to be got, till the Australian fruit will be ready. Can passion fruit be got only in tins. Your grand mother R.I.P. send a big tin of it one time, it was just beautiful, every one loved it. I enclose \$5.00, if you could just send a few lbs of raisins; if I get any more dollars from America I will send it to you. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for New Year. From K. O'Connor.



75. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 12 December 1976

12- 12- 76 Ballygeiltanore.
Glin
Co Wick

Dear Elizabeth

I was delighted to hear from you, Thanks for your Christmas card and cuttings from paper. I would not recognise you. since 1950 but then you cant judge a picture like that. your husband looks a fine man he must be very tall as you yourself ~~was~~ was very tall and slight. Well I am glad to hear you fixed up about the taxes. about the abortions isnt it a very sad tragedy. How can married women and young

Ballyguiltenane, Glin, Co Limk

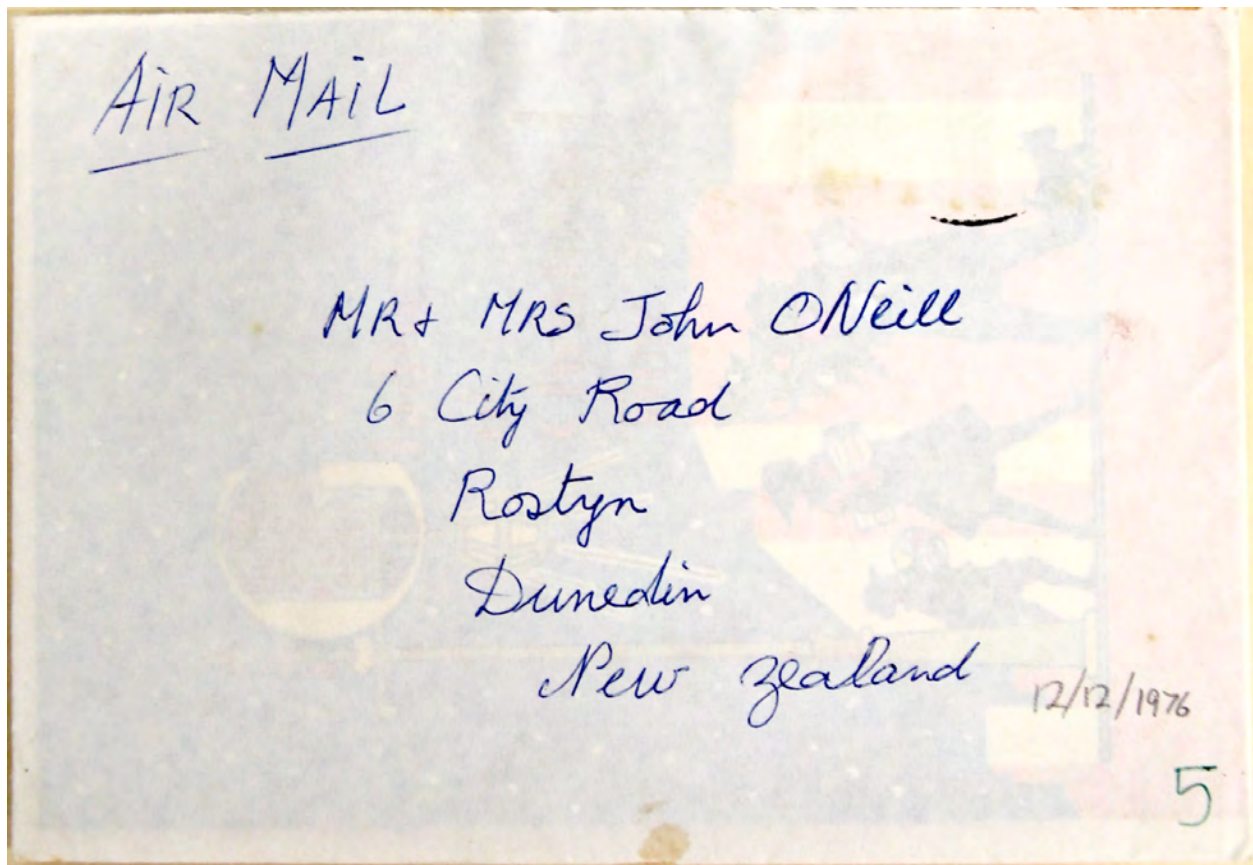
12-12-76

Dear Eleizbeth

I was delighted to hear from you. Thanks for your Christmas card and cuttings from paper. I would not recognise you since 1950, but then you can't judge a picture like that. Your husband looks a fine man. He must be very tall as you yourself was very tall and slight. Well, I am glad to hear you fixed up about the taxes. About the abortion isn't it a very sad tradgdy. How can married women and young

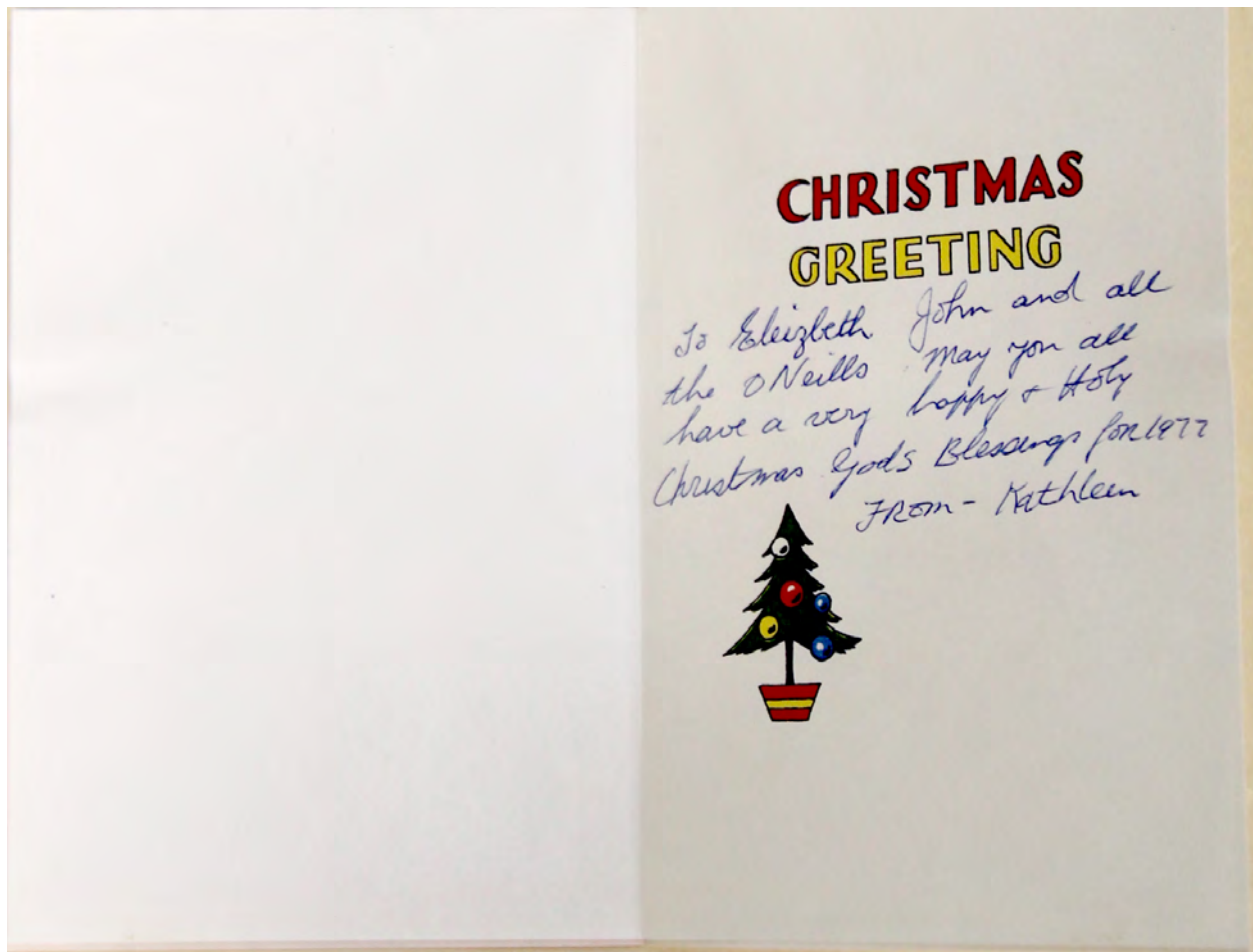
girls go over to England from
 Catholic Ireland to take the life
 from those innocents that God
 created, around a thousand a year
 since 1968. My Nieces husband who
 had the accident is waiting to be
 called to London for an op for his
 right eye they hope to do something
 I hope you will all have a good
 time for the meeting of the clans
 any news from John? I expect he
 will soon be packing up for
 home. Wasnt John's Father very good
 to take part in the Easter celebrations
 I am sure he went straight to
 Heaven. Well I hope you will all
 have a very happy Christmas
 and may the New Year be full of
 happiness. Glad to hear Rita is getting
 on so well, she shure is a blessing
 from God. I think they bring great
 happiness to a home. God love you
 all and keep you in his care.
 From - Kathleen.

girls go over to England from Catholic Ireland to take the life from those ionnecents that God created, around a thousand a year since 1968. My Niece's husband who had the accident is waiting to be called to London for an op for his right eye, they hope to do something. I hope you will all have a good time for the meeting of the clans. Any news from John. I expect he will soon be packing up for home. Wasn't John's Father very good to take part in the Easter celebrations. I am sure he went straight to Heaven.³⁸ Well, I hope you will all have a very happy Christmas and may the New Year be full of happiness. Glad to hear Rita is getting on so well, she shure is a blessing from God. I think they bring great happiness to a home. God love you all and keep you in his care. From Kathleen.



³⁸ John Stafford O'Neill Senior died in Dunedin on 10 May 1976.





To Eleizbeth, John and all the O'Neills. May you all have a very happy & Holy Christmas. God's Blessings for 1977.

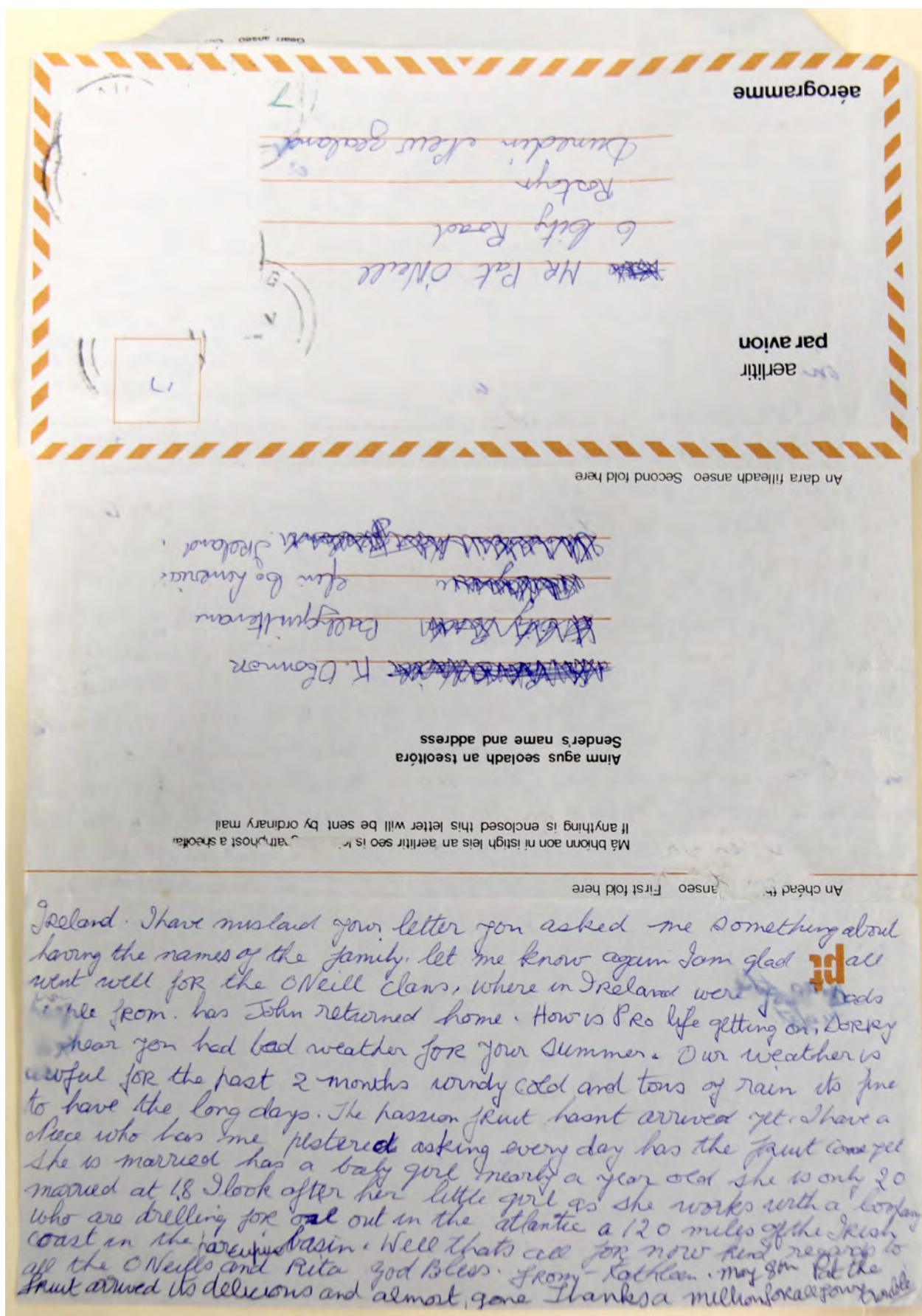
From Kathleen

76. Kathleen O'Connor to Patrick O'Neill, 18 March 1977

18.3-77
 Dear Pat, Received your most welcome letter a few days ago for which I most sincerely thank you. And I am very sorry for all the trouble ^{you} have put ^{to} regarding the passion fruit. The dried fruit situation didn't get as bad as we thought it would, people stopped buying it, so there is plenty of it in the shops at 38p per lb (we haven't gone metric yet getting into it by degrees). You didn't mention if you got the £5 I enclosed in the Xmas letter. Hope you did. I saw a notice in the Irish Times Newspaper where you could get all the stamps that are being issued this year. I send off your name and address. Let me know if you get them. Well it's April 29th and I am sincerely sorry for not getting this in the post. Tell your Mam my sister Mary Stakelly died on Jan 12th suddenly. I had told your Mam previously she had a heart attack 3½ years ago from which she made good recovery. She was a primary teacher at the local school in Ballyquiltanare, your Mam might remember seeing it when she visited Ireland in 1950. Tell Mam to tell her cousins who were in Ireland two years ago of her death. She retired from teaching two years ago owing to ill health. She had over 40 years teaching done. She had full pension. She was just 65 years old we are all very lonely after her. She was the eldest of the family of six girls. She had 3 sons one daughter whose husband had the accident to his eyes. He had 3 operations in Cambridge England, he went back for check up a few weeks the doctor can do no more till it seems such a long time to wait for results. The Dr has great hopes that he will regain his sight in one eye anyway. With prayer and God's help let us hope for the best. It is very sad to be in the dark all the time especially for a person who had sight. We don't count our blessings from the good Lord. till they are taken from us. Well Pat I don't know what is happening to the mail from Ed. Jordan. I know he got your letter when he was in

18-3-77

Dear Pat, Received your most welcome letter a few days ago for which I most sincerely thank you. And I am very sorry for all the trouble I have put you to regarding the passion fruit. The dried fruit situation didn't get as bad as we thought it would, people stopped buying it, so there is plenty of it in the shops at 38P per lb (we haven't gone metric yet, getting into it by degrees). You didn't mention if you got the \$5 I enclosed in the Xmas letter. I hope you did. I saw a notice in the Irish Times Newspaper where you could get all the stamps that are being issued this year. I send off your name and address. Let me know if you get them. Well, its April 29th and I am sincerely sorry for not getting this in the post. Tell your Mam my Sister Mary Ita Kelly died on Jan 12th suddenly. I had told your Mam previously she had a heart attack 3½ years ago from which she made a good recovery. She was a primary teacher at the local school in Ballyguiltenane, your Mam might remember seeing it when she visited Ireland in 1950. Tell Mam to tell her cousins who were in Ireland two years ago of her death. She retired from teaching two years ago owing to ill health. She had over 40 years teaching done, she had full pension. She was just 65 years old. We are all very lonely after her. She was the eldest of the Family of six girls. She had 3 sons, one daughter whose husband had the accident to his eyes. He had 3 operations in Cambridge, England; he went back for check up a few weeks ago. The Doctor can do no more till Oct, it seems such a long time to wait for results. The Dr has great hopes that he will regain his sight in one eye anyway. With prayer and God's help let us hope for the best. It is very sad to be in the dark all the time, especially for a person who had sight. We don't count our blessings from the good Lord, till they are taken from us. Well, Pat, I don't know what is happening to the mail from Ed. Jordan. I know he got your letter when he was in



Ireland. I have mislaid your letter. You asked me something about having the names of the family. Let me know again. I am glad all went well for the O'Neill clans. Where in Ireland were your Dad's people from. Has John returned home. How is Pro life getting on. Sorry to hear you had bad weather for your summer. Our weather is awful for the past 2 months: windy, cold and tons of rain; its fine to have the long days. The passion fruit hasn't arrived yet. I have a Niece who has me pestered asking every day has the fruit come yet. she is married, has a baby girl nearly a year old, she is only 20, married at 18. I look after her little girl as she works with a Company who are drilling for oil out in the Atlantic a 120 miles off the Irish coast in the porcupine basin. Well, that's all for now. Kind regards to all the O'Neills and Rita. God Bless. From Kathleen. May 8th. Pat, the fruit arrived, its delicious and almost gone. Thanks a million for all your trouble.

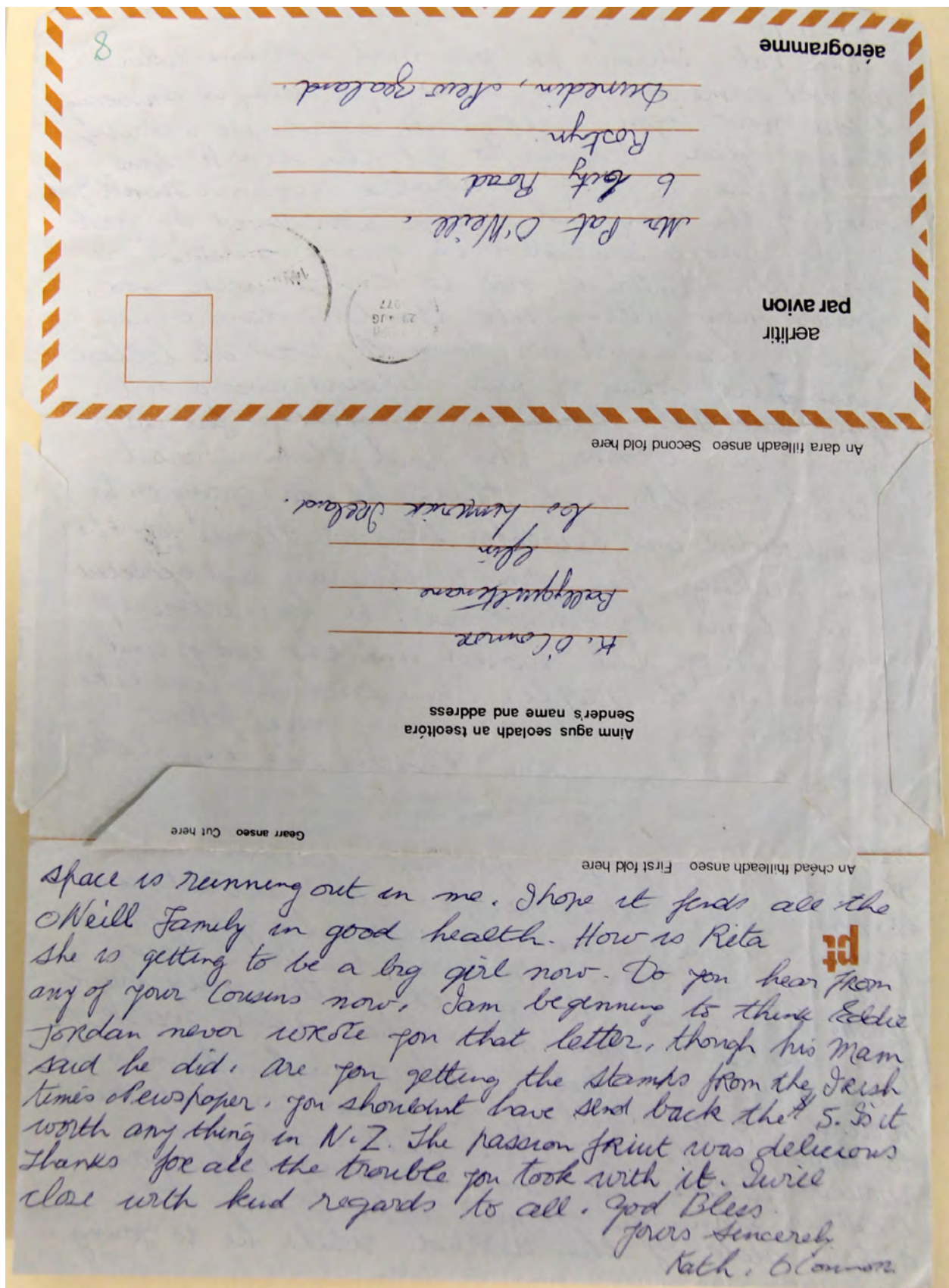
77. Kathleen O'Connor to Patrick O'Neill, 29 July 1977

29-7-77

Dear Pat. Thanks for your most welcome letter received some time ago. Sorry for delay in answering before now. you will understand its a busy time of year, trying to get the work done. It has been a very favourable summer thank God. most of the hay and silage was saved by first of July. crops are also in good condition. I hope the winter is not too severe with you. you are now getting into the long days again. Glad to hear you are doing so well at college. I wish I had some of your brains. I had a letter from my Sister Phine in England a few days ago. your brother John paid them a visit stayed 2 nights with them he was going on to Cambridge and Leicester then to France for the grape picking, then going to America and expected to be home by Christmas, he has certainly seen a lot of the world and the ways and customs of the people. Phine said he was like your Mam, very quiet and a very nice fellow.

JK Mark is home from Nigeria, he expects to be home for a year he has to do a three months course in theology. he is coming to Ireland August the 17th for 2 weeks. My Nephew James Hanrahan is still interested in going to New Zealand he wrote to your Mams Cousin in January MR Ferris, he didn't hear from him since. he says the letter may have gone surface mail, he either didn't mark it air mail or didn't put enough stamps. I would be grateful if you could contact him to know if he got the letter and if he would write to him. I suppose like your brother John, he would like to see the other side of the world while he is young.

29-7-77. Dear Pat. Thanks for your most welcome letter received some time ago. Sorry for delay in answering before now. You will understand its a busy time of year, trying to get the work done. It has been a very favourable summer, Thank God. Most of the hay and silage was saved by first of July. Crops are also in good condition. I hope the winter is no to severe with you. You are now getting into the long days again. glad to hear you are doing so well at College. I wish I had some of your brains. I had a letter from my Sister Phine in England a few days ago. Your brother John paid them a visit, stayed 2 nights with them, he was going on to Cambridge and Leicester, then to France for the grape picking, then going to America and expected to be home by Christmas. He has certainly seen a lot of the world and the ways and customs of the people. Phine said he was like your Mam, very quiet and a very nice fellow. Fr Mark is home from Nigeria, he expects to be home for a year, he has to do a three months course in theology. He is coming to Ireland August the 17th for 2 weeks. my Nephew James Hanrahan is still intrested in going to New Zealand. He wrote to your Mam's cousin in January, Mr Ferris, he didn't hear from him since. He says the letter may have gone surface mail. He either didn't mark it air mail or didn't put enough stamps. I would be grateful if you could contact him to see if he got the letter and if he would write to him. I suppose like your brother John, he would like to see the other side of the world while he is young.



Space is running out on me. I hope it finds all the O'Neill Family in good health. How is Rita. She is getting to be a big girl now. Do you hear from any of your cousins now. I am beginning to think Eddie Jordan never wrote you that letter, though his Mam said he did. Are you getting the stamps from the Irish Times Newspaper. You shouldn't have send back the \$5. Is it worth anything in N.Z. The passion fruit was delicious. Thanks for all the trouble you took with it. I will close with kind regards to all. God Bless

Yours sincerely

Kath O'Connor

78. Kathleen O'Connor to O'Neill Family, 11 December 1977

11-12-77

Ballyquiltanane
Glin
Co Limerick

Dear Cousins

It does not seem possible that Christmas 77 is only two weeks away. How the time has passed so quickly, and another year added to eternity. I hope you are having a good summer. The days are so short now, its not half long enough. and it has been a miserable wet and cold winter since September. we had a lot of storms and had a fall of snow early in November. I expect by this John is on the last lap of his long journey home. Will he surely has some good tales to

11-12-77

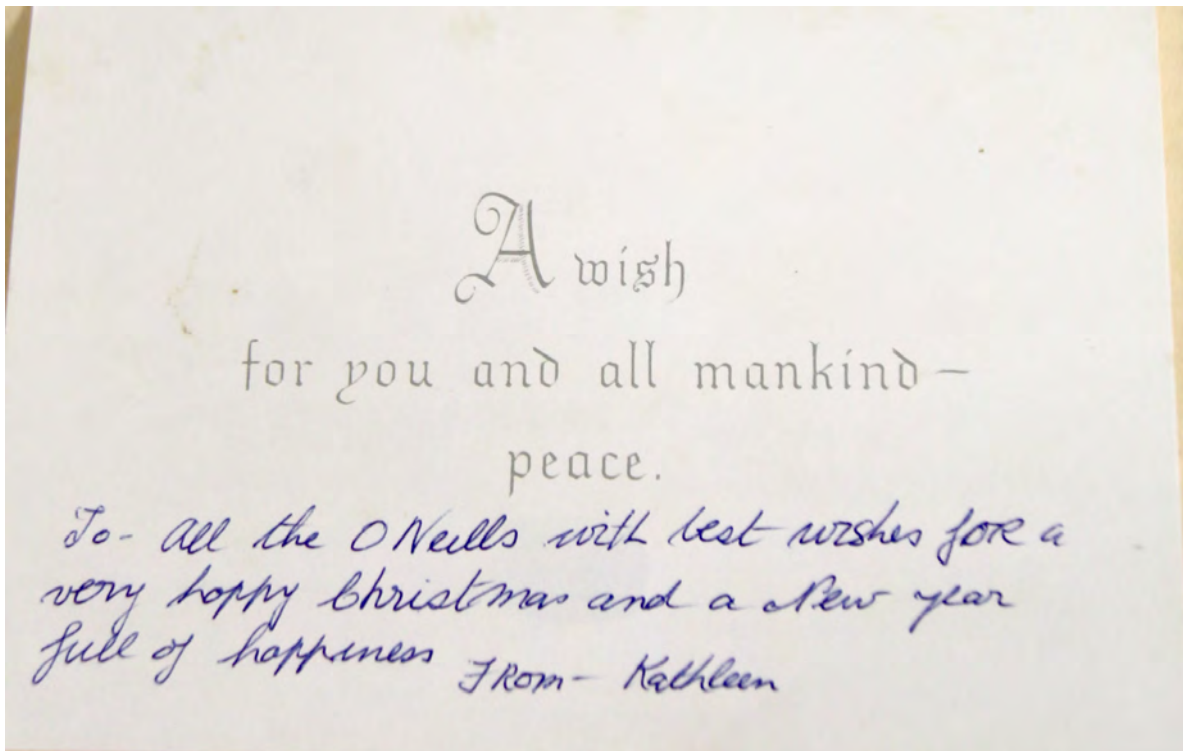
Dear Cousins

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Tell of his wonderful experience. I
 hope he has enjoyed it all, how
 have your local elections gone. I hope
 they have listened to Mary on what she
 had to say about the abortion. I haven't
 heard anything from the O'Connors in
 Southland about their Family tree
 or my Nephew James Hanrahan
 from D. Ferris. Edeybeth weren't you
 great to send that £50 to Mark.
 You are all so kind and thoughtful
 you have a wonderful Family
 full of dreams and good deeds
 so glad to hear Rita is getting on so
 well she has made great progress
 my Nieces husband is still with
 out sight, he is going back to
 Cambridge to the D.R. after Christmas^{D.V.}
 Still no peace in the North of
 Ireland. I wonder if it will ever come
 there, The I.R.A. are very wrong, there is
 no week they don't rob a bank or a post-
 office of thousands of pounds and getting
 away with it. I hope you will all
 have a wonderful Christmas. Will be with
 you in spirit and good health & prosperity
 for 1978 God Bless keep you all in
 his care. From - Kathleen

tell of his wonderful experience. I hope he has enjoyed it all. How have your local elections gone. I hope they have listened to Mary on what she had to say about the abortion. I haven't heard anything from the O'Connors in Southland about their Family Tree or my Nephew James Hanrahan from D. Ferris. Eleizbeth weren't you great to send that £50 to Mark. You are all so kind and thoughtful. You have a wonderful family full of brain and good deeds. So glad to hear Rita is getting on so well. She has made great progress. My Niece's husband is still without sight, he is going back to Cambridge to the Dr after Christmas D.V. still no peace in the North of Ireland. I wonder if it will ever come there. The I.R.A. are very wrong, there is no week they don't rob a bank or a post office of thousands of pounds and getting away with it. I hope you will all have a wonderful Christmas. will be with you in spirit, and good health & prosperity for 1978. God Bless & keep you all in his care. From Kathleen





To All the O'Neills with best wishes for a very happy Christmas and a
New Year full of happiness

From Kathleen

79. Kathleen O'Connor to Patrick O'Neill, 5 November 1978

5-11-78 Ballyguntinane.
Gfm
to Limerick

Dear Pat,

It is about time I answered your most welcome letter and photograph of all the family which I received last July. You didn't say how you were feeling. Your mam said in her Christmas letter, that you were not feeling well. Doing your exams. I hope you got on well are you finished schooling. How soon will you be going to University what do you intend doing? You are all such a brilliant family. Learning is no problem to you, it's great to have the brains, then we are not all blessed with them. Well how has John settled down after seeing most of the world, it was a great experience for him. I am sure he has some grand tales to tell you about his travels. It's nearly two weeks since I started this letter now it's Nov the 18th. I am looking after a young baby belonging to a piece of mine who goes out to work. The baby a little

5-11-78

Dear Pat,

It is about time I answered your most welcome letter and Photograph of all the family which I received last July. You didn't say how you were feeling. Your Mam said in her Christmas letter, that you were not feeling well, doing your exams. I hope you got on well. Are you finished schooling. How soon will you be going to University. What do you intend doing. You are all such a brilliant family. Learning is no problem to you. Its great to have the brains; then we are not all blessed with them. Well, how has John settled down after seeing most of the world. It was a great experience for him. I am shure he has some grand tales to tell you about his travels. Its nearly two weeks since I started this letter, its now Nov the 18th. I am looking after a young baby belonging to a Niece of mine who goes out to work. The baby, a little

5 Nov 1978

girl is nine weeks old. There is another little girl of $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, she is a bundle of mischief, wants as much attention as the baby, when she gets my back turned she slaps the baby in the face. They are a full time job to look after them. I don't have much time to myself. We had a wretched summer it couldn't be worse, the hay crop was a disaster it rotted, the silage is not too bad. we had a beautiful autumn to make up for it from Sept to last Sat the 10th Nov.

These last few days have rained a lot and it has got colder. They have had their first snow fall in N. Y. It is predicted we are in for a severe winter in Ireland with frost and snow to last from end of Nov to March 79. I hope they are wrong. I hope you are having a good summer and that you will all have a nice long holiday from school, enjoy yourselves you are only young once.

girl, is nine weeks old. There is another little girl of 2½ years, she is a bundle of mischief, wants as much attention as the baby, when she gets my back turned she slaps the baby in the face. They are a full time job to look after them. I don't have much time to myself. We had a wretched summer, it couldn't be worse; the hay crop was a disaster, it rotted, the silage is not too bad. We had a beautiful autumn to make up for it, from Sept to last Sat the 10th Nov. These last few days have rained a lot and it has got colder. They have had their first snow fall in N.Y. It is predicted we are in for a severe winter in Ireland with frost and snow to last from end of Nov to March 79. I hope they are wrong. I hope you are having a good summer and that you will all have a nice long holiday from school. Enjoy yourselves, you are only young once.

5 Nov 1978

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It's now Dec the 8th. I hope I will get this finished this time. The weather has got much worse high winds and heavy rain, in two more weeks the days will be on the turn again D.V. I am enclosing an address of a nun who was home on holidays from N.Z. a Nephew of mine is married to her Niece she is a lovely person, if you write to her she will tell you all about Ireland as she is very clever like yourself. She is most anxious to get in touch with ~~you~~ the Family, she is old now, she said this was her last trip home to Ireland before she dies. I gave her your address so maybe by this she has got in touch with you. Well Pat I had ^{better} get this finished or you won't have it in time for Christmas. I hope you will all have a very holy and happy Christmas and the New Year full of happiness. Love to all the O'Neills
 From - Kathleen. over.

Its now Dec the 8th. I hope I will get this finished this time. The weather has got much worse, high winds and heavy rain, in two more weeks the days will be on the turn again D.V. I am enclosing the address of a nun who was home on holidays from N.Z. A Nephew of mine is married to her Niece. She is a lovely person. If you write to her she will tell you all about Ireland as she is very clever like yourself. She is most anxious to get in touch with the Family, she is old now, she said this was her last trip home to Ireland before she dies. I gave her your address so maybe by this she has got in touch with you. Well, Pat, I had better get this finished or you wont have it in time for Christmas. I hope you will all have a very holy and happy Christmas and the New Year full of happiness. Love to all the O'Neills. From Kathleen

3
to me the 8th June 1904
this finished this time. the weather
SR Mary Fidelis (Healy)
Convent of Mercy
P.O. Box 283
Tamaru.
New Zealand.
of mine to married to her sister
the is a lovely person. if you write
to her she will tell you all about
Ireland as she is very clever like
yourself. she is most anxious to get
in touch with the family. she is
old now, she said this was her last
trip home to Ireland before she
died. I gave her your address as
maybe if this she has got in touch
with you. Well I'd like to get this
finished or for next time it is
time for Christmas. There you will
all have a very happy and happy
Christmas and the whole year full of
happiness. try to see the children
over.

Sr Mary Fidelis (Healy), Convent of Mercy, P.O. Box 283, Timaru, New
Zealand

80. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 4 December 1979



May Bethlehem's peace
be yours
this Christmas morn
And its happiness extend
throughout the
coming year.

To - all the O'Neills
From - Kathleen.

4-12-79

Ballyguiltanane

Glen

Co Limerick

Dear Elizabeth & all the O'Neills

Its Christmas

once again. hoping it finds all the O'Neills
in the best of health. Hope that landslide
did not do you any harm was the disaster
far from you. How are all the family
doing? Did John do any more globe trotting
and how is Paddy doing its two years now
since I heard from ^{him} I expect he is doing
well at his studies, hoping you are
winning the battle with PRO life. I think
people are beginning to understand that a
baby whom God created is entitled to
its life. There are hundreds of Irish
girls and married women going to

4-12-79

Dear Eleizbeth & All the O'Neills

It's Christmas once again, hoping it finds all the O'Neills in the best of health. I hope that landslide did not do you any harm. Was the disaster far from you. How are all the Family doing. Did John do any more globe trotting and how is Paddy doing, its two years now since I heard from him. I expect he is doing well at his studies. Hoping you are winning the battle with Pro life. I think people are beginning to understand that a baby whom God created is entitled to its life. There are hundreds of Irish girls and married women going to



England for ~~ab~~ortions. I suppose you know
 Pope John Paul II paid a three visit to
 Ireland. We went to see him in Limerick, it
 was a great success and a great occasion.
 Fr Mark is still in England, he is so busy
 he didn't come to Ireland this year. He is
 anxious to get back to Nigeria if he can't get
 back, he would like to go to South America.
 Suppose you hear from Phine often. We had a
 postal strike here for 5 months. Mail is
 still going slow by the time you get this
 the days will be on the turn. I love to see
 the days on the turn again, hope you had a
 nice summer. We had a miserable one we
 had winter up to June, the most of July was
 good otherwise it would be starvation for man
 and beast. Did that SR Mary ever contact you.
 She is a very nice person and I am shure she would
 love to meet such a talented brainy family. I
 wish you all a very happy & Holy Christmas and a new
 year full of happiness. Hope little Rita is doing well
 and Bless all. From Cousin Kathleen.

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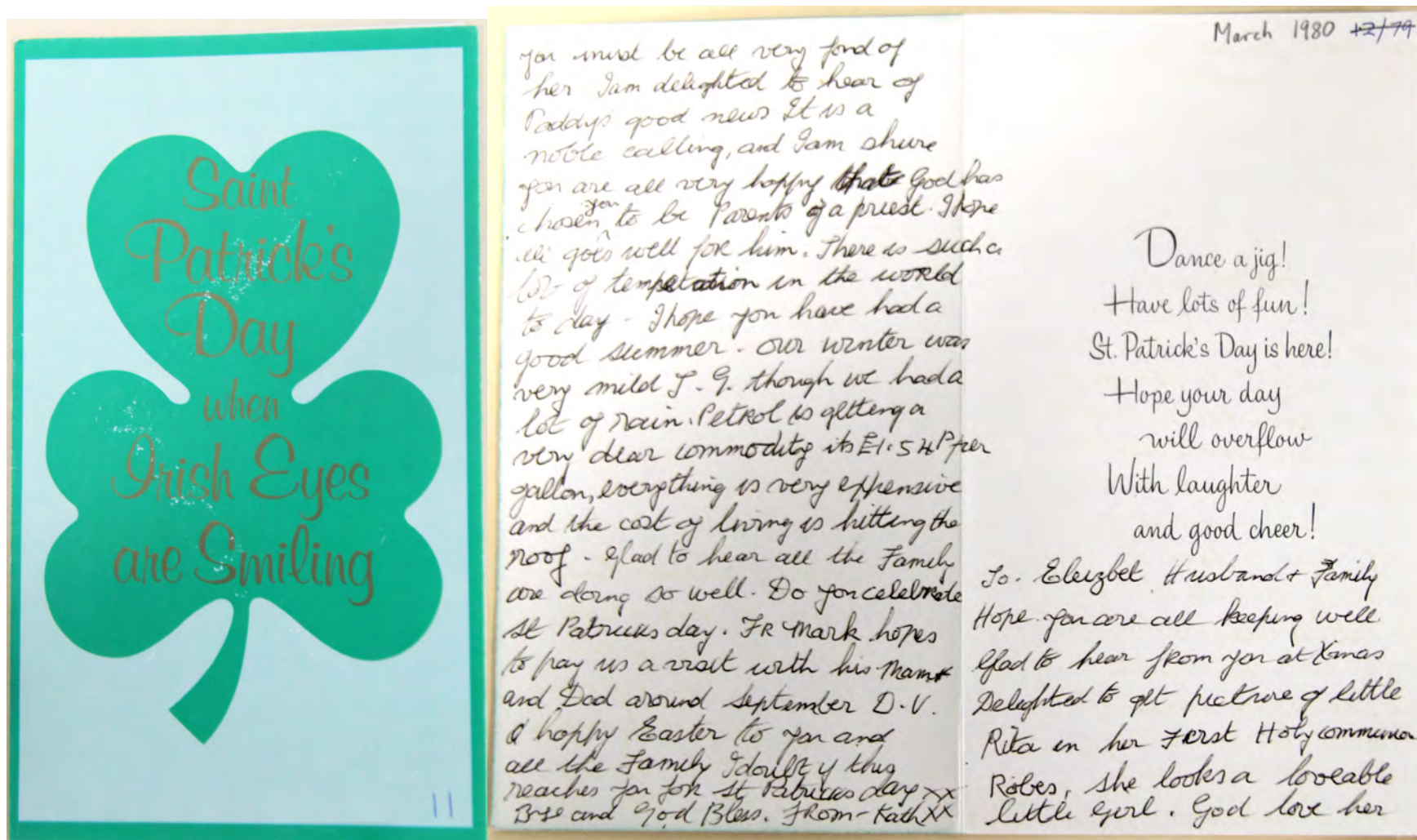
MAY PEACE AND JOY BE YOURS
THIS *Christmas* TIME
AND THROUGHOUT
THE NEW YEAR

*To - all the O'Neills
From - Kathleen O'Connor*

To All the O'Neills

From Kathleen O'Connor

81. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, March 1980



To Eleizbet, Husband & Family

Hope you are all keeping well. Glad to hear from you at Xmas. Delighted to get picture of little Rita in her First Holy Communion Robes, she looks a loveable little girl. God love her. You must be all very fond of her. I am delighted to hear of Paddy's good news. It is a noble calling, and I am shure you are all very happy that God has chosen you to be Parents of a priest. I hope all goes well for him. There is such a lot of tempetation in the world today. I hope you have had a good summer. Our winter was very mild T.G. though we had a lot of rain. Petrol is getting a very dear commodity, its £1.54P per gallon, everything is very expensive and the cost of living is hitting the roof. Glad to hear all the Family are doing so well. Do you celebrate St Patrick's day. Fr Mark hope to pay us a visit with his Mam and Dad around September D.V. A happy Easter to you and all the Family, I doubt if this reaches you for St Patrick's day. Bye and God Bless. From Kath xxxx

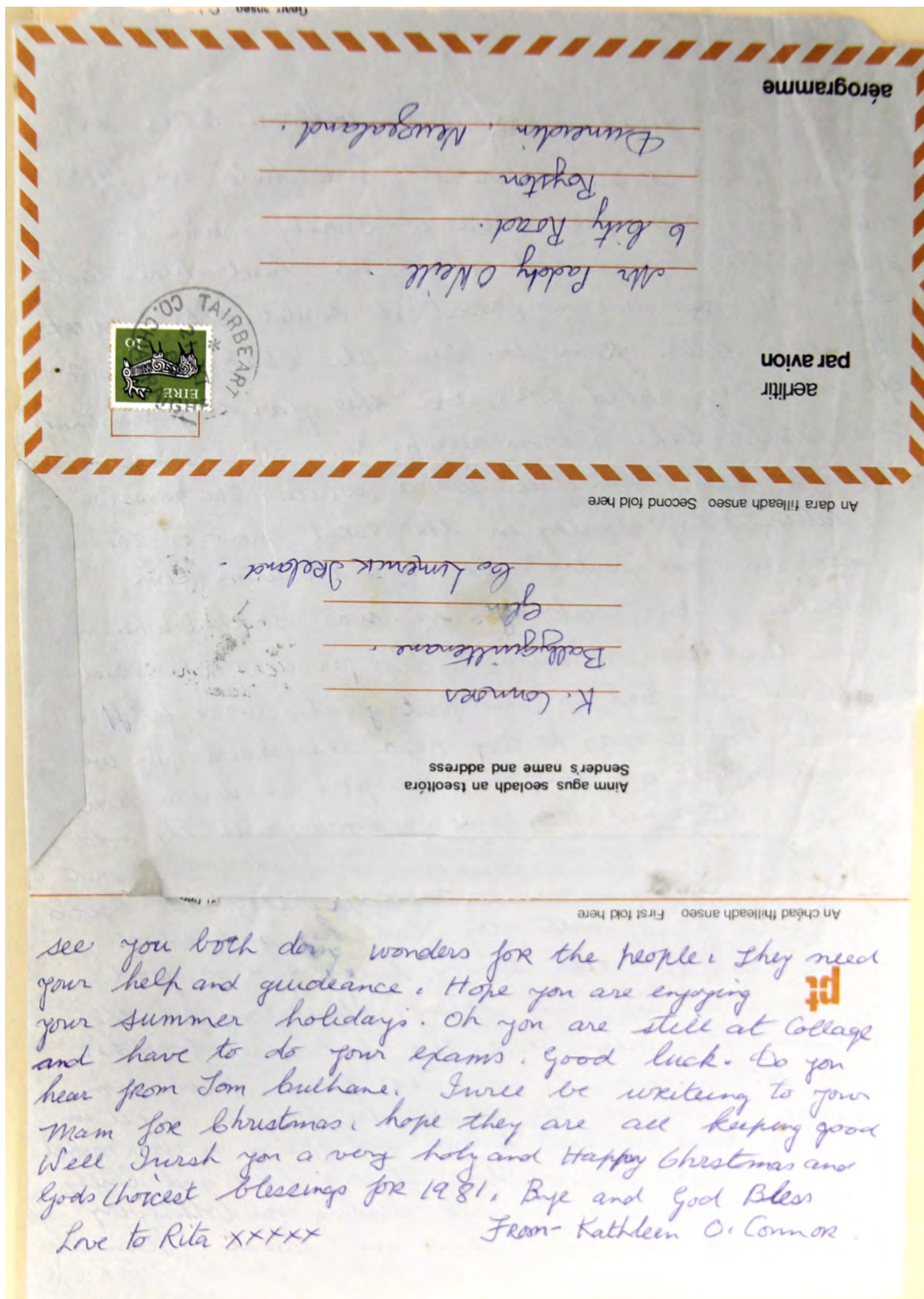
82. Kathleen O'Connor to Patrick O'Neill, 20 November 1980

20-11-80
 Dear Paddy
 Received your most welcome letter in
 tober, I don't know where it was held up all
 that time. Our post here is surely erratic in
 spite of the long postal strike we had here last
 year. It has not improved it could take a week
 to get a letter from Dublin. The strikers did not
 get all they asked for, and this year they threatened
 they would take action again, they got another
 bit to keep them quiet for a while. The recession
 is hitting every country in the world. How is the
 economy in your country. We had a visitor from
 Australia a few weeks ago. He was shocked when he
 heard land was making £5,000 per acre, he said
 you could get land in his part of the world for \$1 an
 acre but that it was too dry near the desert. pity we
 cannot export all the rain we get. It was a disaster
 of a year. It rained from June on wards with the odd
 fine days now and then. Farming was a wash out
 Cows are housed since early Sept. they will have a
 long winter to go. with very bad hay and silage
 to tow them over till spring time. God is good
 hope he sends an early spring. Please pray for the
 intention. We already have two bad years together
 if we get another it will be famine. Paddy I am
 delighted to hear all the O'Neills are doing so well in
 life I. G. congratulations to you and Mary on your nobel
 vocation to the religious life. It is a hard and lonely
 life but a very rewarding one. Wishing you both every
 happiness. With your brains and talent. I can

20-11-80

Dear Paddy

Received your most welcome letter in October, I don't know where it was held up all that time. Our post here is surely erratic in spite of the long postal strike we had here last year. It has not improved, it could take a week to get a letter from Dublin. The Strikers did not get all they asked for, and this year they threatened they would take action again, they got another bit to keep them quiet for a while. The recession is hitting every country in the world. How is the economy in your country. We had a visitor from Australia a few weeks ago, he was shocked when he heard land was making £5,000 per acre, he said you could get land in his part of the world for \$4 an acre but that it was to[o] dry near the desert. Pity we cannot expect all the rain we get. It was a disaster of a year. It rained from June on wards with the odd fine days now and then. Farming was a wash out, cows are housed since early Sept; they will have a long winter to go, with very bad hay and silage to tow them over till spring time. God is good, hope he sends an early spring. Please pray for the intention. We already have two bad years together; if we get another it will be famine. Paddy, I am delighted to hear all the O'Neills are doing so well in life, T.G. congratulations to you and Mary on your noble vocations to the religious life. It is a hard and lonely life but a very rewarding one. Wishing you both every happiness. With your brains and talent, I can



see you both doing wonders for the people. They need your help and guidance. Hope you are enjoying your summer holidays. Oh, you are still at Collage and have to do your exams. Good luck. Do you hear from Tom Culhane. I will be writing to your Mam for Christmas. Hope they are all keeping good. Well, I wish you a very holy and Happy Christmas and Gods Choicest blessings for 1981. Bye and God Bless

From Kathleen O'Connor

Love to Rita xxxxx

83. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 9 December 1980



Dear Elizabeth just a few lines
hoping they find all the
O'Neills in the best of health
and spirits. No doubt you are
enjoying your summer weather.
you have a few of them off your
hands. you don't feel them growing
up. I hope Mary & Paddy are happy
in their new calling. I can see
them doing great work with their
brains & Education. It is thanks to
their wonderful parents. We are
having a very cold winter and its
supposed to get worse as time goes
on. fuel and oil and the cost of
living is gone sky high. I expect its
not as high with you. though the
recession has hit all nations
Have a nice time. God Bless you all.
a big kiss for Rita X X X X

Sincere Greetings
for Christmas
and all Good Wishes
for Happiness
in the Coming Year.

To- all the O'Neills with
love and best wishes from all
your Cousins. Kathleen.

[Postmark 9 December 1980; received 11 March 1981]

To All the O'Neills with love and best wishes from all your Cousins.

Kathleen

Dear Eleizbeth

Just a few lines hoping they find all the O'Neills in the best of health and spirits. No doubt you are enjoying your summer weather. You have a few of them off your hands. You don't feel them growing up. I hope Mary & Paddy are happy in their new calling. I can see them doing great work with their brains & education. It is thanks to their wonderful parents. We are having a very cold winter and its supposed to get worse as time goes on. Fuel and oil and the cost of living is gone sky high. I expect its not as high with you. Though the recession has hit all nations. Have a nice time. God Bless you all. A big kiss for Rita. xxxxx



84. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 21 September 1981

21-9-81 P.S. a big kiss for Rita & J. O. Murphys
Church St
Tarbert Via Listowel
Co Kerry.

Dear Elizabeth

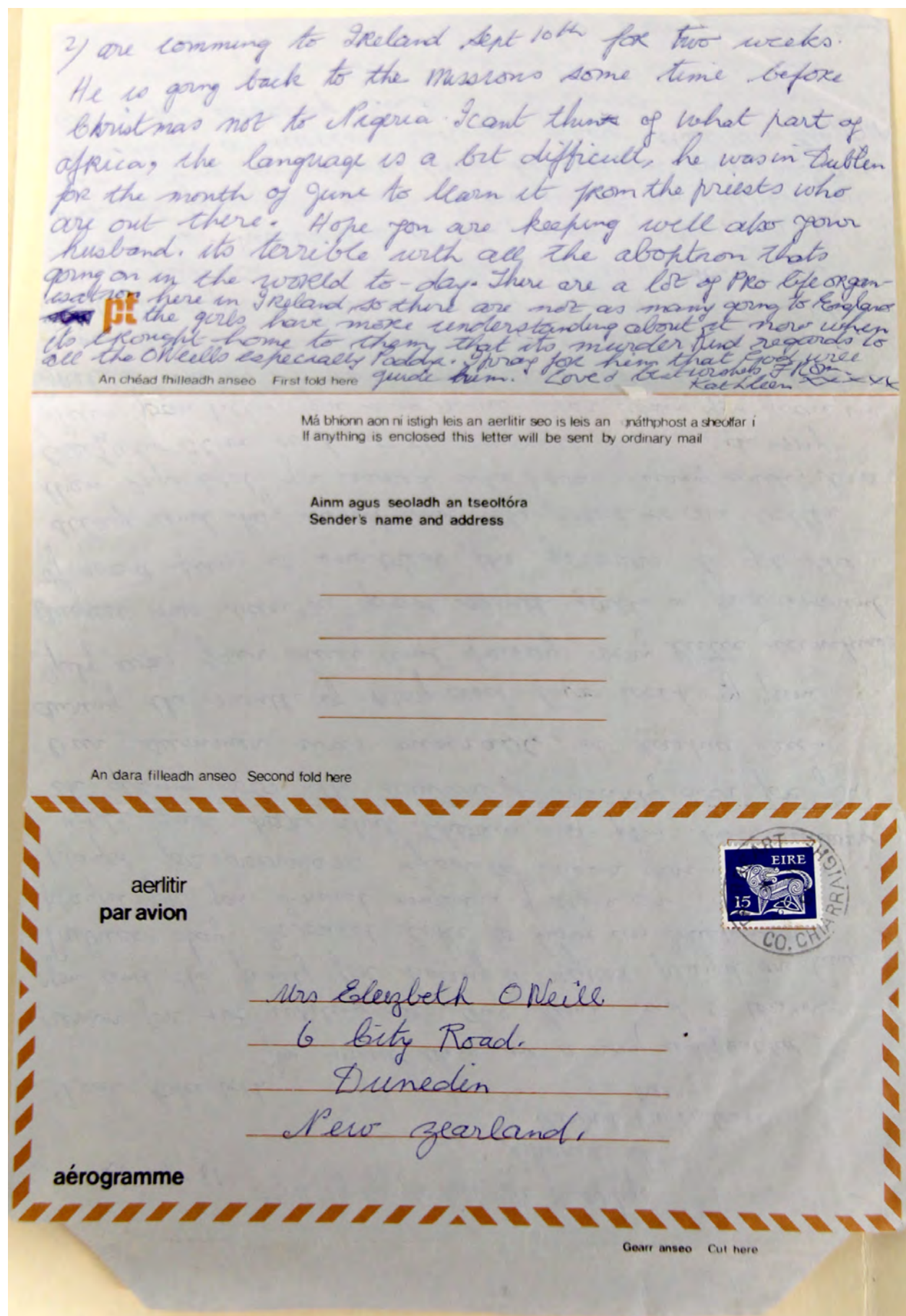
You must think me a very ungrateful person for not writing all this time. and to thank you and the family for having a request played on Saint Patrick's day. I would like to have an Irish song played for you. I must inquire if there are requests played for overseas. Glad to hear you are all well and hope that Theresa and John have successes in getting jobs. The winter is nearly over for you. Our summer was miserable, it lashed rain during the month of May and two weeks of June. July was fair dull and heavy. very little sunshine. August has been a good month with a fair amount of good sun. it enabled the farmers to get the silage and hay saved and the potatoes are better than expected. you asked who I was living with. its a case of who I live with, at the moment I am with my niece Joan Kelly. you may remember her when you were in Ireland. she is 38 years now I think I told you. her husband James Murphy had a car accident five years ago. and lost the sight of both eyes. They have 4 boys the eldest now 12 years old. Joan is teaching she is a B.Sc. at the moment her husband is in the process of opening a chip shop and take away foods. it would be an interest for him as time I am shure drags heavily for him. pray that it will be a success. Did you know that Mick Flanagan died a few weeks ago. I think it was cancer of the spine he was 52 years, two children, the eldest started school this year. FR Mark his Mam and Sister Anne

c/o Murphys, Church St, Tarbert, via Listowel, Co Kerry

21-9-81

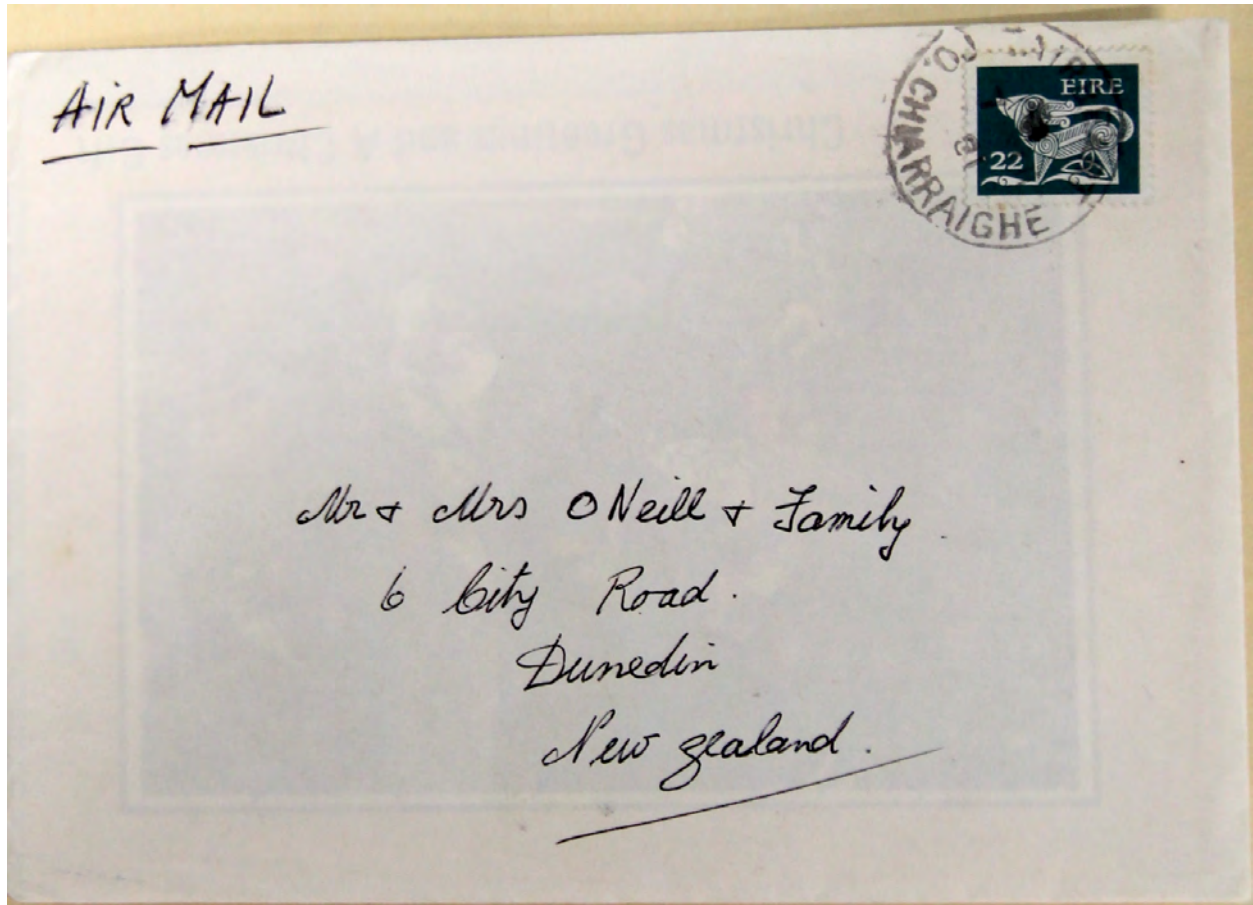
Dear Eleizbeth

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are coming to Ireland Sept 10th for two weeks. he is going back to the Missions some time before Christmas; not to Nigeria, I can't think of what part of Africa, the language is a bit difficult, he was in Dublin for the month of June to learn it from the priests who are out there. Hope you are keeping well, also your husband. Its terrible with all the abortion that's going on in the world to-day. There are a lot of Pro life organisations here in Ireland, so there are not as many going to England, the girls have more understanding about it now when its brought home to them that its murder. Kind regards to all the O'Neills especially Paddy. I pray for him that God will guide him. Love & best wishes. From Kathleen xxxxx

85. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 7 December 1981





Someone to love, somepne to care for. It was that thought which gripped the heart of Francis of Assisi at Greccio that Christmas he had decided to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a new way. He had brought a real Ox and Ass to the Altar, so that they too, could share in this re-birth of Christ in the bread and wine of the Christmas Eucharist.

Elizabeth O'Neill + Family

*Will share in the fruits of a
Novena of Masses
Celebrated at the Franciscan
Church
Merchants' Quay, Dublin.
Beginning on Christmas Day.*

*At the request of
Cousin Kathleen with love.*

7-12-81

Church St.
Tarbert
Co Kerry.

Dear Elizabeth

Just a few lines hoping they find you and all the Family in the best of health, and enjoying your summer weather. I hope it is better than what we got. I suppose I shouldn't be complaining as the month of August was beautiful and the first week of September Phine & Mark & Ann were home for 2 weeks. Mark will be off to the missions on the fourth of Jan. Phine & Tom celebrated their Ruby wedding on Oct 11th they had a marvellous time, the Family kept it all very quiet from them and every thing was a great surprise. It started off with

Church St, Tarbert, Co Kerry

7-12-81

Dear Eleizbeth

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Mass in the church and all the Grand
 children + parishoners sang hymns and the
 children carried gifts at the offertory and a
 big spread was laid on at one of the
 Catholic Schools all the parish were at it
 and the Family send ^{them} off on a weeks holiday
 to Edinburgh (Scotland) How are all
 the girls and boys doing I think Phine
 mentioned when she was home one of
 the boys got married How does Mary like
 convent life shure they have more freedom
 now and as Paddy studying for the priesthood
 I am afraid I am late with ~~your~~ my request
 for you and it will have to be in the
 New year as Kathleen Watkins ^{says} the mail
 is piled high for requests for C.P.Z. and
 Australia. Mary O'Hara was on T.V a few weeks
 ago. She has written a book and the critics
 made some comments on it which she didnt
 like, she said she would never again lay her
 foot in Ireland. any way she is in Ireland for a
 break. I will close by wishing you all a
 very enjoyable and Holy Christmas and best
 wishes for New Year. God Bless. From K.
 O'Connor

Mass in the church and all the crowd, children & parishioners sang hymns and the children carried gifts at the offertory and a big spread was laid on at one of the Catholic Schools; all the parish were at it and the Family send them off on a weeks holiday to Edinburgh (Scotland). How are all the Girls and boys doing. I think Phine mentioned when she was home one of the boys got married. How does Mary like Convent life. Shure they have more freedom now. And is Paddy studying for the priesthood. I am afraid I am late with my request for you and it will have to be in the New Year as Kathleen Watkins says the mail is piled high for requests for N.Z. and Australia. Mary O'Hara was on T.V. a few weeks ago. She has written a book and the critics made some comments on it which she didn't like, she said she would never again lay her foot in Ireland. Any way she is in Ireland for a break. I will close by wishing you all a very enjoyable and Holy Christmas and best wishes for New Year. God Bless.

From K. O'Connor

86. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, c. Dec 1982

16 July 21 st.
 London
 July 34 July London
 5th Lane

Many thanks to you and family for
 your most welcome letters and Family Tree re-
 ceived at Christmas. You certainly went to great
 trouble you must have great patience to get it all
 sorted out. My Sister Philomena I am sure you met
 her in England. at Phineas. She is now crazy about the
 Family Tree and had no bother in tracing the Families.
 There is one person she can't trace, has done her best to
 find out and I am sure she will get to the roots of it
 before your Sister's husband arrives in Ireland.
 I gave her your letters and family Tree. I haven't got them
 now as she and Bill Flavin are very interested in them.
 She did write to your Sister explaining all about the
 journey and telling her about her son Jim who is
 in Perth Aus. send his phone number and told her
 to get in contact with him as he would give
 them all directions as he only went ^{out in July} to Sydney first
 could get no work there, moved to Perth where he and
 friend got a job laying & welding a pipe line. the job
 finished last Fri. he is looking for another job and was to
 do a test this week 100 miles from ~~Perth~~ in the desert.
 He wrote to me early Jan looking for Jack Ferris's address
 lucky I found it. he was thinking he might give him a job
 for a while as he was anxious to see W.Z. as he was
 so near. How ever he never heard from him or neither
 has Phil heard from your Sister, so now things are at
 stand still. We don't know if your Sister's husband are
 making the trip. I have been looking after my Sister
 who had a hip replacement done in Jan I spent 2 months
 with her looking after the house, her husband & son.
 She had ~~her~~ one hip done last Oct, she is well able
 to get about now and loves her card games and bingo.
 I am glad to hear Mary is happy with the Religious life
 also Paddy it is nice he is so near home. Is there
 any other special. You and Paddy would like, from Ireland.

Dear Eleizbeth

Many thanks to you and Paddy for your most welcome letters and Family tree received at Christmas. You certainly went to great trouble. You must have great patience to get it all sorted out. My sister Philomena, I am shure you met her in England at Phine's, she is gone crazy on the family tree and had no bother in tracing the Families. There is one person she can't trace, has done her best to find out and I am shure she will get to the roots of it before your Sister and her husband arrive in Ireland. I gave her your letters and family tree. I haven't got them now as she and Bill Flavin are very intrested in them. She did write to your Sister explaining all about the Journey and telling her about her son Jim who is in Perth Aus, send his phone number, and told her to get in contact with him as he would give them all directions, as he only went out in July, to Sydney first, could get no work there, moved to Perth where he and friend got a job laying & welding a piple line. The job finished last Friday, he is looking for another job and was to do a test this week 100 miles from Perth in the desert. He wrote to me early Jan looking for Jack Ferrises address; lucky I found it. He was thinking he might give him a job for a while s he was anxious to see N.Z. as he was so near. However he never heard from him or neither has Phil heard from your Sister, so now things are at a stand still. We don't know if your Sister & Husband are makeing the trip. I have been looking after my Sister who had a hip replacement done in Jan. I spend 2 months with her looking after the house, her husband & son. She had one hip done last Oct, she is well abel to get about now and loves her card games and bingo. I am glad to hear Mary is happy with the Religious life, also Paddy, it is nice he is so near home. Is there anything special you and Paddy would like from Ireland [...]

2/ to spare and let me know. We had a very mild
Winter I & G. For the past week the weather is bitterly
cold gale force winds with snow sleet & rain. I suppose
you are not interested in Farming any more. Poor
Mam God rest her soul loved the land and talking
about the tillage and sheep. I suppose you hear from Phine
often. her daughter Ann is getting married in Sept.
Gk Mark is coming home around that time. How is
Rita. I often think of her. She is a lovely little girl. God love
her. I bet you are all very fond of her. Hope to hear
from you & Gd Bless all the O'Neills and a very happy
Easter. From - Kathleen - X X X X X X X X X

An chéad fhilleadh anseo First fold here

Ma bhíonn aon ní istigh leis an perlitr seo is leis an ngráthphost a sheoltar í
If anything is enclosed this letter will be sent by ordinary mail

Ainm agus seoladh an tseoltóra
Sender's name and address

be shure and let me know. We had a very mild winter T.G. For the past week the weather is bitterly cold, gale force winds with snow, sleet & rain. I suppose you are not intrested in Farming any more. Your Mam, God rest her soul, loved the land and talking about the village and sheep. I suppose you hear from Phine often. Her daughter Ann is getting married in Sept. Fr Mark is comming around that time. How is Rita. I often think of her. She is a lovely little girl. God love her. I bet you are all very fond of her. Hope to hear from you. God Bless all the O'Neills and a very happy Easter. From Kathleen xxxxxxxxxx

87. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 7 December 1982



Dear Elizabeth and Family
 Once again it's Christmas time
 Hoping it finds you four husband
 and girls in good health
 and spirits for the festive season.
 What about John has he the vocation
 for the religious life. What a noble
 calling for Mary's son and you
 the happy parents to be chosen
 by God. Two of my Sisters were
 not well all summer one went to
 the U. S. A. for a. to see her daughter
 and family got very ill, got an infection
 which went in the blood stream. She
 was in danger for a few days. made a
 good recovery. J. G. She is back home
 again since Nov. She also has a detached
 retina had an operation has lost the
 sight of the eye. My other sister had a
 plastic hip replacement. will have to
 have the other one done in Jan
 How is Rita. your family are slipping
 away from you. Our winter so far
 is very cold and wet, and the summer
 was not up to much. apart from
 one good fortnight. Trouble and unrest in the
 World. And things are no better in
 Northern Ireland. Cruel murdering going on

A nephew of mine went to Australia
 Sydney last July. with a friend of
 his. very hard to get work. moved to
 Perth. they have done a bit better
 there. I. G. and have work for a few
 months. Welding pipe line. God Bless
 you all have a very happy Christmas.
 From - Constan K. XX

May the Peace
 and Joy
 of Christmas
 be with you
 throughout the
 New Year
 So - all the O'Neill Family

7 Dec 1982

Dear Eleizbeth and Family

Once again its Christmas times hoping it finds you, your husband, boys and girls in good health and spirits for the festive season. What about John, has he the vocation for the religious life. What a noble calling for Mary & John. And you the happy parents to be chosen by God. Two of my sisters were not well all summer. One went to the U.S. N. York to see her daughter and Family, got very ill, got an infection which went in the blood stream. She was in danger for a few days, made a good recovery T.G. She is back home again since Nov. She also has a detached retina, had an operation, has lost the sight of the eye. My other Sister had a plastic hip replacement, will have to have the other one done in Jan. How is Rita. Your Family are slipping away from you. Our winter so far is very cold and wet, and the summer was not up to much. Apart from one good fortnight. Terrible unrest in the world, and things are no better in Northern Ireland. Cruel murdering going on.

A nephew of mine went to Australia Sydney last July, with a friend of his. Very hard to get work. Moved to Perth, they have done a bit better there T.G. and have work for a few months. Welding pipe line. God Bless you all, have a very happy Christmas. From Cousin K xx

88. Elizabeth O'Neill to Kathleen O'Connor, 13 December 1982

6 City Road
Dunedin
New Zealand

13 December 1982

Dear Kathleen

Well there is news with a difference this year. My sister Margaret, who is married to Mary Walsh's brother, Justin, hopefully will make it to Ireland. With Justin of course. I'm very pleased as Justin has been a stock agent, but has had a farm as well so they have been very tied to their job for years, and he is now due to retire. They have 7 children, five married, and I think a dozen grandchildren. She just wrote the other day and said they plan to go June/July.

Sister Mary Justin is in Australia now so I'm sure they will be visiting her on the way.

Today Mary left New Zealand for 9 weeks in the Chatham Islands, 3 hours flying from N.Z. an isolated place, but the Sisters run the Hospital there. She is pleased as she likes quiet places and it will be a real change.

Are you living in the same house as when we visited you, and is Jim Flavin in the same place? One of his daughters writes to Therese from Cork I think. Therese is working 400 miles away from here in Blenheim as a journalist for a newspaper. She did 18 months in the newsroom of the local radio station before that. She will be home for Xmas and then (after we have visitors from Wellington) we will go to her place as we've never been there before. She has 2 small bedrooms, and there are 10 of us, and Joe and Carolyn and the grandchildren Greg and Chris intend coming too so I think we'll need a tent or two.

morning

Michael was admitted to the bar on Friday/and Patrick was capped p.m. B.A. He is going to Holy Cross Seminary at Mosgiel, 20 minutes drive from here on 11 February.

Would you please give me directions for Margaret to follow in Ireland? John didn't manage to find you. What families are still round about and what would be the nearest town for them to go to? I think Justin's firm will be arranging the tour. Margaret's address is No 4 R.D. Gore, N. Z. By the way do you have the telephone on? If so, what number and exchange.

Kathleen I trust all is well with you. We've had a really hard year - on issues. John even wrote to all the Bishops in Ireland and writes also to Father Paul Marx who will be visiting you now. In March John and I and Rita and a few other handicapped had a hearing with a Petitions Committee in Parliament and the work has continued throughout the year without much sign of results. Please pray for its success.

John is still working as an orderly at the public hospital (geriatric wards). Joe and Mike are at the office. Paul has done one year at law. There's to be a reunion of our Hospital early next year; we had a dinner recently at the home of one of my friends for the matron who is retiring. Tonight I learned that one of our girls who became a Catholic, but later dropped it when she married, lost her husband last night, just died in his sleep. We've been involved in getting Catholics United for the Faith started here; Jim Likoudis from US has been over twice and it has been developing since the visit of English Dr Jack Dominian last year. We tried to stop his visit as his book Proposals for a New Sexual Ethic opposes Catholic teaching. We got no support from the Bishops, and religious flocked to hear him. There was also a lot of controversy in the church about the Springbok tour last year, even though there was a black Catholic in the touring team. all for nup/Kathleen, Love to all and Christmas blessings.

6 City Road, Dunedin, New Zealand

13 December 1982

Dear Kathleen

Well there is news with a difference this year. My sister Margaret, who is married to Mary Walsh's brother, Justin, hopefully will make it to Ireland. With Justin of course. I'm very pleased as Justin has been a stock agent, but has had a farm as well so they have been very tied to their job for years, and he is now due to retire. They have 7 children, five married, and I think a dozen grandchildren. She just wrote the other day and said they plan to go June/July.

Sister Mary Justin is in Australia now so I'm sure they will be visiting her on the way.

Today Mary left New Zealand for 9 weeks in the Chatham Islands, 3 hours flying from N.Z. an isolated place, but the Sisters run the Hospital there. She is pleased as she likes quiet places and it will be a real change. Are you living in the same house as when we visited you, and is Jim Flavin in the same place? One of his daughters writes to Therese from Cork I think. Therese is working 400 miles away from here in Blenheim as a journalist for a newspaper. She did 18 months in the newsroom of the local radio station before that. She will be home for Xmas and then (after we have visitors from Wellington) we will go to her place as we've never been there before. She has 2 small bedrooms, and there are 10 of us, and Joe and Carolyn and the grandchildren Greg and Chris intend coming too so I think we'll need a tent or two.

Michael was admitted to the bar on Friday morning and Patrick was capped p.m. B.A. He is going to Holy Cross Seminary at Mosgiel, 20 minutes drive from here on 11 February.

Would you please give me directions for Margaret to follow in Ireland?

John didn't manage to find you. What families are still round about and what would be the nearest town for them to go to? I think Justin's firm will be arranging the tour. Margaret's address is No 4 R.D. Gore, N.Z. By the way do you have the telephone on? If so, what number and exchange. Kathleen I trust all is well with you. We've had a really hard year – on issues. John even wrote to all the Bishops in Ireland and writes also to Father Paul Marx who will be visiting you now. In March John and I and Rita and a few other handicapped had a hearing with a Petitions Committee in Parliament and the work has continued throughout the year without much sign of results. Please pray for its success.

John is still working as an orderly at the public hospital (geriatric wards). Joe and Mike are at the office. Paul has done one year at law.

There's to be a reunion of our Hospital early next year; we had a dinner recently at the home of one of my friends for the matron who is retiring. Tonight I learned that one of our girls who became a Catholic, but later dropped it when she married, lost her husband last night, just died in his sleep.

We've been involved in getting Catholics United for the Faith started here; Jim Likoudis from US has been over twice and it has been developing since the visit of English Dr Jack Dominionian last year. We tried to stop his visit as his book *Proposals for a New Sexual Ethic* opposes Catholic teaching.

We got no support from the Bishops, and religious flocked to hear him. There was also a lot of controversy in the church about the Springbok tour last year, even though there was a black Catholic in the touring team. All for now, Kathleen. Love to all and Christmas blessings.

89. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, December 1983



Dear Elizabeth. Just a line
 hoping it finds you and all
 the Family in the best of health
 Hope you are enjoying your summer
 weather. While we shiver in the
 cold - though we can't complain
 we had a lovely summer from
 June to Sept, so far the winter
 is very mild so maybe we
 will escape the snow & frost.
 It was nice seeing Justin's mt.
 The time was so short, she is
 not a bit like you. you were tall
 dark & handsome and by the photo
 Paddy send a few years back you
 did not change much. Sorry I
 did not send some little taken
 back with them. they changed
 their dates of arrival so many
 times, it came unexpected. It
 was a long tour for them.
 they must have been very
 tired after it all. Still it was a
 great chance. How are all the
 Family. Hope Mary is happy in
 her new calling. also Paddy, and
 Rita is making good progress
 God Bless 'em all.

Christmas 1983

Bringing best wishes
 for a
 Joyous Christmas
 and a
 New Year of Peace
 and
 Happiness

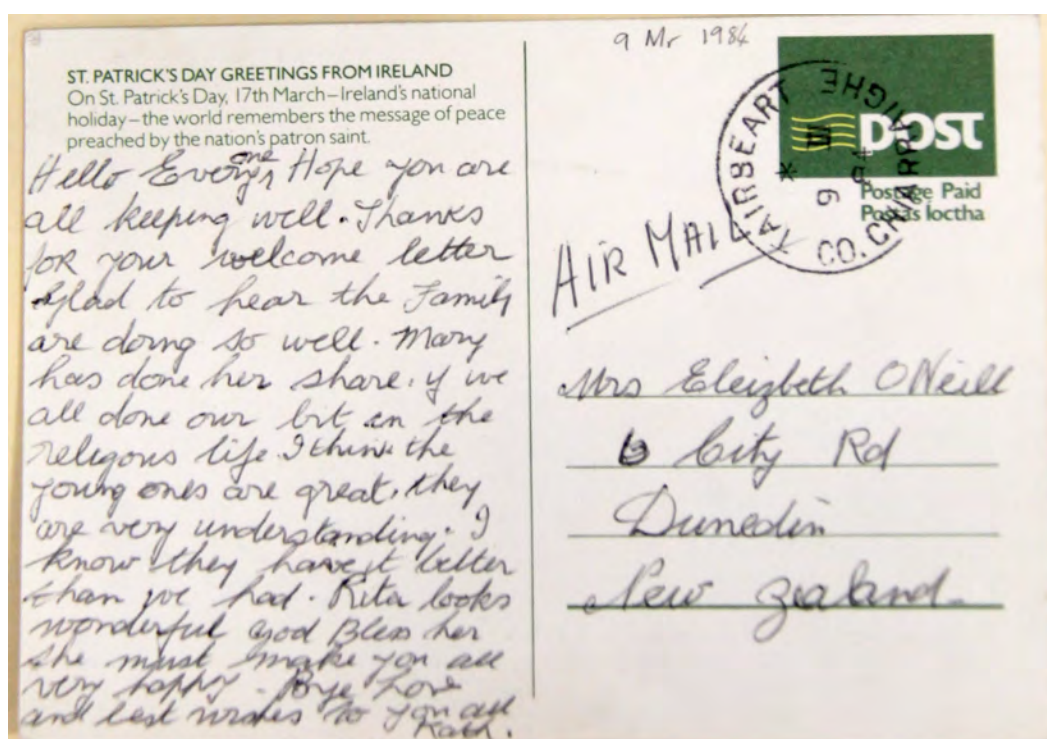
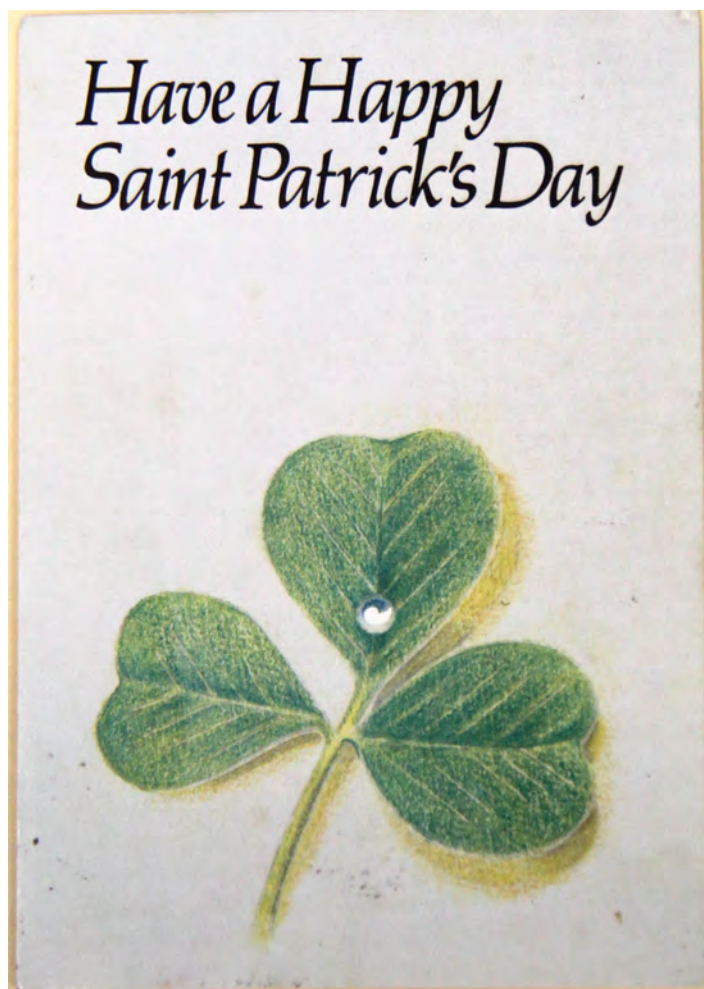
To - Elizabeth and all
 the O'Neills. From Cousin Kath.

Christmas 1983

Dear Eleizbeth, Just a line hoping it finds you and all the Family in the best of health. Hope you are enjoying your summer weather, while we shiver in the cold, though we cant complain, we had a lovely summer from June to Sept, so far the winter is very mild so maybe we will escape the snow & frost. It was nice seeing Justin & Margt. The time was so short. She is not a bit like you. You were tall, dark & handsome and by the photo Paddy send a few years back you did not change much. Sorry I did not send some little token back with them. They changed their dates of arrival so many times, it came unexpected. It was a long tour for them. They must have been very tired after it all. Still it was a great chance. How are all the Family. Hope Mary is happy in her new calling, also Paddy, and Rita is making good progress. God Bless you all

To Eleizbeth and all the O'Neills. From Cousin Kath

90. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 9 March 1984



Hello Everyone, Hope you are all keeping well. Thanks for your welcome letter. Glad to hear the Family are doing so well. Mary has done her share. If we all done our bit in the religious life. I think the young ones are great, they are very understanding. I know they have it better than we had. Rita looks wonderful, God Bless her. She must make you all very happy. Bye. Love and best wishes to you all. Kath

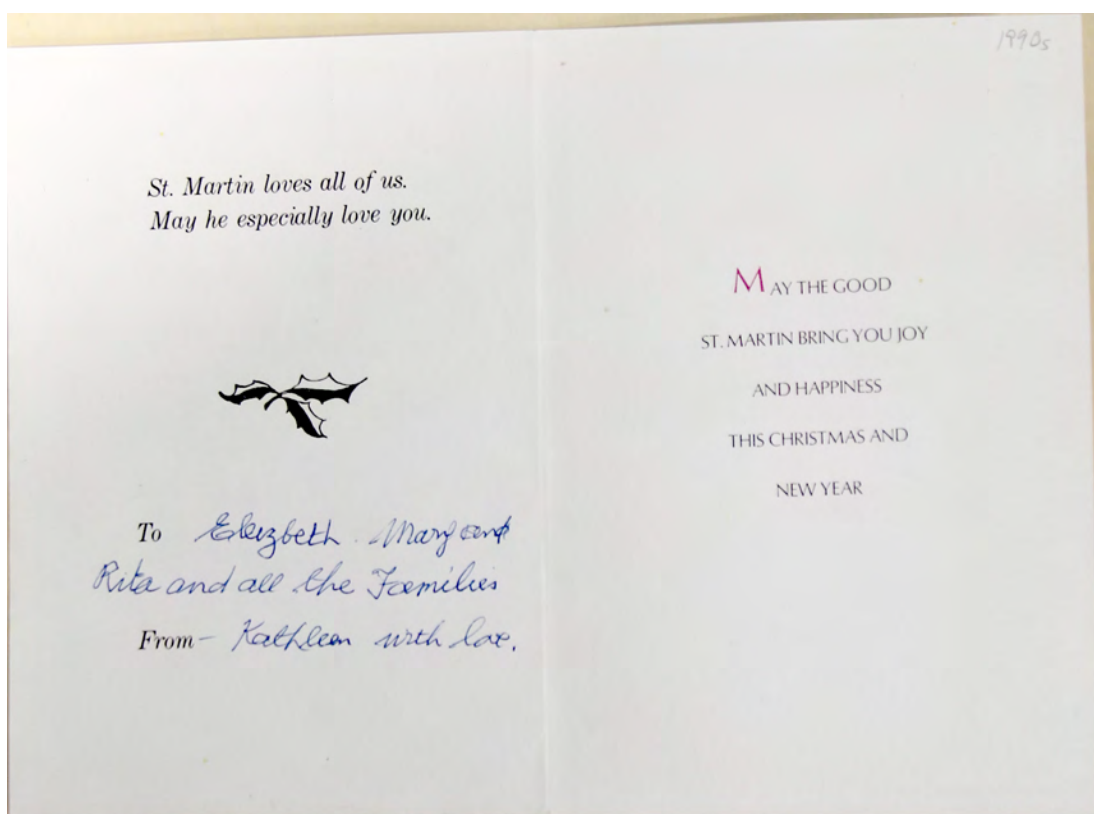
91. Kathleen O'Connor to Margaret Walsh, Gore, 1988³⁹

[Page 1 not found]

I had a letter from Elizabeth in Oct
Photos of the 2 weddings, and her self
and the girls, Theresa is a lovely girl
she has settled well in England
you will surely pay another visit
to Europe, now that you have a Niece
in England. My sister Delia Reidy is in
Hospital, she had a stroke her second
in 3 years, she made a good recovery
the first time, she has a lot of illness
put over her for the past 10 years, they
celebrated their golden wedding 2½ years
ago her husband is quite well.
Joan & James Murphy and boys are doing
well Ivan at collage the boys at
Secondary School. It was Mrs. ^{Philomena} Hanrahan's
husband that died 4 years ago. and
my sisters grandson who was killed on a
Road accident 3 years ago (19 years) she lives in
Shanagolden you didn't meet her. Hope Justin's
arthritis is not troubling him too much. I have
it in the knee bad at times. Hope all the
Families are well and Justin's sister Mary. Love to all
Kathleen

³⁹ Margaret and Justin Walsh visited Ireland in 1983.

92. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 1990s?



To Eleizbeth, Mary and Rita and all the Families. From Kathleen with love.

93. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 4 December 1992

4-12-92. 6 Bonbery Estate
Glin
Co Limerick

Dear Elizabeth & Family

Christmas
almost with us, hoping it finds
you and all your Family in good
health. I know you are missing
John part of you is gone with him,
still you have a wonderful
Family and Mary is such a kind
loving girl is she living with
you. and Rita she is going on 22 she
is very intelligent and a lovely girl.
I suppose she is earning her own
money. which is good for her.
You will be sorry to hear
Moss Reidy passed away Oct 18th

6 Corbery Estate, Glin

4-12-92

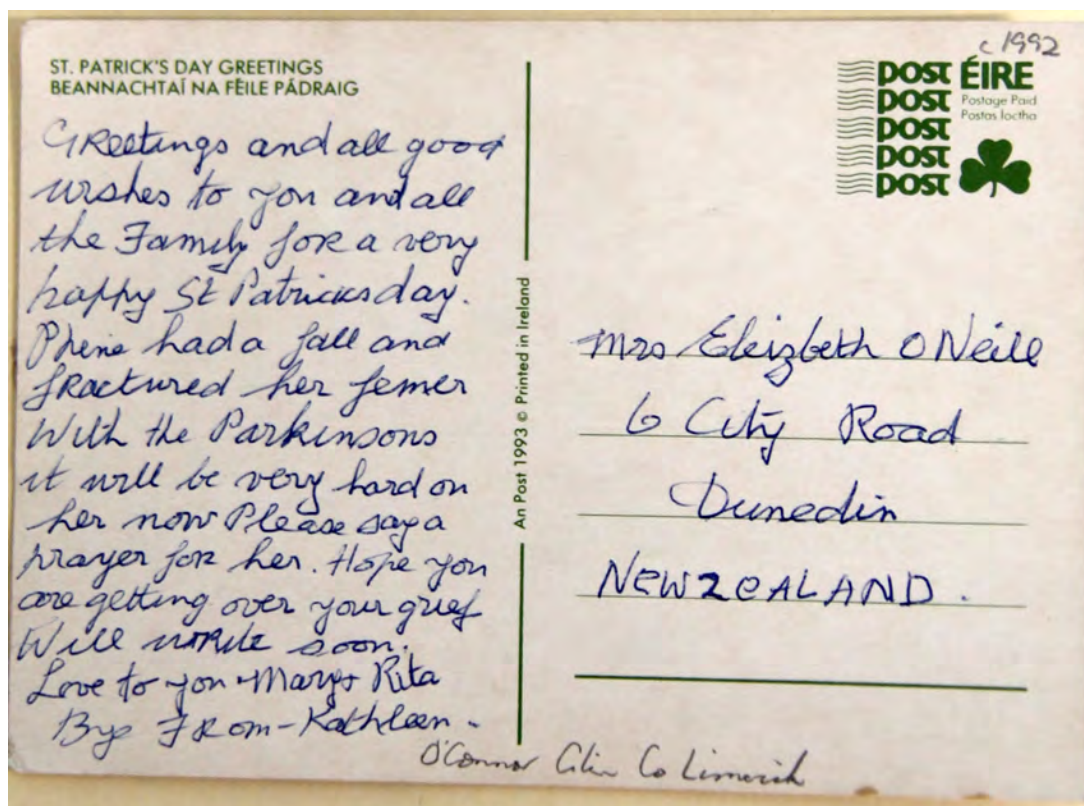
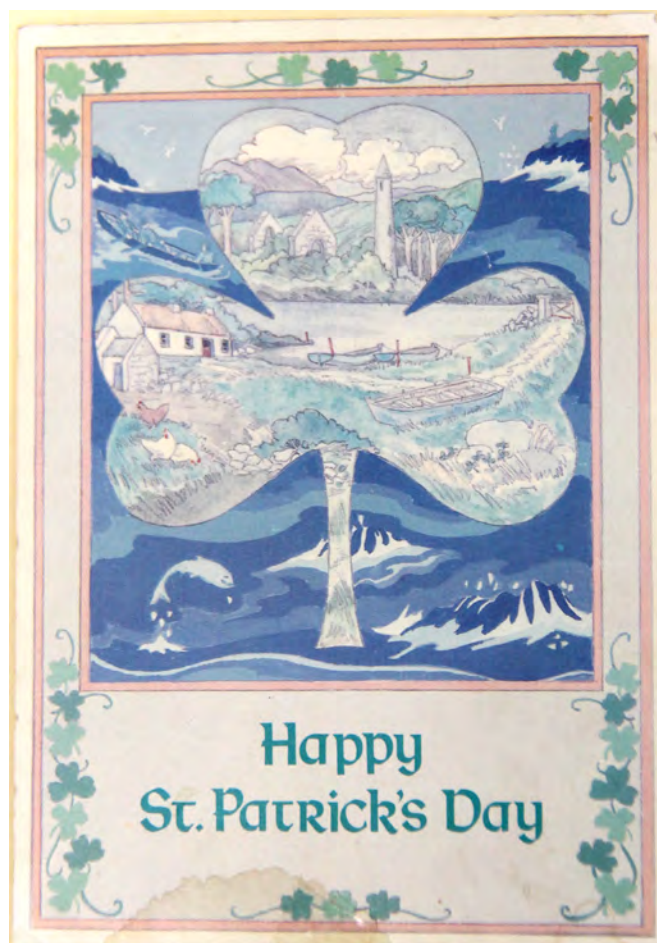
Dear Eleizbeth & Family

Christmas almost with us. Hoping it finds you and all your family in good health. I know you are missing John, part of you is gone with him, still you have a wonderful Family and Mary is such a kind loving girl; is she living with you. And Rita, she is going on 22, she is very intelligent and a lovely girl. I suppose she is earning her own money, which is good for her. You will be sorry to hear Moss Reidy passed away Oct 18th

6 months after Delia. he died of cancer he was not well since May. The Doctors didnt think it would spread like it did, and said he had ^{it} in his lung, he could live for a long time. at the end of September it had spread rapidly all over, he was going to go out to his daughter Mary for a holiday in the U.S. I hope they are all at peace and in heaven. Our Winter is very cold wet & windy. I hope you are having a good summer. I'm going to England to see Phineas her husband Tom had a prolapsed hernia operation he is home and getting on well. Madeleine is fairly good at least the depression has left her, she too is going to England. I will close with best wishes to all the Family. Bye & God Bless. From Kathleen

6 months after Delia. He died of cancer, he was not well since May. The Doctors didn't think it would spread like it did, and said he had it in his lung, he could live for a long time. At the end of September it had spread rapidly all over, he was going to go out to his daughter Mary for a holiday in the U.S. I hope they are all at peace and in heaven. Our winter is very cold, wet & windy. I hope you will have a good summer. I am going to England to see Phine. Her husband Tom had a prolapse & hernia operation, he is home and getting on well. Madeleine is fairly good, at least the depression has left her, she is going to England. I will close with best wishes to all the Family. Bye, God Bless. From Kathleen

94. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, [c. March 1993]



Greetings and all good wishes to you and all the Family for a very happy St Patrick's day. Phine had a fall and fractured her femer. With the Parkinsons it will be very hard on her now. Please say a prayer for her. Hope you are getting over your grief. Will write soon. Will write soon. Love to you & Mary & Rita. Bye From Kathleen

95. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 12 February 1995

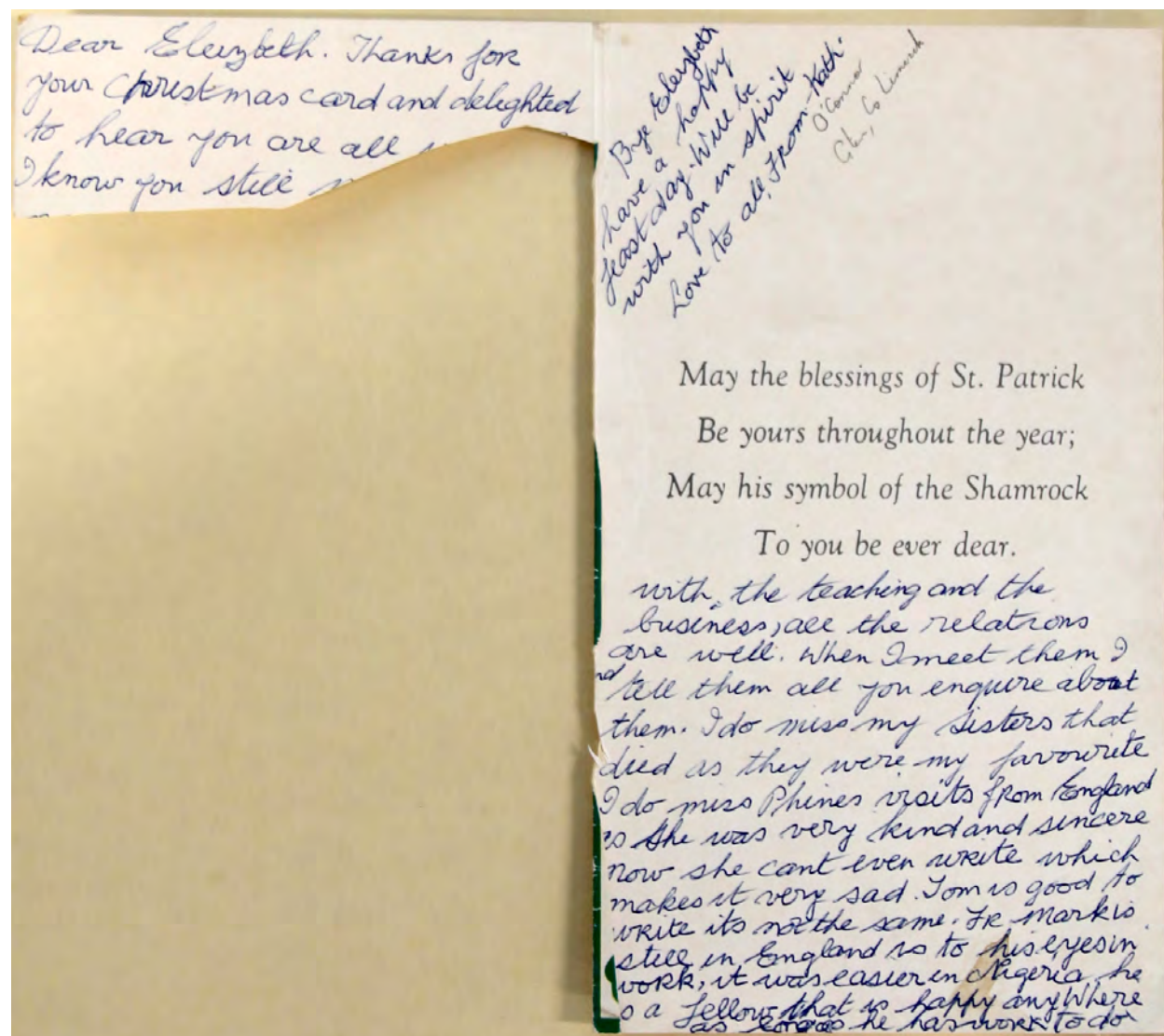
12-2-95. Dear Elizabeth. Sorry for not answering your most welcome letter which I got in Nov 94. Glad to hear you the girls and boys are all well. you will be sorry to hear my beloved Sister Josephine Rose died Jan 13th buried on the 20th Jan. she was very ill over the last year was unable to speak, very weak, in Oct she had to go into hospital as she couldn't keep any thing down then she got a blockage in the bowel which made her very ill they couldn't operate on the bowel as she was too weak. she did get some treatment she only got a few days to live. however she rallied on to Jan, they discovered when she was in the Hospital, it wasn't Parkinson's disease she had. I can't think now what they called it it was some thing similar, you will probably know your self. they stopped all medicines as they were causing a lot of sickness. her head was on her shoulder it did straighten up after stopping the treatment she was under 5 stone she suffered a lot. I am glad God ended her suffering, she died very peacefully. Mark is still doing missionary work in Salford Manchester. It was great he was home when she was so ill. she went in to a Nursing after leaving Hosp. was very well cared for. she had a great funeral she was a great favourite with everyone. many Non-Catholics attended, her funeral were very impressed by the new rite of burial. Tom had to have another operation his second prostate gland in 18 months there is a small growth he having treatment every 28 days. Tom looks well has lost a bit of weight he feels much better. all their children's families doing well some going to College more of them still in school at an early age I didn't see any of the Flans in a long time I hear they are all doing well. Maureen all right suffers from her nerves she is in Hospital will soon be home. we are having a very long severe winter some ails around Galway Clare Limerick they had to leave their homes with floods. The summer is very hot in Australia we could only have some of their sunshine. How Mary goes with again, she is a lovely girl. How is Teresa. My sister Melanie not so well either her back gives her a lot of trouble and depression. I suppose you will write to the Connollys also. Thanks for your Christmas card. I was in no way from when I was so ill. Love to you and all the family. Kathleen O'Connor

12-2-95. Dear Eleizbeth. Sorry for not answering your most welcome letter which I got in Nov 94. Glad to hear you, the boys and girls are all well. You will be sorry to hear my beloved Sister Josephine Rose died Jan 13th, buried on the 20th Jan. She was very ill over the last year, was unabel to speak, very weak; in Oct she had to go into hospital as she couldn't keep any thing down. Then she got a blockage in the bowel which made her very ill; they couldn't operate on the bowel as she was to[o] weak. She did get some treatment, she only got a few days to live, how ever she rallied on to Jan. They discovered when she was in the Hospital, it wasn't Parkinsons disease she had. I cant think what they called it, it was something similar, you will probably know your self. They stopped all medicines as they were causeing a lot of sickness. Her head was on her shoulder. It did straighten up after stopping the treatment, she was under 5 stone, she suffered a lot. I am glad God ended her suffering, she died very peacefully. Mark is still doing missionary work in Salfor Manchester. It was great he was home when she was so ill. She went in to a Nurseing after leaving Hosp, was very well cared for. She had a great funeral. She was a great favourite with everyone. Many Non Catholics attended her funeral, were very impressed by the new rite of burial. Tom had to have another operation, his second [...] the prostate gland in 18 months. There is a small growth. He [...] having treatment every 28 days. Tom looks well, has lost a [stone], says he feels much better for it. All their childrens families are doing well, some going to Collage, more of them still at school at an early age. I didn't see any of the Flavins in a long time, I hear they are all doing well. Maureen McEvoy [...] suffer from her nerves, she is in Hospital, will soon [be] home. We are having a very long severe winter; some places around Galway, Clare & Limerick they had to leave their homes with floods. The summer is very hot in Australia; if

we could only have some of their sunshine. Well, Mary came back again, she is a lovely girl. How is Teresa. My Sister Madeleine is not so well either, her back gives her a lot of troubles & depression, inclined to stay in bed a lot. I suppose you will write to the Connollys, also thanks for your Christmas card. I was in no form while our sister was so ill. Love to you and all the Family. God Bless. From Kathleen.



96. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, c. 1995



Dear Eleizbeth. Thanks for your Christmas card and delighted to hear you are all [...] I know you still [...]

[...] with the teaching and the business, all the relations are well. When I meet them I tell them all you enquire about them. I do miss my sisters that died as they were my favourite. I do miss Phine's visits from England as she was very kind and sincere. Now she can't even write which makes it very sad. Tom is good to write, its not the same. Fr Mark is still in England, is to his eyes in work, it was easier in Nigeria, he is a fellow that is happy anywhere as long as he has work to do.

Bye Eleizbeth, have a happy feast day. Will be with you in spirit. Love to all. From Kath

97. Kathleen O'Connor to Elizabeth O'Neill, 30 November 1996

30-11-96 East Mall
Glen
Co Limerick

Dear Elizabeth,

Got your welcome letter and Christmas card you started early enough. it must be lovely to celebrate Christmas in lovely sunny weather we have such cold gloomy short days. so far we have had a very bad winter, since last sept continual rain with gale force winds we have a long winter to go. so sorry to hear about Baby Matthew. Oh what happened to the dear little angel. Shure he is in heaven with God and the angels and there is a big family of them. God Bless them all It is nice you still have the Latin Mass

East Mall, Glin, Co Limerick

30-11-96

Dear Eleizbeth

Got your welcome letter and Christmas card, you started early enough. It must be lovely to celebrate Christmas in lovely sunny weather, we have such cold, gloomy short days. So far we have had a very bad winter, since last Sept continual rain with gale force winds. We have a long winter to go. So sorry about baby Matthew. Oh what happened to the dear little angel. Shure he is in heaven with God and the angels and there is a big family of them. God Bless them all. It is nice you still have the latin Mass

I too liked the ²Latin mass. It gave
 you a lot of time to pray. all is
 going well this side of the world
 good and bad times. I don't see
 much of the Flavins, I did meet
 Bill at the Doctors surgery some
 time ago he put on a lot of weight
 he is a very nice man, the Family
 have done well for them selves, I
 had a cataract removed in August
 which was very successful I. E. I
 have to have the right eye done
 probably after Christmas. The Murphys
 are well James still without sight
 Wouldn't it be great ^{if he could see} the Dr says he
 has sight it remains to do the right
 thing. Madeline is fairly good but
 depression sets in, in the Winter and
 she is not in the best of form I do
 know Mary Sta Flavin she is married
 to a cousin of mine Michael Moloney
 not far from Tarbert a cousin of yours
 too, so you have many cousins you
 don't know. Well I have many cards
 and letters to write. All the Connollys are
 well. Miss Mam and Dada lot. I write
 close. hope at finds you all well. Love
 From Kathleen XXX

I too liked the latin Mass. It gave you a lot of time to pray. All is going well this side of the world, good and bad times. I don't see much of the Flavins. I did meet Bill at the Doctors surgery some time ago; he put on a lot of weight, he is a very nice man, the Family have done well for themselves. I had a catract removed in August which was very successful T.G. I have to have the right eye done probably after Christmas. The Murphys are well, James still without sight. Wouldn't it be great if he could see. The Dr says he has sight, it remains to do the right thing. Madeline is fairly good but depression sets in, in the Winter and she is not in the best of form. I do know Mary Ita Flavin, she is married to a cousin of mine Michael Moloney not far from Tarbert, a cousin of yours too. So you have many cousins you don't know. Well, I have many cards and letters to write. All the Connollys are well. Miss Mam and Dad a lot. I will close. Hope it finds you all well. Love. From Kathleen xxx

Part 4: Phine Connolly

Elizabeth Nicholl visited Phine and Tom Connolly on 20 December 1950 (see Letter 12), the day before she sailed from London's Tilbury Dock on the return trip to New Zealand. Elizabeth and Phine continued to correspond until Phine died in 1995. Elizabeth's son John F. O'Neill visited the Connollys in 1977, as did I in 1987. Elizabeth and John O'Neill visited Welwyn Garden City again in 1985 and possibly also in 1991. John O'Neill's 1985 travel diary for that day reads as follows:

25/6/85. Going out to Phine's but all messing about in London first. Japan Airlines were good. We arranged (after finding them) for confirmation of our 17-hour flight to Tokyo on 28/8. Also arranged Hotel round corner from terminal. We will probably go by train to Nagasaki. Had a further try about the money but no go. Finally we got out to Phine's and walked to her place from the station. We were determined not to take a taxi. Boot's Chemist lady had a map. We met an Australian lady on the train. Elderly pensioners like her cannot stay in England; are not on reciprocal pension. USA has millions over the retirement age. It wasn't a long walk—nice gardens, etc. Phine and Tom were at home. Tom has a terrific vege garden. Young Tommie and 3 of his kids (came from South of England—also Michael and his wife and 4 children). We had a lovely tea then they found Fr. Mark had arrived home from Germany. Tommie decided to drive us to his place and then Fr. Mark could drive us back to London. We went round to Michael's (just round the road and saw Fhahteshurt's[?] house (not his personal house but one on the estate) preserved as historic Edwardian place. Cricket being played on back field—light to about 9:30pm. Rain. Tommy drove us about 50 miles and then Fr. Mark took us back to London. We said Rosary in the car and talked of going together to Walsingham. We were home about 11:20pm. Also called past Mary's and met her husband.

For Phine Connolly's relationship to Elizabeth O'Neill, see the charts at the beginning of Part 3.



Figure 14 Tom, Mark, Phine and baby Mary Connolly, with Mike and Tom at their feet, Welwyn Garden City UK, 20 December 1950



Figure 15 Mary Connolly, Welwyn Garden City UK, 20 December 1950



Figure 16 Mena O'Connor (later Hanrahan, 1920-1990) and Tom Connolly (1913-1996), Welwyn Garden City UK, 20 December 1950

98. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 5 January 1953



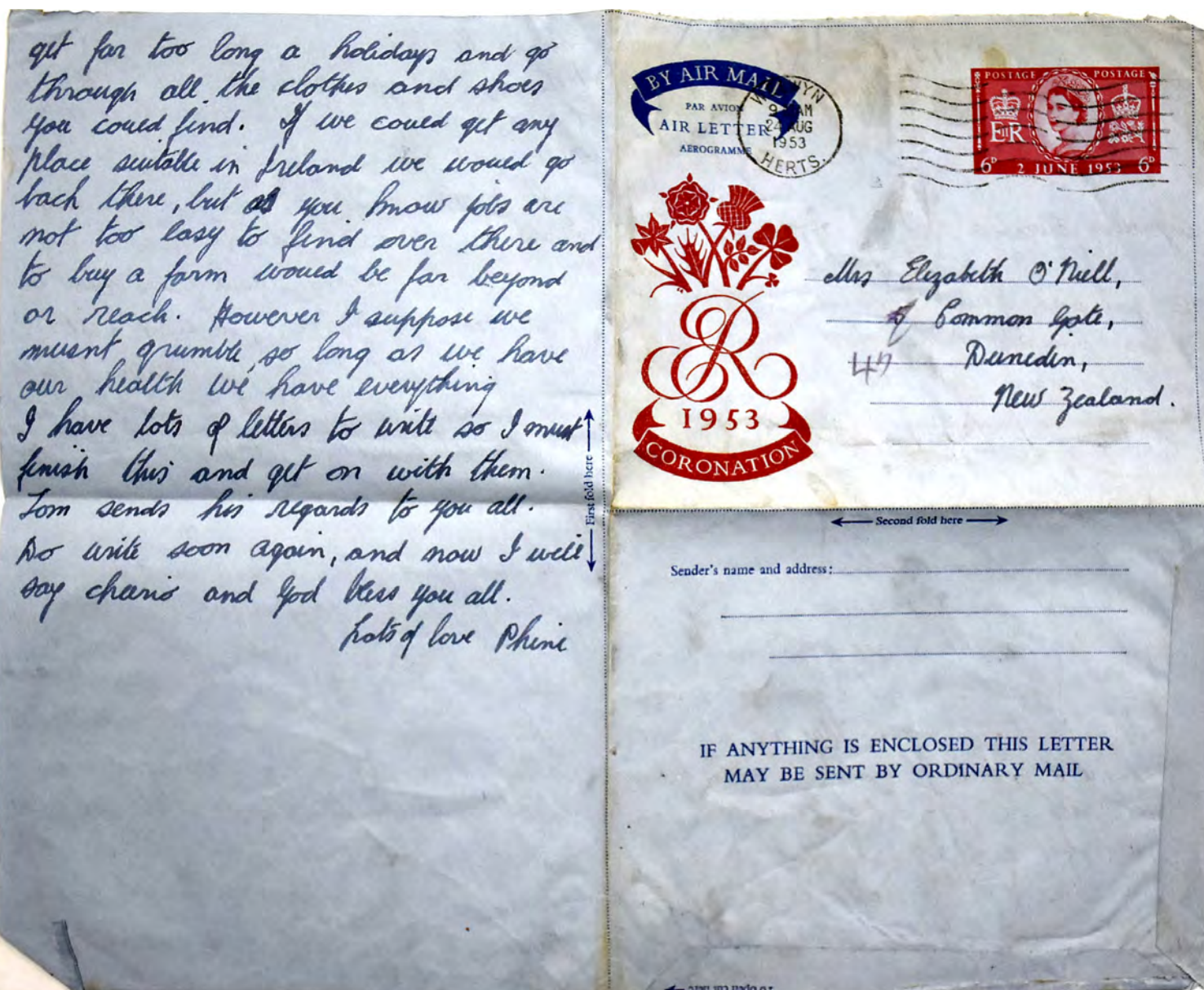
[Accompanying letter not yet found or identified]

99. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 23 August 1953

73 Meadway.
Welwyn Garden City
Herts.
23-8.53

My dear Elizabeth,

First of all my congratulations to you and your husband on the birth of your daughter. You must forgive me for not answering your letter before now, but I was busy preparing for the holidays and thought it better to leave it until I came back. He went to Ireland on the 24th July and returned last Thursday. The children had a glorious time over there and enjoyed every minute of it. Clark will make a great farmer some day, he would go back again to-morrow if he got the chance. They are all well at home I-9, but of course mother suffers a lot with her stomach. She doesn't keep to her diet and of course that is the whole cause of it. I was over at Bulbone at the cross, Pat was showing me some snaps he took when you were in Ireland. Did you meet Jenny, he got married a few months ago, she is very nice girl, but very quiet. I suppose Pat will be the next to go. Do you ever hear from any of them. Now to get back to your baby again, she must be three months old now, I can't just remember when I got your letter. I would love a snap of her, so if you have one to spare send it. I hope your mother and father are well. How is May, did she get married yet. All the children here are fine I-9. I will send you some holiday snaps next time I write. May is quite a big girl now and a ^{never} real tomboy. I am afraid I will ~~make~~ make a lady out of her. The weather is rotten here since we returned. The children miss the wide open spaces and they don't know what to do with themselves. They have still got another three weeks holidays from school. They



100. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, [25 December 1955]

c 19657

73 Alladway
Wellwyn Gap Aly
berts,
Christmasday.

My dear Elizabeth,

I don't know what you will think of me for not writing to you or even sending you a Christmas card. I could give you dozens of excuses but the main one is I mislaid your letter and couldn't remember your address. Before I go any further I must say thank you for your card and snap, aren't the children lovely the little girl is just like you and I think the boy must be like your husband. Now I must tell you I have another little girl just three weeks old, so I just managed to get it over in time for Christmas. I did intend to write to you when I was in the

My dear Elizabeth, I don't know what you will think of me for not writing to you or even sending you a Christmas card. I could give you dozens of excuses but the main one is I mislaid your letter and couldn't remember your address. Before I go any further I must say thank you for your card and snap, aren't the children lovely the little girl is just like you and I think the boy must be like your husband. Now I must tell you I have another little girl just three weeks old, so I just managed to get it over in time for Christmas. I did intend to write to you when I was in the

2

maternity hospital and sending it on to your old address, but like all good intentions they didn't materialise. The baby's name is Anne Kathleen and she really is a little sweetheart and up to now she is as good as gold. I needn't tell you the rest of the children are charmed with her and make a great fuss of her. I won't be short of nurse maids if they continue to keep on making a fuss of her but I expect the novelty will soon wear off. We paid a visit to Ireland last July and had a very enjoyable holiday in spite of the fact that my figure was out of shape. My father hasn't been very well for the past couple of months, and the doctor doesn't hold out much hopes for him, but please God ~~he~~ we will get better. We are having glorious weather here.

Maternity hospital and sending it on to your old address, but like all good intentions they didn't materialise. The baby's name is Anne Kathleen and she really is a little sweetheart and up to now she is as good as gold. I needn't tell you the rest of the children are charmed with her and make a good fuss of her. I won't be short of nurse maids if they continue to keep on making a fuss of her but I expect this novelty will soon wear off. We paid a visit to Ireland last July and had a very enjoyable holiday in spite of the fact that my figure was out of shape. My father hasn't been very well for the past couple of months, and the doctor doesn't hold out much hopes for him, but please God he will get better. We are having glorious weather here.

3

the sun was shining while we were having our Christmas dinner. We had a duck and chicken thanks to the folk in Ireland. How is Mary getting on, do you ever see her? Give her our kindest regards when you write to her. I hope your mother and all your people are keeping well. I am sending you a photo of the four children and will send you one of baby Anne when I get some taken. Now I think I have given you all news. I will be looking forward to hearing from you in the New Year and please forgive me for not writing. I don't suppose this will get away before Wednesday as I want to send it air mail. Every place is closed over the holidays. I wish, you, your husband and the children a very happy and prosperous New Year, and all God's blessings from us all here. Phine (Connolly.)

The sun was shining while we were having our Christmas dinner. We had a duck and chicken thanks to the folk in Ireland. How is Mary getting on, do you even see her. Give her our kindest regards when you write to her. I hope your mother and all your people are keeping well. I am sending you a photo of the four children and will send you one of baby Anne when I get some taken. Now I think I have given you all news. I will be looking forward to hearing from you in the new year and please forgive me for not writing. I don't suppose this will get away before Wednesday as I want to send it air mail. Every place is closed over the holidays. I wish you, your husband and the children a very happy and prosperous New Year, and all Gods blessings from us all here. Phine (Connolly.)

101. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 9 November 1958

73 Meadoway,
Welwyn Garden City
Herts.
9-11-58

My dear Elizabeth,

I don't know if I answered your last letter, but it seems many months ago since I heard from you. I got a little book of St Gerard from you just after Gerard was born, but I can't remember when I got your letter. Gerard is now a year old and is a fine boy. Good bless him. He isn't walking yet, but gets along fine on his bottom. We all went to Ireland last July for a holiday, it was hard work getting them all

ready but I neednt tell you
 they thoroughly enjoyed it. It
 was lovely to see them all
 again and our fortnight
 went by far too quick.
 It doesnt seem possible that
 Christmas is only six weeks
 away, how the years fly. Such
 a lot has happened in the
 last twelve months, we lost
 our dear pope, but I am sure
 our new one will be loved
 by all just the same. Your
 children must be getting big
 now, you must have two
 going to school. Every time
 I look at Mark I realise
 I am getting old, he was 15
 in July, he is still at school
 and we hope to keep him
 on for two more years at

least. Tommy will be 13 at
 Christmas, he is at a grammar
 school also, Michael will be
 11 next month, Mary was
 10 in July, Anne will be
 three in a few weeks so
 she has another two years
 before she goes to school.
 We have had a very bad
 summer here, rain and
 more rain. I hope your
 mother and all the family
 are well. All here are fine
 & all they seem to do is
 eat, the older they get the
 more they seem to want.
 Before I finish I will wish
 yourself, John and children
 a very happy Christmas and
 I hope we shall soon be
 hearing from you. Love from Phine

102. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 19 January 1960

73 Meadway,
Welwyn Garden City,
Herts.
19-1-60

My dear Elizabeth,

Many thanks for your card
snaps and all the news of your family.
Although you posted your card early in
November we didn't get until last week.
However we were all very pleased to hear
from you and to know that you are all
getting on so well. What a lovely girl
Mary is and I am sure she had a
great time on her first communion
day. As they don't receive their
first communion here with their
parents and I must say it would
be much nicer if they did. When
we get our new church perhaps things
will change, at the present we are
using the school hall. Our new church

2
73 Meadway,
Welwyn Garden City,
Herts.

is coming on fine and we are hoping
it will be finished in October this year.
The cardinal was here last September
to lay the foundation stone, it was
a very long drawn out service so
I didn't stay to the end. I had
Anne and Gerard with me and you
know what two toddlers can be
like when they get bored. Both
Clark and Tommy were serving for
the cardinal and needless to say
it made their day. Now they are
looking forward to the official opening.
I am glad to hear your mother
is keeping so well, how nice
that you can see her so often.
I had a letter from my mother last

73 Meadway,
Welwyn Garden City,
Herts.

week, she is not too bad considering she suffers from ulcers. We might pay them a visit this year but it's rather expensive to take them all. Mark, Tommy and Michael are staunch scouts and whatever else happens they must go to camp for a fortnight. Mark will stay at school until he is eighteen and then hopes to go in for civil engineering. Tommy hasn't decided yet what he wants to be, he was fourteen at Christmas. Mary will be leaving the primary school this July and then going to the local convent. Anne is just four and will be starting school next year please God. I haven't got any recent snaps of them, but I hope to get them taken shortly so will send.

4.

you some then. Tom is keeping
 pretty well and is always busy
 with parish work. To-night he
 has gone to some scout function
 and Alark has five scouts in
 the dining room planning their
 summer camp. Now I think I
 have given you all news. Do
 write again, it's nice to hear
 from you and to know you
 haven't forgotten our such very
 brief acquaintance. Please give our
 love and best wishes to sister
 Justen also to your mother.
 Love to the children and John
 from us all. God bless from
 Phine

103. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 3 November 1960

73 Cleadway,
 Helwyn Rd City
 Herts.
 3-11-60

My dear Elizabeth,

Congratulations
 to yourself and John on the
 birth of little Theresa. I knew
 when I saw your letter yesterday
 that you must have time to
 spare and I partly guessed
 before I opened it that you
 were sitting up in a bed
 in some hospital. I am sure
 you are both delighted to have
 another little girl. You have
 only to get one more and
 then you will have caught

2

up to me. I dont know what
neighbours are like in your
country but here you are the
pity of the whole street if you
have more than two. I
just laugh at them when they
ask me how I manage to
clothe and feed them. The
ones that have none at all
are not much better off and
certainly no happier than
we are. They might have a
few pounds in the bank
but what good is money,
they will leave it after them
when they die. Glad to hear
your mother and all your
people are well. Its a pity we

3

are all so far away. I would
love to meet you all, but who
knows maybe we will fall in
to a fortune some day and
then we can travel round
the world. This of course is
only wishful thinking and
now and again I do live in
the clouds. Clark is still at
school but will be leaving
next July and will ~~start~~ start
his civil engineering course
please God. Tommy Michael
and Mary have still a long
way to go before they leave.
Anne will start after Christmas
and then there will be only
Gerard left at home. He went

4

home to Ireland in July and had a wonderful time. There was an aunt home from Missouri (a nun), she hadn't been home for 35 years so I needn't tell you we had a busy time taking her round to see all the relations. She stayed for seven weeks. All the children as you saw them are now young ladies and young men. Madeline has two daughters training to be teachers. Itas eldest girl Joan is at Galway University. I think I told you that Delia's eldest girl is just near here nursing, she has just done

6

her friends but hasn't got the
 results. Mena you met when
 you came to visit me, she
 went back home and got
 married, and has two
 boys and a girl. Yes there
 is another sister Shathleen,
 she is deaf. I had a letter
 from her during the week,
 and she is thinking of having
 an operation to see if it will
 do any good. My mother
 is not too bad, she still
 suffers a lot with her stomach.
 Now I think I have given you
 all the news so will finish
 with our love and very best
 wishes to you all for a very

Happy Christmas and all
good blessings for 1961.
Do write again and give
us all the news.

Phine

104. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, Christmas Card, 1963



How quickly the year flies by
 and Christmas is almost with
 us again. I do hope you are
 all well. I wonder if we will
 hear of an addition to the family
 this year. I have still got the six
 but no telling if there will be
 more or not. I said there wouldn't
 be any more after all work but how
 wrong I was. I think I told you last
 year he is training for the priesthood.
 He is with the Holy Ghost fathers, so
 it will be foreign missions for him
 if he goes through to the end. We
 went to see him a few weeks ago.
 He looks very well and seems very
 happy &c. My mother fell and broke
 her hip last week. She is almost 83 so
 it's doubtful if she will get over it.
 Love from us all here. God bless.

How quickly the year flies by and Christmas is almost with us again. I do hope you are all well. I wonder if we will hear of an addition to the family this year. I have still got the six but no telling if there will be more or not. I said there wouldn't be any more after Mark but how wrong I was. I think I told you last year he is training for the priesthood. He is with the holy Ghost fathers, so it will be foreign missions for him if he goes through to the end. We went to see him a few weeks ago. He looks very well and seems very happy T.G. My mother fell and broke her hip last week. She is almost 83 so its doubtful if she will get over it. Love from all here God bless

From Tom, Phine and children

105. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 1 January 1964

73 Alladway.

N. J. C.

1-1-64

My dear Elizabeth,

How nice to get your long newsy letter and to know that you are all so well and happy. The family certainly are growing up and I expect you will find as I do, the older they get the more work they make; but so long as they are healthy that is the most important thing. We went to Nottingham to see Clark last Friday. He is looking very well and seems very happy. There are eighteen boys and all kept very busy between

My Dear Elizabeth, How nice to get your long newsy letter and to know that you are all so well and happy. The family certainly are growing up and I expect you will find as I do, the older they get the more work they make; but so long as they are healthy that is the most important thing. We went to Nottingham to see Mark last Friday. He is looking very well and seems very happy. There are eighteen boys and all kept very busy between

studying and looking after the
 farm. He hopes to get a
 months leave in the Summer, so
 it will be nice having him
 home again. Tommy is still
 at school, he will be taking
 his A levels in June, and
 then he hopes to go to an advanced
 technology school. Michael is
 just sixteen and will be doing
 his O levels in the Summer.
 Mary is 14 and at the local
 convent. I think she was the
 baby when you saw her.
 Of course Anne and Gerard
 arrived after that, Anne is
 now eight and Gerard six.
 It seems funny to hear you

studying and looking after the farm. He hopes to get a months leave in the summer, so it will be nice having him home again. Tommy is still at school, he will be taking his A levels in June, and then he hopes to go to an advanced technology school. Michael is just sixteen and will be doing his O levels in the summer. Mary is 14 and at the local convent. I think she was the baby when you saw her. Of course Anne and Gerard arrived after that, Anne is now eight and Gerard six. It seems funny to hear you

mention going off to the sea
side and jam making, we
wouldnt mind a bit of sun-
shine here. This time last
year we were knee deep in
snow, but so far it is nice
and mild, and we are all
hoping it will keep so. My
mother hasnt been so well,
as a matter of fact they didnt
think she would live to see
Christmas, but the news
yesterday was much better
thank God, and they are
hoping she will soon be
getting around again. I must
say your children are like our
side of the family, but more

Mention going off to the sea side and Jam making, we wouldn't mind a bit of sunshine here. This time last year we were knee deep in snow, but as far as it is nice and mild, and we are all hoping it will keep so. My mother hasn't been so well, as a matter of fact they didn't think she would live to see Christmas, but the news yesterday was much better thank God, and they are hoping she will soon be getting around again. I must say your children are like our side of the family, but more

4.

like deadlines. She has two of her girls teaching, and one ready for training college next year. Her girl Joan Kelly got her B.S.c from Dublin University last October.

It would be nice if your friend could come and see us. It's rather a long way from here but if has holidays at any time we can always put him up. Do you or your mother ever hear from any of the cousins in Ireland, what part does your husband's people come from. I am sure I could fill a pad if I had time to set down and give you all

Like Madelines, She has two of her girls teaching, and one ready for training college next year. Ita's girl Joan Kelly get her B.S.c. from Dublin University last October. It would be nice if your friend could come and see us. Its rather a long way from here but if has holidays at any time we can always put her up. Do you or your mother over hear from any of the cousins in Ireland, what part does your husbands people come from. I am sure I could fill a pad if I had time to sit down and give you all

5

the news. I do a part time
job auxiliary nursing at our
new hospital. I like the
work but I have plenty to do
at home and if I had enough
money I wouldn't bother.
He must give Clark a little
hand out now and again
and the cost of living doesn't
get lower these days.
It doesn't seem possible Christmas
is over and we are now in
1964. How the time flies.
Do you ever see Mary, do give
her our love when you write
or visit her. I must go
and look out some photos
to send you. Love yours with

The news. I do a part time job auxiliary nursing at our new hospital. I like the work, but I have plenty to do at home and if I had enough money I wouldn't bother. We must give Mark a little hand out now and again and the cost of living doesn't get lower these days. It doesn't seem possible Christmas is over and we are now in 1964. How the time flies. Do you ever see Mary, do give her our love when you write or visit her. I must go and look out some photos to send you. Tom joins with

me in sending all our best-
wishes for 1964. to yourself
John and children
God bless from
Phine

me in sending all our best wishes for 1964. To yourself John and children
God Bless from Phine

106. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill 1 August 1964

73 Alleadway.
N. G. C.
Sat-1st August.

My dear Elizabeth, First congratulations to you and John on the new arrival. You have definitely passed us out now, but I don't think we will try and catch up to you now, so we will let you keep the lead. Many thanks for your mass card last week, it was kind and thoughtful of you and I do appreciate it very much. Now, I think I owe you an apology since Christmas. Your letter got posted with a 3^d stamp. Actually it was meant for air mail, but one of the children posted it with the others I meant to write afterwards and explain. I went home to Ireland to see mother, stayed a week and had to come back and I was only back just one week when she died on the 2nd February. In a way I suppose

My Dear Elizabeth , First congratulations to you and John on the new arrival. You have definitely passed us out now, but I don't think we will try and catch up to you now, so we will let you keep the 'lead'. Many thanks for your mass card last week, it was kind and thoughtful of you and I do appreciate it very much. Now I think I owe you an apology since Christmas. Your letter got parted with a 3d stamp. Actually it was meant for air mail, but one of the children posted it with the others. I meant to write afterwards and explain. I went home to Ireland to see mother, stayed a week and had to come back and I was only back one week when she died on the 2nd February. In a way I suppose

it was a happy release for her as
 she was in great pain with her
 broken hip. at times it was
 pitiful to watch her, but still
 we didn't want her to go. She was
 certainly a wonderful mother and
 I miss her letters every week.
 Going home will never mean the
 same again. Tom went last week
 and according to his letters he
 seems to be enjoying himself.
 Clark has gone also, he is
 home on holidays for a month,
 and they were all anxious
 at home to see him. He seems
 quite happy. They have moved to
 a new place, its much bigger
 than the old place, they have
 made that into a novitiate.
 Now I must go back and make
 inquiries about your new baby.
 I am sure all the others were
 waiting on the door step to
 greet you both when you got
 home. I am sure they were all
 eager to do the nursing, but I

It was a happy release for her as she was in great pain with her broken hip at times it was pitiful to watch her but still we didn't want her to go. She was certainly a wonderful mother and I miss her letters every week. Going home will never mean the same again. Tom went last week and according to his letters he seems to be enjoying himself. Mark has gone also, he is home on holidays for a month and they were all anxious at home to see him. He seems quite happy. They have moved to a new place, its much bigger than the old place, they have made that into a novitiate now I must go back and make inquiries about your new baby. I am sure all the others were waiting on the doorstep to greet you both when you got home; I am sure they were all eager to do the nursing, but I

expect by now the novelty has
 worn off and you are probably ~~be~~
 begging on your knees for one of
 them to mend the baby. I was
 sorry to hear John was suffering
 with his back and I do hope
 all is well with him again.
 I am sure you were delighted
 to see sister Susan and I am
 glad to hear she is so well
 and happy. Looking back now
 it seems but such a few short
 years since you both paid us
 that unexpected and short visit.
 What a pity we cant all meet
 again, but who knows one day
 we might win the sweep and
 then we could travel. At the
 moment we are doing all we
 can to give Clark a helping
 hand, so there is never much
 spare cash flying about this
 house. However we all have
 good our health thank God and
 that is the most important
 thing. Many thanks for your nice
 photo - Eliza gets more like you
 I am sure. You are sending her a
 great help. Love from us all and
 God bless from Phine

expect by now the novelty has worn off and you are probably begging on your knees for one of them to mind the baby. I was sorry to hear John was suffering with his back and I do hope all is well with him again. I am sure you were delighted to see sister Justin and I am glad to hear she is so well and happy. Looking back now it seems but such a few short years since you both paid us that unexpected and short visit. What a pity we cant all meet again, but who knows one day we might win the sweep and then we could travel. At the moment we are doing all we can to give Mark a keeping hand, so there is never much spare cash flying about this house. However we all have good our health thank God and that is the most important thing. Many thanks for your nice photo. Mary gets more like you I am sure you are finding her a great help. Love from us all and God bless from Phine

107. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill 5 July 1966

73 Meadway
N. G. C.
Herts.
5 July

My dear Elizabeth, First congratulations
on the new arrival. I relay
have lost count. Is this the
seventh or eighth. Anyway I am
sure you are all delighted, and
there is no fear that any one
in your house will be lonely.
I am sure they were all glad to
have you back home after your
stay in hospital. You were lucky
to get such a good housekeeper.
Our weather is not so good
certainly not Summer weather.
Mark comes home on Saturday
and he is just like a child
counting the days until he arrives.
He and I are going to Ireland
on the 27th, and then he comes
back for a months retreat before
he starts studies again. Jimmy
Rudy, Delias son is getting

My dear Elizabeth, First congratulations on the new arrival I really have lost count. Is this the seventh or eighth. Anyway I am sure you are all delighted and there is no fear that anyone in your house will be lonely. I am sure they were all glad to have you back home after your stay in hospital. You were lucky to get such a good housekeeper. Our weather is not so good certainly not Summer weather. Mark comes home on Saturday and he is just like a child counting the days until he arrives. He and I are going to Ireland on the 27th and then he comes back for a months retreat, before he starts studies again. Jimmy Reidy, Delia's son is getting

married in August so we will
 be home for the wedding.
 The boys here have finished
 their exams and are working
 for the holidays. Lemmy has
 done his first part B.Sc and
 we were very pleased to hear
 the results yesterday that he
 passed. May is doing a
 commercial course and had to
 go back to college this evening
 to do an exam. Anne
 didn't keep up her correspondence
 very long with May. I must
 get her to write again. Do
 you ever hear from any one
 in Ireland? I think I asked
 you that question before. Glad
 to hear your mother and father
 are well. It's nice they can
 come and see you; and I am
 sure they look forward to
 seeing all their grand-children.
 I haven't much news for you.
 I must get some snaps

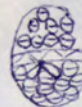
married in august so we will be home for the wedding. The boys here have finished their exams and working for the holidays. Tommy has done his first part B.Sc and we were very pleased to hear the results yesterday that he passed. Mary is doing a commercial course and had to go back to college this evening to do an exams, Anne didn't keep up her correspondence very long with Mary. I must get her to write again. Do you ever hear from any one in Ireland: I think I asked you that question before. Glad to hear your mother and father are well. Its nice they can come and see you, and I am sure they look forward to seeing all their grandchildren. I haven't much news for you. I must get some snaps

when when Mark come
 home and send you one
 When I looh at these big
 boys I have I wonder to
 myself when are they going
 to go out and earn some
 money for themselves. Still
 I suppose I musnt grumble
 they have to be educated to
 day to get a decent job
 In October we celebrate
 our silver wedding D. & I
 and so I must thank God
 for the happy life I have
 had. I will write again
 after my visit to Fella
 dly love to John and the
 children big and small
 God bless from Phine

FIRST FOLD HERE

taken when Mark comes home and send you one. When I look at these big boys I have I wonder to myself when they are going to go out and earn some money for themselves. Still I suppose I mustn't grumble they have to be educated today to get a decent job. In October we celebrate our silver wedding D:V and so I must thank God for the happy life I have had. I will write again after my visit to Ireland. My love to John and the children big and small God bless from Phine

108. Phine and Anne Connolly to Elizabeth and Mary O'Neill, 15 March 1967

 HAPPY EASTER
TO ALL your family

75 MEADWAY
WELLS, Glos.
CITY
HERTS.
15.3.67.

Dear Mary,

I hope you are well. Since then. In one of my past letters I said I was a Brownie. But now I am too old and have become a Guide. In the Summer I will be leaving my PRIMARY School and going to one of the big schools. We already know where we are going for our Summer Holidays, it is called the Isle of Wight, we will be staying there for a week. My Mam said she'll write to your Mam for Easter as she still has the air mail from Christmas but didn't have time to send it.

Thanks very much for the letter received yesterday. I was able to read it in peace as I am off School with BRONCHITIS. This is my second week off and I am very bored. You are very lucky to have seven weeks holiday but our Easter holidays come in one week time. On FRIDAY it will be St Patrick's Day and that is when I have to go to the Doctors again.

A few weeks ago when I went swimming with my School, I passed my Bronze medal, and on the 25th Feb I tried for my Certificate at Ballroom dancing. I don't know whether I passed as I have not been dancing since then.

After Easter my brother Tommy and Michael are going to Lourdes with the Harlequins. Altogether there will be six children will be going but all on different

Dear Mary, I hope you are well. Thanks very much for the letter received yesterday. I was able to read it in peace as I am off school with bronchitis, This is my second week off and I am very bored. You are very lucky to have seven weeks holiday but our Easter holidays come in one weeks tune. On Friday it will be St Patricks Day and that is when I have to go to the doctors again. A few weeks ago when I went swimming with my school, I passed my bronze medal, and on the 25th Feb I tried for my certificate at Ballroom dancing I don't know whether I passed as I have not been dancing since then. In one of my past letters I said I was a Brownie But now I am too old and have become a Guide. In the summer I will be leaving my Primary school and going to one of the big schools. We already know where we are going for our summer holidays, it is called the Isle of Wight, we will be staying there for a week. My Mam said she'll write to your Mam for Easter as She still has the air mail from Christmas but didn't have time to send it. After Easter my brothers Tommy and Michael are going to to Lourdes with the handicapped Pilgrimage. Altogether there will be 306 children will be going but all in different

groups. My Mam will write
 of a few lines to your Mam
 now.

Love and Best wishes
 for Easter

Anne

Dear Elizabeth,

I know I should
 have written to you long before now but
 life is full of excusos. I hope you, John
 and all the children are well. Annie
 was delighted to hear from Mary. It
 only seems a few weeks ago since
 we were preparing for Christmas and
 now it is nearly Easter. To-morrow
 is St. Patrick's day and I suppose
 you will be celebrating it in your
 own way. We generally go to a dance
 but this time we have decided to
 stay at home with the children.
 Mary seems to be getting on OK. Thank
 God. A year next September please
 God he will be ordained. The Catholic
 Church seems to be going through a
 trying period but please God
 pass and our parents' souls rest
 again. A happy Easter to you

FIRST FOLD HERE

Groups. My Mam will write of a few lines to your Mam now. Love and Best wishes for Easter.

Anne

Dear Elizabeth, I know I should have written to you long before now but life is full of excuses. I hope you, John and all the children are well. Anne was delighted to hear from Mary. It only seems a few weeks ago since we were preparing for Christmas are now it is nearly Easter. To-morrow is St. Patricks day and I suppose you will be celebrating it in your own way. We generally go to a dance but this time we have decided to stay at home with the children. Mark seems to be getting on OK. Thank God. A year next September please God he will be ordained. The catholic church seems to be going through a trying period but please God it will pass and our priests will settle down again. A happy Easter to ...

109. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 11 December 1967

the 25th or 26th
 Sept. please
 post. as I am
 stuck for space
 I must finish
 with all our
 best wishes to
 you all including
 your mother
 father and the
 the Connollys
 3
 cheadway.
 always Edm Celg
 Herts
 11-12-67
 My dear Elizabeth John and family, as you
 will probably notice from the front of
 this air mail I am a year behind
 with my life. I don't know how I
 forgot to send you this last year.
 The trouble is there are so many
 to send, and I didn't realise until
 it was too late that I hadn't
 even written on it. We had always
 air mail some time ago and we
 were glad to hear you are all well
 thank God. Needless to say every
 one is eagerly awaiting the arrival
 of the passion fruit as we have
 never tasted it and neither has anyone
 else that I have asked. Anyway
 it was very nice of you to think
 of us and I will write and let
 you know the results of the testing
 when we get it. At the moment
 here we are having snow and its

My dear Elizabeth John and family, as you will probably notice from the front of this mail I am a year behind with my life. I don't know how I forgot to send you this last year. The trouble is there are so many to send, and I didn't realise until it was too late that I hadn't even written on it. We had Marys air mail some time ago and we were glad to hear you are all well thank God. Needless to say every one is eagerly awaiting the arrival of the passion fruit as we have never tasted it and neither has anyone else that I have asked. Anyway it was very nice of you to think of us and I will write and let you know the results of the tasting when we get it. At the moment here we are having snow and its

certainly not one of my
 weather. I think poor old Britain
 is going down hill in every way and
 this foot and mouth disease is
 just about the last straw. The price
 of beef here this week was 19/6 a
 pound, needless to say I only had a
 look at it. Mary was home for a
 week's holiday last week. I don't know
 if Anne told Mary that she went
 nursing last October. She is about
 40 miles away from here, and as
 it's rather awkward to get to by
 train and bus she doesn't come
 home very often. Michael went
 Christ College in Liverpool last
 September, he is doing a teaching
 degree which will take four years
 so he has a long way to go yet.
 Tommy got his first post B.S. and
 is now working in the British
 rubber research doing the practical
 side. He goes back to college again
 in September to prepare for his final
 exam. Mary is hoping to get a few days
 after Christmas. His ordination will be

certainly not one of my favourite weathers. I think poor old Britain is going down hill in every way and this foot and mouth disease is just about the last straw. The price of beef here this week was 19/6 a pound, needless to say I only had a look at it. Mary was home for a weeks holiday last week. I don't know if Anne told Mary that she went nursing last October. She is about 40 Miles away from here and as its rather awkward to get to by train and bus she doesn't come home very often. Michael went to Christ college in Liverpool last September, he is doing a teaching degree which will take four years so he has a long way to go yet. Tommy got his first part B.Sc. and is now working in the British rubber research doing the practical side. He goes back to college again in September to prepare for his Finals. Mark is hoping to get a few days after Christmas His ordination will be the 21st or 28th Sept. please God. As I am stuck for space I must finish with all our best wishes for you all including your mother father and all the families God bless from Phine

110. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 30 December 1967

73 Almaden
Nobles, Gal. City
Nerts
30-12-67

My dear Elizabeth, First let me offer you
our deepest sympathy on the death of your
father R.I.P. I am sure it was a great shock
for all of you especially your mother. I hope
she is managing to bear up under the
great strain. I will get a mass said
for the repose of his soul but unfortunately
I can't get a mass card just yet. They
don't sell things like that in the shops
here, and as our repository only opens
once a month, I will have to wait until
then to get the mass card. In the mean-
time of course I can get one the priests to
say the mass. Now I must thank you
for your air mail and your good wishes
for Christmas, and most important I must
thank you for the tin of passion fruit
which arrived Christmas eve. There was
such excitement when it was being opened
and Anne had almost given up hope of
ever reaching the tin it was so well
packed. Now I am sure you are
waiting for the verdict. We all though
was lovely. We tried it out with a
baked sponge and if I had made three
more they wouldn't have had enough.
Clark came home today and during
the following day so we had a full
house and I had a full time job
trying to keep them all fed. I am
sure all of them have two stomachs.
Now is there anything you would like
me to send you, something you can't get
over there perhaps. Do let me know
if there is, but I do know your food
is far superior to what we get here.
I expect you are still getting over the
Christmas celebrations, but of course
your weather will be different to ours.
It's just freezing here and I am sure
we are in for another fall of snow.
We have a flu outbreak here, and of
course we still have the foot and mouth
with us, although according to the news
to night there were only seven outbreaks
to-day so please God it's on the way out.
As Anne wants to write a few lines to
day I will leave the rest of the space for
I will write again later on. Please God.
Very best wishes to you all
Edna

My Dear Elizabeth, First let me offer you our deepest sympathy on the death of your father RIP I am sure it was a great shock for all of you especially your mother I hope she is managing to bear up under the great strain. I will get a mass said for the repose of his soul but unfortunately I cant get a mass card just yet. They don't sell things like that in the shops here, and as our repository only opens once a month, I will have to wait until then to get the mass card. In the mean time of course I can get one o the priests to say the mass. Now I must thank you for your air mail and your good wishes for Christmas, and most important I must thank you for the tin of passion fruit which arrived Christmas Eve. There was much excitement when it was being opened and Anne has almost given up hope of reaching the tin it was so well. Now I am sure you are waiting for the verdict. We all thought it was lovely. We tried it out with a baked sponge and if I had made three more they wouldn't have had enough. Mark came home boxing day and Mary the following day so we had a full house and I had a full time trying to keep them all fed. I am sure all of them have two stomachs. Now is there anything you would like me to send you, something you can't get over there perhaps. Do let me know if there is, but I do know your food is far superior to what we get here. I suspect you are still getting over the Christmas celebrations, but of course your weather will be different to ours. Its just freezing here and I am sure we are in for another fall of snow. We have a flu outbreak here, and of course we still have the foot and mouth with us, although according to the news to-night there were only seven outbreaks to-day so please god its on the way out as Anne wants to write a few lines to Mary I will leave the rest of the space for her. I will write again later on Please God very best wishes to you all for 1968 God bless you.

111. Anne Connolly to Mary O'Neill, 30 December 1967

Mary,
let me first wish you a
py new year and thank
you for the Passion Fruit
at first it looked terrible
but when we tasted it
it was quite nice.
I haven't got much
room and I'm writing in
bed so you must excuse
my writing.
I had a lovely
Christmas but I had
a ghastly time at school
because I had two
french tests one after
the other. In the first
I got 91 but I got
worse in my second
one where I only got
83. My writing is getting
worse and there is not
much more to say except
that MARK is being ordained
on the 21st September
1968 which it will be when
you receive this letter
Love and God Bless Anne

FIRST FOLD HERE

Mary, Let me first wish you a Happy new year and thank you for the Passion Fruit at first it looked terrible but when we tasted it, it was quite nice, I haven't got much room and I'm writing in bed so you must excuse my writing. I had a lovely Christmas but I had two French tests one after the other. In the first I got 91 but I got worse in my second one where I only got 83. My writing is getting worse and there is not much more to say except that Mark is being ordained on the 21st September 1968 which it will be when you receive this letter. Love and God Bless Anne.

112. Anne Connolly to Mary O'Neill, 3 March 1968

3 March 1968 73, Meadway
W. G. C.
Herts

Dear Mary,

I hope you are well sorry I'm so long in writing I've had a lot of homework recently because I have been swotting for my exams. I came 2nd in maths, 4th in French and 10th in English.

I've been writing this letter in bits and pieces so I have to finish it off today.

It's not long now until the ordination because it is this September. Mary was home last week and said she enjoyed nursing.

We have nearly finished the passionfruit.

I will have to send you something from England which you can't get in New Zealand please write and tell me something and I might be able to get it for you.

I have given up sweets for Lent but it is so very tempting I tried to give sugar up but after 3 days I gave up but I only take $\frac{1}{2}$ a spoonful now I can't think of very much more to say and yet there is still loads of writing space and it is quite cheap so I might as well use it up.

I have just finished my homework which is written much better than this so I must say excuse my writing.

My younger brother Gerard is very fat so mum has put him on a diet. I doubt if he'll keep it up I won't be able to finish the last page so I will say goodbye for now I might as well say Happy Easter as when I write again it might be too late. Your loving Cousin Anne.

Dear Mary, I hope you are well sorry I'm so long in writing I've had a lot of homework recently because I have been swotting for my exams. I came 2nd in maths, 4th in French and 10th in English. I've been writing this letter in bits and pieces so I have to finish it off today. Its not long now until the ordination because it is this September. Mary was home last week and said she enjoyed nursing. We have nearly finished the passionfruit. I will have to send you something from England which you can't get in New Zealand please write and tell me something and I might be able to get it for you. I have given up sweets for Lent but it is so very tempting. I tried to give sugar up but after 3 days I gave up but I only take ½ a spoonful now. I cant think of very much more to say and yet there is still loads of writing space and it is quite cheap so I might as well fill it up. I have just finished my homework which is written much better than this so I must say excuse my writing. My younger brother Gerard is very fat so mum has put him on a diet, I doubt if he'll keep it up. I wont be able to finish the last page so I will say goodbye for now I might as well say Happy Easter as when I write again it might be too late, Your Loving Cousin Anne

113. Anne Connolly to Mary O'Neill, 9 October 1968

73 Meadway
Welwyn Garden City
Herts
4/10/68

Dear Mary.

I am sorry I haven't
written since I received your letter but
I was waiting until after the ordination
so I could send you a card and a
photo. The ordination ceremony was
very nice but also very long. In the
photo I have blocked out my mum
but it wasn't really my fault. There
was a reception for everybody afterward.
Some of my relations from Ireland
came over and Mark and Mum went
with Auntie Delia, Auntie Kik
and Uncle Moss. They came over
for a week. The rest only came for a
few days. I hope you like the
photo and ~~and~~ the ordination cards.

Dear Mary, I am sorry I haven't written since I received your letter but I was waiting until after the ordination so I could send you a card and a photo I have blocked out my mum but it wasn't really my fault. There was a reception for everybody afterward. Some of my relations from Ireland came over and Mark and Mum went back with Aunt Delia, Aunty Kit and Uncle Moss. They came over for a week. The rest only came for a few days. I hope you like the photo and the ordination cards.

114. Connolly Family at Fr Mark's Ordination, 1968



115. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 4 December 1968



Dear Elizabeth, John and children, 4/12/69

Once again its time to renew old acquaintances. I do hope you are all keeping well, and no doubt you are now enjoying your warm weather. If its any consolation to you we have had snow for the past week and its very cold. Jack left for Maria last Friday. I must tell you it was very sad to see him go and we miss him very much. He went by boat from Liverpool. He had been home here with us since June so we got quite used to him, and its very hard to get used to the idea that he is gone. He is full of determination to make a good job of all the hard work that lies before him. They are very short of priests out there and of course with the war on its not making things any easier. He will be staying at the bishops house in

Proceeds from the sale of this card are devoted to
The Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust.

Dear Elizabeth, John and children, Once again it's time to renew old acquaintances. I do hope you are all keeping well and no doubt you are now enjoying your warm weather. If it's any consolation to you we have had snow for the past week and it's very cold. Mark left for Nigeria last Friday I needn't tell you it was very sad to see him go and we miss him very much. He went by boat from Liverpool, He had been home here with us since June as we got quite used to him and it's very hard to get used to the idea that he is gone. He is full of determination to make a good job of all the hard work that lies before him. They are very short of priests out there and of course with the war on it's not making things any easier. He will be sleeping at the bishops house in

Elakurdi until after Christmas
and then he will be going into
the bush. I hope one day to write
you a long letter, but to be quite
honest with you we haven't got
geer the effects of Mark going and
I am not in much mood for
writing. I know you will all
remember him in your prayers
especially the children
With

**Best Wishes for Christmas
and the New Year**

From Tom, Phine and children

Do write some time with all
news of the children. Our best
wishes to all the families
God bless Phine

Mohundi until after Christmas and then he will be going into the bush. I hope one day to write you a long letter, but to be quite honest with you we haven't got over the effect of Mark going and I am not in much mood for writing, I know you will all remember him in your prayers especially the children

From Tom, Phine and children

Do write some lines with all news of the children. Our best wishes to all the families God Bless Phine

116. Anne Connolly to [Mary O'Neill], c. 1969

ca 1969

she was very rich. Her parents own two hotels in Lourdes. She wanted me to go and stay with her next Easter but it is just before my exams and I will have to spend some time revising.

We have just had a weeks half-term holiday so I start back at school again tomorrow. I had a load of latin translation to do but I left book at school.

Well I have run out of all I had to say but I will write again before Christmas.

Love Anne

p.s. Give my love to all.

She was very rich. Her parents own two hotels in Lourdes. She wanted me to go and stay with her next Easter but it is just before my exams and I will have to spend some time revising. We have just had a weeks half-term holiday so I start back at school again tomorrow. I had a load of Latin translation to do but I left back at school. Well I have run out of all I had to say but I will write again before Christmas. Love Anne

P.S. Give my love to all.

117. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 21 February 197X

73 Meadway
Wellington City
Herts
21st Feb 197X

My dear Elizabeth, How nice to
get your letter during the week
and to hear that you John and
the family are keeping well. It
was nice to hear that some people
are having some sun shine. Our
weather here is dreadful, snow
ice fog, everything but the sun.
I must tell you I opened your
air mail the wrong way and it
was like a pig saw trying to
read it. When Anne came in
from school and saw it she
said trust you mam to open
the wrong way. I don't like these
new air mails we have here. I-

My dear Elizabeth, How nice to get your letter during the week and to hear that you John and the family are keeping well. It was nice to hear that some people are having some sun shine. Our weather here is dreadful, snow ice fog, everything but the sun. I must tell you I opened your air mail the wrong way and it was like a jig saw trying to read it. When Anne came in from school and saw it she said trust you mam to open the wrong way. I don't like these new air mails we have here. I

never know which way is the best
 way to start on them. Now I must
 give you some news of Eliah. He
 seems to be settling down O.K. but
 he is finding the language very
 difficult and he doesn't think he
 will ever master it. Before he left
 he understood that he was going
 to have three months at a school
 to learn the language but they
 got word on the boat that they
 were to go straight to their mission
 house. They had a long difficult
 journey from Lagos and it took
 them 13 days and it should have
 only taken three. The war has
 left its toll of poverty and
 hunger. He is with the Idoma
 tribe and they are very poor.
 There is a church and a hospital
 half finished and little hopes of
 getting any money for some time

never know which way is best way to start on them. Now I must give you some news of Mark. He seems to be settling down OK. But he is finding the language very difficult and he doesn't think he will ever master it. Before he left he understood that he was going to have three months at a school to learn the language but they got word on the boat that they were to go straight to their mission house. They had a long difficult journey from Lagos and it took them 13 days and it should have only taken three. The war has left its toll of poverty and hunger. He is with the Idoma tribe and they are very poor. There is a church and a hospital half finished and little hopes of getting any money for some time

to finish them. I got the impression
 from his letter that it's a hard and
 tough life out there but he didn't
 complain. He was laid up for a week
 with swollen legs. The heat is
 terrible and the mosquitos were worse
 for him. They do all their visiting
 on foot, they stay in the bush for seven
 or eight days and then come back to
 their mission house for a bit of a
 rest. They have to do all their station
 in the dry season which is between
 September and April, once the rains
 come they can't get to the people again
 for the floods make it impossible for
 them. There are only two priests
 to cover 1,500 sq miles. Of course we
 don't know how long they will be left
 out there, most of the Irish holy ghost
 fathers have had to get out and if
 Russia gets her foot into Nigeria then
 there won't be any room left for any
 of religious groups. The address that
 Kathleen sent your mom is not where
 he warned us not to

to finish them. I got the impression from his letter that it's a hard and tough life out there but he didn't complain. He was laid up for a week with swoolen legs. The heat is terrific and the mosquitos were waiting for him. They all do their visiting on foot, they stay in the bush for seven or eight days and then come back to their mission house for a bit of rest. They have to do all their stations in the dry season which is between September and April, once the rains come they can't get to the people again for the floods make it impossible for them. There are only two priests to cover 1,500 sq miles. Of course we don't know how long they will be left out there, most of the Irish holy ghost fathers have had to get out and if Russia gets her foot into Nigeria then there won't be any room left for any of religious groups. The address that Kathleen sent your mam is not where ... he warned us not to

send any money through the post, as we
 do it through the bank. He said he
 would be always very grateful for man
 stipends, its what they depend on for
 their living. Maybe one of the children
 would like to write to him, I am
 sure he will be pleased to hear
 from them. I expect they are all glad
 to be back at school again. It
 doesnt seem possible that Mary is
 old enough to work, how the
 years fly. Our Mary is on her 3rd
 year nursing and will be doing her
 finals in Oct. Tommy is at Southampton
 University doing his dip ed, and
 Michael is on his last year at Christ
 college in Liverpool. They are all
 courting, so I suppose the next thing
 we will hear is that they will be
 getting engaged; and then it will be
 weddings. We have the Jesuits here
 for the past fortnight giving a mission
 and I must say its a nice change
 especially during Lent. Our love to
 you all. God bless from
 Phine

send any money through the post, so we would do it through the bank. He said he would be always very grateful for mass stipends, it's what they depend on for their living. Maybe one of the children would like to write to him, I am sure he will be pleased to hear from them. I expect they are all glad to be back at school again. It doesn't seem possible that Mary is old enough to work how the years fly. Our Mary is on her 3rd year nursing and will be doing her finals in Oct. Tommy is at Southampton University doing his dip ed, and Michall is on his last year at Christ College in Liverpool. They are all courting so I suppose the next thing we will hear is that they will be getting engaged; and then it will be weddings. We have the Jesuits here for the past fortnight giving a mission and I must say it's a nice change especially during Lent. Our love to you all. God bless from Phine

118. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 27 April 1970

73 Meadway.
Weymouth City
Herts.
27-4-70

My dear Elizabeth and John,
Thanks for your letter last week
and may we offer you both our
warmest congratulations on your
arrival. What a lovely family
you must have now and I am
sure you must be very proud
of them all. We had a letter
from Elvark during the week and
what amazes us is that in spite
of all your commitments you have
been so generous to him. He
was absolutely overwhelmed
with your most generous gift
and I think it arrived just when
it was most needed. He has
a little bit of money in the
bank here and had already
agreed us to transfer it out
to him as they needed it
to furnish off the church, so
I can just imagine how

My Dear Elizabeth and John, Many thanks for your letter last week and may we offer you both our warmest congratulations on your arrival, What a lovely family you must have now and I am sure you must be very proud of them all. We had a letter from Mark during the week and what amazes us is that in spite of all your commitments you have been so generous to him. He was absolutely overwhelmed with your most generous gift and I think it arrived just when it was most needed. He has a little bit of money in the bank and had already asked us to transfer it out to him as they needed it to finish off the church, so I can just imagine how

excited he was when your money
 arrived. I am sure he has
 written to thank you but it may
 be some time before you get the
 letter. The one we got from him
 was posted up in the north
 of England. One of their friends
 is home otherwise it might be
 many weeks before we heard
 from him. I think he is
 beginning to settle down and
 he says the weather is cooling
 down a bit. He was on a
 week's retreat and had the
 first bit of eatable food since
 he went out there. I wish we
 could get some warmer in this
 country. It's almost the 1st of
 May and it's still very cold
 and windy. Did I tell you
 the last time I wrote that I
 was going to Dundee with the
 handicapped children's pilgrim?
 We had a most memorable week
 and a wonderful lot of children

excited he was when your money arrived. I am sure he has written to thank you but it may be some time before you get the letter. The one we got from him was posted up in the north of England. One of their priests is home otherwise it might be many weeks before we heard from him. I think he is beginning to settle down and he says the weather is cooling down a bit. He was on a week's retreat and had the first bit of eatable food since he went out there. I wish we could get some warmer in this country. It's almost the first of May and it's still very cold and wintry. Did I tell you the last time I wrote that I was going to Lourdes with the handicapped children's pilgrimage. We had a most memorable week and a wonderful lot of children

not a tear or a quiver from any
 of them and some of them were
 very sad cases. Did you visit Saunders
 when you toured the continent
 Wouldn't it be nice if you could come
 again but I suppose there is very
 little hope of that for at least a few
 more years. Maybe Mary will soon
 be able to pay us a visit. Our
 own Mary is getting engaged in
 July, it's also her 21st birthday.
 She will be doing her finals the
 end of October and naturally she
 is beginning to get worried about
 them. Michael is also getting
 engaged in July. Julie is at the
 same college as him. They are
 not getting married for a couple
 of years and by that time they
 are hoping Clark will be home
 on leave. Our canon retired this
 week. He has been with us for
 the past 26 years. We are hoping

Not a tear or a grumble from any of them and some of them were very sad cases. Did you visit Lourdes when you toured the continent? Wouldn't it be nice if you could come again but I suppose there is very little hope of that for at least a few more years. Maybe Mary will soon be able to pay us a visit. Our own Mary is getting engaged in July, it's also her 21st birthday. She will be doing her finals the end of October and naturally she is beginning to get worried about them. Michael is also getting engaged in July. Julie is at the same college as him, they are not getting married for a couple of years and by that time they are hoping Mark will be home on leave, our canon returned this week. He has been with us for the past 26 years. We are hoping

our new parish priest will put a
 bit more life in the parish. I don't
 know if I like all these changes
 in the church. I know some of
 them are good, but somehow
 there is not the same interest
 taken, of course he may be only
 just this parish, as the curate
 hasn't really been able for it
 these last few months. Unfortunately
 we have a curate who lives on
 the battle and the sooner he is
 moved the better. It's very
 tragic as he is a brilliant man.
 I am so glad to hear your mother
 is keeping well. Please remember
 us to all the families. I am sure
 your own lot were delighted to
 welcome you back home from
 hospital. No doubt's you will
 have your hands full looking after
 them all. Lem sends his love and
 best wishes to you all. God bless
 from Phine

our new parish priest will put a bit more life in the parish. I don't know if I like all these changes in the church. I know some of them are good, but somehow there is not the same interest taken, of course he may be only just this parish, as the canon hasn't really been able for it these past few months. Unfortunately we have a curate who lives on the bottle and the sooner he is moved the better. It's very tragic as he is a brilliant man. I am glad to hear your mother is keeping well. Please remember us to all the families. I am sure your own lot were delighted to welcome you back home from hospital. No doubt you will have your hands full looking after them all. Tom sends his love and best wishes to you all. God bless from Phine

119. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 29 August 1970

73 Meadway
Helwyn John City
Herls,
29-8-70

My dear Elizabeth,

Your letter during
the week and on behalf of the whole
family may we offer our deepest
sympathy on the death of your dear
mother. I only wish I had known
her, she must have been a
wonderful person and I am sure
by now she is enjoying her
eternal reward. I sent your letter
on to Shalheen and I am sure
she will get a shock when she
hears about your mother. A letter
came from your mam while she

My dear Elizabeth, Your letter during the week and on behalf of the whole family may we offer our deepest sympathy on the death of your dear mother, I only wish I had known her, she must have been a wonderful person and I am sure by now she is enjoying her eternal reward. I sent your letter on to Kathleen and I am sure she will get a shock when she hears about your mother. A letter came from your mam while she (Missing Page)

3

29 Aug 1970

it. I am sure she is a real little
dorking and do send a snap of her.
When I look back on my week at
Hawes with the handicapped
children I still marvel at their
cheerfulness and the many laughs
we had with them. There was never
a dull moment and they really
could teach us all a lesson. I
would gladly go back again
with them next Easter but Mary
is very keen to go so I am
going to help her out with her
fare. She has taken her hospital
and got on very well, she will
be doing her state the beginning
of October. Tommy and Michael
start teaching next week. Michael

it. I am sorry she is a real little darling and do send a snap of her. When I look back on my week at Lourdes with the handicapped children I still marvel at their cheerfulness and the many laughs we had with them. There was never a dull moment and they really could teach us all a lesson. I would gladly go back again with them next Easter but Mary is very keen to go so I am going to help her out with her fare. She has taken her hospital [exam] and got on very well, she will be doing her state [exam] the beginning of October. Tommy and Michael start teaching next week. Michael

29 Aug 1970

4

has a school just three miles away. It's a comprehensive one, and he is also hoping to attend the polytec one day or week to do a degree in Science. It will take four years but it will be worth it in the end if he is able for it. Tommy is going to Portsmouth Grammar School but of course he is OK as he has degree and also his dip ed. I was so glad to hear your mam got Charles Allen before she died. What a pity she didn't have his address sooner. I must write to him now and ask him to say a mass for her. We had a letter from him last week. He said his hay fever

has a school just three miles away, it's a comprehensive one, and he is also hoping to attend the polytec one day a week to do a degree in Science. It will take four years but it will be worth it in the end if he is able for it. Tommy is going to Portsmouth grammar school, but of course he is OK as he has degree and also his dip ed. I was so glad to hear your mam got Mark's letter before she died. What a pity she didn't have his address sooner. I must write to him now and ask him to say a mass for her. We had a letter from him last week. He said his hay fever

5

29 Aug 1970

is pretty bad, every time it rains his nose starts running and he has to wait for the rain to stop before his nose stops. It was funny reading that bit. He is on his own at the moment as his parish priest is home on holiday. He called to see us last week and stayed the night. They haven't got an easy life out there, the food is bad, travelling is difficult but that's mission life but he said they find it a very rewarding job of work. The roof is now on the church and it's thanks to you and all the good people who gave so generously. I don't know how they would live out

is pretty bad, every time it rains his nose starts running and he has to wait for the rain to stop before his nose stops. It was funny reading that bit. He is on his own at the moment as his parish priest is home on holiday. He called to see us last week and stayed the night, they haven't got an easy life out there the food is bad, travelling is difficult but that's mission life but he said they find it a very rewarding job of work. The roof is now on the church and it's thanks to you and all the good people who gave so generously. I don't know how they would live out (Missing Page)

120. Mary Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 29 October 1970

40 Barnett Road,
Walthamstow,
London E. 17.
29th October 1970.

Dear Elizabeth,

Many thanks for your very helpful letter received last week, and all the trouble you went to, to find details for me. Eddie and myself have now decided to stay put as he is going to commence meat institution in September which will go on for five years, and so he wants to commence as soon as possible.

We are getting married in July and I have decided to do midwifery here. Our midwifery only takes a year. The "mini ride" that your friend was talking about is called an obstetric course which lasts for three months this is done during the general training and also cuts two months off the year of midwifery.

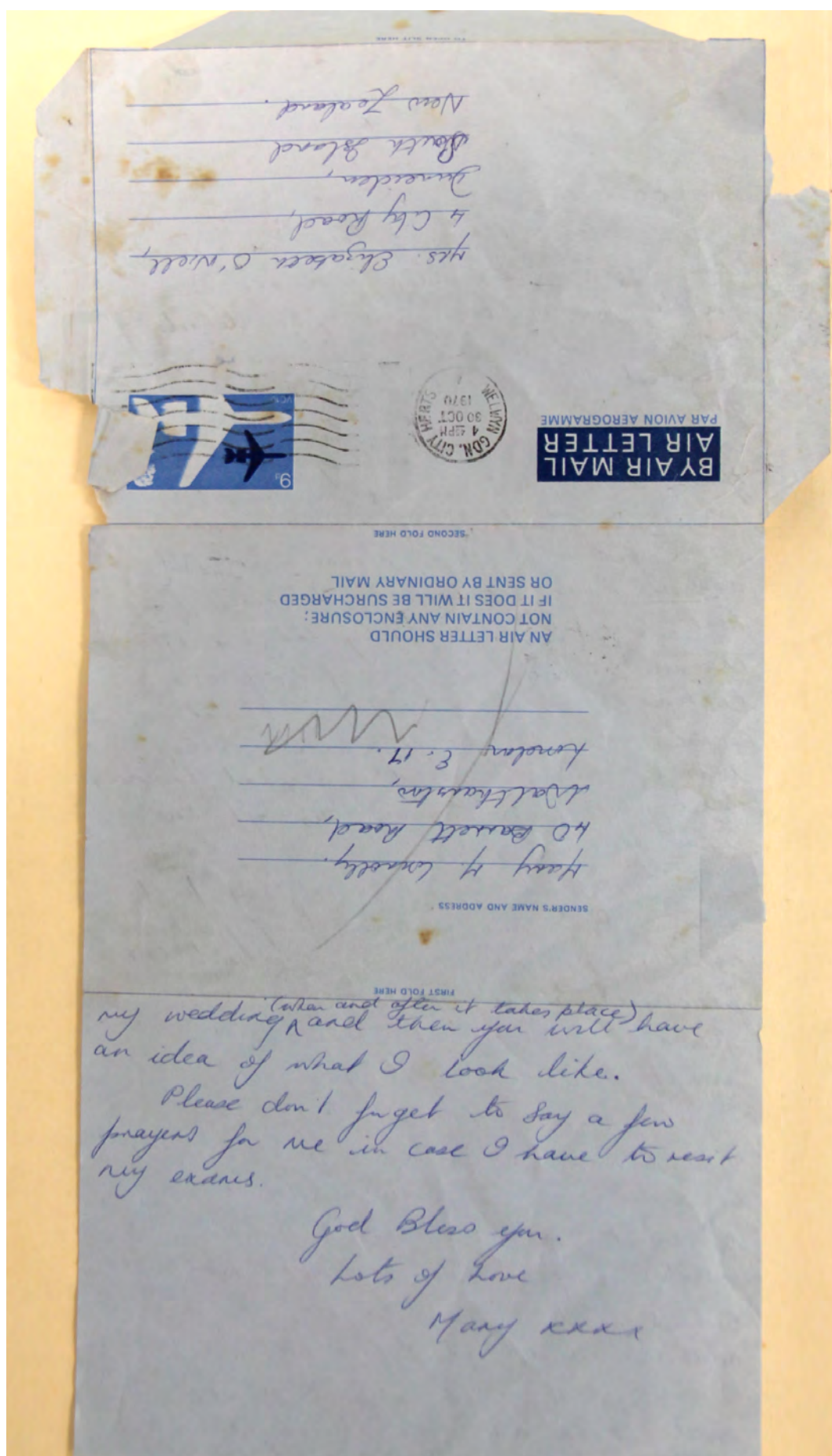
I have just finished my final exams and am now waiting for the results. I feel very bad about the practical, and am sure I shall have to retake it. I think the worst part is waiting for the results.

In a way I am disappointed that I will not be seeing any of you, as it would have been really lovely to meet you all. I am sure you possess a fine healthy lot. With today's modern surgery your youngest addition should also fair well.

Everybody here is finished all send them love. Thank you all once again I shall send you a photo of

Dear Elizabeth, Many thanks for your very helpful letter received last week, and all the trouble you went to, to find details for me. Eddie and myself have now decided to stay put as he is going to commence meat institution in September which will go on for five years, so he wants to commence as soon as possible. We are getting married in July and I have decided to do midwifery here. Our midwifery only takes a year. The "mini ..." that your friend was talking about is called an obstetric course which lasts three months, this is done during the general training and also cuts two months off the year of midwifery.

I have just finished my final exams and am now waiting for the results. I feel very bad about the practical, and am sure I shall have to retake it. I think the worst part is waiting for the results. In a way I am disappointed that I will not be seeing any of you, as it would have been really lovely to meet you all, I am sure you possess a fine healthy lot. With todays modern surgery your youngest addition should also fair well. Everybody here is fine and all send their love. Thank you all once again. I shall send you a photo of



my wedding (when and after it takes place) and then you will have an idea of what I look like. Please don't forget to say a few prayers for me in case I have to resit my exams. God Bless you. Lots of Love Mary xxxx

121. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, December 1970

73 Meadway
W. G. C.
Dec 1970

My dear Elizabeth, John and family, For the
life of me I cant remember if I
answered your letter or not. I know
you said you had just received the
magazines and press cards and I was
surprised to hear they had gone
surface mail as I had meant them
for air. Still I suppose mistakes can
be made and so long as you got them
thats the most important thing. I do
hope little Pita is keeping up the
improvement. I expect you have them
all on holidays now. The schools will
soon be breaking up here for Christmas
but they only get three weeks. I know
you will be pleased to hear Mary
got her finals and I neednt tell you

My dear Elizabeth, John and family, For the life of me I cant remember if I answered your letter or not. I know you said you had just received the magazines and mass cards and I was surprised to hear they had gone surface mail as I had meant them for air. Still I suppose mistakes can be made, and so long as you got them that's the most important thing. I do hope little Rita is keeping up the improvement. I expect you have them all on holidays now. The schools will soon be breaking up here for Christmas but they only get three weeks. I know you will be pleased to hear Mary got her finals and I needn't tell you

we were all delighted. She is going
 to stay at Whipp's Cross for six months
 and after she marries she hopes to
 start her midwifery. I am very
 pleased they have decided not to
 immigrate. I think they will get on
 just as well here. The only trouble here
 for young couples is the problem of
 getting a house. They are very expensive
 to buy and the deposit is very high.
 We had a letter from Clark about a
 fortnight ago. They are very short of
 priests out there and they are finding
 the going very hard. They are now in
 the middle of their heat wave and
 the visiting of all the Stations is a big
 problem. They have no car, and they
 are 68th on the list for one, and they
 have been on the list since July.
 We are all hoping Mary will do
 well with her exam. It would

we were all delighted. She is going to stay at Whipps Cross for six months and after she marries, she hopes to start her midwifery. I am very pleased they have decided not to immigrate. I think they will get on just as well here. The only trouble here for young couples is the problem of getting a house. They are very expensive to buy and the deposit is very high. We had a letter from Mark about a fortnight ago. They are very short of priests out there and they are finding the going very hard. They are now in the middle of their heat wave and the visiting of all the stations is a big problem. They have no car, and they are 68th on the list for one, and they have been on the list since July. We are all hoping Mary will do well with her exam. It would

Dec 1970

3

be marvellous for her and the school
 if she got it. We were out at
 Gerard's school yesterday. The
 Cardinal came to bless it and
 give it the official opening, although
 it's over 18 months since it was
 opened. Our weather here is not
 so good and according to the news
 there will be a big shortage of
 fuel this winter. A lot of the coal
 mines have closed down, as the
 younger generation don't want to
 follow in their father's footsteps.
 I had a letter from Kathleen
 last week, she said she had written
 to you. I am sure you will miss
 your mam this Christmas but
 such is the way of life, and it's
 something we all have to accept.
 We have stayed home for the week
 also Eddie here thanks. Michael

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fiance comes away Friday and
 stays until Sunday. She teaches
 in a school about 12 miles
 away from here. One thing certain
 when they all get married I
 will certainly be better off money
 wise, as I won't have to pay the
 food to buy. Still money isn't
 everything, and so long as we can
 manage and we have our health
 we have a lot to be thankful to
 God for. It's tea time in this
 country, six o'clock on a Sunday
 evening. I don't know what time of
 the day you make it down your
 way. Fern and all join with me
 in wishing you all a very happy
 Christmas and all God's blessings
 for 1971. Love from
 Phine and all

fiancé comes away Friday and stays until Sunday. She teaches in a school about 12 miles away from here. One thing certain when they all get married I will certainly be better off money wise, as I wont have half the food to buy. Still money isn't everything, and so long as we can manage and we have our health we have a lot to be thankful to God for. Its tea time in this country, six o'clock on a Sunday evening, I don't know what time of the day you make it down your way. Tom and join with me by wishing you all a very happy Christmas and all Gods blessings for 1971. Love from Phine and all

122. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 10 July 1971

73 Alcastray
N. Z. C.
10-7-71

My dear Elizabeth, many thanks for your most welcome and interesting letter. You certainly all seem to have been very busy but I am sure you enjoyed every minute of it. How lovely to have a mass said in your house a very good Irish custom but sad to hear it's fastly dying out. My was charmed to get your telegram last Saturday all the way from N. Zealand. It was a great surprise when it was read out at the reception. She had quite a few telegrams from Ireland and a phone message. It was a beautiful day and everything went off very well. I will send you some photos later on. Clark arrived home on the Thursday and I needn't tell you there was great excitement as we weren't expecting him until the Saturday. He is so grateful for all the help you have given him. Just said when she wrote that she had a letter from you and you were wondering if he had got the last lot you sent. He said he hadn't but it takes a few months to get it sorted out through the banks so it should be there for him when he gets back. He is hoping to build 15 churches in his parish. They are very short of priests but he says if he can manage to get the churches built he will be able to get around to them every three months. The natives are very good and as long as they know that they have a priest who is willing to work they will work on the double even to the women and children digging the sand and stones from the river. He said he will write to you. He was very tired when he arrived but looks much better now that he has had a weeks rest. He hopes to go to Ireland for a few weeks after Ferris wedding. He gets married six weeks to day and Michael three weeks to day. I am glad I won't have the responsibility

My dear Elizabeth, Many thanks for your most welcome and interesting letter. You certainly all seem to have been very busy but I am sure you enjoyed every minute of it. How lovely to have a mass said in your house a very old Irish custom but sad to hear its fastly dying out, Mary was charmed to get your telegram last Saturday all the way from N.Zealand. It was a great surprise when it was read out at the reception. She had quite a few telegrams for Ireland and a phone message. It was a beautiful day and everything went off very well. I will send you some photos later on. Mark arrived home on the Thursday and I needn't tell you there was great excitement, as we weren't expecting him until the Saturday. He is so grateful for all the help you have given him. That said when she wrote that she had a letter from you and you were wondering if he had got the last let you sent. He said he hadn't but it takes a few months to get it sorted out through the banks so it should be there for him when he gets back. He is hoping to build 15 churches in his parish. They are very short of priests but he says if he can manage to get the churches built he will be able to get around to them every three months. The natives are very good and so long as they know they have a priest who is willing to work they will work on the double even to the women and children drawing in the sand and stones from the river. He said he will write to you. He was very livid when he arrived but looks much better now that he has had a weeks rest. He hopes to go to Ireland for a few weeks after Tommys wedding He gets married six weeks to-day and Michael three weeks to-day. I am glad I wont have the responsibility

One daughter at the moment is
 enough. Mary and Eddie went
 to Ireland for their honeymoon.
 He had a few lines from her
 yesterday. They were touring
 Cork and then on to Limerick.
 So far your packet to her and
 clerk hasn't arrived but it
 takes about six weeks if it
 was surface mail. How much
 of you think of them both. I
 don't know how you manage
 it with all you have to do.
 The photos you sent are lovely.
 Peta seems to be a little
 darling, and I am so pleased
 to hear she is making such
 good progress. Anne got
 drops again. I expect she
 will be getting to her late
 hope to join and all the
 children from all of you here.
 God bless from Phine

One daughter at the moment is enough. Mary and Eddie went to Ireland for their honeymoon. We had a few lines from her yesterday. They were touring Cork and then on to Limerick So for your packet to her and Mark hasn't arrived but it takes about six weeks if it was surface mail. How nice of you to think of them both, I don't know how you manage it with all you have to do. The photos you sent are lovely Rita seems to be a little darling, and I am so pleased to hear she is making such good progress. Anne got Marys letter. I expect she will be writing to her later. Love to John and all the children, from all of us here God bless you from Phine

123. Mary Dunne to Elizabeth O'Neill, 26 August 1971

6 Boundary House,
Welwyn Garden City,
Herts.
26th August, 1971.

Dear Elizabeth,

I am so sorry that it has been so long in taking me to write to you to thank you for the most beautiful wedding present you sent. It really was a lovely surprise, and also for the telegram which was another lovely surprise. We had a beautiful wedding and the weather stayed good.

8th September

As you can see Elizabeth I am continuing this a couple of weeks later. I started that letter at work, but I was interrupted, and so had to put it down.

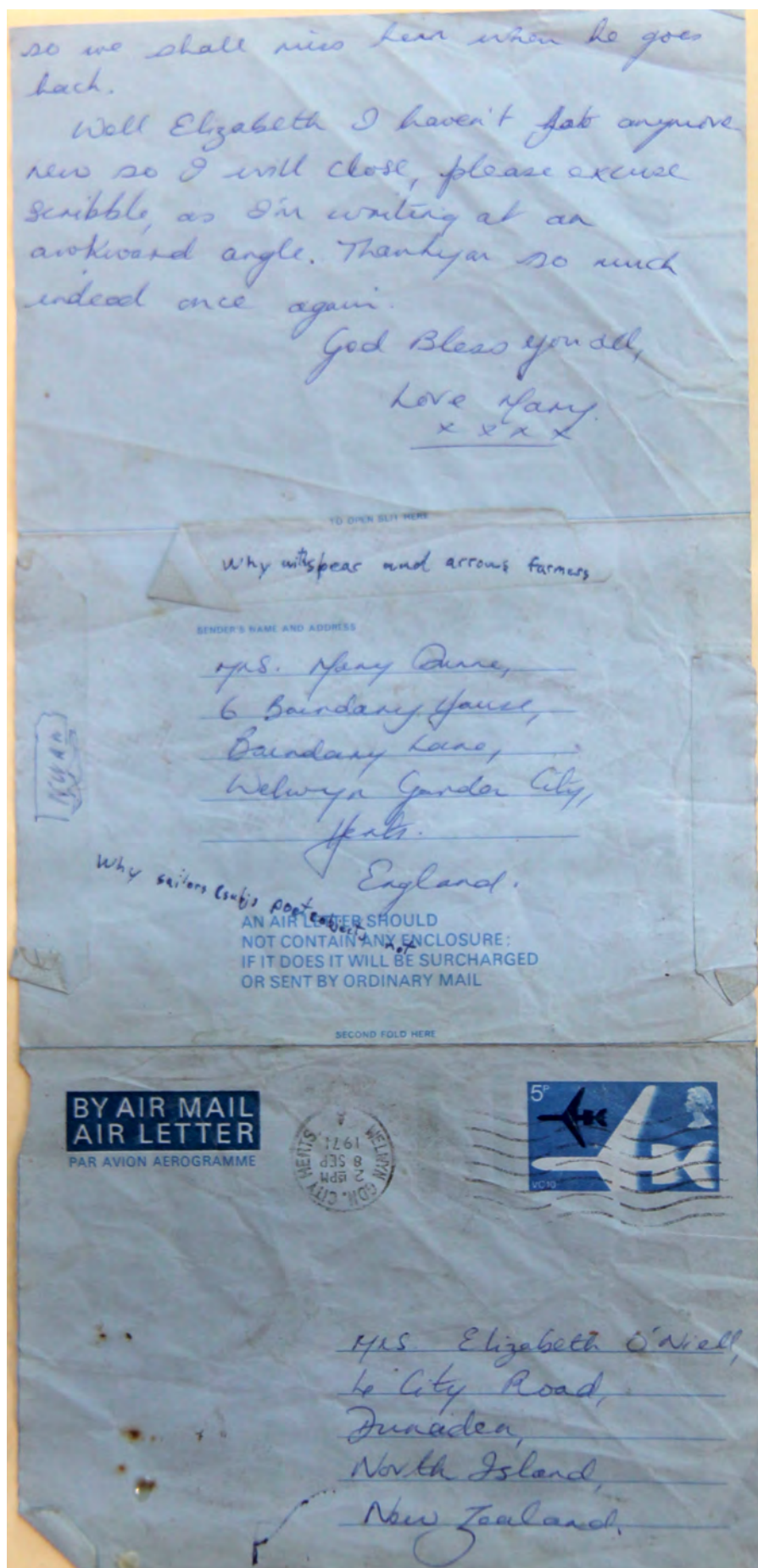
Mummy asked me not to forget to thank you for the parcel you sent Mark, and also the lovely photo of your family. I am sure mummy will send a few photos to you when she gets around to it. Actually Mum & Dad & Anne and Gerald have just arrived back from a weeks holiday in Louthsea, which is on the South Coast of England, they seem to really have enjoyed themselves.

Mark is in Ireland at the moment, he went to marry James Kelly (Mum's 2nd son) who is getting married today, but he should arrive home again tomorrow. He returns to Nigeria about the 23rd or 24th September.

Dear Elizabeth, I am so sorry that it has been so long in taking me to write to you to thank you for the most beautiful wedding present you sent, it really was a lovely surprise, and also for the Telegram which was another lovely surprise. We had a beautiful wedding and the weather stayed good.

8th September

As you can see Elizabeth I am continuing this a couple of weeks later, I started that letter at work, but I was interrupted, and so had to put it down. Mummy asked me not to forget to thank you for the parcel you sent Mark, and also the lovely photo of your family. I am sure mummy will send a few photos to you when she gets around to it. Actually Mum & Dad & Anne and Gerard have just arrived back from a week's holiday in Southsea, which is on the south coast of England, they seem to really have enjoyed themselves. Mark is in Ireland at the moment, he went to marry James Kelly (Aunty Ita's son) who is getting married today, but he should arrive home again to-morrow. He returns to Nigeria about the 23rd or 24th September



so we shall miss him when he goes back. Well Elizabeth I haven't got anymore news so I will close, please excuse scribble, as I'm writing at an awkward angle. Thankyou so much indeed once again. God Bless you all, Love Mary xxxx

124. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 24 October 1971

73 Meadway
Welwyn Gap City
Herts

Oct 24th

My dear Elizabeth

You must think I have forgotten all about you and the times I told myself I really must get down to it but somehow or another I never made the time. It has been so hectic for the past few months its only now we are getting back to normal. We do miss them all and it is a good job we still have Anne and Gerard. You never realise until they are gone from you what an empty space can be left in your heart and home. Still its nice to

My dear Elizabeth, You must think I have forgotten all about you and the times I told myself I really must get down to it but somehow or another I never made the time; It has been so hectic for the past few months, it's only now we are getting back to normal. We do miss them all and it is a good job we still have Anne and Gerard. You never realise until they are gone from you what an empty space can be felt in your heart and home. Still its nice to

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know that they are all happily
 married and God keep them so. There
 are so many broken marriages these
 days that it frightens you. There are
 so many changes in the catholic
 church I think it has a lot to do
 with this modern trend. Somehow
 I think we were better off under
 the old laws. We have a new parish
 priest here and at the moment he
 is driving us all around the bend.
 He seems more taken up with the
 social life of the parish than the
 spiritual side. We have had quite
 a few arguments with him. He
 seems to be afraid to speak out
 against the permissive society and
 I think the younger generation think

know that they are all happily married and God keep them so. There are so many broken marriages these days that it frightens you. There are so many changes in the catholic church I think it has a lot to do with this modern trend, Somehow I think we were better off under the old laws, We have a new parish priest here and at the moment he is driving us all around the bend. He seems more taken up with the Social life of the parish than the spiritual side. We have had quite a few arguments with him. He seems to be afraid to speak out against the permissive society, and I think the younger generation think

3

it's OK to do what they like as they are getting no guidance. However we can only pray that things will change and people will turn back to God again. Now I must tell you about the wedding, they all went off very well I say. The weather was lovely for all of them. Clary of course being on home ground was very enjoyable as we had all our own friends. Clark arrived home the day before, and believe it or not. None of us recognised him when he arrived. He had lost a lot of weight but he had put it all on again before he went back. Clary was delighted with her beautiful tray and everyone

it's OK to do what they like as they are getting no guidance. However we can only pray that things will change and people will turn back to God again; Now I must tell you about the weddings they all went off very well T.G. the weather was lovely for all of them Mary's of course being on home ground was very enjoyable as we had all our own friends. Mark arrived home the day before, and believe it or not none of us recognised him when he arrived. He had lost a lot of weight but he put it all on again before he went back. Mary was delighted with her beautiful tray and everyone (Missing Page)

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this week end as they have half
 term from school. What a beautiful
 photo you sent us of your family
 They all look wonderful and you
 and John must be very proud of
 them. Don't worry like you. I have
 shown it to several friends and
 they all think you have a lovely
 family. I am so pleased to hear
 little Rita is making such a
 wonderful recovery, she is a little
 darling and I bet she is adored by
 all the others. He had a letter from
 Kathleen a few weeks ago. She
 said you mentioned that you had
 sent some money to Mark. He
 hadn't got it before he left but he
 was going to look it up when he

this week end as they have half term from school. What a beautiful photo you sent us of your family They all look wonderful and you and John must be very proud of them. Isn't Mary like you. I have shown it to several friends they all think you have a lovely family, I am pleased to hear little Rita is making such a wonderful recovery, she is a little darling and I bet she is adored by all the others. We had a letter from Kathleen a few weeks ago. She said you mentioned that you have sent some money to Mark. He hadn't got it before he left but he was going to look it up when he

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get back. I think you are wonderful
 to think of him when you have so
 many commitments of your own.
 He had a wonderful holiday and
 enjoyed every minute of it. Three of
 his friends came home also. We
 had them all here for a few days
 and I needn't tell you the place
 was nice and lively. The missionaries
 have such a different outlook to
 our own. They are full of life and
 there wasn't a dull moment while
 they were around. Clark went back
 the 21st Sept. The time went so
 quickly and needless to say we
 were all very sad to see him go.
 We had a letter from him yesterday.
 He seems to have settled down.

got back. I think you are wonderful to think of him when you have so many commitments of your own. He had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed every minute of it. Three of his friends came home also. We had them all here for a few days and I needn't tell you the place was nice and lively. The missionary have such a different outlook to our own, They are full of life and there wasn't a dull moment while they were around. Mark went back the 21st Sept. The time went so quickly and needless to say we were all very sad to see him go. We had a letter from him yesterday He seems to have settled down

7:
NIGERIA

very well, but he is on his own
and he has plenty of bush work
to do between now and April
when the rainy season starts again.
They are short 35 priests so you
can imagine the amount of work
they have to do. They hope to
build 15 churches in the next few
years. They think their work
will be finished out there in
ten years as they will have
enough native clergy to take over
then. Then they hope to go to
North Africa as there is very
little Christianity there. Does Kathleen
write to you. I expect she will
have told you that Sister Dominic
died about a month ago. She was

very well, but he is on his own and he has plenty of bush work to do between now and April when the rainy season starts again They are short 35 priests so you can imagine the amount of work they have to do. They hope to build 15 churches in the next few years. They think their work will be finished out there in ten years as they will have enough native clergy to take over then. Then they hope to go to north Africa as there is very little Christianity there. Does Kathleen still write to you. I expect she will have told you that sister Dominic died about a month ago. She was
(Missing Page)

125. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, c. 1972

73 Meadway.
Welwyn Garden City
Herts

My dear Elizabeth, John and children.

As Christmas
is drawing near and I owe you a letter I
had better make a start. We were very pleased
to hear from you and so glad to hear little
Pats is getting on O.K. Anne got clump little
also. I hope Mary is enjoying her long vacation.
It seems so strange that you should be
having such a glorious summer and we are
in the midst of winter. So far it hasn't been
too bad, not much fog but a lot of frost.
On top of that we have a flu virus raging
round the country. Tom was off work for
nine weeks with a slipped disc, then went
back to work for a week and got the flu
so he was off again. He is just getting over
it. He had a terrible cough which didn't
help his back very much. Mary and Eddie
have moved to Stevenage its about nine
miles away from here. She got a senior post
in the new hospital and they also got a

My Dear Elizabeth, John and children.

As Christmas is drawing near and I owe you a letter I had better make a start. We were very pleased to hear from you and so glad to hear little Rita is getting on OK. Anne got Marys letter also. I hope Mary is enjoying her long vacation. It seems so strange that you should be having such a glorious summer and we are in the midst of Winter. So far it hasn't been too bad, not much fog but a lot of frost. On top of that we have a flu virus raging round the country. Tom was off work for nine weeks with a slipped disc then went back to work for a week and got the flu so he was off again. He is just getting over it. He had a terrible cough which didn't help his back very much. Mary and Eddie have moved to Stevenage its about nine miles away from here. She got a sister's post in the new hospital and they also got a

house which they are buying. She is in bed with the flu this week so we haven't seen her. Michael and Julie hope to get a flat in the New Year. Jimmy and Pef are coming up for Christmas. Unfortunately Pepper had another miscarriage about a month ago and needless to say we were all very disappointed. She is going to push up leading at Christmas and next time she is pregnant she will have to stay in bed for sixteen weeks have have infections etc. When she was in hospital it annoyed her so much to find so many having abortions and the poor soul doing her best to keep it. The abortions are getting worse in this country. About a month ago a girl from the local convent only 15 had one, and needless to say there was a bit of a stir when the nuns wouldn't have her back again. We can only keep on praying for all these people, and protesting as much as we can. He had a letter from Mark a few weeks ago. He said the floods were dying and the dry weather was on the way. He won't be sorry for that as a lot of his house was washed away and he was waiting for the rains to stop before he could repair it. No excuse this short letter but I have a lot to write. Best wishes from all of us for a very happy Christmas from them

house they are buying. She is in bed with the flu this week so we haven't seen her. Michael and Julie hope to get a flat in the new year. Tommy and Pip are coming up for Christmas. Unfortunately, Pippa had a miscarriage about a month ago and needless to say we were all very disappointed. She is going to pack up teaching at Christmas and next time she is pregnant she will have to stay in bed for sixteen weeks have injections etc. When she was in hospital it annoyed her so much to find so many having abortions and she poor soul doing her best to keep it. The abortions are getting worse in this country. About a month ago a girl from the local convent only 15 had one, and needless to say there was a bit of a stink when the nuns wouldn't have her back again. We can only keep on praying for all those people and protesting as much as we can. We had a letter from Mark a few weeks ago. He said the floods were dying and the dry weather was on the way. He won't be sorry for that as a lot of his house was washed away and he was waiting for the rains to stop before he could repair it. No excuse this short letter but I have a lot to write. Best wishes for all of us for a very happy Christmas from Phine

126. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 2 July 1972

73 Meadoway
Kelowna B.C.
Herts
July 2nd

My dear Elizabeth, It's such a long time since any correspondence passed between us. I can't even remember the last time we heard from you or how long it is since I wrote to you. I do hope you are all well especially little Rita. I hope she is improving every day. We are supposed to be having our Summer weather here at the moment but it's more like mid Winter and according to the forecasts we are not going to get any fine weather at all. This time last year we were very busy preparing for all the weddings and Clark had just arrived home. How

My dear Elizabeth, Its such a long time since any correspondence passed between us. I cant even remember the last time we heard from you or how long it is since I wrote to you. I do hope you are all well especially little Rita. I hope she is improving every day. We are supposed to be having our summer weather here at the moment but its more like mid Winter and according to the forecasters we are not going to get any fine weather at all. This time last year we were very busy preparing for all the weddings and Mark had just arrived home. How

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The time has flown by. We had a letter from Clark last week, he is very busy, he is building a new hospital and three new churches. We had a couple of priests call on us a few weeks ago, Clark had seen them off at the other end. They were telling us how busy he is, he has a big parish to look after and no one to help him. However it doesn't seem to affect him very much as they said he had put on a lot of weight. He had great hopes of being grand parents this year but unfortunately Pippa (Jimmy's wife) lost her baby just after Easter. She went to Lourdes with the handicapped children so she probably did too much lifting as they had a lot of chair cases in their group. Jimmy and Michael went also. I am hoping to go with them next Easter.

the time had flown by. We had a letter from Mark last week, he is very busy, he is building a new hospital and three new churches. We had a couple of priests call on us a few weeks ago, Mark had seen them off at the other end. They were telling us how busy he is, he has a big parish to look after and no one to help him. However it doesn't seem to effect him very much as they said he has put on a lot of weight. We had great hopes of being grand parents this year but unfortunately Pippa (Tommy wife) lost her baby just after Easter. She went to London with the handicapped children so she probably did too much lifting so they had a lot of chair cases in their group. Tommy and Michael went also. I am hoping to go with them next Easter

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please god. now its time I asked about
 your family. I suppose Mary will be
 ready for university this year and how
 about the boys have any of them made
 up their minds yet what they are
 going to do. I had a letter from Mother
 yesterday, she is great to give all the
 home news. Ita is no so well, she
 had a heart attack last week and
 will have to take things easy.
 Anne has finished school for this term.
 She has just finished her O levels.
 The results will not be out until
 the end of August so she has a long
 time to wait for them. Both her and
 Gerard are going to Germany with the
 Youth club the end of July. Tom and
 I are going to Ireland the same time.
 please god. I havent been feeling very
 well for the past few months, may

please God. Now it's time I asked about your family. I suppose Mary will be ready for university this year and how about the boys have any of them made up their minds yet what they are going to do. I had a letter from Kathleen yesterday, she is great to give all the home news. Ita is no so well, she had a heart attack last week and will have to take things easy. Anne has finished school for this term She has just finished her O levels. The results will not be out until the end of August so she has a very long time to wait for them. Both her and Gerard are going to Germany with the youth club the end of July. Tom and I are going to Ireland the same time Please God. I haven't been feeling very well for the past few months, my

3

nerves are playing me up a bit. I think it's probably due to menapausal depression. I feel a bit better these last few days, but I will have more sympathy in future with people when they tell me they are depressed. Up to now I didn't know what depression was, but I certainly know what it is now. I have got tablets from the doctor plus those and a few novenas throun please god I will get over it. Mary has a got a sisters post in a new hospital starting the 1st Sept. It's only about ½ hours bus ride from here. Mical and Julie are still living in furnished accomodation but they hope to get a flat the end of this year. The houses around this area are gone up out of all proportions. You could buy a house this time last

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year for 16000 and the same houses
 now are costing 16,000. It doesn't
 give the young couples much of a
 chance to start up a home. Mary will
 get a house when she starts her new
 post but where she is going the
 houses are all built on top of each
 other with very little room for
 privacy. Anne is just saying she
 doesn't know if she owes Mary a
 letter or not. I expect she does as
 she is hopeless for letter writing.
 I don't think I have any more news
 for you but I do hope to hear from
 you soon. Give our love to John
 and all the children. God bless
 from Phine

year for £6000 and the same houses now are probably costing 16,000. It doesn't give the young couples much of a chance to start up a home. Mary will get a house when she starts her new post but where she is going the houses are all built on top of each other with very little room for privacy. Anne is just saying she doesn't know if she owes Mary a letter or not. I expect she does as she is hopeless for letter writing. I don't think I have any more news for you but I do hope to hear from you soon. Give our love to John and all the children. God bless from Phine

127. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill 5 December [1972?]

73 Meadway
Kilcyn John City
Herts
5 Dec 1973?

My dear Elizabeth and John

Once again
Christmas is drawing near and I must
get down to my letter writing. I do
hope you are all well especially Pats.
I bet she is lovely. What do the
doctors think of her now. I always
remember her in my prayers and think
of her many times. I have a little nephew
in Ireland who is handicapped. We
saw him when we were home in the
Summer and he is a real little darling.
He is about seven months now. He will
never walk, but I think his mum and
dad are quite resigned to it now. It's
quite true when God sends a cross
He also sends a way to bear it.
I know Anne wrote to Mary some

My dear Elizabeth and John, Once again Christmas is drawing near and I must get down to my letter writing. I do hope you are all well especially Rita I bet she is lovely. What do the doctors think of her now. I always remember her in my prayers and think of her many times. I have a little nephew in Ireland who is handicapped. We saw him when we were home in the Summer and he is a real little darling He is about seven months now. He will never walk, but I think his mum and dad are quite resigned to it now. It's quite true when God sends a cross he also sends a way to bear it. I know Anne wrote to Mary some

weeks ago so I expect she gave her all the news. I am sure you will all miss her very much when she goes away. Did Anne tell you we now have a grand-child. Tom and Pip had a lovely boy last September. They have called him Stephen. We hope to see them in the New Year. We should be having another one in May but unfortunately Mary had a miscarriage and we were all very disappointed. She thinks she will have to give up nursing next time.

I expect you are enjoying a lovely Summer night, we had plenty of frost and snow here and it's very cold. The oil and petrol rationing isn't making it any better. This country at the moment is in a very bad state, food prices are soaring every day. We had a letter from Clark last week. I don't think things are too good out there and I think he gets a bit disheartened at times. He was most grateful for all your kindness to him. Your money always turns up just when he is getting short. Love from us all
 Bless Tom Phine

weeks ago so I expect she gave her all the news. I am sure you will all miss her very much when she goes away. Did Anne tell you we now have a grand-child. Tom and Pip had a baby boy last September. They have called him Stephen. We hope to see them in the new year. We should be having another one in May but unfortunately Mary had a miscarriage and we were all very disappointed. She thinks she will have to give up nursing next time. I expect you are enjoying a lovely summer night, we had plenty of frost and snow here and its very cold. The oil and petrol rationing isn't making it any better. This country at the moment is in a very bad state. Food prices are soaring every day. We had a letter from Mark last week. I don't think things are too good out there and I think he gets a bit disheartened at times. He was most grateful for all your kindness to him, your money always turns up just when he is getting short. Love from us all God bless from Phine

128. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 10 July 1973

73 Meadway
Wellesley John City
Herts
July 10th 1973

My dear Elizabeth, John and family, it
seems such a long time since I wrote
to you, and I do sincerely hope that
you are all keeping well. Clays letter
to Mark arrived about a fortnight ago.
He came home last night. He was so
pleased to hear from her so of course
I had a read of the letter also. He
was very grateful for her cheque and
he said he will write to her when
he has had a rest. Just before he
left Nigeria he was told quite a big
cheque had come through from you.
How good you all are to him, and
he does appreciate it very much.
There was a cheque in Clays letter also.
I don't know how he would manage
without all the help he gets from all

My dear Elizabeth, John and family, It seems such a long time since I wrote to you, and I do sincerely hope that you are all keeping well. Marys letter to Mark arrived about a fortnight ago. He came home last night He was so pleased to hear from her of course. I had a read of the letter also. He was very grateful for his cheque and he said he will write to her when he has had a rest. Just before he left Nigeria he was told quite a big cheque had come through from you. How good you all are to him, and he does appreciate it very much. There was a cheque in Marys letter also. I don't know how he would manage without all the help he gets from all

his friends and relatives. They are not
 very mission minded in this parish.
 I think you ~~all~~ have a big debt at the
 moment and we are trying to think
 up ways and means of trying to
 pay it off. We had our church re-
 decorated at a cost of £6000 and
 just as they were nearly finished
 they discovered all the new paint
 was flaking off, so now it's going to
 cost another £500 to put it right.
 I am so glad to hear you are all doing
 so much for the unborn child. It's
 tragic to hear of the number of
 the abortions that being performed in
 this country every day. I am afraid
 our catholic clergy are ^{not} doing enough
 shouting about it. God must surely
 be very angry and I am sure one
 day He will turn the tables on all
 these wicked people. It's a hard job
 to bring up a family these days.

his friends and relatives. They are not very mission minded in this parish. Mind you we have a big debt at the moment and we are trying to think up ways and means to pay it off. We had our church redecorated at a cost of £6000 and just as they were nearly finished they discovered all the new paint was flaking off. So now its going to cost another £500 to put it right. I am so glad to hear you are all doing so much for the unborn child. It's tragic to hear of the number of abortions that being performed in this country every day. I am afraid our catholic clergy are not doing enough shouting about it. God must surely be very angry and I am sure one day he will turn the tables on all these wretched people. It's a hard job to bring up a family these days.

10 July 1973

3

There is so much felth available to the teenagers and I am afraid a lot of them are taking advantage of it. So much for that and now it's time to ask for all the children. I suppose they are all still at college and no doubt Mary is the leading light of them all. I am sure Anne should have written to her but she is one of those who doesn't take kindly to letter writing. She went to Lourdes at Easter for three weeks and she enjoyed it very much. We hope to have our first grand child the end of August. please God. Pippa seems to be keeping very well in spite of all the trouble she had at the beginning. Tommy breaks up school on Saturday so they are coming up for a week. Anne and Gerard break up school on the 20th. We hope to go to Ireland for 10 days

There is so much filth available to the teenagers and I am afraid a lot of them are taking advantage of it. So much for that and now it's time to ask for all the children. I suppose they are all still at college and no doubt Mary is the leading light of them all. I am sure Anne should have written to her but she is one of those who doesn't take kindly to letter writing. She went to Lourdes at Easter for three weeks and she enjoyed it very much. We hope to have our first grand child the end of August. Please God. Pippa seems to be keeping very well in spite of all the trouble she had at the beginning. Tommy breaks up school on Saturday so they are coming up for a week. Anne and Gerard break up school on the 20th. We hope to go to Ireland for 10 days

the 20th August. We are looking at the
wife with us. It will be her first
visit to Ireland so I hope she will
like it. Mary and Eddie haven't
decided yet where they are going.
They would like to go to America
but the fares are too expensive.

Now I think I have given you all
the news. Mark will be writing
later. Our love to you all
and many thanks once again for
your generosity to Mark.

God bless from
Phine.

the 20th August We are taking Michael's wife with us. It will be her first visit to Ireland so I hope she will like it. Mary and Eddie haven't decided yet where they are going. They would like to go to America but the fares are too expensive. Now I think I have given you all the news. Mark will be writing later. Our love to you all and many thanks once again for your generosity to Mark. God bless from Phine.

129. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 1 December [1973]

Dec 1st 1973?

My dear Elizabeth, Thank you very much for your very interesting and newsy letter. Delighted to hear you are all keeping well. I hope little Peter is improving every day. I pray many times for her and please God she will be quite a normal girl in a few years. I expect you are all getting busy preparing for Christmas. I don't know what you think but somehow to me the real meaning is going out of Christmas. It must be all these changes we are having in the church. I am sure our parish priest is bending over backwards to please the congregational church. I couldn't tell you how long it is

My dear Elizabeth, Thank you very much for your very interesting and newsy letter. Delighted to hear you are all keeping well. I hope little Rita is improving every day. I pray many times for her and please God she will be quite a normal girl in a few years. I expect you are all getting busy preparing for Christmas. I don't know what you think but somehow to me the real meaning is going out of Christmas. It must be all these changes we are having in the church. I am sure our parish priest is bending over backwards to please the congregational church. I couldn't tell you how long it is

since we last had a convert in
 this parish; I am sure he thinks we
 older women who belong to the
 catholic womens league are just a lot
 of old fogies. He are for ever arguing
 with him; he doesnt give any sermons
 to the young people and I am sure
 they all think that sex before
 marriage is O.K. I think you are
 doing a lot more over there for
 the protection of the unborn child
 than we are doing in this country.
 We need guidance from our priests
 and we are certainly not getting
 it. Still perhaps god will hear our
 prayers and maybe one day doctors
 will refuse to perform abortions.
 No news from Mark since I last
 wrote to you. Love to you all
 God bless from Phine.

P.S. Its weeks since I wrote
 this letter to day I forgot to post it

since we last had a convert in this parish. I am sure he thinks we older women who belong to the catholic womens league are just a lot of old fogies. We are for ever arguing with him, he doesn't give any sermons to the young people and I am sure they all think that sex before marriage is OK. I think you are doing a lot more over there for the protection of the unborn child than we are doing in this country. We need guidance from our priests and we are certainly not getting it. Still perhaps God will hear our prayers and one day doctors will refuse to perform abortions. No news from Mark since I last wrote to you, Love to you all God bless from Phine

PS. It's weeks since Anne wrote this letter to Mary I forgot to post it

130. Anne Connolly to Mary O'Neill 17 November 1973

73 meadway
Welwyn Garden City
Herts.
17/11/73

Dear Mary,

Thanks for your letter which I received a couple of days ago. It seems years since I've written to you, several times I started letters to you but never got around to finishing them.

You asked me about my holiday in Lourdes. I had a fantastic time and the people there were really nice. I had to try and speak french all the time but it was over a year since I had learnt any french and I had difficulty with vocabulary. The hotel was in the same street where Bernadette was born and about 100 yards from the Basilica and Grotto. In the three weeks I was there I did not get to see everything but I did go and see other things outside Lourdes. The scenery was fantastic, right next to the Pyrenees and as there was still plenty of snow around I had the chance to go skiing. It is not as easy as it looks but I did get sunburnt, the sun was very strong.

I think that you going to Samoa is really

Dear Mary, Thanks for your letter which I received a couple of days ago. It seems years since I've written to you, several times I started letters to you but never got around to finishing them. You asked me about my holiday in Lourdes. I had a fantastic time and the people there were really nice. I had to try and speak French all the time but it was over a year since I had learnt any French and I had difficulty with vocabulary. The hotel was in the same street where Bernadette was born and about 100 yards from the Basilica and Grotto. In the three weeks I was there I did not get to see everything but I did go and see other things outside Lourdes. The scenery was fantastic, right next to the Pyrenes and as there was still plenty of snow around I had the chance to go skiing. It is not as easy as it looks but I did get sunburnt, the sun was very strong. I think that you going to Samoa is really

17 Nov 1973

great and the subjects you want to teach are the ones I really like. I hope to go next year to University next year if I pass my 'A' levels. I want to study pharmacy.

Yes it was Pippa who was having a baby she had a boy, they have called him Stephen Michael, he was born on the 4th September. He is lovely and it was nice that Mark was home when he was christened. We have only seen him once since the christening and I don't suppose we shall see him again before Christmas.

A couple of weeks ago Mary (my sister) had a miscarriage. She has gone back to work now.

It was lovely to have Mark home but time flies and the three months were soon gone. Mum and I went to Ireland with him during his stay, it was nice to see my young cousins and my relations because it was four years since I had been.

Well I must finish now, and I hope it isn't so long till we hear from each other again. Please let me know how you get on in Samoa.

Lots of Love from all
Anne xx

great and the subjects you want to teach are the ones I really loathe. I hope to go next year to University next year if I pass my 'n' levels. I want to study pharmacy. Yes it was Pippa who was having a baby she had a boy, they have called him Stephen Michael, he was born on the 4th September. He is lovely and it was nice that Mark was home when he was christened. We have only seen him once since the christening and I don't suppose we shall see him again before Christmas. A couple of weeks ago Mary (my sister) had a miscarriage. She has gone back to work now. It was lovely to have Mark home but time flies and the three months were soon gone. Mum and I went to Ireland with him during his stay, it was nice to see my young cousins and my relations because it was four years since I had been. Well I must finish now, and I hope it isn't too long till we hear from each other again. Please let me know how you get on in Samoa. Lots of love from all Anne xx

131. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 16 November [1976]

73 Meadway
Welwyn Garden City
Herts.

16th Nov 1976

My dear Elizabeth, John and children, It's a long
since I wrote to you, and as I have a bit of
time to spare to night I will put it to good
use. We were very sorry John didn't come
to see us when he was over here. I got
your letter and I wrote immediately to the
address you gave, but he had probably left
London by then. We were on holiday at
that time and we were hoping he would
come and spend a few days with us. He
didn't meet any relations in Ireland either.
I suppose the names were all very strange
to him, and of course not having his own
transport I am sure he found it difficult
to get around. It would only have

My dear Elizabeth, John and children, Its so long since I wrote to you, and as I have a bit of time to spare to might I will put it to good use. We were very sorry John didn't come to see us when he was over here. I got your letter and I wrote immediately to the address you gave, but he had probably left London by then. We were on holidays at that time and we were hoping he would come and spend a few days with us. He didn't meet any relations in Ireland either, I suppose the names were very strange to him, and of course not having his own transport I am sure he found it difficult to get around. It would only have

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16 Nov 1976

taken him half an hour to get from London to here. I am sure he will come again some time and maybe he will be rich enough to charter his own plane. Anyway I hope you are all keeping well, I lose track of all their ages but there must be at least three of them fending for themselves by now. I expect you are all still fighting against the abortion law and I have often wondered how John got on with the court case, perhaps you will be able to let us know next time you write. We still have Ralph here, but I am beginning to think that it's only prayers will win in the end. The whole world seems to have gone mad. As you know I work in the ante-natal clinic and sometimes I think the older women are worse than the young ones, moral teaching seems to have gone out of homes and schools and

taken him half an hour to get from London to here. I am sure he will come again some time and maybe he will be rich enough to charter his own plane. Anyway I hope you are all keeping well, I lose track of all their ages but there must be at least three of them fending for themselves by now. I expect you are all still fighting against the abortion law and I have often wondered how John got on with the court case, perhaps you will be able to let us know next time you write. We still have rallies here, but I am beginning to think that its only prayers will win in the end. The whole world seems to have gone mad. As you know I work in the antenatal clinic and sometimes I think the older women are worse than the young ones, Moral teaching seems to have gone out of homes and schools and

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16 Nov 1976

replaced by sex and the pill. We can only
keep on praying that these people will come
back to God one day. We now have five
grand children, and they are all well
thank God. Did I tell you Mary has a
little girl 7 months old, Tom and Pip have
another boy 10 months and Michael and Julie
another girl 3 months. They will all be
coming for Annes 2nd birthday which will be
in three weeks. She is at present at the
government research centre in London. She
went there in August and will come back
to college again for her final year. She comes
home about once a month, she has a room
and looks after herself. She is doing research
in to kidney disease. Have you heard from
Clark lately. There arent many of them left
out there now, most of them have been
called back to do a vacation drive. I think
their work is nearly finished out there. They

replaced by sex and the pill. We can only keep on praying that these people will come back to God one day. We now have five grand children, and they are all well thank God. Did I tell you Mary has a little girl 7 months old, Tom and Pip have another girl 3 months, They will all be coming for Anne's 21st birthday which will be in three weeks. She is at present at the government research centre in London. She went there in August and will come back to college again for her final year. She comes home about once a month, she has a room and looks after herself. She is doing research in to kidney disease. Have you heard from Mark lately. There aren't many of them left out there now, most of them have been called back to do a weather drive. I think their work is nearly finished out there. They

16 Nov 1976

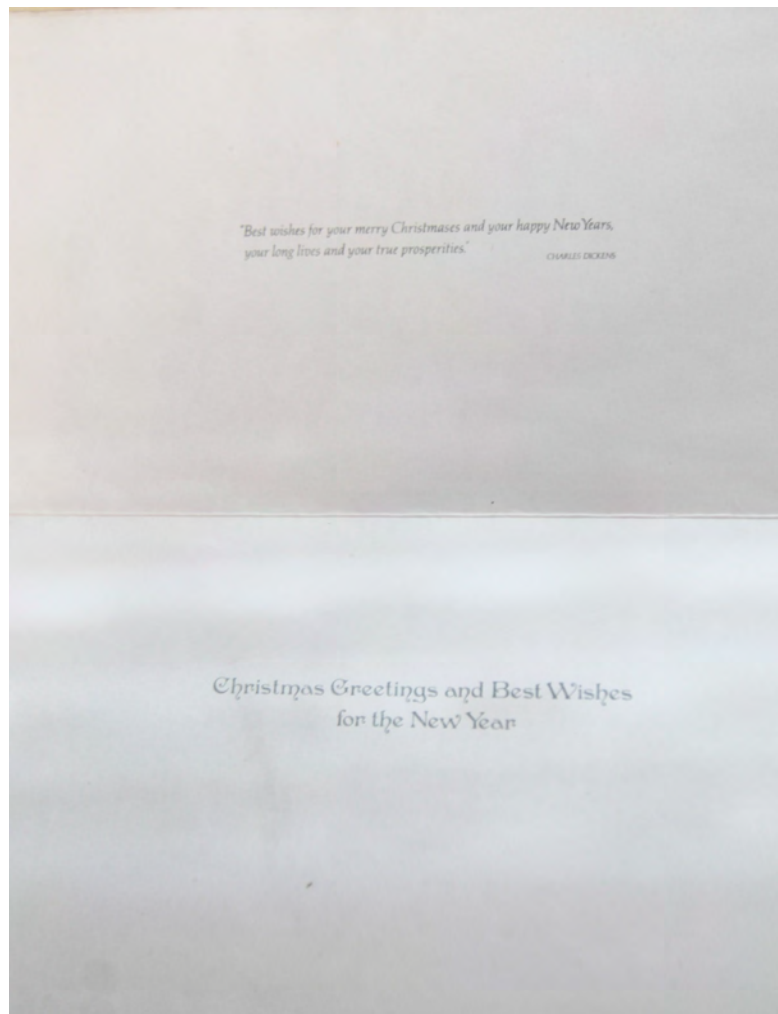
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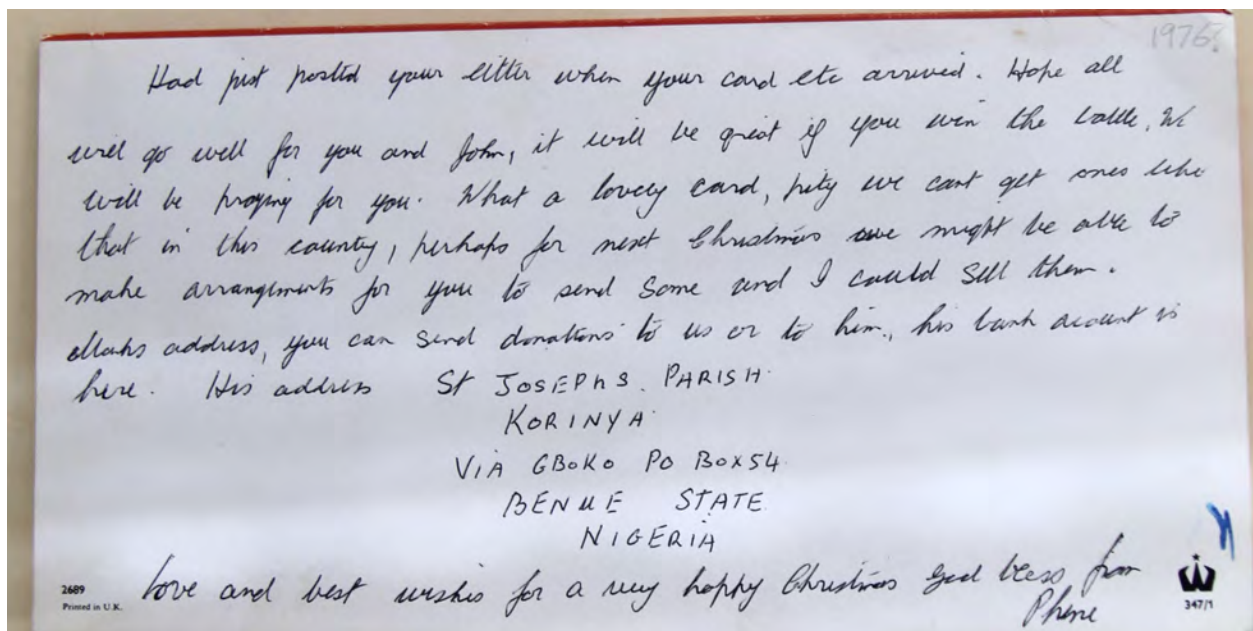
have quite a few native priests, so their work has not been in vain. Clark will miss his friends, but he will be home next year and hopes to stay for 6 months. He was hoping to go to Rome or America to do canon law but now with all this change he doesn't think he will have the time, as it's a two year course.

How is your cost of living over there, it gets worse here every day, meat and potatoes are very expensive and we have just had a big rise on the price of tea. We didn't go to Ireland this year, but we hope to make it next year please God. We hear regularly from them. I expect you heard Joan Kelly's husband had a bad car accident and has lost the sight of both his eyes. He has been to eye clinics in Germany and Boston and now he is attending one in Belfast. It's a great worry for Joan and all the family. We are

Have quite a few native priests, so their work has not been in vain. Mark will miss his friends, but he will be home next year and hopes to stay for 6 months. He was hoping to go to Rome or America to do canon law but now with all this change he doesn't think he will have the time, as it's a two year course. How is your cost of living over there, it gets worse here every day, meat and potatoes are very expensive and we have just had a big rise of the price of tea. We didn't go to Ireland this year, but we hope to make it next year please God. We hear regularly from them, I expect you heard Joan Kellys husband had a bad car accident and has lost the sight of both his eyes. He has been to eye clinics in Germany and Boston and now he is attending one in Belfast. It's a great worry for Joan and all the family. We are (Missing Page)

132. Christmas card from Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill 1976?





Had just posted your letter when your card etc arrived. Hope all will go well for you and John, it will be great if you win the battle, We will be praying for you. What a lovely card, pity we cant get ones like that in this country, perhaps for next Christmas we might be able to make arrangements for you to send some and I could sell them. Marks address, you can send donations to us or to him, his bank account is here. His address

St Josephs Parish Korinya via Gboko PO Box 54 Benue State Nigeria

Love and best wishes for a very happy Christmas God bless from Phine

133. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill 26 October 1977

73 Meadway
Hemel Hempstead City
Herts
26-10-77
My dear Elizabeth, John and children,
How
nice it was to hear from you to-day
and to know that you are all happy
well. Mark will be delighted with the
cheque you sent him and I must say
it was very good of you to think of
him. We are very curious to know
what the gemmick was. Mark is still
on his course up in the north of
England. He comes home every weekend
from Friday night to Sunday night. I
am sure he will be writing to you
and will tell you all about it. I

My dear Elizabeth, John and children, How nice it was to hear from you to-day and to know that you are all keeping well. Mark will be delighted with the cheque you sent him and I must say it was very good of you to think of him. We are very curious to know what the gimmick was. Mark is still on his course up in the north of England. He comes home every weekend from Friday night to Sunday night. I am sure he will be writing to you and will tell you all about it . I

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26 Oct 1977

did intend to write to you after John had called but never got round to it. We were delighted to see him and we were hoping he would call again before he left the country. He left his pocket after him, but I suppose it would have been out of his route to call back for it. We all thought he is very much like his mam, and we think he is marvellous to do what he has done. I am sure you are all looking forward to his home coming. We had a very nice holiday in Ireland in September and we were very lucky to have had nice weather. We have had a rotten Summer here, very little sunshine. Very glad to see you are

did intend to write to you after John had called but never got round to it. We were delighted to see him and we were hoping he would call again before he left the country. He left his packet after him, but suppose it would have been out of his route to call back for it. We all thought he is very much like his mum, and we think he is marvellous to do what he has done. I am sure you are all looking forward to his home coming. We had a very nice holiday in Ireland in September and we were very lucky to have had nice weather. We have had a rotten summer here, very little sunshine. Very glad to see you are

3

26 Oct 1977

Still keeping up the wonderful life work.
 Sometimes I wonder if we are all
 fighting a losing battle but somehow
 I think the tide will turn one day and
 perhaps all the good work will not
 have been in vain. We are expecting
 three more grand children, Peppa in about
 three weeks, Mary in January and Julie
 announced this week that she too
 hasn't let it go with them, early days
 yet but it's some time in May. Anne
 is back at college again and should
 be taking her finals in May. Tom is
 helping very well thank God. He is going
 to Poland the 20th Nov for a month.
 Norton the firm he works for has
 opened a new factory out there. Have
 you seen Dick Ferris, do remember

still keeping up the wonderful life work. Sometimes I wonder if we are all fighting a losing battle but somehow I think the tide will turn one day and perhaps all the good work will not have been in vain. We are expecting three more grand children, Pippa in about three weeks, Mary in January and Julie announced this week that she too hasn't let it go with them, early days yet but its some time in May. Anne is back at college again and should be taking her finals in May. Tom is keeping very well thank God. He is going to Poland the 20th November for a month. Nortons the firm he works for has opened a new factory out there. Have you seen Dick Ferris, do remember (Missing Page)

134. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill 18 August 1979

73 Allentown
Helen John City
Nerts.
August 18th 1979

My dear Elizabeth, John and family,

Since we saw the disaster on T.V. that you have had in Duneedin you are on my mind and I am wondering if all is well with you. I do hope you all escaped, it must have been a very frightening experience. It's so long since we heard from you but of course you can say the same about me. I don't know where I left off with grand-children but the 9th is coming up any time now. Tommy has three boys. Michael three girls and Mary is expecting her third, she has a girl and boy and I think this one will probably be a girl. We have now started a life movement here but sad to say abortions go on in spite of everything. I still

My dear Elizabeth, John and family, Since we saw the disaster on TV that you have had in Dunedin you are on my mind and I am wondering if all is well with you. I do hope you all escaped, it must have been a very frightening experience. Its so long since we heard from you but of course you can say the same about me. I don't know where I left off with grand children but the 9th is comping up any time now. Tommy has three boys, Michael three girls and Mary is expecting her third, she has a girl and boy and I think this one will probably be a girl; We have now started a life movement here but sad to say abortions go on in spite of everything. I still

18 Aug 1979

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work in the ante-natal clinic and I just boil over when I see so called Catholics having abortions for social reasons. How are all your family, any of them married yet, has John settled down in his native land, it was so nice meeting one of the family although it was only for a short while. Tom has now retired, but he manages to keep himself busy in the garden. He broke a bone in his foot some time ago but suffered no ill effects apart from having it in plaster for six weeks. He were up in Manchester a few weeks ago to see Mark. The old house they got from the bishop is now beautifully renovated and they are very pleased with all the young people who come and stay with them. They have four lads starting their novitiate in September so all their hard work has not been in vain. The chapel is almost finished and will hold about 100. Mark

work in anti-natal clinic and I just boil over when I see so called Catholics having abortions for social reasons. How are all your family, any of them married yet, has John settled down in his native land, it was so nice meeting one of the family although it was only for a short while. Tom has now retired, but he manages to keep himself busy in the garden. He broke a bone in his foot some time ago but suffered no ill effects apart from having it in plaster for six weeks. We were up in Manchester a few weeks ago to see Mark. The old house they got from the bishop is now beautifully renovated and they are very pleased with all the young people who come and stay with them. They have four lads starting their Novitiate in September so all their hard work has not been in vain. The chapel is almost finished and will hold about 100. Mark

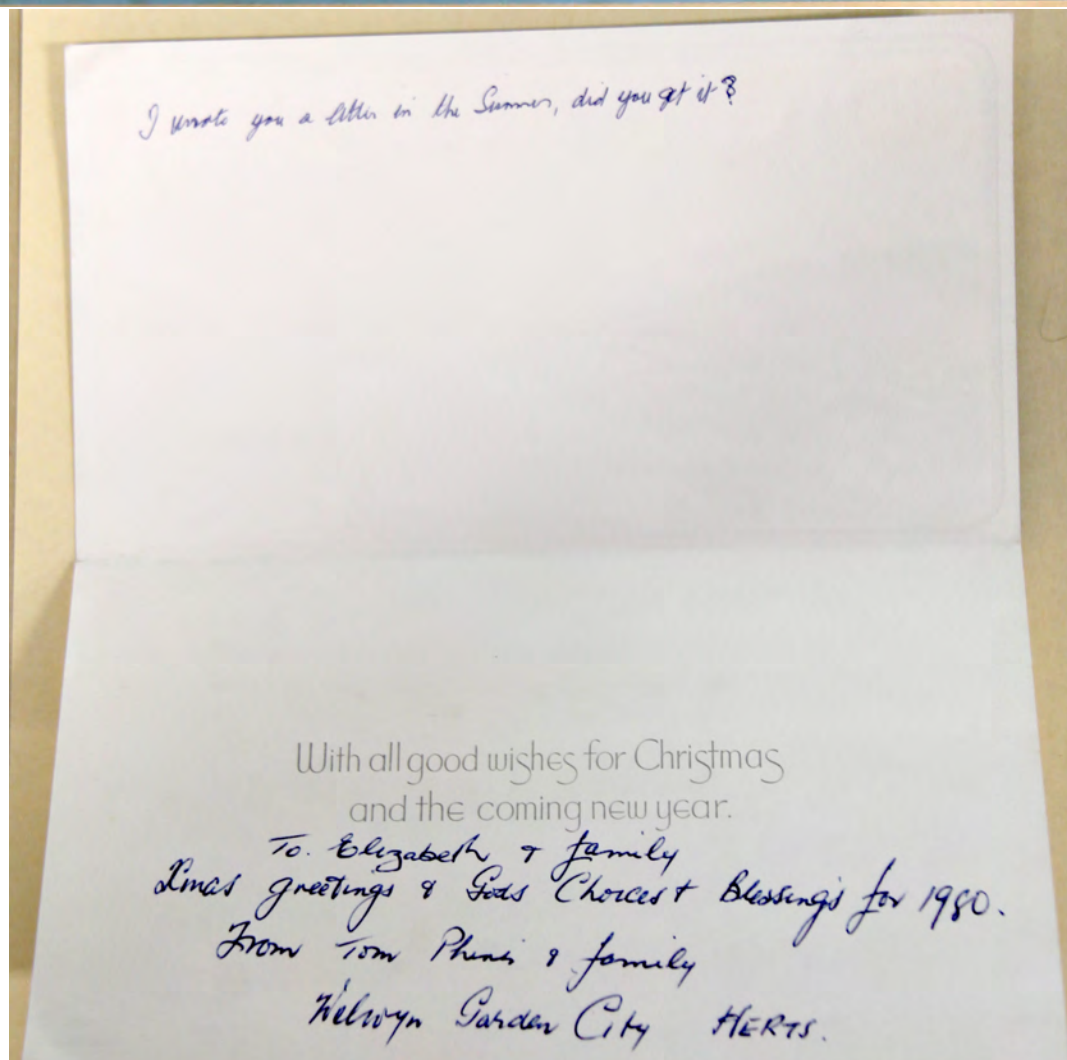
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18 Aug 1979

is feeling very tired, and is hoping he will get away for a few days rest. He is applying to go to South America next year, how the time flies, when he said he was staying home for three years we all thought how lovely, but now there is only one year left and I am sure that will go by all too quickly. We are going to Ireland in October for John Phelps wedding, He is the youngest of Ilas boys, and I am sure if she were alive she would expect us to be there so we feel we must go. Mark is doing the wedding service, I think Anne and Gerard will probably come also. We don't see much of Anne. I think I told you she is in Oxford doing a P.H.D., she has her first year over her and three more to go. We are having rotten weather here, too much rain and no sun-shine. Any of the family coming this way for holidays. I hope to hear from you soon. Love to all the family. Ed Kiss from Phine

is feeling very tired, and is hoping he will get away for a few days rest. He is applying to go to South America next year, how the time flies, when he said he was staying home for three years we all thought how lovely, but now there is only one year left and I am sure that will go by all too quickly. We are going to Ireland in October for John Kellys wedding, He is the youngest of Itas boys, and I am sure if she were alive she would expect us to be there so we feel we must go. Mark is doing the wedding service, I think Anne and Gerard will probably come also. We don't see much of Anne. I think I told you she is in Oxford doing a P.H.D, she has her first year over her and three more to go. We are having rotten weather here, too much rain and no sunshine. Any of the family coming this way for holidays. I hope to hear from you soon. Love to all the family God bless from Phine

135. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, December 1979



I wrote you a letter in the summer, did you get it?

To Elizabeth & family Xmas greetings & Blessings for 1980. From Tom
Phini & family

Welwyn Garden City Herts

136. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, [December 1982]

73 Meadoway
Wellesbourne City
Herts

My dear Elizabeth, John and children, It seems
so long since we had any news from you.
I do sincerely hope you are all well, I do
often think of you and we do talk about
the day you paid us a very short visit.
It must be over 30 years ago but - it
doesn't seem all that long ago. I think
Michael was a baby, he is now 32 years
old. and there are a lot of changes since
those days. Have any more of the family
got married. Rita must soon be going in to
her teens. We are still as we were
when I last wrote, no more marriages
and no more grandchildren. Anne at last
is working, she got a job in research, it's
in haemophilia and she seems to be enjoying
it.

My dear Elizabeth, John and children, It seems so long since we had any news from you. I do sincerely hope you are all well, I do often think of you and we do talk about the day you paid us a very short visit. It must be over 30 years ago but it doesn't seem all that long ago, I think Michael was a baby, he is now 32 years old. And there are a lot of changes since those days. Have any more of the family got married, Rita must soon be going to her teens. We are still as we were when I last wrote, no more marriages and no more grandchildren. Anne at last is working, she got a job in research, it's in haemophilia and she seems to be enjoying it.

Mark is here with us for the past few weeks. He
 and another priest are attending houses lectures
 at London University three days a week. They
 are finding it hard but at least they will
 know the basics when they get to their
 new mission. They leave on the 6th January
 its the other side of Mexico he is going
 to this time. He went to Ireland last
 September for a holiday and enjoyed it
 very much. He also celebrated our ruby
 wedding in October, and a big surprise put
 on by the children. We had moss first
 in the church where we were married and
 a very nice reception laid on at Holy Trinity
 school. The children also looked a week
 end for us in Edinburgh which we enjoyed
 very much. I hope Mary is well and
 happy, any chance of her coming to England.
 The state of this county doesnt get any better
 there are a lot of people out of work.
 I still do my little job in the hospital.
 Tom is keeping well thank God, he misses going in the
 garden now that Winter is here. I hope you will
 all have a happy and joyous Christmas. God bless from
 Phine and Lora.

Mark is here with us for the past few weeks. He and another priest are attending University three days a week. They are finding it hard but at least they will know the basics when they get to their new mission. They leave on the 6th of January it's the other side of Nigeria he is going to this time. We went to Ireland last September for a holiday and enjoyed it very much. We also celebrated our ruby wedding in October, and a big surprise put on by the children. We had Mass first in the church where we were married and a very nice reception laid on at Holy Family school. The children also booked a weekend for us in Edinburgh which we enjoyed very much. I hope Mary is well and happy, any chance of her coming to England. The state of this country doesn't get any better there are a lot of people out of work. I still do my little Job in the hospital. Tom is keeping well thank God, he misses going in the garden now that winter is here. I hope you will all have a happy and joyous Christmas. God bless from Phine and Tom

137. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 29 November 1982

29 Nov 1982
My dear John and Elizabeth, Hope you
are all keeping well. Its such a
long time since we had any news
of you. I wonder if you are
grandparents, it would be nice to
know. May please God will
produce our twelfth the end
of January. Michael and Julie
had a boy in August. The
three girls are delighted and
make a great fuss of him. May
and I went to Ireland in May
Delia wasn't well but she is O.K.
again thank God. We hear from
Mark regularly, he is finding

My dear John and Elizabeth, Hope you are all keeping well. It's such a long time since we had any news of you. I wonder if you are grandparents, it would be nice to know. Mary please God will produce our twelfth the end of January: Michael and Julie had a boy in August. The three girls are delighted and make a great fuss of him. Mary and I went to Ireland in May Delia wasn't well but she is OK again thank God. We hear from Mark regularly, he is finding

it rather tough in this mission
Tom is well thank God. I dare
say but you are all busy with
the Christmas preparations. I expect
you get all the Irish news from
Hathleen. How is Rita, I hope
she is well.

Our love to all the family
God bless you
Phine

it rather tough in this mission. Tom is well, thank God. I dare say that you are all busy with the Christmas preparations. I expect you get all the Irish news from Kathleen. How is Rita, I hope she is well. Our love to all the family. God bless from Phine

138. Gerard Connolly to Patrick O'Neill, 7 March 1983

73 MEADWAY
WELWYN GDN. CITY
HERTS 7/3/83
Jan

Dear Paddy and All,

Thanks for your letter and information which we received just before Christmas. Firstly I had better introduce myself. I'm Gerard, the youngest of the Connolly family here in England.

As you probably know we are the only branch of O'Connor and Connolly family in England - all the others are in Ireland or America. It took us quite a bit of time to work out the family tree, but in the end we finally managed to fathom out the exact "who's who".

Dear Paddy and all, Thanks for your letter and information which we received just before Christmas. Firstly I had better introduce myself. I'm Gerard, the youngest of the Connolly family here in England. As you probably know we are the only branch of O'Connor and Connolly family here in England- all the others are in Ireland or America. It took us quite a bit of time to work out the family tree, but in the end we finally managed to fathom out the exact "who's who".

2

From the lines we have been able to trace it appears that your Great Grandfather, John O'Connor b 1850, was the brother of my Great Grandfather, and therefore we have the same Great, Great, Grandfather. -it all sounds very long doesn't it.

We have never kept up any form of family tree in our family. As in your family, we have many cousins, and would take a great deal of putting together. Even I could only just name all my first cousins. The best person to ask would be my mother's sister Kathleen. She is the one with all the family knowledge. Perhaps you would like to write to her for the rest of my

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information you want. Her name
and address is:

Miss. K. O'Connor
% Mrs. J. Murphy
Church Street
TARBERT, CO. KERRY, EIRE.

We have drawn up a family tree
for the "English" side and have
enclosed a photo of us taken at
mum and dad's 40th wedding anniversary.

Already we are getting a long
chain here, as you can see, and
no doubt one day we will be
able to boast a family as large
as your own.

I hope this ~~tree~~ is the type
of information you are looking for,

Information you want. Her name and address is:

Miss. K. O'Connor

c/o Mrs. J. Murphy

Church Street

Tarbert, Co. Kerry, EIRE.

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4

but if you want any more
information just write to me.

Good Luck and Best Wishes to All
Gerard Connolly

ON THE PICTURE:

LEFT TO RIGHT

GERARD MARK MARY ANNE TOM MICK

MUM (Half Asleep!) DAD

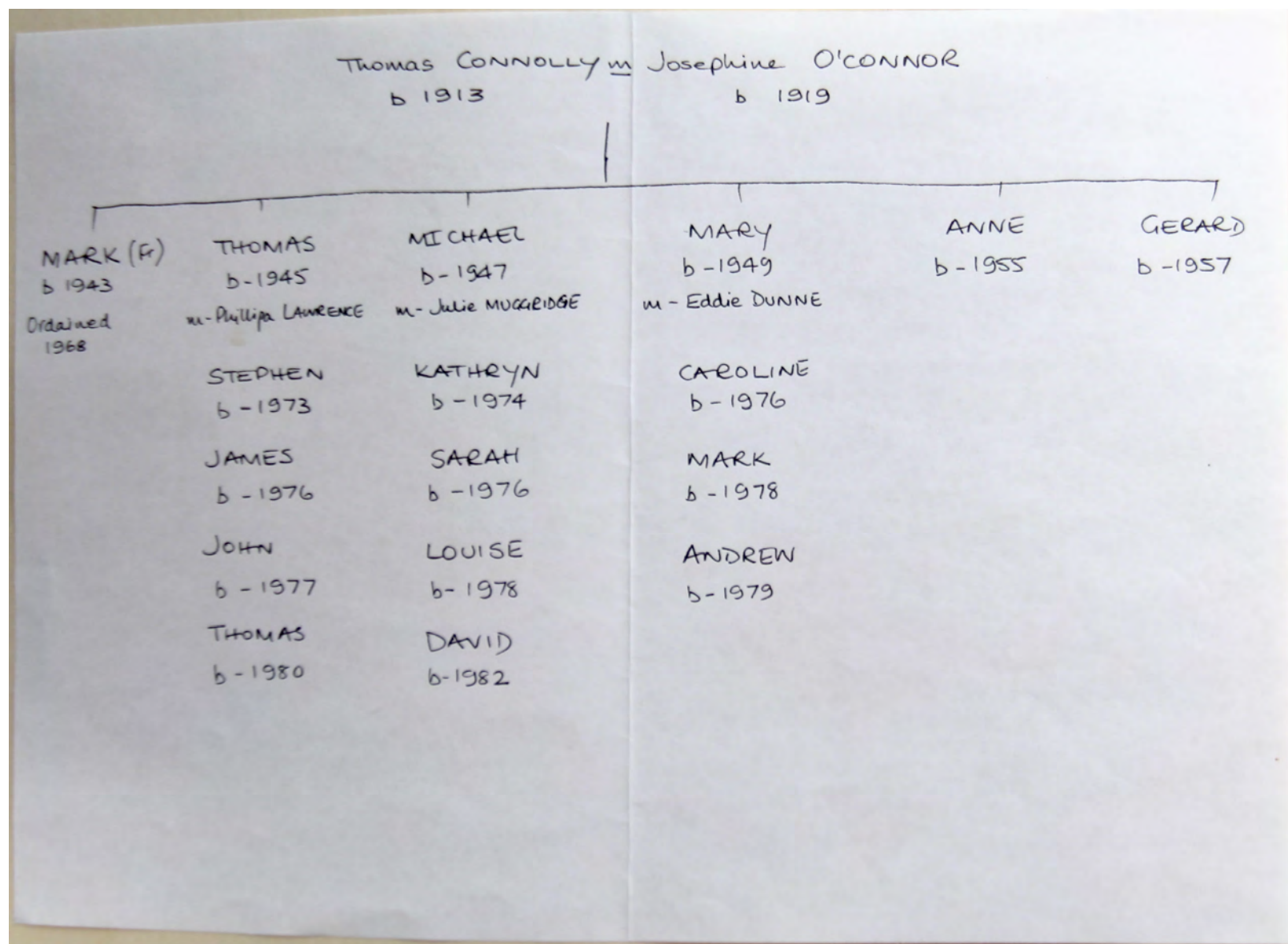
But if you want any more just write to me. Good Luck and Best Wishes
to All Gerard Connolly

On the Picture: left to right

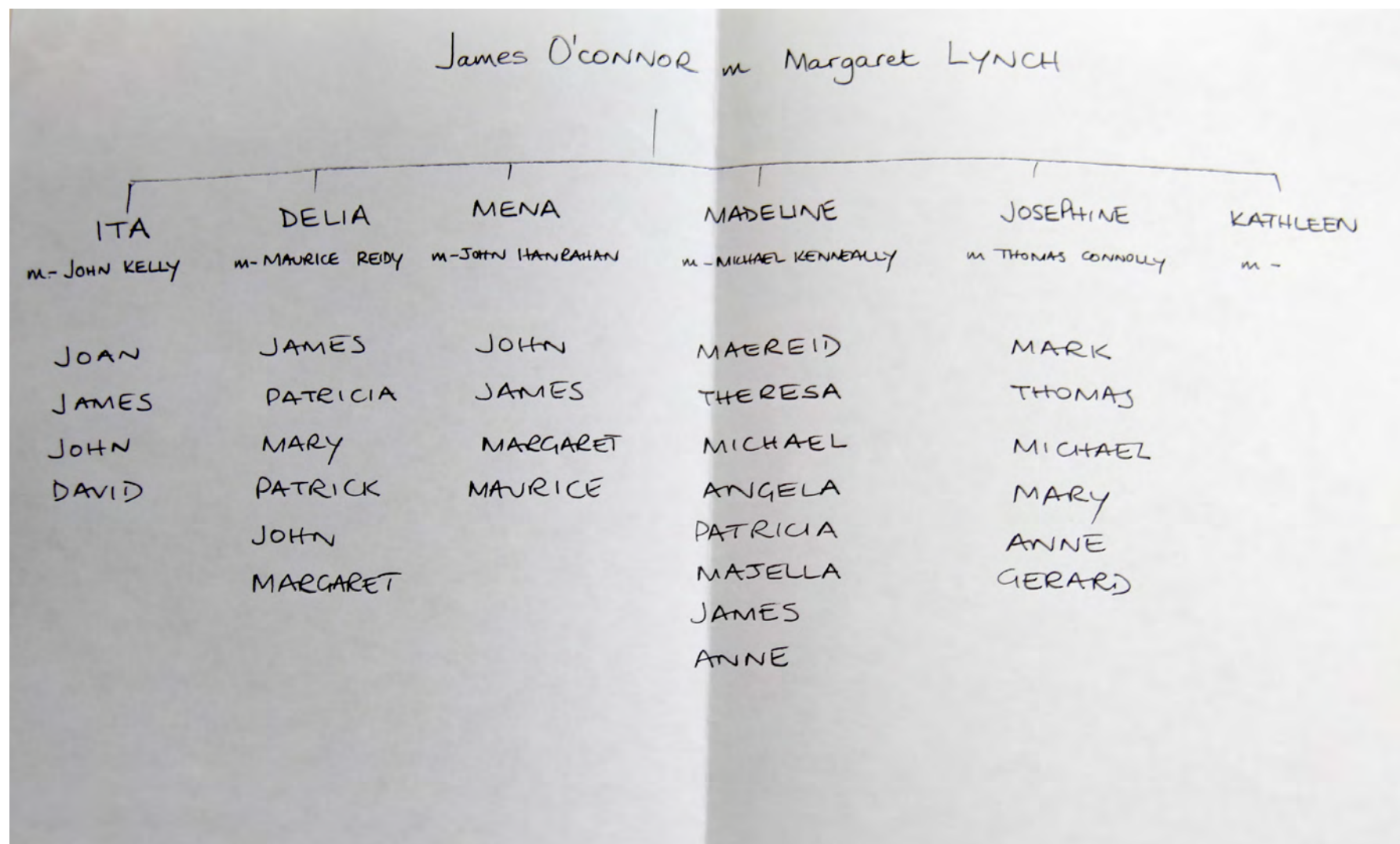
Gerard Mark Mary Anne Tom Mick

Mum (Half Asleep!) Dad

139. Thomas Connolly and Josephine O'Connor family tree 1983

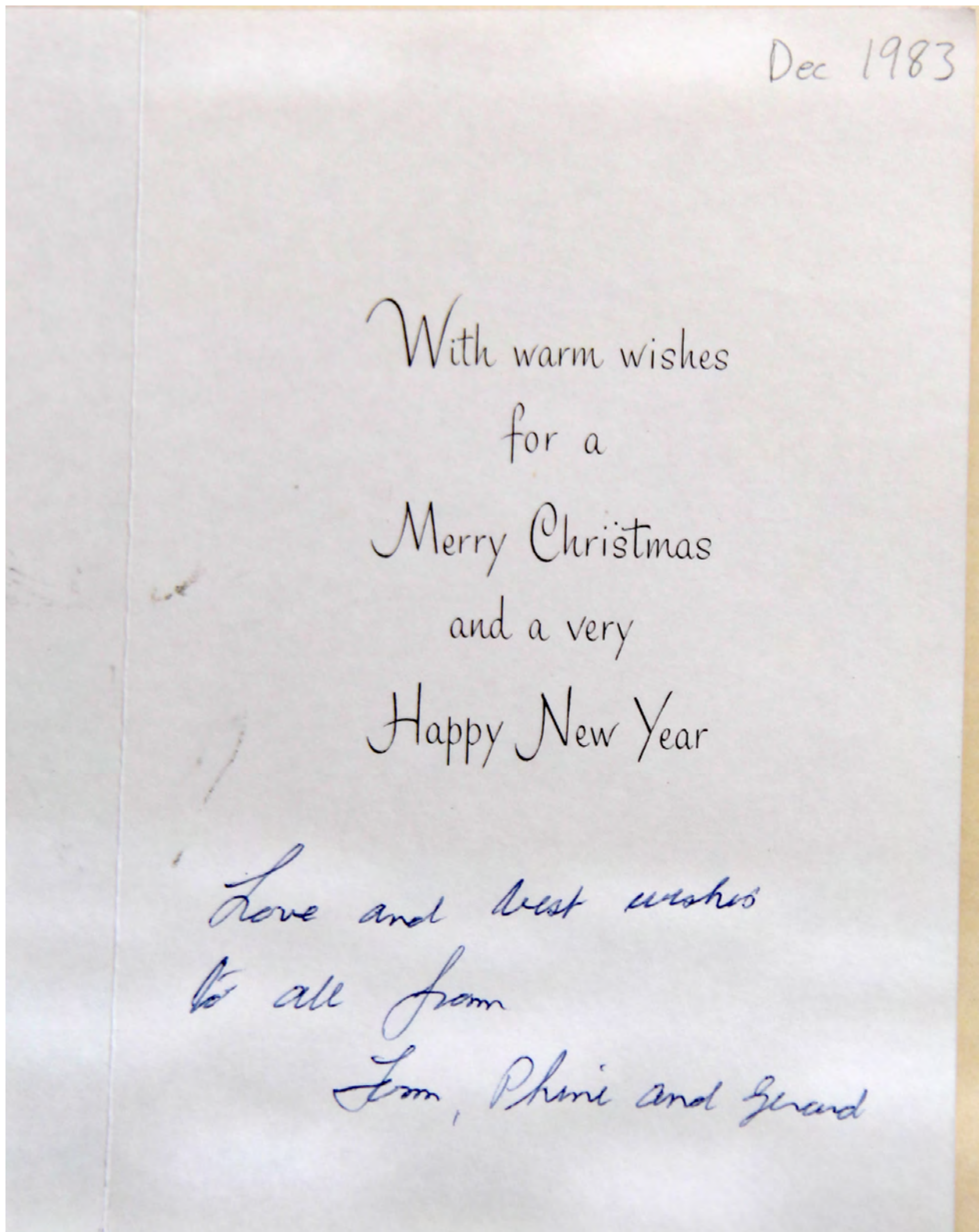


140. James O'Connor and Margaret Lynch family tree 1983



141. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, Christmas card, November 1983





Love and best wishes to all from Tom, Phine and Gerard

142. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 26 November 1983

73 O'Learyway
Helwyn John City
Herts.
Sunday 26th Nov 1983
My dear Elizabeth, John and family: Hope
all is well with you, its time to renew
old acquaintance and let you know how
we are at this side of the world.
We were delighted to see Margaret and
Justin in the Summer and I think they
enjoyed their tour. I think the weather
might have been a bit too hot for them
and that was very unusual for this
County. Fortunately they just missed
Mark, he arrived the day they left.
It doesn't seem possible now that he was
home and back again, we have only

My dear Elizabeth, John and family: Hope all is well with you, its time to renew old acquaintance and let you know how we are at this side of the world. We were delighted to see Margaret and Justin in the Summer and I think they enjoyed their town. I think the weather might have been a bit too hot for them and that was very unusual for this county. Unfortunately they just missed Mark, he arrived the day they left. It doesn't seem possible now that he was home and back again, we have only

26 Nov 83

2

heard once from him but he said he was
 going to be very busy so I don't suppose
 he has much time for writing. I get the
 impression from him that he is finding his
 work very difficult, bad roads, broken
 bridges and finding it very hard to visit
 all the mission stations. It was nice
 having him home for Anne's wedding. It
 went off very well and we were lucky to
 have a sunny day as it had been raining
 all that week. The Service was very
 nice. David is not a catholic but very
 interested and we all hope and pray
 that one day he will be received.
 They have a house in Oxford, not very
 big but it will do them for a start.
 Have I written to you since Mary
 had her last baby, his name is Simon

heard once from him but he said he was going to be really busy so I don't suppose he has much time for writing. I got the impression from him that he is finding his work really difficult, bad roads, broken bridges and finding it very hard to visit all the mission stations. It was nice having him home for Annes wedding. It went off very well and we were lucky to have a sunny day as it had been raining all that week. The service was very nice, David is not a catholic but very interested and we all hope and pray that one day he will be received. They have a house in Oxford, not very big but it will do them for a start. Have I written to you since Mary had her last baby, his name is Simon

26 Nov 83

so now they have three boys and one girl.
 They are all well thank God. Michael's
 youngest girl has a curvature of the spine
 and will have to be fitted with a
 plaster jacket. They hope to get it done
 before Christmas. Tom has been in hospital
 this year with his skin trouble. he is
 now attending the Royal Free three times
 a week for special treatment so with
 God's help it might keep it at bay.
 I hope all your family are well, is it Paddy
 that went for training for the priesthood,
 how about Rita, she must be grown up now.
 Do you see Mary often, I am sure you
 must miss them all, and like ourselves
 the house is quiet without them. We have
 still got Gerard at home with us. he
 has no intentions of getting married.

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4

He sees all his friends with broken
 marriages and says he hasn't found
 anyone else who is likely to spend
 the rest of her life with him.
 There are one or three divorces in
 this county now and you are counted
 as the odd one now if you haven't
 had at least two partners.
 We don't go to Ireland this year, but we
 hope to go next year please God.
 We get all the news from Kathleen
 and Delia Chadburn and one of her
 daughters came over for the wedding.
 I have a lot of letters to get through
 so I will finish this and send you much
 love and sincere wishes for a happy
 and joyous Christmas. God bless
 from Phine &

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143. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 7 January 1983

73 Meadoway
Welwyn Garden City
Herts.

7-1-83.

My dear Elizabeth, John and family.

How nice it was to get your letter and read all your lovely news. Unfortunately I only read your letter once and that was a quick scan. I stuck it in to my overall pocket with the intention of having a good read when the others had gone to bed. Alas in the meantime I decided to wash the overall and as you may guess, letters and all were washed. I tried to dry it off but it was unreadable. Of course I did the same with Paddy's. How lovely it was to hear from and he certainly has done some work in that family tree. I think he has delved a lot more in to it than I ever could, and it was so interesting to go through it all. I would want Kathleen here to go through it with me, she is very good at tracing back. He will certainly be looking forward to seeing Margaret, and she

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will be most welcome to stay with us. Did I
 understand from Paddy's letter that he is going to
 a seminary to train for the priesthood, our
 best wishes and prayers will be with him.
 I hope you all had a nice Christmas, like
 ourselves you had them all gathered round you
 and that's what family life is all about.
 Glad to hear Rita is well, you are all certainly
 helping ^{the} good work for life over there.
 Sometimes I think we are fighting a losing
 battle in this country. Do you still hear from
 Kathleen, no doubt she will have told you
 that aunt Nell died R.I.P.; she was the last
 of my father's sisters so that's the end of
 another line gone. He had a few lines from
 Mark before Christmas, he was busy and said
 he would write again when there was more time.
 He will be home some time in August, please God.
 Anne has her wedding fixed for September. We
 were glad to get the photo of John and family, he
 hasn't changed since we saw him; glad to hear
 Elay is well and happy. Our love and best
 wishes to you all and God's blessings for 1983
 Phine

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144. Phine Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 1 April 1984

73 deadway
24th Apr 84
Herts
1st April 84

My dear Elizabeth,

Your card yesterday. I did intend to write a few lines before Easter but now I want to rush this off before Mary leaves. I am hoping they will be able to pay us a visit. We don't have a car otherwise we would go to the air port to meet them. However if they go to Kings Cross Station they will get a train, they can buy $\frac{1}{2}$ hour and it takes just about 25 minutes. I am sure Theresa won't have much trouble in getting some kind of a job but she will have to be prepared

My dear Elizabeth, your card yesterday, I did intend to write a few lines before Easter but now I want to rush this off before Mary leaves. I am hoping they will be able to pay us a visit. We don't have a car otherwise we would go to the airport to meet them. However if they go to Kings cross Station they will get a train, they run every $\frac{1}{2}$ hour and it takes just about 25 minutes. I am sure Theresa wont have much trouble in getting some kind of a job but she will have to be prepared

1 Ap 1984

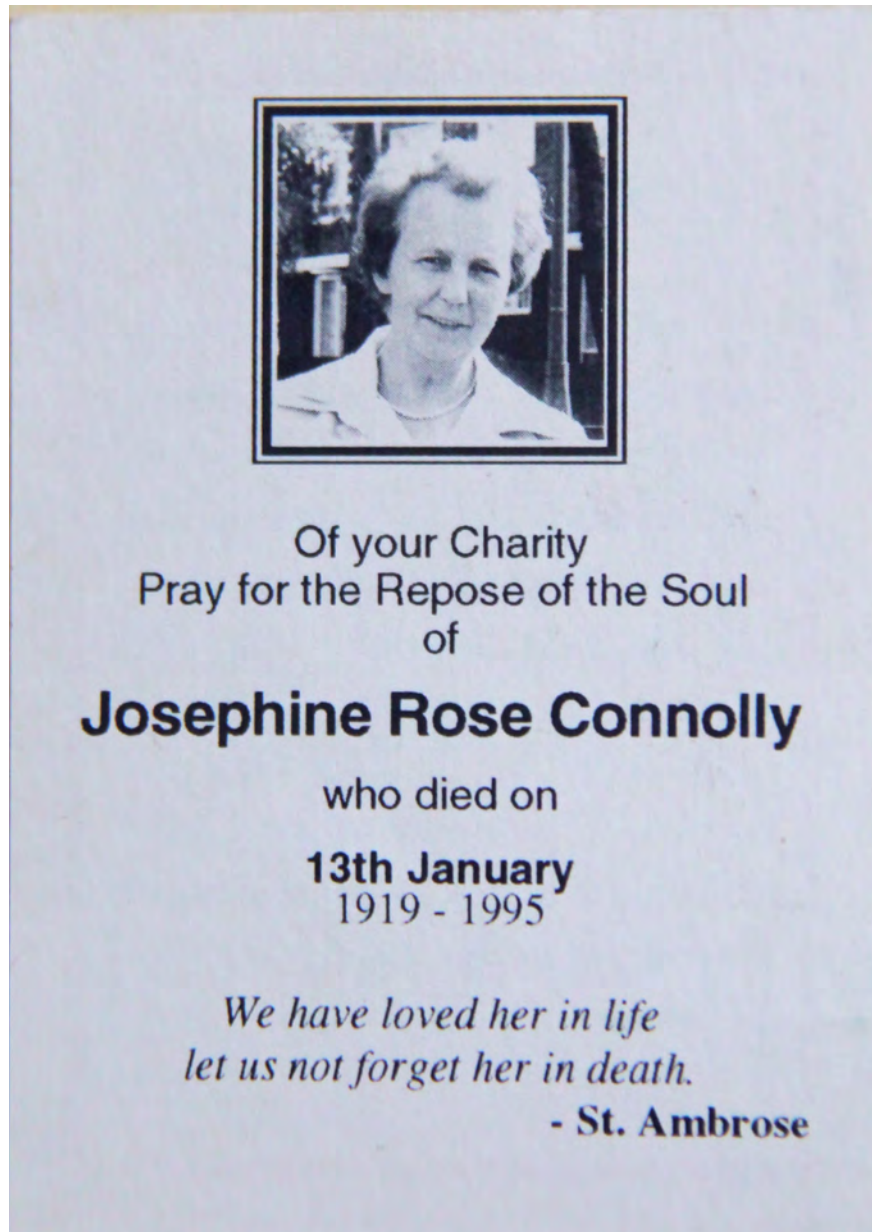
to take anything. There are $3\frac{1}{2}$ million out of work at the moment and with the school leavers coming up at Easter and Summer that is bound to be increased. She can always try for a Sea side job and that will give her a chance to see some of the country. Anyway I am sure they will both enjoy their trip and we look forward to seeing them. Our phone number is Helwyn garden 25507, they will have to look up the code. Mark phoned from Nigeria one night last week and it was good to hear he is well thank God. All the rest here are well thank God as I hope all your family are. Our love to John ~~and~~ children. God bless from
P.S. Phine

A happy and joyous Easter to all

to take anything. There are 3½ million out of work at the moment and with the school leavers coming up at Easter and Summer that is bound to be increased. She can always try for a sea side job and that will give her a chance to see some of the country, anyway I am sure they will both enjoy their trip and we look forward to seeing them. Our phone number is Welwyn garden 25507, they will have to look up the code: Mark phoned from Nigeria one night last week and it is good to hear he is well thank God as I hope all your family are. Our love to John and children God bless from Phine

P.S. A happy and joyous Easter to all

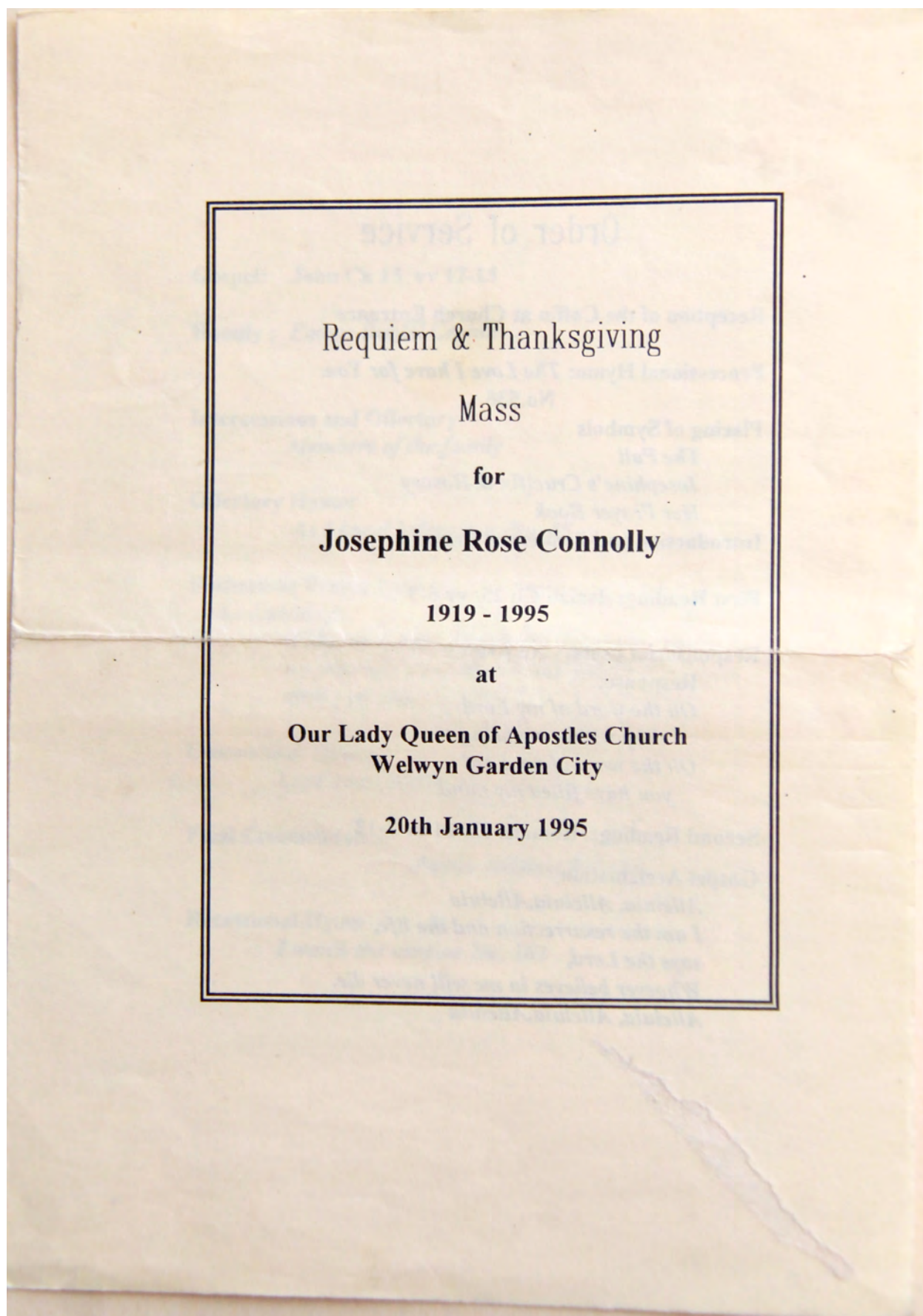
145. Josephine Connolly In Memoriam card and Funeral Mass brochure, 1995



Remember

O, Most Loving Virgin Mary
that never was it known that anyone
who fled to thy protection, implored thy
help or sought thy intercession was left
unaided. Inspired with this confidence
I fly unto thee O Virgin of
Virgins My Mother. To thee I
come, before thee I stand, sinful and
sorrowful. O, Mother of the Word
Incarnate, despise not my prayers and
petitions but in thy clemency hear and
answer me.

Amen



Order of Service

Reception of the Coffin at Church Entrance

Processional Hymn: *The Love I have for You.*
No.536

Placing of Symbols

The Pall

Josephine's Crucifix & Rosary

Her Prayer Book

Introduction and Penitential Prayers

First Reading: Isaiah Ch 25 vv 6-9

Responsorial Psalm No 431

Response:

Oh the word of my Lord

deep within my being

Oh the word of my Lord

you have filled my mind.

Second Reading: Romans Ch 14 vv 7-12

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the resurrection and the life,

says the Lord,

Whoever believes in me will never die,

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel: John Ch 15 vv 12-15

Homily : *Father Daniel Cronin*

Intercessions and Offertory
Members of the family

Offertory Hymn:
As I kneel before you No. 45

Eucharistic Prayer No 3

Acclamation:

*When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death Lord Jesus
until you come in glory*

Communion Hymn:
Lord Jesus Christ No. 326

Final Commendation:
Father Michael Kennedy

Recessional Hymn
I watch the sunrise No. 262

Josephine Connolly R.I.P.

Born on the 16th June 1919, the fifth of six daughters to James and Margaret O'Connor of Glin, Co. Limerick.

She arrived in England for the first time in 1933 for two years schooling with the Sisters of Mercy at Boston Spa, North Yorkshire.

She returned to England in 1936 and was employed at the 'Shredded Wheat' until her marriage to Thomas Connolly on 11th October 1941.

Her six children were born between 1943 and 1957.

She started nursing at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital soon after its opening in September 1963 and she retired from that work in 1984.

She died peacefully on the 13th January 1995 at Tenterden Nursing Home, Bricket Wood.

*" And your wisdom will spread and grow
like the cedars of Lebanon"*

Proverbs

146. Thomas Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 2 May 1995



*Thomas Connolly and Family
would like to thank you for
your Masses, prayers, thoughts
and expressions of sympathy
during Josephine's prolonged illness
and at the time of her death,
and for the many donations
received in her memory
to alleviate the distress of
refugees in Sierra Leone.
The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
will be offered for
your intentions on Easter Sunday.*

*73, Meadway,
Welwyn Gdn. City,
Herts.*

March 1995

20.5.95 43 Meadway
WELBYN SAN CITY
HERTS

Dear Mrs Overall

Many thanks for your
kind letter of condolence &
mass card. I/we are all
trying to come to terms
with our sad loss, but
God decided she had suffer-
ed enough. She was a
gem & cannot be
replaced. Fifty four years
of happy married life
has made an indelible
mark on ones life
very hard to bear the
loss of our so precious
kindest regards to your
good self & family

God Bless.

Yours sincerely
Phine Connolly

20.5.95

Dear Mrs O'Neill

Many Thanks for your kind letter of condolence + Mass card. I/We are all trying to come to terms with our sad loss, but God decided she had suffered enough. She was a gem & cannot be replaced. Fifty four years of happy married life has made an indelible mark on one's life. Very hard to bear the loss of one so precious. Kindest regards to your good self & family.

God Bless.

Yours Sincerely

Thos Connolly

Part 5: Fr Mark Connolly

Phine Connolly's eldest son Mark was ordained a Holy Ghost Father (now Spiritans) in 1968, and went to Nigeria soon after as a Catholic missionary. Elizabeth and John O'Neill sent donations and letters to Father Mark, as did Elizabeth's 1950 travel companion Sister Mary Justin. Father Mark visited New Zealand in 2003, and between 2004 and 2011 he worked in the diocese of Broome and Port Hedland, in Western Australia. As elsewhere, there are long gaps in the series of letters here, and more letters have probably been preserved that have not yet been found. Father Mark has given his permission for these letters to be included here.

147. Fr Mark Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, Dunedin, 20 May 1970

St. Charles R.C.M.,
Adoka,
Via Oturkpo,
P.O. Box 89,
Benire Plateau State,
NIGERIA.

20th May, 1970.

Dear Elizabeth,

Looking at the postmark of your letter and today's date there seems to be a big lapse of time for which I sincerely apologize. It is unfair not to acknowledge your letter and gift immediately. I hope you will forgive me.

I don't think you can imagine my delight when I received your gift. At the time Father and myself were wondering how we could pay for the mason's bill on the Church roof. God always provides. So your gift has gone to the roof of our Church. It will take some time to finish yet because we can only move as money becomes available, but when it is finished it will be a grand Church. We have to organize the whole building programme ourselves. One has to supervise all the time and this takes up a great deal of time. We also have just completed a Maternity and are starting another one at the end of this year we hope.

I have offered up three Masses for the intentions you asked for and I shall continue to remember them in my prayers. Please God by now your tenth child will be in the world. I hope everything went well.

We have rather a big area to cover in this parish, covering about 1600 sq. miles with 80 stations of one size and another. Sometimes we might be able to get to a station once a year which is not a good thing. If another 40 priests were put into this diocese we would be just about able to do the work we should be doing without making any rapid advances. What makes the whole situation worse is that the war has just ended and it is taking time for life to get on the move again.

I cannot say that I have settled down at all. It makes time a long time. There are so many things which are strange, particularly the people. Their language is very hard and I must admit I have made no progress at all.

We are very busy at the moment trying to straighten out things. Father is going away next week for 3 months leave so I will be by myself.

My sincerest thanks once again for your generosity. Please remember our work in your prayers. My regards to all your family.

Mark Connolly.

St Charles R.C.M., Adoka, via Oturkpo, P.O. Box 89, Benire Plateau State,
Nigeria

20th May 1970

Dear Elizabeth

Looking at the postmark of your letter and today's date there seems to be a big lapse of time for which I sincerely apologize. It is unfair not to acknowledge your letter and gift immediately. I hope you will forgive me.

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We are very busy at the moment trying to straighten out things. Father is going away next week for 3 months leave so I will be by myself.

My sincerest thanks once again for your generosity. Please remember our work in your prayers. My regards to all your family.

Mark Connolly

148. Fr Mark Connolly to Catherine Nicholl, Gore, 29 June [1970]

29th June

rolls.

Many thanks for your unexpected but most welcome letter. It is a pleasure to hear from someone you have never met but knows of your existence. My sincere thanks also for your cheque. It is very much appreciated and surely needed. So far I have worked up a debt of £300 trying to build a church and Makumbi so it will certainly help to clear some of that debt.

I have offered Masses for your intentions as you have requested. At the moment I am sure at the Mission by myself. The other Father is away on leave for three months. The Bishop is making a visitation at the moment so my hands are full taking him around to see different people.

I have only been out for six months but I feel as strange as the day I first arrived. So are so many things one has to get used to. The people, the climate, the type of work. It will take me many years to feel I am making some headway.

By the time I am writing these few lines the Bishop has left after spending two days here. I must say that he is very easy to get on with. But looking after a diocese this size with only 30 priests calls for a great deal of resourcefulness.

We are now in the middle of the rainy season which cuts down our ability to work considerably. There are no such things as radial roads out here, consequently it is very hard to travel with the road with 3-4 ft of mud.

I hope you will excuse me if I do not use up the rest of this letter for. Time prevents me from writing again as there are a thousand and one things I must do before the sun goes down.

My sincere thanks once again for your kindness and generosity. If by any chance you do want me to say more Masses for you, the Bishop is telling me that the best way to transfer money is to have it credited to the account of the Diocese of Makumbi at Barclays D.C.O. Bank, Northumberland Ave.

London

29th June [1970?⁴⁰]

Dear [Mrs Nicholl]

Many thanks for your unexpected but most welcome letter. It is a pleasure to hear from someone you have never met but knows of your existence. My sincere thanks also for your cheque. It is very much appreciated and sorely needed. So far I have worked up a debt of £300 trying to build a church and Maternity so it will certainly help to clear some of that debt.

I have offered Masses for your intentions as you have requested. At the moment I am here at this Mission by myself. The other Father is away on leave for three months. The Bishop is making a visitation at the moment so my hands are full taking him around to see different people.

I have only been out here six months but I feel as strange as the day I first arrived. So are so many things one has to get used to. The people, the climate, the type of work. It will take me many years to feel I am making some headway.

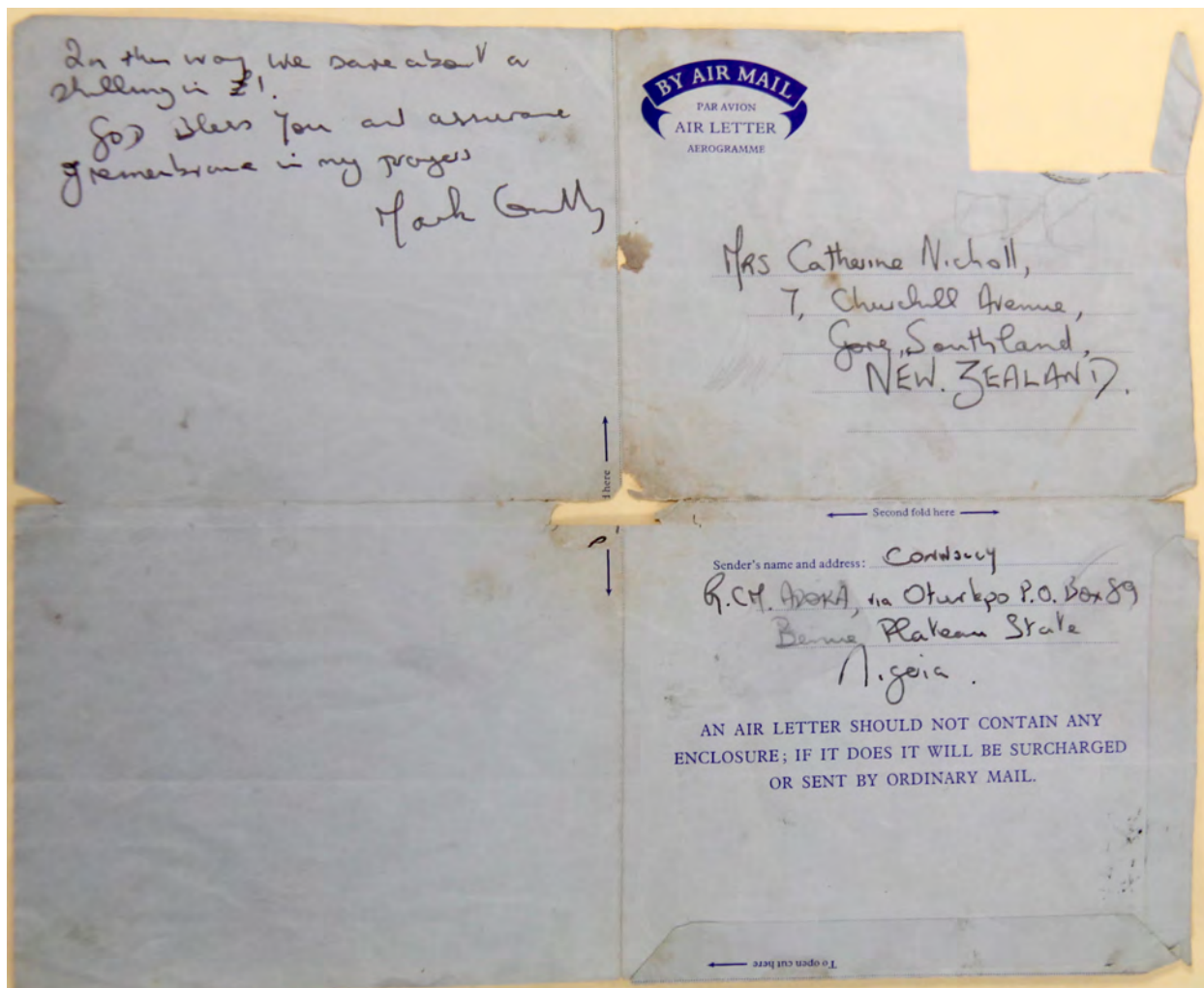
By the time I am writing these few lines the Bishop has left after spending two days here. I must say that he is very easy to get on with, but looking after a diocese this size with only 30 priests calls for a great deal of resourcefulness.

We are now in the middle of the rainy season which cuts down our ability to work considerably. There are no such things as tarred roads out here, consequently it is very hard to travel with the roads with 3–9 ft of mud.

I hope you will excuse me if I do not use up the rest of this letter form. Time prevents me from writing any more as there are a thousand and one things I must do before the sun goes down.

My sincere thanks once again for your kindness and generosity. If by any chance you do want me to say more Masses for you, the Bishop was telling me that the best way to transfer money is to have it credited to the account of the Diocese of Mahur at Barclays D.C.O. Bank, Northumberland Ave, London.

⁴⁰ In Phine Connolly's letter dated 29 August 1970, she says that 'I was so glad to hear your mam got Mark's letter before she died.'



In this way, we save about a shilling in £1.

God Bless you and assurance of remembrance in my prayers.

Mark Connolly

RCM Adoka, via Oturkpo, P.O. Box 89, Benne Plateau State, Nigeria

149. Fr Mark Connolly to John Francis O'Neill, Dunedin, 8 July [1970]

Weel 8th July. 1970

Dear John,

Many thanks for your unexpected but most welcome letter. I must say your letter was very informative and now I have a very good idea of what a young man like yourself does in New Zealand.

I suppose you would be very interested to hear about life at my work here in Nigeria. I must confess that I am not a great letter writer and every one complains that I do not give very good accounts in my letters.

I have only been in this country for six months and I have still not settled down in spite of the fact that I am already temporarily in charge of a mission.

It is a big mission covering approx 1600 sq miles. We have about 85 stations some of them with up to 400 church members in them so you can imagine there is plenty of work to do.

We try to visit them as often as possible but this often means only twice a year. Since there are very few roads we have to trek for one station to another and the school children carry my loads on their heads, sometimes for distances up to

Six miles. You would be surprised to see children about 3 or 4 years old carrying big buckets of water on their heads.

The roads out here are very bad. No much things as tarmac roads. And you can imagine what they are like during the rainy season when it is here now. Trying to get a car through 2 to 3 ft of mud.

We are also in the process of building a new church and a building a new dispensary building. We have already completed one and I started on the foundation of the second one last week. It will cost £1500 to complete.

You asked about food. One cannot eat all the food that the Officers have. We have to try and get hold of European chop but sometimes this is very difficult. But I must confess that there is always something around so that I never have to starve.

I am glad you were able to find Oshikpo on the map. Akoben is about 24 miles N.W of Oshikpo. At one time

Wed 8th July

Dear John,

Many thanks for your unexpected but most welcome letter. I must say your letter was very informative and now I have a very good idea of what a young man like yourself does in New Zealand.

I suppose you would be very interested to hear about life and my work here in Nigeria. I must confess that I am not a great letter writer and everyone complains that I do not give very good accounts in my letters. I have only been in this country for six months and I have still not settled down in spite of the fact that I am already temporarily in charge of a mission.

It is a very big mission covering approx. 1600 sq miles. We have about 85 stations some of them with up to 400 church members in them so you can imagine there is plenty of work to do.

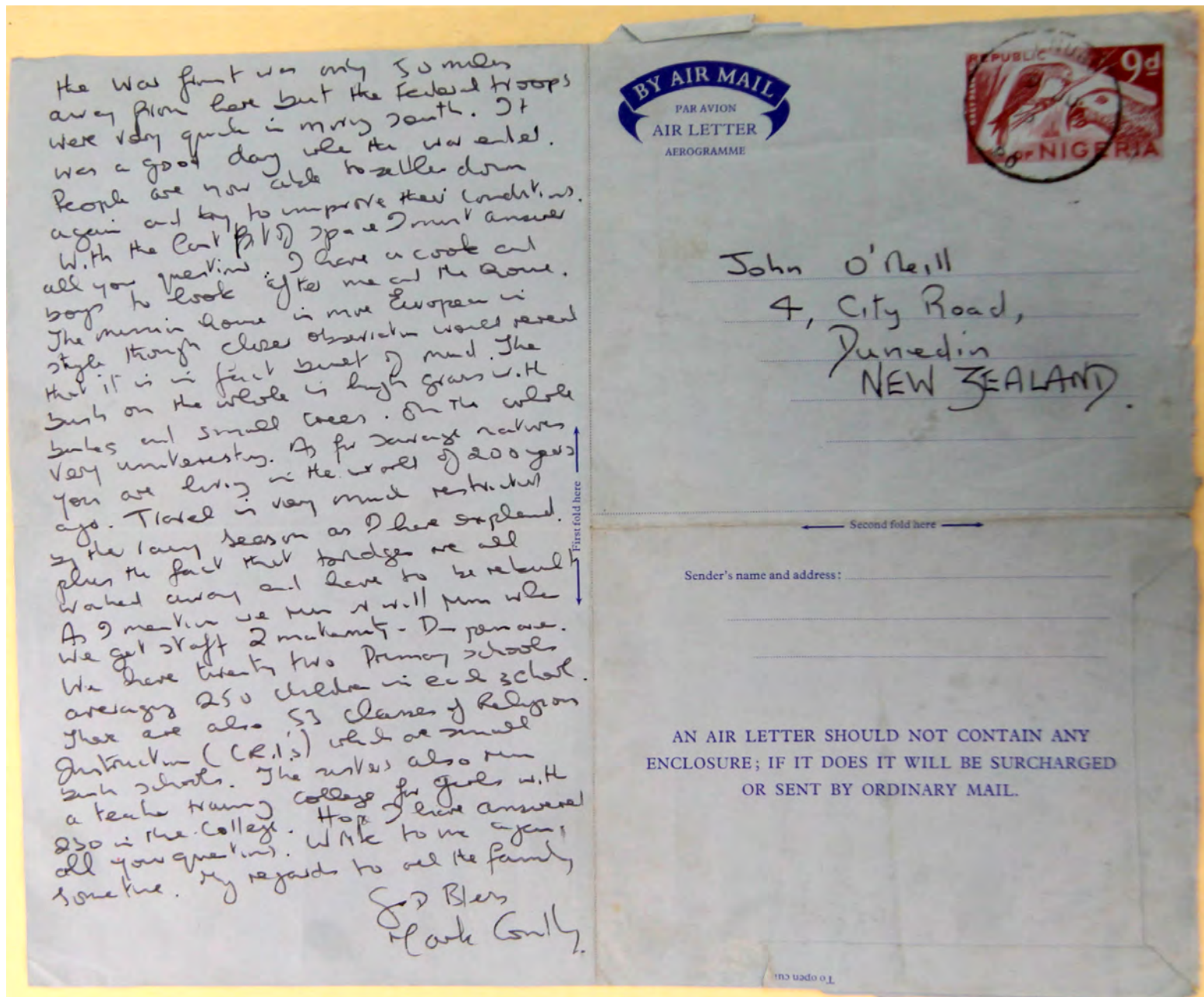
We try to visit them as often as possible but this often means only twice a year. Since there are very few roads we have to trek from one station to another and the school children carry my loads on their heads, sometimes for distances up to six miles. You would be surprised to see children about 3 or 4 years old carrying big buckets of water on their heads.

The roads out here are very bad. No such things as tarred roads. And you can imagine what they are like during the rainy season which we have now. Trying to get a car through 2 to 3 ft of mud.

We are also in the process of building a new church and a maternity and dispensary building. We have already completed one and I started on the foundations of the second one last week. It will cost £1500 to complete.

You asked about food. One cannot eat all the food that the Africans have. We have to try and get hold of European chop but sometimes this is very difficult. But I must confess that there is always something around so that I never have to starve.

I am glad you were able to find Oturkpo on the map. Adoka is about 24 miles N.W. of Oturkpo. At one time



the war front was only about 50 miles away from here but the Federal troops were very quick in moving south. It was a good day when the war ended. People are now able to settle down again and try to improve their conditions.

With the last bit of space I must answer all your questions. I have a cook and boys to look after me and the house. The mission house is more European in style though closer observation would reveal that it is in fact built of mud. The bush on the whole is high grass with bushes and small trees. On the whole very uninteresting. As for savage natives you are living in the world of 200 years ago. Travel is very much restricted by the rainy season as I have explained plus the fact that bridges are all washed away and have to be rebuilt. As I mention we run or will run when we get staff 2 maternity-Dispensaries. We have twenty two Primary schools averaging 250 children in each school. There are also 53 classes of Religious Instruction (C.R.I.s) which are small bush schools. The sisters also run a teacher training college for girls with also in the College. Hope I have answered all your questions. Write to me again sometime. My regards to all the family

God Bless

Mark Connolly

150. Fr Mark Connolly to John and Elizabeth O'Neill, Dunedin, [1971?]

146-10.6
Telfer. ga 1970

Dear Mr and Mrs O'Neill

You must think me very ungrateful and ill-mannered for acknowledging your letters and your gift and I do ask your forgiveness. I can offer no excuse than a mixture of laziness and forgetfulness. However my sincere thanks for your gift. Notification of its arrival came from a bank in Lagos and it has since been transferred to the mission account. At least I presume that the money in question is the money that you sent because that is the only money that I have been expecting. However if in the future you do decide to send some money it is safer and loses less value if you get your bank to credit The Diocese of Makurdi account in the favour of Fr. M. Connolly at Barclays D.C.O. Bank, Northumberland Avenue, London N.W.2. Many thanks also for the documents which you sent relating to the early missionary endeavours in New Zealand. I must say that the letters bear a striking resemblance in content to the letters of early missionaries of the Congregation which we have in the archives.

As you will notice from the address I am now back in Africa. I returned last week after a very enjoyable holiday. Evidence of this can be seen by the amount of weight I put on, nearly two stone. However I must confess that it is a real pleasure to be back and I am already settled down to a full days work again. Something of a revelation is beginning to take place in our missionary work here in the diocese, a lot of this as a direct consequence of the Vatican Council which has made it necessary to rethink everything again. We are going to concentrate much more on the adults and create much more opportunities which has not been the real policy before instead of spending so much time on

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at they are all getting on so well even the youngest one of the
ed of my continuous prayers that every thing will
out well.

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t for England so I must reply to that now lest I
books as well. May God Bless You All,

Mark Connolly

c/o Emmanuel Sec. School, Obokolo, Oturkpo P.O. Box 9, Benue Plat.
State, Nigeria

Dear Mr and Mrs O'Neill

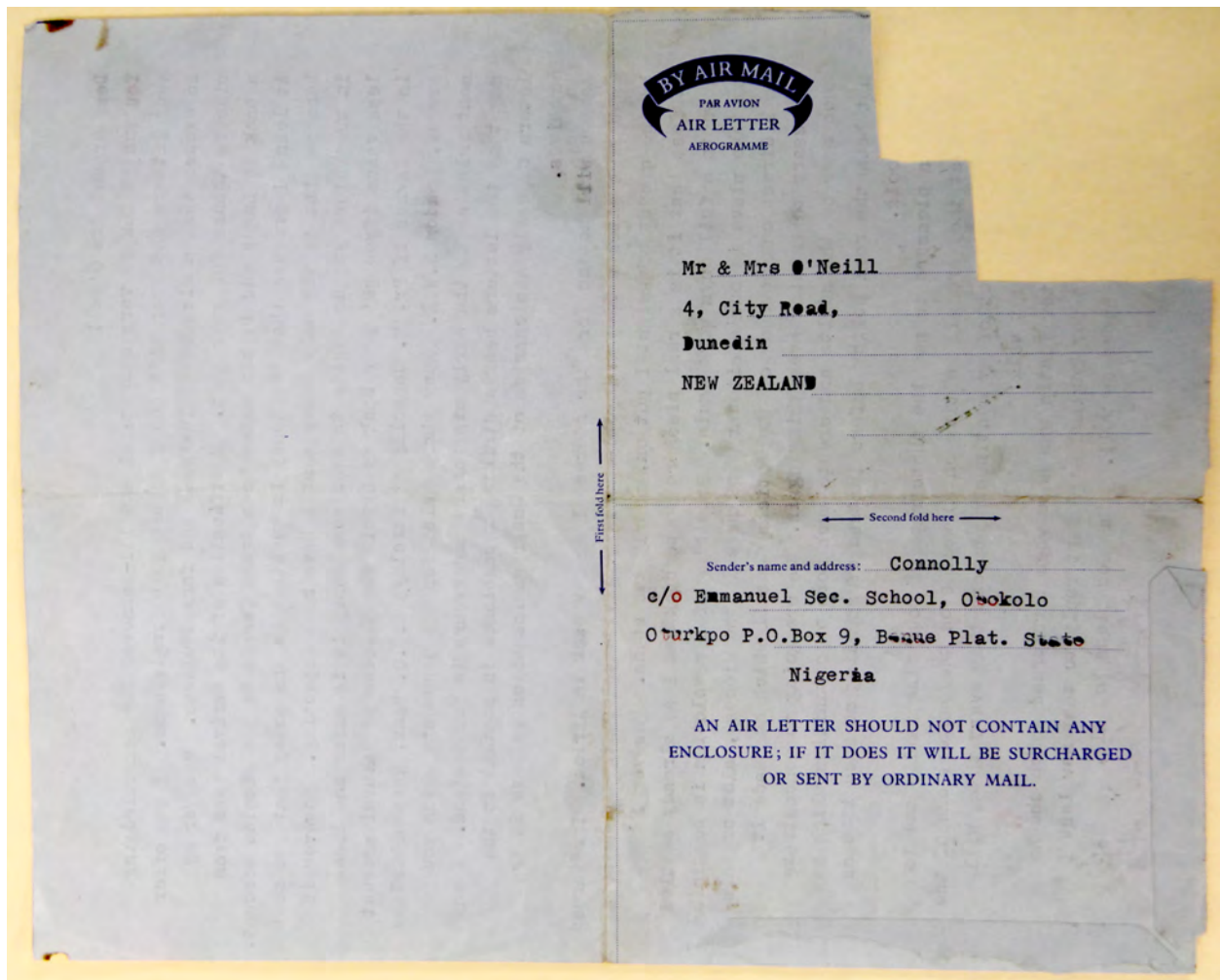
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[...] a pleasure to see the photograph of your fine family and to [...] that they are all getting on so well even the youngest one of the [...] assured of my continuous prayers that every thing will [...] out well.

[...] Sister Justin was here when I returned which she had [...] for England so I must reply to that now lest I [fall into her bad] books as well. May God Bless You All

Mark Connolly



151. Fr Mark Connolly to Sister Mary Justin, Heretaunga, 16 May 1972

May 1972

Dear Sister Justin,

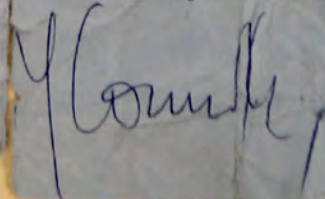
A long time has passed since I received your last letter and as I have a few spare moments on my hand I can fill them most usefully by writing. Actually at the moment I am out in bush. I am at a station which I cannot reach by motor so I have treched in and settled down for five days. This meant get ing a schoolboy to carry the typewriter on his head as well as bringing in all the other loads. The people of the village have given me a little room with a table and an easy chair and I have brought my own camp bed and food and a boy to cook for me. It is rather an important station as it is the centre of twelve villages which have shown in the past a good response to the work which we are trying to do. I have been out to some of the viallges to speak to the people and to say Mass. Tomorrow being Sunday I expect that there will be three or four hundred for Mass and about 70-90 for confession.

Things are beginning to move a little bit in t of Obokob. I ahve strted to build some churches and am getting some response from the people. But it is a slow proceddure and patience in these mat ter is a thing that I lack, especially when it comes to the lack of money.

I hope that you are keeping well, and that the work that you are engaged on is going on well. You mentioned in your last letter that you may be going on transfer so I am not sure if this letter will ever reach you. Any way I hope that whatever you are doing now is pleasing to you.

I hope to hear fom you again in the future and asking remembrance in your prayers.

Yours Sincerely in Christ



Dear Sister Justin,

A long time passed since I received your last letter and as I have a few spare moments on my hand I can fill them out most usefully by writing. Actually at the moment I am out in the bush. I am at a station which I cannot reach by motor so I have treched in and settled down for five days. This meant getting a schoolboy to carry the typewriter on his head as well as bringing in all the other loads. The people of the village have given me a little room with a table and an easy chair and I have brought my own camp bed and food and a boy to cook for me. It is rather an important station as it is the centre of twelve villages which have shown in the past a good response to the work which we are trying to do. I have been out to some of the villages to speak to the people and to say Mass. Tomorrow being Sunday I expect that there will be three or four hundred for Mass and 70–90 for confession.

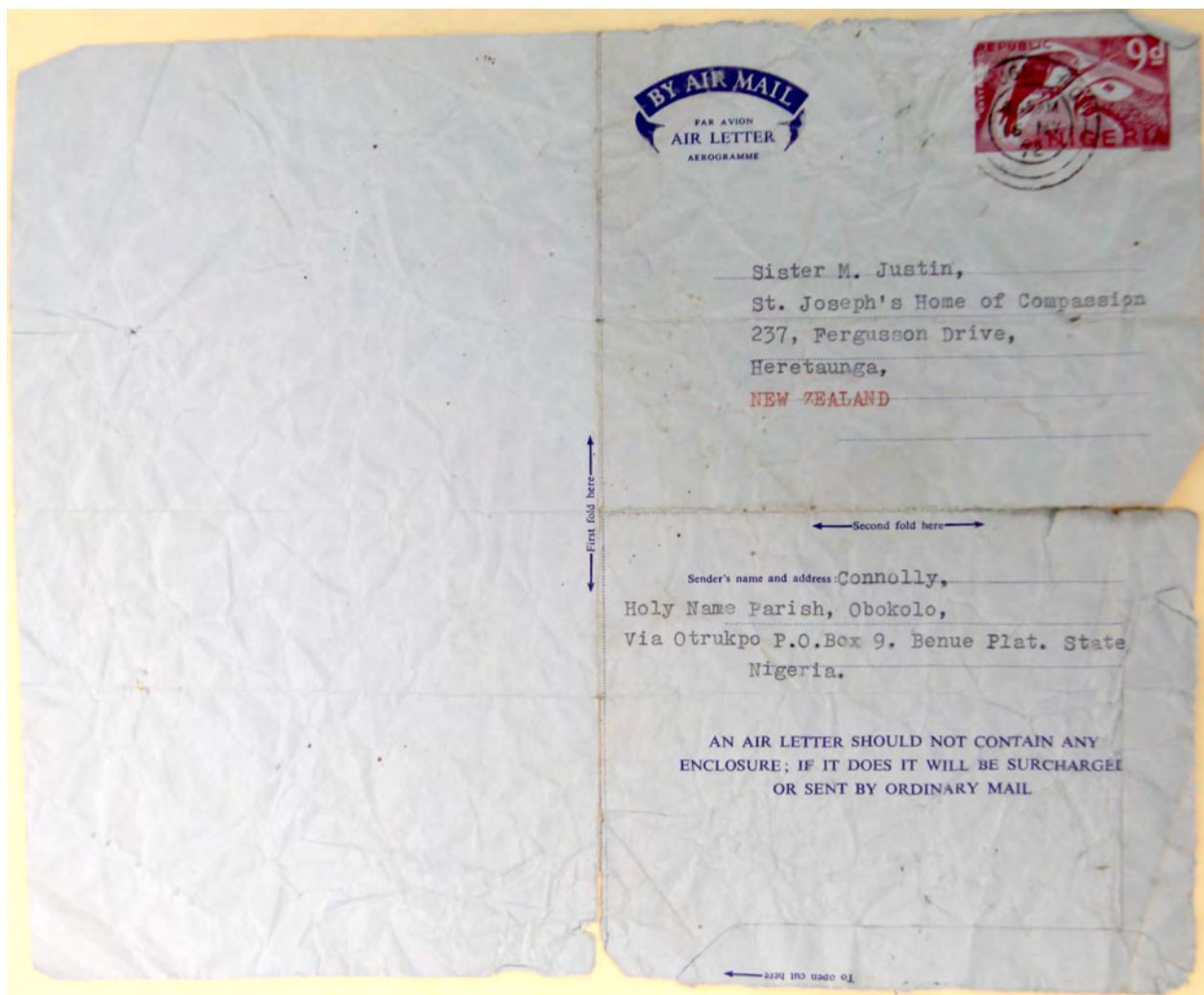
Things are beginning to move a little bit in the [...] of Obokolo. I have started to build some churches and am getting some response from the people. But it is a slow procedure and patience in these matters is a thing that I lack, especially when it comes to the lack of money.

I hope that you are keeping well, and that the work that you are engaged on is going on well. You mentioned in your last letter that you may be going on transfer so I am not sure if this letter will ever reach you. Any way I hope that whatever you are doing now is pleasing to you.

I hope to hear from you again in the future and asking remembrance in your prayers.

Yours Sincerely in Christ

M. Connolly



152. Fr Mark Connolly to John and Elizabeth O'Neill, [about September 1972?]

ca 1972
Dear Mr & Mrs O'Neill.
My apologies for not replying to your letter before.
It has been a mad rush ~~here~~ for the last month and even now it still continues. They have managed to slip away from the mission another place for two days to answer a mail.
As regards all bank drafts. Have no fear money that you sent have been received. So is no trouble. As long as you use the Bank then it is safe enough.
I am very pleased to hear that you are a strong fight against the Abortion Act. That's good. It is not a problem here as possibly will not hit here for many years. It's the pride of every woman here, whether she be married or not to have children so there is no question of abortion. You might meet one or two cases in girls' colleges where they will have an abortion because failing so they will be thrown out, but even there in most cases the girls prefer to lose the opportunity in college.
At the moment the new school year starts so I have the problem of organising staff for the school. This means 7 teachers each for the 17 government schools and two teachers each for the 10 schools that I run. We are at the moment trying to change our approach.

Dear Mr & Mrs O'Neill

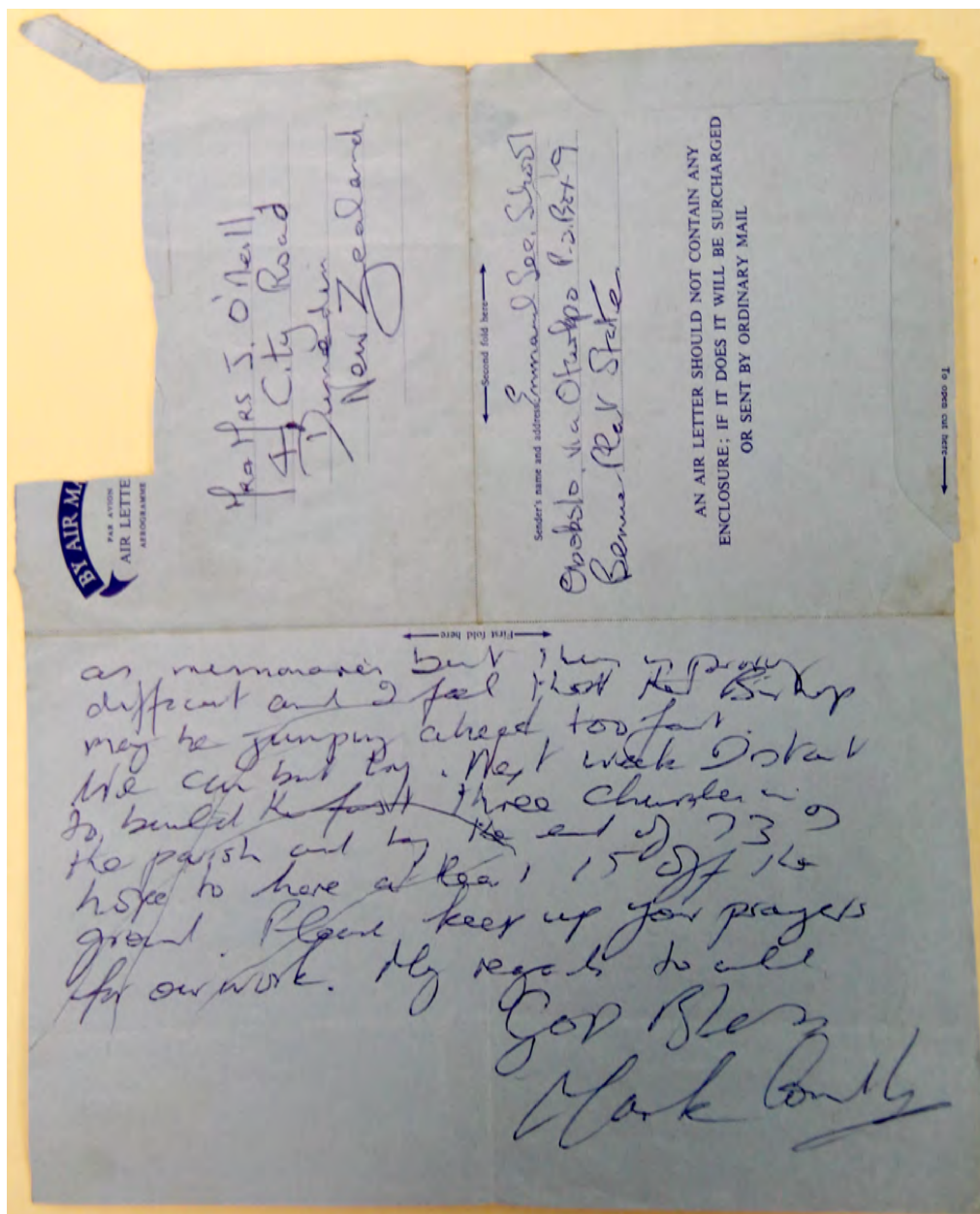
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At the moment the new school year starts so I have the problem of organizing staff for the school. This means 7 teachers each for the 17 government schools and two teachers each for the 10 schools that I run. We are at the moment trying to change our approach

⁴¹ John O'Neill was the Acting Chairman of the Dunedin Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child from November 1970 until the Society's formal establishment in March 1971, and was actively involved in its work until his death in 1992.



as missionaries but this is proving difficult and I feel that the Bishop
maybe jumping ahead too fast. We can but try. Next week I start to build
the first three churches in the parish and by the end of 73 I hope to have
at least 15 off the ground. Please keep up your prayers for our work. My
regards to all

God Bless

Mark Connolly

153. Fr Mark Connolly to John and Elizabeth O'Neill, Dunedin, 9 January 1973

Jan 9th 73

Joe & Kate O'Neill

Belated Xmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year. I suppose I could use the former for next year. I have a letter in front of me which was dated and to which I am sure I refer since that time I have been transferred to my original parish of Adoka of Adoka Parish has been attached to Adoka, (I suppose just to make sure they gave me too much work to do.)

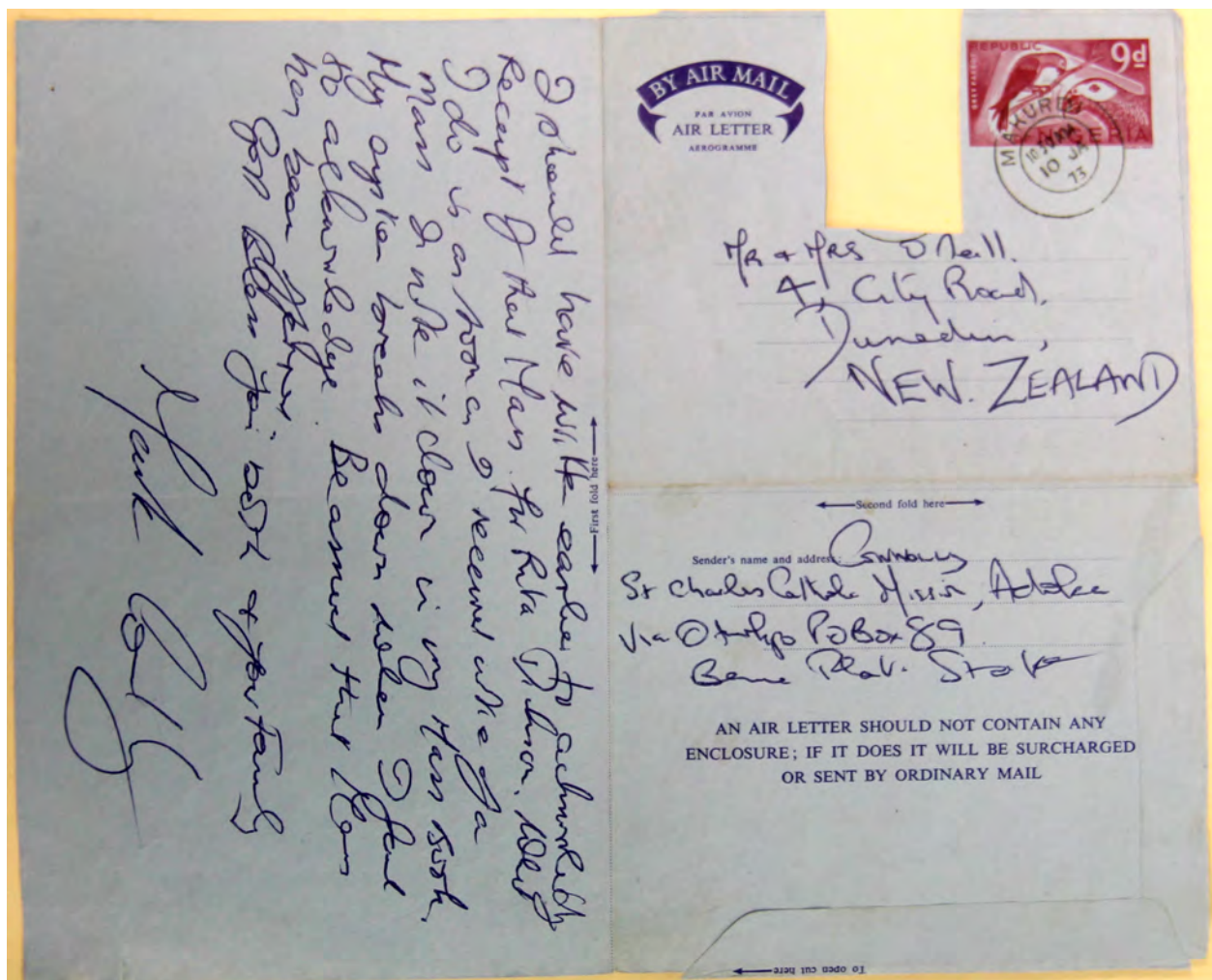
I am glad there could be use the contents of the letter. I suppose Regularity was a problem just as with this one. However the Father with me here with me and myself are going to overcome the problem. We are preparing a letter at the moment which we are going to send to all our friends. It will be typeset so that it can be read and it will be a combined effort between us both so it should cover all the things people would like to hear about our work.

Jan 9th '73

Dear Mr & Mrs O'Neill

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I am glad Therese could use the contents of the letter. I suppose legibility was a problem just as with this one. However the Father with me here in Adoka and myself are going to overcome the problem. We are preparing a letter at the moment which we are going to send to all our friends. It will be typed so that it can be read and it will be a combined effort between us both so it should cover all the things people would like to hear about our work.



I should have written earlier to acknowledge receipt of that Mass for Rita Dickinson. What I do is as soon as I received [...] of a Mass I write it down in my Mass Book. My system breaks down when I fail to acknowledge. Be assured that Mass has been offered.

God Bless you both & your Family

Mark Connolly

154. Fr Mark Connolly to John, Elizabeth and Mary O'Neill, Dunedin, 12 July 1973

July 13

Dear Mr & Mrs O'Neill & Mary.

The post mark on this letter obviously indicates that I am home on leave, and unfortunately there is no typewriter at hand so I ~~was~~ am forced to write in this bad handwriting of mine.

I left Nigeria last Friday and spent two days in Spain before reaching home. On the way - through Malindi the Vicar General informed me that your transfers (two) had reached Hong Kong. I could never express sufficiently my deep thanks for your gift. On the way home I was going to ask the Vicar General to lend me money to send back to the Mission to pay the missions for the Churches I have built so far. Your gift avoided a rather embarrassing situation for me and means that I can make plans to carry on building when I return without having to repay a debt.

I don't know whether I told you before but I was moved to another mission before Easter. This one is on the border of the Eastern Region about 17 miles from Waukka so that will help you to pinpoint it on a map. (Address - Rev M. Connolly, St Edwards Parish, Aiodu-ORUKPA, via Obollo-Afor, P.A. Nsukka, East Central State.)

The problems are much the same as the other parishes, trying to build up the Christian Community, and also assist in various social and community development projects particularly medical ones. Unfortunately we are so short of priests that the Mission is vacant for the three months that I am away.

So far for the few days that I have been home I have spent a lot of the time sleeping. Next week I shall start to show myself a bit more.

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So far for the few days that I have been home I have spent a lot of the time sleeping. Next week I shall start to stir myself a bit more.



All the family are very well which helps to make the leave all the more enjoyable.

I hope all are well at City Road. I shall have to write to Sister Justin soon.

My sincere thanks again for your generous gift. Your prayers would be deeply appreciated.

God Bless

Mark Connolly

155. Fr Mark Connolly to John and Elizabeth O'Neill, Dunedin, 30 March 1974

St Edwara's Parish,
Aiodu-Orukpa
via Obollo-Afor P.A.
Nsukka. East Cent. State.
m 30th March 1974.

Dear Mr and Mrs O'Neill,

I was in Makurdi yesterday and found that there was a transfer there from you in London. My very sincere thanks for your generosity. One of the reasons that I went to Makurdi was to see if I could borrow some money so with your gift there I was saved the embarrassment and the trouble of having to pay back later. Many thanks.

I hope that all the family are well. I hope that Mary received the letter that I sent her a couple of weeks ago. I have just come back from Jos also which is about 400 miles from here. I had to attend a meeting about Community Development. This is the big work in the third world at present and it comes home to one how important it is when one travels to Europe and see such things as running water, electricity, adequate medical facilities taken for granted when out here they are non-existent in the rural areas. As a consequence there is a big move to the cities with the consequent urban problems of housing, sanitation and inflation. Fortunately Nigeria has the resources and the initial steps taken in these matters the population is very large and it will take many years before complete parity with Europe will be achieved.

We are just at the beginning of the rains. We had rain two weeks ago and we are expecting the next lot very soon. At the moment it is very hot but with the rain things cool down slightly.

Recently I had part of the parish broken away and a new parish was created out of an existing two. This leaves more time to concentrate on a smaller area so I have had to try new approaches in the apostolate with the time that has become available. I want in the next few months to try and get hold of more catechetical aids to help me in the teaching of religion particularly to adults. I have employed two catechists and at the moment they are under training so it will be some time before we feel the full effects of all this. I am suffering from a touch of malaria and dysentery at the moment so I will have to come to an end of the letter. Many thanks again for your gift and assurance of my prayers.

God Bless You all
Mark Connolly

St Edwards Parish, Aiodu-Orukpa, via Obollo-Afor P.A., Nsukka, East
Cent. State

30 March 1974

Dear Mr and Mrs O'Neill,

I was in Makurdi yesterday and found that there was a transfer there from you in London. My very sincere thanks for your generosity. One of the reasons that I went to Makurdi was to see if I could borrow some money so with your gift there I was saved the embarrassment and the trouble of having to pay back later. Many thanks.

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God Bless You All

Mark Connolly



156. Fr Mark Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, Dunedin, 30 June 1976

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
KORINYA
VIA GBOKO P. O. BOX 54
BENUE STATE.
June 30th 1976.

Dear Elizabeth,

Many thanks for your letters and the publications which arrived earlier this month. It is heartening to know that there are some people really and actively involved in the anti-abortion campaign. Too many of our Christians are very passive in this matter. The newspaper that you sent (presumably edited by Mary) shows a lot of hard work has been put in trying to collate all the various data from all corners of the world. Even here there is the start of a clamour for abortion despite the great wish that the majority of Africans have for wanting children. Of course it is only the few 'liberal' thinkers that start the ball rolling. There is no public campaign as yet though certain overtones have been made by some members of the government to people in the medical field. One big pressure we have is that a strong percentage of the population and well over half the government are Muslim and the Koran is just as vehement against abortion as the Bible, and on top of that you have a tendency to have fewer 'liberated' Muslims than 'liberated' Christians.

How has the matter of refusing to pay taxes worked out. Has the protest had much publicity and consequent support. I hope that you do not have to suffer too much.

You mentioned in your letter about your friend from Uganda who has married a local girl. These mixed marriages should really be discouraged unless the couple involved are exceptional people. The problems involved are tremendous and much courage and faithfulness is needed to overcome them. However I am sure that in years to come most countries, unless they practice total racial discrimination will eventually have a mixed multi-racial society much as you find in the West Indies, where inter-marriage is quite normal.

I hope all the family are well. I am sure that your son John will enjoy his sojourn in Europe. Is it just a holiday or does he intend to stay for a few years. Give my regards to all and I assure you of my continual prayers.

May God Bless You

Mark Connolly

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Korinya, via Gboko P.O. Box 54, Benue State

June 30th 1976

Dear Elizabeth,

Many thanks for your letters and the publications which arrived earlier this month. It is heartening to know that there are some people really and actively involved in the anti-abortion campaign. Too many of our Christians are very passive in this matter. The newspaper that you sent (presumably edited by Mary) shows a lot of hard work has been put in trying to collate all the various data from all corners of the world. Even here there is the start of a clamour for abortion despite the great wish that the majority of Africans have for anting children. Of course it is only the few 'liberal' thinkers that start the ball rolling. There is no public campaign as yet though certain overtones have been made by some members of the government to people in the medical field. One big pressure we have is that a strong percentage of the population and well over half the government are Muslim and the Koran is just as vehement against abortion as the Bible, and on top of that you have a tendency to have fewer 'liberated' Muslims than 'liberated' Christians.

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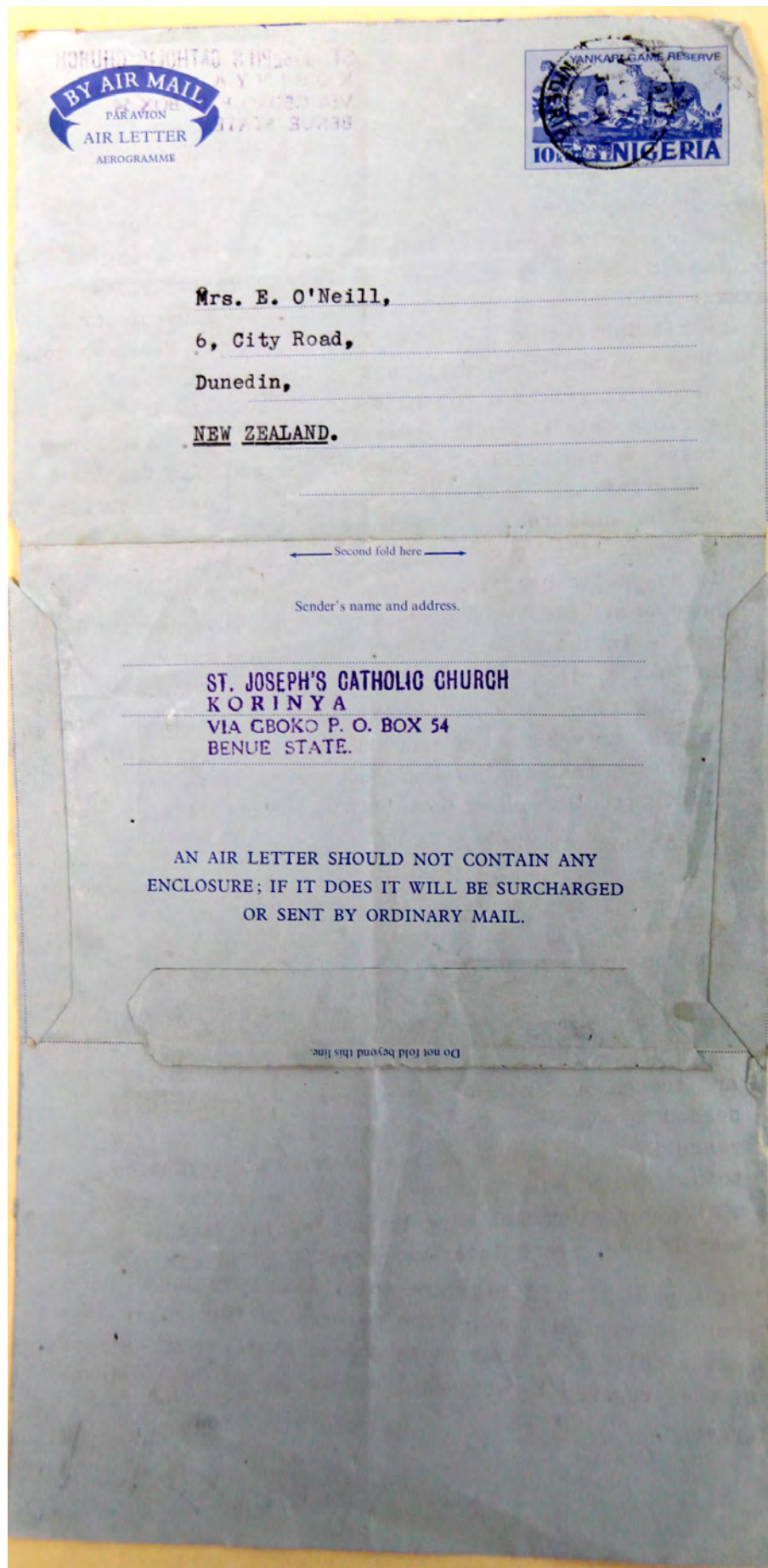
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May God Bless You

Mark Connolly



157. Fr Mark Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, Dunedin, New Zealand, 20 November [1976]

St Joseph's Parish
Korunga
P.O. Box 54, S.Boro
Borneo State
Nov 20th

Dear John, Elizabeth & Family

Time once again to complete the Christmas Mail.
It is surprising how quick time flies. I have been in this mission now for over a year and yet I can remember quite vividly as if it was last week picking up the Mission Car in Gaboro, being given directions to the place and arriving at the ~~place~~ mission and having to find out everything bit by bit since the previous Father-in-Charge had to leave quickly as his mother was dying and he was unable to make out ~~any~~ any landing over Stakebush.

I hope you are all keeping well. I am in pretty good shape myself. I had a dose of bronchitis a few weeks ago but it was only the second time this year so on the whole the climate in this part of the world is much more favourable than that of Aush Mission.

This time of the year November/December is time of

St Joseph's Parish, Korinya, P.O. Box 54, Gboko, Benne State

Nov 20th

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I hope you are all keeping well. I am in pretty good shape myself. I had a dose of bronchitis a few weeks ago but it was only the second time this year so on the whole the climate in this part of the world is much more favourable than that of Avodu Mission.

This time of year November/December is time of

Harest Thanksgiving so I am spending a lot of time out in the bush travelling from one station to another. Luckily in this mission they are all concluded by Christmas but in other missions they drag on over a period of four or five months.

I heard in the B.B.C. the other day that there were big Anti-Abortion Rallies all over Britain last week-end and it made me wonder how your campaign in New Zealand is getting on. The obvious thing to do is to present a case which is "reasonable", devoid of emotionalism and comprehensible to Mr. & Mrs. Average. How did the tax strike go? I hope successfully because it is in that sort of concerted effort that success will eventually be achieved. See how far New Zealand had to back down as a result of the African boycott of the Olympics.

How is young John doing in England. My mother has just mentioned that he has been down to Wexford Gaels City. And has Mary finished at University. I am beginning to lose track of time. Best wishes to you all over Christmas and the New Year. Assuring you of remembrance in prayer and Masses at that time.

God Bless you All
Mark Connolly

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Mark Connolly

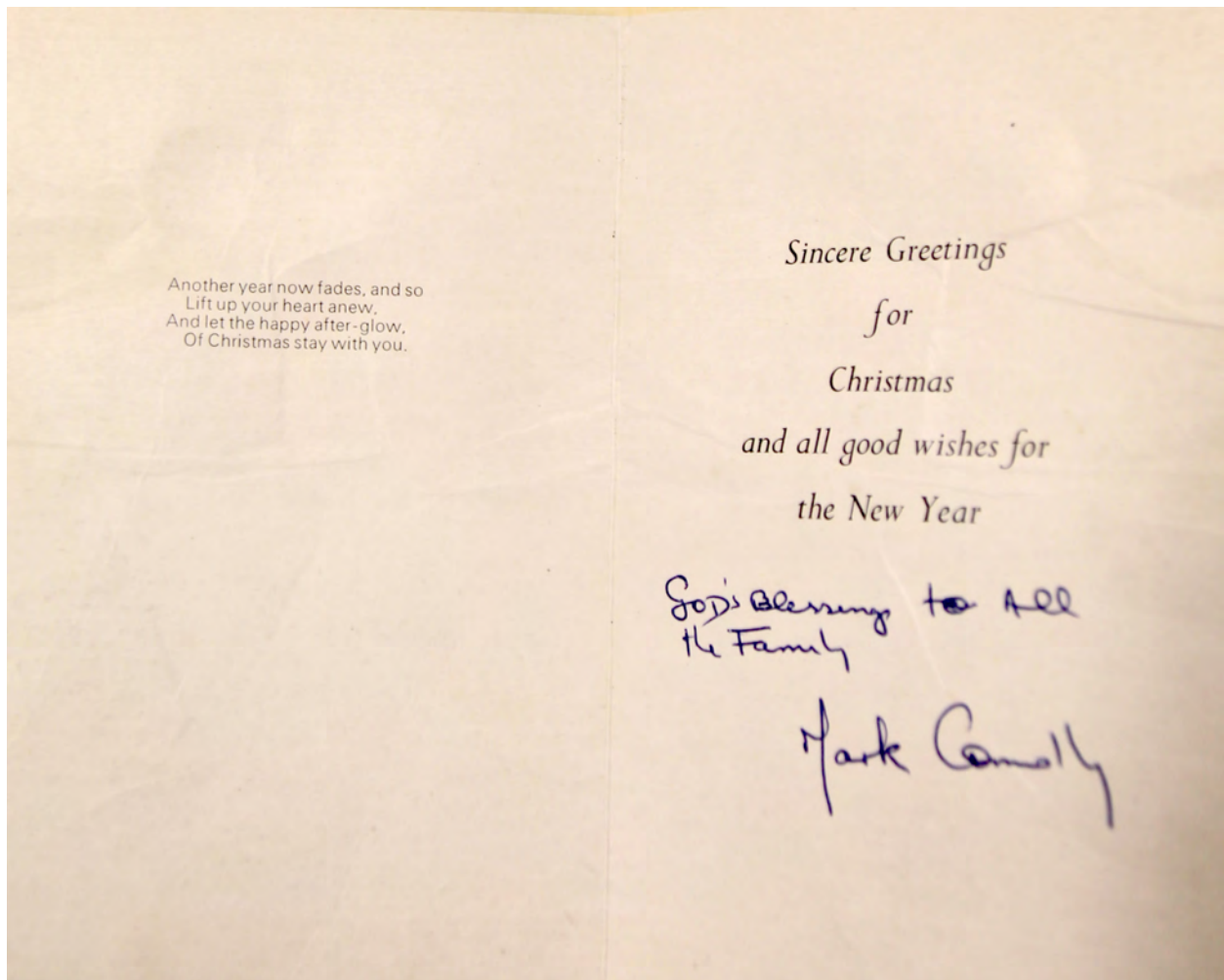
⁴² In protest at the opening of an abortion clinic in Auckland, on 8 September 1975 John S. O'Neill withheld payment of his provisional tax, until judgment was entered against him on 19 October 1976.

⁴³ 33 African nations withdrew from the Montreal Olympics in July 1976, in protest against the All Black tour of South Africa, which took place from June to September 1976.

⁴⁴ John F. O'Neill left Dunedin for overseas on 18 April 1976, returning in May 1978.

158. Fr Mark Connolly, Christmas Card to O'Neill Family, 1976??





God's Blessings to All the Family

Mark Connolly

159. Fr Mark Connolly to John and Elizabeth O'Neill, Dunedin, 30 October 1977

73 Meadway
Welwyn Gdn. City
HERTS. ALY 1NQ
30th October 1977

Dear John & Elizabeth,

I have just spent the last week-end at home and was pleasantly surprised to receive from my Mother the cheque which you had forwarded. I am indeed very grateful for your kindness.

I am at present on a renewal course which started at the end of August and will finish at the end of November. It is not too intensive and so is relaxing enough yet at the same time giving me the opportunity to catch up with developments in the life and practice of the Church in Europe.

I have just received definitive indication

73 Meadway, Welwyn Gdn City, HERTS AL7 4 NQ

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I have just received definitive indication

that I am to remain in England for the next three years and work on Vocations recruitment. At present I am disappointed about this, partly because I will miss the life of a missionary in Africa and partly because looking for Vocations to Priestly, Religious and Missionary Life seems such an impossible task in this day and age. Still ultimately the work is the work of God and He will see fit in his own time and His own way to bring it to fruition.

How is your work for the Pro-life movement going along? I have the impression that in this country the movement is a little in the doldrums, but there is a strong nucleus of

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30 Oct 1977

professional people are preparing themselves for a more penetrating effect on public opinion in the near future.

I think ultimate success in bringing society to accept what we believe will only come about when those who determine & form societal mores i.e. Doctors, teachers, Mass Media Journalists Authors are convinced themselves of what we believe and this can only be brought about by long & persistently but quiet & gentle persuasion.

The winter is beginning to set in now. This is my first winter in Europe for nine years and it is going to take some time to get used to the cold. I presume you are now moving into the spring time.

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I presume that young John is back at home now. We didn't get much time with him really. He seemed intent on moving on. I hope he arrived home safe and sound.

Again my sincerest thanks for sending the money. I hope everyone in the family are in good health, and I hope and pray that God's blessings will be with you all this Christmas.

With Best Wishes
Mark Connolly

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Again my sincerest thanks for sending the money. I hope everyone in the family are in good health, and I hope and pray that God's blessings will be with you all this Christmas.

With Best Wishes

Mark Connolly



PEACE—the soft wind murmurs
Amid the palm trees free,
Peace—the gulls re-echo;
Peace—the silent sea.
Peace—the gladsome tidings
As angels' songs delight
The hearts of lonely shepherds;
Peace this Christmas Night.

*Wishing You
the Best of Everything
at Christmas
and a Happy
New Year*

Fr Mark Connolly CSSR

160. Fr Mark Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, Dunedin, 9 March 1981

Bickley,
Beonlay, Kent
BR1 24F
Tue 9" 1981

Dear Elizabeth

Many thanks for your very newsgy letter which arrived at the beginning of the year. You do not only enjoy writing letters and find it very easy to write with great enthusiasm what most people take to be the mundane in life. You were obviously enjoying your holiday at Alexandria, to change. I am sure doing a power of good, especially being able to have so many of the family with you. But by the time this reaches you the holiday will be very much a happy memory. I was pleased to hear the family were doing so well despite the lack of opportunities which the world of recession seems to have created. You did not mention Mary in your letter. I hope she is able to adjust to her new way of life without too much difficulty. We shall continue to remember her in our prayers.

The anti-abortion campaign in the country seems to have far more of the momentum. Part of this is due to a certain amount of tension between two groups; "Life" + "The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child". I sometimes feel that street campaigns that societies ~~similar~~ ^{like} I have mentioned and others similar one, tend to polarise opinion because of the directness of their method. And unfortunately in doing that, they make a greater percentage of the apathetic and uncommitted more favourable to the Abortion lobby than to the "Anti-Abortion" lobby. We have to use the same weapons to overcome this and that these "Liberals" need to create such a favourable climate, namely to influence public opinion by "popular" presentation, on the stage, T.V., Film, glossy magazines, Radio, Newspapers etc. We are not creating an "intellectual" "acknowledge" elite among our young people who can fulfill their role. The Church for the most part is alienating them. Only when you have tackled that fundamental problem, will you have the power and facilities to tackle the evils of materialism, seen especially in Abortion, Euthanasia, Injustice, Poverty etc.

I did read the book "Blessings" by Mary Craig. She is the kind of person that I was always to admire someone who has discovered real fault and will talk about her fault publicly without making a direct public

6 Woodlands Road, Bickley, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2AF

Mar 9th

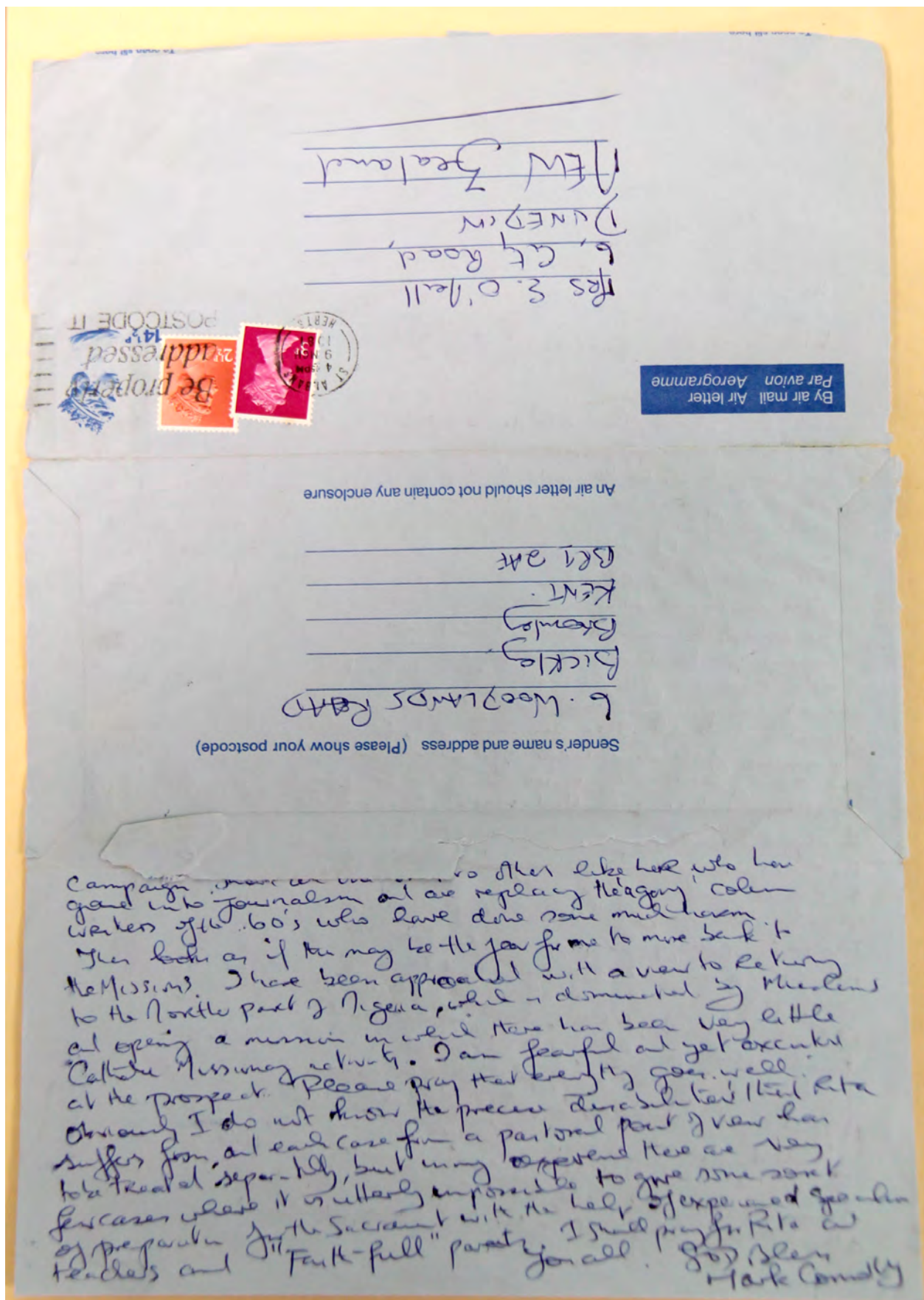
Dear Elizabeth

Many thanks for your very newsy letter which arrived at the beginning of the year. You obviously enjoy writing letters and find it very easy to write with great enthusiasm what most people take to be the mundane in life. You were obviously enjoying your holiday at Alexandria, the change I am sure doing a power of good, especially being able to have so many of the family with you. But by the time this reaches you the holiday will be very much a happy memory. I was pleased to hear the family are doing so well despite the lack of opportunities which the world of recession seems to have created. You did not mention Mary in your letter. I hope she is able to adjust to her new way of life without too much difficulty. We shall continue to remember her in our prayer.

The anti-abortion campaign in this country seems to have lost some of its momentum. Part of this is due to a certain amount of tension between two groups, "Life" & "The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child". I sometimes feel that overt campaigns that societies such as those I have mentioned and other similar ones, tend to polarise opinion because of the directness of their method. And unfortunately in doing that, they make a greater percentage of the apathetic and uncommitted more favourable to the Abortion Lobby than to the "Anti-Abortion" Lobby. We have to use the same weapons to overcome this evil that these 'Liberals' use to create such a favourable climate, namely to influence public opinion by "popular" presentations, on the stage, T.V., Films, glossy magazines, Radio, Newspapers etc. we are not creating an "intellectual", "articulate" elite among our young people who can fulfil

this role. The Church for the most part is alienating them. Only when you have tackled that fundamental problem, will you have the power and facility to tackle the evils of materialism, seen especially in Abortion, Euthanasia, Injustice, Poverty etc.

I did read the book "Blessings" by Mary Craig. She is the kind of person that I was alluding to above, someone who has discovered real faith and will talk about her faith publicly without making a direct public



campaign. There are one or two others like her who have gone into journalism and are replacing the 'agony' column writers of the 60's who have done so much harm.

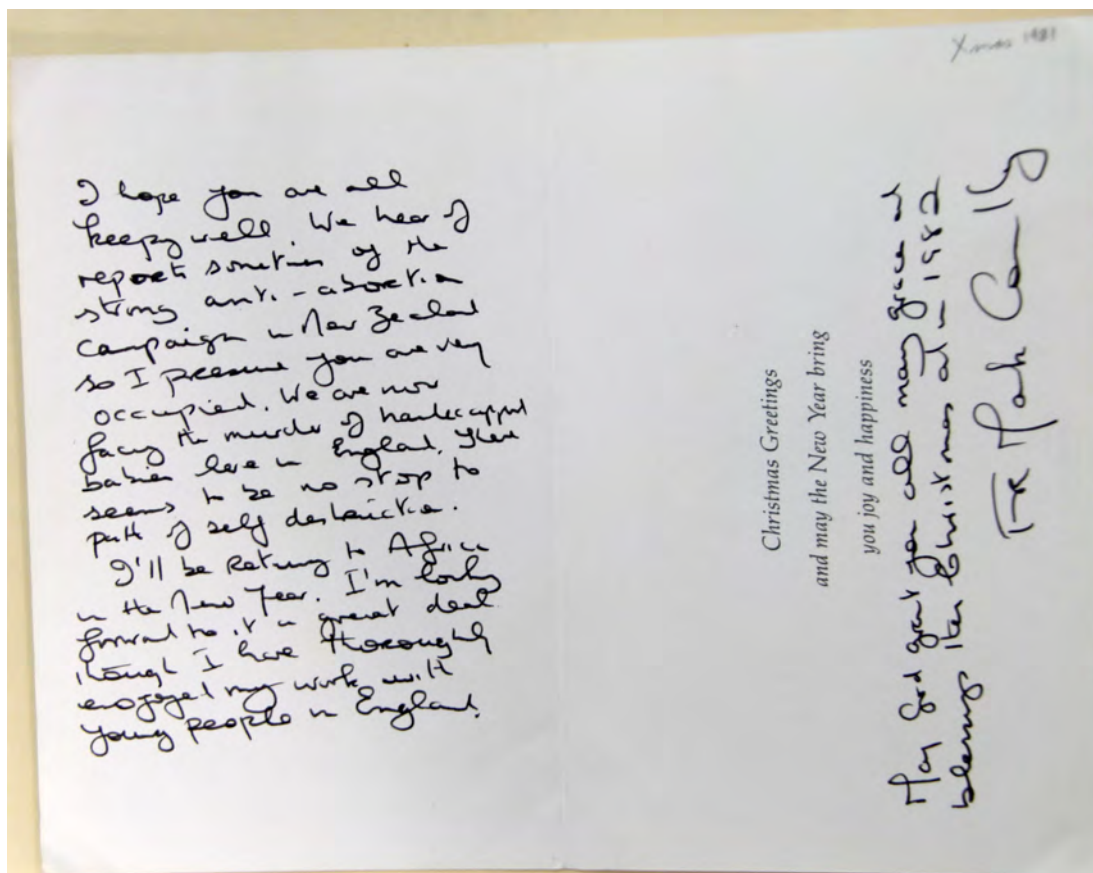
This looks as if it may be the year for me to move back to the Missions. I have been approached with a view to returning to the northern part of Nigeria, which is dominated by Muslims and opening a mission in which there has been very little Catholic Missionary activity. I am fearful and yet excited at the prospect. Please pray that everything goes well.

Obviously I do not know the precise disabilities that Rita suffers from, and each case from a pastoral point of view has to be treated separately, but in my experience there are very few cases where it is utterly impossible to give some sort of preparation for the Sacrament with the help of experienced [...] teachers and "Faith-full" parents. I shall pray for Rita and you all.

God Bless

Mark Connolly

161. Fr Mark Connolly to O'Neill family, Christmas 1981

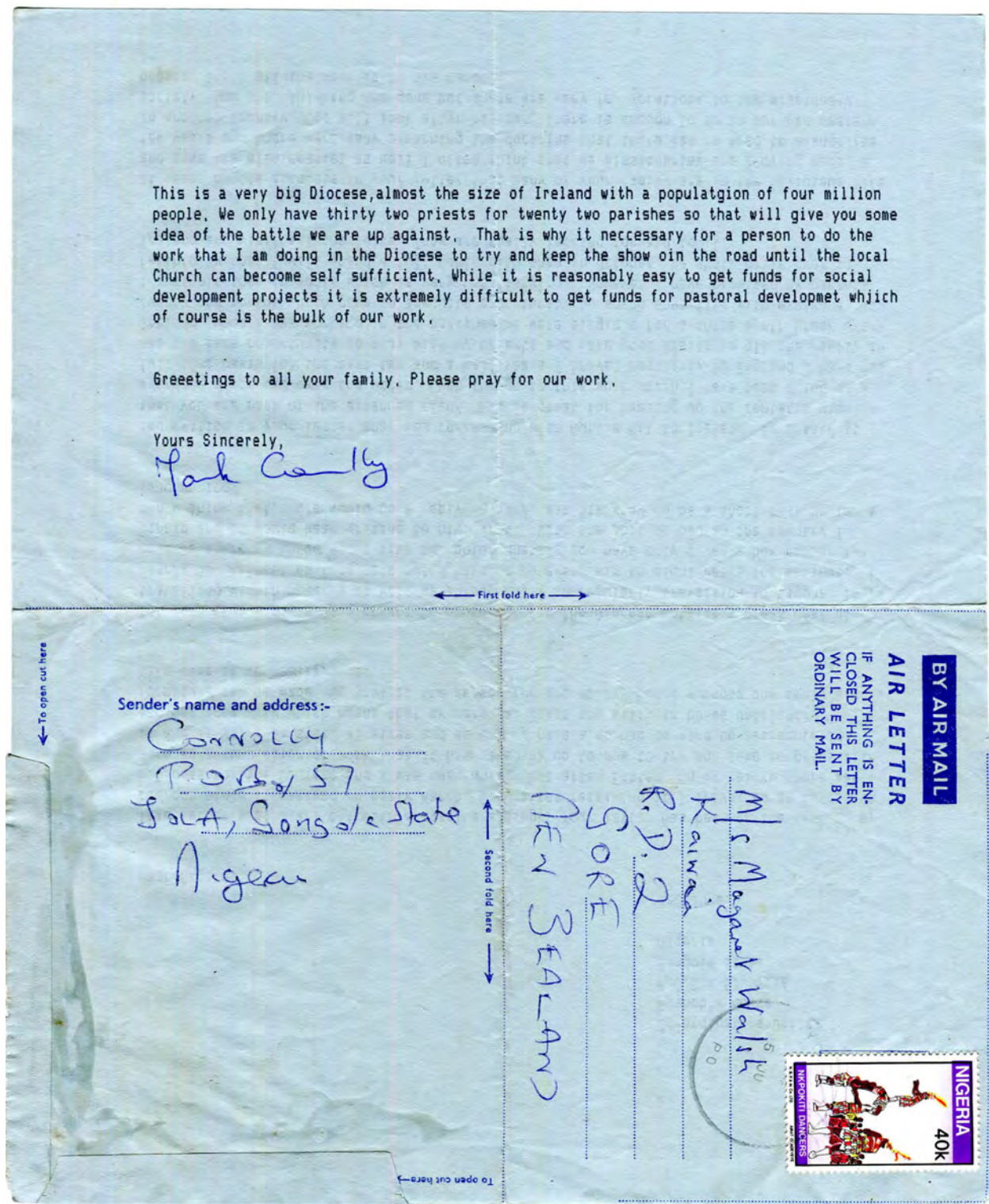


May God grant you all many graces and blessings this Christmas and in 1982.

Fr Mark Connolly

I hope you are all keeping well. We hear of reports sometimes of the strong anti-abortion campaign in New Zealand so I presume you are very occupied. We are now facing the murder of handicapped babies here in England. There seems to be no stop to path of self-destruction.

I'll be returning to Africa in the New Year. I'm looking forward to it a great deal though I have thoroughly enjoyed my work with young people in England.



163. Mary O'Neill, instructions to bank, 19 June 1996

19 June 1996

To: The Manager
Dunedin North
396 George Street
Dunedin

Please issue draft number 14273198 in favour of:

FATHER MARK CONNOLLY

for GBP17.43

Settlement of this draft is to be effected as follows:

Westpac Charges

ISSUANCE COMM	NZD 10.00
TOTAL CUSTOMER	NZD 10.00

Conversion Details

AMOUNT FROM	FEC NO.	EXCH. RATE	AMOUNT TO
GBP 17.43	0	0.43570000	NZD 40.00
NZD 10.00	0	1.00000000	NZD 10.00

Accounting Entries

CUSTOMER REF.	ACCOUNT NUMBER	AMOUNT
MARY O,NEILL	03-0883-0998907-07	NZD 50.00 DR

Principal and charges are to be debited to my/our account(s) as detailed above.

Westpac Banking Corporation or its correspondents are not to be held responsible for any delay in payment or loss of draft.

Signature(s)

REF: 0883/000001553

Please issue draft number 14273198 in favour of:

Father Mark Connolly

For GBP 17.43 [NZD 40.00]

[Cost NZD \$10??]

164. Fr Mark Connolly to Elizabeth O'Neill, 8 July 1996



HOLY GHOST FATHERS,
117 Newarthill Road,
Carfin,
Motherwell ML1 5AL.
(0698) 265662

8th July 1996

Dear Elizabeth,
Thank you for your letter, offerings + the
fun offering. I am only too happy to
say that Mass for you + your son. (Tom RIP)

I struggle away at keeping two communities
of the Holy Spirit Fathers going! One is
here in Carfin which is opposite the
Golf and the Community in Manchester.
Hopefully by the middle of September we
will have Re-investment plan and
I will be able to take a break.

I am presently working then while
down in London attending a 4 day
gathering of Holy Spirit Fathers. My two
brother + Sister all celebrate their Silver
Wedding anniversaries within next six weeks.
So I slipped away for a bit to be with
Paddy + Edie who celebrated their
yesterday.

Registered Charity No. 227350

Dear Elizabeth, Thank you for your letter, cuttings + the mass offering. I am only too happy to say that Mass for your intention [Annotation by Elizabeth O'Neill: Tom RIP]. I struggle away at keeping two communities of the Holy Ghost Fathers going: This one here in Carfin which is opposite the Grotto and the community in Manchester. Hopefully by the middle of September we will have Re-inforcements in place and I will be able to take a break. I am presently writing this while down in London attending a 4 day gathering of Holy Ghost Fathers. My two brothers + sister all celebrate their silver wedding anniversaries in the next six weeks. So I slipped away for a bit to be with Mary + Eddy who Celebrated theirs yesterday.

By the account in your letter all
the family seem to be well. That is
good news and we pray that God will
continue to bless you all.

As for that battle in. Joan, my
cousin who has taken over respons. L.H.
for ensuring her welfare speaks a week with
me last week and tells me she is
in good spirits, but bedevilled with
arthritis in one knee. She refuses to use
a stick which is causing damage to her
other leg. She is also due a cataract opera-
tion next month.

I enclose some memorial cards of
Lun + Del.

We will be praying for each other

Fr Mark Connolly C.S.R.

By the account in your letter all the family seem to be well. That is Good news and we pray that God will continue to bless you all. Auntie Kit battles on. Joan my cousin who has taken over responsibility for ensuring her welfare spent a week with me last week and tells me she is in good spirits but bedevilled arthritis in one knee. She refuses to use a stick which is causing damage to her other leg. She is also due a cataract operation next month. I enclose some Memorial cards of Mum & Dad.

We will be praying for each other.

Fr Mark Connolly CSSp

165. Fr Mark Connolly to Elizabeth and Rita O'Neill, 15 February 2005



MARK CONNOLLY

Holy Ghost Father

SPIRITAN MISSIONARY

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, PO Box 30, Wyndham, WA 6740 Australia
markconnolly@spiritans.co.uk

15th February 2005

Dear Elizabeth & Rita,

I arrived back in Wyndham on Ash Wednesday in time to bless and distribute the ashes. My return was delayed due to the mislaying of documents which should have accompanied my visa application. My visa was granted at the end of January so I made my way back here as soon as I could. Now I am trying to settle down to the special ministry among aboriginal people. I am very apprehensive because it all so new and so strange but I am sure God will give me the strength and support that I need.

Thank you for your Christmas card which was awaiting my return. I am sorry to hear of the death of your cousin. May she rest in Peace. We will keep her in our prayers & Masses.

The centenary of your Church at Boreham seems to have been a great affair. I am sure everyone enjoyed the occasion.

My Greetings and Best to all the Family in Dunedin

Fr Mark Connolly

Our Lady Queen of Apostles catholic Church, P.O. Box 30, Wyndham
WA 6740

15th February 2005

Dear Elizabeth & Rita

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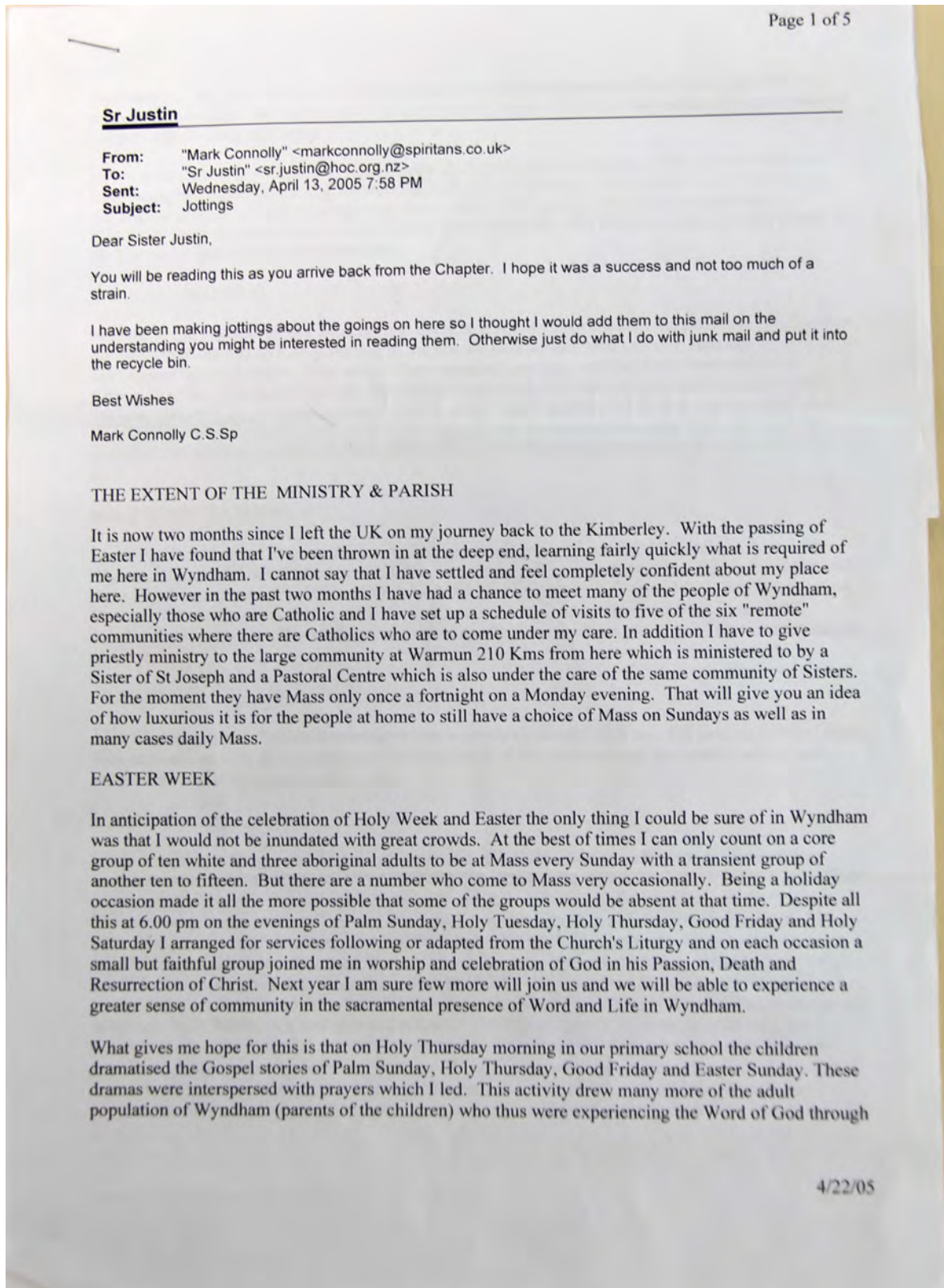
Thank you for your Christmas mail which was awaiting my return. I am sorry to hear of the death of your cousin. May she rest in Peace. We will keep her in our prayers & Masses.

The centenary of your Church at Balfour seems to have been a grand affair. I am sure everyone enjoyed the occasion.

My Greetings and Best to all the Family in Dunedin.

Fr Mark Connolly

166. Fr Mark Connolly to Sister Mary Justin, 13 April 2005



[The remaining images of this email message are not included here]

From: "Mark Connolly" <markconnolly@spintans.co.uk>

To: "Sr Justin" <sr.justin@hoc.org.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2005 7:58 PM

Subject: Jottings

Dear Sister Justin,

You will be reading this as you arrive back from the Chapter. I hope it was a success and not too much of a strain.

I have been making jottings about the goings on here so I thought I would add them to this mail on the understanding you might be interested in reading them. Otherwise just do what I do with junk mail and put it into the recycle bin.

Best Wishes

Mark Connolly C.S.Sp

THE EXTENT OF THE MINISTRY & PARISH

It is now two months since I left the UK on my journey back to the Kimberley. With the passing of Easter I have found that I've been thrown in at the deep end, learning fairly quickly what is required of me here in Wyndham. I cannot say that I have settled and feel completely confident about my place here. However in the past two months I have had a chance to meet many of the people of Wyndham, especially those who are Catholic and I have set up a schedule of visits to five of the six "remote" communities where there are Catholics who are to come under my care. In addition I have to give priestly ministry to the large community at Warmun 210 Kms from here which is ministered to by a Sister of St Joseph and a Pastoral Centre which is also under the care of the same community of Sisters. For the moment they have Mass only

once a fortnight on a Monday evening. That will give you an idea of how luxurious it is for the people at home to still have a choice of Mass on Sundays as well as in many cases daily Mass.

EASTER WEEK

In anticipation of the celebration of Holy Week and Easter the only thing I could be sure of in Wyndham was that I would not be inundated with great crowds. At the best of times I can only count on a core group of ten white and three aboriginal adults to be at Mass every Sunday with a transient group of another ten to fifteen. But there are a number who come to Mass very occasionally. Being a holiday occasion made it all the more possible that some of the groups would be absent at that time. Despite all this at 6.00 pm on the evenings of Palm Sunday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday I arranged for services following or adapted from the Church's Liturgy and on each occasion a small but faithful group joined me in worship and celebration of God in his Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ. Next year I am sure few more will join us and we will be able to experience a greater sense of community in the sacramental presence of Word and Life in Wyndham.

What gives me hope for this is that on Holy Thursday morning in our primary school the children dramatised the Gospel stories of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. These dramas were interspersed with prayers which I led. This activity drew many more of the adult population of Wyndham (parents of the children) who thus were experiencing the Word of God through the children. The presentation of the Resurrection by the Kindergarten and Pre-Primary children was particularly effective. We are blessed with a dedicated

Catholic Principal ably assisted by good catholic teachers and teaching assistants.

However difficult it is in the UK to show people the significance and beauty of the Church's liturgy in Holy Week and Easter, it is ten times more difficult in the Kimberley. We had to contend with a two day fishing festival with prizes amounting to over \$A10,000: a clear choice between God and Mammon. But I am thankful for the presence of the faithful few who helped to make my first Easter in the Kimberley meaningful and memorable.

DIOCESAN MEETING

Because of the vastness of our Diocese and the long distances between the nine parishes in the Diocese, the blessing of the oils and the gathering of the priests, traditionally held on Holy Thursday took place in our Diocese the week before Holy week. Three separate meetings were held simultaneously; the Principals of the 14 Catholic Schools, the Pastoral Associates from the parishes and the priests of the Diocese. On matters of mutual interest the three groups came together to talk and to share about their common interests. Two days for travelling the outward and return journeys totalling 2100 kms. and three days for meeting and prayers while informative and energizing nevertheless left me feeling very tired.

HOLY GHOST FATHERS

The Holy Ghost Father in Australia are a relatively small group of coming from Ireland, East Africa, Nigeria, England and one Australian of Maltese extraction. We are scattered over this vast country and come together once a year to assess our mission and give support to each other in our Spiritan vocation. This year the meeting is in Perth so this requires

another long journey the week after Easter week. Another week away from Wyndham so soon after coming here does not give a good signal to the people of the parish.

RICHARD

After that my nephew Richard is coming to stay a couple of months with me. I'm looking forward to his visit; someone to have as a companion and share some of the exploration of this area to which I am assigned but are still very unfamiliar with.

WARMUM

While presiding at liturgy and prayer in Wyndham I also had the top preside at the liturgies of the Catholic Community at Warmun, 210 Kms. from Wyndham. This vast area of the Kimberly is sparsely populated. Of the 33,000 people in the area only a third live in six small towns including Wyndham. The remainder live in small self serving aboriginal communities with populations ranging from 50 to 500. Warmun is one of the larger ones and the inhabitants are Kija people who made camp at a place called Turkey Creek when they were banished from the cattle stations. On being granted citizen's rights in 1967. (There is a great paradox in that). Eventually the Government did a lot to help these communities set themselves up by providing water resources, 24 hour locally generated electrical power, telephone, basic health care facilities and schools. The Kija people in Warmun insisted with the Government that the "Sisters" run their school so there is a strong Catholic identity in the Warmun community. This was reflected in the liturgies of Holy Week which drew strongly on rituals of their own culture and would have given a Roman liturgist a heart attack if he were joining in with the community. The people themselves have incorporated gestures and

symbols from their own culture and “law” portraying the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ and to celebrate it within the context of their own lives. The return journey 420 Kms three times in Holy Week though tiring was well worth the trouble. To be able to celebrate our faith with these people who are daily living the Death and Resurrection of Christ in their daily lives in a way that I have not experienced before was a great privilege.

THE WAY IT IS

On Easter Sunday we had the news that another young 16 year old had committed suicide during the night. There have been five such deaths in the 15-25 age group in the past year; a phenomenon of aboriginal people in both North America and Australia. It has to be more than just the clash between traditional societies confronting the prevailing drug and alcohol abuse. Rather a deeper seated inability for traditional societies to cope with the shallowness of the twentieth century culture and society.

MOVING ON

Now that the Easter period with its journeys to Broome and Perth either side of the celebration of Holy week are behind me I am now ready to face another phase of my induction and familiarisation to the pastoral ministry of Wyndham and Warmun.

It has started off badly with a ruined gear box the repairs of which are estimated to cost in excess of £Stg1,200. Parts have to be flown from Perth and shortage of skilled mechanics account for the extremely high expense. Finding this money and finding alternative transport for the next two to three weeks that the garage will have to have the vehicle for is a problem that I have to face with the help of the Bishop.

I hope this set back does not frustrate the plan that I have for the next few months to get to know where the Catholics are in the eight isolated Aboriginal communities which are in the territory entrusted to my care. They are far flung, the furthest being 330 Kms from Wyndham. How I will go about this I'm not sure. I need someone to introduce me to all those who call themselves Catholics. Even when you call at a house or make arrangements to visit that may have gone "walk about" or they are so engaged in their own form of "socialisation" that to intrude would be insensitive and even counterproductive. It is something I will have to persevere with and not be disillusioned with the slow response. Personally I find it difficult to "cold call" on houses. So I will find this approach to reinforcing the presence of Christ uncomfortable and a strain.

One of the questions that was put to me in the meeting of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Perth was "Am I in for the long haul?" This question has been asked of me many times since I returned in February. Clearly this question is posed because of the experience of the indigenous living in remote areas who see so many "professionals" i.e. teachers, nurses, social workers come with a sense of commitment and dedication to work for a special usually short period and then move on. This undermines the continuity of service and mitigates against any trust and good will that is essential if the indigenous people of the Kimberley are to be helped come to grips with the reality of their identity in an economic, political, social and cultural milieu which has yet to completely respect their existence and identity and at the same time give them the spiritual and practical support that will allow them to adapt and find their place in "modern" Australia. I would hope that I would be one of those people who can stay with them for as long as my health and my superiors allow

so that I become a visible sign of the Church's commitment to Aboriginal people in their difficult period of transition in terms of social and cultural adaptation.

CYCLONE

Just before Easter the northern coast of the East Kimberley experienced one of its worst cyclones, rated category 5 which is the highest rating. It was named Ingrid. The eye of the cyclone passed directly over the mission in Kalumburu 150 miles North West of Wyndham and the winds of 250 KPH destroyed one third of the mission buildings. As well as being a financial blow it is also a loss in historical terms because Kalumburu is the second oldest catholic mission in the area, established by Spanish Benedictines Monks in 1909. The buildings that were lost were architecturally significant but did not conform to modern cycl[on]e resistant building standards. Wyndham was on "red" alert for 72 hours. The children and old people were evacuated to the hospital which had been built to cyclone standards. The edge of the cyclone passed to the north of Wyndham resulting in winds here of 160 KPH being recorded at Wyndham. Cyclone Ingrid dropped 12" of rain in 24 hours, 50% more than our normal monthly total for February and March. only one tree fell in our church compound causing slight damage to the wall of the church. So that is another bill that we have to face up to. The good news is that with modern meteorological techniques much more accuracy can be attained in assessing the direction and the impact of a cyclone and a state of readiness can be brought into play. In the passage of Ingrid across Northern Queensland, Northern Territories, The Kimberley and the Torres Strait Islands while there was extensive property damage there was no loss of life.

WARMUM COMMUNITY

When Kija people, who were the original land owners of parts of East Kimberley, were forced to leave the pastoral stations which had been established by the colonizers, they set up camp on the Great Northern Highway at the Road House, Turkey Creek. They gathered there in the late 60's and early 70's where they build the bough dwellings out of leaves and branches and wandered far and wide to search for "bush tucker" on which could survive. Bush tucker consists of roots, leaves, and berries that are nutritious and animals such as kangaroos, goanna and snakes which provide meat. The pastoralists tried to stop the foraging for food because they felt that the aboriginal people would kill some of their cattle (which they sometimes did) and eventually the government intervened and helped these Kija people establish a more permanent community, building houses for families, providing electricity, water and community store from which they could buy their food from the welfare money they had been given or the money that they earned when they were able to find some work.

At the heart of aboriginal life and culture is the "Law", the initiation and the living out of the culture and traditions which animated community life and relationships. When the Government came to provide a school for the Kija people at the camp that was named Warmun the people insisted that the Josephite Sisters establish and managed the school on behalf of the community. In agreement with the Sisters the education of their children was to be a partnership of the Sisters experienced in the teaching of religion and western secular education's principles and the elders of the community who would contribute to the traditional, cultural, social education of the young people. This partnership worked well for 20 years and is only now beginning to break down as the elders

involved with the inauguration of the project now die away and younger people move away from the traditional values and practices of the Kija people.

Much of the deterioration comes as a result of the abuse of alcohol and drugs and a welfare system that has created a dependency mentality.

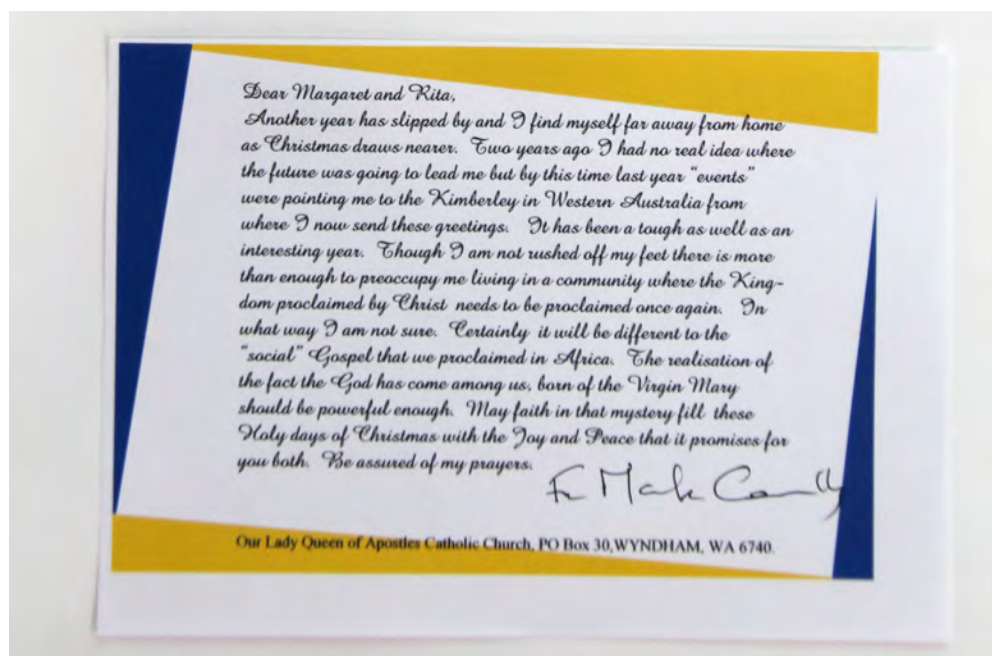
On my last visit to the Warmun community the Sisters managing the school in the community were explaining to me the difficulties that they were trying to cope with on a day to day basis; the very poor attendance of the children at school reinforced by the indifference of some of the parents; finding teaching staff that are prepared to adapt their teaching style and techniques to aboriginal culture and needs; the child neglect and child abuse that results from alcohol and drug abuse that is increasingly pervading the community. The stories illustrating these difficulties abounded and at the end of the evening everyone was quite depressed and wondering whether there had been any progress at all in the 20 years since the community first established the Catholic School.

We had evidence that it had the next day. A 15 seater twin engine aeroplane landed at the nearby airstrip. This plane had been sent from Darwin by the Government to collect 13 secondary school students from the community who attend St John's College in Darwin. They had been home on holiday for Easter and it was more economic to send the plane for the 13 than issue vouchers for the Greyhound bus fare which would take them 14 hours to cover the 1200 kilometres to Darwin. Five years ago they were happy to have had two from the community continue with their secondary education. Now they can fill a plane and there were others still on holiday in the community who were going back to schools in Perth, Sydney and Geraldton. So instead of dropping out of schooling altogether there are increasing numbers persevering with their

secondary education and the government does everything possible to ensure that they have all they need in the boarding hostels that are provided and see that they can keep regular and frequent contact with their families back in the communities.

When the pilot had landed his empty plane we expressed surprise that he had done so. The strip is normally used for smaller single engine planes and we wondered if he would be able to take off with his load. He was a little apprehensive himself. With baited breath and engines screaming before he let off the brakes he tore down the run way and we all heaved a sigh of relief when the plane lifted off the run way with inches to spare. This may be a success story about flying but more important still it is a story about how commitment to these people and faith in their humanity will bring a better future for the generations to come.

167. Fr Mark Connolly, Christmas card to Elizabeth and Rita O'Neill, Dunedin, 2004?



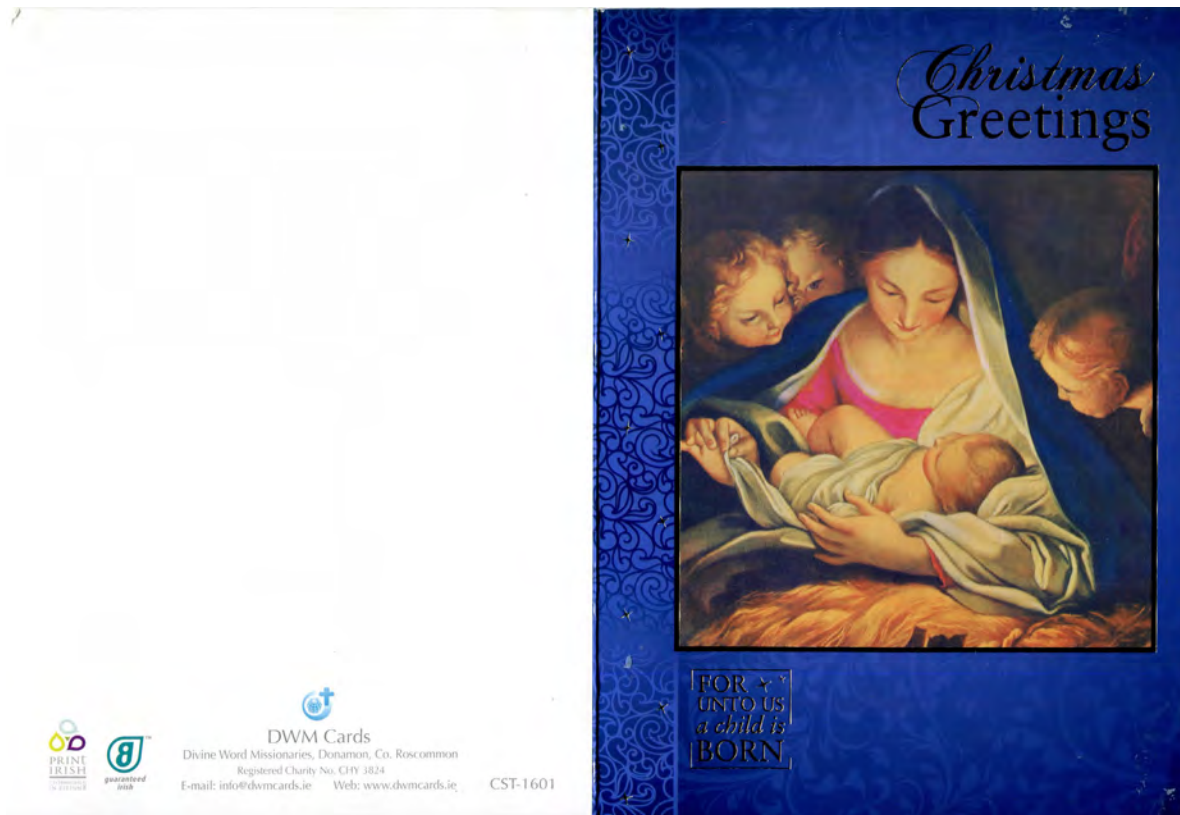
Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church, PO Box 30,
WYNDHAM WA 6740

Dear Margaret and Rita

Another year has slipped by and I find myself far away from home as Christmas draws nearer. Two years ago I had no real idea where the future was going to lead me but by this time last year “events” were pointing me to the Kimberley in Western Australia from where I now send these greetings. It has been a tough as well as an interesting year. Though I am not rushed off my feet there is more than enough to preoccupy me living in a community where the Kingdom proclaimed by Christ needs to be proclaimed once again. In what way I am not sure. Certainly it will be different to the “social” Gospel that we proclaimed in Africa. The realisation of the fact the God has come among us, born of the Virgin Mary should be powerful enough. May faith in that mystery fill these Holy days of Christmas with the Joy and Peace that it promises for you both. Be assured of my prayers.

Fr Mark Connolly

168. Fr Mark Connolly to Sister Mary Justin Walsh, Wellington, [December 2017?]



Dear Sister Mary Justin.
 We seem to have lost contact, partly
 due to my changed circumstances over
 the past year.
 Reluctantly I was moved from my post
 in New Barnet, North London and appointed
 as Superior of the Retreat Community which
 also serves as the Provinciate. It is
 based in Chester in North West England.
 It is a beautiful city but I am still
 trying to find me role which has much
 least pastoral ministry attached to it.
 During the year I was allowed to have
 a 3 month rest period and was fortunate
 enough to spend 3 weeks in Jerusalem.
 That was some experience!! Since it
 good and some of it not so good.
 Obviously not hearing from you for
 some time means that using the phone
 and writing have become difficult for
 you. We will continue to pray for
 each other.
 With Best Wishes for Christmas and
 the New Year
 Fr Mark Connolly CSSR

May the Joy and Peace
 of Christmas
 be with you now and
 through the New Year.

Spiritual House,
 60, Hoole Road,
 Chester,
 England.
 CH2 3NL

169. Fr Mark Connolly to Sister Mary Justin Walsh, Wellington, 10 January 2018⁴⁶



The Congregation of the Holy Ghost

SPIRITANS

Registered Charity No. 227350

60, Hoole Road, CHESTER CH2 3NL

+44 (0)1244 314665 & (0) 7796 386 924

markconnolly@spiritans.co.uk

January 10th 2018.

Dear Sister Mary Justin,

Thank you so much for your Christmas greetings. It was good to hear from you with the help of your friend.

I am presently superior of our community here in Chester in the north-west of England. We purchased a property three years ago which was a 15 bed hotel. The property serves as our provincial it and our retirement community. We have four retired confreres. There are three African confreres, two working in the provincial office and the other working as chaplain to the local hospital. Also there is a young lady from Brazil, who is a lay associate of our congregation, involved in part-time ministry with young people and also helps out in the provincial office. Myself and another confrere in our mid 70's carry out administrative duties for the community.

However in two weeks' time I will take up the appointment as full-time RC ordained chaplain at a prison 20 miles from here. I have indicated to the provincial that I feel that I would not be able to stay on as community leader here so far he has been reluctant to appoint someone else for the job so I will see what I can do for the time being. The prisons in the UK are in a terrible state, grossly understaffed and many areas in need of repair. The 1100 prisoners in this one of whom over 300 and indicated that they are Catholics so I will have a job reconnected with some of them because there has been no traffic priest in the prison the past year.

My nephew and his girlfriend are presently working in the hospital in Hawke's Bay. Both of them are doctors and seem to be enjoying their experience. They might call on you one day if they are down in the Wellington area.

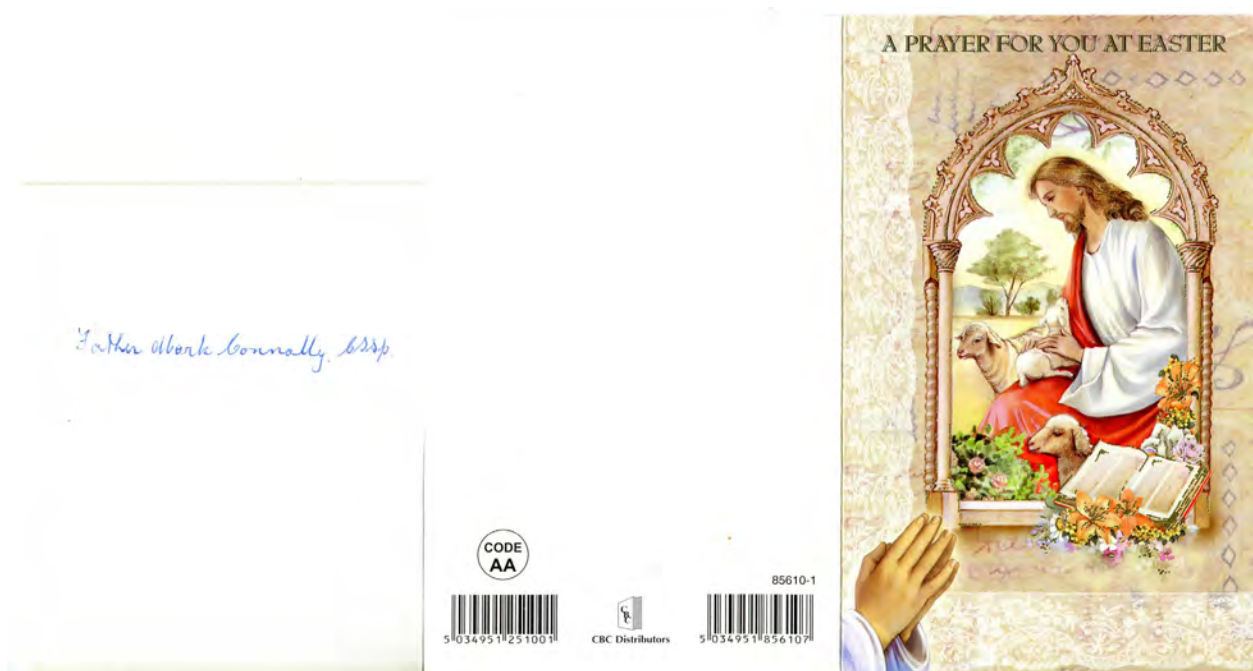
Are you managing to get out and about a little? Do you have an electric chair?

Please keep me in your prayers as I take up this new appointment. I am a little apprehensive about the whole thing but I'm sure God will give me the graces necessary. In my turn I will keep you in my prayers and ask God to bless you in the New Year we have entered.

Mark Connolly

⁴⁶ Sister Mary Justin Walsh died at St Joseph's Home of Compassion, Heretaunga, Wellington, aged 88 years, on 12 June 2018.

170. Fr Mark Connolly to Sister Mary Justin Walsh, Wellington, [April 2018?]



I had a few times to make telephone contact without success. How are you? I hope you are not too uncomfortable and that you are able to fully participate in community life with the other Sisters.

I have now completed a full year in the Parish. I have settled into the parish which has a good core of committed Catholics but there are the usual problems of administration which I could do without.

Your prayer would be much appreciated.

Dear Sister Justin,

God bless you
at Easter
and always

Fr Mark Connolly

171. Fr Mark Connolly to Pauline Herron, Riversdale, 18 July 2018⁴⁷



MARK CONNOLLY
Holy Ghost Father
SPIRITAN MISSIONARY
60 Hoole Road, CHESTER, CH2 3NL
markconnolly@spiritans.co.uk
+(44) (0) 7796 386924



18th July 2018

Dear Pauline,

Thank you so much for sending me the information about the death of Sister Mary Justin. May she rest in peace. I knew that her health was deteriorating but with her indomitable spirit I knew that she could survive for many years. Her passing will be a great loss to you and her family but in some ways even much more to the Sisters of Compassion which had been her family for so many years.

In and through that family she gave great service to the church, the missionary church, with her time spent in the Pacific Islands as well as Australia.

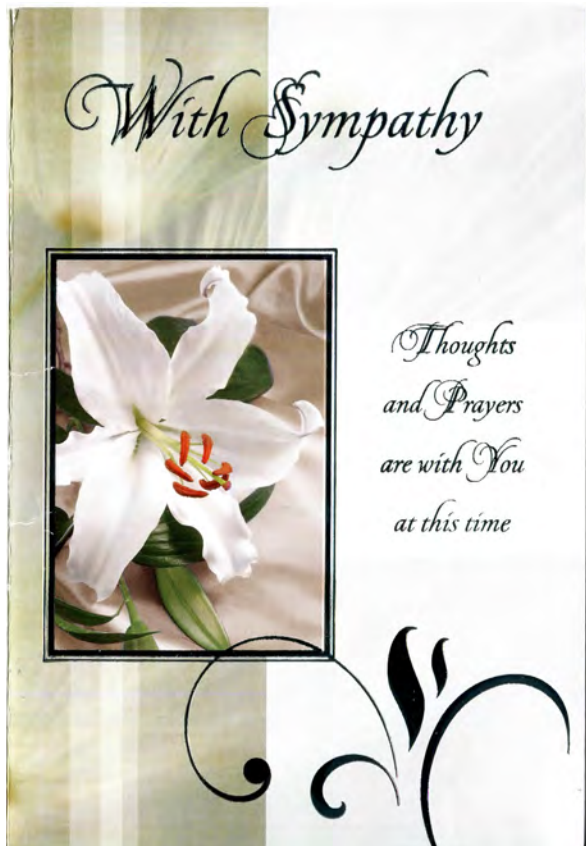
My relationship with Sister Mary Justin began many years ago (1971) when I was working as a missionary in Nigeria and some years later in Australia. Through the O'Neill family in Dunedin she got to know of my existence and became not only a prayer support for my work but a practical help as well with small donations. The most valuable contribution she gave me was the calendar of New Zealand that she sent every year at Christmas. A picture of the wonderful scenes of New Zealand hanging on the wall of my mission house in Nigeria engendered a real desire to visit that country before I died. In 2003 when I was given a six-month sabbatical my first destination was Wellington to be hosted by Sister Mary and the community. It still remains one of the most memorable occasions in my life and I thank her for it and pray earnestly for the repose of the soul and the consolation for all her family and her religious community.

At the age of 75, astonishingly, even to myself, I have undertaken a full-time chaplaincy work in a prison here in the UK. I'm finding it very tough work and quite demanding but I'm sure sister Mary is up there making sure the good Lord gives me all the graces and blessings that I need in this work. She was a missionary like myself and will be interceding for me but she knew, as I know, those graces are first and foremost experience through our families. She had a wonderful family in you, her parents, her brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces in the same measure that I have experienced them through my family to this day. I will offer Mass next Sunday with my prison community for the repose of her soul.

Thank you and God bless you,

Fr Mark Connolly

⁴⁷ Pauline Herron is a niece of Sister Mary Justin through her father Justin Walsh (1926–2013), and a niece of Elizabeth O'Neill through her mother Margaret Walsh née Nicholl (b. 1928).



The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
will be offered for the happy repose
of the soul of
SR MARY JUSTIN WASHU

From:

Rev:

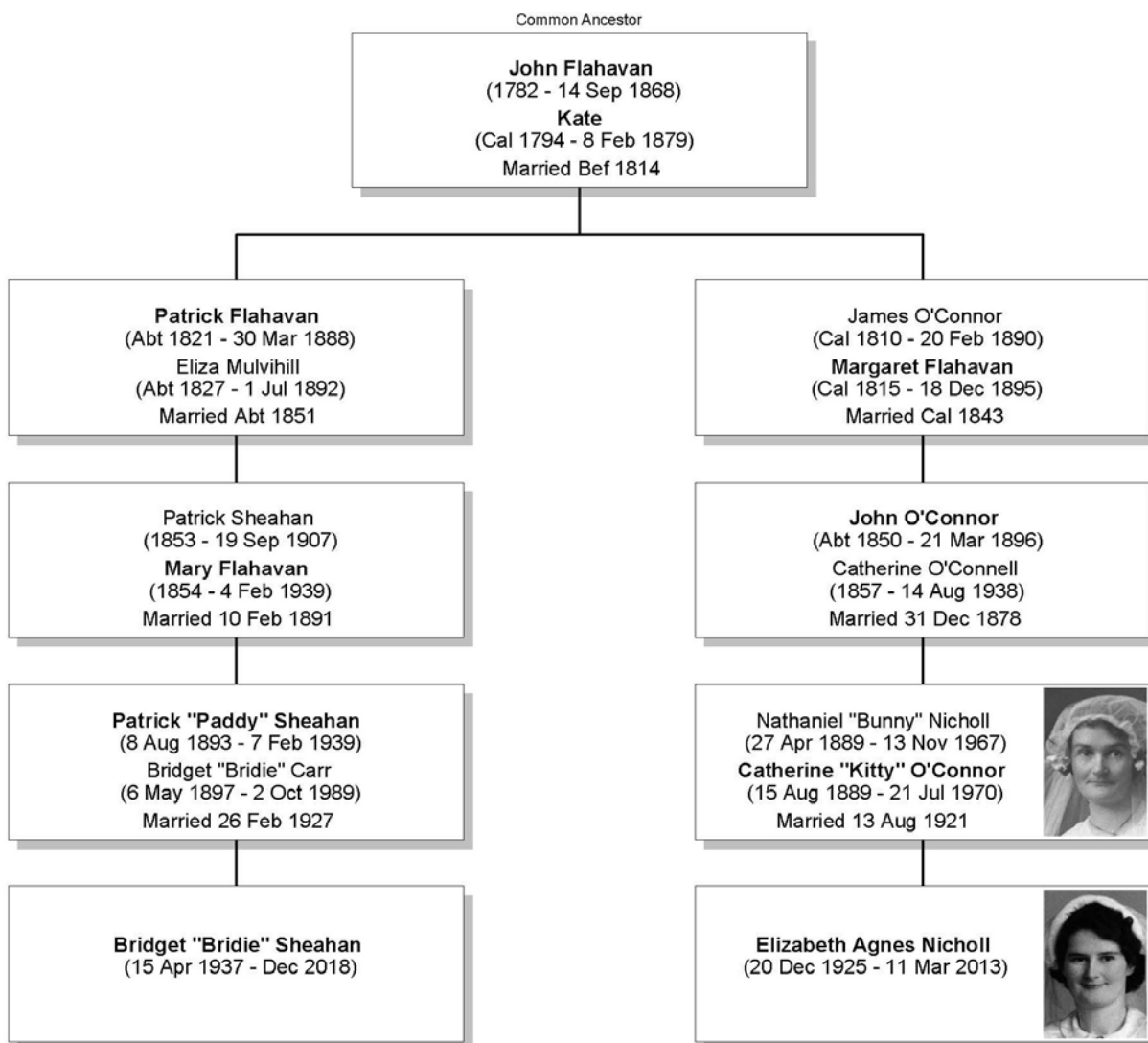
Fr Mark Connolly

Although no words can really help
To ease the loss you bear
Just know that you are very close
In every thought and prayer.

Part 6: The Sheahan Family

Paddy Flavin took Elizabeth Nicholl to visit the Sheahan family in 1950, though I only learned this in 2019 when Maura Sheahan sent me a copy of Mum's photo. Mum and Dad visited Mrs Bridie Sheahan again in June 1985, and I think this is when Mum remade the connection with Bridie Cox, who was 13 when Mum visited in 1950. They visited Bridie Cox again in 1991, adding detail of New Zealand relatives to Bridie's family tree chart. I was present in 1991, but not then knowing the back story, I was a little lost at how Mum and Bridie knew each other!

Elizabeth Agnes Nicholl is the 3rd cousin of Bridget "Bridie" Sheahan



Patrick "Paddy" Flavin is the 1st cousin once removed of Bridget "Bridie" Sheahan

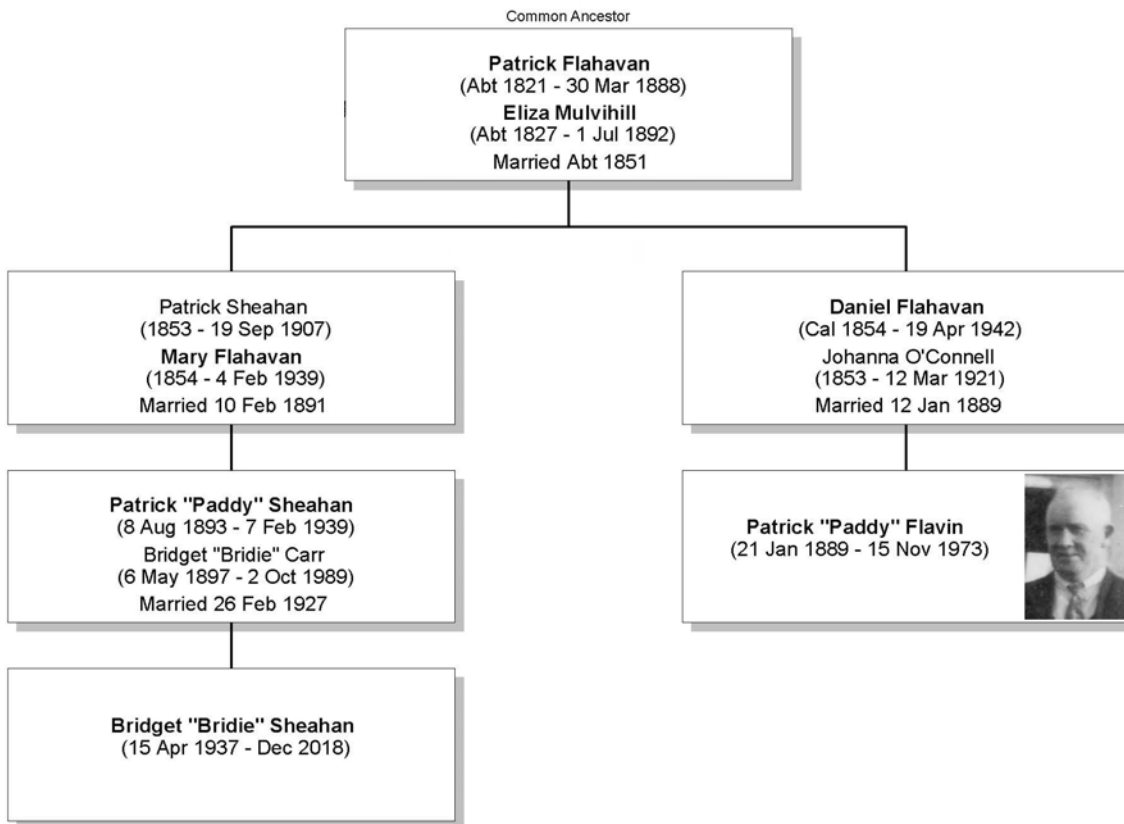




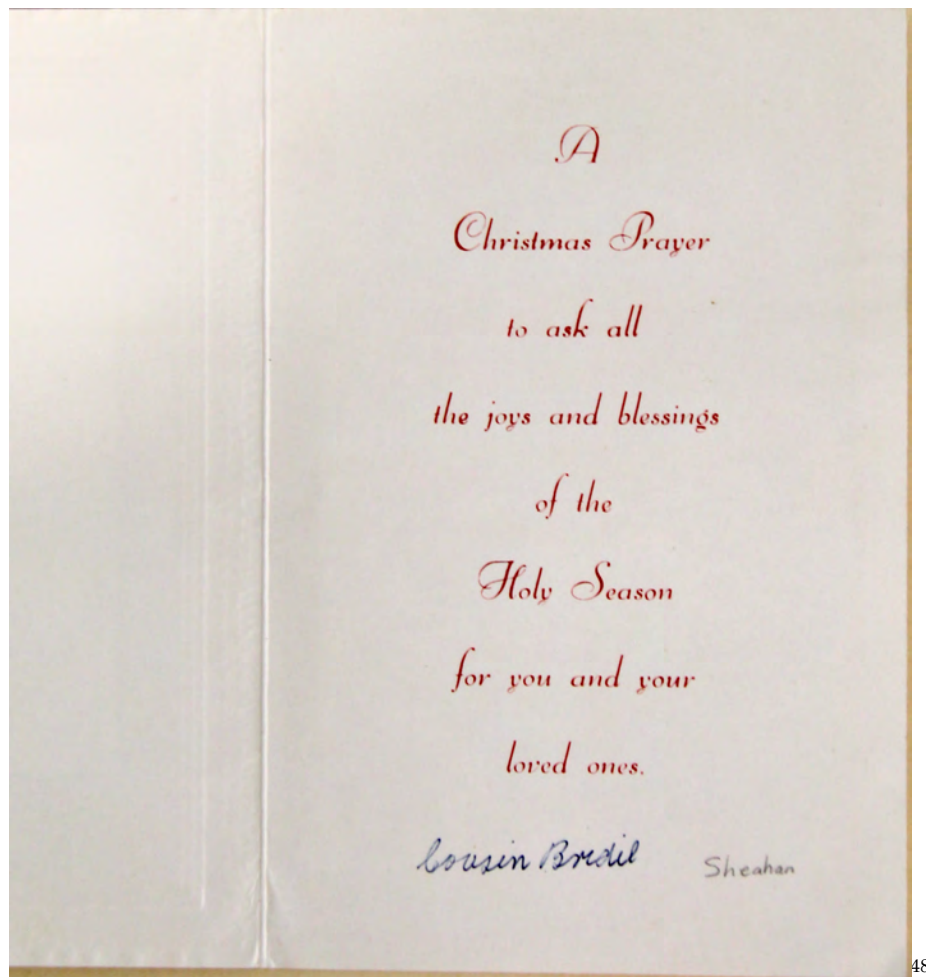
Figure 17 Bridie Sheahan (later Cox 1937-2018), Bridie Sheahan née Carr (1897-1989), Mick Flavin (1926-1981), Mick Sheahan (1931-1977), Molly Flavin née McInerney (1894-1961), Paddy Flavin (1889-1973), Leitrim Middle, Kerry, December 1950



Figure 18 **Mick (1931-1977) and Bridie Sheahan (later Cox, 1937-2018), Leitrim
Middle, Kerry, December 1950**

172. Bridie Sheahan, Christmas card, n.d.





⁴⁸ From the annotation, it looks as if I identified this letter, with Mum's help, during my earlier archive efforts in the 1980s; it may have been sent around 1951, but that's no more than a guess...

173. Bridie Cox to Elizabeth O'Neill, 8 November 2000

Ballyfine
Ballylongford
Listowel
Co KERRY
8th Nov 2000

Dear Elizabeth & Rita,

I am sorry it took so long to answer your letter & photos. I know all the people except one marked "picnic in Ireland" perhaps its the O'Connor family of Glin. I hope Theresa & baby are OK & that the wedding was a very happy occasion for all the family.

Breda's baby girl arrived 12th August, Aoife Maria, I am enclosing some picture of the Christening & had better explain that my red face was due to hot meal - not alcohol as I do not drink any. I could due with a bit of colour as I am always very pale but not that much. That brings my grandchildren to four - James 2 & Breda 2.

I do not think Kathleen O'Connor has got any better, I thought I would get a lot of information from her about Shavins but left it too late. We are having very bad weather & the animals had to come in early. We had a lovely pilgrimage from the Parish Church to Lislaughtin Abbey (Ruins) where all the Cox forefathers are buried - saying the Rosary & singing hymns along the way. The whole parish turned out also anybody who had graves there, it was to mark Holy Year 2000. Julie sends her regards & as usual says I will write myself one day soon.
God Love & Bless you all
Bridie Cox

Ballyline, Ballylongford, Listowel, Co. Kerry

8th Nov 2000

Dear Elizabeth & Rita

I am sorry it took so long to answer your letter & photos. I know all the people except one marked "picnic in Ireland", perhaps it's the O'Connor family of Glin.⁴⁹ I hope Therese & baby are OK & that the wedding was a very happy occasion for all the family.

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God Love & Bless you all

Bridie

⁴⁹ See Figure 8.

174. Bridie Cox to Elizabeth O'Neill, January 2001

Jan 2001
Dear Elizabeth & Rita,
Julie was
telling you about the O'Connor
Castle, I don't know if they were
Related to your O'Connors or
not. I found this bit of informat
ion about the Kerry O'Connors
which may interest you.
O'Concublar means O'Connor but
the Gaelic language is still
used in parts of Kerry, Cork &
Galway.
The drawing of the Castle
is what it was before the
attack, now half the front wall is
gone. The writer forgot to
mention the little Church across
the Road that still stands-roofless.
The tunnel was supposed to run

Dear Elizabeth & Rita,

Julie was telling you about the O'Connor Castle, I don't know if they were related to your O'Connors or not. I found this bit of information about the Kerry O'Connors which may interest you.

O Conchubar means O'Connor but the Gaelic language is still used in parts of Kerry, Cork & Galway.

The drawing of the Castle is what it was before the attack, now half the front wall is gone. The writer forgot to mention the little Church across the Road that still stands—roofless. The tunnell was supposed to run

(2)

under the Road. I hope Rita +
yourself are in good health. I was
talking to Mary Flavin on the phone
& promised to visit her. There is
only Johnny & Jim Flavin left now.
Hannie McEvoy goes to Mass &
shopping but Maureen spends most of
the day in bed. I haven't heard
anything from Kathleen O'Connor. I
hope the O'Connor Reunion went
well. I would like to get information
on the Lynch cousins in New Zealand.
Love & God Bless
Bridie (Cox)

under the road. I hope Rita & yourself are in good health. I was talking to Mary Flavin on the phone & promised to visit her. There is only Johnny & Jim Flavin left now. Hannie McEvoy goes to Mass & shopping but Maureen spends most of the day in bed. I haven't heard anything from Kathleen O'Connor. I hope the O'Connor Reunion went well. I would like to get information on the Lynch cousins in New Zealand.

Love & God Bless

Bridie (Cox)

175. Patrick O'Neill to Bridie Cox, 21 November 2002

Patrick & Kate O'Neill

21 November 2002

Mrs Bridie Cox
Ballyline
Ballylongford
Co. Kerry

Dear Bridie

I don't know if you would remember me well, but I was at your home with my parents John and Elizabeth and my Aunt Kay Dwyer (RIP 8 October), in April 1991. They did all the talking, and all the photography, but I kept my eyes and ears open! ☺ I think Mum may have written to you recently, and told you of the deaths of Auntie Kay and of her cousin Hazel (O'Connor) Muir, who fell while on a climbing trip?

A lot has happened to me since 1991: came to Australia to study archives in 1994, ended up at the National Library here in Canberra for a few years, moved recently to the Parliamentary Library, married Kate in 1999, Emily was born in 2000, and our second child will be born in April, DV! How's that for a quick history!?

Mum has asked me to reply to your request of 29 July for information about her uncle Morgan who was killed in France in the Great War. I am very sorry for the delay in replying—I am doing part-time studies, so I have little free time when I should not be studying. Anyway, I hope to make up for the delay by the material I am sending you.

I enclose:

- copies of the In Memoriam cards for Michael (Morgan)—Mum's uncle—and his cousin Paul
- copies of the military records for Morgan, Paul and Paul's brother Isaac (you can see when I started family history work!)

Morgan is buried in a little cemetery near the town of Albert in Somme county, France, but Paul has no known grave; his name appears on a monument near Ypres in Belgium. I have the exact references at 'home' in Dunedin, and hope to get them in February when we make a visit there.)

The most interesting reading for you, though, will probably be the transcript of the postcards and letters from the O'Connor boys to their family during the war. I did this a few years ago, and it is much easier to read and copy than the originals. One day I may put copies of the originals on the Internet for the whole family to read...

6 Masters Place, Kambah ACT 2902, Australia Tel (+61 2) 6296 6635
oneill@webone.com.au patrick.oneill@aph.gov.au
<http://www.webone.com.au/~oneill>

And finally, I am at last sending you a copy of the O'Connor family tree that Mum asked me to send to you last year: I'm sorry about the delay, it's been sitting on a pile of unattended research stuff in our spare room for quite a while, waiting for me to write this letter, but letter-writing is not my strong point...!

Now, I have always remembered visiting you and seeing you discuss the family tree with Mum and Dad and Aunty Kay, and I have always been sorry I did not ask you then and there for a copy of the family tree charts that you were showing us. I wonder if it would be possible for you to send me a copy of them, and of any of your other family history material? Or perhaps you have already sent copies to Colleen Young or Carole Perwick, since there are a few of us doing family history now! If so, I might be able to get them from Colleen's husband Les.

Well, it's very late, and we're tripping to the coast tomorrow, so I'll sign off now, and get this posted at work on Monday. Every best wish to you and all your family for Christmas and the New Year.

176. Bridie Cox to Patrick O'Neill, 6 December 2002

Ballyline

Ballylongford

Co Kerry

Dear Patrick + Kate,

6/12/02

I was delighted to hear from you + thanks for all the material, I stayed awake for hours reading it especially the letters from W.W.I. My brother Patrick died in the Korean War 4/10/51 with the American Army + it is only now (after a lot of effort by a lot of people) that those boys are granted citizenship. You will be able to find his photo on a new website www.IrishinKorea.org. The Flahavan family lost many of their boys to war:- Two O'Connor, Lynch, Patrick Sheahan + Michael Mahoney of New York W.W.II. He was grand son of Katie Flahavan/Cullane of Moyvane. The older generation spelled the name Flahavan, I don't know when it was changed to Flavin

(2)

I had my tattered family tree photocopied for you only to find that the girl in the printers missed/lost some pages but luckily they are N.Z. people & you will be able to fill in yourself. I did not want to delay any longer as Christmas Cards have to be got out & if I let it go any longer I might forget. John & Michael O'Connor's brother in Llyn was Thomas & had a son James married to Mgt. Lynch. In the family tree you will note that there are two entries for Lynch as Michael O'Connor married his first cousin Lynch. (Thomas O'Connor Llyn was married to Mary Sheahan my grandaunt).

Congratulations on your marriage & baby & good luck with baby 2. I remember you calling & sorting out my family tree with your sister. The tree enclosed is messy, if you have problems with it write again. Happy Christmas to all. Bridie Cox