

Skreen Convent

Sr. Rosarii taught a Commercial class and Sr. Teresita taught music. The Bishop offered Principalship to Sr. M. Columba Cotter in Ross Primary school in 1924. Sr. Columba retired in 1926, and Sr. Margaret Mary Finnerty became Principal. Sr. Finbarr Martin was Principal from 1952 – 1970 when Ross school closed. Sr. Finbarr transferred to Ballinlig Primary school as Assistant until 1981 when Sr. Nancy Clarke became Assistant. Marcella Cavanagh was Principal in Ballinlig. Sr. Mary Nallon was the last teaching Sister in Ballinlig from 1984 – 1990.

The Convent in Skreen was the centre of welcome and activity for the parish of Skreen and Dromard. Transport was organised to bring seniors in weekly for Eucharist on Thursday evenings as well as welcome card games and tea, parish meetings, pioneer total abstinence and dramatic entertainments, all provided by the Sisters – most of whom were themselves seniors! Srs. M. Imelda Sharry, Raphael Maughan, Colette Wilson, Roch Byrne, Dympna Linnane, Pius Guinan, Rita Duggan, Vianney Nealon, Finbarr Martin, Nancy Clarke, Mary Nallon, Mary Gallagher and Martina Barrett, were members of the Community there at various times.

The future of Skreen Convent was on the agenda for Chapter 1992 being held in the Convent in Ballina. Bishop Finnegan presented a formal request to the Chapter for the Convent and land. A decision was reached in 1993 to accede to his request. The Bishop invited Monks from North America – The Spiritual Life Institute, to come to Skreen and to take possession of Skreen Convent and its land, which they did. Hermitages are dotted all over the beautiful landscape. It is indeed a Centre of Spirituality and peace. *Céad míle fáilte* lives on in Carrowcullen.