

## The Convent Ballina



*Ballina Convent*

He was very successful in this and he raised enough money to complete the front wing of the convent. However, he overstayed his leave and when he returned he found that his parish had been given to another priest. His new parish was Kilglass. The Mercy Sisters remembered Fr. Irwin with gratitude. A framed picture of him hung in the Convent parlour and he was remembered in prayer daily.

Many young women from different parts of Ireland, entered the convent down the years. Sleeping conditions were relatively cramped with some sharing bedrooms while others slept in dormitories. A major extension, undertaken by Sr. Marie Celine Halloran was completed to the West of the cut-stone building in 1978/79 which greatly relieved congestion and provided individual comfortable rooms for everybody, in keeping with modern conditions.

In the 80's and 90's, as needs arose in the Convent, outside help was employed which ensured comfortable caring. An elevator was installed and a new roof was put on the Convent by Sr. Maura Flynn, Local Leader. A special bathroom was fitted with a very modern bathtub to meet the needs of less able-bodied members, by Sr. Mary Gallagher Local Leader, who oversaw many necessary improvements. She renovated the Chapel tastefully, to the satisfaction and delight of the Sisters.