

Tuam

The famine had come to Tuam, and the Sisters immediately set up a relief centre to cater for the poor, especially the children. Conditions grew steadily worse and the Tuam Workhouse was opened in 1846. While it was built to accommodate 800 there were seldom less than 3,000 in it during 1846 – 1847. In 1847, cholera broke out and it is said that corpses of people were dotted around the streets of Tuam. They were buried each evening in a pit in Carrowpeter. A second pit was opened at Ballymote when the first one was full. The Sisters continued to nurse the sick in a makeshift hospital. They worked extremely hard and they helped to bury the victims when needed. They were desperate for help and applied to Baggot Street. Before Christmas 1847, Sister Elizabeth Stokes arrived, followed by Sr. Augustine Straker. Both were Professed in December 1850.