

Diocese of Achonry

They are Swinford, Ballymote, Collooney, Ballisodare, Gurteen and Ballaghaderreen. Shortly after the Famine the first Sisters of Mercy came to this small rural diocese in the West of Ireland. On June 5th 1855, Sisters Aloysius Martyn and de Sales Coppinger came from the Convent of Mercy, Tuam to start a community of Mercy Sisters in Swinford, Co Mayo. They travelled by coach, noting the dire poverty that existed throughout the West. It is written that the only indication that there was life somewhere was rings of smoke rising into the air. A newly built convent was ready to receive them. Schools were started.