



**FATHER MICHAEL BAILEY**

**( INSTITUTE OF CHARITY )**

**1835 - 1904**

**MEMORIAL MASS**

**AT**

**SAINT MICHAEL'S, NEWPORT**

**THURSDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2004**

**7pm**

Father Michael Bailey. I. C.  
1835 - 1904

The Catholic Faith was re-established in 19th Century Newport mainly through the work of the Rosminian priests and brothers, the Sisters of Providence the Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy and a loyal devoted Catholic community.

Father Michael Bailey who died on November 18th 1904 was outstanding in his contribution to the Church in Newport.

He was born on Michaelmas Day 1835 at Wigan, Lancashire where his father was a member of the Town Council being the first Catholic member of that body. He was elected in the year following the Catholic Emancipation Act, 1829.

Father Bailey was ordained about the year 1862 and came to ~~the~~ St Mary's Newport with his brother Father John Bailey twelve months later. Father John later moved to Cardiff where he was in contact with the Bute family and gave religious instruction to the sons.

J. H. Canning states that John was of a quiet studious nature and his expert skill as an architect was of ~~great~~ great advantage to his brother in building of St Mary's.

2/ Michael was essentially a man of action to whom obstacles were merely an incentive to increased energy. It is no exaggeration to say that he spared no effort physical or mental in the cause of Catholic Education and his work upon the School Board and the Board of Guardians was of immense and lasting value to the Catholics of Newport.

In August 1863 Father Cavalli Rector of St Marys was telegraphed from Cardiff to say that Father Bruno had suffered a fearful attack of cholera. 'A little more would certainly cause his death'. Father Bailey was sent there to help them.

The first Catholic school in Newport was opened in the 1830's in the Old Tithe Barn, opposite St Woodos Cathedral. Mass was said here while the present St Marys was being built. New Boys and Girls schools were built at the rear of the church in the 1840's.

In 1870 three cottages were purchased in High St, Pillgwenlly, and Father Bailey fitted one as a school

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3/ Chapel and the other two were opened as a school with eighteen pupils on Sept 29th 1870. They contributed two pence a week towards the cost of their education.

In 1874 MR Herbert of Hanarth gave a site for a school in Cross St. The MONMOUTHSHIRE MERCHANT (2nd January) carried headlines. "New School in Lower Cross St." and also that accommodation is now provided for over one thousand Catholic children. The five schools are already free from debt. At the opening ceremony the children sang a new piece "God Bless Our Pope".

Education became compulsory in this country in 1870. The Risminian Sisters of Providence decided to leave Newport after thirty years devoted service.

Father Bailey visited Devizes in Wiltshire and suggested that the Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy move to Newport and teach in the parish schools and they agreed. The Community moved here in August 1873 and for four months fourteen Sisters lived in the building next to the church known as the Institute. The attic became the dormitory and one small room the chapel.

Father Bailey said Mass in the school chapel in Pill and the zeal of the congregation soon enabled him to plan the building of a permanent church and school.

4/ existing small school was purchased from the Tredegar Estate for £400.

Mr Gardener of Victoria Place was appointed architect and (Mr W. Blackburn) the builder was  $\longrightarrow$  (also of Newport.)

Weekly collections throughout the district brought in large sums. The congregation gave all they could and several took the pledge so that they might have more to contribute.

Work soon began preparing the site and Father Michael set an example for the workman, the coal trimmer and iron ~~of~~ shippers and others who <sup>freely</sup> gave their time and labour. ~~He~~ With coat off and sleeves rolled up he would be found digging - mixing concrete and performing any other manual task that presented itself.

There was a job for all who ventured near, young men, old men, women and boys Catholic, Protestant and Jew were all pressed into service. Thus the foundations were dug almost without expense.

The foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Newport Dr Hedley O.S.B. on St Michael's day in 1886 and the following year this imposing church was opened for worship <sup>also</sup> on Sept 29th with the full ceremonial of the church.

... were Mr J. A. Herbert of Llanarth  
Court and Sir Arthur Herbert K.C.B.,  
Quarter Master-General, the Mayor  
of Newport Alderman G. Hoskins and the  
who were digging the foundations just  
over a year previously

The Monmouthshire Mercury at this  
time of a meeting of managers and teachers  
of the Cardiff district schools held in the  
Town Hall. Mr Whitmore H.M. Inspector of Schools  
remarked that in his district no manager  
devoted more time and attention to his  
schools than Father Bailey (Appause)

Father was also elected a member of Newport  
School Board and a Director of the  
Newport and Monmouthshire Hospital,  
a member of the Board of Guardians  
and a Governor of Newport Intermediate  
Schools

In 1892 Father Dominic Caralli  
died after forty years devoted service to the  
Catholic Church in Newport and Father  
Michael Bailey became Rector of  
St Marys

The Education Department condemned  
the parish school buildings in the late 1890's. These  
were at the rear of the church, the infant  
school was in the institute

Father Bailey and his associates purchased  
a piece of land in Queens H. All and erected  
the new schools at a cost of £6,000. They  
also founded the new St Joseph's Schools in Newport  
in 1902. The Catholic Truth Society of England

6 meetings were held in the Tredegar Hall from Sunday to Thursday.

A comprehensive working committee made the arrangements for this prestigious event, the chairman ~~was~~ Father Bailey. On the first day High Mass was celebrated by Bishop Hedley at St Marys in the presence of the Bishop of Clifton. On the same day Father Ottoway celebrated High Mass at St Michaels in the presence of the Bishop of ~~Clifton~~ Shrewsbury.

The inaugural lecture was on Secondary Education by Dr Hinsley (The Cardinal in Wood War Two)

On the final day three hundred clergy and laity and Bishop Hedley travelled by train to Lintern. The weather was beautifully fine. The ruins were <sup>thoroughly</sup> explored and then the whole party assembled in the main transept and sang "Faith of Our Fathers".

In Nov 1903 Father Bailey became ill with heart trouble. After eminent medical advice he was taken to Mentone in the South of France in the hope that the change would have a beneficial effect. His sister Ida accompanied him and she wrote "The Doctor thought his condition so low that he could die at any ~~minute~~ moment. He sinks into a coma then he is able to rally but although his mind is clear he cannot express himself - and this annoys him. He is thinking about the schools and tries to talk to the Doctor and nurse about them."

Later he recovered sufficiently to return home. Now confined to a Bath

to visit ~~his beloved~~ ~~St Michaels~~ St Michaels in  
Pill.

He died in the old St Marys  
Presbytery, Stow Hill at twelve noon on  
Friday the eighteenth of November 1904.  
The church bell tolled and the flag of the Town  
Hall was placed at half mast.

The South Wales Argus described Father Bailey  
as one of the most notable figures in Newport, a  
public man - a devoted priest, the father of his  
people. His body lay in state at St Marys from the  
Sunday night until the Tuesday night so that all would  
have an opportunity of passing the coffin and taking a  
last look at the countenance of their priest. On  
Tuesday night a dirge was sung by a choir of  
Newport and Cardiff clergy. There was an immense  
congregation. The deceased was then taken down  
to St Michaels and laid before the High Altar.

On Wednesday the Requiem Mass was  
celebrated by Bishop Hedley before a great congregation  
including many of other faiths and representatives  
of the Town Council, the Board of Guardians and the  
old School Board.

The Bishop was assisted by Father Hill of  
Cardiff who was deacon and Father Hoare of  
Cardiff sub-deacon. Thirty priests were present.

Bishop Hedley said Father Bailey had spent  
many years in missionary work in Newport. A  
man who in a very busy life put his religion  
first. He constantly preached to men and women  
who were too indulgent to vice and wickedness  
and constantly preached the value of their immortal  
souls. No monument to him would be more  
striking than St Michaels Church and  
the schools he spent his life organising.  
Rev. H. Moran of Holy Trinity in his



3 The funeral procession passed through Commercial Road Commercial St and Stow Hill. ~~A Victoria car drawn by four horses conveyed the coffin~~  
At the head ~~of~~ marched sixty stewards followed by a large body of men walking three and four deep. Then came a thurifer swinging the censer, the crucifer carrying the crucifix and acolytes carrying lighted candles then servers of the Sanctuary in black cassocks and white surplices. The clergy then followed in carriages then a body of the Royal Field Artillery from the Barracks. Next the Victoria car drawn by four horses carrying the coffin and the chief mourners ~~followed by~~ members of the Town Council and other dignitaries. The Pall Bearers were J. R. Bates. A. Williams - J.P. H. Le Brasseur. T. Mahoney. J. Grande. T. O'Connell and W. Pinchin. The Bearers. J. Donoghue. D. Buckley. J. Burke. P. Maher. J. Walsh and M. Crowley.

Following <sup>the</sup> mourners were the girls of the Catholic Schools in white and black - the boys of the schools wearing medals of St Joseph - then women members of the congregation. At the Town Hall and public buildings flags were at half mast.

At the cemetery the Nuns of St Joseph were in the foreground was responsible for Father Dan Hickey ~~was organised the~~ the funeral arrangements. Present St Marys Presbytery was