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Cumann Uaigheann na Laochra Gael
Uimhir Bhosca 7105, 74 Sraid Dama, Baile Átha Cliath 2
National Graves Association
Box 7105, 74 Dame Street, Dublin 2
1926 Caring for the graves of our patriot dead of all generations 2011

Cumann Uaigheanna na Laochra Gael Aibhreann 2011

Tá Cumann Uaigheann na Laochra Gael go mór sa nuacht le déanaí maidir leis an feachtas chun an séadcomhartha náisiúnta a shábháil i sráid Ui Mhórhda, Átha Cliath. Ach leanann an gnáth obair den chumann ar aghaidh ó lá go lá, ag tabhairt aire do na huaigheanna agus na leachtanna dár laochra. Táimid sásta agus bródúil go bhfuil siad faoi ár gcúram agus go bhfuil an obair againn le déanamh.

Sa liosta ócáidí seo tá tuairisc faoin obair a rinneamar i rith 2010 agus faoi na h-ócáidí le teacht i 2011. Chun eolais is déanaí a fháil, téigh go dtí ár leathanach Facebook: www.facebook.com/NationalGravesAssociation agus tá tuilleadh eolais le fáil ar ár suíomh idirlín: www.nga.ie. Tá ár siopa idirlín ansin freisin. Tá sé éasca chun úsáid agus is féidir linn postáil go dti aon áit sa domhan.

Sna laethanta atá ann inniú, tá an saibhreas in easpa agus mar sin tá an tacaíocht dár bhfeisirí níos tábhachtach ná riamh. Cé nach bhfuil aon airgead le teastáil ón ár gcabhróirí tá costas mór orainn chun na h-uaigheanna agus na leachtanna a chothabháil. Comh maith le sin, bíonn muid ag iarradh chun leachtanna nua a thógáil gach bliain. Bíonn cabhair de gach saghas le teastáil uainn an t-am ar fad.

Ar son an coiste, ba mhaith liom ár mbuíochas a thabhairt dár bhfeisirí agus dár lucht tacaíochta go léir, má tá sibh sa bhaile nó thar lear, braitheann muid oraibh. Go raibh míle maith agaibh as bhúr gcabhair i rith 2010 agus tá súil againn go mbeidh muid i dteagmháil go luath.

Sean Ó Faoláin,
Caithaoirleach.

A Chairde

The National Graves Association has received much publicity recently, particularly in relation to the ongoing campaign to save the National Monument and surrounding buildings on Dublin's Moore Street. However, day to day work of the Association has continued steadily with little or no publicity, this being the maintenance of the many patriot graves and monuments that we are honoured to have in our care.

The contents of this list of events outlines some of the undertakings of the National Graves Association in 2010 and some events coming up in 2011.

However, for ongoing, up to date information, please consult the National Graves Association facebook page which is comprehensive and updated regularly. Further information is available on our website at ww.NGA.ie. The website includes an online shop. This is a user friendly service and items can be posted anywhere worldwide.

In these difficult financial times, the support of all our members and supporters is extremely important. Although, all our members work voluntarily, the maintenance of existing monuments and graves coupled with the erection of new headstones etc. is a constant financial challenge.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the committee, to thank all our members and supporters, at home and abroad, for all your efforts during 2010.

Sean Whelan, Chairperson



Donnacha O'Mathuna presenting a statuette of Cú Chulainn to Emer Costello, Lord Mayor, and her husband, Joe Costello, TD.

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On behalf of the National Graves Association I would like to apologise to all our associate members for the delay in furnishing the 2011 List of Events. The delay was brought about by the decision made in 2010 to discontinue with the printed format and concentrate with updating our website and Facebook page. Over the last few months the Association has received a steady number of enquiries regarding the list of events. The Committee has now decided to run with both a printed and on-line version.

Matt Doyle, Secretary

NGA
Report for 2010



Tess Kearney Commemoration, March 2010, Glasnevin Cemetery

The National Graves Association started the year with a fitting tribute to its late secretary, Tess Kearney on the 10th anniversary of her death (5 February 2000). Tess was the granddaughter of a Northern Fenian, while her father as a committed Republican lost his job in the Post Office, because he refused to swear allegiance to the crown of Britain. The family had to leave Derry for Donegal and eventually moved to Dublin, where Tess, always very efficient and committed, had a successful career in finance and later with a Catholic newspaper. She was a religious woman and single-mindedly devoted to speaking for the patriot dead. Tess did not live to see the Forgotten Ten receive honourable, Christian burial, for which she had campaigned for decades. As the commemoration for Tess took place on Saturday, 6th March, which is also the anniversary of the Fenian rising of 1867, relatives, friends and associate members present then walked to the Tallaght Martyrs plot, proceeded by flag bearers, where a wreath was laid and a further ceremony took place.

During 2010, it was brought to the attention of committee member Aidan Lambert, that a fine Celtic cross over the grave of John Lavin, a high ranking Fenian, in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, which had been unveiled by Maud Gonne in 1901, had fallen and lay broken in pieces on the ground for the last ten years. There has been an appeal for funds and this monument has been repaired and now awaits its re-dedication ceremony.

While the Association held its customary commemoration of the Forgotten Ten and participated in the annual Liam Lynch remembrance event in the Knockmealdowns, in June, eighteen members and associates were invited to a civic reception in the Mansion House by Emer Costello, Lord Mayor, assisted by her husband, Joe Costello, TD.

The NGA had a guided tour and learned about the history of the building. Donnacha Ó Mathúna spoke on behalf of the NGA. The Association also participated in a wreath laying ceremony in St. Colmcille's graveyard in Swords, Co. Dublin to mark the 30th anniversary of the brutal murder of Miriam Daly, an often forgotten victim of the loyalist death-squads, aided by the collusion of the British security forces. Miriam Daly was the chairperson of the Irish Republican Socialist Party and a leading member of the National H-Block Committee at the time of her murder, which took place at her home in Andersonstown, Belfast on 26 June 1980. She was selected for assassination because of her political



Associate members and Committee outside Mansion House, Dublin

beliefs and her work on behalf of Republican prisoners. NGA members assisted at this event by cleaning and preparing the grave prior to the ceremony.

Throughout 2010, the Association continued its efforts

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to preserve the historically important Moore Street site, in conjunction with the Save Moore Street Committee. Especially Matt Doyle, our secretary, was indefatigable in this time consuming undertaking.

We also assisted with the research and launch of Ray



Ray Bateson, Author of "They Died by Pearse's Side". Glasnevin, August 2010

Bateson's study of 1916, "They died by Pearse's Side", which deals with the more than sixty known Volunteers, who were killed in action during Easter Week or died of wounds or the effects of imprisonment subsequently. Their names are now largely forgotten, as are their graves, so this new publication is most welcome.



Nephew of Kevin Barry, Also Kevin Barry lays a wreath at the graveside.



Sean Whelan, Chairperson, NGA, speaking at launch of "They Died by Pearse's Side", August 2010.

In November, there was the annual Mass for all, who suffered and died for Ireland, as well as our deceased members, in the Capuchin Church in Church Street, Dublin. November the 1st, marked the 90th anniversary of the death of Kevin Barry. On Sunday the 7th of November the Association held a commemoration in Glasnevin Cemetery to his memory. Members of the Kevin Barry family from Carlow and America were in attendance.

Sean Whelan, chairman NGA, organised a successful fund-raising night in Balbriggan, where The Druids performed lively ballads. On 21 November, we assembled for the 90th anniversary of the murder of Peadar Clancy, Conor Clune and Dick McKee in Glasnevin Cemetery. Conor Clune of Quin, Co. Clare was an enthusiastic promoter of the Irish language and the nephew of a bishop, but not connected with the national struggle. He was arrested on suspicion in Vaughan's Hotel, Parnell Square and brought to Dublin Castle. Clancy and McKee, two important activists, had been betrayed by a British spy and captured. All three were tortured in the hope of getting information about the killing of the Cairo Gang of British undercover agents that morning, which is known as "Bloody Sunday". The three young men remained silent and made the ultimate sacrifice for the Republic.

Afterwards, a further wreath was laid at the cenotaph to the Manchester Martyrs and "the noble hearted three" were honoured. It is very satisfactory to record that the NGA has continued this ceremony, which dates back to 1867, and at which one of our founders, J. W. O'Beirne, often assisted. Some NGA members visited the graves of other distinguished Fenians, for example, John O'Mahony.

We concluded our busy programme in December with the secretary laying a wreath in a snow covered Glasnevin for Liam Mellows, Rory O'Connor, Richard Barrett and Joe McKelvey, who were executed on 8 December 1922 as a reprisal during the tragic Civil War.

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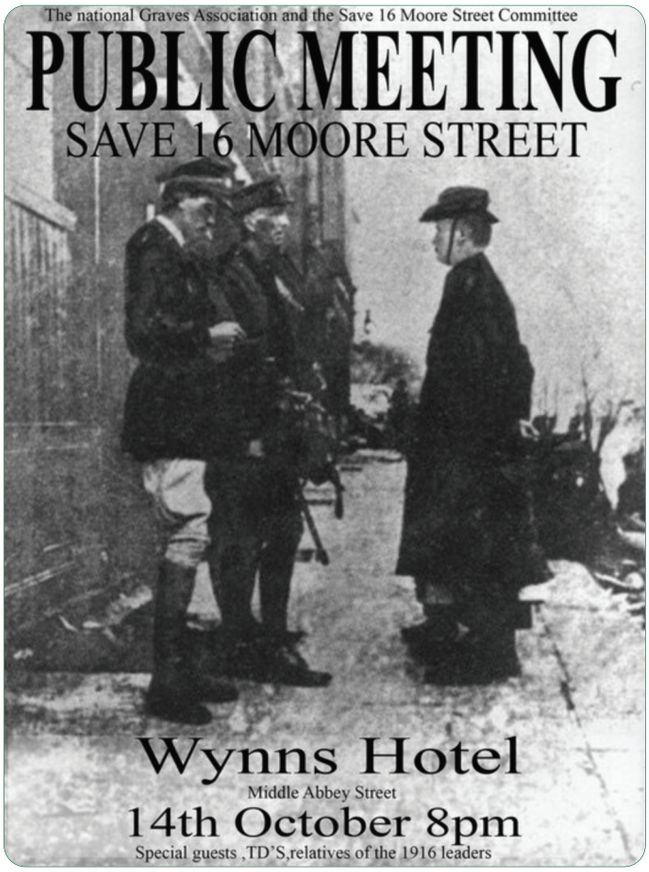
Moore Street Update



The above poster was adapted/designed by James Connolly Heron. (Save 16 Moore Street Committee). Saturday 29th April 1916 junction of Moore Lane and Parnell Street, Dublin. Commander-in-Chief Padraic Pearse negotiates terms of surrender with Brigadier General Lowe.

Thursday 14th October 2010 saw a very successful and packed public meeting held in Wynn's Hotel, Abbey Street, Dublin. The meeting was organised by the National Graves Association to discuss and inform people about the current situation concerning the National Monument at 14-17 Moore Street, Dublin.

Earlier that evening N.G.A. chairman, Mr. Seán Whelan, was interviewed on the subject by Ms. Mary Wilson for RTE's primetime show "Drivetime". As always, Seán was very articulate and put across the N.G.A. position very clearly, ie. that we completely oppose any infringement on the previously designated National Monument site at 14-17 Moore St. Some property developers are trying to get a shopping centre built on the site while only preserving the building facades. This is totally and unequivocally unacceptable.

There was a great attendance at the meeting with standing room only at five minutes to go. By eight o'clock that standing room was well and truely gone. The gathering was chaired by our own Mr. Seán Whelan. Seán introduced the panel which comprised of: Mr. Matt Doyle (N.G.A. secretary), Mr. Paddy Cooney (P.R.O. of the Save 16 Moore St. campaign), Mr. Colm Mac Geehin (Legal representative of the families of the 1916 leaders) and Mr. James Connolly Heron (Minute Secretary of the Save 16 Moore St. campaign and great grandson of 1916 leader James Connolly).

Our own Mr. Matt Doyle gave an outline of the involvement of the N.G.A. in the campaign from the outset, some ten years ago now. The initial spur to action was started by a vigilant member of the public (Paddy Cooney) who noticed that the commemorative plaque had disappeared overnight. The importance of public vigilance in these matters cannot be over emphasised.

James Connolly Heron then gave a presentation on the historical significance of the Moore St. area and particularly the terrace which includes numbers 14-17. He later showed pictures and plans of the developer's proposed plans which shocked all present.

Paddy Cooney followed with a display on how the Moore St. area could be developed into a world class National Monument that all could be proud of. This proposal called "HQ16" had not previously been seen by the public and its ambition and scope are very impressive.

After the presentations Seán opened up the meeting to the floor for questions and answers. The public interest in this issue was obvious from the submissions from the floor. A number of councillors, senators and T.D.s also pledged their support for the campaign.

The most noticeable absence was the Green Party, whose leader Mr. John Gormley (Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government), has the ultimate power to protect the Moore St. site. At the stroke of a pen he could rule out any ambiguity about the future of the site and preserve it for the future generations, as would be right.

The meeting concluded with strong pledges of support for the campaign. It was important to hold this meeting to inform people of where the campaign is at and what the current situation is regarding the site. The campaign has now been brought to a larger audience, we have consolidated our existing support and we are confident of winning the protection and preservation of No.s 14-17 Moore Street. Tiocfaidh ár lá.

Liam Ó Culbáird,
Deireadh Fómhair 2010.

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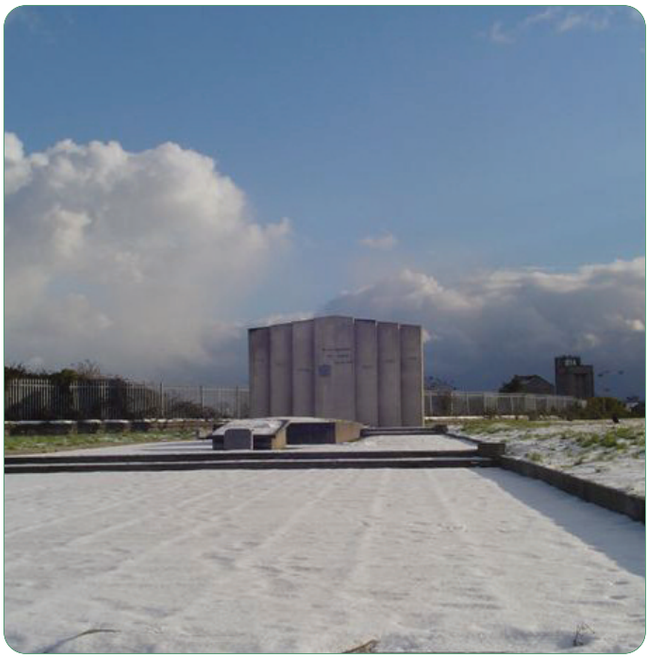
St Paul's, Glasnevin



In 1929 the National Graves Association unveiled the first monument at St. Paul's section of Glasnevin cemetery to the volunteers killed during Easter week of 1916. The current monument designed by Lorcan Leonard was erected in 1966 for the fiftieth anniversary of the rising and was not fully completed due to a lack of funds at that time. The centenary of 1916 is fast approaching and the N.G.A. is looking at a number of plans for a fitting memorial for this great occasion. There will be a fund raising project in place for this and details will be available on our website at a later date.





Kevin Barry

Kevin Barry By Constance De MARKIEVICZ

We knelt at Mass with sobbing heart
Cold in the dawn of day.
The dawn for us, for him the night,
Who was so young and gay.

Then from the Altar spoke the priest.
His voice rang thin with pain —
Bidding us pray, a boy must die
At England's hands again.

The cruel English tortured him,
He never shrank or cried;
Sublime his faith, the gallows tree
He faced that day with pride.

Proudly he gave his life for her,
To whom his heart was given;
His dying eyes knew Freedom near,
Saw Death the Gate of Heaven.

Bright flaming dawn of a young life,
Simple and pure and brave;
One childlike prayerful sacrifice,
His end -- a felon's grave.

His end! No end to lives like his;
With us he lives alway.
Bright through our night, a shining star,
He lights for us the way.

And Christ, who died for love of us,
Tortured and bruised and shamed,
Gives courage to such hero souls,
Unbending and untamed.

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Jackie Clarke - 10th Anniversary



Jackie Clarke, 1928 - 2000, above at 18 years of age

On Sunday the 10th October 2010 (10th anniversary) a plaque was unveiled on the grave of Jackie Clarke (N.G.A Mayo Representative). The ceremony took place in Leigue cemetery Ballina County Mayo. Loretta Clarke read the following tribute for her brother.

Tribute to a Dead Solider of the Republic

We laid him down in autumn,
At the back-end of the year.
No rifles flashed, no piper played,
Orations there were none.
A decade of the Rosary,
And his burial was done.

He joined in the hard days of the forties, when he was just eighteen.
His comrades and his mentors
Were the men that kept the link
The graduates of survival, of interment and of spite.
He learnt from those Revolutionaries.
They taught him how to fight.

There was no glory in those years,
Just the daily grind, no fame or adulation,
No recognition of any kind.
They did not want or seek it.
Their aim- to keep continuance alive.

As we filed away, on that October day.
The day we laid him down,
And as the shadows lengthened
another group formed round.
The dead comrades of his living years rose above the hill.
The frail bodies of the hunger-strikes
Those men of iron will.
Their unrepentant voices whispered to his grave.
When all hands were raised against us,
You buried us with courage and with pride,
Now we have come to claim you
For we still fight for freedom by the testament of our lives.
And So Too Shall He Be Remembered

NATIONAL GRAVES ASSOCIATION List of Events 2011

January:	Sunday 9th Commemoration at the grave of Volunteer Anthony O'Reilly (executed 1923) Celbridge, County Kildare - 12 noon.
March:	Commemoration at the graves of Volunteers: Patrick Moran, Bernard Ryan, Patrick Doyle, Thomas Bryan, Frank Flood and Thomas Whelan (Hanged 1921) Glasnevin Cemetery - 12 noon Saturday 26th - Commemoration at the grave of Fenian John Lavin Castlerea, County Roscommon - 2pm.
April:	Easter commemoration - Thomas Traynor (executed 1921) at memorial Tullow County Carlow. Easter Commemoration Kerry (Robert Monteith Easter Commemoration. 25th April at 2.30pm Gleenageenty, Tralee, County Kerry).
May:	Sunday 8th - Commemoration to Long Kesh Martyrs at the N.G.A. Hunger Strikers Cenotaph, Glasnevin - 12 noon.
June:	Annual Bodenstown commemoration will be held by other organistaions at the grave of Wolfe Tone.
July:	24th - Commemoration to General Liam Lynch at monument on the Knockmealdown Mountains - not organised but attended by N.G.A.
Sept/Oct:	Visit and commemoration to graves in Belfast and Bellaghy of patriots who died on hunger strike.
November:	Sunday 6th - Annual Mass and commemoration to Kevin Barry and his comrades. Wreath laying ceremony at the cenotaph of Manchester Martyrs. For details contact: 087 2282033.
December:	8th - Wreath laying in Glasnevin Cemetery in honour of Volunteers Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellows Joseph McKelvey and Richard Barrett.

Tours/Commemorations - please note dates may change.
Please contact 087 2282033 if you have any queries.
Guided N.G.A tours of Glasnevin Cemetery contact 087 2282033.

I would like to thank the committee, associate members and county representatives for their support in 2010. I would like to thank Aoife O'Cathaoir without whose help their would be no report, I would also like to thank Gearoidin Nic Caba, Aidan Lambert and all who contributed to this report. Finally, I would like to thank Padraic Buckely for making available photographs both for this report and for the N.G.A. Website. ***Matt Doyle, Secretary***

The National Graves Association is a voluntary body, with no party political affiliations. We operate as an autonomous body. The National Graves Association is a registered company. Contact details: National Graves Association, Box 7105, 74 Dame Street, Dublin 2. Tel: (087) 2282033 / (01) 8621928. www.nga.ie, email addresses: matt@nga.ie or donations@nga.ie

The committee is made up of people who are dedicated to honouring the men and women of every generation who died in the cause of Irish Freedom. Each member gives his/her time on a voluntary basis.

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The Maid of Erin in Glasnevin

In 1883, the Dublin IRB infiltrated the Young Ireland Society, which organised literary and historical lectures. The society served as a platform to welcome John O'Leary back from exile and made him its president in 1885. A programme of prestigious debates ensued, attracting such speakers as the young William Butler Yeats and Douglas Hyde. Around 1887, the Young Ireland Society formed a National Monuments Sub-Committee.

O'Leary and his fellow Republicans were well aware that the



burial place of Terence Bellew McManus, whose funeral in 1861 was an important turning point in Irish history, of John O'Mahony, a Fenian founder, who died in 1877, and of Sergeant Charles McCarthy, who suffered a fatal heart attack shortly after release in 1878, remained a bare, muddy patch. Other patriotic monuments, begun with funds collected from the public during the 1860s, were also slow to reach completion – the Catholic Cemeteries Committee had, for instance, prohibited the erection of a Celtic cross over the grave of Stephen O'Donoghue, who had been killed in the rising of 1867.

The Monuments Committee's work was supported by Archbishop Croke, who sent £5 to honour McManus and O'Mahony. A subscription list from 1887 showed that John O'Leary, Charles Gavan Duffy, Dr. Mark Ryan, the London Fenian chief, and a number of M. P.s, such as John Dillon, contributed. Little progress was made for years. The committee hired Sir Thomas Farrell to create the sculpture of Erin, surrounded by figures of Irish youth and nationalist symbols. In an age, when there were statues of English royalty in all major cities, the Young Ireland Society tried to present nationalists as an alternative ideal.

The Catholic Cemeteries Committee, however, was not favourably disposed towards revolutionaries. During the burial of Col. John O'Mahony in 1877, for example, it had not allowed Charles Kickham, then the most popular living Irish novelist, to deliver an oration over the grave of his friend – Kickham had to speak outside the main gates. When the Catholic Cemeteries Committee learnt of the proposed inscription, which included the lines "all outlaws and felons according to English law, but true soldiers of Irish liberty", concluding with "perpetual proof that in the Irish heart



faith in Irish nationality is indestructible," it consulted the attorney-general. He considered the lines seditious, whereupon the Cemeteries Committee refused permission to use them. The Young Ireland Society, however, insisted on their inscription for McManus and his companions, all the more, as several of the patriots buried in the plot had died after years of persecution in British jails.

The History of the Dublin Catholic Cemeteries by William Fitzpatrick, published in 1900, stated that "The intended monument, consisting of a group of statuary, on which Sir Thomas Farrell, P.R.H.A., personally expended £500, has not yet left his studio".

This situation continued until 1926, when the National Graves Association was founded and chose the completion of the Maid of Erin as its first major project, which was most appropriate, as one of the founders of the National Graves Association, J. W. O'Beirne, had been a member of the original National Monuments Committee. Eventually, in 1933, the Maid of Erin was successfully erected with the previously "seditious" inscription. In 2010, the NGA spent €4,000 to clean and renovate this important and beautiful monument.

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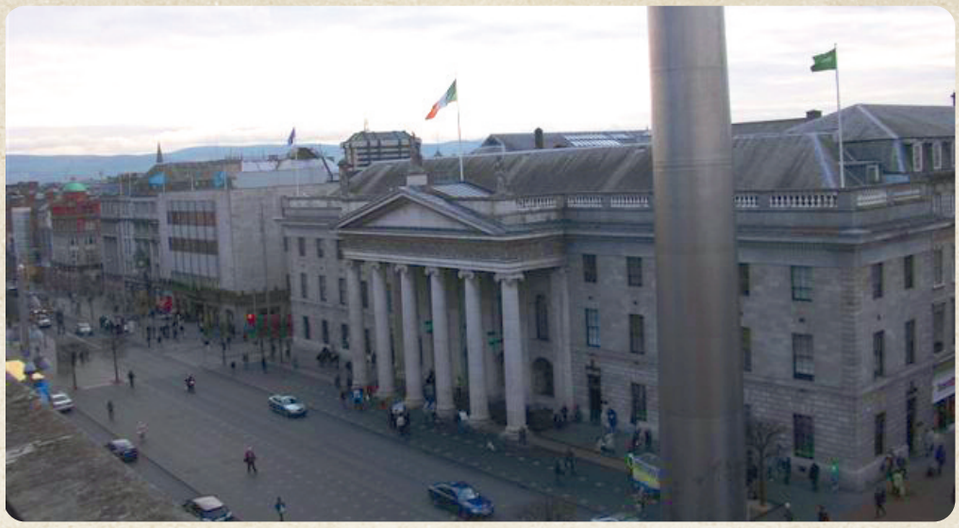

1916 - 2011, 95th Anniversary of the Easter Rising. GPO, Dublin 1.

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN,
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the last three hundred years they have asserted it to arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God. Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, in humanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government.

THOMAS J. CLARKE,
SEAN Mac DIARMADA, THOMAS MacDONAGH,
P. H. PEARSE, EAMONN CEANNT,
JAMES CONNOLLY, JOSEPH PLUNKETT.