

FREEDOM'S WAY

PARKHURST, 3rd JUNE, 1974

*Young Gaughan died in Parkhurst Jail
The "CAUSE" of Ireland he would not fail
He died like brave men, a brave PROVO
That gallant lad from North Mayo.*

*In that English prison on the Isle of Wight
Young MICHAEL died on hunger strike.
He gave his life at twenty-four
For God or Country he could give no more.*

*His dying wish on FREEDOM'S WAY
"Have them bury me Lord in my native clay,
For my soul is ready and the prayer I pray,
For ever Lord with you to stay".*

*The pipes played on that June day
As his coffin was carried by the I.R.A.
And exiles marched their respect to pay
To an Irish rebel on his homeward way.*

*From all-over the land to Liberty Hall
The thousands came when they heard the "call"
For by Liffey side back home to go
On his final journey to his loved Mayo.*

*The people wept as he went by
For Ireland's Freedom we know he died
He's going back, his work is done
For the cause he died was a noble one.*

*Now he's home at last, this brave hero
To the town he left some years ago
And there in the church on bended knees
For his soul and country, prayed Fr. Connelly.*

*The church was silent as his Mass was read
Until an answer came to what the curate said
"We're here to pray, and not to hear 'who England fed',
But to praise the Lord and respect the dead".*

*Then some brave "comrades" and some in black
Had guns prepared and were on the mark
By the main church door they fired some shots
Over that gallant soldier and patriot.*

*In green Leigue cemetery by his graveside
O'Connell spoke, not in disguise
May God have mercy with his right hand
"Now your body is joined to Ireland."*

*Mid the choir of angels and that Fenian Band
Now pray for us and a Free Ireland
Your noble deed we respect with joy
As you rest in peace by the river Moy.*

PEADAR TUNNEY.