

Some of the military graves include:

510 Corporal R. Hurst, South Irish Horse, 4th April 1917 aged 25

The standard military gravestone bearing the emblem of the regiment may be seen near the pathway due north of the Carmichael memorial.

Nearby is:

John Thomas Lowry | lieut. 8th Kings Rgt. of Foot | Born 4th July, 1789 | Died 29th April 1888 | A good soldier of Jesus Christ 2 Timothy 11.

358528 Gunner, R.A. Deegan, Royal Garrison Artillery, 6th November 1918.

This is situated on the top of the east pathway.

Henry Christian Murphy | Died 5 Feb. 1914 aged 84 | Served at | Balaclava, Inkerman and Sebastopol | and also his wife | Georgina Emily Murphy | wounded during Rebellion | Died 29 April 1916, aged 59.

This is twenty-three paces up from the entrance gate on the left-hand side. Twenty paces further on is:

553815 Sergeant | N.F. Boxwell | wireless operator | Air Gunner | Royal Air Force | 21 August 1942 aged 19.

The cemetery is under the care of the Select Vestry of St George.

[77] THE TOMB OF RICHARD CARMICHAEL (1776–1849), THE EMINENT DUBLIN SURGEON.



ST JAMES'S CHURCHYARD

SITUATION: JAMES'S STREET, DUBLIN 8

PERIOD IN USE: 1627–1954 [CLOSED EXCEPT TO THOSE WITH BURIAL RIGHTS]

BUS NOS (FROM CITY CENTRE): 51B, 78A

The fairly large churchyard of St James's is hidden away behind St James's church, now numbered 121 James's Street. Closed in 1963, the church is no longer a place of worship and is used for commercial purposes.

Nearby is the recently restored fountain, which is an obelisk, ornamented by four sundials. It was designed by the architect Francis Sandys and erected in 1790. Interestingly, the old custom of carrying the coffin three times around this sundial before a burial is still remembered. This was in order to recite the burial prayers prior to interment in St James's churchyard, as Catholic priests were not permitted to officiate at burials within Protestant churchyards. It was recorded that the Pope offered up a Pontifical Mass in Rome on St James's Day for the repose of the Catholics buried in St James's Graveyard.

The church of St James, which was founded in medieval times, was located on this site. It was dedicated to the Apostle, James the Greater, the patron saint of Spain and also the patron of lepers. The remains of St James are buried in Santiago de Compostela, which was one of the great pilgrimage centres and the third most important city of pilgrimage after Jerusalem and Rome.

Ireland had close connections with Compostela from medieval times. In 1220, two hospitals were founded for lepers in Dublin. St Stephen's was on a site in Mercer Street and Lazaretto was located on Lazar's Hill, which was near Townsend Street. Intending pilgrims for the shrine of Compostela stayed here. The journey, which took about four days, usually commenced from St James Gate, through which the old road from the west, the Slíge Mór, passed to what is now High Street to become the main street of the medieval city. St James's Gate is marked on *Speed's Map of Dublin* (1610) and on *Brooking's Map of Dublin* (1728).

The earliest documented reference to St James's church is dated 1268. Following the Reformation, it was united with the parishes of St John in Kilmainham and St Catherine's. The old church of St James fell into disuse and quickly became a ruin.

By an Act of parliament in 1707, the parish of St James was separated from St Catherine's, and shortly afterwards, the Protestant church of St James was built on the site. The new church was described as a long, low and narrow building. It collapsed in 1761, but was repaired soon after.

The present church, the third to be built on the same site, was designed by Joseph Welland, architect of the Church Commissioners. It was erected in the period between 1859 to 1860. In the 1940s, the spire of the church was deemed to be in a dangerous condition, and in the late 1940s thirty feet of it was removed, leaving the spire somewhat stunted. In 1956, it was recommended by the City and Town Parish Commission that the parish of St James should be united with that of St Catherine's. The last service held in the church was on 14 April 1963 and the Archbishop of Dublin Dr George Simms was the preacher.

X In 1987 to 1988 FÁS and the St James's Development Association sponsored a programme to restore St James's churchyard and record the headstone inscriptions. During the work, 705 memorials were uncovered, 537 of which had inscriptions which were legible. The burial records indicated that, between the period 1742 to 1836, the number of people who were interred in this burial ground amounted to 30,000. Well over that number must have been interred there over the centuries, the vast majority of whom would not have been commemorated with a memorial. During this work, two medieval stones dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were located which could have been remnants of an earlier church

The churchyard, which comprises one and a half acres and slopes down towards the river, is one of the oldest burial grounds in what is now the inner city. Along with Bully's Acre in Kilmainham and St Kevin's in Camden Row, it was the burial ground most used by Catholics during penal times. It is shown on *Bernard de Gomme's map of The city and suburbs of Dublin* (1673) and it is seen quite clearly on *Charles Brooking's Map of 1728* and *Rocque's Map of Dublin of 1756*. On all of these maps, the site is still surrounded by fields.

Just as the feast day of St John was celebrated at nearby Kilmainham, the feast of St James, which falls on 25 July, was celebrated by St James's Fair which was held in James's Street, opposite the churchyard. The graves were decked with ornaments and garlands of white paper which had been fashioned into fanciful forms. There was a holy well known as St James's Well in close proximity to St James's Gate. The fair is mentioned in Holinshed's *Chronicles*, 1577 and also described by Barnaby Rych in his *New Description of Ireland* 1610.

The will of Walter Segyne or Soggyn, proved in 1495, in which he asked to be buried 'in the church of St James without the city' is the earliest reference to a burial in St James's.

The earliest legible headstone recorded dates from 1627. There are a number of memorials, which are placed over vaults, which were erected and paid for by the relatives of the deceased.

A large monument in the centre of the churchyard commemorates Tipperary born Sir Theobald Butler, who framed the *Articles of Limerick*, in 1691. A distinguished lawyer, he was knighted in 1689. He became Solicitor General for Ireland and pleaded the Irish cause in the Commons in 1704. He was made

a Knight in the Order of St James of Compostela for his loyalty to King James II during his short sojourn in Ireland. He died in his residence in nearby Nicholas Street in 1721.

The Butler monument comprises a high wall of plastered brickwork surmounted by a circular overhead on front of which are the heads of three cherubs surrounding a medallion. Beneath is a tablet bearing a Latin inscription, which was translated in the *Irish Builder* as follows:

This bust is a likeness of Sir Theobald Butler, an Irish lawyer, | an honour to the laws, his name and his country, Invested, not exalted, with the equestrian dignity. An advocate, Judicious, | upright, polished, eloquent, excelling in the native and his | legal dialect, not in partial Justice, not in search of favours, | not in flattering language, but in weight of arguments, innate | force of genius and a consummate knowledge of the laws. A man | whom eloquence, an unsullied faith, gravity tempered with much | humour and affability, whom a sincere and virtuous course of | life, and a mind the guardian of virtue, sagacious to unfold | the intricacies of the law, have raised to the summit of fame. | and might also, were it not for his religion, have raised him | no doubt to that of fortune. He died aged 70 the 11th of March | MDCCXX [1771], inferior only to death. James his | eldest son erects this monument to his most worthy father.

[178] ST JAMES'S CHURCH. ST JAMES'S STREET. THE GRAVEYARD LIES TO THE REAR.



Redeemer, and rejoicing \... (en)tered into rest March 14th 1867, and was |...y Trowbridge, Wilts. (more follows, but is difficult to decipher).

There is a memorial to the Reverend Richard Connolly, Curate of St James's, who died after contracting a fever while administering to victims of the famine. It reads:

Erected | by the congregation | of | St James's Church. | To the memory | of their late Curate | The REVd RICHARD CONNOLLY A.B. | who was cut off | by Fever caught in the discharge | of | his Ministerial duties | | Jany 18th 1848 | aged 31 Years. | 'Blessed are the dead which die in | the Lord from henceforth; yea saith | the Spirit, that they may rest from | their labours, and their works do | follow them'. Revs. 14th. Chap 13th.v.

Mother Mary Bellew was a notable Irish nun. Along with five others, she was one of the founders in 1717 of the first Dominican convent in Dublin at Channel Row [Now Brunswick Street North]. She resigned as prioress in May 1726 and died the following August at a young age. She was buried in St James's churchyard.

The convent account books recorded that £0.10.0 was paid for the opening of her grave: £1.10.0 for her coffin; £2.10.0 for Masses, and that a sum was also paid for the hire of coaches and sedan chairs. This was the burial place of all the nuns from Channel Row until around 1776 when a site was acquired at Mulhuddart.

St James's churchyard contains its share of military men including a victim from the *Leinster*.

In | memory of | WILLIAM SWANSON | who died 9th April 1894 | Aged 42 | and of | GEORGE WILLIAM SWANSON | his only son | Captain Royal Flying Corps | and 4th Hants Regiment | who went down in the Leinster | 13th October 1918 aged 28 | 'Thy will be done'.

There is a memorial to the Worthington family which includes the name of Albert Worthington who was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme in the Great War on 3 July 1916.

Two members of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers also rest here:

12760 Private | T. Murphy | of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers | 31st May 1915 age 35 | Gone But Never Forgotten. and 24760 Private | P. Glynn | Royal Dublin Fusiliers | 22nd January, 1920.

Another victim of war was the Reverend Francis Cavendish Roche C.F., who died on active service at Alexandria, 14 November 1915 aged thirty-three years.

Like Bully's Acre nearby, which supplied the greatest quantity of bodies to the Dublin medical schools, St James's churchyard did not escape from these grave robbers either. In fact, in some instances, caretakers and sextons colluded with them for a price! Such was the case with a certain Mr Thomas

Owen, described as above average height with red hair, and who wore a black coat and breeches. The following notice appeared in Faulkner's *Dublin Journal* in December 1732 offering a reward of ten guineas for the capture of the said Thomas Owen, Sexton of St James's Church 'who most wickedly and feloniously removed the corpse of the late Mrs Murphy which it is supposed he sold'.

St James's churchyard was officially closed for burials in 1954 except to those holding burial rights. The last entry in the burial register is dated 11 November 1989 and relates to a funeral conducted by the late Father James Carroll, then curate of St James parish.

It is under the care of the Select Vestry of St Patrick's Cathedral Group.