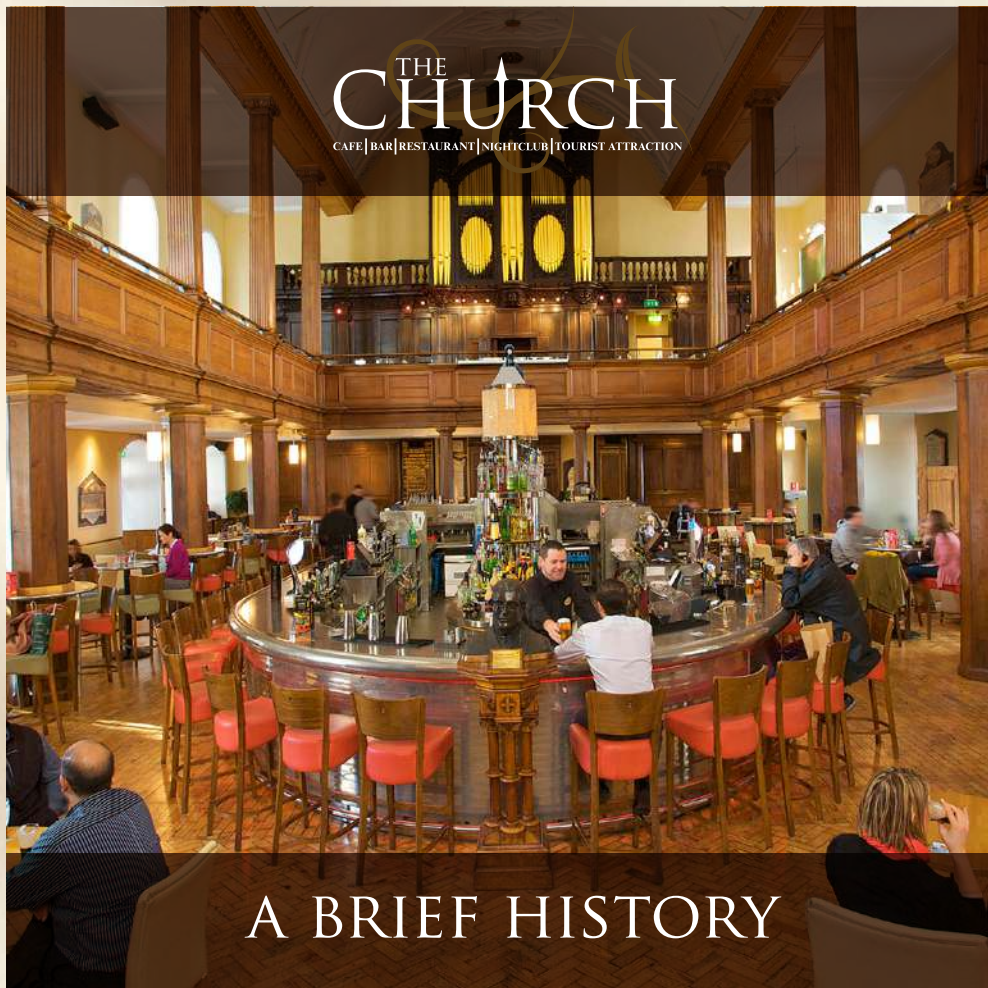


# THE CHURCH

CAFE | BAR | RESTAURANT | NIGHTCLUB | TOURIST ATTRACTION



## A BRIEF HISTORY

## HISTORY

The former *St. Mary's Church of Ireland* is one of the earliest examples of a galleried church in Dublin. Built at the beginning of the 18th century, it boasts many outstanding features, such as the Renatus Harris built organ and spectacular stained glass window.

St. Mary's closed in 1964 and lay derelict for a number of years until it was purchased by John Keating in 1997. Following extensive restoration over a seven year period, this List 1 building finally re-opened its doors in December 2005 as John M. Keating's Bar.

The tasteful conversion and refurbishment of this Dublin landmark was acknowledged at the Dublin City Neighbourhood Awards 2006, where it won first prize in the category of Best Old Building.

In September 2007 the building was acquired by new owners and renamed "The Church Bar & Restaurant" and its range of services was expanded to include a Café, Juice Bar, Night Club and a Barbeque area on the terrace.

The minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands has classified the building as one of intrinsical historical interest.

Here at The Church we are extremely proud of our unique connection with some of Dublin's literary greats. Some of the world's most prolific writers were born and raised in our great city. As a world recognised endorsement Dublin is the fourth UNESCO City of Literature. For more please visit [dublincityofliterature.ie](http://dublincityofliterature.ie)

## IMPORTANT HISTORICAL FIGURES ASSOCIATED WITH ST. MARY'S INCLUDE:

**Arthur Guinness** - Founder of Guinness Brewery was married here in 1761.

**Sean O'Casey** - Playwright & Author of '*The Plough & The Stars*', '*Juno & The Paycock*' & '*The Shadow of a Gunman*' was baptised here in 1880.

**Theobald Wolf Tone** - United Irishmen Founder was baptised here in 1763.

**John Wesley** - Founder of the Methodist Church delivered his first Irish sermon here in 1747.

**Jonathan Swift** - Author of '*Gulliver's Travels*' and Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral attended services here.

**The Earl of Charlemont** and Irish Volunteer attended services here.

**George Frederic Handel's Messiah** was first publicly performed in Dublin in April 1742 on Fishamble Street and it is known that he regularly used the organ here to practice.

Buried within the grounds are:  
**Mary Mercer** - Founder of Mercer's Hospital

**Lord Norbury** - "The Hanging Judge" Ordered the execution of Robert Emmett in 1803.

# SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Welcome to The Church Café, Bar & Restaurant. This is a self-guided tour around the building and grounds of the early 18th Century church of St. Mary's.

## History and Background of the Area

The parish of St. Mary's was founded in 1697 and was only the second parish on the north side of the River Liffey. It took its name from the medieval monastery of St. Mary's Abbey that occupied most of the north side of the river from 1139 until its dissolution in 1539. The original Viking town of Dyflin was built on the south side of the river in the 10th century while only a small community lived on the north side. This community expanded greatly in the late 17th century at which point the parish of St. Mary's came into existence.

## The Church Building

Work on the church building began almost immediately and was largely finished by 1702. It was mostly the work of English architect

William Robinson, who was also responsible for the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham. It is likely, however, that it was finished by his successor as Surveyor General, Thomas Burgh (also responsible for the Old Library in Trinity College). St Mary's is currently most renowned as the first galleried church in Dublin and is a perfect example of classical church architecture. With the falling Protestant population and the change in the local area from residential to commercial use, St. Mary's was finally forced to shut in 1986. The building was put to numerous uses over the next 20 years. It was then purchased by publican John M. Keating in 1997 and underwent a major refurbishment until 2005 and began trading as John M. Keating's. Remarkably, until the changes made for its renovation as a café/bar, it possessed the oldest unaltered church interior in Dublin and much of this has been beautifully preserved. It was acquired by its present owners in 2007 and renamed "The Church".

## Stop 1 - Bust of Arthur Guinness

The founder of the Guinness brewery in Dublin married his wife Olivia Whitmore here in St. Mary's Church in 1761. They subsequently had

21 children, 10 of whom survived 'til adulthood. Arthur II, followed in his father's footsteps and wed his wife Ann Lee here also. In front of the bust we see a fantastic example of a baroque stained-glass window. The framing of Portland stone shows a stylised design that bypassed most Dublin churches. The window itself exhibits a more elaborate pattern than usually seen in Protestant churches of that time where the stained glass was used more as shading than anything else. The gallery we see running around the interior of the church is the first of its kind in Dublin. This set a precedent as most Protestant churches followed this example over the next 150 years.

The octagonal limestone pillars are timber clad and were extensively reconstructed during the conversion of the church in the late 90s.

## Stop 2 - Baptismal Font Below Metal Spiral Staircase

Several influential people were baptised in St. Mary's Church including: Nationalist and United Irishmen founder Theobald Wolfe Tone 1763 Irish playwright Seán O'Casey 1880.

Alongside these famous names, there were more than 25,000 baptisms, 5,500 marriages and almost 18,000 burials at St. Mary's Church. Now walk up the metal spiral staircase.

## Stop 3 - The Gallery

From the top of the stairs we get an excellent view over the whole converted church. We also see some of the 31 wall tablets, which are dedicated to people formerly buried in St. Mary's crypt and graveyard.

## Stop 4 - The Renatus Harris Designed Organ

This is the most striking feature of the interior of The Church. Several of the figures on the organ casing were decapitated by an iconoclast but it is otherwise unaltered from the early 18th century. George Frederick Handel, of Messiah fame, lived on nearby Abbey St. and was a regular visitor to St. Mary's to make use of the organ. There are two further tiny upper galleries on either side of the organ pipes though it is hard to imagine they were ever used. Though currently not functioning, it is hoped to get the organ back in working order soon though this will cost in excess of €100,000. We now continue walking past the kitchenette and bar



area and around to the other end of the gallery and through the door to the external tower.

#### **Stop 5 - The Glass Enclosed Bridge to the Tower**

The wooden floorboards leading to the external tower were removed from the Adelphi Cinema/Theatre in 1995 prior to its demolition. Some of the famous acts to perform on its stage, including the Beatles and the Rolling Stones are listed on the floor below you. This tower provides lift access to all floors of the church as well as an emergency fire exit. Continue down the stairs past street level to the basement level.

#### **Stop 6 - The Tower Room**

Continue forward about 20 metres and through the door on your left and enter The Cellar Bar. These function rooms are located in an area that was excavated out from underneath the Church. They are not part of the original building. Continue to the area (marked with an emergency exit sign) opposite the end of the bar counter and walk up the few steps.

#### **Stop 7 - The Burial Crypts**

There were 6 crypts in the basement of the church and extensive excavation work had to be carried out

during the conversion of the church to its current use.<sup>32</sup> skeletal remains had to be removed and reinterred elsewhere. Access to the crypts was from an external stairwell. Continue out of the Cellar and walk past the entrance to the toilets and go up the stairs to ground level. On the way you will pass one of the magnificent 18th century timber staircases which formed the original entrances to the upper gallery. All 18th Century churches followed this design of two staircases surrounding the centre organ.

#### **Stop 8 - The original Entrance Porch**

These two doors behind the display table were the original entrance doors to the Church. Note the wonderful wall sculptures. Now walk through the exit door which leads outside to the Terrace. The former Church Yard is now home to our Beer Garden and Al Fresco dining area. (The red brick building on the far side of Mary St. houses the beer cold room and store of The Church. This means that if you drink a draught beer in The Church that the beer has travelled underneath the street!

The terrace gives a splendid view of the original front entrance of St. Mary's Church.

The elegant Portland stone columns, with limestone surrounds, are elaborate for its period and certainly the most striking feature of the exterior. It is a later addition to the original church following its elevation as the parish church of the wealthy and powerful in the 18th century.

The stunted bell tower above the west front entrance is unfortunately the result of limited finances when the rich began to move to more fashionable areas on the Southside. The 'temporary' roof of the original construction is still in situ some 300 years later!

On the south side of the church building we find Wolfe Tone Park. This was once the site of the graveyard of the original St. Mary's Church. In the centre of a burgeoning fashionable northside, the graveyard soon found itself overcrowded and as early as the mid-19th century bodies were removed to make more space – much to the annoyance of local residents who had to endure the spectacle and smell of putrefied remains! With its restricted space, few new burials took place here following the mid-19th century and by the 1940s the area was allowed to grow into

a public park, with most of the gravestones being removed to the outer walls. This was made official in 1966 with the sale of the area to Dublin City Council and the removal of the headstones. Many of the original gravestones are still visible on the southern wall of the public space today.

The graveyard became the final resting place of several eminent Irish figures. Most notable amongst these being Lord Norbury – the infamous “Hanging Judge”, who sentenced Irish nationalist Robert Emmet to be hung and beheaded following his failed rebellion in 1803. So that is “The Church” A Great Dublin Experience!. We thank you for visiting and we do hope that you have enjoyed the art, architecture and history on this tour. We suggest that you now find yourself a comfortable seat and relax and enjoy some of our Irish hospitality. And if you would like to return later to dine in the Gallery Restaurant we suggest that you make a booking at the reservations desk. Bookings are not required for drinks and/or dining in the main Bar.

*The following pages include photo images  
of the many wall tablets here at the former  
St. Mary's Church*



## NAMES FEATURED ON OUR MEMORIALS

### Ground Floor

Allen c. 1830  
Edmonstone c. 1823  
Watson c. 1805  
Black c. 1883  
McKenny c. 1814  
Magill c. unknown  
Dowager c. 1860  
Butler c. 1774  
James c. 1850  
Morrison c. 1834  
Clarke c. 1820  
Nicholson c. 1879  
North c. 1910  
Vandeleur c. 1835  
Jameson c. 1789  
Burdett c. 1841

### Vestibule

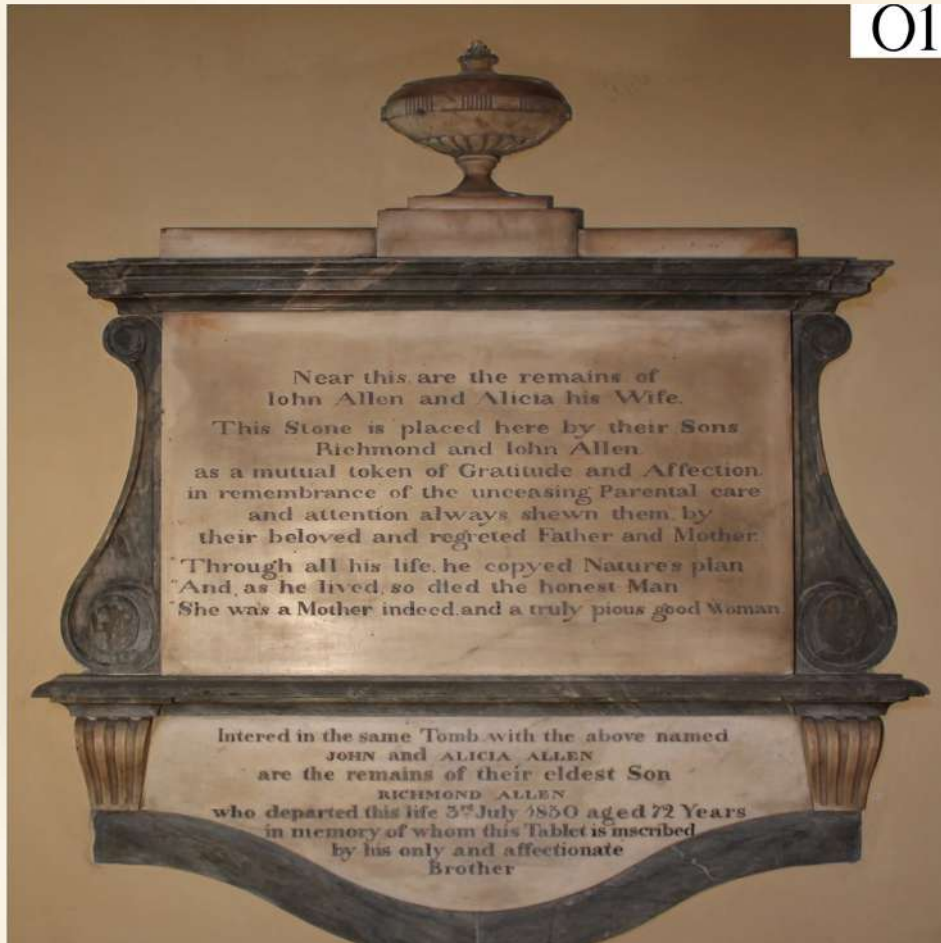
Cave c. 1830  
Fleury c. 1941

White c. 1844  
Whitestone c. 1845

### Gallery

White c. 1844  
Fletcher c. 1782  
Wright c. 1825  
Moore c. 1854  
Howard c. 1780  
Ricard c. 1732  
Tenison c. 1735  
Whitestone c. 1845  
Stevelly c. 1822  
Stevelly c. 1833  
Watson c. 1818  
Law c. 1789  
Newcome c. 1769  
Nutely c. 1729  
Carolyn c. 1838

01

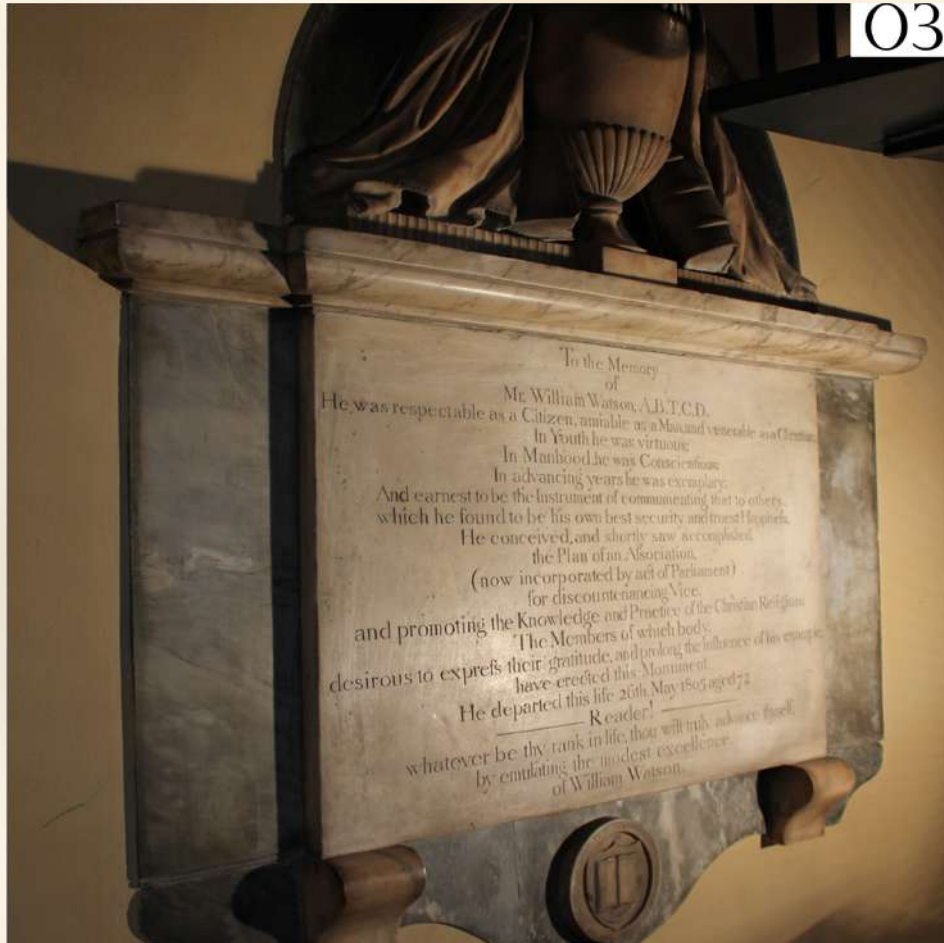


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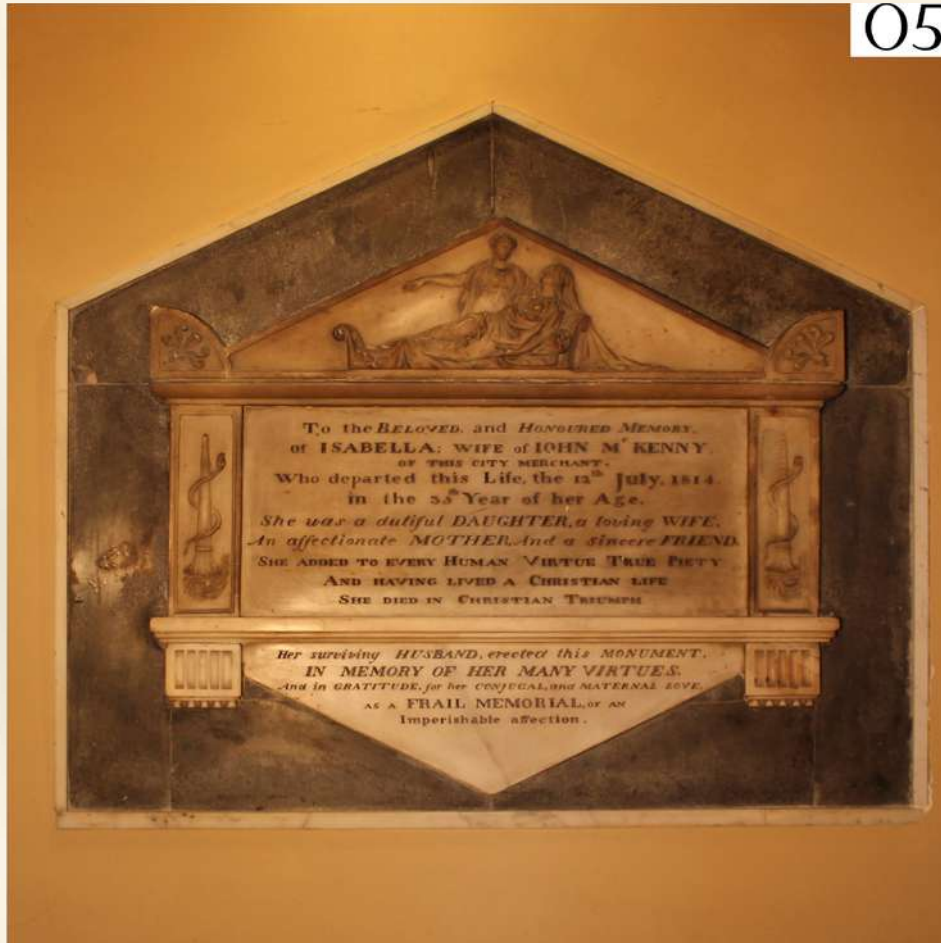
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04



05



06





07

IN THE VAULT BENEATH THIS CHURCH  
 WHERE LIE THE MORTAL REMAINS OF  
 HER HUSBAND AND HER TWO SONS  
 (AS MENTIONED ON THE TABLET BELOW)  
 ARE ALSO DEPOSITED THOSE OF  
**GRACE LOUISA**  
**DOWAGER MARCHIONESS OF ORMONDE**  
 WHO DIED MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> 1860  
 AGED 81 YEARS.

08

IN A VAULT UNDERNEATH THIS CHURCH  
 ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF  
**JAMES BUTLER MARQUIS OF ORMONDE**  
 BORN 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1774,  
 AND WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE  
 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 1858.  
 AND OF HIS TWO SONS  
**RICHARD MOLESWORTH WANDESFORDE BUTLER**  
 BORN JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup> 1818,  
 DIED FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> 1858.  
 and  
**CHARLES WANDESFORDE BUTLER, LIEUTENANT**  
 BORN FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> 1820,  
 DIED OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858.  
*"So teach us to number our days,  
 That we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."*

09

In testimony of sincere affection this tablet was erected by  
 JOHN CAVE, to the memory of her Brother RICHARD CAVE Esq  
 of St. Fredrick Street, who died the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1800  
 Aged 60 Years.

Beloved and esteemed by all who knew him for strict integrity  
 and amiable conduct through life. His loss is now severely felt.  
 He was always ready to relieve the distressed,  
 and in justice may be said  
 he was a true and faithful Servant of his Saviour,  
 through whose merits alone he departed,  
 in hope of a joyful Resurrection.  
 Reader, go and do Thou likewise.

10

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
 THE REV<sup>d</sup> CHARLES MARLAY FLEURY D. D.  
 WHO FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS FILLED THE OFFICE  
 OF MINISTER TO THIS CHAPEL.  
 WHERE HE WAS LOVED AND HONORED AS A FAITHFUL PREACHER  
 OF THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD, AS A LABORIOUS PASTOR  
 AND A WARM AND AFFECTIONATE FRIEND.  
 HIS DELIGHT WAS EVER TO EXALT THE LORD JESUS AS THE  
 SAVIOUR OF SINNERS, AND WHILST HE SET FORTH WITH ALL HIS  
 ABILITY AND POWER, THAT "BY HIM ALL THAT BELIEVE ARE  
 JUSTIFIED FROM ALL THINGS" HE EVER MOST UNCOMPROMISINGLY  
 MAINTAINED THE ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN THE  
 SALVATION OF HIS CHURCH AND PEOPLE, HE SHUNNED NOT  
 "TO DECLARE THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD" THROUGH EVIL AND  
 GOOD REPORT, AND WHEN IT PLEASED GOD TO CALL HIM, HE DEPARTED  
 THIS LIFE RESTING HIS SOUL ON THE FINISHED WORK OF THE  
 LORD JESUS, AND SETTING THE SEAL OF HIS DYING TESTIMONY  
 TO THE PRECIOUSNESS OF CHRIST. "WHO OF GOD IS MADE UNTO  
 US WISDOM RIGHTEOUSNESS, SANCTIFICATION AND REDEMPTION".  
 DIED ON THE 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF FEBY 1863, AGED 60 YEARS.

REMOVED TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH ON THE  
 CLOSING OF THE OLD MOLYNEAUX CHURCH 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 1941.



11



12





13

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
 JAMES CLARKE ESQ<sup>TD</sup>.  
 ONLY SON OF JOSEPH AND ISABELLA CLARKE  
 OF THIS CITY.  
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 1820. AGED 38.  
 THIS TABLET IS ERECTED AS A TESTIMONY OF THE  
 DEVOTED AFFECTION OF HIS WIDOW MARGARET CLARKE.  
*O tarry thou the LORDS leisure: he strong and he  
 shall comfort thine heart: and pal thou thy  
 trust in the LORD. Psalm 27. 16*

14

SACRED

To the Beloved Memory of  
 LUCY  
 THE FOND AND LOVING WIFE OF  
 WILLIAM B. NICHOLSON  
 THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY HER  
 DEVOTED AND AFFECTIONATE BROTHER  
 DIED 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1879.

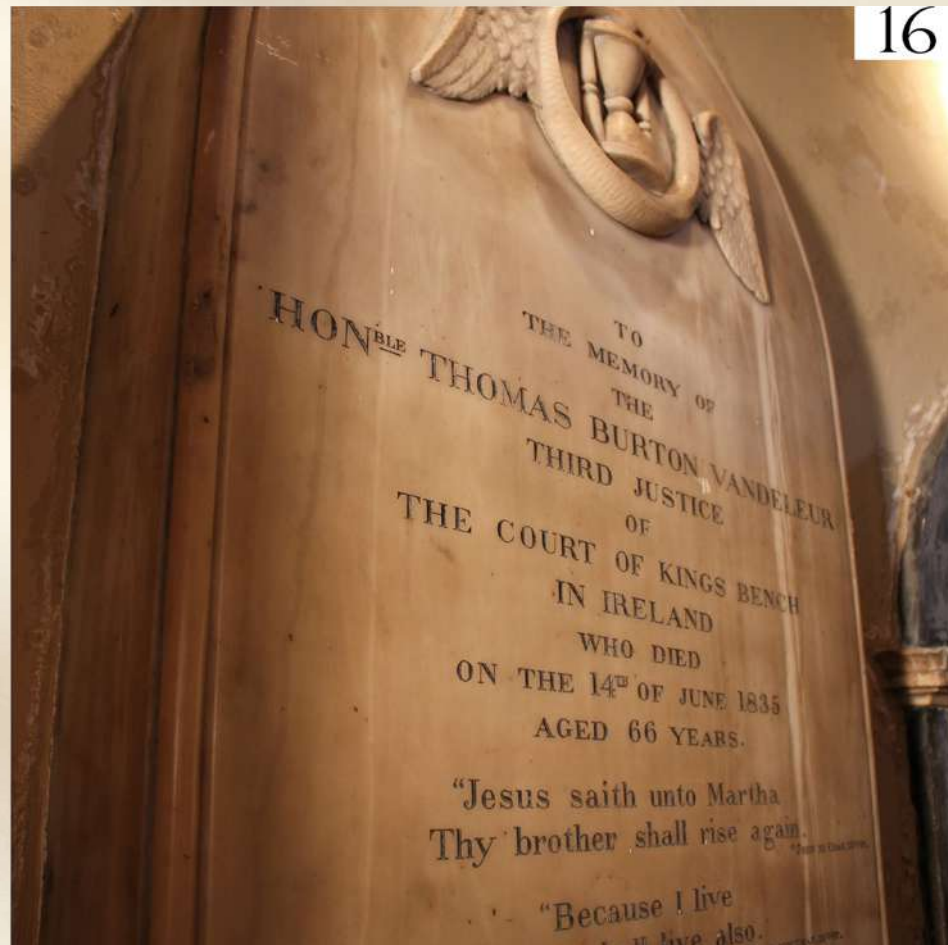
The Good Die not.

*"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose  
 again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus  
 will God bring with him." 1. Thess. IV. 14.*

15



16

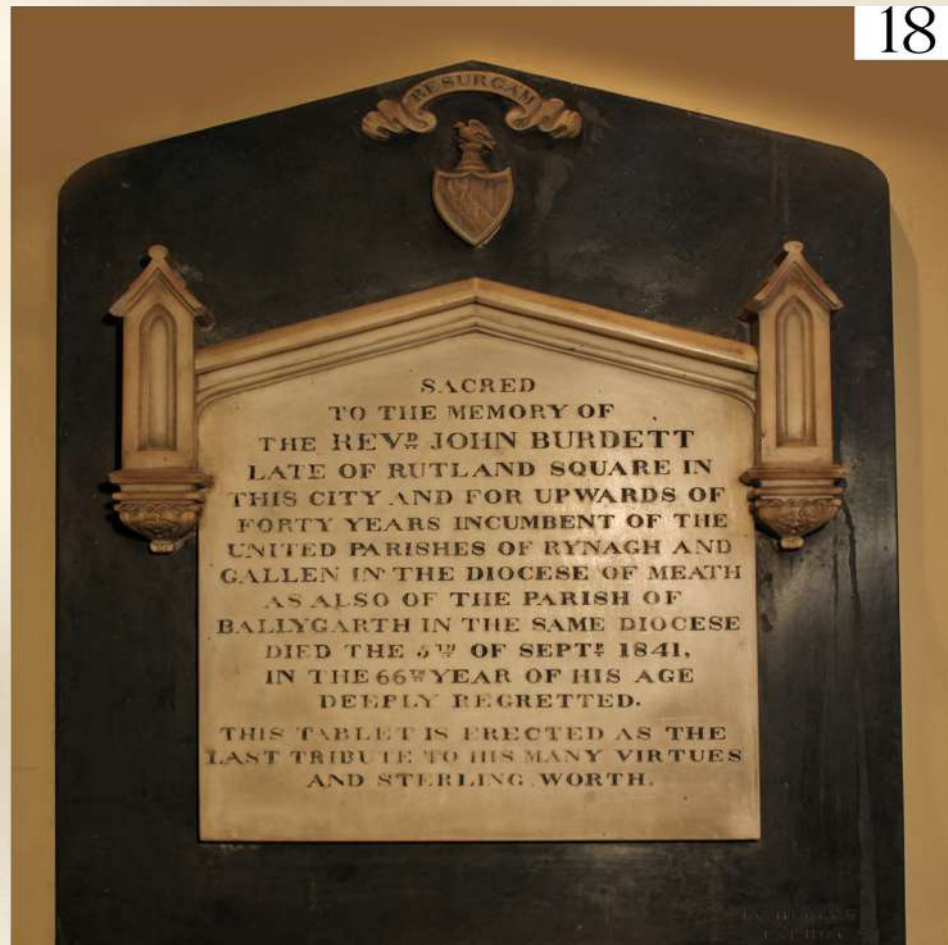




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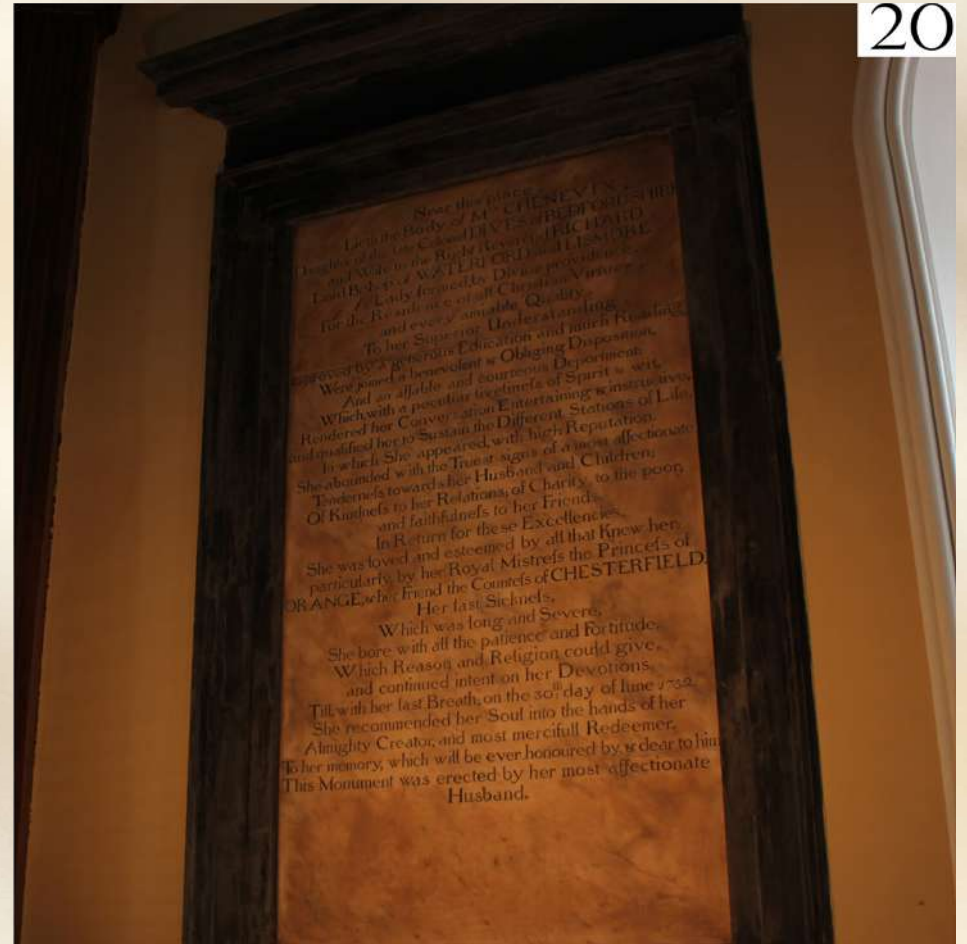




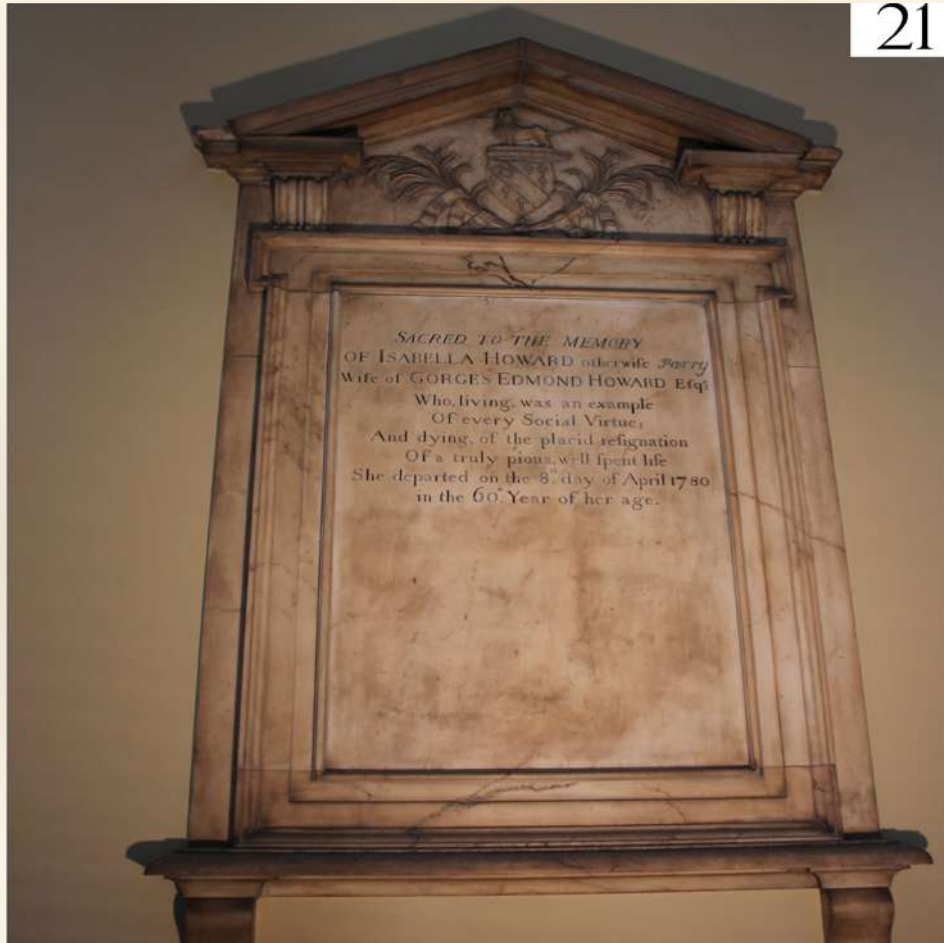
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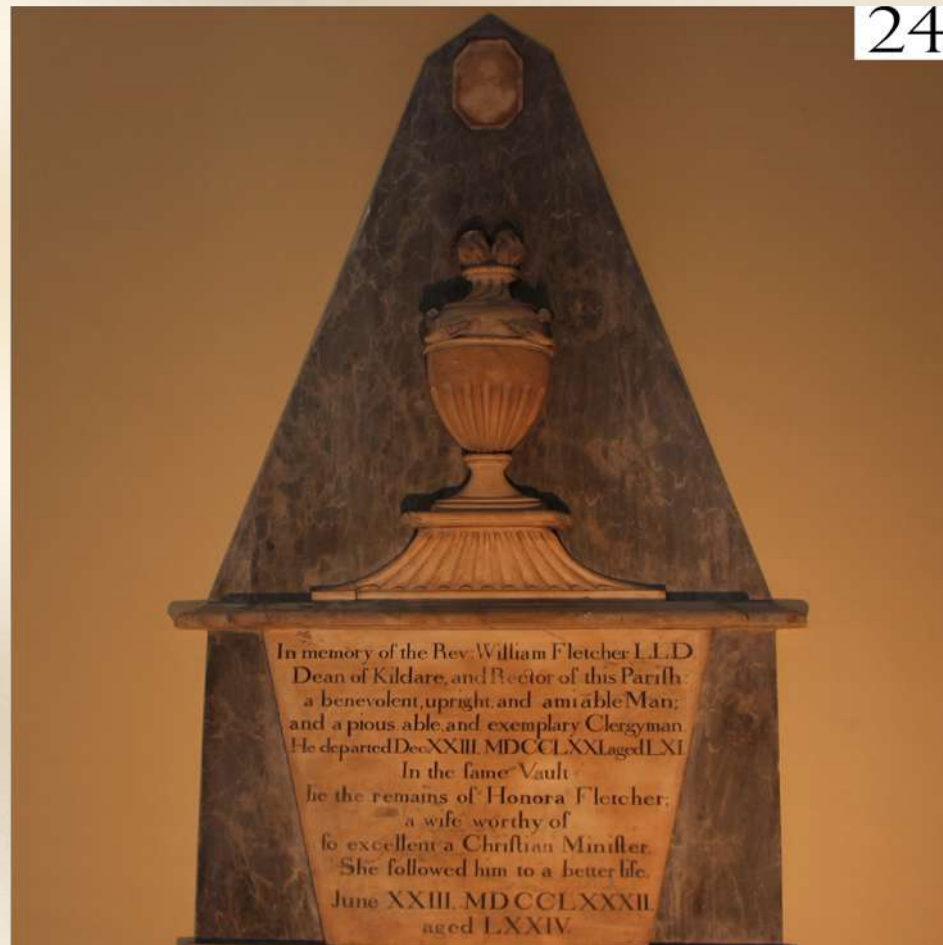
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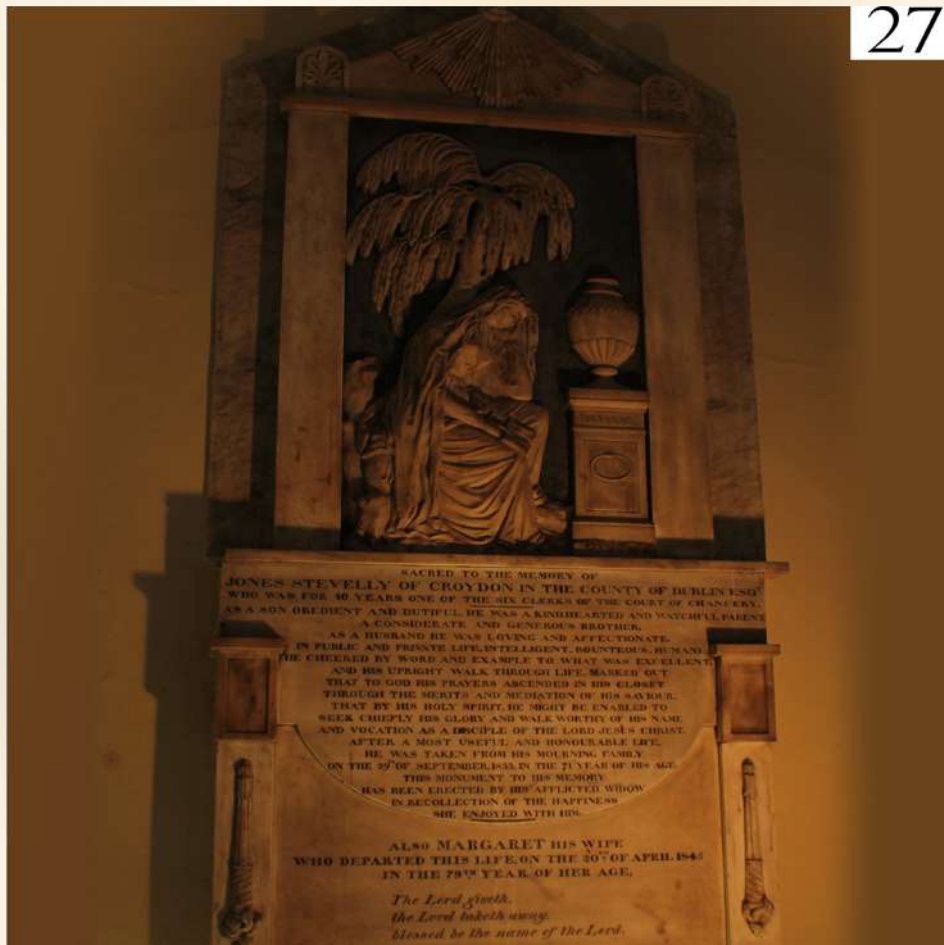
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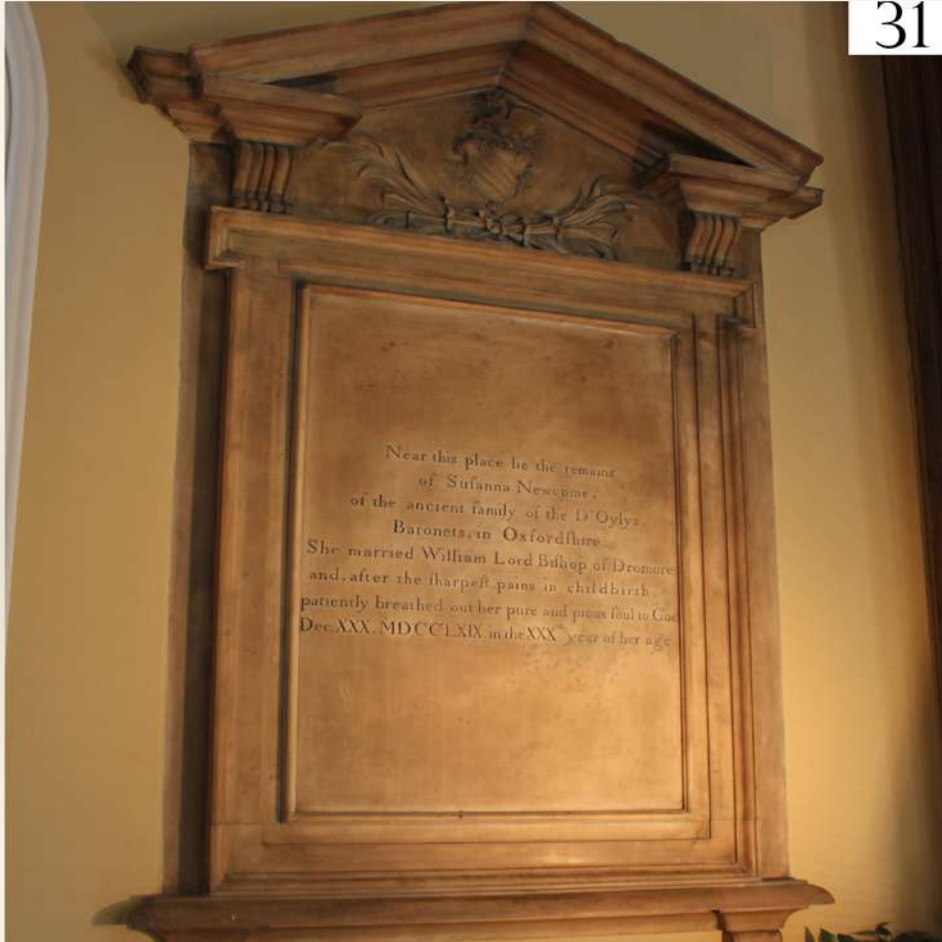


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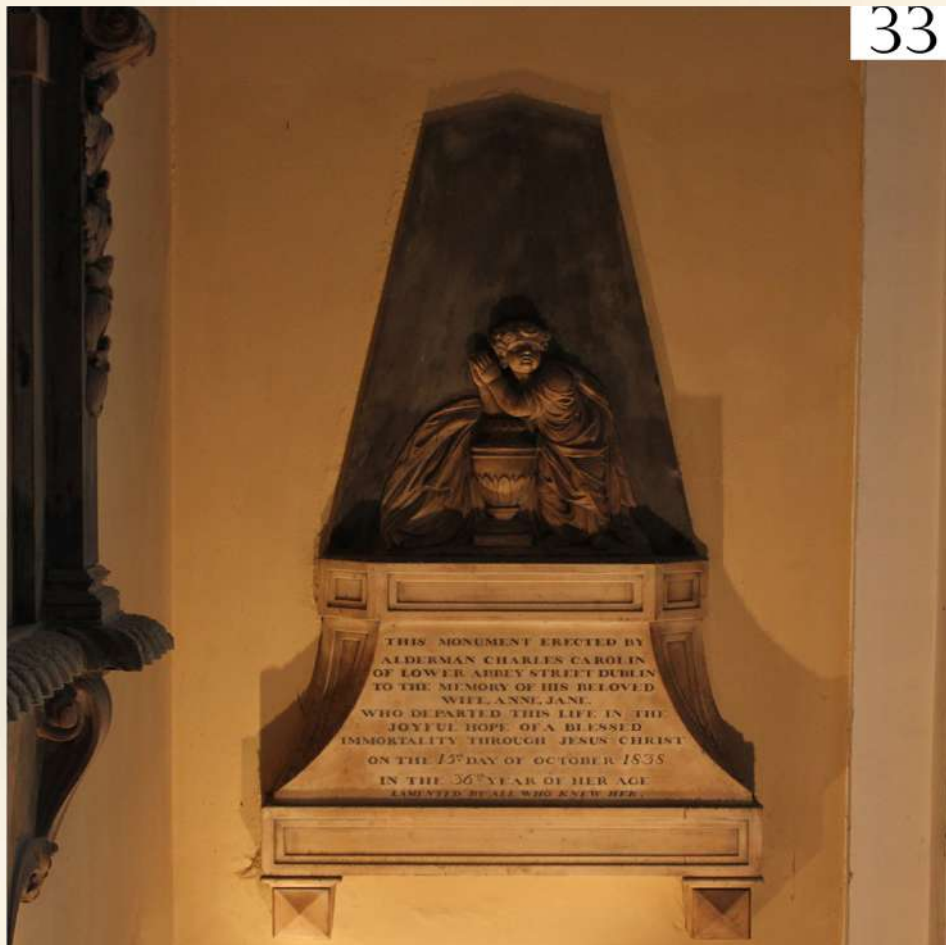


31



32





THIS MONUMENT ERECTED BY  
ALDERMAN CHARLES CAROLIN  
OF LOWER ABBEY STREET DUBLIN  
TO THE MEMORY OF HIS BELOVED  
WIFE ANNE JANE  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE IN THE  
JOYFUL HOPE OF A BLESSED  
IMMORTALITY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST  
ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 1838  
IN THE 36<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF HER AGE  
LAMENTED BY ALL WHO KNEW HER

# THE CHURCH

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