



Stacie Doolan, 6th class, was drawn on the classroom white-board by illustrator Ruth Ryan

The generosity of Charles Kennedy (whose coffin is in the vault) was very welcome at this time. He gave a plot of land, triangular in shape and 20,000 square feet in area to the then Archbishop of Dublin. Archbishop Hamilton donated £3,000 plus the piece of land beside the church to provide the area with new schools.

On 18th April 1847 the first stone of the new schools was laid. They were finished in November 1848. Two rooms were available and devoted to the girls. The third was a temporary chapel where Mass was celebrated twice on Sundays and once every week day. When the new church was completed on 24th June 1850 the temporary chapel in the school was discontinued. The first parish priest and manager of the school was Fr. Michael Farrington P.P.

In the eighteenth century the traffic through the port was increasing and the population in the area increased as a result. Commons Street was a well-to-do area at the time. There were quite a few hotels and boarding houses here and at the quay front. Sheriff Street was then a good shopping area. It had grocers, green grocers, butchers, a dairy, newsagents, a station and a post office. With the growth of population there was an increasing demand for houses. Unfortunately, the supply did not meet the demand. Many big houses became tenements in the early part of the twentieth century. This lowered the social status of the area.

In 1941 Dublin Corporation started to build the flats i.e. St. Laurence's Mansions, St. Brigid's Gardens and Phil Shanahan House. The corporation used the vacancies that occurred in the flats to house families at risk. In the 1940's there were 350 on roll.

Pressure was put on the education system which was ill-equipped to deal with the many social problems at the time. Classes were big, expectations were high and discipline was difficult to maintain.

In the 1950's and for a few following decades unemployment was very high in the area. This was due to containerisation in the docks. As usual life on the street was reflected in the classroom. In those days education was not appreciated or held very high on the priority list. There was a real gap between the "educators" and the "learners" and life was difficult for all concerned.

In 1984 a major job of renovation was carried on the school. Only the outer shell of the original building still remains.



Senator Cyprian Brady reading to the 3rd class.



Arthur Flynn reading to the 3rd class.