

Here is Bishop Magee:



Bishop Magee was very opposed to the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland which was enacted in 1869 in the Irish Church Act and which was due to come into force on 1st January 1871 just a month after the consecration of St Fin Barre's Cathedral.

He was a great orator and made such an impression defending the Church of Ireland that Prime Minister Disraeli made him Bishop of Peterborough.

What was going on in Cork, in Ireland and in the world?

In Magee we see how the life of the Church is always caught up too in what is going on in the events of society, the nation and the world of the time.

See what you can find out about what was going on in Cork, in Ireland and in the world in the period while St Fin Barre's Cathedral was building and when it was consecrated.

Here are some pointers.

Cork first:

- There were two main newspapers in Cork: the *Cork Constitution* and *The Cork Examiner*. You can find them online or in a big library. Look at them and see what they were reporting.
- The railway had reached Cork in 1849.
- In the same year University College Cork, then known as the Queen's College was founded.
- Queen Victoria was on the throne. Look at a map of Cork today and make a list of the place names in Cork that point to that period. (Clues: Victoria Avenue, Albert Quay, Adelaide Street, the Victoria Hospital etc).
- There were nationalist riots in Cork in 1863.

Ireland:

- In 1862, the shipbuilders Harland and Wolff was founded in Belfast
- Parish registers were replaced by civil registers in 1864.
- In July 1865 the first attempt was made to lay a transatlantic telegraph cable, starting at Valentia Island, County Kerry. It failed. A second and successful attempt was made the following year: 1866.
- 1867 was the year of the Fenian Rising in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Tipperary and Clare.

- The foundation stone of another County Cork cathedral - St Colman's Cathedral in Cobh was laid in 1868. (Visit it in Cobh and compare it to St Fin Barre's Cathedral)
- In 1869 Queen Victoria gave her assent to the Irish Church Act which paved the way for the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland. (Find out what disestablishment means. What countries in the world today have an established church?)
- In 1870 Isaac Butt (a past pupil of Midleton College) founded the Home Government Association to mobilise public opinion in favour of Home Rule in Ireland.
- The first of five Irish Land Acts was passed also in 1870.

The World in the 1860s and 1870:

- In 1860 the first Italian parliament met in Turin
- The Open Championship (golf) was played for the first time in 1860.
- In 1861 the American Civil War started and would continue until 1865.
- Also in 1861, Abraham Lincoln was sworn in as American President.
- A population census was taken in the United Kingdom (which included Ireland) in 1861.
- In 1862 Victor Hugo published his novel *Les Misérables*.
- Slavery was abolished in the confederate states in 1863.
- That same year the first section of the London Underground opened.
- In 1864 the First Geneva Convention was signed to protect the victims of armed conflicts.
- John Deere patented his ploughs in 1865.
- In 1865 too, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.
- Jumbo, an African elephant arrived at London Zoo that year and became an instant attraction - 'Jumbo the Elephant'
- In 1866, the first daylight bank robbery took place (in Missouri, USA).
- Also that year, Italy and Prussia made an alliance with the Austrian Empire.
- The Canadian Parliament met for the first time in Ottawa in 1866.
- That same year Austria and Prussia went to war, and Italy declared war on Austria too.
- In 1866 Alfred Nobel invented dynamite.
- There was famine in Finland from 1866 to 1868.
- The Blue Danube waltz by Johann Strauss was first performed in 1867.
- That year too an article by Joseph Lister in *The Lancet* outlined the discovery of antiseptic surgery.
- Singapore became a crown colony in 1867.
- That year too South African diamond fields were discovered.
- There was famine in Sweden from 1867 to 1869.
- Between 1867 and 1873, Chinese, Scandinavian and Irish immigrants laid 48,000 km of railroad tracks in the United States of America.
- In 1868 penal transportation to Australia ended.
- The preacher, William Booth, founded The Salvation Army in 1868.
- That same year the first major train crash in Britain happened at Abergele.
- In 1869 the first game of American Football was played between two American colleges: Rutgers v Princeton.
- The First Vatican Council opened in Rome in 1869.
- In 1870 work began on building the Brooklyn Bridge in New York.
- The circle of sun was adopted as the national flag of Japan in 1870.
- In 1870 also Christmas was declared to be a federal holiday in the USA.
- The Franco-Prussian War began in July 1870.