

Letter from Terence MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork to Archbishop William Walsh, Dublin regarding the death of Tomás MacCurtain

Seomra An Ard Maoir

Halla na Cathrach

Corcaigh

Lord Mayor's Room, City Hall, Cork

April 8th, 1920.

Your Grace,

I write to you with reference to the murder of our late Lord Mayor, and the Inquest now proceeding.

The cumulative effect of the evidence so far is such, as to convince us that the Police are responsible. Further than that, we have very strong reasons to believe that the murder was not only carefully, and deliberately planned locally, but that the highest official sanction of Dublin Castle is behind it, that it is in fact an official Government act, though in secret.

A policeman, named (sic) Hobbins at present stationed in Cork can give vital evidence in this matter. He admits having been asked some time ago to join an assassination Society. He has a brother a priest in your Grace's Arch Diocese – Father Hobbins, C.C. Ferrybank, Arklow. If Father Hobbins can be induced to use his influence with his brother to tell what he knows of the matter, we can subpoena Constable Hobbins, and have him brought before the Court. If however we subpoena the Constable without an effort being made beforehand to represent to him his duty on clear moral grounds, we have reason to fear that his own Authorities may bring pressure to bear on him to follow the example of the other Policeman who have already been examined.

I write to your Grace to ask for your influence with Father Hobbins. If he can be induced to do what in his power lies, it will help us materially in exposing the murder conspiracy, and save in all probability the lives of others whom we know to be already marked for assassination.

Mise, a Thigharna Easpaig,

[ill.]

Toirdhealbhach Mac Shuibhne

Lord Mayor

To His Grace,

Archbishop Walsh

P.S. Would Your Grace kindly ask

Father Hobbins not to write to

his brother about this, as the

letter may be intercepted.

I am sending present letter by

hand

Letter from Terence MacSwiney, Fr. Michael Curran secretary to Archbishop William Walsh, Dublin giving his reasons for not being able to travel to Rome for the Beatification of Oliver Plunkett.

Seomra an Ard Mhaoir

Halla na Cathrach

Corcaigh

Lord Mayor's Room, City Hall, Cork

16th May 1920

Dear Father Curran,

I am very sorry indeed, that its quite impossible for me to avail of the Rectors kind invitation to Rome for the Beatification of Oliver Plunkett. I would be with you but for the difficulty of getting passports. I thought it might be possible to get a passport direct from the Italian Ambassador, and inquired about this in Dublin but was informed by our friends that it was impossible. The passport on this side should be first secured through the police; and that closed the matter.

The Executive of Dáil Eireann decided none of the members of the Dáil (save Count Plunkett for special reasons) should apply to the police. Apart from that decision my position would make application to that quarter impossible. The particular Barrack I should apply to would be that one in King St.- now Sráid Mhic Curtáin – which was the gathering place of the murderers on the night of our late Lord Mayor's assassination. It was to that Barrack some of them were seen returning after the murder - as testified to in evidence. That would have settled the matter for me even if the Dail Executive had not covered the case by their decision.

I appreciate fully your desire to have some Irish Catholic laymen in Rome for the occasion – representation in the true sense of present day Ireland spiritually and nationally. I am very sorry the representations cannot be larger. A delegation from the Corporation of Cork as appointed by the us (of whom I am one) nut they cannot go, save Professor Starkley and Rahilly who will apply for passports with the sanction of our Dail. I hope they may succeed. They are two exceptional representatives of Irish Intellect – who are uncompromising for the attainment of the complete freedom of the Irish Republic.

In appointing out delegation we adopted an appropriate resolution. Following from suggestions I am addressing a letter to His Holiness in the name of our City offering him the resolution and expressing our gratitude for his own declarations on behalf of Ireland – which I trust may be pleasing to him. I send you copies of the resolution and the letter.

Again expressing my regrets for my unavoidable absence and my very deep thanks to Father Hogan and You for so warmly desiring my presence, praying God to bless your labours in all things for Ireland spiritual and national.

I remain, dear Father Curran,

[ill.]

Toirdhealbhach Mac Shuibhne

Telegrams from abroad offering to help those on Hunger-Strike and anyone affected by the political situation

Post Office - Telegraphs

Glasgow

Archbishop Walsh Dublin

Your Lordship ten thousand exiles assembled in Glasgow beg your intercession to save our brothers in Mountjoy without surrender

Liam MacLuistiuin

4 Rundel Drive Glasgow

Post Office - Telegraphs

Washington D.C.

To his Grace William Walsh Archbishop of Dublin, Ireland

A group of representative Americans are considering organising an American Commission on relief for Ireland please inform us to what extent there is destitution and want in Ireland and what aid in the way of relief to the Irish People as necessary this movement is to the entirely non-political and humanitarian and to follow along the lines of the relief given Belgium by Americans answer immediately to Cardinal Gibbons Baltimore USA

Letter from Fr. Curry, New York to Archbishop Walsh enclosing financial assistance for the people of Balbriggan whose town was sacked by the Black and Tans.

Church of the Holy Name

Rectory, 207 W. 96th St.

New York City

November 26th 1920

The most Rev. Archbishop William J. Walsh, D.D.

Archbishop of Dublin, Ireland

Most Rev. Archbishop,

The enclosed draft for 71 pounds and four pence is the gift of the members of the Archbishop Plunkett Branch of the Friends of Irish Freedom of my parish, to be used by you to help the poor people of Balbriggan, Co. Dublin. These good Irish Catholic men and women here, touched by the published story of the ruin suffered by the good natives of Balbriggan, respectfully ask you to transmit their gift to the parish priest in whose jurisdiction the town lies, so that some little relief might be afforded to an unjustly suffering people. Our people here wish the gift represented a thousand times more.

Praying your blessing and requesting kind remembrances in the prayers of the good people of the ruined town for their friends in America,

I am, dear Archbishop,

Yours most respectfully,

James B. Curry, Pastor.

The Student Council in UCD thank the Archbishop for all his efforts in trying to save the life of Kevin Barry.

**University College, Dublin
Students' Representative Council**

Dec 9th 1920

Your Grace,

We beg to inform Your Grace, that at a general meeting of the Students' Council the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

“That this Council desires to place on record its heartfelt gratitude to the Most Rev. D. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, for his efforts to secure the liberation and reprieve of our late fellow-student, Kevin Barry”.

We have the honour to be

Your Grace's obedient servants

Sarsfield Hogan

Richard Johnston (Hon Secs.)

Letter from Mary MacSwiney, sister of Terence, giving an update on his condition. He has been on Hunger-Strike and is not expected to last much longer.

3 Adam St
Adelphi
London W.C. 2

Your Grace

I have written to Cardinal Logue, suggesting that as my brother, Terence MacSwiney, and his comrades here lasted so long in the struggle they are making, that it must be that God means to save them in spite of all. In the circumstances it occurred to me that a pronouncement from the Catholic Hierarchy, condemning the actions of the Government on the grounds of Christianity and Civilisation might prove effective at this stage. If a copy of this condemnation was sent to the Holy Father and the Heads of the Catholic Hierarchy throughout the world, it would certainly help.

I feel sure that his Eminence and your Grace will understand that in making this suggestion I am endeavouring to leave no stone unturned which may help to obtain my brother's release, without any of principle.

There is certainly something more than natural in his continued existence and more especially in the extraordinary mental vitality in his present weak state. An independent doctor, whom we obtained permission to bring in, attributes his state largely to spiritual influences, his strong will to live, and his certainty in the justice of his cause. He has now completed his 46th day of fast.

I trust your Grace will approve my suggestion and help us.

Begging the prayers and blessing of your Grace,

I remain

Yours very respectfully
Mary MacSwiney

To His Grace
The Most Reverend Dr. Walsh
Archbishop of Dublin

Telegram communications between Archbishop Walsh and Fr. Byrne, Parish Priest of Balbriggan.

Post Office Telegraphs

Balbriggan

To Archbishop of Dublin, Archbishop's House, Dublin

Most cordial thanks for princely offer no immediate want castle wrong re second police still alive all quiet last night

Father Byrne

Post Office Telegraphs (Inland Telegrams)

To Canon Byrne

Balbriggan

If immediate help needed draw on me for a hundred pounds

From Archbishop

Letter from Mr. James enclosing money to help those affected by the destruction and loss of life in Balbriggan.

My Lord Archbishop,

I am sorry I did not say that you could apply the cheque for £4/6/- to any charitable purpose, at your own discretion. By all means, apply it for the relief of Balbriggan, as your people are poorer than the Northern Catholics.

Though I am not of Irish extraction, I deeply feel for the persecuted Catholics of Ireland; & it is my firm conviction that their only crime is their faith. The savagery at Balbriggan may have been due to drunken rowdyism (sic); but, as I look on it, I think all the troubles in your persecuted country are inspired, at bottom, by religious animosity. I hope this note reaches you before you send the cheque to Belfast. I hope to be able to have a second collection, when the effects of the strike are over.

Yours faithfully in J.C.

Edward R. James

Circular regarding the repatriation of the body of Terence MacSwiney.

28th October 1920

The IRISH EXECUTIVE have been informed this evening that the Government have decided that the remains of the late Lord Mayor of Cork are not to be conveyed via Dublin.

A special steamer will be available at Holyhead to carry the remains direct to Queenstown.

To/

Most Revd. Dr. Walsh,

The Palace,

Drumcondra.

Offers of help from the United States.

Cork Industrial Development Association,

27 Grand Parade,

Cork

15th November, 1920

Most. Rev. Wm. J. Walsh, D.D.,

Archbishop of Dublin,

Your Grace,

I have received the following cable this morning from the Irish Headquarters, Washington:-

“Cable if conditions call for Red Cross aid. An appeal at any time from Irish Hierarchy to American Bishops will secure wide movement here for material assistance”.

In view of the serious situation which will arise consequently upon the stoppage of rail and other transport throughout Ireland, my personal view is that the conditions do call for the Red Cross aid and material assistance indicated. May I respectfully ask your Grace to take the matter into consideration.

Your respectfully,

Liam de Róiste

Appeal for peace by the Irish Hierarchy

We, the Cardinal Primate, the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland, earnestly desiring Peace and the Tranquility of the Country and condemning disorder and crime whatever side they may come, feel it a most pressing duty to direct the attention of the Government to one great matter of very great urgency.

A number of men confined in Prison have entered on a Hunger-strike as a protest against the present misgovernment of the country. They are in their ninth week of Hunger-strike, and must be on the verge of death. Their case has evoked universal sympathy, even the sympathy of those who differ from the politically and in Religion. All, with the exception of the Lord Mayor of Cork, are untried prisoners; and the sentence inflicted on the Lord Mayor was altogether disproportionate to the alleged charges, to say nothing of the fact that the tribunal and the trial were far from commanding the confidence of the Public.

We believe that to detain these men in Prison, involving what would be virtually a sentence of death, would be harsh, imprudent, impolitic, and prejudicial to the hopes of Peace and of a satisfactory settlement of the Irish difficulty. These prisoners, as stated, are in their ninth week of Hunger-stroke. We appeal to the Government for their Immediate Release.

N.B. This form of Appeal has been approved by His Eminence Cardinal Logue. Please reply by Telegram to the Bishop of Cork if you agree to sign.

+Daniel Cohalan,

Farranferris,

Cork

