

Name of memorial: The Oratory of the Sacred Heart

Inventory No. 35

Place: The Oratory of the Sacred Heart

Address and map reference: Oratory Mews Court, off Library Rd., Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.
Map reference O 239 285

Position: Entire building.

Description and dimensions: Painted walls and ceiling of a small chapel, preserved by enclosure of the entire building in an outer shell.

Recorded by: Michael Pegum, 30 June, 2003.

Notes: The Oratory was built on the grounds of a Dominican Convent to house the statue of Christ which was sent from Flanders to commemorate the soldiers of Dún Laoghaire who were killed in the First World War. A member of the community, Sr. Concepta Lynch, was asked to paint the wall behind the statue as a backdrop to it. The result was so admired that she was encouraged to decorate the entire Oratory. Harry Clarke's stained glass studio contributed the windows. The ceiling remains unfinished, due to Sr. Concepta's death in 1939. It has been described as "one of the best examples of the spirit of the Celtic Revival in Art in the early years of the 20th century" (Dr. Brian Kennedy).

The building passed to the care of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in 1994, and the enclosing shell was built to preserve it. It is hoped soon to install plaques engraved with the names of all those from Dún Laoghaire who died in the First World War.

The Oratory can be visited only by special arrangement on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. To do so, phone 01 205 4700.