

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RELIGIOUS CENSUS

1766

A Guide to Surviving Material

Religious Census, 1766

This census was authorised by a resolution of the Irish House of Lords on 5 March 1766 which stated:

Resolved, That the several archbishops and bishops of this Kingdom shall be and are hereby desired to direct the parish ministers in their respective dioceses, to return a list of the several families in their parishes to this House on the first Monday after the Recess, distinguishing which are Protestants and which are Papists, as also a list of the several reputed Popish priests and friars residing in their parishes.
House of Lords Journal, iv, 370.

No set form for the provision of this information was laid down by either the House of Lords or the prelates, and consequently the details given vary enormously from one parish to the next. The following are the main forms which the returns take:

- Number of families of each religion, Protestant and Papist, in the parish as a whole;
- The same, divided into townlands;
- List of heads of families, with their religion, in the parish as a whole;
- The same, divided into townlands;
- The same, giving also the number of persons of each religion in each household, including servants;
- The same, showing a division into landholders and cotters.

Sometimes the term “Protestant” is further broken down into members of the Established Church and Protestant “Dissenters” and occasionally details are given for smaller denominations e.g. Quakers and Anabaptists.

Most of the returns were made in March and April 1766. When received, they were arranged in alphabetical order within each diocese and stamped with a running number. However, the fact that not all returns for a given diocese arrived together means that the numbers for that diocese do not run consecutively. A summary for each diocese was prepared, showing the number of Protestants and Papists in each parish in the diocese. These summaries appear to have been done locally as several are stamped with numbers in the same way as the parish returns.

Of the original returns, only nos. 648–679 (Armagh), 680–702 (Cashel and Emlly), 773–774 (Cork and Ross) and 1413 (Waterford) have survived. Transcripts of other returns held by the Genealogical Office, National Archives of Ireland, National Library of Ireland, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Representative Church Body Library and Trinity College Dublin have also been included in this list: transcripts have not been listed where the original return survives.

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Abbreviations used in the list

o	original
t	transcript
GO	Genealogical Office
NAI	National Archives of Ireland
NLI	National Library of Ireland
PRONI	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
RCB	Representative Church Body Library
TCD	Trinity College Dublin

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ARMAGH

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
-	Summary of dioceses		NAI	M 2476 (h)
648	Aghaloo	o	NAI	Parl. Return 648
1001	Ardee	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
649	Armagh	o	NAI	Parl. Return 649
650	Ardrea	o	NAI	Parl. Return 650
666	Ballinasaggart	o	NAI	Parl. Return 666
678	Ballinderry	o	NAI	Parl. Return 678
1006	Ballymakenny	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
651	Ballymore	o	NAI	Parl. Return 651
652	Barronstown	o	NAI	Parl. Return 652
965	Beaulieu	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
949	Carlingford	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
648	Carnteel	o	NAI	Parl. Return 648
677	Carrick	o	NAI	Parl. Return 677
664	Castletown	o	NAI	Parl. Return 664
1075	Charlestown	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
653	Clogherny	o	NAI	Parl. Return 653
656	Clonfeakle	o	NAI	Parl. Return 656
1075	Clonkeehan	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
654	Clonkeen	o	NAI	Parl. Return 654
655	Clonmore	o	NAI	Parl. Return 655
657	Creggan	o	NAI	Parl. Return 657
661	Darver	o	NAI	Parl. Return 661
665	Derryloran	o	NAI	Parl. Return 665
659	Desertlyn	o	NAI	Parl. Return 659
658	Donaghendry	o	NAI	Parl. Return 658
660	Donaghmore	o	NAI	Parl. Return 660
661	Dromiskin	o	NAI	Parl. Return 661
662	Drumcree	o	NAI	Parl. Return 662

1023

Drumglass

t

NAI

M 2476 (a)

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ARMAGH

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
663	Dunany	o	NAI	Parl. Return 663
664	Dunbin	o	NAI	Parl. Return 664
664	Dundalk	o	NAI	Parl. Return 664
1023	Dungannon	t	NAI	M 2476 (a)
666	Errigal Keerogue	o	NAI	Parl. Return 666
669	Haynestown	o	NAI	Parl. Return 669
652	Kane	o	NAI	Parl. Return 652
1001	Kildemock	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
667	Kildress	o	NAI	Parl. Return 667
668	Killeeshil	o	NAI	Parl. Return 668
669	Killincoole	o	NAI	Parl. Return 669
670	Kilmore	o	NAI	Parl. Return 670
671	Kilsaran	o	NAI	Parl. Return 671
672	Loughgall	o	NAI	Parl. Return 672
673	Louth	o	NAI	Parl. Return 673
674	Magherafelt	o	NAI	Parl. Return 674
1075	Mapastown	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
663	Martinstown	o	NAI	Parl. Return 663
652	Monasterboice	o	NAI	Parl. Return 652
675	Mountfieldstown	o	NAI	Parl. Return 675
652	Moyglare	o	NAI	Parl. Return 652
676	Mullaghbrack	o	NAI	Parl. Return 676
663	Parsonstown	o	NAI	Parl. Return 663
1075	Philipstown	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
652	Philipstown Nugent	o	NAI	Parl. Return 652
677	Port	o	NAI	Parl. Return 677
677	Rath	o	NAI	Parl. Return 677
652	Roche	o	NAI	Parl. Return 652
1001	Shanlis	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)

1001

Smarmore

t

NAI

M 2476 (b)

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ARMAGH

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1075	Tallanstown	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
678	Tamlaght	o	NAI	Parl. Return 678
679	Tartaraghan	o	NAI	Parl. Return 679
995	Termonfeckin	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
1023	Tullyniskan	t	NAI	M 2476 (a)

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CASHEL and EMLY

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
680	Summary of diocese	o	NAI	Parl. Return 680
681	Abington	o	NAI	Parl. Return 681
697	Ardmayle	o	NAI	Parl. Return 697
682	Athassel	o	NAI	Parl. Return 682
683	Ballintemple	o	NAI	Parl. Return 683
691	Ballycahill	o	NAI	Parl. Return 691
682	Ballygriffin	o	NAI	Parl. Return 682
697	Ballysheehan	o	NAI	Parl. Return 697
691	Barnane Ely	o	NAI	Parl. Return 691
697	Boytonrath	o	NAI	Parl. Return 697
682	Brickendown	o	NAI	Parl. Return 682
695	Bruia	o	NAI	Parl. Return 695
684	Caherconey	o	NAI	Parl. Return 684
694	Caherelly	o	NAI	Parl. Return 684
684	Carrigparson	o	NAI	Parl. Return 684
687	Cashel	o	NAI	Parl. Return 687
	(Corps of the Chancellorship)			
697	Cashel	o	NAI	Parl. Return 697
	(St John the Baptist)			
697	Cashel	o	NAI	Parl. Return 697
	(St Patrick's Rock)			
697	Cleraghan	o	NAI	Parl. Return 697
685	Clonbeg	o	NAI	Parl. Return 685
701	Clonbullogue	o	NAI	Parl. Return 701
690	Cloneen	o	NAI	Parl. Return 690
681	Clonkeen	o	NAI	Parl. Return 681
686	Clonoulty	o	NAI	Parl. Return 686
695	Clonpet	o	NAI	Parl. Return 695
697	Colman	o	NAI	Parl. Return 697

690

Coolmundry

o

NAI

Parl. Return 690

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CASHEL and EMLY

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
695	Cordangan	o	NAI	Parl. Return 695
690	Croom	o	NAI	Parl. Return 690
688	Cullen	o	NAI	Parl. Return 688
695	Curroge	o	NAI	Parl. Return 695
682	Dangandargan	o	NAI	Parl. Return 682
700	Donohill	o	NAI	Parl. Return 700
700	Doon	o	NAI	Parl. Return 700
691	Drom	o	NAI	Parl. Return 691
689	Duntryleague	o	NAI	Parl. Return 689
697	Erry	o	NAI	Parl. Return 697
690	Fethard	o	NAI	Parl. Return 690
697	Gaile	o	NAI	Parl. Return 697
691	Glenkeen	o	NAI	Parl. Return 691
692	Grean	o	NAI	Parl. Return 692
682	Horeabbey	o	NAI	Parl. Return 682
691	Inchifogarty	o	NAI	Parl. Return 691
690	Kilbragh	o	NAI	Parl. Return 690
690	Kilconnell	o	NAI	Parl. Return 690
684	Kilcullane	o	NAI	Parl. Return 684
701	Kilfeakle	o	NAI	Parl. Return 701
691	Kilfithmore	o	NAI	Parl. Return 691
698	Killavinogue	o	NAI	Parl. Return 698
698	Killea	o	NAI	Parl. Return 698
691	Killoskehan	o	NAI	Parl. Return 691
693	Kilnarath	o	NAI	Parl. Return 693
683	Kilpatrick	o	NAI	Parl. Return 683
690	Kiltinan	o	NAI	Parl. Return 690
694	Knockgraffon	o	NAI	Parl. Return 694
695	Lattin	o	NAI	Parl. Return 695

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CASHEL and EMLY

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
690	Magorban	o	NAI	Parl. Return 690
698	Moyaliff	o	NAI	Parl. Return 698
696	Newchapel	o	NAI	Parl. Return 696
683	Oughterleague	o	NAI	Parl. Return 683
690	Railstown	o	NAI	Parl. Return 690
690	Rathcool	o	NAI	Parl. Return 690
683	Rathlynin	o	NAI	Parl. Return 683
690	Redcity	o	NAI	Parl. Return 690
682	Relickmurry	o	NAI	Parl. Return 682
688	Solloghodbeg	o	NAI	Parl. Return 688
688	Solloghodmore	o	NAI	Parl. Return 688
691	Templebeg	o	NAI	Parl. Return 691
698	Templemore	o	NAI	Parl. Return 698
691	Templeree	o	NAI	Parl. Return 691
702	Thurles	o	NAI	Parl. Return 702
681	Tuogh	o	NAI	Parl. Return 681
691	Upperchurch	o	NAI	Parl. Return 691

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CLOGHER

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
703	Summary of dioceses		NAI	M 2476 (d)
706	Aghnamullen	t	NAI	M 2476 (d)
707	Boho	t	NAI	M 2476 (d)
708	Cleenish	t	NAI	M 2476 (d)
710	Clones	t	NAI	M 2476 (d)
713	Derryvullen	t	NAI	M 2476 (d)
713	Derryvullen	t	GO	MS 536
714	Devenish	t	NAI	M 2476 (d)
714	Devenish	t	GO	MS 536
-	Drimnagh	t	GO	MS 536
723	Ematris	t	NAI	M 2476 (d)
725	Inishmacsaint	t	NAI	M 2476 (d)
733	Monaghan	t	NAI	M 2476 (d)
735	Rossorry	t	NAI	M 2476 (d)
735	Rossorry	t	GO	MS 536

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CLOYNE

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1099	Aghabulloge	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1093	Aghada	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1119	Aghinagh	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1105	Aglisdrinagh	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1113	Ardagh	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1105	Ardskeagh	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1114	Ballintemple	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1100	Ballyclough	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1126	Ballycurrany	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1105	Ballyhay	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1124	Ballyhooly	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1125	Ballynoe	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
998	Bregoge	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
966	Brigown	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1010	Britway	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1101	Bruhenna	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
998	Buttevant	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
998	Caherduggan	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1066	Carrigdownane	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1121	Carrigrohanebeg	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1102	Carrigtohill	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1103	Castlelyons	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1100	Castlemagner	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1104	Castlemartyr	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
-	Castletownroche	t	NAI	M 5036 (a) 2476
(i)				
1105	Charleville	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1106	Clenore	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1108	Clondrohid	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)

1109	Clondulane	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1107	Clonfert	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)

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CLOYNE

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1110	Clonmeen	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1111	Clonmel	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1112	Clonmult	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1113	Clonpriest	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1114	Cloyne	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1115	Coole	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1018	Doneraile	t	NAI	M 5036 (a) 2476
(i)				
1116	Dungourney	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1066	Farrahy	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1117	Garrycloyne	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1116	Garryvoe	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1118	Glanworth	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1119	Gortroe	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1117	Grenagh	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1116	Ightermurragh	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
998	Imphrick	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1120	Inniscarra	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
998	Kilbrin	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
998	Kilbroney	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1129	Kilcolman	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1110	Kilcorney	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1116	Kilcredan	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1066	Kildorrery	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1124	Killathy	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1116	Kilmacdonogh	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1112	Kilmahon	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1122	Kilnamartery	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1123	Kilshannig	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)

1124	Kilworth	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1125	Knockmourne	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)

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CLOYNE

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1126	Lisgoold	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1127	Litter	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1124	Macronev	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1128	Macroom	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1129	Magourney	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
915	Mallow	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1130	Marshalstown	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1120	Matehy	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1130	Mogealy	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1132	Nourneabbey	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1066	Nathlash	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1133	Rathcormuck	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1110	Rosheen	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1105	Shandrum	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1066	Templemolaga	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1018	Templeroan	t	NAI	M 5036 (a) 2476
(i)				
998	Tullylease	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1082	Umagesagh	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1117	Whitechurch	t	NAI	M 5036 (a)
1134	Youghal	t	NAI	M 5036 (a) 2476
(i)				

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CORK and ROSS

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1148	Summary of dioceses		NAI	M 2476 (i)
773	Rathbarry	o	NAI	Parl. Return 773
774	Ringrone	o	NAI	Parl. Return 774
1018	Templeavan	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)

Religious Census, 1766

DERRY

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1135	Summary of dioceseset		NAI	M 2476 (h)
1135	Summary of dioceseset		PRONI	T 1069
1049	Ballynascreen	t	NAI	M 2476 (g)
-	Badoney	t	GO	MS 536
1138	Banagher	t	NAI	M 2476 (g)
1009	Bovevagh	t	NAI	M 2476 (g)
1009	Bovevagh	t	GO	MS 536
-	Cappagh	t	GO	MS 536
1145	Comber	t	NAI	M 2476 (g)
1064	Desertmartin	t	NAI	M 2476 (j)
1064	Desertmartin	t	GO	MS 536
1149	Donaghedy	t	NAI	M 2476 (k)
1151	Drumachose	t	NAI	M 2476 (c)
1152	Dungiven	t	NAI	M 2476 (g)
1029	Inch, island of	t	NAI	M 2476 (l)

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DOWN and CONNOR

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1170	Ahoghill	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
1170	Ahoghill	t	NAI	C 573
1170	Ahoghill	t	NLI	MS 4173
1004	Ballintoy	t	GO	MS 536
1004	Ballintoy	t	NLI	MS 4173
1177	Ballymoney	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
1177	Ballymoney	t	NLI	MS 4173
1051	Ballynure	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
1012	Carrickfergus	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
1218	Grey Abbey	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
1196	Inch	t	NLI	MS 4173
1218	Tullynakill	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)

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DROMORE

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
797	Kilbroney	t	NLI	MS 4173
802	Seapatrick	t	NLI	MS 4173
804	Shankill	t	NAI	M 2476 (f)

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DUBLIN and GLENDALOUGH

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1148	Summary of dioceses		NAI	M 2476 (i)
1246	Crumlin	t	GO	MS 537
1252	Dunganstown	t	GO	MS 537
1276	Kilmacud	t	NAI	M 2478
1269	Rathdrum	t	GO	MS 537
1225	St James	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
1273	St Mary, Donnybrook		t	NAI M 2476 (i)
1276	Stillorgan	t	NAI	M 2478
1279	Taney	t	NAI	M 2478
1280	Wicklow	t	GO	MS 537

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FERNS and LEIGHLIN

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1050	Ballynaslaney	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
1050	Ballynaslaney	t	GO	MS 537
1050	Edermine	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
1050	Edermine	t	GO	MS 537

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KILDARE

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
829	Ballycommon	t	GO	MS 537
844	Lea	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
848	Mountmellick	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
849	Philipstown	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
848	Rosenallis	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)

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KILLALOE

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
884	Ballingarry	t	GO	MS 536 & MS 665
884	Ballingarry	t	NLI	MS 8908
884	Uskeane	t	GO	MS 536 & MS 665
884	Uskeane	t	NLI	MS 8908

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KILMORE, ELPHIN and ARDAGH

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
885	Summary of dioceses		NAI	M 2476 (e)
886	Abbeylara	t	NAI	M 2476 (e)
886	Abbeylara	t	GO	MS 537
906	Killasser	t	NAI	M 2476 (e)
911	Kinawley	t	NAI	M 2476 (e)
911	Kinawley	t	GO	MS 536
913	Lavey	t	NAI	M 2476 (e)
913	Lavey	t	GO	MS 537
914	Lurgan	t	NAI	M 2476 (e)
914	Lurgan	t	GO	MS 537
914	Munterconnaught	t	NAI	M 2476 (e)
914	Munterconnaught	t	GO	MS 537
923	Rossinver	t	NAI	M 2476 (e)
886	Russough	t	NAI	M 2476 (e)
886	Russough	t	GO	Ms 537

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LIMERICK

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
-	Ardcanny	t	NAI	M 147
-	Clonagh	t	GO	MS 537
-	Coondonnell	t	GO	MS 537
937	Croagh	t	GO	MS 537
-	Kilscannell	t	GO	MS 537
950	Nantinan	t	GO	MS 537
952	Rathkeale	t	GO	MS 537

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MEATH

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
-	Ardbraccan	t	GO	MS 537
-	Churchtown	t	GO	MS 537
-	Liscartan	t	GO	MS 537
-	Martry	t	GO	MS 537
-	Navan town	t	RCB	MS D7/12/2/1
-	Rataine	t	GO	MS 537
1001	Stackallen	t	NAI	M 2476 (b)
-	Stackallen	t	GO	MS 537

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OSSORY

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1059	Clonmore	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)
-	Portnascully	t	GO	MS 684

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RAPHOE

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1374	Summary of dioceses	t	NAI	M 2476 (m)
1148	Donoghmore	t	NAI	M 207 / M 208
1148	Donaghmore	t	TCD	MS 2228
1393	Leck	t	NAI	M 2476 (m)
1394	Lettermacaward	t	NAI	M 2476 (m)
1396	Raphoe	t	NAI	M 2476 (m)
1397	Tullaghobegley	t	NAI	M 2476 (i)

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WATERFORD

Return No.	Parish	o/t	Location	Reference
1431	Killoteran	o	NAI	Parl. Return 1431
-	Waterford City	t	GO	MS 684
	includes			
	SS John/Olave/Patrick			
	SS Peter/Stephen			