

Magdalen Women's | Reilig na Mná Magadalen

The Magdalen laundry in Galway was founded by a Mrs Lynch in 1824 and was managed by a lay society known as the Association of Ladies of the Saint Magdalene Society. Following Mrs Lynch's death in 1854, the Sisters of Mercy became responsible for the operation of the institution. The original Magdalen Asylum located in Lombard Street was abandoned in 1870 and with the aid of a legacy was relocated to Forster Street. The laundry closed in 1984 and the buildings that housed the laundry were demolished in 1991.

There are two discrete enclosed burial grounds located within the former property, both are associated with the convent and laundry. The Magdalen Women are buried in the northern burial ground which dates to after 1873 and Mercy Nuns in the eastern burial ground which dates to after 1893. The Magdalen Women's burial ground is located in the grounds of the former combined Convent and Laundry. All of the headstones are set against the northern boundary wall and were erected in the last 5 years, replacing some older memorials. Dr. Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer, Galway City Council.

Eolas | Information

As part of Galway City Council's policy of making information on heritage freely available, a summary brochure like this one, with a map of each of Galway City's 28 areas is being prepared. These are being printed along with a clear, easy to use map as a guide for those who visit our graveyards. The Monuments on the maps are numbered and are linked to the historicgraves. com and Galway City Council (www.galwaycity.ie) websites. This allows anyone anywhere to research their ancestry and kinship with those buried at Magdalen Women's Cemetery without charge. This is a public service. Copies of this leaflet and of Convent of Mercy Forster St, Forthill, Menlo, Old Rahoon, Roscam, St Mary's Dominican, St Patrick's and Salthill Upper are available from the Heritage Office, Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway (Tel: 091 536547/536516) and from city library branches free of charge.

This project was funded by the Heritage Council and Galway City Council as an action of the Galway City Heritage Plan. The full results of the survey are available on www.historicgraves.com/graveyard/magdalen-laundry-forster-st-galway/ga-mlfs

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