

F1

FEATURE

### Graveyard Railings

The burial ground is surrounded by an elegant set of railings. There are two entrance gates into the burial ground, one which facilitates access from the grounds of the former Convent and the other via a gate in the boundary wall of the former Convent.

Reference: GA-CMFS  
GPS: 53° 16' 31.9584" N, 9° 2' 38.1588" W



F2

FEATURE

### Celtic Cross

There is a Celtic cross at the eastern end of the graveyard with an inscription Requiescant In Pace (RIP). The centre of the cross is decorated with an interwoven IHS with a plain Celtic interlace pattern and the shaft with an Ave Maria symbol.

Reference: GA-CMFS  
GPS: 53° 16' 31.9584" N, 9° 2' 38.1588" W



F3

FEATURE

### Burial Ground

All the headstones in the Sisters of Mercy burial ground are laid out in symmetrical fashion with lawn grass in between the rows. The headstones in the northern section are west-facing while those in the southern section face into the interior.

Reference: GA-CMFS  
GPS: 53° 16' 31.9584" N, 9° 2' 38.1588" W



39

HEADSTONE

### Gertrude Corcoran - 1900

The oldest burial in the burial ground dates to 1900. Each of the headstones contains two or three Sister's names. The name comprises two parts, the religious name followed by the secular surname and date of death.

Reference: GA-CMFS-0039  
GPS: 53° 16' 32.1492" N, 9° 2' 37.77" W



27

HEADSTONE

### Martina Whelan- 2016

The most recent of the burials dates to 2016. There are a total of 139 Sister's names commemorated on 55 headstones. There is a wide variety of surnames represented. The Sister's graves had previously been marked by cast iron crosses.

Reference: GA-CMFS-0027  
GPS: 53° 16' 32.2608" N, 9° 2' 37.5792" W



## Sisters of Mercy | Reilig Siúracha na Trócaire

The Magdalen Home on Forster Street in Galway was run by the Sisters of Mercy. The original Magdalene 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 building that housed the laundry was demolished in 1991. The Galway Architectural Heritage Inventory Study, undertaken in 1997, lists four remaining buildings within the site of the former Magdalen Laundry. Namely: the Magdalen Convent which was built between 1820-1840; the Chapel of Magdalen Convent built between 1950-1955; the Magdalen Home to the rear of the convent built between 1985-1995 and a burial ground built between 1860-1880. The Sisters of Mercy donated the property to the charity Cope Galway in 2013.

There are two discrete enclosed burial grounds located within the former property, one associated with the convent and the other with the laundry. The Magdalen Women are buried in the northern burial ground and Sisters of Mercy in the eastern burial ground close to the Forster Street boundary wall. The burial ground is surrounded by green lawn and pathways. There is a grotto located to the north of the burial ground and the former Convent chapel is sited to the north-west. The chapel is registered on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (Registration Number 30314025).

The Sisters of Mercy burial ground is surrounded by a set of railings which are set into a cut stone surround with stanchions supporting the rail from the rear. There are a total of 139 Sister's names commemorated on 55 headstones, the oldest of the burials dates to 1900 and the most recent of the burials dates to 2016. Each of the headstones contains two or three Sister's names. The name comprises two parts, the religious name followed by the secular surname and date of death. The Mercy cross - a cross on a cross - decorates the left-hand side of each headstone.

*Dr. Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer, Galway City Council.*

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/rconvent-mercy-forster-st-galway/ga-cmfs](http://www.historicgraves.com/graveyard/rconvent-mercy-forster-st-galway/ga-cmfs)

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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



HISTORICGRAVES.COM

## Reilig Siúracha na Trócaire

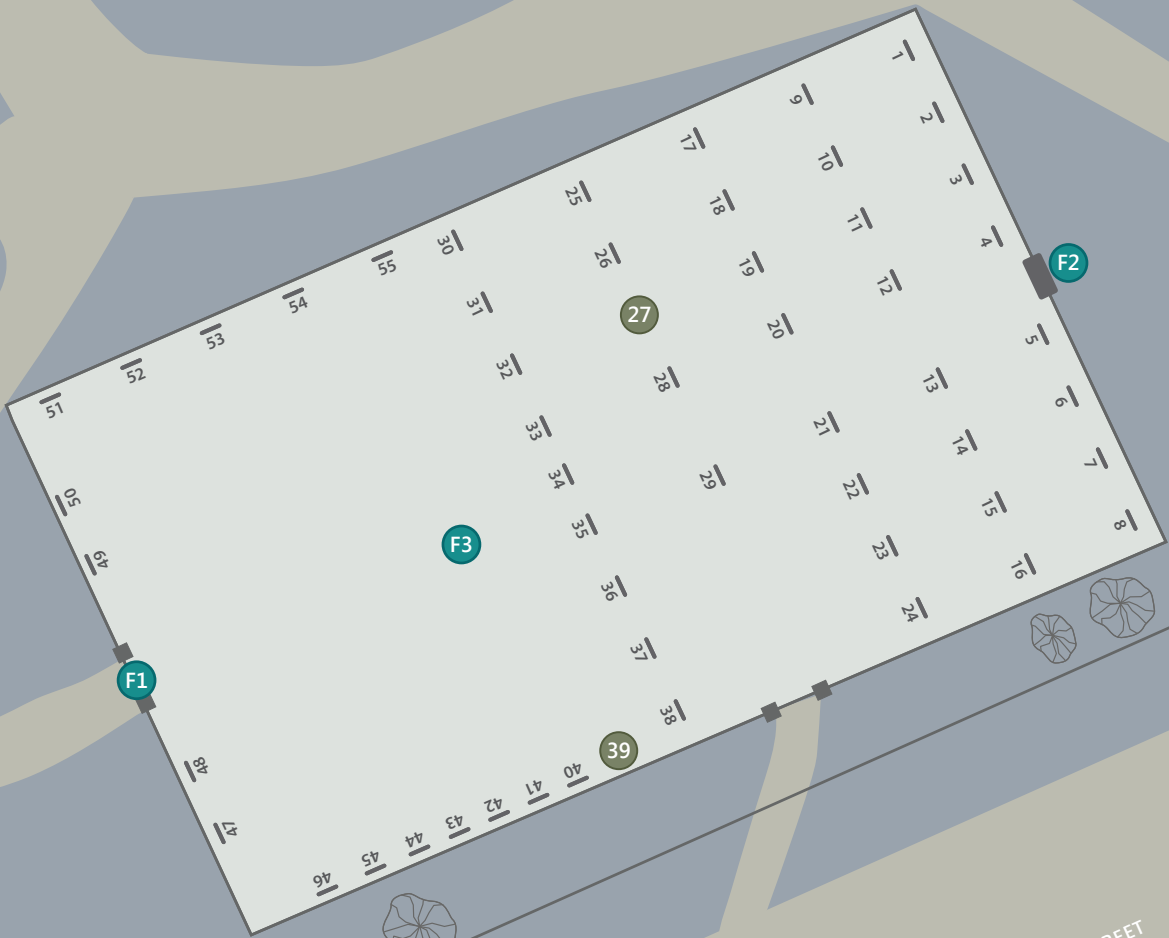
# Sisters of Mercy

Cemetery, Forster Street, Galway



# Reilig Siúracha na Trócaire

Sisters of Mercy Cemetery



## 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](http://historicgraves.com) and Galway City Council ([www.galwaycity.ie](http://www.galwaycity.ie)) websites. This allows anyone anywhere to research their ancestry and kinship with those buried at Forster Street without charge. This is a public service. Copies of this leaflet and of Forthill, Magdalen Laundry Forster St., Menlo, Old Ragoon, 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.

Key	Headstone	Kerbed Grave	Cross or Pedestal	Ledger or Chest tomb	Vault or Mausoleum
	29	34	08	56	50