

UNLOCKING ROMAN CATHOLIC RECORDS ON FINDMYPAST

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FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN BRITISH AND IRISH FAMILY HISTORY, **FINDMYPAST IS A MUST-USE RESOURCE. WITH THE LARGEST ONLINE COLLECTION FOR THE UK**, AND THE HOME OF THE **CATHOLIC HERITAGE ARCHIVE** – BRINGING CATHOLIC RECORDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ONLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME – YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FINDMYPAST.

Findmypast is the recognized leader in British and Irish genealogy. The record collection contains more than 8 Billion records from around the globe. Our goal is to be the key resource for you to trace your English and Irish lineage, no matter where in the world their journey took them.

The Catholic Heritage Archive

Findmypast launched this groundbreaking initiative in January 2017. The project aims to digitize the historic records of the Catholic Church in the United States, Britain and Ireland. Millions of records covering various parts of the US, England, Scotland and the whole of Ireland are already available within the collection and many more records are due to be added throughout 2018. The Sacramental Registers from the Archdiocese of Pennsylvania went online first. The Archdiocese of New York, the Archdiocese of Baltimore – the oldest in the United States – and the Archdiocese of Chicago are now also online, along with the Diocesan newspaper for Philadelphia, *The Universe*, from 1833 - 1864. Coming later in 2018 will be the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the Diocese of Wilmington, DE, and more.

Internationally, the collection includes all of Ireland, essentially all of Scotland, the Archdiocese of Birmingham, the Archdiocese of Southwark, the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster in England. For those seeking their Irish ancestors, please note that the “Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Registers” collection on Findmypast is **free, forever**. You will need to create a free account on the site, but a subscription is not required.

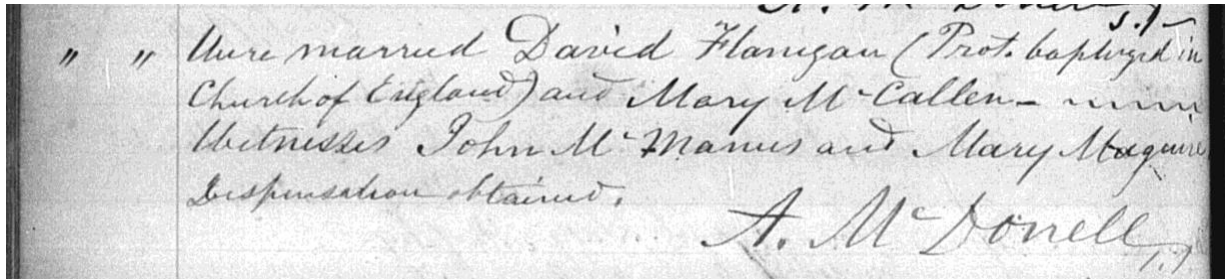
The Roman Catholic Church is the largest Christian denomination in the world and has always been a significant portion of the US and British populations. It has some of the oldest and best preserved historical records ever created, however they have never been easy to use or access until now. The Catholic Church has long maintained a policy of privacy for its records. Their registers memorialize sacraments such as baptism and marriage, and as a consequence, every Priest in every Parish has a canonical duty to preserve these registers and keep them safe.

There are also at least two legal bodies protecting these records; the state in which the Archdiocese is located, as well as Canon Law implemented by the Roman Catholic Church. It is

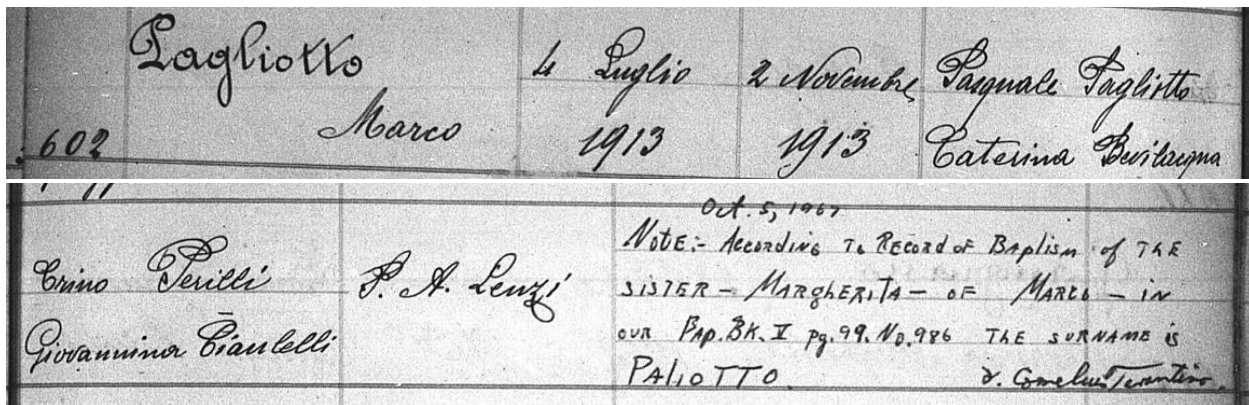
essential to understand both of these governing bodies to fully understand each Diocese's stance on record access and privacy issues.

Sacramental Registers – Baptism and Marriage

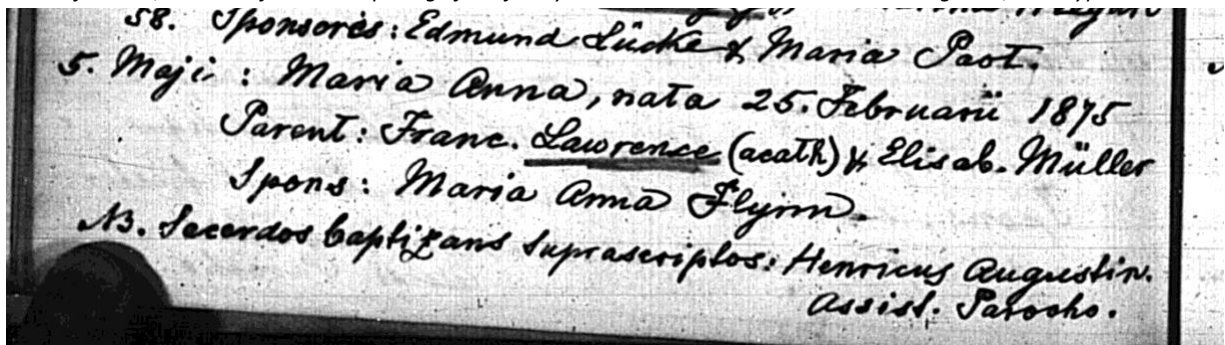
The vast majority of materials found in the Catholic Heritage Archive will be Sacramental Registers, the recording of sacraments inside the church. Baptisms and marriages make up the bulk of these records, but burials can be found as well. The information provided in these records will allow you to document these life events but will often also offer clues on where each individual was born, witnesses that may have been family members, and so on.



On 6 Jan 1880, David Flanigan and Mary McCallen were united in marriage by Father A. McDonelly. Flanigan is noted to have "prob. Baptized in Church of England" indicating he was likely born in England. "Dispensation obtained" indicates that a dispensation was acquired for two individuals of differing faiths to marry inside the church. (St. Ignatius Loyola Church, New York City, New York Catholic Parish Registers, Findmypast.com).



The 1913 baptism of Marco Pagliotto, split into two images, provides all of the pertinent information on his parents and witnesses, but also an additional note crucial to family history research – the baptism of his sister Margherita, which register she can be found in, and a conflict in the spelling of the family surname. New York Catholic Parish Registers, Findmypast.com.



The 1875 baptism of Maria Anna Lawrence, from the St. Alphonsus Parish in Philadelphia, PA, lists her parents as Francis Lawrence and Elisabeth Müller, and a sponsor by the name of Maria Anna Flynn. Philadelphia Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms, Findmypast.com.

As you can see in the above examples, while the intent of the registers is clear and consistent, the additional notes, details, names, and other clues can generate a great deal more information for your family history.

You will commonly encounter both English and Latin as the primary languages used in these records, in addition to German and Italian depending on where the church is located and the local congregation. Repeated examination of the records will give you the opportunity to practice these terms, and with familiarization, you will be able to identify the key terminology immediately. Just a few are listed here:

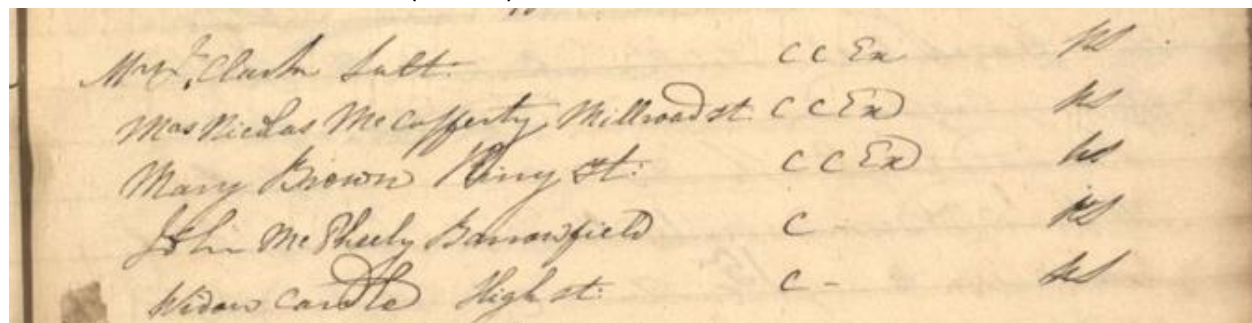
- Cognomina = surnames
- Ecclesia = church
- Filius = son of; Filia = daughter of
- Matrimonium = marriage
- Olim = formerly (can reveal a women's maiden name!)
- Testes adfuerunt = witnesses present or Testibus = by witnesses

There are online tools that can assist you in translating Latin to English, such as William Whitaker's Words, provided by the University of Notre Dame. The site also offers a Latin Dictionary and Grammar Aid. (<http://archives.nd.edu/words.html>).

To utilize the **Catholic Heritage Archive** records, you can find the Diocese of interest via the A-Z Directory, using the search page to identify the location of interest, or by simply running a basic search in our religious records collection. You can also see the collection **along with helpful guides and research suggestions** at <https://www.findmypast.com/catholicrecords>.

Other Types of Catholic Records

The Catholic Heritage Archive includes more than just Sacramental Registers. We are also publishing congregational records, a small number of Catholic censuses and Catholic newspapers. Other specific collections include the Roman Catholic Registers of the British Armed Forces, Non-Conformist & Roman Catholic Registers (England), Catholic Qualification & Convert Rolls (Ireland) and Catholic Church Directories (Ireland).



Mary Brown and others listed in the Sick Calls Register, St. Andrew Parish, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland, 10 Feb 1832, Vol 1, Page 97, Scotland Roman Catholic Parish Congregational Records. Findmypast.com.

Searching Findmypast

Strategy

There are several techniques to apply to online research that can be utilized on numerous websites, including Findmypast. Utilize these strategies to ensure you are seeking out all of the possibilities.

- Everything on Findmypast can be found via the blue navigation bar at the top of the screen. Use this as your way to easily move around the materials offered. Whether you are searching records, adding information to your online tree, or need to adjust your account, you can find those tools in that primary menu bar.
- Use the “Search World Records” screen to utilize a variety of filters, categories, and locations to conduct a detailed search. Familiarize yourself with the various options available.
- The Catholic Heritage Archive materials can be found in the “Birth, Marriage & Death (Parish Registers)” category in the Findmypast search filters.
- Upload your GEDCOM and allow the Findmypast site to provide you with hints. This automated process can be a crucial “research assistant” in identifying potential records and locations.
- Watch for new tools and features to be released, which focus on helping genealogists solve common research problems.
- Access the A-Z Directory (or card catalog) and search that system in a variety of ways to access as much as possible.
- Utilize the filters: in many cases, records are transcribed exactly as they appear on the original. For example, if you are searching for Boston as a destination in the “Early Emigration from Britain 1636 – 1815” collection, you should select all of the following locations in your search criteria: Boston, Massachusetts, America, North America, and New England.
- Seek out the “help” content for details on dates, where the information was sourced originally, and other collections that may interest you.
- Search the blog for relevant case studies or other success stories that may provide additional resources for your research.

LINKS

The Archdiocese of New York	https://archny.org/
Archives of the Archdiocese of New York	http://archnyarchives.org/
Archdiocese of New York Collection on Findmypast	https://www.findmypast.com/catholicrecords
“A Selected Bibliography for Catholic Research” via the NYGB (members only)	NYGB Knowledge Base (https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/)
The Bicentennial History of the Archdiocese of New York, 1808 – 2008 by Thomas J. Shelley. Available from most book sellers.	Amazon.com and others
Catholic Research Resources Alliance	https://www.catholicresearch.org/
“Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York” Wikipedia Page	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_New_York
The Hierarchy of the Catholic Church website	http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/

New Advent / Catholic Encyclopedia website	http://www.newadvent.org/
“New York Church Records” FamilySearch Wiki	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/ New_York_Church_Records
Local Catholic Church and Family History & Genealogical Research Guide; New York page	http://localcatholic.webs.com/newyork.htm
Archives of the Archdiocese of New York Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/ ArchNYArchives/?ref=br_rs

Findmypast Collection – Parishes with Images

(as of 6 July 2018)

All Saints	Our Lady of Victory	St John Nepomucene
Assumption	Our Savior	St John the Martyr
Blessed Sacrament	Sacred Heart	St Joseph, East 87th Street
Good Shepherd	SS Peter & Paul	St Mary Star of the Seas
Holy Cross	St Aloysius	St Patrick
Holy Innocents	St Ann, East 110th Street	St. Anthony, Nepara Park
Holy Rosary	St Anthony of Padua	St. Anthony, Willow Street
Immaculate Conception	St Augustine	St. Catherine Parish
Immaculate Conception	St Barnabas	St. Denis
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	St Brendan	St. Joseph
Our Lady of Peace	St Cecilia	St. Mary
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	St John	St. Ursula

Contact us!

We greatly appreciate any and all comments on the research experience at Findmypast. You can reach us via email at support@findmypast.com or by utilizing the on-screen chat function to speak directly to our customer service team. Give us a call if you if you want to hear their fabulous Scottish accents! US: 855-246-8234, Monday – Friday

All links active as of 11 July 2018.