

June 7th 1959
Mission Opening of the Grotto



The Grotto was opened in 1959 and based on the one in Inchicore, Dublin which, in turn, was based on the grotto in Lourdes.

Mass was celebrated by Frs. P. Breen and T. Donohoe (Native of Ballon) supported by Frs. Flood and Collier (Oblate Fathers running the mission) It was lovingly built, almost solely, by Mr Tom McArdle who started it in 1954 on land donated by Sean Nolan of Ballon. The site originally had cottages similar to the remaining one between the two newer buildings just below the grotto.

Construction was begun with a stone wall for most of the width of the grotto into which steel bed angles were anchored. This served as the base for moulding the fine mesh to imitate the shape of the rocks.

The final form of the mesh was then coated with several layers of cement. Tom's wife, Patricia McArdle, who was the local school teacher for 40 years, lent her husband support in his endeavours and was the motivating force.. His constant helper was Annie Nolan who spent her time riddling sand and mixing the cement. They were helped from time to time by other local volunteers including daughter Bernadette and collections of waste paper were made to contribute to some of the cost.

A celebration was held in June, 1989 with Benediction by an Oblate priest

August 16th 2009
Golden Jubilee

Picture(s) of the day to go here

Finished size about 3 ft by 2 ft.

Narrative of the day to go here

**Please check the narative and if you have any comments
please contact Michael Martin 9159442**