# GAA Oral History Project
## Interview Report Form

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<tr>
<th>Name of Interviewer</th>
<th>Regina Fitzpatrick</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Interview</td>
<td>16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Parochial House, near Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of Interviewee</td>
<td>Canon William Fitzmaurice</td>
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### Biographical Summary of Interviewee

- **Gender**: Male
- **Born**:<br>**Year Born**: 1946<br>**Home County**: Limerick
- **Education**:<br>**Primary**: Raheenagh NS, Killeedy, Co. Limerick<br>**Secondary**: St Ita’s Secondary School, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick<br>**Third Level**: St Patrick’s College, Maynooth.
- **Family**: N/A
- **Club(s)**: Killeedy GAA [Limerick]
- **Occupation**: Priest
- **Parents’ Occupation**: School Teacher [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
- **Religion**: Roman Catholic
- **Political Affiliation / Membership**: None
- **Other Club/Society Membership(s)**: Various parish organisations
**Date of Report**  
22\(^{nd}\) August 2012

**Period Covered**  
1950s - 2011

**Counties/Countries Covered**  
Limerick, Kildare, Clare, Cork, Tipperary, Wexford, Kilkenny, Dublin, Galway

**Key Themes Covered**  
Playing, Coaching, Education, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Family Involvement, Career, Outsider's Perspectives

**Interview Summary**  
William discusses growing up in Killeedy and the role that Gaelic games played in the area. He describes his and the club's development, culminating in a county hurling final win. William discusses Gaelic games in St Patrick's College, Maynooth. He talks about the removal of restrictions on priests playing for their counties. He recalls playing for Limerick and describes training routines at the time. William talks about the parish of Garryowen, comparing an urban GAA club with a rural one. He explains how his involvement in the GAA impacted on his clerical duties. He discusses his coaching career, referencing teams and competitions that he was involved in. He concludes by discussing the role of the GAA in the community, and explains what his involvement in the Association has meant to him. He finishes by discussing what an outsider's perspective of the GAA might be.

00:27 William recalls growing up in Killeedy, West Limerick. Mentions villages of Ashford and Raheenagh. Also mentions Ballagh. Refers to St Ita.

02:47 Recalls Gaelic games in the area.

04:05 Recalls local tournaments that took place. Mentions Tournafulla, Dromcollogher, Tullylease, North Cork, Newcastlewest.

04:44 Discusses history of family involvement in Gaelic games.

06:24 Recalls Gaelic games in his school days.

06:58 Describes his earliest memories of the GAA.

08:38 Describes listening to matches on the radio. Mentions Micheál Ó hÉithir and matches involving Wexford, Cork, Tipperary, Limerick and Kilkenny.

09:41 Recalls childhood GAA heroes. Mentions 1955 Munster Hurling Final against Clare. Also recalls 1956 Munster Final
against Cork and Christy Ring's three goals. Mentions Dermot Kelly, Liam Ryan, Seamus Ryan, the Graham brother, Rob Prendergast and the Cobb brothers. Also mentions Christy Ring and Kilkenny.

11:15 Discusses his and the club's development. Mentions playing for Killeedy. Mentions minor team successes, amalgamating with Feohanagh for that competition. Describes how club became more organised. Recalls commission established to examine state of Limerick hurling. Mentions contests against Tournafulla and South Liberties. Mentions Pat Hartigan, Joe McKenna and Eamon Grimes.

16:05 Discusses Killeedy winning 1980 county hurling championship final against South Liberties.

16:49 Discusses the hurling situation when attending secondary school in Newcastlewest.


25:40 Describes being ordained as a priest. Mentions St John's Cathedral parish, Garryowen.

26:55 Discusses playing for Limerick. Mentions training regime. Mentions various Munster finals, discussing rivalry with Cork. Mentions Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Charlie McCarthy, Mick Malone. Recalls beating Clare in final also. Mentions mentors such as Noel Drumgoole from Dublin, Dr Dick Stokes, Jackie Power, Phil Bennis, Jack Ryan. Recalls players such as Pat Hartigan, Joe McKenna, Eamon Grimes, Eamon Cregan and Sean Foley.

30:43 Discusses priests playing on inter-county teams. Mentions his brother, a priest also, playing with him for Limerick. Refers to Cappamore. Discusses effect of playing Gaelic games on his clerical life.


34:17 Recalls his coaching career. Discusses style of play with Killeedy. Mentions being involved with Limerick minor
team. Mentions contests against Tipperary, Clare and Cork. Also mentions involvement with under 21 team. Mentions Cork's Barry Egan and Brian Corcoran. Refers to 1994 and 1996 All-Ireland hurling finals. Mentions being a selector with Eamon Cregan as manager.

38:43 Discusses motivating teams. Mentions tradition of Tipperary and Cork.

41:05 Discusses role of the GAA in the community. Mentions GAA in St John's parish, comparing it to rural set-up. Discusses issue of amalgamation with other clubs.

44:09 Explains what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him. Mentions outsider's perspective on the GAA.

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<th>Involvement in GAA</th>
<th>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach □ Steward ✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member □ Grounds-person □ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None □ Other (please specify): ________________________________</th>
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<th>Record as an Administrator</th>
<th>Chairman of Killeedy GAA for 4/5 years. Member of Limerick GAA Development Committee</th>
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To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 22nd August 2012