

Fr. McManus' Partitioned Parish and Partitioned Country



The British government's 1920 Government of Ireland Act (the "Partition Act") not only divided Fr. McManus' country. It also divided his historic parish of Kinawley—an area that has had an ecclesial presence since the Sixth Century. Part of the parish is now in the artificially created Northern Ireland, in County Fermanagh. The other part is in Swanlinbar, County Cavan, in what later became the Irish Republic. The red line in the graphic is England's damn Border.

Fr. McManus was born three miles from the actual small village of Kinawley, in County Fermanagh, in the townland of Clonliff— part of the parish on the shores of Lough Erne and the banks of the River Cladagh.

So, England's partition of Ireland was never just academic or theoretical to Fr. McManus. It was and is, instead, a deep scar and a deep wound on the face of Ireland—with all the subsequent injustice, discrimination, and

suffering of The Troubles. (Even though much progress has been made since the Good Friday Agreement, which Fr. McManus strongly supports).

One of the current initiatives of the Irish National Caucus is the Internet Petition, explained below. This Petition gives the worldwide Irish an opportunity to show their opposition to the Partition of Ireland, and their desire for solidarity, unity, reconciliation, equality, justice, and peace on the whole island of Ireland.

IRISH PETITION — IRELAND ONE NATION

“Ireland, too, has the right to be One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

This Petition is entrusted to you—as it is to me— as a sacred trust. We must get many thousands to sign it—it’s the least any concerned person can do. It is free, just click and sign— <https://www.change.org/IrelandOneNation>

It is our honor, privilege, and duty to play our part in helping to create a new, shared, Ireland—in the unity and solidarity of The Beloved Community, with liberty and justice for all.

Our Petition—although inspired by, and based on, the famous American Pledge of Allegiance—is universal in its appeal and intention, evoking what is best in the human heart regarding the fundamental issue of justice and peace. This Petition is consistent with the Good Friday Agreement. Furthermore, national self-determination is a fundamental American principle and is the right of every Nation. The Petition is, also, inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s teaching on The Beloved Community and by Saint Pope John Paul II’s teaching that “peace is the fruit of solidarity.”

I ask the Irish-Worldwide —and all people of goodwill— to embrace this Petition in their hearts, prayers, and action. And, of course, you do not have to be Irish to sign. We welcome all supporters of international human rights and national self-determination.

Let us help to build up The Beloved Community in the unity of a new, shared, Ireland, for peace is the fruit of solidarity.

If you want to read background information on the Irish issue and the work of the

Irish National Caucus, a new edition of Fr. McManus' Memoirs has recently been published: *My American Struggle for Justice in Northern Ireland* [Third U.S. Edition 2019]. Available at IrishNationalCaucus.org and on Amazon. See what others are saying about this book by clicking or pasting in your browser this link — <http://www.irishnationalcaucus.org/praise-for-memoirs-and-.../>