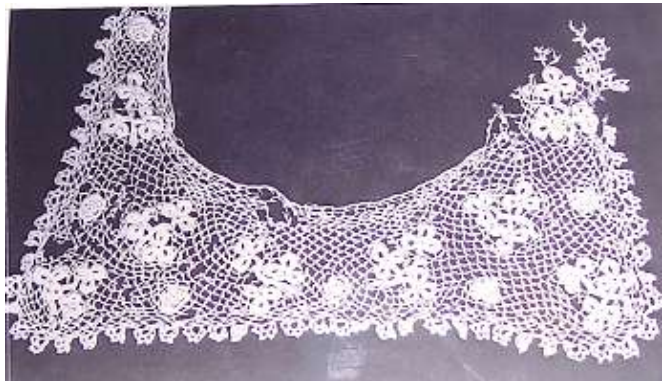


HISTORY OF THE TIME

Rochfortbridge was a strongly Protestant village in the mid-nineteenth century. A special feature of the Rochfort Bridge foundation was the opening of a 'deaf-mute' school in 1892 (special needs). In 1903 four Sisters learned sign language and worked in the school at crafts – knitting and lace making.



Lace Making

Between 1920 – 1940 the number of children diagnosed with this condition decreased and in 1940 the special school closed. Better facilities were available in Cabra, Dublin, and it was more central for people.

In 1896 the Community had increased to ten Sisters. In 1948 St. Joseph's Secondary School commenced and in 1963 co-education was introduced. The community had increased to fifteen Sisters at this stage. All were involved in education, visitation and parish ministry. Sisters engaged in meeting the needs of the poor in collaboration with the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

www.mercyrochfortbridge.ie



*St. Joseph's Secondary School,
Rochfortbridge*



Convent Primary School, 2011

In 1875 three Sisters of Mercy left for Mercy ministry to Yass in Australia and worked in education and the parish.

The Sisters still participate actively in parish ministry and work in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul Society locally in the parish. They also give invaluable support through their prayer.



*Yass Convent built by the Sisters of Mercy.
It has been given to the parish as an extension of the School.*



Parish Church, Yass