



**An Garda Síochána
Monument of Remembrance
Rededication Ceremony**

Saturday, 16th September 2023



IN MEMORY
OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE GARDA SÍOCHÁNA
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE SERVICE OF
THEIR COUNTRY



Commissioner's Foreword

You are all very welcome to Garda Headquarters here today as we rededicate the newly refurbished Monument of Remembrance to all Garda personnel who have died in service.



To mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of An Garda Síochána, we began a refurbishment process last year on the existing Monument of Remembrance at Garda Headquarters to ensure we could commemorate the lives and service of all personnel both members and staff who died in service.

Over our 100 year history, more than 1,800 personnel have died while in service. I want to acknowledge the valuable contribution made by each and every one of them, and thank them for their service to An Garda Síochána and to the State. I also remember our 89 fallen colleagues who offered selfless service and the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives in the performance of their duties.

I want to welcome the families, colleagues and friends of the deceased, and thank you for the incredible support you gave to our colleagues who were taken from us too soon. You supported your loved ones, on the toughest of days and made it possible for them to carry out their vital work so that the citizens of Ireland are kept safe.

An Garda Síochána Monument of Remembrance now bears each of their names, and offers a calm, dignified space for quiet reflection.

I invite you to take time today to reflect here at the monument and remember those we have lost.

May they rest in peace

Drew Harris

Commissioner

An Garda Síochána

Refurbishment of An Garda Síochána Monument of Remembrance

As part of our Centenary Celebrations and as a fitting testament to those who have served in An Garda Síochána since its inception in 1922, work to upgrade the Memorial in Garda Headquarters, commenced in 2021.

Garda Estate Management and the OPW oversaw the upgrade works to the existing cenotaph, which included the refurbishment, alteration and upgrade of the Memorial.

Essential maintenance works on the vertical mast were conducted, a ramp was installed, the podium rebuilt and the granite stones were re-laid. In addition, soft landscaping and bench seating was introduced, with external lighting and a new water feature added.



Over 1,800 names of Garda Personnel, who died in service, have been inscribed on bronze plating around the water feature and the existing stone cenotaph has been updated with the names of Garda Members who were killed in the course of their duty. It is intended that additional names will be added to An Garda Síochána Monument of Remembrance, on an annual basis.

An Garda Síochána Monument of Remembrance is now a calm, dignified place, suitable for reflection and commemoration and will ensure that we continue to honour and remember the lives of all Garda Personnel who died, whilst in the service of the State.



History of An Garda Síochána Monument of Remembrance

On Friday, 21st October 1966, a Memorial was unveiled in Garda Headquarters, to remember those members of An Garda Síochána who had given their lives in the service of the State since the Civic Guard (later An Garda Síochána) had been founded in February, 1922. On the day it was unveiled, the Memorial listed the names of sixteen Members, who had been killed in the line of duty.

The design of the new Memorial consisted of an elevated granite platform with continuous steps along two sides. The commemorative dedication surrounded by the crest of An Garda Síochána was carved in Irish on one side and English on the other. At the rear edge of the platform, a raised granite platform held two sloping limestone tablets with the names inscribed of those being commemorated. The granite for the Memorial was sourced in County Wicklow.

The Memorial was constructed by Kevin G. Walsh and Company, the stonework by James Ryan and sons, and the carving by Michael Biggs. The architects were Mr. R. McGrath, Principal Architect, Office of Public Works, assisted by Messers F. Du Berry and N. Keating.¹

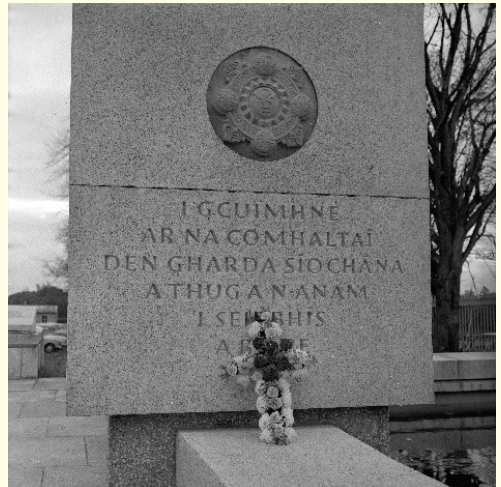


¹ Iris An Ghárda, Samhain 1966, p.749.

The Memorial was unveiled by the Minister for Justice Brian Lenihan, T.D and Garda Commissioner William Quinn.

During his speech, Minister Lenihan referred to the importance of ‘our democratic way of life in Ireland which depended for survival on the strength and stability of its’ institutions and a respected police force, dedicated to the preservation of peace’. He finished by saying that courage and service were two basic virtues that combined to make the great virtue of patriotism, which knew no frontier and was relevant to every generation.²

Commissioner Keane, who served as Commissioner from 1965 until 1967, acknowledged his ‘debt of gratitude to the government for providing this fitting Memorial to our dead’. He expressed his pride that ‘we have in the Garda today men who are prepared to emulate the deeds of the first generation of the Force’. He concluded that he was deeply honoured to ‘be here as an associate of those who gave their lives in the call of duty’. ³



² Irish Independent, 22 October 1966, p.13.

³ Iris An Ghárda, Samhain 1966, p.747.

Acknowledgement

The Commissioner and An Garda Síochána would like to acknowledge the work of the members of the Centenary Commemoration Steering Group, both past and present, who have brought this project to fruition.

Thank you also to our Garda Estate Management Team and to the OPW for facilitating the works, for the attention to detail, and the craftsmanship shown in refurbishing the monument.

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