

Archival list

The Kirby Collection Catalogue Irish College Rome

PART 1

Introduction.

Undated and incomplete letters.



**ARCHIVES
PONTIFICAL IRISH COLLEGE, ROME**

The Kirby Collection, Irish College Rome



Tobias Kirby

Collection Identity Statement

Title:	The Kirby Collection
Covering Dates:	1836-1895
Collection Codes:	PICR Archives KIR/(Year(s))/(Number)
Collection Size:	40 archival boxes c18,000 documents
Finding Aids:	Descriptive list.
Description level:	Item level description.

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Introduction

Preface

The following archival list describes the arrangement and content of documents contained in the Kirby Collection held at the Pontifical Irish College, Rome. These documents are associated with Dr Tobias Kirby, who was vice-rector (1836-1850) and rector (1850-1891) and rector emeritus (1891-1895) of the Irish College.

It should be noted, from the outset, that this collection contains the bulk, but not all, of Kirby's incoming correspondence. Letters from the Kirby Collection, including most importantly letters from Cardinal Cullen, Archbishop Croke and Cardinal Moran, were in the past separated from this 'core' Kirby Collection by Cardinal Moran and have not been reintegrated into the Kirby Collection. These separated documents are contained in a collection entitled 'The New Collection'. Therefore, in order to make a thorough search, researchers must also make a parallel search through the catalogue of the New Collection.

Biographical Summary: Tobias Kirby

Tobias Kirby was born in Tallow, County Waterford, in 1804. He grew up in Waterford city where his father was in the chandler business. He attended the seminary of St. John's College, Waterford before being nominated in 1827 by Bishop Patrick Kelly to travel to Rome to continue his studies at the Seminario Romano. One of his fellow students there was Vincenzo Gioacchino Pecci, the future Pope Leo XIII. Kirby was ordained in 1833 at St. John Lateran's and was appointed vice-rector of the Irish College in August 1836. In the following year the college moved to St Agata dei Goti; a convent and church granted by Gregory XVI. The rector at this time was Paul Cullen who was later to become Cardinal Cullen, Archbishop of Dublin.

Cullen was determined that Kirby should succeed him as the new rector in 1850, declaring that he would not leave Rome unless Kirby was appointed. As rector, Kirby took over the role of agent for the Irish bishops in Rome. The position of agent resulted in substantial increase in correspondence. Letters ostensibly concerned with agency activities such as the procurement of faculties and dispensations usually contain insights into the situation at home, whether political or private. It is remarkable however, that Kirby enjoyed the confidence of so many high-ranking members of the hierarchy during his long tenureship as rector. Letters from Cardinal Cullen, Archbishop Croke or Archbishop Walsh, for example, contain far more than anecdotal insights into their objectives and thoughts on major events of the day. It has been argued that, although Kirby was not the instigator of new initiatives or proposals, he played a vital part in the machinery of Roman administration, reflecting 'Rome's desire to establish a more formal and authoritative relationship with Ireland'.¹ It has also been contended that Kirby was fortunate to be 'the right man in the right place' in that he was a man whose judgement was trusted by a number of influential people at a time when Rome and the Holy See assumed a heightened significance in the affairs of the Church.²

Judging from the correspondents, Kirby enjoyed a reputation for spiritual wisdom and charity. He acted as confessor to many convents and individuals, particularly women and nuns. He assisted convents in Ireland and Italy materially also by transmitting alms, relics, blessings and permissions and assisting in their, often difficult, dealings with the Vatican. He received many requests for charity to which he more than often responded. He maintained contacts with his ex-students some of whom were to become bishops in Australia and also maintained personal ties with his family and friends in Ireland and in particular Waterford. Two of his works were published; his dissertation 'De Iure Romani Pontificis Appelationis excipiendi' and his 'Meditations on the Principal Truths of Religion and on the Hidden and Public Life of Our Lord Jesus

¹ McKinney, Amy. 'An efficacious Irish triumvirate: Paul Cullen, Tobias Kirby and Joseph Dixon' in D. Keogh & A. McDonnell (eds.) *The Irish College Rome and its World*. (Dublin 2008) pp 149-166

² Olden, Michael. 'Tobias Kirby (1804-1895): the man who kept the papers' in D. Keogh & A. McDonnell (eds.) *The Irish College Rome and its World*. (Dublin 2008) pp 131-148

Christ' (1891)³. The latter was culled from discourses delivered to students at the Irish College as part of their priestly formation and were based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and was published shortly after his retirement.

One of the most important traits that Kirby possessed (from the perspective of the modern day historian at least) was his habit of meticulously retaining letters throughout his lifetime without regard to the status of the writer or the relative importance of the subject matter. As mentioned already his tenureship was long, stretching from 1836 until the mid 1890s. He also never permanently moved from Rome, returning to Ireland in fact only twice during his lifetime (1841 and 1851-52). This has resulted in a substantial, complete and multi-faceted collection.⁴

Kirby's friendship with Leo XIII brought him honours; he was made Titular Bishop of Lita in 1881 and Titular Archbishop of Ephesus in 1885. He retired as rector in 1891 but remained at the college and continued to receive correspondence until his death on 20th January 1895. He is buried in the Irish College vault at Campo Verano, Rome.

³ For a discussion on this work and what it reveals about Kirby see Michael Olden, 'Tobias Kirby (1804-1895): the man who kept the papers' in D. Keogh & A. McDonnell (eds) *The Irish College Rome and its World*. (Dublin 2008) pp 131-148.

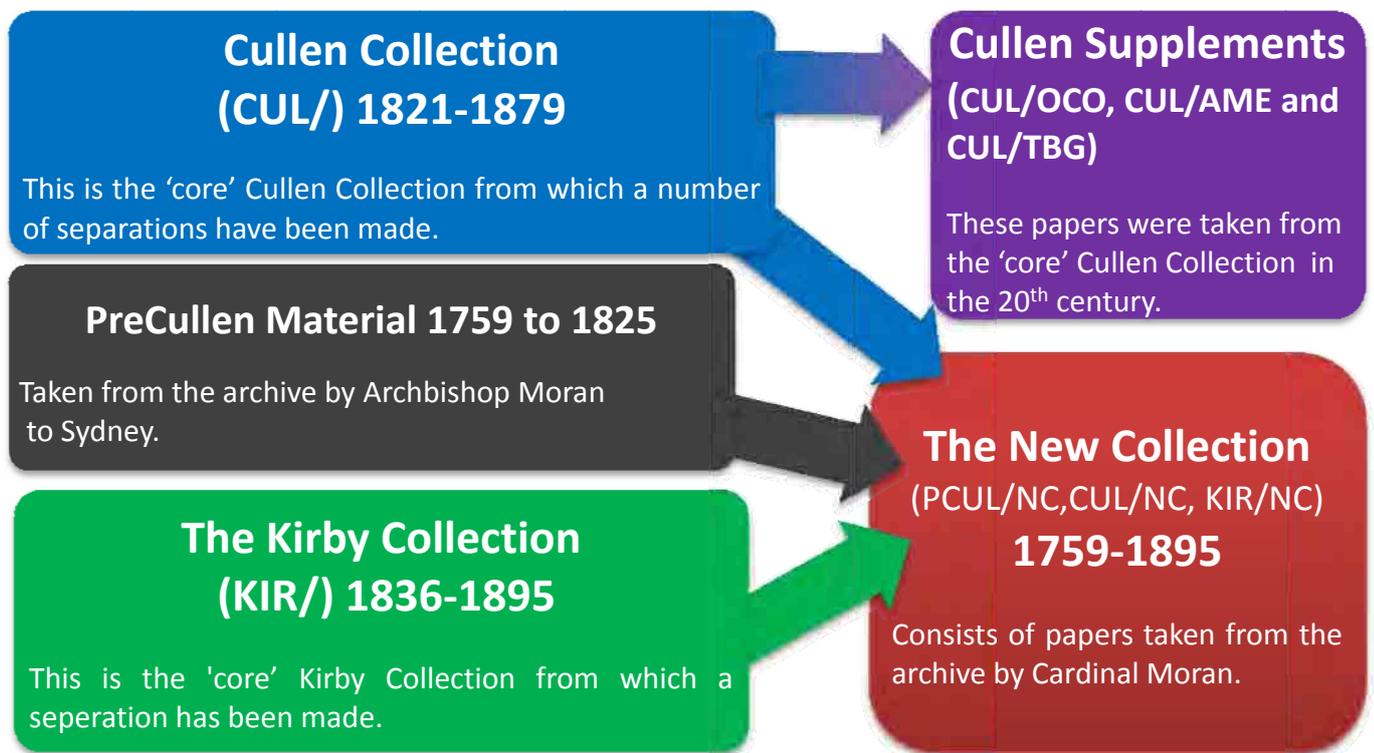
⁴ It is also fortunate that papers (The New Collection) removed from the 'core' Kirby collection by Cardinal Moran were returned to the Irish College

Provenance and Archival History

The bulk of the collection is made up of incoming mail received and kept by Kirby. He tended not to discard documents; for example he frequently ignored instructions from correspondents to destroy letters once read. He retained over 20,000 letters (including letters in The New Collection) regardless, seemingly, of the importance of the content and the relative status of the sender. He frequently added memos on incoming letters to remind himself of the actions he had taken on foot of the letters and draft replies are sometimes to be found alongside the incoming letters.

The collection is today in chronological order. This may have been the original order created by Kirby but this is very unlikely given that the collection has been worked on for a century. Nine empty letter-books were identified and decommissioned in 2006⁵ which contained fragments of indexes in Kirby's handwriting. It appears from these indexes that Kirby grouped incoming letters by sender. What is certain is that a substantial portion of documents were removed from the archives in the early 1900s by Cardinal Moran who intended to write a biography of his uncle Cardinal Cullen. These documents travelled with Moran to Sydney, were deposited in St Patrick's College, Manly, Australia and were returned to the Irish College in the mid-20th century. The exact details of these moves are as yet unknown. These documents were not reintegrated into the Kirby Collection and are now contained in a separate collection known as The New Collection.

The Kirby Collection is relatively intact, notwithstanding this one act of separation. There does not appear to be any gaps or missing years which cannot be accounted for by a parallel examination of the New Collection Catalogue. Both the Kirby Collection and the New Collection have been digitized and both collections' catalogues have been integrated to the digitized images. As it is possible for researchers to perform a search across both catalogues at the same time both collections have now been 'rejoined' virtually.



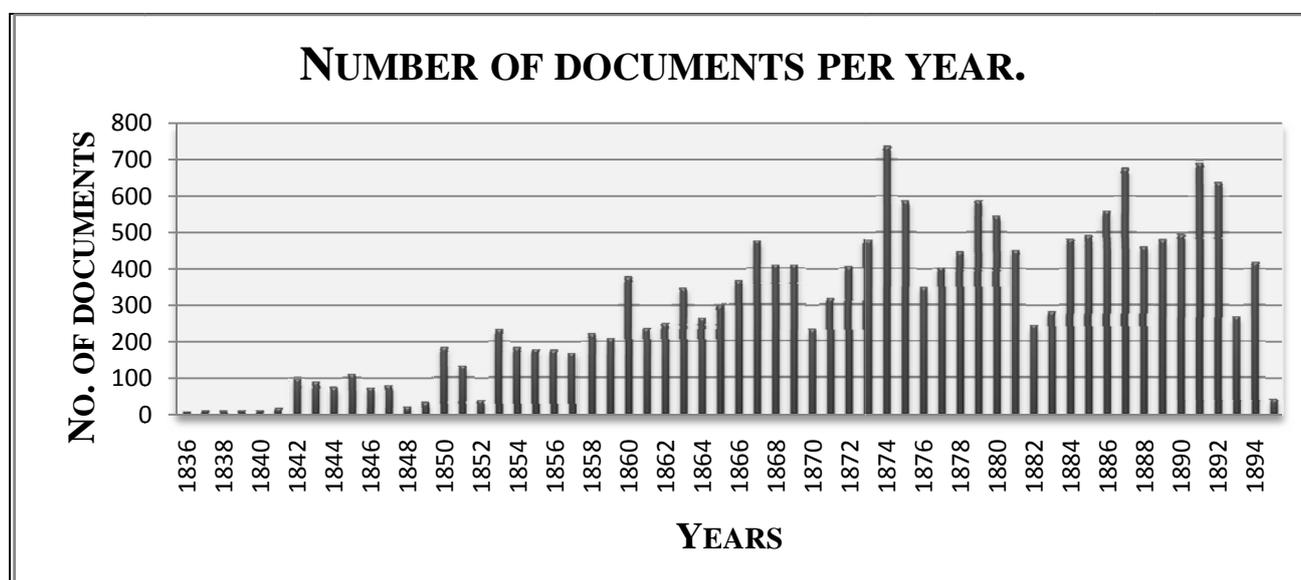
⁵ Note by Vera Orshel, Archivist in the first volume of original Kirby Catalogue 'Kirby letters kept in nine letter books, chronologically with indexes like this kept by Kirby himself. Being mostly empty, they were decommissioned on 16 Oct 2006'.

Scope

The collection is mainly comprised of handwritten, holograph letters addressed to the rector of the college. Newspaper clippings, printed pastorals or brochures etc and enclosed letters from third parties were on occasion included with these letters. Telegrams and notes on calling cards occasionally appear. The rectors also received petitions or status reports addressed to the Pope or Vatican officials which sometimes remained with their papers – the rectors were sometimes called upon to translate petitions and/or presented petitions verbally during a Papal Audience. The collection also contains draft replies written in the hand of the rector.

English is the main language used in the collection reflecting the fact that the majority of correspondents were Irish, Australian, English or American. The collection also contains many letters from Italian nuns, Vatican officials and local business persons which are in Italian. Other languages that appear are French and Latin. When a language other than English was used it is noted in this catalogue.

The covering dates for the Kirby Collection are 1836-1895. When Kirby was appointed rector in 1850 his correspondence rose. The chart below shows the distribution of documents per year. It should be noted that the New Collection contains circa 2270 documents relating to Kirby – these are not included in the chart.



The documents were mainly collected by Kirby as Rector of the College. During Cullen and Kirby's tenures the rector of the college had two main roles. Firstly he was the administrator of the seminary and secondly he was agent for certain bishops. As administrator of a seminary the rector received letters concerning students, college finances, college employees, college property etc. As an agent, the rector was the link between the hierarchy and the Vatican – he was asked to present petitions, reports and addresses, arrange for audiences for visitors, secure faculties and dispensations and he could be asked to 'speak with' officials of Propaganda or the Pope on important ecclesiastical or political issues. However, given that the bishops supplied the students for the college, a single letter might often be concerned with student and agency business. It has been remarked that Kirby was a man and priest that inspired trust on account of his ecclesiastical and political wisdom and also for his spiritual wisdom.⁶ This trait resulted in him receiving many letters from nuns, laypersons and clergymen seeking spiritual or personal guidance. Kirby was also, in particular, frequently approached by religious orders of nuns to obtain favours on their behalf or to offer advise on administrative matters. There are, of course, personal letters included and naturally letters can be a hybrid of both. Kirby appears to have filed personal and official letters together.

⁶ Olden, Michael. 'Tobias Kirby (1804-1895): the man who kept the papers' in D. Keogh & A. McDonnell (eds.) *The Irish College Rome and its World*. (Dublin 2008) pp 131-148

Content

Given Kirby's longevity and his large number of correspondents it is not possible to give a definitive description of the contents of this collection here. What follows below is a selective look at the type of people who wrote to Kirby and some select issues that occupied them.

Letters from members of the Irish hierarchy dealing with political and ecclesiastical issues make up lion's share of the collection. In many cases it was expected that Kirby would use his position and influence to convey information to Propaganda or the Pope. Cardinal Cullen for example, who was characteristically reserved and distant, enjoyed a lifelong friendship with Kirby often making him privy to his inner thoughts. Cullen corresponded on a weekly basis throughout his life, trusted Kirby with commissions to the Pope and Propaganda, often instructing him to personally speak with the Cardinal Prefect on his behalf. Kirby was the recipient of equally candid correspondence from other bishops in Ireland such as Cardinal MacCabe of Dublin, Bishop Kilduff of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, Bishop Woodlock of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, Bishop Keane of Cloyne, Archbishop Leahy of Cashel, Bishop Moriarty of Kerry, Archbishop Croke of Cashel, Archbishop Walsh of Dublin, Archbishop McGettigan of Armagh, Cardinal Logue of Armagh, Archbishop MacEvilly of Tuam, Bishop Gillooly of Elphin, Bishop E.T. O'Dwyer of Limerick, etc., etc.. Kirby's role remained relatively consistent despite the changes of personnel, personality and policies that took place over his lifetime. For example, the stance that certain Archbishops such as Walsh and Croke took towards the Plan of Campaign and the Papal Decree condemning Boycotting differs considerably from say Cardinal Cullen's relationship with the Vatican – yet Kirby was a confidant of all three. Occasions even arose when Kirby was in receipt of separate correspondence from two or more bishops who were in conflict over political issues, for example Archbishop Walsh and Bishop O'Dwyer over the response to the Parnell scandal.

Kirby also acted as agent for many Irish-born (and frequently Irish College educated) Australian and North American bishops including his former vice-rector Cardinal Moran of Sydney, Bishop Matthew Quinn of Bathurst, Bishop James Quinn of Brisbane, Bishop James Murray of Maitland, Bishop William Lanigan of Goulburn, Archbishop C. R. Reynolds of Adelaide, Bishop Patrick Moran of Dunedin New Zealand, Archbishop William Walsh of Halifax, Archbishop John Joseph Lynch of Toronto and Archbishop Michael Hannan of Halifax. Nor were Kirby's correspondents all members of the hierarchy. Dr Miley of the Irish College Paris and James Lynch the Coadjutor of Glasgow both confided in him while under immense pressure to relinquish their respective positions. Former students, priests in conflict with their bishops, ex-Zouaves, politicians and visitors to Rome, regular and secular clergy, authors of books, individuals or priests seeking marriage dispensations and lobbyists seeking favour from the Papacy, all feature in the correspondence. Kirby's links to Pope Pius IX, the Cardinals Prefect of Propaganda, Italian prelates, Vatican officials and Pope Leo XIII are reflected in the collection although much of this business was, it is presumed, conducted orally. Kirby was frequently called upon to present Peter's Pence collections, addresses and petitions to the Pope from bishops. Likewise he was often instructed by the Vatican to transmit Papal Blessings, dispensations, faculties and gifts to ecclesiastics and laypersons.

Kirby was also keen to assist nuns in their dealings with the Vatican and/or their bishops, e.g. Sr. Mary of the Cross, who founded the Institute of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in Adelaide; Sr. Margaret Aylward who set up St Brigid's Schools and orphanage in Dublin; Sr. Mary Francis Clare Cusack who founded the St Joseph Sisters of Peace; Sr. Margaret O'Kavanagh who established 'Zion Erin Crusade of the Cross' in Australia. A certain Agnes E St. John wrote, almost obsessively, to him concerning her efforts to establish a confraternity in Sclerder in England. Kirby was considered to be a very pious man and acted as spiritual confessor to many Italian and Irish nuns and English-speaking laypersons in Rome. He frequently sourced and sent objects of piety such as Agnus Deis, copies of paintings and relics to individuals and communities in Ireland and Italy. He also received frequent requests for charity from individuals, convents and fraternities in Rome and Ireland (including Don Giovanni Bosco) and acted as a persuasive guide for persons considering conversion to Catholicism. In his later years the quantity of letters seeking spiritual guidance or charity increases substantially. Although he very rarely returned to Ireland he maintained contact with his immediate family and friends in Ireland, with for example his brother William, and also received regular letters from his nieces and their children who emigrated to the USA.

Archival listing and Arrangement

The following catalogue is a slightly amended and formatted version of a hand-written and typed, paper catalogue that exists in the archive. This original catalogue was started by Fr Patrick J. Cuffe in the [1940s]⁷. Based on handwriting and other evidence, other cataloguers appear to have also worked on the catalogue. The latter sections of the catalogue were typed. Handwritten notes, additions and corrections were added by Fr. John Silke and Monsignor John Hanly in the margins of the catalogue.

It also appears that letters from Archbishop Croke to Kirby were catalogued separately (having been perhaps added to the collection separately?) These Croke letters therefore have codes which are made up of numbers and letters (e.g. KIR/1878/223a). The Croke descriptions were typed and pasted into the handwritten volumes after these catalogues had been written.

Unfortunately the level, quality and style of description varied considerably between cataloguers. This is most evident in the early years which have very brief descriptions compared with the final years. Catalogues also differed in the emphasis that they gave to particular events or topics. While major political events were always mentioned this can not be said of local events, personal news and minor events which are often treated cursorily. Cataloguers also used different 'voices' (i.e. sometimes moving between the first or third person) and, quotes are used sporadically.

It was not possible to remove all these imperfections in reworking this catalogue; however the use of the first person has been addressed. The hand written notes added by Silke and Hanly have also been included with the descriptions and a small number of descriptions have been expanded. The format of the entries has also been standardised. Every item now has a separate title⁸, description, date, extent and language⁹. Where an item could not be found etc. this has been noted in the description in square brackets. Spelling mistakes in place-names or mistakes in deciphering names have been corrected where possible. In the original catalogue, cataloguers used different conventions (usually a '?') when they were uncertain about a signature or place-name etc. When reworking this catalogue it was decided to use square brackets in all cases where a word was in doubt and also to use square brackets when making other archival notes.

The collection is arranged chronologically by date. The years 1836 to 1861 had been grouped together with consecutive numbering – this was retained in the reworked catalogue. Each year from 1862 onwards begins with the number 1 (i.e. KIR/1876/1 is the first letter of 1876). This order has not been altered (except in rare cases). In the occasional cases where the year was misread in the original this has been noted in the description and the correct date has been placed in square brackets. The numbering of each item has not been changed (except in rare cases). The coding of the Kirby Collection is as follows - each item has a collection code (KIR), followed by a year code (1836-1861, 1862, 1863, 1894, 1895) followed by an item code and in a minority of cases followed by the letter 'a' and/or 'b'.¹⁰

⁷ Fr Cuffe worked on the Cullen Catalogue and based on handwriting evidence it appears that he worked on the early section of the Kirby Catalogue.

⁸ The Title identifies (where known) the document type, the writer, the writer's address and the recipient.

⁹ When a language other than English has been used it is identified.

¹⁰ e.g. KIR/1836-1861/56 or KIR/1876/20 or KIR/1892/9a

The collection has been digitized and has been made available online. The reworking of the catalogue was done in conjunction with this process. The digitizers firstly created a database for the scanned images using 'Microsoft Office Access 2003'. The catalogue entries were then typed into this database in the case of the handwritten catalogues and O.C.R¹¹. was used to expedite the process regarding the typed sections of the catalogue. The reworking of the catalogue 'followed' the scanning and digitization process - a number of minor errors in the digitization database have been noted in the catalogue. The reworked catalogue has been integrated with the scanned images. This printed version of the catalogue was created by converting a 'Microsoft Office Access 2003 report' into an 'Adobe Acrobat 8 Professional' format.

Researchers should always consult *The New Collection Catalogue* in conjunction with this 'core' *Kirby Collection Catalogue*.

Acknowledgements

The Irish College is extremely grateful to Mary Pyne, Winifred Power and Shiela and Clodagh who inputted the Kirby Catalogue from the original. Mary is also to be thanked for her assistance in proof-reading.

Recognition and thanks must also be given to Vera Orschel, former archivist of the Irish College who initiated and guided the conversion and digitization project for the first two years of its existence and continued to provide support and guidance to me in all aspects of my work here at the Irish College.



Martin Fagan,
Archivist, Irish College Rome, December 2009

¹¹ O.C.R. Optical Character Recognition using 'Adobe Acrobat 8 Professional'

Select Bibliography

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Olden, Michael. 'Tobias Kirby (1804-1895): the man who kept papers.' in D. Keogh and A. McDonnell (eds.) *The Irish College Rome and its World*. (Dublin 2008) pp 131-148

Appendix 1: Documents omitted from Catalogue.

The following letters were discovered during the course of rehousing but were not included in the database.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/1867/154a	April 1867	Printed circular address by Fr. P. O'Kane, Downpatrick to Kirby: Regarding distribution of shamrocks and inviting prayers to St. Patrick.
KIR/1867/398a	2 November 1867	Holograph letter from [M], St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, to 'my dear lord' [Kirby]: Giving three prospective students' birth dates and recommending them. [digitised with 398 in error] 2pp
KIR/1881/14a	12 January 1881	Holograph letter from +Dr. Moran, Bishop of Ossory, to Kirby: The letter of the Holy Father an implied censure on movement. Writer's strong comment. Diplomatic relations with England? [Digitised as 1880/14a in error. Correct code is KIR/1881/14a]. 4 pp
KIR/1881/25a	26 January 1881	Holograph letter from +Dr. Moran, Bishop of Ossory, to Kirby: Bishops' meeting, no one from Cashel province. Letter sent to Pope. Request that Pope listen only to Irish Bishops on matters connected with Irish church. [Digitised as 1880/25a in error. Correct code is KIR/1881/25a] 4pp
KIR/1883/283	[1884]	Three letters from Cardinal McCabe but probably belonging to 1884.
KIR/1886/339a	18 August 1886	Holograph letter from J.A. O'Callaghan, Cork, to Kirby: Requests decoration for Corkman named Harry Cassell.

Appendix 2: Fragmented, Incomplete and Undated Letters – Missing

The following descriptions appear at the rear of the final volume of the original Kirby Catalogue. However these letters appear to be missing – this was noticed in November 2005 by then archivist Vera Orschel. They have not to date been located. The descriptions are detailed and are included here to give a complete copy of the original catalogue. Undated letters are coded 'UN' while fragmented letters are coded 'FRAG'.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/FRAG/1	[Late 1877 or 1878]	Holograph letter from [Bishop Power], Harbour Britain: Letter speaks of accusation against the writer, revived in a letter from 'Monsignor Moran' from Rome, that he had spoken 'in no friendly way of Dr. Carfagnini from the Altar some time ago'. Letter goes on to explain that the Apostolic Delegate had examined the whole question, & had said that the writer 'could not avoid' doing what he did', & added that he had written an explanation to Card. Franchi. The writer expresses surprise that the matter should be still in the books' against him. He then gives details - the matter concerned the withdrawal of excommunication from the B. I. Society of Harbour Grace, of who he informed 'some of the clergy & members' on his return from Rome in 1876. This withdrawal was, however, denied by Dr. Carfagnini 'standing on some technical terms' in the public press. His Administrator at Harbour Grace did the same. For eight months the writer ignored the denial. However, fresh disturbance arose. The B. T. Society relied on his statement & 'asserted that the Card. Pref. of Prop. had removed the censures. This was again denied in the newspapers.' Accordingly, the writer felt it was necessary to act, and he took the opportunity on 17th March 1877, when preaching on St. Patrick 'to give an explanation of the affair'. He maintains that he spoke 'w. the greatest respect of Mgr. Carfagnini' & 'simply outlined what had taken place in Rome...' Many formerly in favour of Dr. Carfagnini changed their opinion on hearing writer's explanation. The Delegate 'was perfectly satisfied' when writer gave him 'a full explanation'. Now asks K. to 'say one word' for him to Card. Simeoni & Mgr. Aprozzi, while he, himself, will write a full account of all his affairs to the Propaganda as soon as possible.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/FRAG/2	'Friday. June 25.'	Holograph letter from [], [House of Commons], London: Thanks K. for letter. Thinks it probable that Dr. McCabe has shown him a letter writer sent to him a couple of days previously. Since then he has heard from Rome again, informing him 'on undoubted authority that the Italian Government, owing partly no doubt to foreign representations, have offered to allow Propaganda to sell its landed property to the best advantage & to invest the proceeds anyhow it pleases even out of Italy.' Writer hopes Propaganda will agree, as 'it is much better on fairly decent terms to get rid of property which by being in Rome would be always liable and some day certain to be swept away by a revolutionary Government.' He has, therefore, decided to postpone bringing up his motion in the House until 'the following Tuesday, & to watch the course of events. Precipitate action might complicate matters. 'Sir Charles Dilke is very friendly in private' & says that very strong representations have been made by Gladstone. He thinks Propaganda 'ought if possible to accept the terms offered' & is writing to Cardinal Manning with whom, he says, he frequently communicates. He told writer that in the House he could never admit that the Government would interfere in these matters, 'on account of the bitter anti-Catholic feeling abroad just now'. [Last page & signature missing].
KIR/FRAG/3	[1869 mentioned in letter]	Holograph letter from A. H. R. Bennett, Aigle: [First page missing] [French]
KIR/FRAG/4	[undated]	Holograph letter from [possibly Sr. M. Philip], [a Blue Sister]: Regarding her Mother General, who is not able to do all that the Bishop wishes, but will obey as far as possible. Writer alleges that the Bishop Accused Mother General [possibly Mother Mary Potter] of things she had never either done or said. Writer is very troubled, since had she not gone to him [apparently in confession] 'this would never have been done.' Bishop is a 'most peculiar man'. Jesuit who gave retreat remarked that he did not like leaving them 'in such hands as his'. Bishop wishes to have the Srs 'here' [possibly England], 'but it is really waste of time, it is a dreadfully poor place no good rich people, only poor people to see to. All our success & advancement has been since we went to Italy, Florence - Sydney - Limerick - & now an offer to America.' Gives some details. 'Now from this place, Father' 'we never see any respectable person - because all of the better class are opposed to the poor Bishop' [first page and ending missing]

Code	Date	Description
KIR/FRAG/5	[undated]	<p>Holograph letter from Rev. B. O'Keeffe, Brighton: Writer tells of his joy at working in a mission dedicated to the Sacred Heart - gives parochial news, and details of his own work. He & the Rector get on well together. Both are 'temperance men'. Reminds K. of promise writer made before leaving Rome to abstain from alcohol, & is glad to be able to say that he has never broken it. Encloses two letters from his Bishop [MacCarthy] 'after leaving S. Colman's'. By them, K. will see that the good character he gave the writer in a letter to his Bishop he has 'preserved, thank God, up to this day untarnished, unsullied & unblemished.' Asks K. to return the letters, as he wishes to keep them. Asks for faculties, for who he encloses a petition. [First four pages missing].</p>
KIR/FRAG/6	[undated]	<p>Holograph letter from Bishop Joseph P. Byrne of 'Bathurst': In his opinion 'the dispensation' [marriage, presumably] should be granted. Gives reasons. Met Card. Moran, Archbishop of Melbourne & hierarchy of N. S. Wales at dedication of cathedral in Goulburn on Feast of SS. Peter & Paul. All in excellent health. Dr. Murray 'wonderfully strong since his return from Rome.</p> <p>' It was arranged to celebrate second centenary of 'Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque' throughout Australia on 16th Oct., 'by having a general Communion & Solemn Consecration of the children of Catholic Australia to the honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.' Vincentians and Passionists now giving missions throughout Bp's diocese, while Temperance League of the Cross and Assoc. of the Sacred Heart are being established wherever they did not already exist. Just started out on long visitation through remote parts of diocese. Writer has rather difficult task before him, owing to heavy rains & floods in the low lands. However, everyone is in good heart 'now that the seven years drought has quite broken up' they are hoping for return of good times. Is grieved to learn how things in Italy & France 'are going from bad to worse' & how the Pope 'is so sorely tried by the continued insults & machinations of the enemies of Religion.' [First page missing]</p>

Code	Date	Description
KIR/FRAG/7	[undated]	<p>Holograph letter from Sr. M. Gabriel of the M. H. Sacrament, Prioress: Writes of her surprise at the way in which some members of Orders in the Church speak of all they have done in certain dioceses - churches, schools, convents built & then compare their work with that of dioceses in control of secular Bps. 'where nothing has been done for religion'. Instances a Marist who, when speaking some years previously, in Ireland advised young men wishing to become priests to join an Order, stressing the happiness of the Marists, who were under the newly appointed Marist Bishop of Wellington, 'while the secular priests under secular bps. in other parts of New Zealand were frequenting public houses, reading newspapers & drinking instead of doing their priestly duties...' Writer continues 'I, who know well the judgement & feelings of our people on sacred matters, can boldly declare that they were wanton, wicked falsehoods. At that time there was no other secular Bishop but our own saintly, retiring, zealous Bishop who never dines out, visits only the sick &, when wanted, can always be found in his study, in the confessional.' Mentions instance of intoxicated priest at the Altar, when Province was in the care of the Marist Bishop, Dr. Viard. Feels that the only information regarding the diocese to reach Rome is that given by their Bishop who 'will carefully suppress whatever may be to his own advantage ...' Further New Zealand news, also Australian. Regarding indulgences for her Order [Dominican], & oil paintings who they wish to have executed, one of them being for their High Altar.</p>

Code	Date	Description
KIR/FRAG/8	[undated]	Holograph letter from Margaret Aylward, Dublin: Letter begins 'will have to tell the Holy Father something about us.' Writer goes on to give details- 65 Sisters at present, who make triennial Vows, 7 Novices, & 9 Postulants. They conduct 19 distinct schools in 9 separate establishments attended by over 2000 children, without counting the Orphanage'. Gives information regarding the schools, their work in keeping children from Protestant schools, '& have already saved more than 10000 from the heretical contagion'. Several Bps outside Ireland have wished to enlist their services, but writer has always told them that their mission was to the Irish at home relates incident of how, when it was so necessary for them to obtain a site for a school & a convent, a certain W. Meyers, an old man living with his [also old] sister, thought he would like to give his land [freehold] to the Sisters of Faith. He did so, & at this moment workmen are engaged on building the school. Encloses pound that K. 'may have the copy for His Holiness suitably bound, & if anything remain be pleased to give it to the poor.' [First page missing]
KIR/FRAG/9	[undated]	Holograph letter from Rev. N. O'Riordan, Limerick: Haing looked over his notes, the writer finds he has not enough material to write anything worth printing. Had he another few weeks on the Archives he would have collected 'all worth printing or advisable to print.' Writer may be in Rome next summer r when, if he may, he will collect the rest, & 'set about putting them together'. Ireland going through trying times, & reports in 'Freeman's Journal' are not to be relied upon at all, wh. Paper 'has shown itself quite unscrupulous in its support of Mr. Parnell.' Gives details of some incidents. Regarding report in Osservatore Romano [wh. he gets daily] regarding women also reading addresses to Parnell, writer does not believe this. Men do so but they, for the most part have separated themselves from the bodies to who they belong. Gives example. Wishes K., Dr. Hassan & students all a happy New Year. [First page missing]

Code	Date	Description
KIR/FRAG/10	[undated]	Holograph letter from V. Rev. P. J. Horgan [P.P. of Kilworth, Co.Cork], Perth, W. Australia: Bishop wishes writer to accompany him on a Visitation 'through his world wide diocese...' Mentions his pleasure at meeting his brother,a barrister, whom he has not seen for many years. Bishop is anxious for him to remain w. him for 3 or 4 months, up to Christmas or so, when he wishes writer to give a retreat to his priests, some of whom are Italian or Spanish. He feels that his knowledge of Italian will stand him in good stead shld he decide to stay on, as he thinks he will. Mentions places he hopes to visit. The Bishop has granted him faculties for 'preaching & other missionary work'. After Christmas writer hopes to visit Melbourne & Sydney & pay his respects to Card. Moran. He may then return home via America, where he has relatives & friends. If so, he will postpone his visit to Rome until after he reaches Ireland. [Bishop mentioned so frequently is probably Dr.Gilney]. [First page missing]
KIR/FRAG/11	[undated]	Holograph letter from M. J. Condon, Tallow: Mentions death of Dr. O'Brien & the apptment of his successor, Dr. Power. So far they [St. Joseph's] have not seen the new Bishop. Asks K' , blessing. Can never forget him when they look at painting of the Sacred Heart in the sanctuary, opposite the choir. Gives name of convent [Delgany, Co. Wicklow] where the Prioress wishes to have 'the Church Altar privileged for the dead'. [Tallow is in diocese of Waterford. Bishop John Power was apptd in 1804, but he succeeded Bishop Thomas Hussey - Bishop Dominic O' Brien succeeded Bishop Nicholas Foran in 1855] [First page missing]

Code	Date	Description
KIR/FRAG/12	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. de Sales, Diocese of Ardagh & Clonmacnois: Tells of distress when, some months previously, she discovered convent owed about. £1500. Tempted to be disheartened, but decided to work & pray more than ever, & debt now paid. However, convent is being reprimanded now because they have not built new schools. It seems almost impossible, but writer will do her best. They are expected to go into debt and borrow money w. wh. to build [as, in fact, did convent at Longford]. If Bp's hse is sold for £1000, she will buy it, but perhaps the new Bishop will want to keep it. Everyone wondering who is to be new Bishop. Sr. M. de Sales hopes it will be Dr. Woodlock, tho some people say he has no chance. Mentions spiritual help he gave her, & his advice who she is trying her best to take. Money is so urgently needed in the convent - their hands are tied for want of it. No proper chapel. Mass on Sundays celebrated in old ironing room. Hopes young student at Irish College ['Charlie', first cousin of one of the nuns] is doing well. Thanks K. for his kindness to her 'poor sister in the Via Vittoria..' Sends message to 'poor Mary'. 'Imploring' prayers. [First page missing]
KIR/FRAG/13	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sister M. Imelda, Dublin: Asks for 'rescript granting the Pope's blessing & Plenary Indulgence' on death. This cld be framed & kept in the infirmary, beneath the picture of the Sacred Heart given by K. Gives news of death of a Sister w. some details.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/FRAG/14	[undated]	<p>Holograph letter from Bishop Woodlock of Ardagh, [possibly Longford]: 'The 'powers of the Board can, he said [writes the Bishop], in his opinion be limited by requiring them to draw up regulations, like the Privy Council's Revised Code in England,& to these the Cath. Commissioners shld be a party. The difficulty of passing the Bill would be v. much increased by entering into details in it. The Bishop was then asked whether it would be preferred to have a Board of three, or of 5 members, 2 Protestants & 2 Catholics, one of each to be unpaid, & the Chief Secretary. After consideration 'we said we were inclined to think his present proposal the better.... I confess, it occurred to my mind, that another reason might 'be the probability of their giving us some good-for-nothing Catholic as one of the two. 'On the advice of Dr. Moran & Dr. McCabe the Bishop called 'on him again yesterday morning'. He said he had come to thank him for giving them so much of his time [nearly an hour]. He also urged the necessity for proceeding at once w. the Bill. 'He promised to do so, & at any rate to introduce it, &, perhaps to have it read a second time before Easter. He said he had gathered ... that he cId reckon on the support of our Members for it.' The Bishop said he thought he cId, but he told him that he had heard from Cardinal who 'had remarked again, that, assuredly equality was not & would not be established as long as the Royal Schools remained for Protestants'. The Bishop added that 'as it would be absurd to govern England as anything but a Protestant country, so we shld never be right until they accepted the fact that Ireland is a Catholic country, & governed it as such - & as they govern Canada. He admitted the justive of this remark. The Bishop said he was doing very little for us, but that we accepted it as a first step.' The Bishop was told that the rough draft of the Bill was already made, & was promised that he would be written to 'shld he wish to communicate again w. your Eminence or Dr. McCabe or Dr. Moran.' Letter ends w. greetings to 'Mgr. Kirby, Dr. Maher, Fr. Donnelly' etc. [As the Bishop signs himself 'your faithful subject', the Cardinal to whom he writes is probably His Erninance of Armagh]. [first pages missing]</p>

Code	Date	Description
KIR/FRAG/15	[undated]	<p>Holograph letter from Sr. M. C. di Ricci, Dunedin: Writes of someone who is seriously ill in hospital and who is being nursed by Rev. Mother. On a bitterly cold night the Bishop rode out to give her the last Sacraments &, as happened in Mother's case, Extreme Unction helped her physically as well as spiritually. She is 'recovering slowly" but her ultimate restoration is v. doubtful. 'Unfortunately, her aunt 'a young lady who came here last week to nurse the invalid, is now attacked herself, & that Mother will be kept for a long part of the dreary winter a prisoner in this hospital.' However, despite her nursing duties, Rev. Mother keeps trying to think up ways in who to help the Bishop Writer enumerates some of the 'good works who still remain to be done for the Mission.' But perhaps the most urgent is the building of a new convent. Since they gave up the Priory 'the inconvenience & discomfort the boarders have had in the town house [the former wooden Presbytery] have been so great' that they have lost many pupils. Therefore, even tho it means running into debt, 'Mother Prioress has commissioned an architect to draw out plans for a new convent & schools.' Gives some details. When finished, they hope that they 'may be able to admit Postulants & secure the establishment of Dominican nuns here in perpetuity.' Rev. Mother thinks that to attempt the work 'without 5 or 6,000 in hand' would seem rash, but necessity compels them to go ahead w. the enterprise. Writer asks K's prayers, & those of his friends. By same mail Rev. Mother is sending him draft for £30, who he 'will kindly layout as I explained ' in her last letter. Rev. Mother 'wants to get up an Art Union to take place in the course of next yr', & wants to have some attractive prizes. Therefore she would like K. to buy paintings &c. & send them to Burns Oates & Co. of London. She would 'like a few valuable prizes, the rest may be of inconsiderable value, as the tickets will be only about half a crown each.' Moreover, as the 'greater number of purchasers' will not be Catholics, 'most of the subjects shld be classical as well as religious.' She would also like some crosses blessed by the Pope for the hour of death, also some medals &, if possible, a relic of the True Cross. Gives details as to how the case shld be addressed. Delighted to hear good news of Pope's health. Is anxiously awaiting a reply to her letter to the Pope, & asks whether K. think she has 'become crazed to attempt such a thing'. [first page</p>

Code	Date	Description
KIR/FRAG/16	[undated]	<p>Holograph letter from Rev. Daniel F. X. Beechinor, Tasmania: Two yrs previously his Bishop sent writer to Queensland to collect funds. His mission was v. successful. He also went to 'the Diocese of poor Dr. O'Mahony' & between the two, he received nearly 2.000. In his own diocese the response was good, also. All the island 'is pretty well supplied w. churches & priests' houses.' Presentation convents flourishing in Hobarton & Launceston 'northern chief town of Tasmania.' Bishop has made good progress in education of the young girls of the colony. Now he is daily expecting arrival of Christian Bros for the boys, 'for whom he has also provided house accommodation.'</p> <p>Asks K. 'What about Dr.Mahony's return to his Diocese? It is a sad thing to hear how his dear Lordship has been treated. He is a perfect martyr & some one will suffer yet for the shameless falsehoods circulated against him.' Writer went to nearly every part of his diocese, majority of the priests 'sighed for his return & the feeling of his flock almost to a man was in his favour.' His failure to return 'will be an irremediable loss to religion, especially in his own diocese. Time only will tell, & time too will open the eyes of his enemies. God forgive them.'</p> <p>Mention of two past students of the College. Sends 'kindest regards from his Lordship Dr. Murphy'. [first page missing]</p>
KIR/UN/1	['7th 1887]	<p>Holograph letter from Mother Abbess [Poor Clares], Savannah, Georgia to Kirby: Long letter regarding difficulties - Bishop Becker has told writer that 'Bps complained to him about begging', whereupon writer informed the Bishop that the Bishop of Nashville had given them permission to beg throughout his diocese. The Bishop of Pittsburgh did the same. The Bishop replied that he must see the permission in writing. Writer was warned by Archbishop Gross against the tongues of Savannah people. Mentions high praise of writer & her Order by Archbishop Gross. Bishop Becker, however, says that 'Bps. & priests, around' do not want them. Advice from Archbishop Bishop Becker has never seen the chapel, & knows nothing of the way in wh. the work is carried on. She is prepared to fight the battle, or to throw down her arms, entirely as the Pope Wishes. Rest of letter deals w. all the work she has done, how she would like 'an ambassador' to visit the place & see all that is there, & then to report to the Pope on it.</p>

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/2	[undated]	Holograph letter from [], Athy to Kirby: Printed appeal for help for the Srs. of Mercy, Athy, Co. Kildare, setting forth their needs, & giving their aims, & the way in wh. they will repay benefactors [prayers - novenas for deceased benefactors. Those who contribute £5 to be presented w. framed picture of the Sacred Heart those contributing 'a considerable sum' or bequeathing such a sum to be considered as Founders, & their names engraved on table at chapel entrance.
KIR/UN/3	[Whit Sunday]	Holograph letter from Eliza Butler, Dublin to Kirby: Personal letter from niece.
KIR/UN/4	[undated]	Holograph letter from Rev. W. B. MacFeely, [] to Kirby: Encloses honoraria for 16 Masses. Very little happening in Ireland at moment. They hope the country will soon become more prosperous, & writer hopes that prosperity may be to their advantage. Political excitement not conducive to spirit of Christian charity. People, at least in the North, 'sick of agitation'. Dublin rather unsettled. Weather phenomenally good since midde of March. No lack of flowers for Our Lady's altar during this month.
KIR/UN/5	[Dec. 1857]	Holograph letter from [Lord] Emly, Limerick to Kirby: Regarding new permission for 'Midnight Mass in the house, wh. is different from the previous ones & now permits only those living there to receive Holy Communion. This excludes writer's daughter & her husband. Can K. get the permission revised?
KIR/UN/6	[Nov. 1854]	Holograph letter from Lord Emly, Limerick to Kirby: Acknowledges permission sent him through Bishop of Limerick from K.
KIR/UN/7	[Holy Thursday]	Holograph letter from Eliza Butler, [] to Kirby: Personal letter from niece.
KIR/UN/8	[Feast of St. Agatha]	Holograph letter from Dominican Conv., Lawrence, to Kirby: Gives good news of another foundation of the Dominican Sisters by herself. Some detailed information follows, including Confirmation of some 100 children & adults. A post-script dated '7 March' gives the news that a telegram has been received to say that their Bishop is seriously ill.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/9	[undated]	Holograph letter from Catherine Ahern, [] to Kirby: Writer called to tell K. that the 'Irish Catholic', Dublin, had returned her manuscript. Now wants K's advice. Has sent the 'Franch translation on Thursday' & hopes that it is not too long. Asks K. if he could get her 'short subjects ' of the same class & equally interesting', as she is almost sure the 'Irish Catholic' would take them. Asks
KIR/UN/10	[undated]	Holograph letter from Bishop J. Dunne of Wilcanina, Edenderry, to Kirby: Thanks K. for his kindness & hospitality during writer's visit to Rome. Mentions some of the things most pleasing to him. Sorry his stay was so short. Writes of disunion in Ireland. 'Party feeling in some places is v. high but each day the prospects of the Parnell or Anti Clerical Party [to give the proper title] are waning. The overwhelming body of the people are thoroughly sound in principle & the evidence of a lively active faith to be seen everywhere is indeed refreshing to the traveller & worthy of Catholic Ireland.' Thanks K. for the paintings, for who he encloses a postal order for 10 'as part payment..' Asks that copy of the painting of Our Lady of Mercy be sent to the Convent of Mercy at Rochford Bridge, Westmeath. On hearing 'the probable cost of all by & by' he will send K. the balance. Hopes Mons. Hassan is much better. He is sure that K. will be praying with him that his 'visit to this land of faith may result in benefit to my scattered flock in distant Wilcanina.
KIR/UN/11	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. X. Condon, Tallow to Kirby: Having received no Christmas greetings from K., the Srs. fear that he is ill. They have missed the Roman Directories of their Order who K. was accustomed to send. Mentions 'disturbed state' of the country, who must add to 'the many afflictions' of the Pope. The curate, Fr. Michael Walsh, would like K. to get his faculties for blessing beads renewed. Assuring him that he is always remembered in their prayers, & asking a Christmas & New Year blessing from the Pope for Rev. Mother & Community, as also his own blessing & prayers.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/12	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. Imelda, Blackrock, Co. Dublin to 'Maurice': Hearing from Maurice's Mother that he is in Rome, Sr. Imelda hastens to write to ask him to buy-her two or three pounds worth on 'some holy things'. She would like as many little crosses [length of a finger] as he can get, blessed for the hour of death, one about twice the size for 'a Parish Priest that he cId impart with it the indulgence for the hour of death to all those of his parishioners that he would be attending, & indulged for himself also.' She would also like a little statue of St. Anthony of Padua, to whom she is praying hard for Maurice's temporal welfare. Dr. Kirby will take care of the blessings &, indulgences, & she has already written him a long letter.
KIR/UN/13	[Ash Wednesday]	Holograph letter from S. M. C. Di Ricci, Novitiate of the S.Heart to Kirby: Letter from K's niece, giving personal and convent news, w. a PD from Sr. Gabriel.
KIR/UN/14	[undated]	Holograph letter from [], Salford to Kirby: Printed appeal from Church of Mount Carmel, Salford, for help with a 'Fancy Fair in Easter Week, for the purpose of raising funds to pay the debt on the New Presbytery.' Remarks how very inconvenient it is to have the priests' house so far from the church. The new presbytery will cost £1,000, towards wh £170 has already been collected, leaving £830 still to be raised.
KIR/UN/15	[Feast of the Holy Innocents]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. [John] Evangelist, Killarney to Kirby: Personal letter of good wishes for K's birthday, thanks for his kindness, hopes of his good health, mentioning that she sometimes hears of him from Fr. Vaughan of Wigan College.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/16	October 29 [no year]	Holograph letter from Archbishop T. W. Croke, Thurles to Kirby: Not much to say, but College & convents are flourishing, altho the state of the country is not good. 'Crops are poor & prices of agricultural produce low. In several parts of Connaught the potatoes, it is said, have failed & great distress is accordingly apprehended.' Great success of mission by Redemptorists. At close of it writer gave Holy Communion to 1350 men [mission was for men], & the previous day 700 men & women had made their Communions. People are 'as good as gold'. They may differ in some parts in matters of politics, but as regards religion, writer does not think they 'were ever better, or more observant.' Intends to ask for dispensation from ad limina visit next yr, as he is over 70, & not equal to it. Dr. Brown's consecration was very fine. Why is it, though, that he has got 10 cases of 2' & 2' consanguinity & affinity, while the writer, a Bishop for nearly 25 yrs has been refused them twice. Mons. Kelly was before the Bps at Maynooth, but writer does not think he produced any great effect. Difficult to ask young man who cld, get a free place to Maynooth to go to Rome, paying all expenses. During the year four 'first rate lads' have gone to Maynooth, & one to Paris, but it has not been possible to persuade anyone to go to Rome. Card. [Ledochowicke] has written to Irish Bps. asking them to favour the Irish College Rome, where possible.
KIR/UN/17	[undated]	Holograph letter from M. Scholastica Ryan, Blackrock, Cork to Kirby: Thanks K. for letter enclosing picture of the Sacred Heart. Everyone rejoices in Pope's Jubilee, 'Joan's Beatification is a great triumph to her fervent advdcates...' K's gift of St. Ursula has a lamp burning before it day & night, keeping alive devotion to her & reminding them to pray for the donor. Greetings from Rev. Mother & Community.
KIR/UN/18	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. J. McDonnell, Tuam to Kirby: Encloses tickets who writer hopes K. will either buy or dispose of. They are for their annual bazaar held in aid of the sick & dying poor. Mentions 'sickness & distress' which has been widespread during past winter, so that there 'are few who have not been obliged to grieve for the loss of, some member of their family.'

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/19	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: Sends Cross made from tree under wh. St .Francis of Assisi received the stigmata, & wh she wears night & day, as she wants to have it indulgenced by the Card. 'who has the privilege to indulgence crosses for the Stations even when not prevented by sickness going thro them.' Fr. Hickey of Clonliffe offered to send to Rome for a cross, but writer prefers to have the indulgence attached to the one she now encloses. Dr. Hickey says that 'when this Card. dies, the Pope does not intend to give the privilege to any other', but Sr. Imelda asks K. to 'ask His Holiness not to take the Indulgence from the Crosses indulgenced by the Cardinal...' Gives details. Sending gloves by this post.
KIR/UN/20	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr.M.Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: More or less personal letter - thanks K. for letter who was 'quite a lovely sermon'. His little book is lovely. She would like an English translation of 'the lovely little things' Kirby wrote on keeping 'souls united with God' & sent to her in Italian some time back. As she cId not understand it she gave it to a priest. Personal matters regarding her assignment & how she is tackling it. Her private opinion is that 'this extraordinary education is only an evil' that they must meet at the present time. It is a good thing if the girls can be prevented from going to the Protestant colleges, but it does not seem to lead them to the religious life. 'In years to come, poor Ireland will be overrun with teachers without employment.' Mary J. Brennan has no vocation - explains why. Writer has given Mrs. Murphy's daughter-in-law the 'beautiful scapulars' K. gave her. She is ill. CId K. perhaps send writer another pair for herself? Is surprised that K. did not receive gloves writer sent him by a young man going to Propaganda. Asks a Mass for restoration to health of Mr. Cassidy [bro.of Fr. Cassidy], who is ill & has a large family. Encloses pound.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/21	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: Acknowledges receipt of K's letter & enclosure, saying that her friend knew nothing of her 'asking for it', & it was simply to secure a very lasting one that she proposed silver. Has given the other crosses to sisters 'who are enchanted to get them.' Asks K. to obtain 'some small strong ones such as can be carried round neck'. Great gratitude 'for the dear Holy Father placing his sacred hands' on her little cross. 'The last of the Brenans, Fanny, appears a good sensible child' & Sr. Imelda thinks she will be of more use to her Mother than the others. Writer has put pictures of the Sacred Heart into each of the schoolrooms. Asks K. to get her 'the few more small crosses w. the great indulgence of the Stations.'
KIR/UN/22	[6th December]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: Owing to bad neuralgia writer forget to mention in her previous letter that, thanks to K., renewal of permission for Midnight Mass came safely. Rosary will be offered for K. on his birthday. School news. 'Head Professor of Music, a German priest, 'taught the girls and is delighted with their progress. Some of them have beautiful voices, & they are 'splendid children'. Thanks K. for 'the little hint' he gave regarding cross. Explains why she asked for a silver one. Gives some details of goodness of the Franciscan priest for whom she wanted it. Asks K's prayers for his brother who 'has a dreadful cough' & is a most holy man & devoted father. Whole family is good - three religious in it. Willie Murphy is recovering, but Sr. Imelda hears 'nothing yet about confession', adding, 'May our Sweet Mother bring this round.' Greetings.
KIR/UN/23	['Feast of St.Mark', 25 April]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: Asks K. to say two Masses in honour of Our Lady for the recovery of Fr. Cassidy's brother John, who has a v. large family & would., therefore 'be a most terrible loss'. Mentions again Fr. Cassidy's extreme kindness to their [Dominican] houses, giving some details. Mary Brenan has won a prize of £5 - 'this will be useful for her poor Mother'. Lilly is improving. Gives her opinion of 'this extraordinary high education' who she thinks is doing harm as regards religious vocations, & is 'a necessary evil of the present age'.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/24	[Saturday, 3rd Nov]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: Recalls that 'yesterday' she sent K. 'a precious little cross in a registered envelope' for the Card. to give it the Indulgence of the Stations. Also sent pair of Irish-made gloves. Encloses pound for K. to buy more crosses, asking that the Card. May indulgence them also.
KIR/UN/25	[3rd November]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, [Dublin] to Kirby: After sending off a letter to K. a 'lovely picture' of St. Catherine arrived. She thinks it so 'lovely that she is getting it photographed before giving it to the priest, whom she will make pray 'well' for Kirby. Srs. delighted priest is getting it as he has been v. kind regarding children's drawing examinations.
KIR/UN/26	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: Fr. Cassidy's niece & Mrs. Clarke's niece are making their First Communion, & although they will have made it by the time K. receives this letter, the writer would like them to have a papal blessing each in memory of it. Convent & school news.
KIR/UN/27	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: Thanks K. for 'great favour' received & also for the 'precious pictures'. Has told the young people to pray for him. Details of Mrs. Clarke's niece, Emily Rafferty, making her First Communion, whom writer thinks will be a nun 'if it is God's Will'. Again mentions this 'extraordinary high education' who is harming religious vocations. Asks K. to ask the Pope to send Emily his blessing. Convent news.
KIR/UN/28	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: Thanks K. for letter & little books. Asks if he can ascertain from Fr. McDwyer when the 'Stations will be started for Ireland', so that she may watch for them. Hopes it is understood that they are to be sent to her. News of the Brennan girls. A further mention of 'this extraordinary high education'. 'Females are not in general
KIR/UN/29	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: Brief note telling of her sorrow on hearing that K. was not well. Prays God that he will be cured 'by the dear Angels' whom she loves so much.
KIR/UN/30	[May 1st]	Holograph letter from Mary Vardon, Porto di Anzio to Kirby: Gives name of Alda Visconti's Godmother as Lady Seton, who she thinks has left Rome. Personal news.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/31	[May 4th]	Holograph letter from Frances Loughnam, [Rome] to Kirby: Personal note.
KIR/UN/32	[undated]	Holograph letter from Eleanor Haly, Rome to Kirby: Grateful for K's interest 'in the poor church'. Gives details of needs of church in village of Lusk, Diocese of
KIR/UN/33	[Sunday May 13th]	Holograph letter from [Mrs Stranberger], Minehead to Kirby: Delighted to be able to acknowledge safe receipt of 'the lovely mitre'. With the help of Fr. Davis's man servant, it was packed up again & was sent, together w. K's book, 'by 11 o'clock & arrived just as the poor Bp had returned home very tired from performing two religious functions. Note of thanks from him just received. Reminds K. to let her know the cost. Has subscribed £20 towards Pius IX's tomb, sending their armorial bearings to be placed among the others in mosaic. Gives news of a certain Fr. E. Giamini Edwards who, in 'a moment of political excitement' joined the Garibaldians, falling finally into Protestant hands. He went to England & was given the livings, as Vicar, & worked as such for 20 years. However, he has now gone to the Passionist Fathers & put himself in their hands. It is said that he was an Italian of noble family. His one thought now is how to repair the past.
KIR/UN/34	[February 3rd]	Holograph letter from [Mrs Stranberger], Minehead to Kirby: Not having heard from K. since she wrote to him about the 19th January, she is now rather anxious about £5 note she enclosed. Is sure he will not forget to pray for her intentions, all of who are for the speedy release of her husband from Purgatory 'if he has been so fortunate as to get there.' Tells then of the sufferings he underwent for nearly 10 yrs, wh. he tried to bear patiently as punishment for his sins, & of his devotion to Our Lady, to whom he prayed for a happy death.
KIR/UN/35	[April 8th]	Holograph letter from [Mrs Stranberger], Minehead to Kirby: Palms sent by K. to writer & to 'Mother Abbess' arrived in time for Palm Sunday. Mother Abbess is 84, & in full possession of all her faculties. She has been Abbess for 20 yrs - gives some details of her. Personal news - visit of Dr. Clifford, & information regarding him deep disappointment that her husband died 'out of the true Church, after his being prayed for so many many years & by so many good & holy people. Will distribute pictures of the Holy Family.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/36	[undated]	Holograph letter from Lilla Visconti, Siena to Kirby: Began a letter to K. last November but was 'so suffering' that she cId not finish it. Now asks his advice - an operation is necessary for her, & the doctor [Professor Bompiani] insists that she goes to the Blue Sisters' hospital in the Via Sporza. However, having first been told by Sr.Mary Cecilia, that the charge would be 10 lire per day, a few days later she had another letter from Mother Philip, saying the charge would be 15 lire per day. On top of wh., of course, there would be doctor's & chemist's bills to pay. Gives details of charges in other hospitals all much less - but says that the doctor insists on the Blue Nuns. Is v. worried about money & also about her husband's health, as he has been ill for two months. Her old Aunt Mrs. Phillipson has died, & writer is heartbroken at her death, as she was the only one of the family to help. Moreover, she is worried about her Aunt's soul, as she was not a Catholic.
KIR/UN/37	[undated]	Holograph letter from Margaret A. Maguire, St.Stephen's Green, to Kirby: Writer, widow of John Francis Maguire, has joined pilgrimage to Pope &, writing from her unmarried son's lodgings, asks K's blessing. Gives family news.
KIR/UN/38	[Feast of the Sacred Heart]	Holograph letter from Eliza Butler, Dublin to Kirby: Personal letter from niece.
KIR/UN/39	[Dec. 26]	Holograph letter from Lord Emly, Limerick to Kirby: Brief note of thanks for K's letter, telling him that the day before his daughter & son-in-law, together with the rest of the family, enjoyed the great privilege obtained
KIR/UN/40	[9 June]	Holograph letter from Eliza Butler, Dublin to Kirby: Personal letter from niece.
KIR/UN/41	[undated]	Holograph letter from A. R. Reynolds, 1724 Pine Street, [USA] to Kirby: Encloses draft for £30. £20 for Masses for her husband & £10 for K's 'usual charities'. Life is very monotonous - every day equally uneventful - all their mutual friends have died, & only memory of them remains. Weather during May was v. bad - work population' consists of Poles & Italians, 'Very troublesome & very quarrelsome.' Hard times do not effect church building or the charity of the faithful. Archbishop is well & is at present in New York, preaching. Pope v. popular, & rosary is duly recited. She herself says a decade every day for the Holy Father.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/42	[undated]	Holograph letter from Rev. W. McFeely, Buncrana to Kirby: Encloses 'small sum as honoraria for Masses' who writer hopes K. will be able to have celebrated v. soon. Encloses also intentions on slip of paper. Remainder of letter concerned w. memories of Rome, ecclesiastical discipline in Ireland, greatness & wisdom of the H.F. & need of 'an organisation among the clergy for encouraging & stimulating appropriate studies. It is hard to force oneself to perservere in studies', contines Fr. McFeely, 'who may be required, but without who a priest may be aole to get along.' That, at least, is his feeling. Begg an occasional remembrance in K's prayers.
KIR/UN/43	[undated]	Holograph letter from Mrs. Stranberger, Minehead to Kirby: Cannot express her regret at not having written to K. since her 'sad loss'. Her husband was worn out before influenza attacked him. His last prayer was asking for mercy and for Mary to pray for him. Gives news of future plans. Encloses a token of her gratitude &
KIR/UN/44	[Monday]	Holograph letter from [Agnes E. St. John], Sclerder to Kirby: Begg K. to send someone to the Vatican & S. Congregation 'to prevent the ecclesiastical authorities from claiming this image.' Explains how it was stressed in the beginning that the statue was only lent, this being told the people from the altar, & copied into the Mission register. They have offered to give another, & an altar, also a facsimile - both are refused. Dr. Graham says that papal sanction is required before the statue may be moved. He 'has waited all these weeks to say so! & now the furniture van is here & all packed!' The Card. says 'take it', Mons. Johnson says 'take it', K. says take it'. She begs K. to save them from the 'spite of these people urged on by this cunning priest...' They are all alone, & worried, & she begs a wire consoling them, if possible. By Thursday their address will be Church Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, & they will borrow a Chalice.
KIR/UN/45	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: Asks for papal blessing for two little grandsons of Mrs. Murphy, who will be making their First Communion on Rosary Sunday. Gives details of the children, whom she is preparing. Asks K's prayers for them. Gives news of Fr. Burke, who has all his meals at the convent but sleeps at Mrs. Clarke's, who is a great friend of the writer's. Fr. Burke 'is a most holy priest'. Asks prayers for a 'most particular intention' of hers.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/46	[Rosary Sunday]	Holograph letter from Eliza Butler, Dublin to Kirby: Personal letter from niece.
KIR/UN/47	[undated]	Holograph letter from [The Sacred Heart Convent of Mercy, Feast of Our Lady of Mercy], to Kirby: Gratitude to K. for his kindness - he has, however, sent two paintings more than the number in the convent. What is she to do with them? Is there another convent to who K. would like them sent? Otherwise, they have a 'grand child, a new convent in Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, wh. is a Foundation from Lurgan', & the Srs there would prize it v. much. The Srs. say the other one will be ready for their next branch, but writer thinks it looks too grasping. K. had a public share in their prayers during the late Novena. Writer spent that time in Rosstrevor, where the Novena was said in school so that all might join in. Gives some details. [Last page missing]
KIR/UN/48	[Feast of St. M. Magdalene', July 22]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Evangelist, Killarney to Kirby: Grateful thanks for great privilege received from Pope through Kirby. Bishop asks to be remembered to him. 'Sr. M. de Sales is very good & obedient but poor child feels her mind weak...'
KIR/UN/49	[undated]	Holograph letter from V. Rev. Patrick Lyons, P.P., Castlebar to Kirby: Encloses extract, no longer there, from letter. Just received from Archbishop of Tuam who explains why he writes. Castlebar is the capital of Mayo, & it is '62 yrs since a moyement was set on foot to erect a suitable church...' His predecessor, Canon Magee, laid the foundation of a church 19 yrs ago. 'After £5000 was expended it was ascertained that £20,000 would be required to complete it. The poverty of the parishioners & the fact that America was collected twice precluded the possibility of making further progress.' The existing chapel is now in danger of collapsing & the Abp [Dr. MacEvilly] has approved the undertaking of erecting a church at a cost of £9000, to be dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. Writer sends photograph to K. He asks K. if he would obtain for him some small gift from the Pope, as the task is a v. heavy one.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/50	[May 5]	Holograph letter from A. Keating, London to Kirby: Despite not having been to Rome for 2 yrs, hopes K. remembers him. Disturbing rumours regarding Pope's health. Trusts they are unfounded. Catholics are 'filled with consternation' at the attitude taken by some & alas! the greater number - of the Irish Bps. What hope is there for a country, a Catholic country, when the Bps cease to lead, but allow themselves to be driven into revolution, & while they forget the Catholic teaching of loyalty, obey humbly the commands of a Protestant revolutionist like Mr.Parnell. Regarding Members returned, altho 'there is no lack of men who are good Catholics, educated gentlemen who have the true interests of their country at heart', they get instead 'men whose aim is to make a noise & be talked about - They live by their profession of agitators - These are the men nominated by Mr. Parnell & accepted by the Bps. It is deplorable & heartbreaking.' Writer fears country is being ruined, since 'People do not Willingly live in a country, or put their money in it, when it is always on the brink of revolution.'
KIR/UN/51	[Feast of the Seven Dolours of Our B. Lady]	Holograph letter from Rev. Edmond P. Walshe, Clonmel to Kirby: Asks K's blessing & prayers for himself & his flock. Reminds K. of his assurance that whenever writer was about to have a bazaar for the church debt, he would get him a prize from the Pope. Having a debt of £1300, after having spent no less than £3200 in last 6 yrs, he wishes now to have prize from Pope as well as his blessing. A client of Our Lady sent him cheque for £105 to purchase a silver lamp 'wh. is the admiration of everyone'.
KIR/UN/52	[Easter Saturday]	Holograph letter from Rev. P. O'Neill, Rostrevor to Kirby: Asks for renewal of faculties. Congratulates K. on high position in the Papal Court to who he is elevated. Local news. Do not feel distress so much as in the South & West, where had it not been for charity of Australia & America, famine would be widespread. Govt.denied there was any danger of famine.They would do nothing.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/53	[February 19th]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. J. Bernard Hackett, St. Mary's to Kirby: Putting in a 'word of kindest wishes' w. Canon Cugina's letter. Srs. have been anxious about K. & the Irish College, so it was a relief when the Bishop told them that K. asked to be remembered to them. Bishop came to receive the Vows of a choir sister & two lay sisters. Convent news. Asks K.'s prayers for a sister of hers who hopes to become a religious in same convent. Mentions Pope for whom they constantly pray. would like a letter from K. some time at his convenience.
KIR/UN/54	[Feast of the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Gabriel, Drumcondra to Kirby: Twelve months ago the Srs began their work at Beaumont, & today they are 'beginning remote preparations' for their departure. Thanks K. for his letter of 27th August, & still more for his telegram conveying the Apostolic Blessing to the three novices on the eve of their departure from Ireland. They have gone, 'full of Faith, & gratitude to God for their noble vocation ...' Writer has had to give bad news to her 'poor children' that the Archbishop has decided not to have any more receptions or professions at Beaumont. News received cheerfully & exclaimed - 'Oh! How delightful that we shall be in Dunedin sooner than we expected! Not one of them wavers in the least' Gives news of Sr. M. Alphonsus, the sister who left Dunedin, although she still clings to her vows & habit.
KIR/UN/55	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary Theresa, Rome to Kirby: Having had the altar painted white and gold, in order to surprise Mother General on her return from Florence for her Feast. Writer asks K. to help them with the paying for the work, as they are v. short of money.
KIR/UN/56	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. F. Borgia, Bathurst, New South Wales to Kirby: Brief note thanking K. for his letter & present. She sends a little picture who she would like K. to keep in his Breviary to remind him of her. Greetings from writer & Reverend Mother.
KIR/UN/57	[Sacred Heart of Jesus. Tues day]	Holograph letter from Marianne Scully, Rome to Kirby: Mme Hynes & writer are anxious to congratulate K. on his new honours, & hope to see him after Easter. If it is possible for him to forward 2 or 3 small parcels for her to Ireland, or even as far as London, would he please let her know, as 'Julia' has sent her some commissions.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/58	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary Eustace Eaton, Dublin to Kirby: Acknowledges receipt of cameo, gift from Pope. Asks K. to thank him for them, as also for the papal blessing on their work. Pope has 'no more loyal & devoted children than "The Irish Sisters of Charity.'
KIR/UN/59	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. R. Gallway, Waterford to Kirby: Expresses thanks for K's letter & also for the 'great favours & blessings' conveyed to her by Card. Simone for her Golden Jubilee & further, for the 'nice pictures so generously & largely sent by Your Grace in honour of the great feast.' Thinks Waterford has a special place in K's heart, even tho most of the old friends have died. The writer has herself been near death, but is now well. She will be entering her 80th yr in three months. News of Jubilee celebration & praise of new convent w. its many conveniences.
KIR/UN/60	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Blackrock, Dublin to Kirby: Great expression of gratitude for all K's kindness to her & to her [Dominican] Community. The cross for their chaplain has arrived safely, having been brought by Fr. Edward O'Callaghan, when he called w. his Mother. Fr. Gossin [for whom the cross is intended] is on a fortnight's vacation, but will certainly be delighted when he sees the cross on his return. Fr. O'Callaghan is going to Australia on same boat as 'Mother Gabriel's three novices', & has promised to look after them, wh. is a very great relief. Asks special remembrance on 16 Sept., feast of St. Imelda. Local news. Fr. Burke of Pallaskenny [whose sight is going] is to spend a week w. Mrs. Clarke. Fr. Egan wishes to join the Redemptorists, but is v. delicate.
KIR/UN/61	[Feast of All Saints]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary Paul Cullen, Waterford to Kirby: Asks K. to obtain Pope's special blessing for herself & Community on 12 December, when the Order celebrates its Golden Jubilee, 'the fiftieth anniversary of the holy Profession of our venerated Foundress Mother Mary Catherine McAuly' Regarding indulgences obtained for them some yrs ago, writer asks K. to obtain one of 500 days for each visit to the new grotto in the grounds w. statue of Our Lady of Lourdes. Explains that the children in the school love going to pay Our Lady a visit. Greetings.
KIR/UN/62	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. C. di Ricci, Dunedin to Kirby: Personal letter from niece in Dominican convent.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/63	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. F. Meany, Waterford to Kirby: Not having received a reply to her former letter, written some three wks or so ago, she is now very anxious & writes again. She begs K. to obtain from the Pope the favour of an exeat for the English mission for life for her nephew, Fr. Patrick O'Connor. If this is granted, it 'will make his whole life.' Reports from Armidale, to who place he is bound, 'are dreadful between Dr. O'Mahony & some of the other priests & people there...' He has got a mission in England, & Dr. Vaughan has adopted him. His brother, Fr. F. D. O'Connor is in England, also. Explains who Fr. Patrick O'Connor is. From all he knows of Australia Mission he 'dislikes it' & begs K. 'for God's greater glory' to get him his exeat for England. Asks for a reply by telegram.
KIR/UN/64	[16 September]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary de Sales Fallon, Newtownforbes to Kirby: Celebrating her Jubilee in fortnight's time, she writes to K. in great anxiety. 'All of a sudden' the banks have refused her credit. She has had to countermand things ordered for Jubilee offerings. Recounts some of the works done by the convent - hundreds of pounds spent on food, clothing, seed potatoes for the poor. During the famine, years they kept 70 poor families from starvation, & so on. Their new building is dedicated to St. Joseph, but he is not helping them. Asks K. to lend her £7, and to have Masses said for her w. it. As soon as such a sum comes to hand she will send it to K.
KIR/UN/65	[undated]	Holograph letter from Mary Josephine Brennan, Dublin to Kirby: Personal letter asking prayers & blessing on herself & other children making their First Communion on Corpus Christi from grand-niece.
KIR/UN/66	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary Agnes Pettit, Kingstown to Kirby: Thanks for trouble taken in procuring picture of Our Lady of the Rosary. Encloses draft for larger amt than that stated by K., but writer hopes he will 'gratify' her by accepting it. She had no idea that she cld get the painting for less than £30. Now asks K. to obtain an indulgence for every prayer said before the picture. Fr. Denis is much improved since he came home. Asks
KIR/UN/67	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Blackrock, Co.Dublin to Kirby: Begs K. to obtain a rescript granting a Plenary Indulgence at hour of death, for Fr. Cassidy & his Mother. Mentions what a holy priest Dr. C. is. Convent news, & news of Fr. Burke who, though in splendid health, has now bad sight.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/68	[May 24th]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary John Byrne, Wagga Wagga to Kirby: Thinks address may remind K. of the little Community leaving Kildare. They belong to Mother Agatha Cullen. There is to be a bazaar on 1st Dec. for their new convent, & their pastor, Dr. Bermingham would like K. to obtain for it something from the Pope, 'with his name, & blessing for the sisters'. Local and
KIR/UN/69	[Friday July 30th]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Antonia, [Rome] to Kirby: Asks K. to send her some money for extras. Mother Superior says she need not pay her pension until her return, but writer has used what K. sent her the previous month for occasional wants. Now she needs money for books. Fr. Massarutti has promised to send her young girl to settle about Italian lessons. Gives some details. A very long postscript informs K. that she intends 'after a while to procure a few lessons in oil-painting.' Tells K. in case anyone 'manifests displeasure'. Also feels it necessary to tell him that the unpleasantness she has suffered regarding Italian lessons has taught her caution. Mentions 'this little secret' so that he may 'speak a soothing word' shld anyone show displeasure or vexation, or wants to interfere in any way. More to same effect. Gives some details as to trouble regarding Italian lessons. She is happy, healthy & comfortable where she is & likes the nuns. However, she is not blind, & 'cannot avoid seeing a want of refined education, & consequently feeling distrustful of their choice of teachers.' Regarding her hopes for the future - the fact that she is still consecrated to God - the spirit of her Institute & its work.
KIR/UN/70	[Saturday]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Antonia, Rome to Kirby: Thanks K. for complying w. her request, & for 'the kind encouraging words enclosed with the 20 frs.' Thanks for notice of O'Connell's High Mass, who she would certainly like to attend, but it is sometimes difficult to get anyone to accompany her, & she fears to trespass on the good sisters. Sr. Gerominus is gone to Civita Vecchia to take care of the Superior, who 'is suffering from the spine'. As it was this sister who most frequently went out with the writer, this may mean that she will be still more confined to the house. However, this is her private opinion only & she may be wrong. Mentions connection with 'the Liberator's family'.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/71	[Friday]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Antonia, Rome to Kirby: Presumes K. knows that she is to be changed to another room. Gives account of what has happened regarding the room. Reason for changing small pension paid, inconvenience to who she has been put, disadvantages of the little room where the light is bad, so that she cannot continue to give drawing lessons. Moreover, the one window is opposite a balcony of a house from who people can [and do] look right into the room. Tells also of her troubles in trying to post copies of Vergine to 'Jane', & of the rudeness of the postal officials to whom she applied for information.
KIR/UN/72	[undated]	Holograph letter from Mary Agatha Cullen, Kildare to Kirby: Acknowledges receipt of note from K., & of enclose wh. she handed to Fr. Kinsella, who is most grateful. Asks K's prayers as they [Presentation Convent] are in want of postulants. Their Srs in Wagga Wagga have a great mission & Kildare must send them help when possible. Mentions present from Pope for wh. convent at Wagga Wagga has already written to ask K. for their bazaar. Convent news. Asks faculties for Fr. Comerford similar to those obtained for Fr. Kinsella.
KIR/UN/73	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Clare Elliott, Prioress, Blackrock to Kirby: Acknowledges K's letter who she read to the Community. Everyone most distressed at thought of their 'suffering Sisters in Rome'. Writer wishes they cId give as generously as they would like, but there are so many calls on their charity. However, she has a Sr. collecting & hopes to send K. about. £20 in a few days. Convent news.
KIR/UN/74	[Feast of St. Peter]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Antonia, Rome to Kirby: Asks K. to send her '75 lire' for her pension for June. The 50 he sent previously, & the remainder of what he had sent before for artistic materials have sufficed to pay all her extras. She remarking that, as he will see, she has been thrifty & now she has nothing for who to ask him apart from the '75 francs' pension. However it would be a great convenience to have money in reserve 'like last month', & she suggests that he might let her have 'five English pounds in all', if he did not think it too much at a time.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/75	[Easter Monday]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Gabriel, Prioress, Dunedin to Kirby: Thanks for letter & enclosure received at Christmas, after her return from the lakes, where her Bishop had made her spend a few weeks, the doctors having considered a change necessary, after her severe illness. Praises K's niece, Sr. M. Di Ricci, as a most skilful & devoted nurse. They are trying to get nuns, or postulants, to join them in Dunedin, as the need for them is great. So far they have had no success. CId K. help them? Catholicism is progressing well. Previously, although there were priests, Catholics were allowed 'to do as they pleased, w. respect to approaching the Sacraments. Provided their frequent demands for money were responded to, they never interfered with the people. Now, even the Christmas and Easter dues are refused, unless the donors have been to the Sacraments & send their children to Catholic Schools. On last Sunday morning poor Fr. Coleman received insulting & abusive language at the church door because he returned the money laid on the plate by a woman who had neglected her religious duties. Grieved at misfortunes that threatened Irish College, & rejoiced to hear the proceedings had been stopped. Begg K. to obtain, if he can, ' few holy, sensible & learned labourers for this vineyard of the Lord - even one good priest would be a blessing for who we shld all be grateful to the end of our lives.' Their 'dear, good Bishop deserves help.'
KIR/UN/76	[Feast of the S. Heart]	Holograph letter from S. M. F. Clare, Kenmare to Kirby: Writer has been v. busy since 'one of the very High Church ladies in London' wrote to her to ask her to write a book that would help to make women more Christian, & she would pay all expenses. This, Sr. Clare has been doing. A Catholic lawyer wrote saying the 'men are hopelessly bad' but it will be a blessed work if she cId do something for the women. She thinks 'London Society is in a terrible state', & fears 'the Catholics are not giving the example they shld give', at least so she is told. A Protestant man is helping her, saying that he loves the Blessed Virgin. He is not High Church, but very Protestant. 'God's ways'., continues the letter, 'are wonderful'. Asks if there is any chance of help from Propaganda. If so, would K. try to get it for her. Asks for prayers.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/77	[Feb. 10th]	Holograph letter from Mary A. of the Holy Cross, [possibly Rome] to Kirby: Personal letter principally concerned with monetary gift of K. to writer's widowed Mother. Thanks him also for picture of Mater Dolorosa. Acknowledges note K. enclosed, presumably intended for mutual friend, to whom she has passed it. Writer hopes to see him on the morrow.
KIR/UN/78	[Sunday]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Jos. Antonia, Rome to Kirby: Anxious to know about Margaret. Is she to 'proceed on her journey homeward'. K. has not told writer his decision on Adelaide. And she herself, she is anxious to know her position in the house. Is she to remain on same terms as prior to Margaret's departure? Mentions financial matters. Is she to 'put the 200 to interest' or is she to continue spending the little capital as she has been doing? The Srs here seem more interested in her health 'than those who ought to have been so in Ireland' although here she is 'quite useless'. Encloses 'the half notes - & John's [her brother] short letter...' She cannot understand his attitude, which has hurt her. Gives details.
KIR/UN/79	[1 June]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Antonia, Rome to Kirby: Personal letter regarding finances, and seeking advice as to what to do in the future. She does not like remaining idle, and thinks the Mother Superior would take her into the Order if she wished. However, her own [Ursuline] Order she still loves, and in any case Ursulines are forbidden to leave the Order for any other, although that, she supposes, the Holy See cId overcome. Sends half-notes and mentions John's strange behaviour.
KIR/UN/80	[Wednesday]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Antonia, Rome to Kirby: Thanks 'K. for his enclosures. Paints in Jeanne' s box worthless for teaching so, if K. permits, she will buy others. Regarding Card. now in Rome. Asks if he knows she is here, & explains contacts between them. Perhaps she cId see him & get him to take a message to her sister at Rathfarnham, Mother Mary Xaveria, who is anxious about her. John, however, has forbidden Sr. M. Antonia to write to her sisters. More about John & his ill treatment of her. [Last page missing]

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/81	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Antonia, Rome to Kirby: Apologises for troubling K., but is anxious to enquire about 'the other convent'. Cannot live as she is doing. She knows no Italian, after four months, & if she goes to an Ursuline Convent. Italian would be necessary, & the best place to learn it would be in Rome. It must, however, be from someone who speaks it well & whose pronunciation is good. Meanwhile, she is spending money & wasting time. Reminds K. of money she spent on Margaret during her stay in Rome. Asks if she may use his name as reference.
KIR/UN/82	[Wednesday evening]	Holograph letter from Sr. Francis Hakin, 'Sacred Heart Convent' to Kirby: Many times Rev. Mother has spoken of the people who were so kind to her in Europe, & chief among them is Mons. K. Writer has never met K. but is sure that he will like to hear from his 'poor little children of St. Joseph in these remote parts.
KIR/UN/83	[28th June]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary de Sales, Abbeyfeale to Kirby: Letter of thanks for gift of cameo from Pope sent by K.
KIR/UN/84	[Feast of the Purity of the B.V.M. Sunday]	Holograph letter from Sr. Catharine Cullen, Mountmellick to Kirby: Sends by same post beads of the Seven Dolours of St. Joseph, together with a pair of purple scapulars in honour of the Dolours for presentation to the Pope, for his approval. Gives reasons. Asks for privileges & indulgences, also for faculties for Fr. Thomas Murphy. Regarding death of her cousin, Card. Cullen. Family news. [possibly 1878]
KIR/UN/85	[Saturday]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Philip, Rome to Kirby: Regarding novice due to receive the Blue Veil tomorrow, who now says she does not want it, but wishes to leave. Retreat Father is against her doing so, but refers the decision to her ordinary confessor. As she was to receive the veil on the morrow, she must make up her mind at once. She has no dowry, & did pay her novitiate expenses or fare to Italy. Could K. see her on the morrow. Begs prayers for self & Community.
KIR/UN/86	[19th April]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Philip, Firenze to Kirby: Rev. Mother is most anxious to come to Rome. She learns with sorrow of the great want of religious spirit amongst the sisters & the criticisms to Superiors orders or wishes.' As they have two 'very nice gentle religious novices' at Firenze, they do not want them to be imbued with the same spirit, &c. Writer thinks the Lord would give Rev. Mother the strength needed for the journey.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/87	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Guiseppe, Rome to Kirby: As blessings & prayers. Yesterday she explained to him that she would prefer to be in an older Order [than the Blue Sisters?] Her vocation is in K's hands. Asks him to enquire of Fr. Whitmas if he would receive her? Wishes to remain in Rome under K's direction until after the retrest, or until she has decided what she is going to do. Adds 'This letter is private...'
KIR/UN/88	[Feast of St. Ignatius]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Evangelist, Killarney to Kirby: Grateful thanks for beautiful painting. Convent news. Asks blessing on new work of Srs.
KIR/UN/89	[Sunday]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Catherine, Rome to Kirby: Asks K. to obtain title of 'Knight of St. Gregory' or 'Order of St. Peter' for Patrick Plunkett of Dublin. Gives reasons. Also a privileged Altar for a Fr. Crofty, personally, 'so that 3 or 4 times a week his Masses would have the same indulgence attached to them as though said at a privileged Altar.' This priest is an ex-student of the Irish College, and is extremely kind to the Srs in Limerick. At the end of the year their confessors time comes to an end, and after that the nuns want to transfer to K. Writer asks if he would let them know the most convenient time. Friday is their usual day, but they would come when he wished. Convent news. If to-day is K's 'festa'. Community sends kind messages & best wishes.
KIR/UN/90	[Nov. 19]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Francis, Waterford to Kirby: Asks for 'a bit of Our Blessed Lady's veil' for a young priest who is blind & who has great faith in the relic. Writer had one who she gave to a young lady & who cured her of cancer, when the disease was in an advanced stage. Asks for the relic to be sent by post. With Dean Donovan & Fr. Hand, V.G. of Maitland, who will be going to Rome soon she will send K. 'a little box of Agnus Deis' & requests him to send her by Dean Donovan a relic of the True Cross, one of St. Helena & a little Agnus Dei. Details of & news about Dean Donovan. News of mutual acquaintances. News also of Fr. Pat Meany, who is pining away & will probably not live many months.
KIR/UN/91	[Sunday]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Dubin to Kirby: Thanks for letter & Agnus Deis. News of Fr. Farrington & Fr. Lawlees. Fr. Burke has returned from retreat & is quite well, except for his sight who seems to be failing even more. Asks prayers for Fr. Cassidy's old Mother, who is very ill. News of mutual friends.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/92	[June 23rd]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary Elizabeth Martin, Youghal to Kirby: Thanks K. for letter & 'valuable gift'. The beautiful thurifer & Monstrance will be frequent reminders to them all to pray for K. Writer will gladly comply w. his request & give his message to their priest.
KIR/UN/93	[July 19]	Holograph letter from Sr. Austin Carroll, London to Kirby: Writer is in England from New Orelans, gathering more material for the Annals of the Order of Mercy. It is so cold that she & her companion, Sr. M. Borgia Walsh, an American, have been advised to go for a little while to a warmer climate. Thus, in a few days, they [with the writer's brother, John Carroll] will be in Rome. They do not want an Audience, but would like, if possible, permission to attend the Pope's Mass, & get his blessing. Reminds K. that as she & her bro. are Waterford people, they 'have a claim' on him.
KIR/UN/94	[13 April]	Holograph letter from Archbishop John Joseph Lynch of Toronto, Rome to Kirby: Writer wishes to ordain his subject, Mr. O'Hagherty, subdeacon & deacon as soon 'as he can make a retreat & be examined'. He requires only permission from the Card. Vicar to ordain in Pontificals & to dispense w. time. He himself can testify that the man has been baptized, confirmed & had duly received Tonsure & Minor Orders in Ireland from Card. McCabe at All Hallows College. Asks K's advice & help. If his testimony does not satisfy Card. Vicar then perhaps he will have to leave Rome. Mr. O'Hagherty is Abp's 'secretary & companion' on the voyage so he would like him to be a deacon.
KIR/UN/95	[The Patronage of St. Joseph]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Joseph Howley, Longford to Kirby: Thanks K. for favour contained in his telegram 'on the 6th', as also for his letter written on that day. Everyone most grateful for K. complying w. writer's request. Blessing of Pope arrived 'most opportunely'. After High Mass & sermon, just as priest was putting mitre on Bp's head [as he was going to give everyone 40 days' indulgence] the telegram was handed to the writer. She opened it & handed it at once to the Bishop Further details of the laying of the foundations of 'little church to be dedicated to the Sacred Heart of our Divine Lord under the invocation of St. Joseph'.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/96	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary Clare Elliott, Blackrock, Dublin to Kirby: Introducing the Misses Tobin, visiting Rome. Congratulations K. on 'the remarkable See' the Pope has allotted to him. would like her friends to see Frank Farrington [a pupil], as they have a parcel for him from his Mother & also beads wh. writer is anxious to have blessed by Pope.
KIR/UN/97	[Feast of the Dolours]	Holograph letter from Sr. M Imelda, Sion Hill to Kirby: Thanks K. for letter & relics for the priest, for who she is extremely grateful & is making seven visits to the Blessed Sacrament this day to pray for all K's intentions. Yesterday she wrote asking him for relic of St. Stanislaus, as the same Jesuit priest told her he was most anxious to have one.
KIR/UN/98	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Blackrock, Dublin to Kirby: Remembered K. on his birthday, & was w. him in spirit, & frequently spoke about him 'to Our Lord when before the Tabernacle'. Having just come out of retreat, writer can afford herself the privilege of writing to him. As Fr. Cahill is home but has not called on writer, latter presumes that he did not go to Irish Coll. for relics for who she had asked K. While everything sent by post has reached her safely, she knows Fr. C. was anxious to meet K., so perhaps he missed seeing him. Details of most edifying death of a German Sister.
KIR/UN/99	[January 23rd]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. J. McDonnell, Tuam to Kirby: Gratitude for picture of Our Lady of Mercy, who they have had 'handsomely framed' & hung in their choir. A Sr. 'made a novena to it & got her request.' Will not forget K. when praying to Our Lady of Mercy.
KIR/UN/100	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Joseph Howley, Longford to Kirby: Christmas greetings. Just received from Dublin K.s beautiful picture. She had no idea that K. would keep his promise so promptly or that the picture would be such a large one. Is having it framed & hopes to have it back for the Epiphany when the Bishop will bless & install it. Convent news.
KIR/UN/101	[Jan. 28th]	Holograph letter from M. Cullen, Liverpool to Kirby: Sends New Year good wishes to K. Personal news regarding cousin, Paul Cullen & brother Hugh. Disturbed times in Ireland. Asks for crucifix w. relics & papal blessing for Michael Cullen, such as K. obtained for another priest nephew. Encloses £5 cheque.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/102	[Feb. 2nd]	Holograph letter from FitzGerald, Birr to Kirby: Asks forgiveness in writing so soon again, but fears her former letter was not clear. Shld the Bishop apply through K. for a dispensation for re-election of Rev. Mother [Convent of Mercy], would. K. use his influence to obtain this. There is difficulty at present in getting such dispensations, tho it has not as yet been refused them. This letter is to be considered 'strictly private'.
KIR/UN/103	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Blackrock, Dublin to Kirby: Anxiously awaiting news of K's health. Mrs. O'Connor's affairs are at length settled. ' she poor dear soul has of course lost thousands but she is supremely happy as she had done her duty so faithfully to her children & they have each their portion she 'send K. pound as Mass offering in thanksgiving. Regarding Srs. of Charity, who are most anxious to obtain the Indulgence of the Portcuncula for their Mother House ..'
KIR/UN/104	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary Paul FitzPatrick, Ballinrobe to Kirby: Gives news of death of Sr. Mrs. Toomey of Dublin, whom K. met in Rome 'in 84 or 85'. Asks prayers for her soul. Asks for some Agnus Deis. Asks blessing.
KIR/UN/105	[10th April]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary Paul FitzPatrick, Ballinrobe to Kirby: Thanks K. 'or note & 'generous supply of Agnus Deis'. Community most grateful. Shld K. ever go to Connaught, he will be welcome at the convent, where the pupils will sing for him Irish songs in Irish. They are taught to read & write 'the poor old Gaelic'. Capt. Delahoyde studied Irish in Rome. Local news. Hopes K. will be 'as holy & as old as St. John
KIR/UN/106	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary Paul FitzPatrick, Ballinrobe to Kirby: Has a vote of thanks to send K. from all the Srs who are 'charmed w. the Pictures' & w. K's thoughtfulness in sending one for each of them. Details. Regarding gift of Mrs.Toomy of large Calvary in convent grounds, writer asks K. if he cId send her two blessing for it. Greetings.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/107	[July 8th]	Holograph letter from Sr. Mary Lucy Dodsworth, Rockferry to Kirby: Thanks K. for 'kind & encouraging letter', as also for his generous donation towards their house. [St. Mgt's Home, Srs. of Charity]. So 'little to work upon in the minds & souls of these poor girls, whose better instincts seem to have been smothered by sin, & they have not the Faith that is almost always to be found in those born on Irish soil, though these are nearly all Dorh of Irish parents, but generally in the infidel atmosphere of the lowest parts of Liverpool.
KIR/UN/108	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. of the Cross, Mother Superior, London to Kirby: Apoogies for writing, but knows K. is great friend of the Srs. of Charity. Asks K's advice and help in understanding 'the Holy Father's manifestation of conscience...' A Bishop has stated that 'It forbids a sister ever speaking to her Superior of her interior, however much she may wish it, & whatever trouble or difficulty she may be in & that the Superior must on no account allow her to do so.' Writer & Community cannot think this cId he true. They believe the Decree means 'only that there is to be no compulsion or anything that cId be termed an inducement to them to speak of anything against their ovm wish. Perhaps the Holy Father is not aware that in England communities as a rule have no Directors, only confessors, who come once a week & have only a limited time, perhaps one hour & a half or a little more for more than 40 nuns...' Further details given.
KIR/UN/109	[Tuesday]	Holograph letter from Isabel Francesca Fane, Hotel Costanzi to Kirby: Writer has been living all the day 'in a dream of happiness w. the Pope's kind words' singing in her ears. All thanks to K. With the exception of a relic of the True Cross, the most precious thing she possesses 'is a little piece of the ahri of our beloved Pius IX.' This she will divide w. K, & will get a little cross into who to place it. If she survives K., she would like this returned to her, but if she dies first, then K. is to have the rest of it. Regarding Spiritual slothness. Gives some of her 'most favourite words by Fr. Faber'.
KIR/UN/110	[Friday evening]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Philip, Rome to Kirby: Personal letter regarding spiritual grief.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/111 [Feast of SS. Peter & Paul]	Holograph letter from M. A. Fricker, Rathmines to Kirby: Explains long delay in writing to thank K. for all his kindness. Picture given by K. much admired & writer obtained 'a large rich frame for it & it made a very fine Altar piece for the Sacred Heart Altar...' Local news. Sends Pastoral from Cardinal annual collection for Pope to be held next Sunday.
KIR/UN/112	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Blackrock, Dublin to Kirby: Asks for Mass for two little children who are to make their First Communion. Soon - also asks for Pope's blessing for them, their parents & grandfather on the morning of the First Communion. Speaks highly of the children. News of Mrs. O'Connor & her son, Capt. Maurice O'Connor, the latter having just gone to Rome w. a friend. Gives names of children, parents &
KIR/UN/113	[Nov 16th]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Ignatius, Waterford to Kirby: Fr. Flynn has given her K's letter, & she hastens to thank him for his presents sent for their bazaar [Presentation Convent]. Greeting
KIR/UN/114	[Sunday morning]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Catherine, Rome to Kirby: On account of great heat did not ask K. to perform ceremony that afternoon, but if he cId go along about 5 p.m. 'It would give great pleasure to Srs who are to make their vows...' The novice [Sr. Josephine] whom K. saw the previous day 'has given up all idea of leaving & is to have the blue veil this afternoon'. Asking prayers.
KIR/UN/115	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Blackrock, Dublin to Kirby: Encloses letter containing sad news of serious illness of Fr. Burke.
KIR/UN/116	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Blackrock, Dublin to Kirby: Thanks K. for relic & letter. News of mutual friends.
KIR/UN/117	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Blackrock, Dublin to Kirby: Asks for relic of St. Camillus de Lillis for a 'saintly priest' asks also prayers that Mrs. O'Connor's daughters 'may be soon & well married ...' Finally, writer would ask K. to have Fr. Thomas Kelly's faculties renewed for enrolling in scapulars. Recalls K's sermon when writer was young nun, the sermon wh. first gave Sr. Gabriel the idea of being a nun.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/118	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Blackrock, Dublin to Kirby: Acknowledges note w. beads & rescripts, & thanks K. for promise to obtain relic of St. Camillus for 'the saintly priest who is, at present very ill. Regarding priest's family. News of devotion of Maurice O'Conor & his wife. Regarding man very ill w. fits who was cured on Sr. Imelda's scapular being laid on his pillow. Later, with no renewal of fits he was able to receive the Last Sacraments, & is now dying 'a most holy death...' His sister says he would not part w. the scapular for £100. She intends to have it framed. Sr. de Sales, died on 'the 26th'.
KIR/UN/119	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Blackrock, Dublin to Kirby: Grateful thanks for all K's kindness. Regarding Mrs. Grey. Has asked Maurice O'Conor to spend a few pounds on buying holy things, & in particular a cross for a P.P. with who he can impart to the dying the plenary indulgence, & leave it to his successors to do the same for his parishioners. Mrs. O'Conor has asked writer to send K. beads to have them blessed by Pope.
KIR/UN/120	[Christmas Eve]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Imelda, Sion Hill to Kirby: Good wishes & blessings for Christmas. Mother Prioress wishes K. to obtain Jubilee blessing of Pope, for their boards, day pupils & Community. Personal news & news of mutual friends.
KIR/UN/121	[undated]	Holograph letter from W. Kelly, Dorchester to Kirby: Has arrived en route for Waterford via Milford. Hopes to see Card. Moran & after will write to K. without delay. Landed at Southampton the day before, the journey from Genoa having taken nearly eight days. Some Catholic passengers on board, but no Mass. An Irish Catholic ['Brien] threw himself overboard & was drowned. He leaves a widow [Swede & a convert] & three children. Collection was made for them & free passage to America promised. This morning writer offered Mass for soul of the poor husband. One priest only at Dorchester. Feelings of Protestants deeply rooted, tho they are respectful to Catholics. Mr. & Mrs. Symonds, Protestants to whom K. was kind when they were in Rome, send most respectful compliments, asking prayers.
KIR/UN/122	[Wednesday morning]	Holograph letter from de Basterot, Rome to Kirby: Regretting inability to dine w. K. 'this St. Patrick's Day', but having stayed too long in the sun the previous day he is now unwell.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/123	[2 November]	Holograph letter from Rev. Thos. P. Fagan, St. John's, Blackrock to Kirby: Sends, thro his 'very dear young friend John Egan' send K. kind regards, & asks his prayers. He will find John 'a real ecclesiastic', who is the highest praise he can give him. Has told him to give K. an account of their men's association in honour of the Most Sacred Heart. It is now more than a year in existence & numbers about 500. Each month there are some 420 at Holy Communion. would like K. to obtain blessing of Pope on the association. Writer is the Spiritual Director of the association. Regarding intemperance.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/124	[undated]	<p>Holograph letter from Rev. P. Doyle, Kilkenny to Kirby: Acknowledges K's note, thanks him for obtaining faculties - would have written sooner but is v. busy. He is not used to preaching but now, at the cathedral he has plenty of it to do. He takes great pains in preparation, as he sometimes finds it a little difficult & tedious. Gives account of his journey home from the Irish College, after having been there seven years. Speaks of finding himself 'in the midst of a busy railway terminus, w. trains whistling, cabmen & officials cursing - in a word' continues Fr.Doyle, 'all & everything going on which was most objectionable to my tastes & habits.'</p> <p>Combined with the parting with old friends depressed him very much. Shared railway carriage w. 'four as ruffianly looking fellows as ever went to travel'. They stared at writer & his companion, Fr. Gracce, one of them eventually entering into conversation w. them, telling them that he was a Garibaldian, & nephew 'of the Major who was shot at the Porta Pia whilst leading his men on to the "breach"...' Described then the 'glorious death' of his uncle. After a while, the writer managed to stop the conversation. Writer goes on to described Ancona, where they had to wait 3 hrs. Said Mass at Loreto, in the Holy House, described by an Italian officer who abused them as the 'barracks of the Madonna'. On thro Padua & Bologna to Venice, of who he gives his impressions, & where they remained 3 days. From Venice they drove 'thro the beautiful Plains of Lombardy, by Lake of Garda on to Milan', where they stayed two days. On to Lake Maggiore, for a day, in the evening sailing to the Swiss side & next morning began the ascent of the Alps by the St. Gothard pass. Describes ascent - by diligence & sleighs of who he gives details. The horses galloping 'at top speed' caused Fr. Grace to suggest 'a few times the propriety of making on the spot a general confession.' The whole journey over the Pass was 'most romantic' though they suffered somewhat from the cold. Next day the travellers sailed on Lake Lucerne. Then on to Strasbourg [wh. he describes], along the Rhine to Cologne, Malines, Louvain, Waterloo, and Antwerp, where they took a boat to Harwich, arriving there 19 days after leaving Rome. Expenses of whole journey 'v. moderate'. Before leaving Rome writer had conversation w. Don Bosco, who said he would be glad to get some Irish boys for his College. Writer has some good young boys & he would be grateful if K. would get in touch with Don Bosco to make final arrangements. The boys are anxious to go as soon as possible. 'Of course', Fr.Doyle continues, 'they believe</p>

Code	Date	Description
		they will be kept in the College at Turin free of expense. They are v. anxious to hear the final answer..' Greetings & messages. Wants two autographs of Pope noting that Alexander in the Corso sells very fine photographs. Writer will forward cost.
KIR/UN/125	[Friday Evening]	Holograph letter from Rev. Dominic O'Neill, Rome to Kirby: Writer leaves in the morning for retreat of St. Angelo Lucca, remaining there until Monday. As he has not yet received the parcels for himself & Fr. George he would be glad if K. them sent thither or, perhaps better, to the Hotel New York at Florence, where they will stay two days. Gives suggestions as to safe packing.
KIR/UN/126	[undated]	Holograph letter from Rev. Paul Kehoe, Dublin to Kirby: Card. asks writer to request K. to obtain dispensation for an uncle & niece to get married, the man having been married to the girl's aunt. Reasons for dispensation continued in letter written to the Card., & now forwarded to Kirby. All hoping that Dr. Moran will be made coadjutor, but 'Rome's will not ours, be done'. Grand doings at Synod - 'never was there such perfect harmony & union between all...' Plenty of abuse from Protestant press. All children of Irish Coll. going on v. well. Asks that dispensation may be expedited, since 'the parties are daily exposed to grave scandal & inconvenience.' Card. has been ill but is now much better. Writer asks K. to obtain renewal of his faculties. Greetings.
KIR/UN/127	[Aug. 2]	Holograph letter from Louis J. Hicky, St. Michaels, to Kirby: Invitation to dine on Sunday next at 12.30
KIR/UN/128	[undated]	Holograph letter from William Murphy, Rome to Kirby: Thanks K. for promising to present writer & wife to Pope. Hopes it will be soon, as they will be leaving Rome early next week.
KIR/UN/129	[27 July]	Holograph letter from Rev. Patrick [Costelloe], Woodford, Ireland to Kirby: Asks for renewal of faculties and also share in K's Masses & prayers.
KIR/UN/130	[undated]	Holograph letter from Rev. Thomas O'Connor, C.P. to Kirby: Thanks K. 'for the 16 intentions who will be celebrated as directed'. Begs K. not to visit him, as his 'poor services deserve no thanks' & he has been amply repaid by the pleasure & edification he received in K's company during the retreat. Asking for prayers.
KIR/UN/131	[Dec. 20th]	Holograph letter from [A. Keatinge], Rome to Kirby: Thanks K. for obtaining permission for writer to go to Vatican [Pope's private chapel] on the morrow.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/132	[Dec. 21st]	Holograph letter from [A. Keatinge], Rome to Kirby: Wishes to see K. & will call on the morrow.
KIR/UN/133	[Oct. 22nd]	Holograph letter from Rev. J. O'Halloran, Shinrone to Kirby: Thanks K. for letter. As regards 'poor priest' whom writer mentioned, K's advice is one they shld all take - 'namely to learn humility'. The Bps in the south of Ireland 'have introduced a law by wh. all drinks such as whiskey, brandy are forbidden "before dinner" it is working very well.' Writer is not far from K's old friend, Fr. Purcell, & they sometimes dine together, he being P. E. of St. Kierans, where the people 'are delighted w. him'. Writer longs to see St. Peter's & the old College & hopes that God will grant him so to do before he dies. Greetings.
KIR/UN/134	[undated]	Holograph letter from Chas. S. Graham, Rome to Kirby: Is just back from Vatican without seeing person to whom K. gave him a letter. As far as he understood from the guard, he is ill & will not be back until Thursday next, wh. will be too late. Asks K., therefore, to try to get him a ticket some other way, as he is v.
KIR/UN/135	[Feb. 6th]	Holograph letter from Rev. Louis J. Hickey, O.P., San Clemente, Rome to Kirby: Introducing Miss Donovan, 'daughter of the late Sir Henry Donovan, a leading Catholic of Kerry & valued friend of the illustrious Dr. Moriarty.'
KIR/UN/136	[Sunday]	Holograph letter from Rev. Louis J. Hickey, O.P., San Clemente, Rome to Kirby: Encloses letter from nuns in Ireland asking for certain privileges, including Pope's blessing for their P.P., as he promised he would do when last in Ireland in the summer.
KIR/UN/137	[Saturday April 17th]	Holograph letter from J. W. Belcher, Rome to Kirby: Letter [written at the College] tells how writer has tried to see K., without success, the latter being 'too much occupied' to see him when he called the previous Sunday. would like K. to get him 'a presentation at the Vatican' for himself & his wife, as K. did before.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/138	[August. 17th]	<p>Holograph letter from Sr. Mary Eustace Eaton, Hospice of the Dying, Dublin to Kirby: Thanks K. for Papal Blessing. Encloses notice from Freeman 'of last Sunday's proceedings', knowing K's interest. The Archbishop is also a staunch friend of theirs. Writer is convinced that the future of Ireland depends v. much 'on the sound training of young girls in sound religious principles', the Cross 'is casting a deeper shadow than ever' over Ireland. England has lost 'one of its grand, old Cardinals'.</p> <p>Dr. Ullathorne received the writer into the Church - now 'all links are broken.' However, she has cast in her 'lot heart & soul w. Ireland', where she has spend the happiest years of her life. Next Saturday Dr. Walsh is to say Mass at the hospice 'for the outward bound convent aspirants' - mentions number & destinations. Fr. Hays 'is not quite so well, tho' still able to say Mass in his own room.' Canon Pope is be received into the hospice.</p>
KIR/UN/139	[undated]	<p>Holograph letter from Sr. Marie V. du S. C., [Rome] to Kirby: Asks K. to look over her prayer wh. she is having printed, to make sure that 'there is nothing improper in the ideas and words of that burning expression of my love towards the Church'. If all is well, would K. let her know &, if a correction is to be made, cId he make it at once, as the printer expects writer this evening. Asks for</p>
KIR/UN/140	[Nov. 2]	<p>Holograph letter from Herbert, Bishop of Salford, Salford to Kirby: Introducing V. Rev. T. Jackson, Prefect Apostolic of Borneo, knowing how much K. is 'interested in the spread of the Faith & in most zealous & devoted priests.'</p>
KIR/UN/141	[Aug. 20]	<p>Holograph letter from Herbert, Bishop of Salford, Salford to Kirby: 'The enclosed case is known to Cardinal Simeoni' begins the letter, continuing - 'The Archbishop of S. Francisco is a very holy but a very crotchety & obstinate person. He tells Mother Comerford that she may go to Ireland to found this noviciate, if the Holy See gives her leave, but as yet nothing has come of it.' Thinks Cardl. Simeoni shld know contents of enclosed letter. The Cardl. wrote to Bishop Vaughan 'last year that if the Bishop of Carlos testified to the canonical character of the offer leave would be given to Mother Comerford. However, as yet no leave has been granted, '& Mother Comenford is getting on in years.' A word from K. at Propg. would have a good effect, the writer feels.</p>

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/142	[St. Thomas of Villanova]	<p>Holograph letter from Rev. J. Martel, Limerick to Kirby: After a long silence, writer promises to do better in future in the matter of letters. W. the other students, he felt v. lonely the evening he left Rome, & for some time after being in Ireland he was v. unhappy. His first difficulty was over saying Mass, for 'Country parish priests are quite careless about the altar & the vestments, though indeed they are most careful of the necessary cloths for a nice & handsome parlour.' He is, however, proud of his own parish where the P.P. is 'most exact about the church...' P.P. was delighted at all the blessings who were brought into his parish 'as many were then induced to approach the Holy Sacrament who would not have certainly done so were it not for the benediction from who all expected & I hope obtained a good many grace' At present writer is stationed at the Seminary, teaching a little Italian & the junior Latin class. There are 5 priests in all. Bishop asked him to come to seminary if he wished [Bishop does not like anyone there who does not wish to be there]. Writer asked advice of many, & nearly all advised him to leave. However, having resolved, while in Rome, not to be troublesome to his Bishop, he decided to accept Bp's offer 'as coming from God'. As events turned out, he is v. happy, as everything is so 'regular'. Gives some account of his duties, & the convents at which he has to say Mass. Asks K. to obtain privileges for 'a v. beautiful marble altar' at Convent of Mercy, in parish of St. Michael's, as he has promised to try & obtain this for the Rev. Mother [sister to Dr. Butler]. Recently met Fr. O'Halloran in Limerick & saw his picture of the Sacred Heart, beautifully framed. Is getting his own framed in the same manner, & will then hang it in the little chapel in the Seminary. Before end of year he will be asking K. for more of these pictures, as well as some paintings of the Madonna, as some of the priests are most anxious to have them. would like to know cost of Sacred Heart picture, as Fr. O'Shaughnessy, a priest at the Seminary, would like to get one next year. Fr. Bourke, President of Seminary, would like his faculties renewed - praises him highly. Fr. Canty also needs faculties. Has had pleasure of meeting K's cousin, Fr. Bourke, P.P., who sent various messages. Regarding papal benediction for Presentation nuns. Greetings and memories of days at Tivoli.</p>

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/143	[undated]	Holograph letter from Bishop Dorrian [Dromore], to Kirby: Having put enclosed case among his Postulata in K's presence, writer thought all would be granted. K's letter crossed w. one from Bp, after latter's telegram in wh. he restated the case, thinking that sufficient. 'To-day was fixed for the civil marriage' wh. Bishop has stopped. Will K. answer 'Yes or no, as soon as possible'. No intimation yet as to whether Fr. Henry, President of St. Malachy's College is being made a D.D. or Monsignor. Superior of Christ Bros. has stated to a Protestant [whose name Bishop can give] 'that the Bishop is not their superior'.
KIR/UN/144	[Nov. 13th]	Holograph letter from Mary Reeves, Rome to Kirby: Asks K. for ticket to enable writer & her sister to get a ceremony to take place this wk. at wh. they may see the Pope, 'or an order to the gardens of the Vatican'. They are to leave Rome on the 25th.
KIR/UN/145	[undated]	Holograph letter from Bishop Dorrian [Dromore], to Kirby: Forwards 'enclosed at the instance of a good priest' & hopes K. will present it. Bp may possibly go to Rome, but cannot say when.
KIR/UN/146	[undated]	Holograph letter from Bishop Dorrian [Dromore], to Kirby: Has written the Petition, he hopes 'passably but hurriedly, to have it posted.' Perhaps he shld have written direct to Propg., but he thought otherwise at the
KIR/UN/147	[undated]	Holograph letter from Sr. Imelda, Dublin to Kirby: 'The magnificent & truly precious cross has come & also the lovely scapulars. Cannot express her gratitude, but is asking Our Lady to 'get you some very precious graces...' At present priest is away on holiday, but will be enchanted when he receives it. Mrs. Murphy & daughter Helen have taken Lord Pembroke's mansion near Blackrock, 'one of the handsomest mansions in Ireland.' News regarding the Murphys, who wants permission to have Mass in the house while a priest from London is on a visit. Writer is asking the Archbishop for the privilege. Personal news.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/148	[17th July]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. J. C. McDonnell, Tuam to Kirby: Thanks of self & community [Convent of Mercy] for K's letter. Has distributed the pictures among community. Also grateful for 'kind & charitable contribution.' Writer hopes K. may win something w. his tickets. Fr. of one of the sisters [Coppinger] knew K. many years ago in Rome. Asks prayers for community & particularly for those Sisters who are going to 'the little convent prepared for them at the Poor House Infirmary, they are to have the care of the infirm patients, it is an arduous but meritorious work.' An old 82-year-old Sr, who offers her Mass & Communion daily for K., asks his prayers that she may have a happy death. Promises him prayers of the poor & the united prayers of the community 'every day in the year.'
KIR/UN/149	[16th April]	Holograph letter from [Helena M. Barnewall], Rome to Kirby: Apologises for delay in thanking K. for his two notes telling her that he had enquired about a convent for her. She understands it is very difficult to get into a convent here. Next month she & her cousin intend leaving Rome for Naples, after wh. Her cousin will go to Ireland. would be obliged if K. would let her know on what days & times he will hear confessions at St. Agatha's the coming week. Asks whether he knows a convent in the Via del Grillo 'of the Order of "Compassione". They visit the sick.'
KIR/UN/150	[Sept. 30th]	Holograph letter from Mary Anne Carroll, Kilkenny to Kirby: Personal letter from niece.

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/151	[undated]	<p>Holograph letter from Thomas L. Connelly, St. John, New Brunswick to Kirby: Has just forwarded a long letter to the Card. Prefect giving details of writer's history since leaving Rome, & thanking him & Pope for all the favours bestowed on him. Now he begs another favour. He wishes to send one of his ecclesiastics to Provg. H.E. promised to take an Indian if the Bishop cld select one fit for the purpose. However, as the Bishop explains to K., the Indians being nomads & half savage, it has so far proved impossible to persuade anyone of them to sleep in a hse or settle on a farm. A word from K. to Provg. would confirm statements made by the Bishop would like to know result of application before end of Aug. since 'before the first of September all the students must be disposed of for a year...' Bishop has spent £500 for 13 in the past yr, with only £300 from Provg., & no allocation at all for the previous year. Asks K. to 'urge this upon his Eminence & please God all will be all right'. The times in America are as bad as they can be. Gives some information regarding exports. ArBishop of Halifax is v. ill, one day up & two in bed. Looks like a skeleton & has for the first time made up his mind that he will not recover. Bishop has mentioned this in letter to Cardl. so that they will not be quite unprepared for whatever may turn up. Through kindness of Archbishop of Dublin writer has been promised 'a colony of the Christian Bros. from Ireland'. Speaks of blessing it will be to 'be redeemed from the curse of mixed schools'. Sends affectionate remembrances to Dr. Moran & Dr. Smith, hoping to write to the latter by next mail. At midsummer writer will be forwarding some money for 'various little commissions'. As soon as there is any news, writer will let K. know at once. He will probably go to Halifax this week & remain w. the Abp until 'some decided change'.</p>

Code	Date	Description
KIR/UN/152	[Monday 21st]	Holograph letter from Sr. M. Antonia, Rome to Kirby: Waited before sending this letter to see 'if it would be verified...' This morning was sent to church of S. Ignazio for long visit to St. Aloysius [whose feast it is]. On return had 'to take refuge in the chapel' where she remained for an hour & a half, in outdoor clothes. As well as change of room, there were 'some little circumstances which pained' her, tho she is trying not to show what she feels. Would like to see K., but has no one to accompany her & has a great objection to ask for anyone where she is living. Thanks K. for the Divine Salvatore, wh. she is sending to her sr. Jane. Has had to decline teaching Jeanne painting today 'as there is neither space, nor good air, nor good light in my little hearse of a room.'
KIR/UN/153	[19th October]	Telegram from Hassan, London to Kirby: Telegram reads 'With you in spirit never so lonely sincerest affections - Hassan.'
KIR/UN/154	[Friday morning]	Holograph letter from B. Woodlock, Roman Seminary to Kirby: Mr E. O'Reilly may have won the prize for best dissertation given by the Pious Union of St Paul, but the handwriting needs to be verified. Reference to a letter from Moloney, to whom he sends messages. Asks to be remembered in prayers particularly over the next six Sundays, towards St Aloysius's feast day, his protector.