



The Edmund Rice Chapel was dedicated by Bishop William Lee on 3rd February, 2008. Designed by architects C.J. Falconer and Associates, and built by Tom O'Brien Constructions Ltd, its circular shape sits dramatically on the hill of Mount Sion. A popular story of Edmund Rice was that during his contemplation of his future, he wondered about going to Europe to study and seek ordination. His sister-in-law, Joan Power, drew his attention to some poor boys outside his window and told him that out in the streets of Waterford was his monastery. Similarly, today visitors can look over Waterford from inside the Chapel, and allow the vista of Waterford, the World and the Cosmos to direct their prayer. In turn, Waterford, the World and the Cosmos can be affected by the activity of meditation, prayer and reflection in the Edmund Rice Chapel.

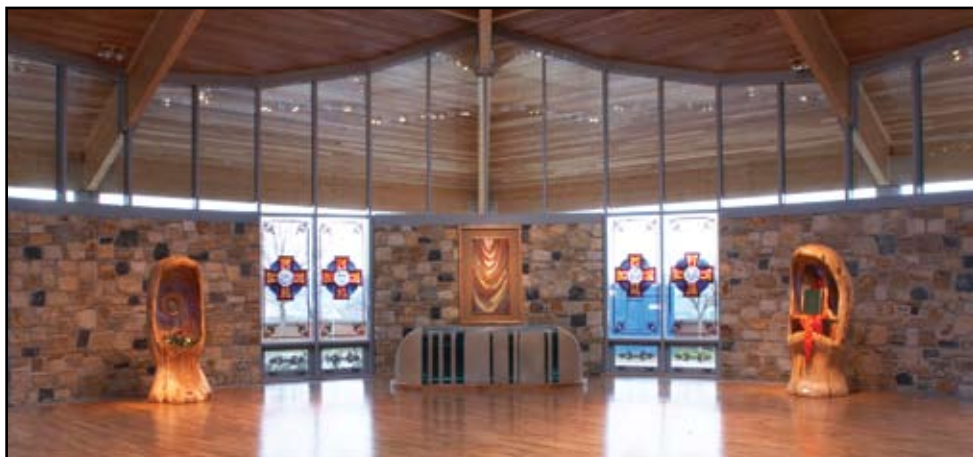
Visitors may also choose to avail of the Peace Garden between the Chapel and the monastery. It offers an oasis with its flowers and plants, bench seating, the stations of the cross and a cosmic walk.

Finally, visitors are welcome to visit the Edmund Rice Heritage Centre to explore the story of Edmund Rice and the growth of the two Congregations he founded: the Christian Brothers and the Presentation Brothers. The opening times are on the windows of the entry porch.



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### The Tomb and Art of the Edmund Rice Chapel

Dominating the Edmund Rice Chapel is the tomb of Blessed Edmund Rice. Made of sandstone and glass the tomb has Edmund Rice's name etched in the side and top in Ogham, the ancient Irish alphabet. Glimpses of Edmund's coffin - in which are his remains - are visible through the slits in the glass of the top of the tomb. Visitors are welcome to touch the stone of the tomb as they pause for prayer and reflection. To the right and left of the tomb are sculptured pieces from beech: Monstrance (*to the left of the tomb*) in which the Blessed Sacrament is exposed during the day; and the Evangelarium (*to the right*) where the Book of the Gospels is kept. Edmund Rice had a particular devotion to the Eucharist and the Scriptures. Also crafted from beech are the altar and the ambo. The tomb and the four beech sculptures are the work of Irish sculptor, Fergus Costello. Above Edmund's tomb is a painting by an American Christian Brother, Ken Chapman, entitled *Transcendence*. In the pairs of windows, to each side of the tomb, are Celtic crosses with images of the four Gospel writers: John (*eagle - his writing "soars" to the mystical heights of heavenly things: Christ's' divinity rather than his human nature is highlighted more in this Gospel*), Matthew (*divine man - this Gospel begins with the lineage (human ancestry) of Jesus and highlights the humanity of Jesus, particularly the good master that Jesus was*), Mark (*lion - his Gospel begins with John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness*) and Luke (*ox - his Gospel begins with Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, offering sacrifice in the temple at Jerusalem*). These windows were designed by Br Joe Connolly, a Christian Brother from Omagh and produced by Michael Daniels from Kilmacow.



### Other Art Work in the Edmund Rice Chapel

At the rear of the Chapel, other art includes a silk screen, by Mauney Doyle from Carrick-on-Suir, is inspired by the Helix Nebula, popularly called *The Eye of God*. To its immediate right is the sanctuary lamp, made by Waterford Crystal. Below the lamp is a water font carved from stone inscribed with a common aspiration of the Brothers: *Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever*. On the opposite wall is a wood carving of the Holy Family.



*Helix Nebula from the Hubble Telescope*

### Stained Glass Windows of the Edmund Rice Chapel

In the entrance of the Chapel and continuing along the outer wall, are a series of stained or coloured glass windows. These windows are from the 1979 Blessed Sacrament Chapel, which stood on Barrack Street until July 2007. The windows depict, in image, symbol and colour, the life of Edmund Rice and the beginnings and growth of the two congregations: the Christian Brothers and the Presentation Brothers. Their restoration was by Abbey Stained Glass.

