

27 Main Street

27 MAIN STREET covers a period of fifteen years, between 1958 and 1973; it tells the story of an Irish missionary priest born in a small market town in county Tipperary in 1918 and brought up, one of a family of seven boys and twin girls, under the shadow of the famous Rock of Cashel. Never one to deny the fact that they 'went through the mill' and were reduced to poverty during the 1920s and 1930s, a visit home from New Zealand in 1972 enabled Father Bill Wood to think back over forty years, remembering old incidents, social gatherings, old friends and rediscovering his own family, how varied their lives had been, and very interesting too. Father Bill's last visit to Cashel was in 2003. Finding the old family home getting yet another lease of life excited him and he posed the question, 'Maybe the book will be written some day?' There was a story to tell and, after reading hundreds of letters (family correspondence covering nearly a century), diaries and school exercise copies, Father Bill's nephew, Tom Wood, took on the challenge. Having committed sixty-one years to his ministry and to New Zealand, the land of his adoption, Father Bill died in 2005 and is buried in a hillside cemetery at Ohaupo, near Hamilton, New Zealand.

THE AUTHOR, Tom Wood, was born in 1953 and inherited 27 Main Street, where he now lives, in 2003. He has worked as a supervisor/guide at the Rock of Cashel and has published a number of local histories. He was a member of Cashel Town Council for thirty years and, as a county councillor since 1991, he represents Cashel and its extended rural area on South Tipperary County Council.

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