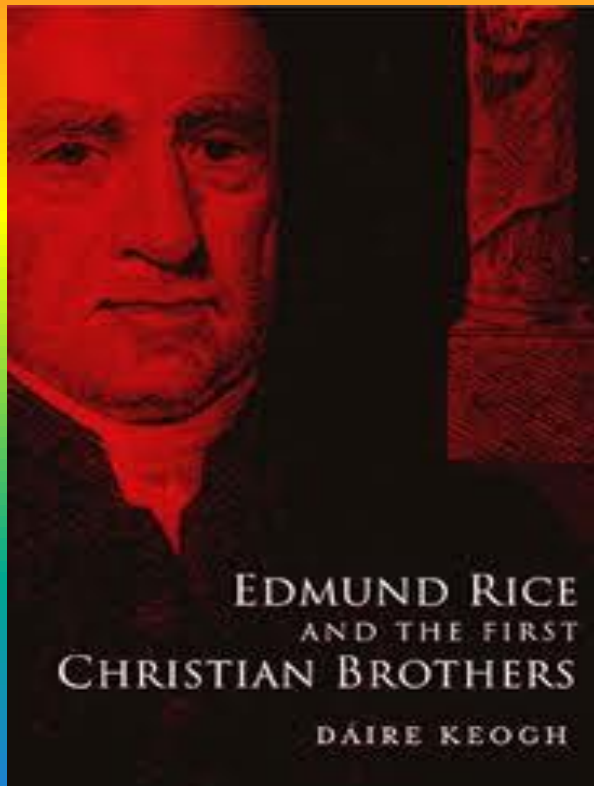


# Edmund Rice

## His Life Story

By P5



# His Birth



- Edmund was born in Callan, Co. Kilkenny on June 1st 1762
- He was the 4th Son of 9 children
- His family were wealthy and were well-known for being generous
- Edmund's hobbies included hunting, fishing, swimming and hurling

- At 14 Edmund was sent to Kilkenny to work with his uncle, Michael Rice, who had a shipping business in Waterford which was a big port at that time. When Edmund's uncle died, he left his business to Edmund. Edmund became a 'millionaire'



- Edmund fell in love with Mary Elliott and they got married. • Sadly, Mary died around the time their first child was born.
- Their baby survived but she was very ill and had special needs. Edmund named her Mary after her mother and his sister helped him care for her.



- Edmund noticed the poor children around the docks in Waterford and took pity on them. He noticed how much his own child had while they had nothing.
- He prayed to God about the sorrow and loneliness in his own life, his worry for his daughter and his concern for the poorer people he met in Waterford



- Edmund opened a school for poor boys where he could look after them and teach "Christ's a dear little ones" as he called them. He also opened a bakery and a tailor's shop which helped to feed and clothe his pupils
- In time, he was joined by other friends who helped him in his new work



- The men always prayed to God to support them and after a time they decided to become a special community called Christian Brothers
- As their numbers grew, they were able to spread out and extend their work to other towns and cities in Ireland. They worked with the children, not just teaching them, but showing them that they were important and loved by God

- Edmund also visited prisoners to comfort them in their difficult times





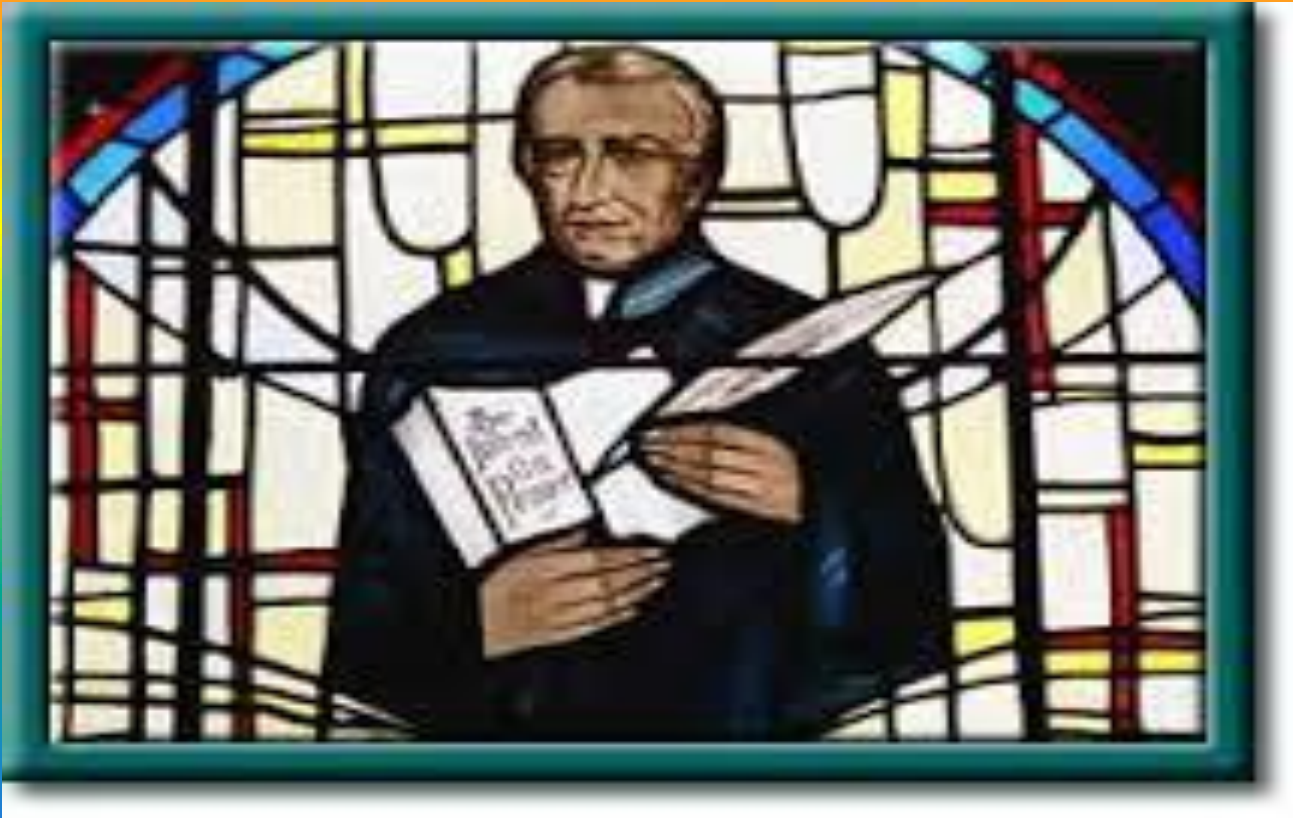


- While Edmund was alive, he encouraged brothers to make the long journeys to England and even Australia to continue their important work overseas
- Edmund was often found praying, especially to Our Lady. In all his schools, the day began and ended with a prayer

- For a time he lived in Dublin. You can still visit his house on North Circular Road, near O'Connell's schools to see where he lived and worked
- Edmund was great friends with Daniel O'Connell, a very important man in Ireland at that time



- Edmund died in Waterford in 1844



- His community of Brothers lived on and continued his work. Now you can find Christian Brothers carrying on Edmund's work on all the continents



- News of Edmund's holiness and work spread to Rome where he was declared Blessed by the Pope on 5th May 1996
- Now we keep May 5th as a special day to remember Edmund and all his great work

