

**Name of memorial:** Sean Connolly Memorial

**Inventory No. 1255**

**Place:** St. Joseph's C.B.S. School

**Address and map reference:** St. Joseph's C.B.S. School, Merville Avenue, Fairview, Dublin 3.

Map reference: O 175 362 (Sheet 50).

Co-ordinates: N 53.3647°; W 6.2331°.

**Access:** during school hours. **Parking:** adjacent street. **Disabled access:** yes.

**Position:** on the edge of the gable end of the secondary school, nearer to the primary school.

**Description and dimensions:** brass plaque.

Height: appx. 30cms. Width: appx. 25cms.

**Recorded by:** Brian Smith 19 July 2019.

**Text:**

### **Captain Sean Connolly – Irish Citizen Army**

Captain Sean Connolly of the Irish Citizen Army (ICA) was the first rebel to be killed in action during the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin. He was the commanding officer of a detachment of Irish Citizen Army members, sent by James Connolly to Dublin Castle and City Hall in Dublin on Easter Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1916. He was killed by a fatal sniper shot whilst on the roof of City Hall in Dublin, commanding his unit. Included in his unit was his sister Katie Barrett (nee Connolly) and his brothers George, Eddie and Mattie.

Born in Sandymount, County Dublin, on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1883, his father Michael Connolly was from Straffan Co. Kildare, and his mother Mary Ellis was from Dublin. He had two sisters Kattie and Gráinne, and four brothers, Joe, George, Eddie, Mattie, who were all active in the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin. He married Mary Christine Swanzy on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1910; they had three children, Kevin, Aidan and Madge and resided at 108 Philipsburgh Avenue in Fairview, Dublin.

He became a pupil of this school on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1893. His contemporaries in the school at the time included, Thomas Pugh, Frank Henderson and Peadar Kearney, who later wrote the lyrics of the Irish National Anthem. Twenty five pupils from this school took part in the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin.

He was an accomplished actor and regularly acted in the Abbey Theater in Dublin and a member of the National Players, a theatre group; his fellow actors included Dudley Digges, Arthur Shields, Helena Molony and Countess Markievicz

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1916 he was promoted to Acting Commandant in the Irish Citizen Army.

After the 1916 Easter Rising on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1916, his remains were disinterred at King George's Gardens, Dublin Castle. He was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1916.

After his death in 1916 Yeats wrote:  
Who was the first man shot that day?  
The player Connolly,  
Close to the City Hall he died  
Carriage and voice had he.  
He lacked those years that go with skill,  
But later might have been  
A famous, a brilliant figure,  
Before the painted scene!

This plaque is dedicated to the memory of Captain Sean Connolly of the Irish Citizen Army (ICA)

&

Katie, Gráinne, Joe, George, Eddie, Mattie Connolly

Unveiled on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011

by

Eanna Connolly (grandson) and Michael Connolly (nephew)