

O'Sheas and the Papal Records in the fifteenth century

The following mentions to O'Sheas, under the Latinised names of *Osega* or *Ossega* are found in the Papal Registers. These contain copies of correspondence issued by the Vatican relating to the administration of the Catholic Church in Ireland in pre-Reformation times and can be found in the 'Calendar of Papal Registers' edited by J.A.Twemlow in twenty volumes published in London, 1906. All the following refer to the South Kerry area.

1427, Register Vol. VII:

John Osychygi mentioned as a canon of Clogher {There are grave doubts that Osychygi = O'Shea}

1473, Register Vol XIII, part 1:

Dermot *Osega*, priest, detained possession of the vicarage of Kyllarne [Killarney, Co Kerry] without title for between five and seven years

1478, Register Vol XIII, part 2:

Donald *Osega* detained possession of the priorship of St Mary Ynisfaelynd without title. {In a submission, Philip bishop of Ardfert says that as Donald lived in the mountains he recommended his replacement with Donald Osullyvayn whose father is of noble birth}

1482, Register XIII, part 1, p.122:

"The vicarage of Temple novo alias de Glenmuyki was void, although Donatus *Osega*, clerk, has without any canonical title detained possession for between nine and fourteen years". The letter recommended the removal of Donatus and his replacement by Dermot Ossullivayn

1485, Register XIV, p. 116:

"To John Ohuallachayn, Bernard Ohedyrceoyl and Donald Onchaytin, canons of Ross. Mandate to collate and assign to Donatus *Ossega*, perpetual vicar of the parish church of Gleanmuke, *alias* de Templo novo, in the diocese of Ardfert (who is of noble birth, and who from fear of the below named Dermot cannot safely meet him in the city and diocese of Ardfert), the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Kylmancan in the said diocese, yearly value not exceeding 12 marks sterling, which was erected by papal authority into a prebend of Ardfert for the lifetime of Dermot Ysulleavayn, clerk, of the said diocese, and which is void, in accordance with provincial constitutions which provide that any canon of Ardfert, holding a canonry and a prebend erected out of the rectory or the vicarage of a parish church, is bound to have himself promoted to the priesthood within a certain time, under pain of *eo ipso* deprivation, because the said Dermot, without having obtained any canonical dispensation, has not had himself so promoted, although the said Dermot, who is to be summoned and removed, has without any new canonical title detained the said vicarage for between one and three years. The pope further dispenses the said Donatus to receive the said vicarage of Kilmancan, and to retain it for life with that of Gleanmuke, etc., and to resign, etc., and receive instead and retain for life two incompatible benefices, not being major or principal dignities etc."

1500, Register XVII:

Cornelius *Osega* mentioned as an *ostensible* priest of the diocese of Ardfert and detainer of the vicarage of Killinane.

Key

Ardfert = An ancient Kerry diocese now incorporated into the Diocese of Kerry headquartered in Killarney

Donatus = Difficult to translate to exact modern Christian name

Ohuallachayn = Possibly O'Houlihan? Ohedyrceoyl = Possibly O'Driscoll? Onchaytin = ??

Osega, Ossega = O'Shea

Ossullivayn, Ysulleavayn = O'Sullivan

Temple novo, Gleanmuke, Glenmuyki = Modern parish of Templenoe near Kenmare, Co Kerry

Ynisfaelynd = Innisfallen, an island in Lough Leine at Killarney and site of a famous monastery