

impure, whereas Jewish purity laws could not apply to Gentiles.

Chapters 5 and 6 then read the actual New Testament texts in terms of transformations of these earlier practices. The question this raised in my mind was whether the hypothetical earlier practices are necessary for a proper understanding of the texts, and I was not persuaded that they were.

MEG DAVIES

SCOTTISH CATHOLIC SECULAR CLERGY 1879-1989 by Christine Johnson. *John Donald Publishers Ltd, Edinburgh, 1991. Pp xi + 516. £30.00*

In 1878 the Roman Catholic hierarchy was restored in Scotland. From that date normal patterns of diocesan administration and organisation were established. This present work comprises a brief biographical dictionary of all the diocesan priests who have ministered in Scotland from that date until 1989. Doctor Johnson's main source was the *Catholic Directory for Scotland*, which lists all of the serving priests and parishes for the period covered by this register. It is significant that a similar work could not have been safely compiled for England based on the *Catholic Directory*. The accuracy of the latter in recent years has left much to be desired. It is to be hoped that at some point steps will be taken to remedy its misleading deficiencies.

The *Catholic Directory for Scotland* provides lists of newly-ordained priests and obituary notices for deceased clergy. These allow an outline of each Scottish priest's career to be traced. Dr Johnson accepts that lists merely provide the raw material for research, but they are nonetheless valuable for that. The data that she has amassed and presented in an accessible and clear way enable the broad pattern of Scottish Catholicism to be traced. In the story of Scotland's priests we can glimpse something of the trends in clerical education, the investment in the development of inner city parishes as well as patterns of recruitment of clergy.

Dr Johnson has served for some time as Keeper of the Scottish Catholic Archives and her work is a further fine example of the excellent standards set by her notable predecessors in that office: Father William Anderson, Monsignor David McRoberts and Abbot Mark Dilworth OSB. Students of Scottish Catholic history have cause to be grateful to her for her painstaking work which should be found on the shelves of any decent library.

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