

Sir Joseph Michael Redmond

Born: c.1856
President: 1906 – 1908
Died: 1921

Joseph Redmond, an esteemed citizen of Dublin who was 'very popular amongst the members of his profession'¹, was born circa 1856. The son of Denis Redmond of Ranelagh, Dublin, his early schooling was at the College of St. Francis Xavier, now Belvedere College, and afterwards at the Catholic University of Ireland. This institution had no power to award degrees until 1880 when the recognised Royal University of Ireland came into being and Catholic University students were then entitled to sit for its exams. So, it was not until 1915 that Joseph Redmond received his MD as an honorary degree awarded by the National University of Ireland. He also studied at the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat and the Chest, London and in 1876 he obtained the Diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

In 1878 he became a Licentiate of the College of Physicians, and he was elected a Fellow six years later and was President between 1906 and 1908. An active member of the Dublin medical community, he was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Catholic University Medical School in 1877. Four years later, he was made Senior Physician at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. He was Consulting Physician to the National Maternity and Coombe Hospitals as well as to St. Michael's in Kingstown and the Cottage Hospital, Drogheda. He was a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Medicine reading many papers there and was a President of the Section of State Medicine (now Public Health Medicine). A caring man, he is mentioned in the *British Medical Journal* as tending to a friend who was suffering from pneumonia, acquired from a 'severe wetting' whilst hunting. The article notes that despite the fact that 'Sir Francis Cruise, Dr. Redmond & Dr. Cruise were unremitting in the care of their friend' he died soon after.²

He contributed much to the medical literature including the following papers presented to the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland: 'Cancer of Liver secondary to True Cirrhosis of Rectum'; 'Atrophy of Right Kidney, with Hypertrophy of the Left' and 'Acromegaly'.

¹ 'Sir Joseph Redmond MD', *British Medical Journal*, 3 December 1921.

² 'Michael Austin Boyd', *British Medical Journal*, 11 March 1899.



In 1898 he married Oswaldina, daughter of James Nelson of Liverpool. In 1906 he purchased Gort Muire in Balinteer, a house now used by the Carmelites. The water tower on the property was occupied by Irish soldiers at one point between 1916 and 1922, the exact date is unclear, and their frequent crossing of the grounds of the property 'were a great cause of anxiety to the Redmonds'.³ It appears they had no children; the census of 1911 records that he was living in Dublin with Oswaldina and a female housekeeper servant, Mary Carroll.

Joseph Redmond was knighted by George V on 23 February 1911 at St. James's Palace and was made a member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in 1912.

He suffered from heart trouble in the last year of his life and died at his home in Dublin on 26 November 1921.

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³ Peter O'Dwyer, 'The History of Gort Muire', <http://www.carmelites.ie/gortmuire2.html>

