

THE ORATORY AT GOUGANE

(To the Editor, "Southern Star.")

A Chara—In the issue of the "Southern Star" August 7, 1965, there appeared a reference to the Gougane Barra Oratory in the "Inchigeela Items." It stated "the oratory was built by the late Rev. Fr. Hurley, P.P., in 1880." That is entirely correct, as Fr. Hurley did not come to the parish until 1880 and there were several things to claim his attention before he could get around to the oratory at Gougane. The parish was minus a Parochial House, and there were no pews in the Church of St. Finbarr in the village, the congregation had to remain standing or kneeling and the floor of the church was flags. It was not until 1905 or 1906 that he had a chance to turn his attention to Gougane, "The Shrine of Saint Finbarr." I was present at the first Mass that was celebrated in that little edifice. Fr. Hurley had as a guest there on that day the late Padraig Pearse who was touring Ireland at the time on a bicycle, and who gave up his young life in 1916 to save the soul of Ireland.

Mise le meas,

JEREMIAH RIORDAN.

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Peabody, Mass., U.S.A.
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The Oratory at Gougane Barra
was built in 1900 and was
dedicated on August 15, 1902