

Archbishop Denis Hurley

Archbishop Denis Hurley was born in Capetown, South Africa. His parents were from Skibereen. His father came from Inchindreen, a farm where my father grew up and my uncle now lives. His parents got married in Skibereen Cathedral on the 11th of November 1913. The couple emigrated to South Africa where his father became a lighthouse keeper. Denis Hurley was born on the 9th of November 1915. One day he and 3 other boys got lost in a cave and he made a promise to God that if they were found he would become a priest, he kept that promise. On the 19th

of March 1947 he became a bishop becoming the youngest bishop in the World at that time. Bishop Hurley was only 32 years. He was appointed Archbishop in January 1951, he was then the youngest Archbishop in the World at 36 years of age. Archbishop Hurley had a keen interest in the work of the Skibereen Famine Committee. He was especially moved by the exhibit at Skibereen heritage centre. He was a good friend of Nelson Mandela and like him believed in fairness and equal rights for

everyone and often stood up
for them. He
came to Inchindreen
and met me and
my parents, I don't
remember it because
I was only a



Dr Denis Hurley, left, with Professor Brenda Gourley, vice chancellor of the University of Natal, and President Nelson Mandela, on the occasion of the conferring of an honorary doctorate on President Mandela.

baby. That was the last time
he came to Ireland before he died.
There is a Denis Hurley centre in
Africa. He died in 2004.

I got information from a book
about him and my parents also gave
me information.

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By Jason Hurley

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM DENIS, MARY HURLEY
CLOUNCUGGER GAHERAGHT DRIMOLEAGUE CO - CORK

ALSO FROM A BOOK CALLED "DENIS HURLEY A PORTRAIT
BY FRIENDS" EDITED BY ANTHONY N GAMLEY.