

Tamworth

19.10.1881

My dear beloved Father and Mother, Brother and Sister

It is with profound gratitude and pleasure I address these few lines to you in hopes the arrival of the same may find you one and all in a mighty state of health as the departure of this leaves us well, thank God. My dear Father and Mother, myself and Patt herewith forward the sum of £20 for a Christmas present accompanied with 3 of my portraits, one for Sister Anora, B Slattery, K Burke and 3 pairs of gold earrings, one for each of the above mentioned as a token of friendship and olden times. My dear Father, remember this money is not for Seymour it's for all of you to enjoy a happy Christmas together. You will give Michael 10 of this money for the spree as we used to call it. I also request my mother to purchase a cloth mantle and wear it in remembrance of us who will never forget her or either of you while we have strength and health, please God.

You will let me know how all my aunts and cousins are and especially Aunt Judy which I dream of very often. You will also let me know how Thomas Lyons, mother and sisters are. I assure you I am very sorry since Patt come that I did not send for Catherine Lyons the time that I sent for him, but Terry would not allow it on no account. As Patt is writing a few lines, I must conclude in sending my best respects to you all wishing you a merry Christmas & happy New Year.

Yours faithfully

John McHugh

Write soon in care of Higgins Sydney.

Honor McHugh

Transcribed by Margaret Marlow with some adjustment for punctuation, spelling and grammar.

12 May 2021.