**Casement to Elizabeth Bannister and Gavan Duffy et al**

**NYPL Maloney IHP 3**

**14 July 1916**

Pentonville Prison.

14 July, 1916

A Cara Eilis,

I forgot to put your name down to–day to visit me and it can't go till to–morrow now – but I can get this letter off to you – and I hope there may be a chance to see you yet. I have got Joan of Arc safe and sound – and the others too that Brigid sent me – and I wrote to her on the overleaf – will you please send it on to her? I am not sure of her address now – so I must rely on you to find out for me and to send it to her.

Will you get a copy of "Easter Week" – the verses you gave me when I saw you last and send them to a little godson of mine? I will get his address later on and send it to you. To–day I cannot recall it. I have another godson in France named fully after me – "Roger Casement ........" and I want to send the other verses to him – the ones you gave me – but he, too, is so far off I can't get his address now, but possibly Gertrude will find it out. Do you know "Songs of the Fields by Proinseas Ledwidge (a Meath youth)? They are beautiful and one on "The Death of Laeg" I like very much. There is a preface by Lord Dunsany I don't like – but one needn't read him – but go on to the poet. I hope you'll get the book – you'll like some of the songs. To–day my mind is far away, down by O'Sullivan Beare's land! – and over there: where I shall never be again, not even in dreams – by Clare and Aran and Garumna. I wonder how it will all be a hundred years hence – and whether any of the old speech, and thought that sprang from it, and prayers that grew from it will still survive. Goodbye, my dear friend, and I hope all your young ones will grow up in that gospel and no other – and that it may be very well with them hereafter. If you see Brigid, tell her how much I was gladdened at her faithful affection and remembrance – and her prayers.

Beanact De leat and a blessing from myself too – for I shall not forget you wherever memory goes with me.

Yours

(sgd) Roger Casement

To Mark Ryan too – and Father Ryan O.P.

I shall not be able to write often to you – and when you come again to see me it can only be on my legal affairs.

Remember – I left it you and those other friends to protect my name after all was over – and you know why I kept silent and why I did not refute many things as I might have done.

I shall bear your friendship with me as one of the precious gifts of God, given by Him to those whose hearts are faint and broken – for it was you, and your help and courage that gave me courage to the end – and now that it is all over I am happier than you can possibly conceive – with heart and mind and should, too, at peace – and reconciled with all men and all things.

Ever yours

(sgd) Roger Casement

**[to George Gavan Duffy]**

.... I want to thank you and your wife and all those who stood around me at the last so faithfully, so bravely and so loyally, and to say that my last thoughts will be of the devotion shown to me. Please have what I said at the last carefully preserved and a copy of it given some day to my many friends in Ireland.

Also the letter that was handed to me in the dock – which I gave back to you – God bless the writer whoever she was.

Further – a last wish – write for me to that lady who wrote me in the Tower, the one who said she had travelled with me from Berkshire up to London in 1898 and who sent me the cigarettes. If I had had her address I should have written to her from Brixton. I was greatly touched at her remembering me and her chivalry – if one may use the word of a woman – I think one may – for the noblest, bravest and most chivalrous friends I have found in these last days have been women.

**P152/** *George Gavan Duffy Papers UCD*

30 June 1916

Letter from Casement, Pentonville Prison, to Gavan Duffy, in which he urges Gavan Duffy to recover from the High Court of Justice or the Home Office, documents and papers contained in a canvas portfolio which he had brought in from Brixton Prison to give to him (Gavan Duffy). States that they are documents dealing with the trial and that ‘it is very important that they fall into no hands but yours’. Also states that he has ‘been wrongfully and most untruthfully assailed in the course of proceedings by the crown witness’. Notes that Gavan Duffy is acquainted with the facts and leaves ‘the vindication of my personal honour thus aspersed and falsely charged in your hands’. Also claims that the testimony of the other soldier witnesses was capable of being completely upset had he chosen to defend himself. Thanks Gavan Duffy and his wife, Margaret, and others who supported him, ‘so faithfully, so bravely and so loyally’. Requests that his last and most recent statements are carefully preserved and copies given to his many friends in Ireland.

Notes that the noblest, bravest and most chivalrous friends he has found in the last days have been women. Warns that he shall not be able to write often and that when Gavan Duffy comes again to see him it can be only about his legal affairs. Reminds Gavan Duffy that he has left it to him and other friends to protect his name and further states ‘you know

why I kept silent and why I did not refute many things as I might have done’. Finally notes that he is happy with his fate and is ‘reconciled with all men and things’.