The Faiths of Oscar Wilde

Catholicism, Folklore and Ireland

Jarlath Killeen
University of Keele



Contents

Preface and Acknowledgements	îx
Introduction	1
1. Child and Man: the Development of a Catholic Mind	25
2. Faith and Reason: the Bible, the Catholic Church and Wilde's Scandalous Writings	44
3. Body and Soul: Nature, the Host and Folklore in The Picture of Dorian Gray	79
4. Religion and Politics: Wilde's Social Philosophy	109
5. Art and Life: the Politics of Ritualism in <i>The</i> Importance of Being Earnest	138
6. Realism and Romance: Between Protestantism and Catholicism in Wilde's Final Writings	162
Conclusion	186
Notes	190
Bibliography	210
Index	222