

THE PARISH OF DARRA.

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SITUATION. This Parish is bounded on the north, east and west by the Parishes of Kilfinnan and Glenbrohaun; on the west by the Parish of Kilflinn; on the east by the Parishes of Ballylanders and Marshalstown and on the south by the Parish of Kildorrery.

NAME. The name of this Parish is derived from that of the Townland in which the original Church was built; its Irish form is Darach, which signifies "abounding in oak."

The old Church of this Parish is situated on level ground in the Townland of Darramore, having to the south of it a high hill called Darra Hill. Of this Church, which consisted of a nave and choir, none of the walls remain but the east and west gables and a small portion of the middle gable at the north side. The choir is twenty seven feet long by seventeen feet in breadth and the nave is sixty and a half feet long by twenty two feet three inches. The window on the east gable is pointed on the outside, where it is five feet high by seven inches in width, six feet from the ground and formed of cut brown stone. On the inside it is flat arched and is seven feet nine inches high by four feet in width. The walls are three feet two inches in thickness and built of regular sized stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is a large graveyard, much in use, attached to this Church.

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Tobar Mac (recte Mhic) Duach (St. Mac Duagh's Well) is situated about half a furlong south of the old Church at the foot of Darra Hill. Until about twenty years ago a "Pattern" was held here on the 31st day of August, but it is now not much resorted to. The day does not agree with Saint Colman Mac Duach's Festival which, according to the Irish Calendar, fell on the 3rd of February.

There was an old Castle in the Townland of Ballynacourty, but as it is now reduced to a heap of rubbish, its dimensions cannot be taken.

Antiquities examined by Mr. A. Curry; notes arranged by Mr. O'Keeffe.

J.O'D.