

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Clanwilliam and is bounded on the east by the Parish of Caherconlish; on the north by Ludden; on the west by part of the latter and Caherelly; on the south by Caherelly and Ballybrood.

NAME. The name of this Parish is pronounced Inis San' Labhrás in Irish, and signifies the Island of St. Laurence. (Qu? Isert pro Disert, i.e., Dysart. Fitzgerald writes the name Isert Laurence. See below).

Of the old Church of this Parish there remains only a small portion of a wall six feet high, six feet long, five and a half feet thick, which, it appears, belonged to one of the gables and is built with large stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. This bit of a wall stands in the centre of an old grave yard in the south side of which stands the Parish Chapel situated in Inch St. Laurence North Townland and near the middle of the south boundary on (to) north side of the road from Croom to Caherconlish. In the west side of the grave yard is St. Laurence's Well, with a stone flag over it and a large ash tree growing near it. A Patron used to be held here on the 10th of August, Saint Laurence's Day till about thirty years since. His day is still kept as a holiday in the Parish. The Well is frequented on Saturdays. The locality is high ground lying between hills. The grave yard is an extensive one.

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Situated in the north west extremity of the Townland of Inch St. Laurence North at the east boundary of the same and east of the road from Limerick to Caherconlish was Greenan Castle (Grianán) of which there is nothing to be seen at present. It stood on a small hill, which, as is remarked in the Name Book, is about five chains in diameter and fifty feet high from the level of the road.

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Fitzgerald, in his History Vol.I, p.288, so often above referred to says:-

"Isert Laurence is in the Diocese of Emly six miles south

east from Limerick and contains five hundred and seven acres. In this Parish is a burying place, walled in, within which is the Parish Chapel. There are also ruins of an old Church and in the midst of the graves a deep well, the water of which is supposed to be a specific for disorders in the bowels. Near this well is a spa, which is said to be equally available for liver or scorbutic affectations. On a hill adjoining the Church yard (half a mile from it) stands the ruined Castle of Grenane, which belonged formerly to the family of Nunans, and beyond the Castle on an eminence called Sgeahard or the High Bush, is an ancient rath."

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The first of the two wells mentioned here is Saint Laurence's, of which we have spoken above; the second is Spaw Well, which is said in the Name Book to be situated in the northwest corner of Fust South Townland and Inch St. Laurence, lying to the south side of the road from Croom to Cahereconlish. At descriptive remarks it is said this well is about three feet in diameter and covered by a small house about five feet high; its water is esteemed good, which proceeds from iron.

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Situated in the centre of the Townland of Knockroe Mason was a building, formerly called a Court. The name Shancourt (Sean Chuir, i.e., old Court) is still retained and applied not only to the site of the edifice, but to the whole summit of the hill on which it stood. A protuberance in the earth, probably formed by the rubbish produced from the ruins and which is now covered with grass, indicates the spot occupied by this old mansion. The summit of the hill is said in the Name Book to be a quarter of a mile in diameter.

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The above Parish was traversed by Mr. A. Curry; notes arranged by Mr. T. O'Connor.

J.O'D.