

THE PARISH OF KILCORNAN.

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SITUATION. This Parish is in the Barony of Kenry and is bounded on the north by the River Shannon, on the east by the Parishes of Kildimo, Chapel-Russel and Ardeanny, on the south by those of Nantenan, Croagh and Adare, and on the west by Iveruss and Askeaton.

NAME. The name of this Parish is pronounced by the native Irish in their own language Cill Chornáin, which they understand to signify the Church of Saint Cornan, but nothing could be gathered in the locality to prove which of the two Saints of that name he was. One of them was Abbot of Bangor, and his festival was celebrated on the 6th of November; the other was Abbot of Lismore and his festival was kept on the 1st of January. The latter was probably the Patron of this Parish.

The old Church of Kilcornan was situated in the Glebe of Moig East but it was pulled down in the year 1831 when the present Church was erected on its site.

In the Townland of Cowpark in this Parish there is an old Church called Killeen, in good preservation but not of such antiquity as to merit minute description. It is about forty four feet in length and twenty four in breadth, and has a pointed doorway constructed of cut limestone in the south wall, the usual position in which the doorways of the Churches of the 14th century are found.

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The other antiquities in this Parish are two Castles, one in the Townland of Derreen and the other, which is called Carraig an Fhiaigh (Carrickania) in the Townland of Ballyshonickbaun. The former was of considerable extent measuring about fifty feet from east to west and twenty feet in the other direction. The side walls are nearly destroyed but the gables are in good preservation. The latter Castle is a mere ruin. It stands on a limestone rock which is surrounded by a bog which rendered it not easy of access. Parts of its north and south walls to the height of about eighteen feet are standing but even the foundations of the other walls cannot be traced, which renders it impossible to determine its original extent, which however was not very considerable as the distance between the walls remaining is only sixteen feet.

In the Townland of Kilbreedy (Cill Bhrighde) in this Parish 68 there is a small graveyard in which children only are now interred. A small Chapel dedicated to Saint Bridget formerly stood in this grave yard, but even its foundations are not now traceable.

I find no other remain of the "olden time" in this Parish except a holy well, called after Saint Bridget, in the south of the Townland of Stonehall.

John O'Donovan.

Bas Geiphtine,
July 14th 1840.
