

A Little History

Granagh is a chapel village. The present church was built in 1831 and is dedicated to St. Joseph. Outside the church there is a Millennium Grotto that was erected to commemorate the year 2000.

Inside the church in Granagh there are stained glass windows to the Risen Christ on the right and to St. Bernadette on the left. There is also a stained glass window of the Crucifixion. Fr Ronald Costello and Joan and Kathleen Monkton donated these windows. The main door of the church has stained glass images that have been donated by various parishioners.

To the right of the altar there is a statue of St. Joseph and on the left there is a statue of Our Lady, both of these were donated by Dan and Ann Moran. A plaque asks people to pray for Mary Bridget Hedderman whose husband gave the altar rails in 1909.

There is also a large stained glass window behind the altar that depicts Mary on the left, the Sacred Heart in the centre and St. Joseph and infant on the right. The Baptismal font to the left of the altar was given by the people to commemorate the centenary of Archdeacon Lyons in 1993.

Buried in the grounds of the church is: Dermot
McCarthy C.C. 1983-1990
Died August 10 1993, aged 74.

The church in Kilmacow (Kylmocho was the old name) was dedicated to St. Colman and the feast day of the church was on October 29th.

Begley gave the dimensions of the church as 58 feet by 18 feet 3 inches. It was believed to be a very old church. There was also supposed to have been an abbey in Kilmacow but the site of this abbey is unknown.

The church ruin in Seanabotha is now barely visible in the graveyard, which overlooks the church in Granagh. It is believed that St. Maidoc or Aidan of Ferns founded the church. From Begley's work we find that the church in Senboth (as it was then called) was then a ruin and the walls of the church were nearly levelled to the ground.

Lewis records a church in Knockfierna from 1837 but there is no trace of any church now. There was also reputedly an ancient church called Stuahraicin, which was on the hill of Knockfierna.

Kilmacanearla is the site of a church ruin and in 1903 Westropp measured the church as 15 feet of the west wall and 32 feet of the south wall. Most of the church fell in the storm of January 6th 1839. The site of the church is now marked by a clump of trees on a piece of raised ground.

In Granagh the present graveyard, opened in the 1950s, and is well kept.

The graveyard at Sheanbhotha (or Shanavoha) overlooks the present church in Granagh. In this large graveyard there are several tombs. The oldest headstone that we found was dedicated to Owen Carroll, who died on October 7 1790, aged 71.

Holy Wells

Danaher also says there was another St. Patrick's well in Coolrus. The well was a strong spring that was surrounded by thorn bushes and rags were left on the bushes. The water was meant to cure sore eyes. St. Patrick blessed the well and the well moved when clothes were washed in the well.

The final well that is mentioned in Danaher's "Holy Wells of Co. Limerick" is in the Granagh side of the parish. The well is called the Blessed well and is in the townland of Graigacurragh. The small well is about 400 yards from Granagh church. No devotions are remembered and the water is said to cure stomach disorders if drunk before breakfast.

There is also a Sunday's well at Lissyfine, which was situated on side of Liskennett hill, and it was never known to go dry. The water was said to cure diseases of the eye.

Holy Cross

In the Holy Year of 1950 a cross was erected on the hill of Knockfierna. The cross is surrounded at the base by the stones of the ancient cairn, which may have been used in the building of Stuahraicin.

