 Churches in the Deanery of Ormond

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1. ARADH AND ORMOND LOWER.

No one has yet attempted a survey of the parishes and churches of the Deanery of Ormond or the Deanery of Eli and Ui Cairin—both in the Diocese of Killaloe and comprising between them all the area of that diocese which lies east of the Shannon. What follows represents a short survey of the remains in the parishes of the Ormond Deanery. The parishes in the Deanery—taking them from the Royal Visitation of Dr. John Rider, Protestant Bishop of the diocese, in 1615, disclose the following:—Nenagh als Enagh, Lisbunny, Kilkeary, Ballinaclogh, Kilaneave, Dulla, Kilmore, Dunamona, Burgess, Youghalarra, Castletownlarra, Dromineer, Monsea, Knigh, Killodiernan, Cloghprior, Kilbarron, Ardcroney, Modreeny, Kilruane, Ballygibbon, Ballymackey, Thome Donain (Toomeveare), Annaghmeadle, Borrisofarney, Kilderryadrum, Templederry, Latteragh, Finnee, Terryglass, Lorra, Bunachum, Durra, Lockeen, Ballingarry, Aglishclocobane, Uskean, Burres (Borrisokane)—that is thirty-eight in all. Modern (O.S.) spellings of the place names are used as the record as printed by Canon O'Dwyer has obviously been misread in many places.

Of the ecclesiastical remains in these parishes, there is no account save what is contained in the Ordnance Survey Letters and Name Books of more than a century ago. In these Letters some of the antiquities are fairly adequately described—in others the account is limited, and in some many important details are either missed altogether or misinterpreted. Bishop Riders list of parishes is not in any geographical order but seems to be given in a kind of successive lines which start from Nenagh or Birr, as if the Visitation was made with these towns as headquarters—as, indeed, it probably was. The relative references to the O.S. maps of the 6" scale are Nos. 1 to 22 inclusive, and Nos. 26, 27 and 28. It seems best to take the parishes in order by baronies of which there are three, viz., the half barony of Arra or Duharra, and the baronies of Upper and Lower Ormond. In 1951, a number of the churches were visited by Right Revd. Monsignor Moloney, Mr. John Hunt and myself, and these will be marked with an asterisk. I have, with his kind permission, made extensive use of Monsignor Moloney’s notes.

ARRA (ARADH).

This half barony is situate immediately east of Lough Derg and comprises the parishes of Castletownlarra, Youghalarra, and Burgess or Burgessbogoo as it is sometimes written. After the battle of Dysert O'Dea, when the Clann Brian Ruadh fled across the Shannon into it, the half barony is sometimes called "Mac Ui Brian Aradh's country" in the texts and state papers. The other half of this barony is Uaithne or Oway and lies to the south around Newport and Birdhill; it is and always has been in the diocese of Cashel and Emly. Aradh is shown to be in the Deanery of Ormond in Bishop Riders Royal Visitation of AD. 1615. (See Dwyer’s Killaloe, pp. 117 seq.).
PARISHES. (O.S. 19).

1. Castletown Arra, Parish Church.—The old church was situate by the lake shore in Mr. Parker's demense but such remains of it as are now left are of comparatively modern post Reformation construction. It contains a tomb of the Ui Briain Aradh with an inscription. Here are buried some of the Clann Brian Ruadh and Brian Ban chieftains, including Bishop Morriertagh Mac Ui Briain who was educated at Oxford and was first Protestant Bishop of Killaloe. The tomb of his son, Sir Tirlagh Mac Ui Briain and of the latter's wife, the Lady Elizabeth Butler, daughter of Earl Walter, the 11th Earl of Ormond (Walter of the Rosaries) may be seen in Iniscafra, where he was buried in a Friars habit in a superstitious island in the Shannon according to the contemporary State Papers. For inscription at Castletown see St. Munchin's Folk, 1949, p. 32.

2. The Teampuillin. (O.S. 20).—This was missed altogether by O'Donovan's Surveyors. It has the remains of a small church built on a mound—the mound itself may be artificial but looks more like a natural feature. It is situate in the townland of Pallasmore just under the residence of Mr. Wm. MacDonnell and between it and the Nenagh waterworks. Only the E. gable and part of the S. wall remain. There is a tradition of burials in old times. The first few courses of masonry near the ground suggest a building of the 12th century but there is no identifiable feature of that period. There is a 15th cent. E. window with an aumbry and piscina. This is not a parish church and there are no visible interments in the small enclosure. It may have been a 'disert' reconstructed in the 15th century as an oratory or domestic chapel of the Mac Ui Briains, one of whose seats was at 'The Pallas.' Over it on a hill is 'the Pallas' itself (no remains) and Cnoc na Crocaire or Gallows Hill of which the post holes of the gallows remain. It is just possible that this may be the 'Auradh Tophiloc' mentioned in the life of St. Colm of Tir-dha-glas as one of his foundations on the Shannon which have not been identified. There is an adjoining townland of 'Tomlough.'

3. Youghalarrara. Parish Church (O.S. 20).—Situate in the graveyard on the road from Newtown village to the lake shore. The church is 73 ft. x 21 ft. 10ins. Fully described in O.S. Tipp. III. pp. 27ff. This church appears to be a poor reconstruction of the 15th century. There are no identifiable early features. On a stone in the S. wall is a chiselled figure of a human head with the following inscription: "St. Coca......n. 433." This appears to be of modern construction and undoubtedly refers to the patron of the parish, St. Coelan or 'Coonlaum' (the Irish forms are interchangeable) who is the Saint of that name noted also by a holy well at Tuamgraney and as one of the Saints of Iniscafra. He is reputed to be the author of a Life of St. Brigid of which the Ms. is (or was) in the Library of the Abbey of Monte Cassino in Italy, and said to have been written by him after his exile from Iniscafra to the continent. On the S. wall (external) of the modern Catholic Church of Youghalarrara on the main Portroe to Nenagh road is set a font apparently taken from this church although it is of comparatively modern construction. The 'Bacall' or staff of St. Coelan was in the hands of the O'Hogans of Creggane in O'Donovan's time.
4. Burgess. Parish Church (O.S. 26).—Situate in the graveyard of the same name to N. of main Limerick to Nenagh road. The name is of Norman origin. Only the north and south walls in part remain and the gables are both gone. It was 24ft. wide but the length cannot be ascertained. There are no identifiable features. Close to the east end of the south wall is a tombstone (broken) of the Ui Briain family partly in black letter. It is inscribed: “Hic jacet Donatus Dermitius als Bryn de Gortmore.” Gortmore is a townland in the parish. There is a tradition of a site of a “Friars Room” about eleven steps w. of the ruin but no remains. About fifteen years ago the Ordnance Survey sappers discovered a repulsive Sheela in the ruins. This is now propped against the wall of the graveyard. The stones include an inscription to a Welsh miner of the quarries who was “barbariously” murdered in the 18th century.

BARONY OF LOWER ORMOND

5. Monsea. Parish Church (O.S. 20) (Civil Survey “Musea”).—This ruin and graveyard has recently been cleaned and put in order by the County Council and an excellent piece of work has been done. The cleaning reveals what escaped the Surveyors of O’Donovan’s time, viz., that it is a reconstruction of a 12th century church. Part of the psh. is in Aradh. The ruin is 60 feet x 22 and is larger than the usual parish church perhaps because it is situate in the old Manor of Ballyvertella the property of the Earl and Countess of Ormond up to the 18th century. The three light east window is in 15th cent. style but the remains of the earlier 13th cent. light can be distinguished in sandstone in the centre light of the more modern one. Monsignor Moloney’s note reads: “Three light E. window, freestone, chamfered and rebated externally, XV cent. light inserted later in restoring centre light. Early piscina on right wall lobed around the drain hole. Original E. window early XIII cent.” Outside the chancel on the Gospel side is an external chamber. This is an afterthought and does not now bind with the external wall. Above ground level it has an ope to the chancel. This is now near ground level but was apparently once at least two or more feet above it since the interior of the chancel and nave have been filled up by interments. It appears to be the chamber of an inclusus. Outside the S. door (15th cent.) is a stone which came up in the cleaning. It has embossed a panel about 1 in, square bearing rosette four quatrefoils and the initials “T.B.” and “S.B.”—the Tudor Rose and the initials apparently refer to the Butler family. Amongst the stones which came up in the chancel during the cleaning is a slate slab inscribed: “Hic Jacet Reverendus Joannes Magrath, Dominicam, qui ab hoc vita migravit quinta diei Februarii 1780, aetatis suae 35, Pastor de Lorrha et Durr.” The Dominicans administered the parishes of Lorrha and Dorrha up to the early 19th century in connection with their ancient Abbey there. The Magraths are a local family. There is another stone (broken) of a rudely carved nude man. This is apparently of comparatively modern date (perhaps 18th cent.) and may be a sportive effort of a local mason.

6. Knigh. Parish Church (O.S. 14).—Not divided into nave and choir. The masonry is very poor—mainly rubble. The church is so ivy covered that it is hard to distinguish any feature but it appears to be
a poor construction or reconstruction of the 15th cent. or later. There is a pointed window in the N. wall and a similar one on S. wall. There is the appearance of two doorways but they are now formless. The east window is about six feet in height, but so full of ivy that no feature can be identified. In front of the e. gable and outside the wall is the only tombstone in Ormond bearing an inscription in Irish of the 19th cent. It was erected to the memory of Daniel Fogarty of Kilcoleman (Monsea psh.) who died in 1842 and bears on its head an inscription of an angel with a trumpet from which issues a scroll on which appears “Eirigi o’on bas agus taigi don breithuntais.” Daniel Fogarty was the grandfather of Most Rev. Dr. Fogarty, Bishop of Killaloe. The name of the carver ‘T. Gunning’ is cut at the foot of the stone which is an excellent piece of work.

*7. Dromineer, Parish Church (O.S. 14).—This church was seen by me in February, 1952. It lies by the lake shore. Since O’Donovan’s time it has become so heavily infested with ivy that the E. window is now the only visible feature. Tradition locally says that it was a foundation of the monks of Iniscaltra (Holy Island) but that they left it before it was completed and that it was never used for Mass. This is perhaps corroborated by the fact that the graveyard is hardly used at all. There are a few interments only. On the other hand an inspection with the ivy removed would probably reveal characteristics of a later age than the monastic besides those which are still visible. The building has its lower courses of very large stones—mostly granite blocks. Gaps were filled in from time to time by poor rubble and there is a comparatively modern buttress against the N.E. corner which is mentioned by O’Donovan’s surveyor. The S. wall was entirely gone even in 1840. The locals say that it was never built but masses of loose stone piled inside the walls contradict this. The W. door is now entirely gone. In 1840 some stones were left of it which are sketched in the O.S. Letters and seem to indicate the remains of a late 12th or early 13th cent. door. This is corroborated by my finding a single stone loose along the line of the missing S. wall and near the W. end of it which bears distinct chevron markings of the typical door jamb of the Celtic Romanesque style and is similar in type and figuring to those in the door of Killoidiernan (see below). On a second visit Mr. Hunt discovered another jamb stone of an inner order dowelled for a hinge. There may be others in the confused heap in the interior into which the S. wall has collapsed. The E. window is a 12th cent. light, 10 ft. 6 in. high by 4 ft. 7 in. wide externally, in brown sandstone with round head and was closed by a wooden or iron shutter as was usual at that time and for which the stone is holed externally for the fastenings. The gables are heavily infested with ivy but appear to be of the high pitch usual in the 12th century. Against the W. wall of the graveyard and opposite the gap where the W. door stood is a Voussoir now used to mark a grave. There is a human face with beak heads. The remains of a piscina are inside the gable at the Epistle side and there is another opening on the N. wall which may have been either a sedilia or a tomb. The walls have a very slight batter. There are no mentions of this parish in the Cal. Papal Letters and in the Civil Survey of 1653 it is held in Union with Monsea, both being Manors of the Earl of Ormond. My judgment,
is that this was an early church, reconstructed in the Celtic Romanesque style about A.D. 1200 or in the late 12th century and becoming disused soon after.

8. Killodiernan. Parish Church. (Cill Ua Tiernain) (O.S. 14).—The name Tiernan is still found locally—the family are of the Musrache and not of the Dal Cais. The church is well preserved but heavily infested with growths of various kinds and with tree stumps bursting the walls in places. If cleared and cleaned it would present a very interesting study. The W. door is in sandstone Romanesque of the mid 12th cent. the jambs being similar to the single stone mentioned at Dromineer. It is plain and without receding order. It is filled up with various encumbrances so that it is now impossible to make a proper examination. Superficial ornament can be seen on the shafts. The door has been likened to that of St. Finbhin’s church at Clonmacnoise. The E. window is also 12th cent. and splays inwards. There is chevron ornament on the underside of the voussoirs and also on the vertical faces. There is a cross potent with square centre in relief on the lintel. It is more ambitious in style than the door though apparently contemporary. There are windows on both the S. and N. walls described by the O.S. Letters as ‘not original.’ They cannot now be properly seen on account of infestation. There is also a door on the S. wall described as ‘pointed’ on the outside. This and another door on the N. wall are also described as ‘not original’ in the O.S. Letters. On the E. side, attached to the gable is a mortuary church or chantry. It has a stone inscribed: “Dnus. Dionysius Harty, Theologiae Doctor, Protonotarius necnon Vicarius Apostolicus Laonensis Diocesi hoc tumulum et sacellum hoc fieri fecit Ano, Dni. 1667. Orate pro anima eius.” Harty as a name is still found locally and Dr. Harty attended the Confederation of Kilkenny as representative of the Diocese of Killaloe and as its Dean (Comm. Rinn. V.503). Curiously enough Donatus O Tarmain who must have been a neighbour signs the articles for the Confederation as procurator for the Bishop (John O’Moloney). It would appear that Dr. Harty succeeded Dr. Malachi O’Quaelly as Dean of Killaloe when the latter became Archbishop of Tuam in 1631. Dr. Harty was present as Vicar Apostolic of Killaloe in 1666 at the meeting in Dublin to consider the Walshe Monastic in 1666 (I.E.R. June 1870).

9. Cloghprior. Parish Church (O.S. 9).—This parish was formed from the gift of lands by Theobald Walter Butler about A.D. 1200 to the Prior and community of Tyone (Tigh Eoin) for which see Cal. O. Deeds Vol. I. The lands in the grant can be identified from those shown in the Civil Survey of 1653 as in the possession of the Graces of Ballylinch, Co. Kilkenny, which family succeeded to them at the Dissolution of the monasteries. The Church is described in O.S. Letters as ‘not more than three centuries old’ i.e. circa 1540. It is in a collapsed condition. The E. gable has a pointed window with two lights and a stone mullion. The S. door is gone. The whole is infested with ivy and growths. There are many tombs and interments of the 18th century.

10. Carney Commons (O.S. 9).—There is a Church ruin here with an internal division. Kilbarron psh. It has not been seen and is not mentioned in O.S. Letters. From description supplied it appears to be the remains of a Penal Chapel of the 18th century.
*11. Kilbarron, Psh. Church (O.S. 9).—Locally called 'The Abbey' though there is now no historical evidence to support this tradition. The church is beside Lough Derg and a short distance by water from Illaunmore (now in Co. Clare) where there are monastic remains and at least two small cross slabs of the 7th/8th centuries. The church has remains of a nave and choir with traces of a square tower at the west end. Such towers are unusual in the Ormonds, those of Ardcroney and Kilboy being the only other examples. Total length is 65" and breadth 22" 8'. The E. window is narrow and pointed, and of lime stone. A window on S. wall is almost totally destroyed. The choir arch is pointed. There is a late Cross slab in the nave, standing up between two modern tombstones and this feature was missed by O'Donovan's Surveyor but may not have been there at that time. There is a rectangular window in S. wall also without feature. The ivy covered remains of another are some 7' 8' further down the same wall. This last is of brown sandstone and might repay cleaning and inspection. There is another rectangular window in the N. wall. There is a stump of a tower at the W. end communicating with the nave by a pointed door. The first floor of the tower rested on an arch—now gone. This parish and the next (Terryglass) were the seat of a Norman Manor in the 13th cent, depending on the Norman Castle of Old Court and it appears likely that this church was a Norman reconstruction of the 13th century or later. The settlement was wiped out in the Irish resurgence of the 14th century.

*12. Terryglass (Tir-Dha-Glas). Parish Church (O.S. 9).—In this historic parish there are no monastic remains now identifiable, the monastery having disappeared in the Danish wars and not having been revived thereafter. The remains of a Norman parish church of the 14th cent. now only amount to a small portion of the nave of which the only feature is a pointed choir arch. To the N.E. is a large bawn, traditionally the site of the ancient monastery of St. Colum. The Norman castle is described by Leask in JRSAI. It is at Old Court by the lake shore.

13. Finnoe (O.S. 10).—There are now no remains of the ancient psh. church, the site being occupied by a modern Protestant church.

*14. Lorrha O.S. 4).—Almost everything which has been written about the ruins in the village is inaccurate. Indeed the O.S. Letters and Map call the latter "Franciscan Abbey." There was in fact never a Franciscan foundation nearer to Lorrha than Meelick, across the Shannon, in Co. Galway. We deal, therefore, with the remains in order of date.

1. The ancient monastery of St. Ruadhan.—This stood on the site now occupied by the Parish Church (ancient), the O.S.A. monastery and the modern Protestant Church on the S.E. side of the village. Nothing is now visible of the remains save the bases of two or three Cross shafts situate between the O.S.A. Priory and the old parish church. Around one is a pattern of marching animals facing each other. See Crawford in JRSAI, 1909, for details. A more recently discovered Cross base is described in JRSAI, Dec., 1938, by Revd. F. H. Gilling.
2. The Parish Church.—This is now partly incorporated in the modern Protestant Church and lies just S.E. of one of the Cross bases. There is a cemetery. The Church is pre Norman with Antae at both ends and a high pitched E. gable. There is an attached residence with, corbelled roof. It is very heavily infested with ivy and difficult to see in its present condition. A door in the W. wall towards the N. end has a lower arch of the 15th century and an upper arch of the early 13th century. This church is not described in O.S. Letters. The 15th cent. addition has a foliage design and a pelican vulning.

3. The Augustinian Priory. — This is miscalled the “Dominican Abbey” in the O.S. Letters. It is situate on the site of the monastic foundation of St. Ruadhan which it replaced in the late 12th century. Only the Church now remains with a ballalley up against it. The remains of the conventual buildings may be traced about it and inside an adjoining cowshed. The whole is immediately N. of the Parish Church (No. 2 above). Excavation of this site should provide interesting and valuable material having regard to its historic nature. On the S. wall there is a pointed doorway communicating with a small lateral building having its first floor arched. Internally the Church is 100 ft. long by 22 ft. wide. The E. window is very small and may be a late insertion. It is in limestone with a pointed window with the mullion missing. The W. door is raised above the road level and has steps and a window over having on it the carved figure of a woman’s head with horned headress such as appears on the 15th cent. tombs in Kilkenny Cathedral. The headress is coloured but Mr. Hunt thinks this colouring is comparatively modern. Crawford (ubi. cit. supra) thought that this door and the window above it were “fixed in an older and higher opening probably part of a window or arcade,” the age of which he does not attempt to estimate. It seems clear that what now survives here is 15 cent. Gothic, although it is the site of the monastery of Arroasian Canons introduced here as to so many other ancient monastic sites by St. Malachy in the the early 12th cent. (cf. Dunning “The Arroasian Order in Mediaeval Ireland,” in I.H.S. No. 16). There are many mentions of it in Cal. P. Letters and a 15th cent. Ms. Clementina by its Prior Rory O’Lachman survives in Lambeth Palace. It was dissolved in the late 16th cent. and granted on Lease to the O’Hogans of Ui Forrgo (Ardrorney) who supplied the last Prior (cf. Fians Eliz. Morrins Cal. and AFM, in all of which it is mentioned). The identification of the female head in “Hist. of Eli O’Carroll” as “the wife of De Burgo” is fanciful (op. cit. p. 253). In the 19th cent. a piscina was removed from this church by an American priest of local extraction and is now in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Minneapolis, U.S.A., with an inscription showing its origin. (Vide. Hist. Ely O’Carroll p. 253).

4. The Dominican Priory.—This is situate in the Catholic Church grounds and the beside the Church to the S. It is is miscalled the “Franciscan Abbey” in O.S. Letters. This Priory was founded by the De Burgos who had a grant of the country hereabouts in Norman times but were completely uprooted in the Irish resurgence of the 14th cent. The foundation date is given at 1269 and
the founder, Walter De Burgo, Earl of Ulster. It now consists mainly of the Church ruin with internal measurements of 145" by 24" 9'. The style of the window opes shows that the present building dates from the original 13th century foundation. The large E. window is now gone. There is a fine six light window or perhaps better described as six two light windows in series on the S. wall, with another larger two light in the same wall of the nave; there is also a later quadrangular window in the S. wall divided into three lights by two mullions. The door in the W. gable was disfigured and some of its stone work taken when the Catholic Church was built in 1812. One small pointed door is left in the N. wall and there is a square tower on the modern Church side which seems to have been linked to the ancient sanctuary by vanished buildings. That the conventual buildings were on this side is confirmed by the fact that the wall behind the altar of the modern church is much thicker than the other walls and must have formed part of the ancient buildings. Traditionally a statue of St. Ruadan was kept in a niche in the S. wall. (Vide Hist. Ely O'Carroll, pp. 257/8). The chancel has an early sacristarium with cinquefoil head, a shelf and two drain basins. A little W. of this is an ornate Gothic arch with its details hacked away. There was a partition between nave and chancel beside which the side walls of the church are now gapped. It was not a tower as its masonry does not bond with the side walls. The altar and sacristarium still survive. The whole W. gable of the Church fell on the 9th January, 1939, but has now been re-built by the Board of Public Works. On the N. wall of the chancel internally are some 17th Cent. Renaissance tombs with long moralising inscriptions. Of these, two were of the O'Kennedy family, of Lackeen, nearby who were the Irish rulers of Lower Ormond up to 1653 (O'Kennedy Fionn). Another was of the famous Mac Egan family, of Coillte Ruadh and Ballymacegan, also in the modern parish. (For a reading by the Inscriptions, see Dwyer's Hist. Killaloe and Hist. Ely O'Carroll, pp. 261/2). There are Coats of Arms. The tomb on the left (Mac Egan) was the work of Patrick Kerin though not so ambitious as his Walsh tomb at Abington. It has faint incised ornament. The larger O'Kennedy tomb is the work of Nicholas Cowley. (Nicholas Cowley fabricavit).

Finally, to dispose of Lorrha, there is a Norman mote a short distance S. E. of the Parish Church and the Protestant Church. The O.S. Letters describe this as "the most ancient remains in Lorrha." Actually it seems clearly to have been the remains of the first Norman settlement of the late 12th century and of the "Castle of Lothra," which with others was destroyed in the raids of Murgh' O'Brien in the early years of the 13th cent.

15. Lackeen (O.S. 4).—Oratory or Chantry adjoining Lackeen, the Castle of O'Kennedy Fionn, Lord of Lower Ormond. Not mentioned in O.S. Letters, except it be that casually described as 'an old church ruin in the townland of Curraghmore.' It is 30" x 18" wide externally. Only one gable remains but there are remains of attached buildings. There is a small lancet window in the W. gable. Traditionally the Abbott O'Hogan was slain on his way here at Gortcreo by a party of the O'Kennedys (cf. AFM.).
16. Loughkeen (O.S. 5). Parish Church now in Birr Union.—The Baile Achaiddh Caoin of O’Sullivan Beare’s retreat per O’D. in O.S. Letters (cf. AFM). Perhaps the place of the same name in MacFhirbis’s list of extinct Bishoprics in R.I.A. Mss. Of the church there now remain but the N. wall, nine feet of the E. gable, nine feet of the S. wall and another piece of the same at the W. end. It was built of large red sandstone with lime and mortar. There is (per O.S. Letters) now no identifiable feature.

17. Aglishclohane (O.S. 7). — Parish Church now in Borrisokane Union. 57” x 21” 9”. Only portions of the walls are now left and the only identifiable feature is a window on the W. gable in the Gothic style. Traditionally this was an “Abbey” but this probably means only that it was served from Lorrha.

18. Borres als Borrisokane (O.S. 10).—Norman Parish of which the name is not—as per O’D. and the present Post Office authorities—the Burgage of O’Kane, but Borres Clanna Cein (i.e. the Ui Cearbhaill Eli) or Borres Cluain Ui Cein in which form it appears in 15th cent. Cal. O. Deeds. There are now no remains of the old parish church which is said to be on the site in the town of the modern Protestant Church. This was part of the demense of the Ui Cearbhaill until Norman times with the adjoining parish of Modreceny.

19. Uskane (O.S. 7).—Parish Church now in Borrisokane union. The ancient church is 63” 9” x 25” 2” of limestone. The E. window is arched inside and pointed outside with two lights and a stone mullion. There are two other windows, one in the S. wall pointed and another quadrangular in the N. wall. The gables and doorway are destroyed.

20. Ballingarry (O.S. 8) (Baile an Garrdha Cnuc Sithe Úna—A.F.M.).—Parish Church now in Shinrone Union. There are now no remains of the ancient church save a large graveyard around modern Protestant Church.

*21. Pallas (O.S. 5).—Parish Church in the united parishes of Dorrha and Bonachum. A comparatively modern ruin. The w. gable is gone, with portions of both walls. In the E. gable is portion of a segmented window and on the N. wall a narrow pointed light. There is another window in the S. wall. There are many stones on the ground which might repay closer examination. A modern stone wall is built into the ruin. The altar slab remains and a carved human head over a mullioned window on E. gable. This window is of date circa A.D. 1500 and is cusped at the top. The human head and most of the other details are now so heavily infested with ivy that they cannot be seen.

*22. Bonahum (O.S. 1). Parish Church.—There is a very poor description of this church in O.S. Letters which at least suggests some early features, such as large stones in the lower masonry courses. The remains of the E. door and of the windows are so destroyed as to be unidentified and the masonry is of poor quality. O’Hanlon, who saw the ruin in 1869, thought it of the most ancient type of Irish church. The Church appears to date to the late 14th or early 15 cent. and there is a residence chamber with corbelled roof at the W. end. The whole is so heavily infested with ivy that no proper examination is possible.
23. Ross (O.S. 5). Bonahum psh.—There is now no trace of this church, but one portion of a wall in the grounds of Ross House. The graveyard is now an orchard.

24. Portland (O.S. 4).—In the united parishes of Dorrha and Bunachum and Lorrha union. This was entirely missed in the O.S. of O'Donovan's time. It is 56" x 24". O'Hanlon, writing in 1869, describes the E. gable as nearly perfect “with an elegant lancet shaped window of cut stone; it has a semi-circular arch beautifully turned on the inner splay.” There is a room attached for a priest. It adjoins the demense of the Mac Egans and may have been maintained by them. The graveyard is now gone, only unbaptised infants being now interred there. The Church is now heavily infested with ivy so as to be almost invisible. It was not a Parish Church and may have been a Chantry. Such features as can be seen indicate a structure of the late 15th or early 16th cent. There is an attached residence or perhaps a tower with the roof missing.

25. Modreeney (O.S. 10).—Parish Church of St. Ciaran. Now in Cloughjordan union. Magh Dhríthe in Mac Firbis’s pedigrees of the Ernai of Muscarige Thire, the ancient name of Ormond (als. Magh Suain in same). The ruin of the ancient Church in the grounds of the modern Protestant church now comprises only part of the west gable and a few feet of the adjoining side walls—all so covered with ivy that no feature is distinguishable. This parish was a seat of the Úi Cearbhall Úi and of their Brehons the Mac Egans, who held the castle and lands of Kilmahalagh (now Sopwell) adjoining. It was endowed nominam with a Plenary Indulgence by Pope Paul III in 1607, with other notable shrines. Here took place in 1544 the first marriage of the Earl of Clanrickard to O'Carroll’s daughter, so often mentioned in the Cal. S. Papers of that time.

26. Ardcrony (O.S. 15).—Parish Church now in Cloughjordan union. Ancient name Forgo or Úi Forgo, a family of the Ernai of Muscarige. This is a conjoined church and castle and the only one of its kind in the two Ormonds. Churches of this kind are found elsewhere at Taghmon, Co. Westmeath; Kilpatrick, Co. Meath; at Dysart, Co. Kilkenny, and, of course, notably at Cashel. There is also one at Newcastle Lyons, Co. Dublin (vide JRSAI, vol 58, pp. 102 ff.). The last is interesting as it has a direct connection with Ardcrony. Both in the 13th and 14th centuries were episcopal Manors, the property of the Bishops of Killaloe, Ardcrony as ancient termon lands and Newcastle as a Royal Manor given to the Bishop of Killaloe by th King in exchange for the lands of the Church of Cronan at Roscrea. (See “The Manor of Ardcrony” in “Molua,” 1937). Here the tower seems to have been imposed on the Church. The church is divided into nave and choir, the former of which had a stone vault as a roof. (O.S. Letters). The inward inclination of the side walls can still be seen. The choir is 25' 8" x 17' 3". On E. gable is a window with ogee heads, external chamfer and cut out spandrels above. Below the ogee spring the W. shaft had a small human head in high relief. This was missed by O.S. surveyor. There is a smaller but similar window higher up on the E. wall of the main tower. The wall, which links the tower with the chapel on the E. side, has a doorway and a window ope. The last, of limestone, has a wide splay inwards and externally a full
frame of rebate and chamfer. The nave is 21" x 30" including the side walls. The N. wall is gone. The rest of the ruin is now so shrouded in ivy and other growths that its features are obscured but there are some details in O.S. Letters when more of the structure could apparently be seen. There is or was apparently another human head chiselled on top of the W. wall of the tower. The tower is conjecturally about 60" high and apparently had once four stories (O.S. Letters).

27. Kilruane (O.S. 15). — Parish Church now in Cloughjordan union. This church was situate adjoining the modern Protestant Church. Only the E. gable and part of the side walls remain. The only feature is the E. window, which is quadrangular on the inside, 6" in height and 2" 4' wide. Externally it is round headed. ("Cill Ruadhain in diocesu Laonensi," per Ms. A.31 in Franciscan Mss., Dublin, late 17th cent.).

28. Rathurles Church (O.S. 15). — Parish, Kilruane. This church is situated inside what must be one of the most remarkable earth forts in Ireland—comparable in size with Emain Macha and with three fosses. The name is given by O'D in O.S. Letters as Rath Durlais, but in Dalcais pedigrees in our Journal Vol. 2 (Jan., 1912 vide "Urrthaile" and in Cal. O. Deeds vide "Rathirdill" as a place where "The Seneschal of the Earl" (of Ormond) might meet the Ui Cinneide to adjust differences. It is perhaps the site of the original Aonac of the Muscaige and the large gate piers in stone to the E. of the fort are described to me by Dr. H. G. Leask as "almost megalithic." I transcribe Dr. Leask's account of the Church after he had visited it at my suggestion in 1940. "It is a plain rectangular edifice 60" x 30" in outside dimensions, all of a piece and of the same date, i.e., not earlier than the middle of the fifteenth century and possibly rather later. It is built of limestone with a good batter to the base of the walls. The gables are complete and there is a rather heavy coat of ivy to the walls, which makes it hard to see the details. However, it is clear that the E. window is or was of two narrow lights with ogee heads, and the S. and N. windows—opposite to each other near the E. end—have square heads. The W. window is so much covered with ivy that I could not see the shape of its head. It may be square or ogee. All are in limestone and chamfered. There was a N. door only. Its jambs are gone, but its inner arch is segmental as is usual."

There is no graveyard but the graves of the Brereton family, the owners of the land since the late 17th or early 18th cent. are railed in beside the church and the whole is very neatly kept, even the ivy being kept trimmed, though it would be a help if there were much less of it. There is a little round castle ascribed by Dr. Leask to the 16th cent. The whole up to the Cromwellian period was the property of the Ui Cinneide Donn chieftains of Upper Ormond, whose main seats were at Rappagh, Ballintotty and Ballymackey, all adjoining. The church is, therefore, to be ascribed to this family who probably built it as a domestic chapel or votive oratory since the parish church is a long way off. The occurrence of a Church is not uncommon inside an ancient fort in similar instances elsewhere, but this is the only instance in the two Ormonds. (For the Ui Cinneide, vide the "Manor of Ballinaclogh in Ormond," in our Journal, 1943).
29. Nenagh (O.S. 20). Parish Church.—There are now no remains of the ancient parish church of Nenagh said to have been dedicated to St. Coelan or "Coonlan," of Iniscaltra (O.S. Letters). O'Donovan thought that its site was at or near the former modern parish church of Nenagh adjoining the Franciscan Friary. He writes in O.S. Letters, Tipp. III, p. 296: "At the rear of Barrack Street, about 60 paces N. of the (Protestant?) church of Nenagh and between it and the old Abbey, Mr. Richard Burr of this town discovered at the depth of about 18 inches from the surface of the ground, the foundation stones of some old building. The N. and S. walls were about 30 feet in length and about 20 feet apart and were connected at the E. end by a wall, which was of a curve or segment of a circle, less than a semi-circle. The stones of these old walls, which were four or five feet in thickness were entirely removed. At this spot was dug up a ring seal of bronze of which the annulated is an impression. It is now in the possession of Mr. Burr." Unfortunately the impression was "abstracted or destroyed" by the book binder.

30. Nenagh Franciscan Friary (O.S. 20).—The fabric is fully described by Dr. H. G. Leask with plan and illustration in my paper on the history of the building in Molua (1938). The fabric dates to the mid-thirteenth century and the clausal buildings are to the south instead of to the north as is more usual in these early Franciscan houses. Only Claregalway and Castledermot besides Nenagh present this unusual feature. The E. windows, three in number, and a group of eleven evenly spaced windows in the N. wall of the Choir are the chief features. Only Nenagh shows this feature as six; eight, or nine, are more usual.

31. Tyone Abbey, O.S.A. (O.S. 21). Parish of Nenagh.—This is a Norman foundation of Theobald Walter I, the first Butler and its foundation Charter as an hospital may be seen in Cal. O. Deeds I, circa A.D. 1200. For its history and an account of the buildings by Dr. H. G. Leask, see my paper, "The Priory of St. John at Nenagh," in JRSAI, 1935. The present buildings are a poor reconstruction of the 15th century with no notable feature. The O.S. Letters mistakenly ascribe its present structure to the 12th or 13th centuries.

(To be continued).