

CLONKEEN PARISH.

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Clanwilliam and is bounded on the east by the Parish of Abbington; on the north by Killinagarriff; on the west by the same Parish and on the south by Abbington Parish.

NAME. The name of this Parish is pronounced in Irish Clúain Chaoin, which signifies the Delightful Bog Island.

Situated in the north part of Cloenkeen Glebe, at the north east part of the Townland of Clonkeen Barrington and to the north of the road from Limerick to Cappamore, is the old Church of this Parish in ruins. The length of the building is forty six feet by seventeen feet ten inches in breadth. The walls are perfect, the side walls being about fourteen feet in height and three feet in thickness, projecting one foot beyond the gables at each end (the thickness of the west gable at the doorway is three feet ten inches). The whole is constructed with mountain brown stone and cement of lime and sand mortar. In the centre of the west gable is placed the doorway, which is constructed of chiselled brown stone and has a semicircular arch. This doorway is exceedingly curious and interesting, both for its antiquity and workmanship and is highly worth the artist's attentive observation and intense study. As an architectural feature it characterises a Church of the second class of ancient Churches in Ireland and to the interested investigator of ancient ecclesiastical monuments it exhibits some richly luxuriant ornamental sculpture. The height of it is eight feet one inch and the breadth where the arch turns is three feet, the breadth at the ground being three feet three inches.

On the north side are inscribed on a stone where the arch turns:-

W 19 B.
17.70 K
HISAGE.

There is a window on the east gable which has a circular arch of mason work inside, where the measurements are ten feet in height by three feet seven inches in breadth. On the outside it is seven feet from the present surface of the ground and five and a half feet in height by one foot seven inches in breadth, being divided into two compartments by a mullion, each of which measures six inches in breadth and has a pointed top. The window on this side is constructed of chiselled lime stone. Distant seven and a half feet from this gable is placed on the south side wall, a window, which is quadrangular on the inside, where it is constructed of chiselled brown stone and measures four and a half feet by two feet ten inches. It is pointed on the outside, measuring three feet seven inches in height by six inches in breadth and constructed of chiselled limestone. There was another window on this side wall within twelve feet of the west gable, constructed of chiselled brown stone on the inside. On the outside its sides are battered; it is opened at top, the wall over it being broken down. Opposite this one, there is placed on the north wall another window, of which only the side to the west remains on the inside. It has a round top outside, where it measures two and a half feet in height by six and three quarter inches in breadth at top and nine inches at bottom. It is constructed of chiselled brown stone, used both inside and outside and through the whole thickness of the wall. The outside is covered with ivy, which spreads itself over a great part of the wall; the measurements were taken from the inside.

Here is a large grave yard much in use, within which four yew trees, rather of small size, are growing. Locality is moderately elevated ground.

Pailis na Greine,
August 16th 1840.

T. O'Connor.
