

Holy Wells

There are four Holy Wells in this district St Bridit's Ardtramont, St Columcille's Ardculm, St Kevin's Ardcahan and St Melruan's Crossabeg. St Brigit's was the principle well, people came from all parts to be cured of all diseases and nearly all of them left something behind them. The trees around the well were full of Rosary beads, medals, money, walking sticks and other objects but no one ever touched these for they had a holy fear of the Saint. It is believed that this water will never boil and there was once a woman who would not believe this and she brought home some of the water and put it in a saucepan to try to boil it but when she looked there was nothing in the saucepan but blood. The water of this well will never get bad when it is corked.

Near the well are the ruins of an Abbey and there was once a stone font here. The gentleman - Le Hunt - who was one of Cromwell's planters by the way lived in the Mansion nearby and his steward thought it would be very very useful in his farmyard for feeding his stock or cooling irons for his forge. One day he went with a couple of workmen and a horse to draw it up but they were unable to move it; he sent for five horses in succession but the five could not move it and he sent for a sixth and all the workmen and with great trouble they got it up to the house.

After a while everything in his farm went wrong and some old person told him that if he did not bring back the font he himself would lose his reason. After a while Macintosh, the steward brought back the font and it is said Le Hunt was very angry with him for doing such a thing in a Catholic district. It was a remarkable thing that one little donkey could draw back what six horses and several men could not draw up. The patron is held on 2nd February the day after her feast February 1st.

There is a small tree beside the well, there is no cairn or wall around the well. It was noticed by the old people of the district that when ever a new relic was placed on the tree that branch withered.

Written by Kathleen Murphy, Ballyboggan Lr Castlebridge N.S. 28th October 1937

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