

Killdermot Abbey. Extract form Ordnance Survey Letters Co. Mayo 1838 Vol 1 – John O’Donovan.

In the north of the Parish, and on the north margin of Ballymore Lake (Loch a Bhaile Mhóir) stands within a burying ground a small Church in ruins called Killdermot, which in Irish is locally pronounced Cill Diarmat – Ceila Dermeti.

The western gable has been totally pulled down; but its foundation is traceable; the side walls and eastern gable remain. It is six paces in length inside, by four in breadth; eighteen feet by twelve.

There is a lancet window on the eastern gable, which is outside made of rudely cut stone so irregularly fixed as to leave its breadth unequal, which does not exceed eight inches in general. It is at least three and a half feet (4?) high on the outside. Under the stone composing its sides, is laid a rudely cut flag (stone) with an incision (excision gives a better idea) of three inches in depth, and six inches broad, corresponding to, and forming the lower part of the opening of the window. And over these stones is placed, on its edge, a rudely cut thin flag (stone), with an incision three inches in the deepest part, and of an arched form, and of a size corresponding to the breadth of the window.

The inside of this window is six feet high, and three and a half feet broad, in the lower part. It commences within two feet of the ground, and is continued in the same breadth to an equal height with the side walls. Then it is arched over with six stones, cut but rudely for the purpose.

The doorway must have been on the western gable, as there is none of the part remaining. The vestiges of another building, to the west of this little Church, are traceable. It was ten and a half yards long and somewhat wider than the Church. The demolished building is said to have been an Abbey, and the Cill in ruins, a Chapel attached to it.

Though this is looked upon as an old establishment there is no account to be had of its founder. Is there any mention in the life of Saint Dermot of a Church erected by him, or dedicated to him, in Cill Cearnadha or Galeanga in Connaught.

An old burying place lies in the townland of Bunafinglass in the west of the Parish, where it is said there was formerly an Abbey. This is the only (most) frequented burying place in the Parish.

There is also an old burying place in Killgella Townland in the north of the Parish. It is called Cill Geille in Irish, and gave name to the townland. It is called Cill Geille in Irish, and gave name to the townland. What Geille is, I don’t understand; I conjecture, however, that it may be a corruption of Greille, the r been left out; and that therefore it is possible that Ceathramhadh na Greillighi, mentioned in the contract above given, was the former name of Cill Geille.