

Kinnitty Cionn Eitigh



The Kinnitty Stone

Large sandstone slab measuring 1.4m high that was found in Kinnitty graveyard in the nineteenth century and now located inside the Church of Ireland church. The slab is decorated with spiral croziers and S-shaped spirals of pre-Christian design all of which is contained within an incised cross. The shape of the stone, composition and form of the motifs used all suggests a combination of early Christian and pre-Christian symbols.



The South Face of the Kinnitty Cross

Ninth century high cross which may have come from Kinnitty graveyard in the nineteenth century and erected in its present location as an ornamental feature of the Castle Bernard estate. The crucifixion scene is illustrated on the head of the cross showing a full length Christ with the two soldiers, one on either side of Christ. Below this scene there is a panel containing four marigolds, the next panel depicts a harpist sitting on a chair with a bird overhead, facing a monk who is holding a bell and crozier. The final panel contains interlaced celtic knotwork with an inscription now faded underneath this panel.



Kinnitty High Cross

Ninth century high cross which was erected by Colman for Maelsechnaill, King of Ireland. The cross contains biblical scenes such as the Crucifixion and the fall of Adam and Eve. These images may have been used to illustrate stories from the bible to the monks and lay people in the monastery. Originally these high crosses may have been painted although no trace of paint has been found on any high cross.



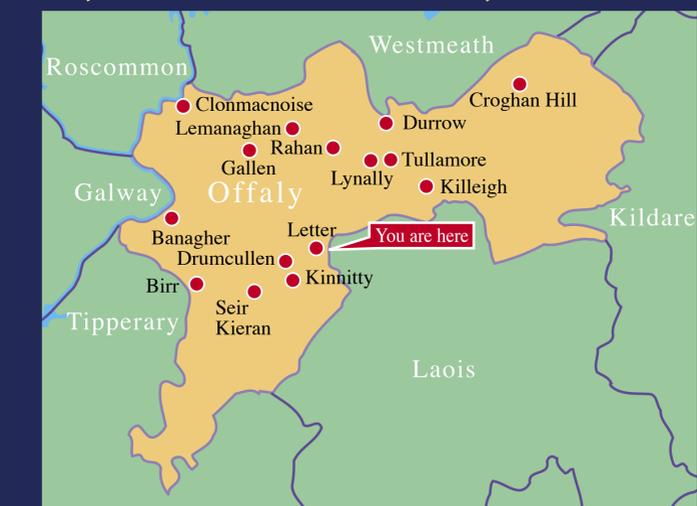
A monastery was founded in Kinnitty/Cenn-Etig (Etec's Head) by Fínán Cam (squinting) in the sixth century. In medieval times Kinnitty was located in ancient Munster on the important border with the province of Meath and in the gaelic territory of Ely O'Carroll bordering onto the Ferceall territory. Fínán lived between 560-640, he was from Corca Duibhne in Co. Kerry and was a disciple of St Brendan of Clonfert, Co. Galway. No buildings of the monastery survive today but the Protestant church and graveyard probably stands on the site of St Fínán's monastery.

In the early 1900's an early Christian cross-inscribed slab was discovered amongst the thistles of the Church of Ireland graveyard. This slab, known as the Kinnitty Stone, is now housed in the porch of the Church of Ireland church and contains Christian and possibly pre-Christian symbols. The ninth century High Cross dedicated to Maelsechnaill (846-862), High King of Ireland, can be seen at Kinnitty Castle hotel and may have come from the monastery at Kinnitty although some people believe that it came from the nearby monastery at Drumcullen.

Bhunaigh Fínán Cam (fiarshúileach) mainistir i gCionn Eitigh sa séú haois. Sna meánaoiseanna bhí Cionn Eitigh suite sa tSean Mumhan ar an teorainn tábhachtach le Cúige na Mí agus i gceantar Ghaelach Ely Uí Chearúil, teorainn ar theorainn le ceantar Ferceall. Mhair Fínán idir 560-640, ba as Corca Dhuibhne i gCo Chiarraí dó agus ba dheisceabal é le Naomh Breandán ó Chluain Feartha, Co. na Gaillimhe. Níl foirgneamh ar bith ón mainistir ina sheasamh inniu ach is cosúil go seasann an séipéal agus an reilig Phrotastúnach ar shuíomh mhainistir Naomh Fínáin.

Ag tús an fichiú haois thángthas ar leac, le crois Chríostaí inscríobhtha air, idir na feochadáin i reilig Eaglais na hÉireann. Coimeádtar an leac seo, Cloch Chionn Eitigh, i bpóirse an tséipéil Phrotastúnach agus tá siombail Chríostaí agus b'fhéidir Réamh-Chríostaí le feiceáil air. Is féidir Árd-Chrois ón naoú haois a fheiceáil ag Caisleán Chionn Eitigh, crois atá coisricthe do Mhaelsechnaill (846-862), Ard-Rí na hÉireann. Tá seans gur tháinig an crois seo ón mainistir ag Cionn Eitigh cé go bhfuil daoine a chreideann gur tháinig sé ón mainistir in aice láimhe ag Droim Cuilinn.

Early Christian Monastic Sites of Offaly



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