



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Tipperary Holy Wells

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



 **National
Heritage Week**
A Heritage Council programme

A small selection of wells from this years survey

Tipperary Holy Wells Audit 2022

- In 2021 given the period of lockdown at the start of the year and uncertainty due to covid Tipperary Heritage Office commissioned a desk top study of Holy Wells in the County.
- Derek Ryan came on board and using a list from the SMR carried out a comprehensive analysis of primary source material and compiled a database of over 130 holy well sites from around the county.
- Derek has returned in 2022 and is conducting a field survey recording the wells and ground-truthing our desk survey.
- The results of the study will be available on a Tipperary Wells website in November.

St. Conan's Well, Cappankeady

SMR: TN031-012

Situated in a slight hollow on a slope of rising ground in an upland area, this is a natural spring well enclosed by a drystone wall surround.

Pattern Day: unknown



St Cronans Well, Inane, Roscrea

SMR: TN017-001001

Situated in a low-lying area at the base of a steep hill this is a covered, circular well with a keyhole plan. A wall encloses five steps which lead down to the entrance. There is a story that St Cronan was kept as a prisoner in this area and that his finger marked the spot where the well is situated.

Pattern Day: 28 April



St Peacauns

Toureen

SMR: TS075-023005

A stone-lined, roughly circular well situated at the base of a slope. Two stone steps lead down to water. There is clear water in the well which never runs dry. On the S side of the well, inserted in the top of the wall of the well, there is a cross-slab (TS075-023044-). Nearby there is a bullaun (TS075-023073-) apparently brought to this location c. 1990 from neighbouring Ballydrehid townland. S of this stone there is a millstone which was also transported from Ballydrehid c. 1990.

Pattern Day: 1 August



St Columba's Well

Terryglass

SMR: TN006-003005

Located north of Terryglass village c. 3m west of a nearby stream with a linear earthwork nearby; part of the monastic complex. A roughly circular-shaped well enclosed by a semi circular shaped stone wall .There is a small crucifix in a niche on the inner face of the enclosing wall. According to the OS Name Books the well is dedicated to St Colmcille and is used by local people as a cure for headaches.



The Bell Well, Rossacrow, Annacarty

SMR: TS051-019

Natural spring well enclosed by modern sandstone canopy which was constructed recently along with access road from main road. The well has no surviving religious associations. This was classified in the SMR (1992) and the RMP (1997) as a 'Holy well'.



St Patricks Well

Carraigatoher

SMR: TN020-056

Situated on flat pasture in an upland area. A natural spring well of rectangular shape enclosed by a stone canopy set. No votive offerings are visible. According to the OS Letters the well was visited on St Patrick's Day and every Saturday for its curative powers (O'Flanagan 1930, vol. 3, 115). Stone on top of wall beside swing gate has several holes on the upper surface which appear to be water solution holes rather than prehistoric rock art. St. Patrick's stone (TN020-056001-) 25m to SW.

Pattern Day :17th March



Youghal Village

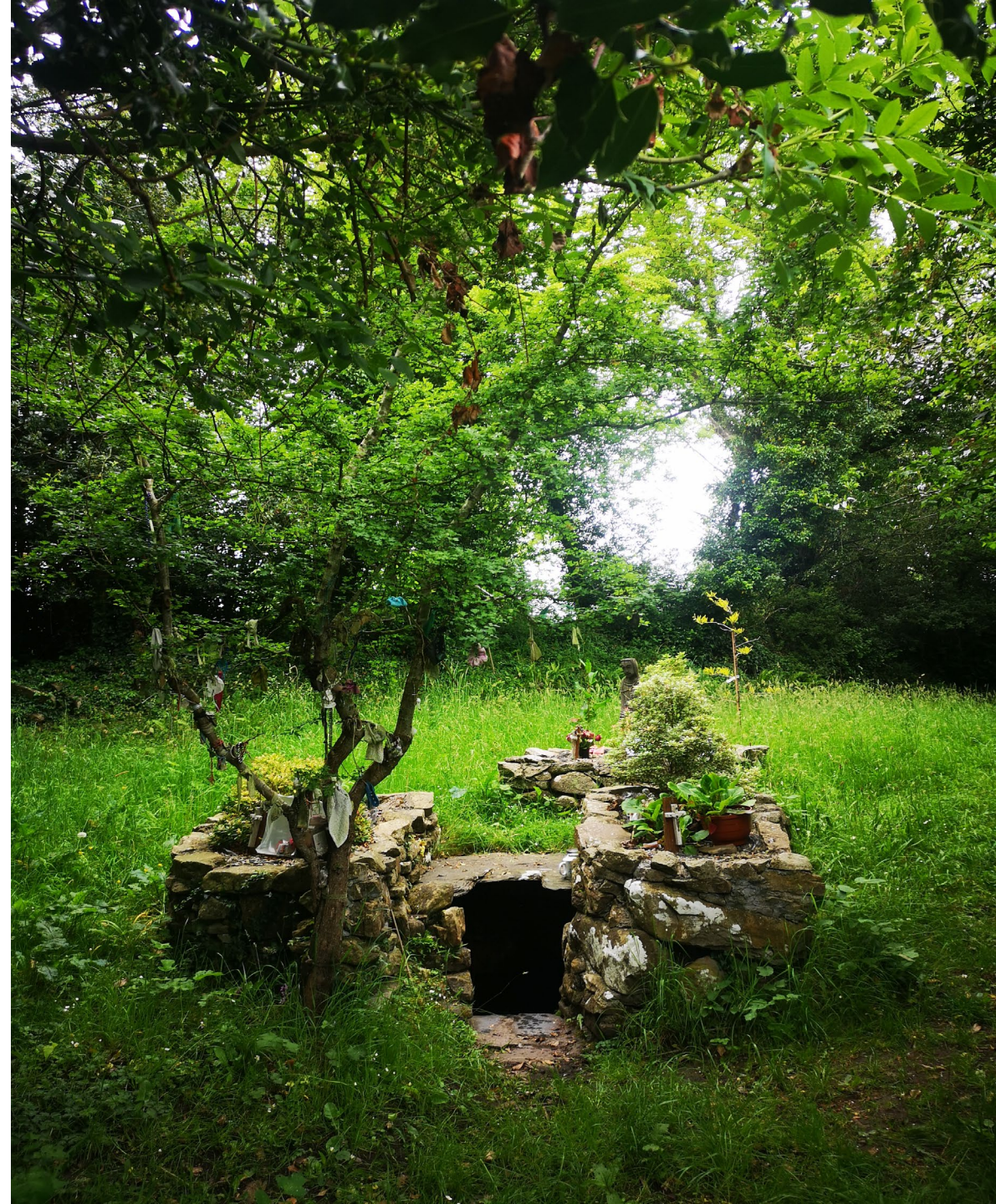
SMR: TN014-044001

The Holy Well at Youghal is associated with St Conlan and was described in 1840 as a place at which, 'diseases were said to be cured and superstitious ceremonies performed'

The well consists of a natural spring which flows into an open pond. It has been enclosed by a hexagonal drystone wall and covered by a flat slab of slate which has been vertically cut to allow easy access to the water.

Several small wooden painted crosses have been inserted on top of the wall and on a small mound surrounding the well. There is a rag tree (hawthorn) in front of the well and a stone altar to the rear containing a wooden statue possibly representing St Conlan.

Pattern day: inconclusive, some stories are 25 or 29 July.



St Ruadhans Well

Lorrha

SMR TN004-010007

On the roadside , opposite the remains of the Augustinian Priory, is a well known as Ruadhans Well.

It is a rectangular and enclosed by a D Shaped stone wall with cobblestone paving. It is believed to have been part of the original monastic site.

The bell of St Ruadhan which was found in the well is housed in the British Museum London.



St James Well

Churchfield

SMR: TS058-027

A semi-circular, sunken area defined by a relatively modern, stone-lined retaining wall. A wall of finely cut stone has been raised above ground level and forms a semi-circular arch above the well. A semi-circular opening in the rear wall allows a view into the well area. There are four steps down into the well. According to a plaque at the entrance, 'local tradition claims that this well has curative properties for poor or failing eyesight and is dedicated to St. James'. According to local folklore, O'Sullivan Beare and his henchmen quenched their thirst here before retiring to Rathvira fort.

Pattern Day : 25 July



Tobar losa

Caherabbey

SMR: TS075-044001

Area is currently a landscaped public amenity. Entrance with gate from the road and a trackway leads to the well called 'Tobar losa' (Jesus' Well) which is key-hole shaped in plan. There are two modern shrines NW of the well, containing statues and prayers, though the smaller, more elaborate, shrine also contains an incised cross-slab (TS075-044002-)

Pattern Day: Christmas Eve (until 19th century)

