

### St. Colmcille and Ballymagowan <sup>1</sup> 55.17187,-7.67899

St. Colmcille was a great prophet who was given protection by the Campbell's of Ballymagowan at a time when he was being pursued by many and frequently feared for his life. They hid him for two days in a wreck at the shore and gave him meat to eat. He blessed the Campbell family and he prophesied that they would always have plenty.<sup>2</sup>

### Church of Christ the Redeemer, Rosnakill <sup>3</sup> 55.18865,-7.6877

Our Parish name is Clondavaddog (Clondevaddock), derived from the Irish word Cluan, meaning a retreat and Davaddog our patron saint. He founded and presided over a monastery in Rosnakill in the middle of the 6th century and foretold of St. Colmcille's coming. The people of Fanad began building a place of worship on a nearby hill but each night their work was destroyed.



At this time St. Davaddog arrived with the first donkey ever seen in Fanad. He told the people to fill the panniers with stones and that his donkey would lead the people to the correct place for the erection of the church. The donkey went to a rocky spot and lying down deposited his load and thus the location of the monastery was determined. St. Davaddog's Catholic Church stood on the site of this old monastery at Rosnakill until 1610 when it was removed from Catholic ownership.<sup>3</sup>

### St. Colmcille and Ballina <sup>4</sup> 55.19512,-7.69457 St. Colmcille and the Keadue Bridge <sup>2</sup> 55.18218,-7.68332

St. Colmcille prophesied that blood would be shed in Fanad and that the blood would not flow through Ballina Bridge.<sup>4</sup>

### St. Colmcille and Moross <sup>5</sup> 55.19552,-7.7095

The first permanent settlement of the MacSuibhne clan in Ireland was in Fanad and they had a castle in Moross. "Leabhar Chlainne Suibhne", an early sixteenth century manuscript commissioned by Máire, daughter of Eoghan O'Máille and wife of MacSuibhne, Fanad, documents how it had been the custom of the MacSuibhne chiefs, while they were in Scotland, to be inaugurated in Iona by the successor of St. Colmcille. After they came to Ireland this task was given to O'Frighil who inaugurated their chiefs in St. Colmcille's birth place, Kilmacrennan.



Another story, recorded for the first time, in "Leabhar Chlainne Suibhne" is that of "The Cathach", a manuscript allegedly copied by St. Colmcille leading to a dispute about its ownership. King Diarmuid was consulted and he pronounced the following judgement: "To every cow its calf, to every book its copy".<sup>5</sup>

### St. Colmcille and Mulroy Bay & Kinnalough Lake <sup>14</sup> 55.24679,-7.68633

There are many stories regarding St. Colmcille and the catching of salmon and trout in particular in Mulroy Bay and Kinnalough.

The stories refer to local fishermen refusing to share their catch resulting in St. Colmcille saying that there would never be salmon or trout caught in these waters thereafter.<sup>6</sup>



### St. Columba's Church Massmount <sup>6</sup> 55.20455,-7.69779

The church was built in 1790 by Rev. J. Friel PP and dedicated to St. Colmcille due to his strong commitment and lasting spiritual legacy in the Parish of Clondavaddog. St. Columba's Massmount is the oldest Catholic Church in the Diocese of Raphoe. A landowner, Mr. Patton, gifted the plot at Massmount to the Catholics of the Parish in 1797. It is assumed that this site was one of the places where Mass was celebrated during the Penal times and the exact location is thought to be marked today by a shelving rock under a precipice to the west of the present church. St. Columba's was renovated in the time of the Rev. Aengus O'Friel who was PP from 1819-1833 and extended, re-roofed and a bell-tower added in 1843 during the time of Fr. Daniel O'Donnell. The bell is of some historical importance. It was placed there by a Fr. O'Boyce in the year 1843. He had attended Daniel O'Connell's monster meeting at Tara in the August of that year. On that memorable Sunday it was estimated that one million Catholics were assembled. Masses were celebrated by more than one hundred priests. As a souvenir and as a necessary addition to the Church Fr. O'Boyce purchased one of the bells that had been rung in Tara to notify the worshippers that Mass was about to be celebrated.<sup>7</sup>



### St. Colmcille and Springfield <sup>7</sup> 55.20907,-7.678

St. Colmcille is said to have thrown a rock into a field in Springfield and warned that as long as the rock remained untouched, there would be no mice or rats in Fanad.<sup>8</sup> Locals recount that the rock was moved and the mice and rats returned thereafter.

### St. Davaddog's well, Doaghmore <sup>8</sup> 55.22937,-7.75397

Many people come to this well looking for cures. They say special prayers and lift a bottle of holy water which they bring home to bless themselves and their families. Some believe that St. Davaddog is buried at his well in Doaghmore.<sup>9</sup> There is also a small graveyard, known as a cillin, beside this well where unbaptised children were buried.<sup>10</sup> There are many Holy Wells in the parish of Clondavaddog. St. Patrick's (Ballure <sup>15</sup>, Ballylar <sup>17</sup>,<sup>11</sup> Glenvar <sup>29</sup>), St. Brigid's <sup>28</sup> (Magherawarden) along with St. Davaddog's (Doaghmore). All three saints foretold of the coming of St. Colmcille.<sup>12</sup>



### St. Colmcille and Umricam <sup>10</sup> 55.17924,-7.7196

During St. Colmcille's time in Umricam he said that a man from Fanad would never be hanged. He also predicted that Umricam would always have a white horse and a "madman" in the townland.<sup>13</sup>

### St. Colmcille and Tullyconnell <sup>9</sup> 55.22072,-7.74828

St. Colmcille said that a wood would never grow in Tullyconnell.<sup>14</sup>

### St. Colmcille and Between the Waters <sup>11</sup> 55.18606,-7.72347

At Ballymagowan St. Colmcille looked at the area known locally as Between the Waters, he pitied them and said that all he prophesied would not come to pass.<sup>15</sup>

### St. Colmcille in Cashel and Rinboy <sup>12</sup> 55.23333,-7.73283 <sup>13</sup> 55.2476,-7.73582

As recorded in The Derry Journal, 1917 "The political history of his time confirms the belief that St. Davaddog was a disciple of St. Columba/St. Colmcille. It is an indisputable fact that the princes who ruled Fanad in those days belonged to the descendants of Sedna through Ainmire. They were the predominant and most powerful chieftains of the Clan Conaill and several of them were elevated to the Ardrighship of Ireland in the seventh and the beginning of the eighth centuries. The descendants of these chiefs ruled the Fanad territory until the fourteenth century after which the Clan Lugaigh took over. They lived in Cashel, or more correctly, Rinboy and their lands were, in part, annexed at the plantation to the Rectory Glebe. As the ruling Chief was thus allied by blood to St. Columba it is natural that a religious foundation of Columban monks should be established in the territory."<sup>16</sup>

### St. Colmcille and Shannagh <sup>16</sup> 55.25029,-7.66617

St. Colmcille is reputed to have said that trees wouldn't grow in Shannagh.<sup>17</sup>

### St. Colmcille in Carrowblagh <sup>18</sup> 55.22229,-7.62455

It is obvious that St. Colmcille spent a lot of time in Carrowblagh and the surrounding area, this is very evident from his many prophecies relating to that district. The following are some of his prophecies about Carrowblagh:

- Food would always be plentiful in Carrowblagh.
- There would be a battle in the valley of Carrowblagh.
- The Danes would land in Portsalon and a fight would occur on Carrowblagh hill.
- A battle would take place and a sick man would be turned in his bed three times to see if he could go to battle.

Roskirk <sup>22</sup>, Doaghcrabbin <sup>21</sup>, Drumnacraig <sup>19</sup>, Glenfanad <sup>23</sup> and Ballybolagan <sup>20</sup> are also mentioned, these areas all neighbour one another.<sup>18</sup>

### St. Colmcille's well, Carrowblagh <sup>24</sup> 55.22683,-7.62257 Droim na Leabhar <sup>25</sup> 55.22718,-7.63568

The Turas pilgrimage runs from the ninth to the eighteenth of June. Legend has it that around 550 AD St. Colmcille was travelling in the Fanad area when he mislaid his prayer book at a place, locally known as, Droim na Leabhar. The saint came across a deer drinking from the well at Carrowblagh and the prayer book was impaled upon the deer's antlers. Delighted at having found the prayer book, a spring burst forth at that spot and St. Colmcille blessed the well which has been a place of pilgrimage ever since.<sup>19</sup>



A commemorative piece made from a deer antler mounted on bog oak is displayed in the shrine at St. Columba's Church, Massmount. An icon in the form of an oak statue of St. Colmcille has also been commissioned for inclusion at this shrine. These pieces were created by parishioners to mark the special spiritual legacy of St. Colmcille in Clondavaddog and create a link between the Turas Well and St. Columba's Church, Massmount.



### Prayers at the Turas Well

Prayers are said at each of the 3 stations and as people walk around the cairn of stones.

**Stations 1 & 2**  
5 Our Father's, 5 Hail Mary's & 5 Glory Be's  
**Station 3**  
7 Our Father's, 7 Hail Mary's & 7 Glory Be's



Then walk around the cairn 3 times reciting the Rosary as you go, throwing a stone on top of the cairn each time. Conclude the remainder of the rosary in front of the well. Pilgrims can make the Turas in their bare feet as was customary in the past.

Water is lifted at the well and many people firmly believe in the curative and healing properties associated with the well. It is customary to leave an offering/memento at the well for healing through the intercession of St. Colmcille.<sup>20</sup>

### St. Colmcille and Portsalon <sup>26</sup> 55.20673,-7.62424

The following are some of the prophecies that St. Colmcille foretold about Portsalon:

- A time would come when the Barton family would no longer reside in Fanad.
- A line would be built between the crossroads and Portsalon.
- Warriors will come into Portsalon and kill all the people as far as Gartan. There will be a priest reading Mass which will stop the killing.<sup>21</sup>

### St. Colmcille and Loch Bran, Aughadreena <sup>27</sup> 55.19571,-7.65563

St. Colmcille prophesied that a train would go through Loch Bran before the end of the world.<sup>22</sup>

### St. Colmcille and Lough Swilly <sup>29</sup> 55.16772,-7.56023

The Lough takes its name from a monster fish known as the one eyed fish. We are told that Saint Colmcille caught the fish and killed it. Eventually this sea inlet became known as Loch Súilí, Lough Swilly.<sup>23</sup>

### St. Colmcille and Martello Tower/Macamish Fort <sup>30</sup> 55.13451,-7.52765

On the edge of Lough Swilly is a place called Muc Shamhais which was prophesied about by St. Colmcille when he said "two guns shall be mounted on the pig's back." This prophecy came to fruition when the Martello Tower was constructed at Muck Amish.<sup>24</sup>

1.	St. Colmcille and Ballymagowan	55.17187,-7.67899
2.	St. Colmcille and the Keadue Bridge	55.18218,-7.68332
3.	Church of Christ the Redeemer, Rosnakill	55.18865,-7.6877
4.	St. Colmcille and Ballina	55.19512,-7.69457
5.	St. Colmcille and Moross	55.19552,-7.7095
6.	St. Columba's Church, Massmount	55.20455,-7.69779
7.	St. Colmcille and Springfield	55.20907,-7.678
8.	St. Davaddog's well, Doaghmore	55.22937,-7.75397
9.	St. Colmcille and Tullyconnell	55.22072,-7.74828
10.	St. Colmcille and Umricam	55.17924,-7.7196
11.	St. Colmcille and Between the Waters	55.18925,-7.7262
12.	St. Colmcille and Cashel	55.23333,-7.73283
13.	St. Colmcille and Rinboy	55.2476,-7.73582
14.	St. Colmcille and Kinnalough	55.24679,-7.68633
15.	St. Patrick's well, Ballure	55.26626,-7.65753
16.	St. Colmcille and Shannagh	55.25029,-7.66617
17.	St. Patrick's well, Ballylar	55.24682,-7.67369
18.	St. Colmcille in Carrowblagh	55.22229,-7.62455
19.	Drumnacraig	55.23584,-7.62417
20.	Ballybolagan	55.22666,-7.63109
21.	Doaghcrabbin	55.229,-7.61307
22.	Roskirk	55.22551,-7.64569
23.	Glenfanad	55.22021,-7.63503
24.	St. Colmcille's well, Carrowblagh	55.22683,-7.62257
25.	St. Colmcille and Droim na Leabhar	55.22718,-7.63568
26.	St. Colmcille and Portsalon	55.20562,-7.63507
27.	St. Colmcille and Loch Bran	55.19571,-7.65563
28.	St. Brigid's well, Magherawarden	55.1872,-7.6023
29.	St. Patrick's well, Glenvar	55.15942,-7.58818
30.	St. Colmcille and Martello Tower/Macamish Fort	55.13852,-7.5223
31.	St. Colmcille's Chair	55.1416,-7.6426
32.	Hawk's Nest	55.11786,-7.68806
33.	St. Colmcille and Lough Columbkille	55.09209,-7.6799

All points on the map are for locational reference only and do not guarantee automatic right of access.

### St. Colmcille's Chair, Knockalla <sup>31</sup> 55.14558,-7.65115

It is claimed by local people that St. Colmcille rested at this spot as he journeyed from the Turas Well in Carrowblagh to Lough Columbkille outside Milford. Coincidentally the three locations are positioned on a straight line on the map.



### St. Colmcille and The Hawk's Nest <sup>32</sup> 55.11786,-7.68806

The Hawk's Nest was a large stone that stood on the right hand side of the road to Kerrykeel from Milford. Legend has it that St. Colmcille prophesied that the Hawk's Nest would fall on a red haired girl carrying a basket of eggs from Kerrykeel to Milford.<sup>25</sup> Another prophecy states that this stone would fall on three fair haired men from Fanad.<sup>26</sup>

### St. Colmcille and Lough Columbkille <sup>33</sup> 55.09209,-7.6799

Lough Columbkille is situated in a hollow in the mountain about half a mile east of Milford. St. Colmcille's Chair is in the townland of Kilwarry. Near the chair are two unusual rock markings reputed to have been made by the saint. One is in the shape of a fish, representing Christianity, and the other shows the imprint of a kneeling saint.<sup>27</sup>