

## Kells Priory

Townland: Rathduff (Madden)  
 Parish: Dunnamaggin  
 Ownership: KK Co.Co.  
 Rothe House No: TG10g  
 BG No: 41  
 RMP No: 27-29-04  
 Geolocation: E 649717, N 643343 (ITM)  
 52.539162, -7.267111 (WGS 84)  
 Recorded by: Mrs Madge Buggy  
 Survey Date: 1972

### Foreword: by M. Buggy

Kells Priory (Augustinian) was founded in 1193 A.D. Tombstones are present in the Priory and in the adjacent graveyard. In the Choir there is an oblong slab with cross surmounting shield as in St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny. Coat of Arms, with rosettes and shell and a chevron. There is a motto - "In the Lord is all our trust" and the words "Here lies the body of Margaret ----" (name gone). Healy (1893) p 367 recorded the inscription as referring to Margaret de Preston, heir from 1362, sister of Sir Walter Fitzwalter de Bermingham.

Other fragments of tombstones in the Priory include two supports like cupids, fragments of raised crosses and two complete incised crosses (see Carr) one extra large one ending in Fleur-de-lis. There is an incised cross on Calvary in the North aisle Chapel. In the North transept are four monuments - to Hennessy, Conolly, Lewis and Merry and to the left of main Gateway is a fallen monument to Ryans. Side by side outside the North transept are two upright monuments to Dorans of Kellsgrange. Outside the Priory is a Graveyard with a number of monuments only 9 of which are legible.

### Inscriptions:

Name	Tomb No.	Inscription
Bride & McBride	1	(Two slabs inside stone border. Outer Grave Yard.) Erected by John Bride of Garnaman in memory of his son Richard Bride who departed March 31 <sup>st</sup> 1839 aged 25. In loving memory of Richard McBride, Garnaman (beside Bride) who died June 1901, his wife Anne McBride died Dec. 1932, his son Patrick died October 1948 and his daughter Margaret died March 1943. Mary McBride, Grovine died June 1910. John died March 1923. Kate McBride, Kells died 1 <sup>st</sup> February 1937. James died 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 1946. R.I.P. Stone mason - Molloy, Callan.

Cleer	3	(Small upright in outer grave yard, well cut) Here lyes ye body of Cornelius Cleer died December 1737. Catherine Cleer his wife deceased 1739. Erected by their son Peter Cleer.
Conelly	4	(Large upright leaning against wall. North aisle of Priory.) Erected by James Conelly of Knocktopher in memory of his son Sylvester who died June 9 <sup>th</sup> 1823 aged 44. Also two of his children.
Delahunty	6	(Upright in outer Grave Yard.) Erected by Michael Delahunty, Goodwinsgardens in memory of his beloved mother Mary Delahunty alias Hennessy who died November 27 <sup>th</sup> 1872 aged 58? Also his grandfather Michael Hennessy who died April 9 <sup>th</sup> 1855 aged 72. Also his grandmother Elizabeth Hennessy alias Goodborn (name not clear) died January 25 <sup>th</sup> 1843 aged 62.
Doran (1)	7	(Upright side by side outside North transept.) Here lies the body of James Doran, Kellsgrange who died 16 <sup>th</sup> October 1888 in the 67 <sup>th</sup> year of his age.
Doran (2)	8	Here lieth the body of William Doran of Kellsgrange who died April 6 <sup>th</sup> . 1805 aged 22 years. R.I.P.
Hanly	10	(Upright leaning forward. Outer graveyard.) Erected by Richard Hanly, Garnaman in memory of his mother Elinor Hanly who died June 6 <sup>th</sup> 1819.
Harris	11	(Upright near outer grave yard.) Erected by John Harris of Danganbeg in memory of his beloved wife Elizabeth who died - - - - -. Also Connell who died 15 <sup>th</sup> May 1827 aged 17 years.
Hickey	12	(Upright near railed in plot in outer grave yard.) Here lies interred the body of Edward Hickey. He died 23 <sup>rd</sup> December, 1765 aged 27 years.
Henecy	13	(Upright in North aisle beside tomb with 2 heads in high relief.) Erected by Patrick Henecy in memory of his father in law Edmund Brennan who died April 20 <sup>th</sup> 1790 aged 74. R.I.P. Also his wife Bridget Henecy who died April 26 <sup>th</sup> 1798 aged 54 and three of their children.
Lewis	15	(Upright now lying down, next to Conelly. North aisle.) This stone was erected by Steven Lewis in memory of his son John Lewis, Newmarket. He departed February 1 <sup>st</sup> 1783 aged 15.
Merry	17	(Part only of an upright, North aisle.) --- Merry ---- 1722. Erected by Pierce Merry her son who died 1720. Also Walter Merry her husband.
Morrissey	18	(Upright Latin Cross, head nearby. Inscription on base.) Erected by Mary Morrissey in memory of father Thomas D'Arcy who died March 29 <sup>th</sup> 1889 aged 58. Also her brother James died March 27 <sup>th</sup> 1912 aged 36, and her beloved mother who died February 23 <sup>rd</sup> 1913 aged 76

		and her sister who died young. Stone mason - Gargan.
Murphy	19	(Upright in outer Grave yard.) Erected by Catherine Murphy of Jerpoint in memory of her father Thomas Scanlon, Killiney who died 1848 aged 75. Also her mother Anastasia Scanlon died 1850 aged 74.
Ryan	21	(Upright now lying on ground. To left of main gateway of Priory.) This stone was erected by will of Elizabeth Ryan and in memory of herself and her brother Patrick Ryan who both lie here interred. R.I.P. (Note: No date on this.)
Shee	23	(Upright full of lichen. Outer grave yard.) Here lie interred the body of Honor Shee alias Mack wife of Mr Peter Shee who departed 16 <sup>th</sup> May 1779. R.I.P.
Preston (de)	24	(In Priory, see Foreword) Margaret de Preston

## Index

Name	Embedded & Referenced Names	Tomb No.
Brennan	See Hennecy	13
Bride	McBride	2
Cleer		3
Conelly		4
D'Arcy	See Morrissy	18
Delahunty	Goodborn, Hennessy	6
Doran (1)		7
Doran (2)		8
Goodborn	See Delahunty	6
Hanly		10
Harris		11
Hennecy	Brennan	13
Hennessy	See Delahunty	6
Hickey		12
Lewis		15
Mack	See Shee	23
McBride	See Bride	2
Merry		17
Morrissy	D'Arcy	18
Murphy	Scanlon	19
Preston (de)		24
Ryan		21
Scanlon	See Murphy	19
Shee	Mack	23