

# Templerushin, Holywell Church

## Fact Sheet



### Background

Templerushin is situated on the northern shore of Upper Lough MacNean, close to the village of Belcoo. The hamlet of Holywell takes its name from the nearby holy well dedicated to St Patrick.

The origins of the original church are unknown, although there is an oral tradition that it was dedicated to St. Ultan, dating it to the 9th or early 10th century.

As Lady Dorothy Lowry Corry noted in 1935, it does not appear on maps relating to the Plantation period and she believed it to date to the 13th century.



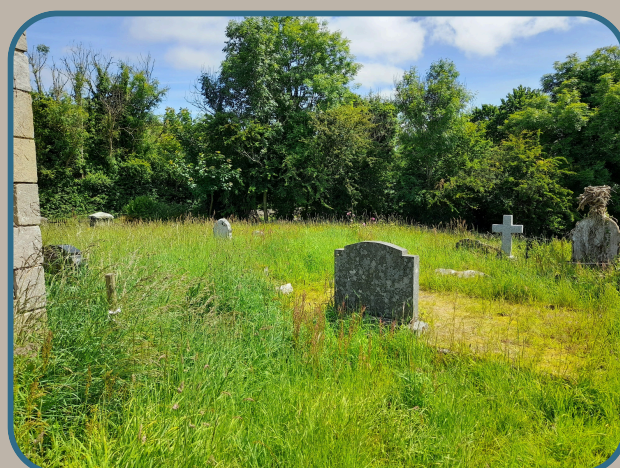
### Church

At present the ruins are those of a small medieval church with a lancet window. An interesting feature of the church are the wall cavities (aumbries). Two cavities in the east end of the church were used for holding church vessels, a cavity in the west wall was for the storage of vestments.

In the summer of 1930 Canon McKenna and Lady Dorothy Lowry Corry drew attention to the poor condition of the church building ensuring partial work in preserving the building.

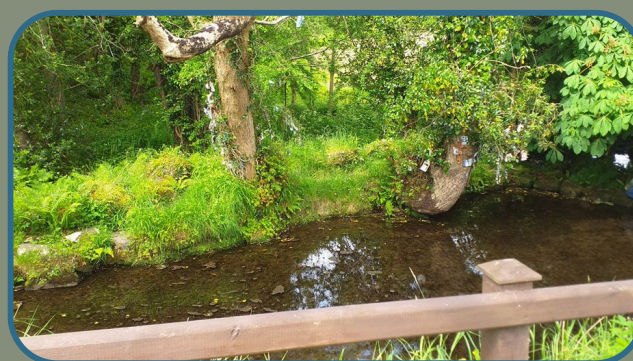
The church is at the centre of number of monuments with a holy well and penitential stones. There is a bullaun stone in the graveyard and a stone cross.

“The Market Cross” is a small plain Latin cross made from local sandstone, dating to the 18th century. It is said to originally have been in the village of Holywell and used as a site for sealing deals.



### Holywell

Across the road from the church is the Holywell proper. The well is a large shallow pool; it is known as “Davagh Phadric” or Patrick’s Tub. The Register of Clogher states that the well of spring water sprang up at the prayer of St. Sinell. The well is noted for its healing qualities, particularly of nervous disorders. Every year penitential stations were performed here from the last Saturday in July until August 15th. Pilgrims would tie rags on the bushes near to the holy well and on the ivy twigs in the church. Prayers were said at two points marked by large boulders.







Lough Erne is home to many religious sites, places of gathering, learning, worship, and burial. Today, we can trace these places along the lough as they quietly sit as timely reminders of a once thriving early Christian community.