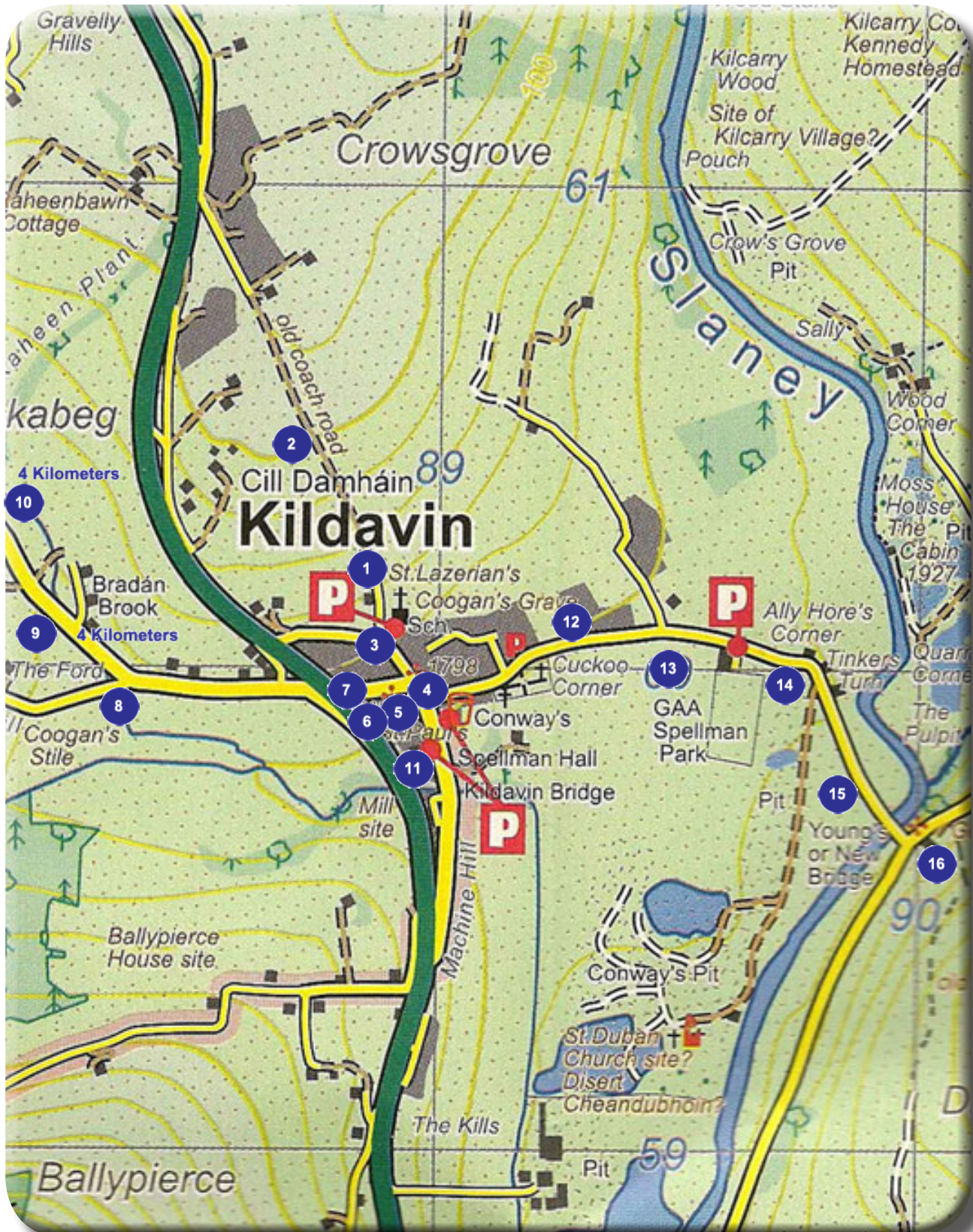




A Walking Tour of Kildavin

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St. Lazerian's Catholic Church (No. 1)



This church dates to circa 1830. Initially it was a fairly simple building and in 1860 was described as having a mud floor and no seats. The Parish Priest at that time, Fr. Dunne, arranged for a stone floor to be installed and also for the seating arrangements to be improved. This work was funded by selling some of the 'seats' to more wealthy parishioners. £7 and upwards could guarantee you a family seat.

The name of Cardinal Spellman is associated with Kildavin and his grandmother and ancestors are to be found in the graveyard surrounding St Lazerian's Church.

Above the sanctuary is written the Latin phrase; HIC DOMUS DEI EST, ET PORTA COELI (Here is the House of God and the Gateway to Heaven)

The church has undergone renovations in recent years having had the slates replaced in 2009 and all the windows and carpets replaced in the recent past.

Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas O'Byrne, Parochial House, Myshall, Co. Carlow.

Old Coach Road at side of R.C. Church (No. 2)



The lane at the side of the Roman Catholic Church in Kildavin is part of the old Coach Road. This road ran along the west side of the River Slaney. Horse drawn coaches travelling from the Midlands to Enniscorthy and Ferns used it. There were no bridges in Bunclody or Tullow at the time of its use.

Dinny Ring was one of its most famous coach men and there is plenty of local lore about his feats including his ability to lasso a duck from a pond with his horsewhip as he passed in order to provide for his dinner.

Kildavin National School (No. 3)



Kildavin NS was built on the present site in 1959, replacing the old school. The school is located in an area of stunning natural beauty next to the R.C. Church in the heart of the village. The school is a co-ed, six teacher school under the patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

The school enjoys the use of the facilities of Spellman Hall in the village and of Spellman Park G.A.A. Complex for P.E. and other activities. The school works closely with the local G.A.A. in order to provide a full range of Gaelic games for both boys and girls. In addition to this the children have opportunities to take part in inter school competitions in a wide variety of activities to cater for all interests.

Each of the five classrooms is equipped with interactive white board, children's computers and library.

The school has been awarded two green flags to date and is currently working towards the third. School management supports the efforts of the village in the tidy town competition and has received favourable mention in the judge's reports.

1798 Memorial (No. 4)



Erected in 1998 as part of the bi-centenary celebrations. The centre stone was taken from the land of Joe Byrne of Ballinavocran outside Bunclody. It was built by Gabriel Tobin. It was unveiled by local historian Nicky Furlong on August 15th 1998 and news of the infamous Enniskillen bombing arrived in the village during the ceremony.

St. Paul's Church of Ireland (No. 5)



St. Paul's is a Board of First Fruits Church similar to many others in the country. The Board of First Fruits was set up to enable a programme of church building throughout the country so that every one had a church within walking distance. There were four suggested plans and it is possible to see examples of these in many different locations in Ireland. This church was built in 1811 at a cost of £850 and is built entirely of granite. The east end was added in 1880, the sand used in the building being dug from the foundations. There is an arch visible in the wall which looks as if it might be for an extension but in fact this was a strengthening feature due to a fault in the sandy ground below the wall. The silver in use dates back to 1812 and was originally used in the old church of Barragh a mile or so away. When Barragh, a very much older church, was destroyed by fire the present church of Kildavin replaced it. There was a Sexton's house and stables in the grounds until the nineteen seventies but this was demolished and the site is now part of the church grounds used for car parking. The Church and graveyard was once surrounded by country fields and looked idyllic in old photographs. Now it is situated at a crossroads surrounded by houses in the recently bypassed village of Kildavin. The Church is lovingly cared for and has a very loyal congregation who attend most faithfully.

Wildlife Garden The site of the Old Ball Alley erected in 1924 (No. 6)



This was built in 1924 on land provided by the Murphy Family of Ballinvalley. The Roberts family of Kildavin were involved in Building it. There was a handball club in Kildavin up to recently when the Ball Alley was replaced by a community garden. The garden was designed by Bernie Kinsella MLA, Dip. Hort.

Weighbridge (No. 7)



Some years after the formation of a local branch of the farmers Union in Clonegal in 1919 a Bridge committee was formed to raise £100 from the state. £10 per head was donated by local farmers. The site was provided by the Murphy family of Ballinvalley and early users of the facility paid 3d per animal.

The Ford at cross Roads after village, was an old crossing point on the River (No. 8)



Current Bridge built in 1933 there were only stepping stones up to then

Barragh Church (No. 9)

No Image Available

The site is just outside Kildavin which was once part of Barragh Parish. The church was founded by St. Finian in the 4th Century. It was sacked by Cromwell in 1650. It is believed that a Golden Tabernacle Door, Gold Chalices and other Gold items were hid on the site but to this day have not been found. This site is 4 kilometers from the point on the map.

Cranavane Well (No. 10)



Though the well is marked 300m from the road on the OS map it is much closer. The narrow path is well cared for but better to walk. This is a beautiful spot to stop and be quiet and enjoy the connection with the past. An information board is very informative and gives a snapshot of what this well means for the area.

There are actually two wells here. The upper well is a simple holy well with a stone-built house. The lower well is covered by a simple stone house. In front of the latter is a long coffin-shaped trough. The sign by the entrance to the enclosure says that it was once customary to dunk coffins in this trough before they were taken to be buried at Barragh Church, 400m to the west.

There is a sign warning that the water from both wells is not suitable for drinking.

Cranavane Well - Holy Well

Townland – Ballinvally, Kildavin, County Carlow

Location Approx 4km from Kildavin Village on Myshall Road (Signposted)

Spellman Hall (No. 11)



Spellman Hall Kildavin was built and opened in 1956. The hall is named after Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York whose ancestral grandmother, Ellen Keogh hailed from this region. Cardinal Spellman is also remembered in our wonderful GAA grounds, Spellman Park. Through his generosity we have benefited and the success of both Spellman Hall and Spellman Park are a testament to this.

Cuckoos Corner (Opposite Cemetery) (No. 12)



This was the site of a large deal tree, on which the cuckoo would perch and the first notes of her summer song would be heard.

Spellman GAA Complex (No. 13)



Gaelic football was played in the parish before the turn on the 20th Century. A team was formed in Clonegal in 1888 and some of the Kildavin men joined this club. The first Kildavin team on record was a team of 21 players which represented Kildavin in 1894. In 1912 a game was arranged between Kildavin and Clonegal which Clonegal won by a single point. After this game the enthusiasm led to a meeting in Maria Doyle's (Kinsella's shop) in Kildavin. Further meetings were held in April 1914 and on 26th May 1914 the Junior Football Club was formed. Down the line they were offered a field by Michael Kavanagh of Ballyshancarragh. For a short period in 1918 Kildavin and Clonegal were united on the field but Kildavin decided to go it alone for 1919. In December 1919 Kildavin won their first championship. This was the first time a team from the east of the county had won it.

There were many ups and downs through the years with 1970 being a particularly memorable year. In this year they won the Senior Football Championship and the League while the Junior Hurlers also did the honours.

2009 saw the opening of the new Spellman Park Complex with facilities that any club in Ireland would be proud of. It is our fervent wish that these facilities and the memories of the past will inspire our teams to even greater achievements.

Ally Hore's Corner, Old fashioned Water Pump (No. 14)



Ally Hore was a woman who lived in Crowesgrove in the 1800s. She was famous for not wearing shoes. She was said to be able to carry a bucket of water on her head and knit a stocking at the same time.

Young's Bridge or New Bridge (No. 15)



This masonry arch bridge is of fairly standard design. It straddles the border between counties Carlow and Wexford and replaced an earlier structure, hence the name "New Bridge". It was constructed c. 1800. The segmental arch rings are formed with cut stone granite (semi-ashlar) and the pointed cutwaters upstream and downstream have pyramidal tops. A mass concrete slab has been used to raise the parapets. There are plaques set into the parapet walls, but there does not appear to be any inscription. In Charles Bowden's "Tour of Ireland" (1791) there is a reference to an earlier bridge. Bowden met with a man called Charles Dunroache who lived in Johnstown, Clonegal. It was from a design of Charles Dunroache's drawing that the new bridge was erected at the meeting of the Slaney and Derry rivers. Dunroache worked as a stonemason at this bridge.

Gate of Tears plaque (No. 16)



Plaque marking the old crossing place. It reads:
Before the Bridge and this road existed the River Derry was crossed by means of a ford located at the end of a lane that came over Drumderry Hill. Here emigrants from Clonegal parish had their last view of their native valley and the Wicklow Hills, here too they made their final goodbye to their relatives.
Erected by Historic Section, Clonegal Tidy Towns in conjunction with Carlow County Council 2007.

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