

Hollywood Village History Seminar, Heritage Week 2026

Sunday 23 August

Lecture 1: 12noon

Professor Aidan O'Sullivan (UCD)

"On medieval pilgrimage to Glendalough: archaeological discoveries along St Kevin's Pilgrims Road in the Wicklow mountains"

This lecture will trace some routes for St Kevins Road Pilgrims Road to Glendalough, and outline archaeological excavations of the actual St Kevins road and reflections on scale of that work. We will describe the Lockstown labyrinth stone and think about role of wayside cross-inscribed boulders and pillars, and we will explore the UCD archaeological excavation evidence from a medieval church and graveyard at Templeteenaun, in Ballinagee townland which we think was devoted to pilgrims walking Kevins Road. Finally, we will reflect on medieval pilgrims' arrival at Glendalough.

Aidan is a Valleymount native, who played county hurling for. He is Professor and Head of UCD School of Archaeology, University College Dublin. He directed the archaeological excavations at Templeteenaun, between 2007 and 2014.

Lecture 2: 1pm

Cormac Allen (TUD)

"Archbishop William Magee's 1824 and 1827 Confirmation Tours of Dublin and Glendalough"

Cormac Allen's talk will discuss Archbishop Magee's 1822 consecration of St John the Baptist church in Ballymore Eustace, and his subsequent 1824 and 1827 confirmation tours of Dublin and Glendalough which saw him visit Kilcullen, Blessington, Timolin and Dunlavin, no doubt stopping at the symbolically important sites at Hollywood and Tipperkevin along the way.

Magee's consecration of the then recently completed St John the Baptist church in September 1822 was his first such public act following his elevation to the archiepiscopacy in June that year. My sense is that his 1822 Wicklow visit was something of a pilgrimage for Magee as he contemplated unleashing the ideological Second Reformation movement against the Roman Catholic and dissenting churches in his infamous primary charge of October 1822. Indeed, I would dare to speculate that while in the Ballymore Eustace area, he would have made the journey from Hollywood to Glendalough along the pilgrim road, shortly following which he notoriously

banned the Roman Catholics population from using the cathedral of St Kevin on the ancient site.

The talk concludes with the story of the closure, abandonment and demolition of the Tipperkevin church, and how the stones and cross were used in the construction of the 1894 chancel to St John the Baptist. A somewhat positive end to an otherwise poignant story.

Cormac Allen is an architect, senior lecturer and former Head of Department of Architectural Technology and Conservation at TU Dublin. Cormac is researching the church architecture of the Second Reformation and the role of the Church of Ireland Archbishop William Magee as architectural patron to the Dublin architect John Semple.



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