Church of SS Peter and Paul
Dr George Butler Bishop of Limerick laid the foundation stone of this magnificent Church on 6th July 1879 and it was officially opened in 1889. It is one of the finest examples of Parish Church architecture in Ireland, with its sympathetic adaptations of the outstanding architectural features and decorative motifs from the Collegiate Church and Dominican Priory symbolising the heritage and continuity of the Christian faith in the parish. Other notable features of the church are the beautiful stained glass windows, the Rose window over the main entrance and the fine stonework.

John’s Castle
Built in the 15th Century, the Castle is a fine example of a ‘Peil’ Tower. It is sixty feet high (20 metres) and is battlemented in the Irish style. The Castle has two wide arched openings on the ground floor and this has led to the suggestion that it was originally a town gate. Primarily a citadel, at other times it was also used as an arsenal during the war against Cromwell, the meeting place of Kilmallock Corporation, a school and a blacksmith’s forge.

Blossom Gate
The only surviving gate of the five town gates of Kilmallock, Blossom Gate is situated between the Church of St Peter and Paul and the offices of the Ballyhoura Development Ltd. under NRDP Programme, Shannon Development, and Kilmallock. Hidden away off the main Limerick and Kilmallock Road, it is waiting for you to discover. Half an hour from Limerick, turning left off the N21 at the junction for Beare and Kilmallock.

A Considerable Part of the Original Town Walls is Still to be Seen in Kilmallock. The Most Notable Stretches of Wall, Extends for About a Quarter of a Mile in Length and in Places Reaching Heights of Almost Twenty Feet from the Rear of the Catholic Church to Blossom Gate.

College Gate
This College Gate, dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, was built in the 13th Century. It was served by a College—a community of clerics, which differed from a monastic community in that it did not follow a monastic rule.

The Church has an aisle’d nave, a south transept with a fine 15th century door on the north wall and a chancel where the altar was sited. In the 15th century, the nave and transept were substantially altered. The circular tower attached to the west end of the church may contain part of an actual Round Tower from the 10th or 11th centuries.

Famine Memorial Park (Bully's Acre)
In July 1839, the Kilmallock Board of Guardians decided to build a workhouse in Kilmallock. This was completed early in 1840 and the first of the destitute, 80 in number, were admitted in March 1841. There was a rapid increase in the number of persons in the workhouse during the Famine Years. Countless famine victims were buried in the workhouse burial ground known as “Bully’s Acre”. The Famine Memorial Park is a dignified and fitting testimony to their memory. In the centre of the Park stands a tall limestone structure, with a large limestone cross inset in it. It was officially opened by President Mary McAleese on 9th June 1999.

Dominican Priory
The Priory or “Abbey” as it is called locally, was founded in 1291 on land which the Dominicans acquired with Royal consent from John Bluett, who owned property in the town. The Church has a nave (the main part of the Church where the congregation sat) and a chancel (where the altar was sited), both original late 13th century features, while the early 14th century saw the addition of a south transept, a tall bell tower halfway along the Church’s length and an aisle on both the south side of the nave and the west side of the transept. The quality of architectural detail is very fine and the five-light east window of the church is one of the finest in Ireland. The south transept has a lovely 15th century window with reticulated or honeycomb tracery. The cloister, where the Friars worked and prayed is to the north of the Church, the domestic buildings which were ranged around it originally were much changed in the 15th century.

Know as the Crossroads of Munster, Kilmallock has a colourful history dating back to its origins in the 12th Century.

A View of Kilmallock by John Mulvany. (The National Gallery of Ireland)

Cill Mocheallóg
Anois agus Anallód

Kilmallock, Now and Then

An important Norman town, Kilmallock was at the centre of Ireland’s political development from the 13th through to the 17th centuries, a history that is evident through the rich architectural heritage that are national monuments.
Early Church Site  Kilmallock—Cill Mocheallog, was named after an early seventh century saint Mocheallog who founded a church on Kilmallock Hill just north of the town. The ruins of this Church partly concealed by earth and grass are still visible on Kilmallock Hill.

Archeological Site  Two Neolithic house sites discovered at Tankardstown indicate that man inhabited the Kilmallock area between 4,500 and 5,000 years ago.

19th Century traditional Workers’ Cottages on the southern outskirts of Kilmallock on the main road to Charleville. There are two cottages each with its own plot of land to the rear of the buildings. Both are single storey with a loft area in each, which would originally have enclosed the sleeping accommodation with access by ladder from the Common Room, in which there was an open fireplace.

Museum and Information Centre  It contains a model of the Kilmallock Norman town with commentary as well as a wide range of artefacts relating to Kilmallock’s history. A row of traditional terraced cottages are to be seen in Wolfe Tone Street.

Holy Well  House where Aindrias Mac Craith died in 1795. He is widely acknowledged as the last great Gaelic Poet of the 18th century and his pen name—An Mangaire Súgach (The Merry Pedlar)—is well known in the annals of Irish Literature.

Ring Forts  There are several Ring Forts—pre-Christian farmsteads—within the parish of Kilmallock as well as an Anglo-Norman moated site in Portauns measuring an impressive 120 metres in diameter.

Church of Ireland, St. Peter and Paul  Built of brick, designed by F. G. Hicks and opened in 1938. It has a very attractive interior.

Riverside Park  A Linear Park of three acres beside the Loughor River, giving magnificent views of the most notable historical buildings in the town eg. the Collegiate Church and the Dominican Abbey. It contains some good old trees and was developed by Limerick County Council in 1995.

Friars’ Gate Theatre and Art Gallery  One of the most intimate theatres in Munster. It stages a variety of recognised playwrights and productions and is also a centre for Art Exhibitions.

Site of Market Cross  This was the central market area of a Norman town where proclamations and punishments were carried out. The cross was still standing as late as 1777.

Site of John’s Gate  Site of Martyr’s Monument  Site of Ivy Gate  Site of Water Gate  Site of Friar’s Gate  Site of John’s Castle  Site of Fenian Monument  Site of John’s Gate  Site of Martyr’s Monument  Site of Ivy Gate  Site of Water Gate  Site of Friar’s Gate  Site of John’s Castle  Site of Fenian Monument

Blossom Gate  Courthouse and County Council Office  This was formally the administrative section of the Kilmallock workhouse.

SS. Peter & Paul, Church  Dominican Priory  Museum and Information Centre  It contains a model of the Kilmallock Norman town with commentary as well as a wide range of artefacts relating to Kilmallock’s history. A row of traditional terraced cottages are to be seen in Wolfe Tone Street.

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