

## KILLIMER

### OUT AND ABOUT: MOLOUGHA, BIRTHPLACE OF ST. SENAN.

Tradition holds that St Patrick prophesied the birth of Senan. It is said that Patrick was on the other side of the Shannon Estuary when some people from Corca Baiscinn came to ask him to cross over into Clare. Patrick declined saying that God would raise up a great saint in Clare, named Senan who would be 'a candle of God's household.' Whatever about the truth of this prophecy, in 488, Senan, bishop, founder and abbot of the monastery of Inis Cathaigh was born in Molougha, in Killimer parish. His parents were named Erean and Comgella.

The ancient manuscripts tell of Senan's life. From his early years, he was recognised as having special gifts. As a boy he studied under the Abbott Cassidan and later at Kilnamanagh, in Kilkenny. He went on pilgrimage to Europe, reputedly as far as Rome. On his return, he set up the monastery of Inis Cathaigh.

Molougha has always been a very special, holy place. For generations people came here to 'do the rounds' and pray. Many people in the parish still remember the 'Pattern' celebrated here on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Nowadays, an annual walk takes place from Molougha to Knockerra Church around the 8th of March, Senan's Feastday. Molougha is also a parish graveyard and is a peaceful and tranquil place to sit and contemplate. Across the field is St Senan's Well and a flagstone, said to mark the birthplace of Senan and Imy.

### SMAOINEAMH

*Divine Light, Radiant Holy One, Light of all Lights,  
We call upon the saints to be with us, especially Senan and Imy.  
We remember how each one brought a touch of your light  
into our world.  
We recall how each one reflected the radiance of your goodness.  
We recount their loving deeds and rejoice in their faithfulness.  
(Joyce Rupp: Out of the Ordinary, adapted).*