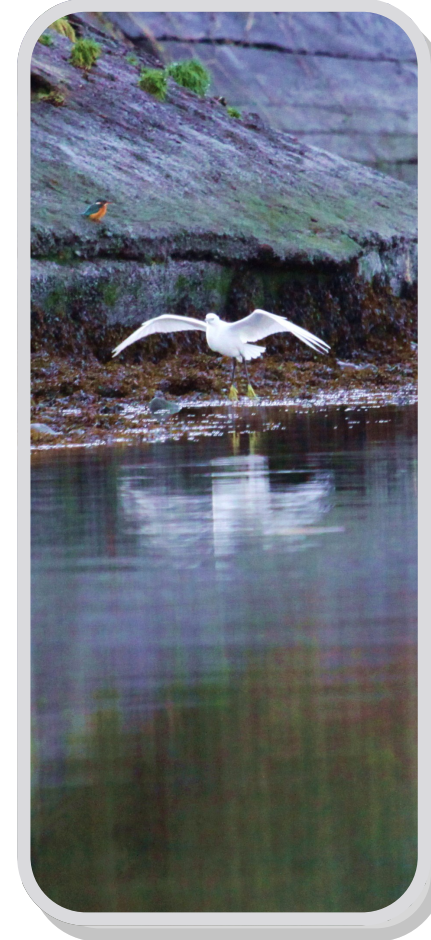


## BALLYKISSANE PIER TRAIL



Experience a combination of history, culture and tranquillity surrounded by nature

6. Cillín - there is a small rock on the left with a plaque on the left to remember the children buried nearby, who died before they were baptised and who could not be buried in a Catholic graveyard. On the opposite side of the road you will note some large pine trees and this was the location of Killorglin's original presbytery in the days when the priest travelled by horse and cart.



Lapwing

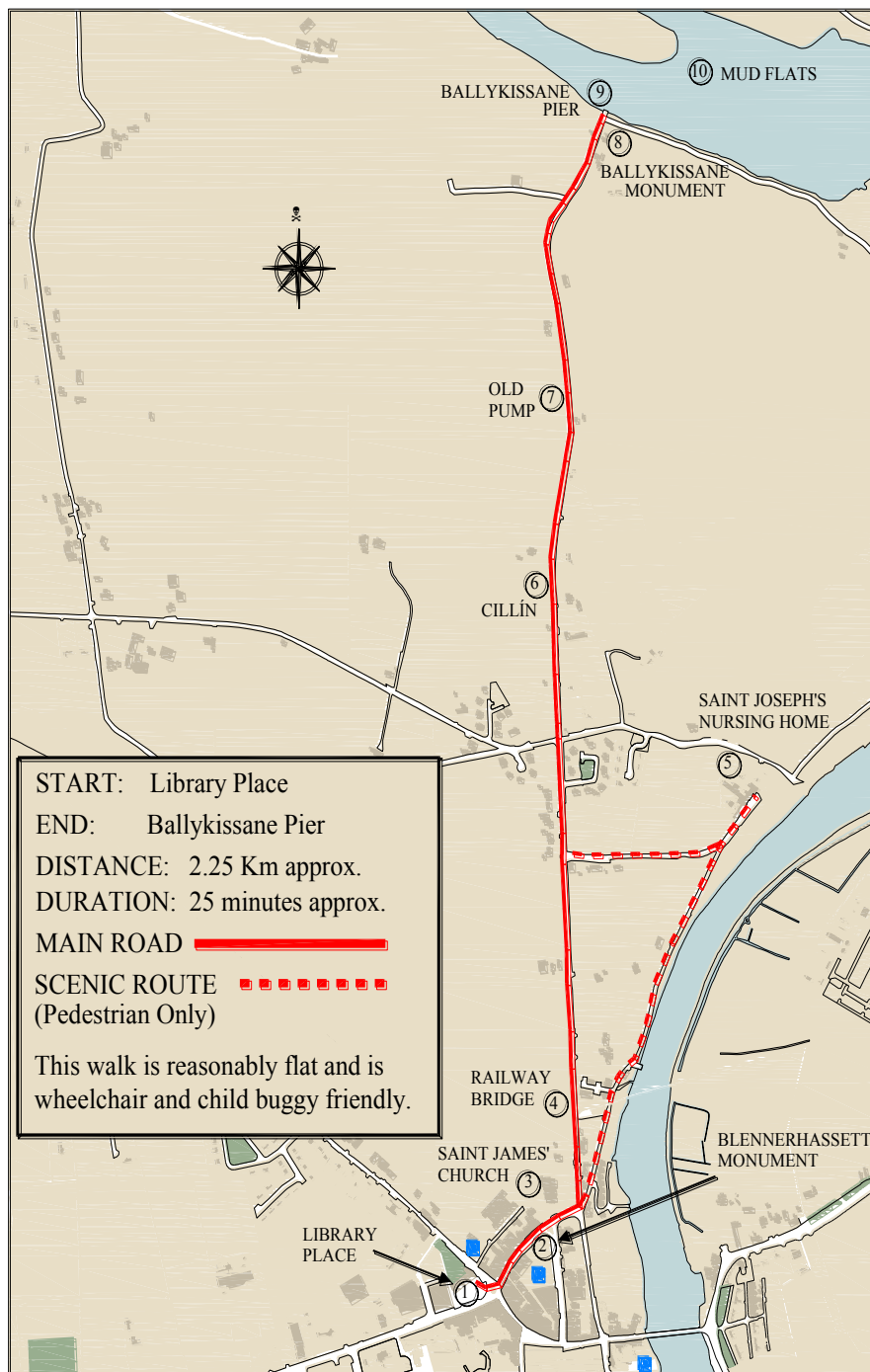
7. Water Pump Enclosure - just after the bend on the left hand side there is a rectangular stone enclosure which contained the local water pump and was a focal point for the locals in their daily lives. Put yourself in the place of being sent to the well or later the pump for water in those times and the heavy weight of carrying it home. The pump is long gone but the enclosure is part of the area's culture and history. This is also a lovely spot to rest a while and soak up the peaceful views .

8. Ballykissane Monument - we arrive at the quay and the monument to the three Irish Volunteers who were the first casualties of the Easter Rising. On Good Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 1916 they drowned while on their way to Valentia to dismantle the radio station and to signal Roger Casement on board the Aud. The ruin on the left hand side just before the pier was occupied at the time by Dave O'Sullivan who helped the only survivor of the accident to escape.

9. Ballykissane Pier - this quay was the landing point for coal, timber and many other products for the community in the days of water transport and is listed as a sea fishing point. It is also a place for spotting various visiting birds on the mud flats when the tide is out. It is the venue for annual regattas. The rough road to the right leads to a number of farm-houses but access to these has to be timed due to the level of the tide which covers the road! It is one of the most tranquil places in the area and on a good day the views are spectacular. To the left the Laune joins the River Maine and flows into Castlemaine Harbour. Calinafercy is directly across the river with the Sliabh Mish mountain range on the Dingle Peninsula in the background.

10. Mud Flats – great for bird watching when the tide is out.

Map: William Bateman Text: Francis Mangan Photos: John O'Sullivan



*If walking the trail please exercise extreme caution as often there is no footpath.*

1. Start at Library Place. Walk towards Apache Pizza onto Mill Road and along by the Fair Field car park to the monument.
2. Blennerhassett Monument – This monument was erected to commemorate Townsend Blennerhassett, a member of the Kerry militia, who was drowned on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1867 while attempting to rescue a colleague.

3. St James R.C. Church – In 1837 a church and a school were built by Father Looney, on the site of the present day Church. It was in the shape of a crucifix with a thatched roof and a mud floor and fell into bad disrepair. Work commenced in 1887 under Father Lawlor and a parish committee on the present day Church. The sandstone was transported from Castlemaine on the newly opened Railway line. The limestone was quarried in Steelroe, near Killorglin and the Altar came from Sicily. The first Mass was celebrated in September 1888. The church is a good example of Gothic architecture and a bust of Father Lawlor (who was parish priest from 1884 to 1916) was erected near an old entrance path in recognition of his endeavours .

The right fork running off towards the river has had a number of names, the most long lasting of which was the “Well Road” when the people of the town drew their water in buckets from the local well which was situated near the bank of the river in front of *Riverbank Lodges* and accessed by a path at the end of the development. It was also known as the “Doctors Walk” but in more recent years it has been known as the “Nuns Road,” or the “Small Quay Road” or the “Old Folks Road”. It runs to the small railway bridge and connects with the Railway Bridge Trail and also to the Metal Bridge/Iron Bridge which is a protected structure and is officially known as **The Laune Viaduct**.

*If you stay with the main route, we shortly come to a humpback bridge .*

4. Railway Bridge - Here we have a cut limestone railway bridge where all the stone was hand cut and had to be transported into the area for the building of the railroad in the 1870s. These railway bridges are becoming more unusual and less in number as many have been taken down around the country in the last 20 years, including one on Sun-hill Road and also one at Rangue.
5. St Joseph’s Nursing Home - Pass the entrance to Saint Joseph’s Nursing Home on the right where a long avenue leads to this home on the banks of the river Laune. The house was once the home of the deCourcy Dodd family, who were landlords in the area, before being taken over by the Sisters of Charity who ran it for many years as a noviciate for young nuns. Later it was turned into the present home for the elderly.

*Continue straight at the 4 cross roads (where the junction to the right led to one of the original crossing points and fords in the river Laune.)*