

Tulsk Abbey



The Dominican Priory of St. Patrick was founded at Tulsk in 1448 in the grounds of the present-day Tulsk Cemetery. Tulsk was the seat of the O'Connor chieftains, patrons of the priory, where a small community of about six monks lived.

Amongst the scattered ruins, this church-like Crypt was found. The Grace family memorial in ancient monastic ground.



Tulsk Priory & the Grace Mausoleum

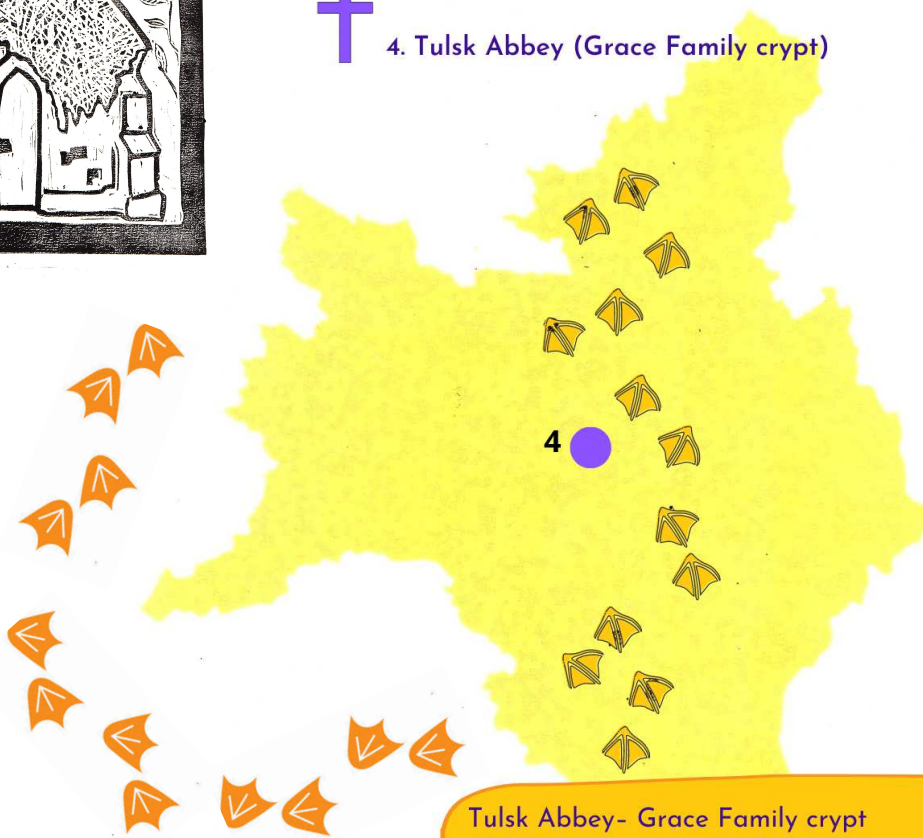
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Tulsk Abbey

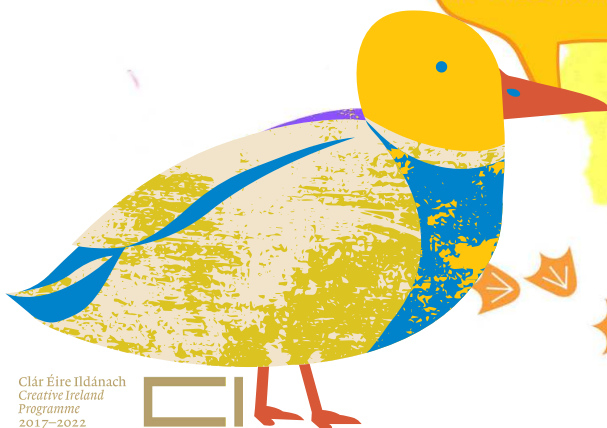


4. Tulsk Abbey (Grace Family crypt)

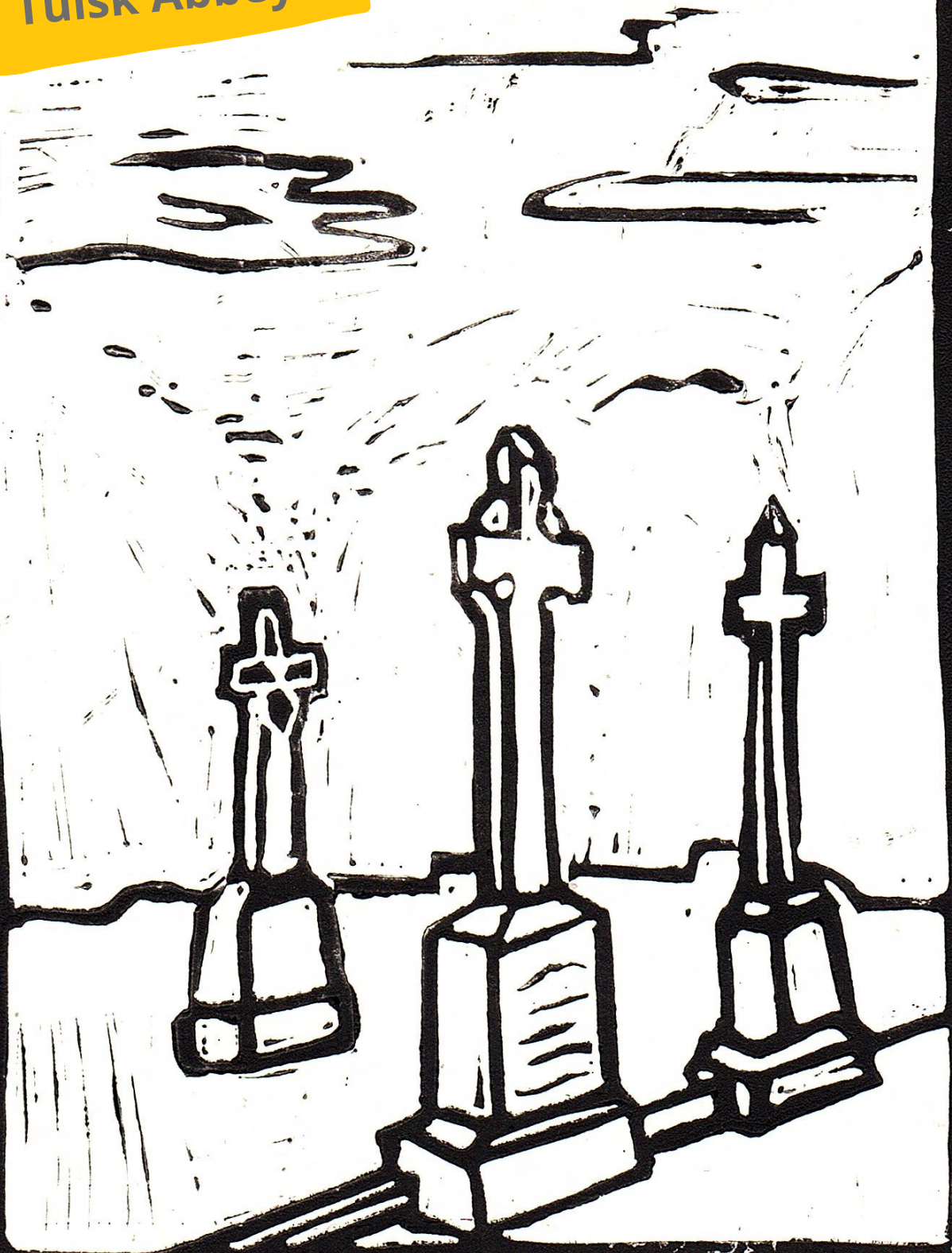


Tulsk Abbey- Grace Family crypt

Seat of O'Connor chieftains, Celtic royal site,
From the Bronze and Iron ages, Tulsk has shone a light
Amongst the scattered ruins, this church-like Crypt was found
The Grace family memorial in ancient monastic ground.

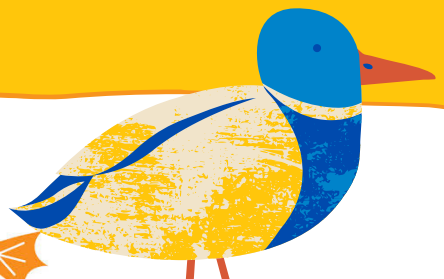


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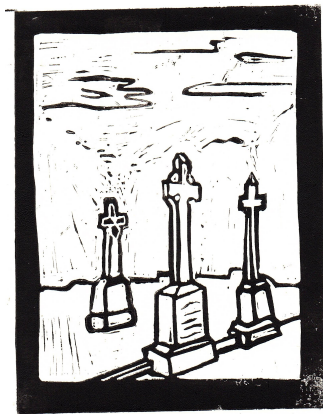
The grounds of the ancient cemetery at Tulsk Priory contain remnants of the original 13th century church and 15th century church. There are several fine examples of tall Celtic crosses, their symbolism dating from pagan times and adapted to suit Christian teachings.

Amidst remnants of their living quarters, hospital and holy church, Tall 19th century Celtic crosses mark local occupants' time on earth.



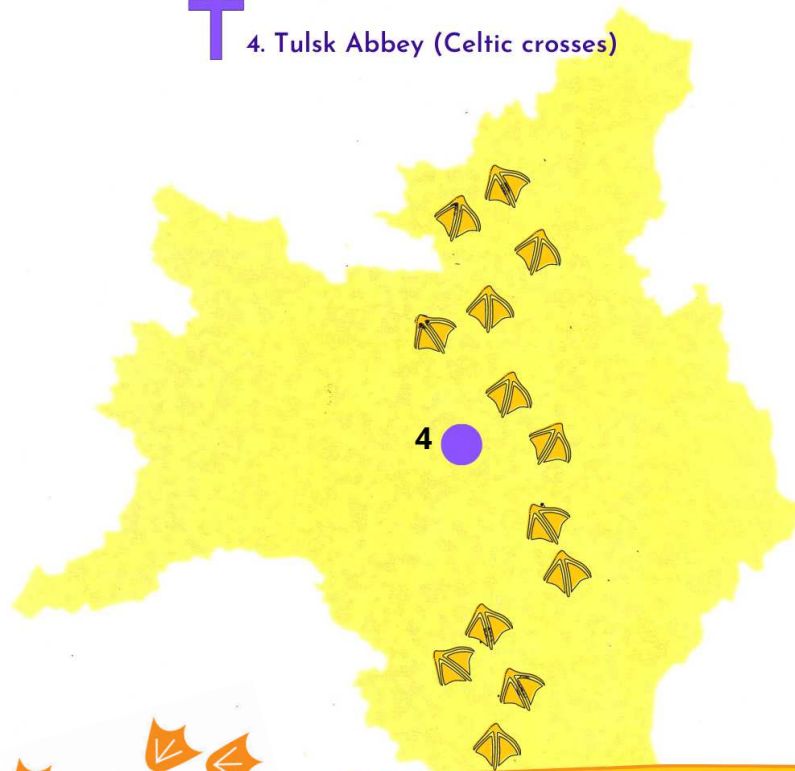
Tulsk Priory and Cemetery

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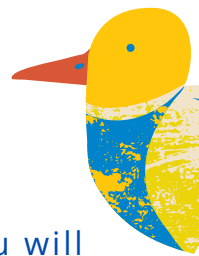
4. Tulsk Abbey (Celtic crosses)



Celtic crosses at Tulsk Cemetery...

Rescued now from dereliction, invading ivy, weather and time, Ruins from the 1400s reveal the life of Dominican friars Amidst remnants of their living quarters, hospital and holy church, Tall 19th century Celtic crosses mark local occupants' time on earth.





Tulsk Priory and Cemetery

In a cemetery in the middle of the village of Tulsk, Co. Roscommon, you will find the restored limestone ruins of the Dominican Priory of St. Patrick, founded in 1448.

In ancient times, Tulsk was one of the most important Celtic royal sites in Europe and the seat of the O'Connor chieftains. No less than sixty national monuments lie within a six-kilometre radius of Tulsk, including sites from the late Bronze Age and the Iron Age. It was also the home of the legendary warrior Queen Medbh of Connacht.

The ancestral fort of the O'Connor chieftains in Tulsk lay across the road from a site that had once held a friar's modest home. Before his death in 1448, Felim O'Connor granted additional land at this site for the erection of a monastery. Felim was buried there himself in the same year, but it is disputed whether his son Felim mac Felim O'Connor or a member of the O'Duill (McDowell) family, built the priory at Tulsk.

The priory would have had a small community of about six monks living in it, who would have relied upon local patrons for support. They would have provided a place of worship, charity to the poor, and medical help to the local population. During the religious Suppression of 1536-1541, monasteries were being raided and closed in Britain and Ireland, and there is very little historical reference to this site in existing records. Today we find remnants of the church, hospital and living quarters in the ruins of the 13th century section of the priory at Tulsk. The taller remains of a garrison tower constructed by English forces in 1582 still stand at the eastern end of the nave. The priory would have been deserted then, and stones from its former buildings were used to build this tower.

In recent years, it was evident that parts of Tulsk Priory were in danger of collapsing, and in 2013 major conservation works were carried out under the Co. Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016. The Restoration Report outlines the dedicated effort put in to removing embedded ivies which threatened the remaining structures, restoring architecture, filling stone from the site where possible, and refurbishing prominent burial monuments on this site, including the Grace Mausoleum. The report concludes: "The recently completed conservation works have ensured that the priory will stand at the centre of Tulsk for future generations".