

# Drogheda WALKS

Drogheda is a medieval town, steeped in history on the banks of the Boyne. Its topography allows for many great views and some enjoyable walks. A team of locals came together to map a series of our favourite walks. They take different routes which highlight places of interest in our built, cultural, religious and natural history.

These four walks are designed for locals and visitors to Drogheda and we hope you will enjoy them.

- BRIDGES c. 1.5k WALK
- SPIRES c. 4k WALK
- WALLS c. 4k LOOP
- STEPS c. 6.5k LOOP

## BRIDGES c. 1.5K WALK

The d Hotel — Bridge of Peace

### Boyne 5 Bridges

The beautiful river Boyne dominates Drogheda's landscape, famous for its history, mythology and natural beauty. This short walk brings you across the five bridges, describing some of the highlights. This is an ideal way to stretch your legs and get some air.



DeLacy Bridge (2005) & Viaduct (1855)

1 2

#### 1 DeLacy Bridge (2005)

Start at the d Hotel and walk along river towards town. Turn right over DeLacy Bridge, Drogheda's youngestest bridge, named after Hugh DeLacy, an Anglo Norman Baron, who oversaw the initial settlement of the towns of Drogheda (two separate, north and south of the river). Full span of Viaduct visible from the centre of this bridge. The 30m high bridge was completed in 1855 and carries the Dublin/Belfast railway. After crossing bridge, turn left and cross at pedestrian crossing. Walk left along North Quay towards town.

#### 2 St. Mary's Bridge (1722, 1983)

St. Mary's Bridge marks the narrowest part of the Boyne estuary, and was the first Drogheda bridge to be constructed during the Norman settlements. Drogheda gets its Irish name from this pinch point – Droichead Átha – Bridge of the Ford. Cross road at Shop Street and walk cross Street Mary's Bridge. Turn right and walk along John Street.

#### 3 Haymarket Bridge (2002)

Note Millmount Fort, The Butter Gate and the Joseph Stanley 1916 Garden to your left en route to this bridge. Millmount complex now houses the Drogheda Museum and craft quarter. Turn right and cross Haymarket Bridge. At the end of the bridge turn left and walk along boardwalk until you reach the road.

#### 4 St. Dominic's Bridge (1863)

On crossing St. Dominic's Bridge, now pedestrianised, you will see The Wanderer art piece. Look through the sculpture from different angles to see the woman walking, and the seabird in flight. Turn right after crossing bridge and walk up alongside Skate Park.

#### 5 The Bridge of Peace (1976)

Built in the 1970's, underneath which you will see the ever changing artwork of the annual Bridge Jam Urban Art Festival. Arriving at the Bridge of Peace completes the Boyne Five Bridges Walk.



St. Dominic's Bridge (1863)

As this route is not a loop, upon completion your options are:

- A Walk back through the town by turning right across Narrow West St.
- B On the southside of the bridge, follow the river along the Boyneside Trail to Oldbridge House

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DeLacy Bridge (2005) & St. Mary's Bridge (1722, 1983)

1 2

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# Drogheda WALKS

FREE MAP & GUIDE

### A Big Thanks to:

- Frank (Dusty) Flanagan, Terry Collins and Pat Coffey of Boyne Valley Walking for their help on the Steps Walk.

Tom Reilly for his help on the Walls Walk. Much information regarding the route came from guided walks with Tom, or his excellent book 'Drogheda's Forgotten Walls & Other Stories.'

- Aine Walsh for co-ordinating this overall project and mapping the Bridges and Spires Walks.

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- Let's drone on about the brilliance of Brian Connolly of Bang Bang Visual for his fantastic photography, especially the dramatic panorama of the town and the 101 Steps.

- Drogheda Tidy Towns for the generous funding to print these maps.

For more to see and do in Drogheda, visit [www.drogheda.ie](http://www.drogheda.ie)

### Litter

Like many towns in Ireland, we are blighted by a small minority of litter louts. We hate the graffiti and littering of our town and hope that any of you see won't detract from your walk too much. Please remember to take your litter with you and dispose of it appropriately.

### Personal Safety

Please ensure your personal safety while enjoying these walks. Let someone know where you are going, bring a charged phone with you, go in company if possible, go in good light. Cross roads only where and when it is safe to. Some of the medieval lanes, paths and steps may be uneven so please watch your step.



Disclaimer: The creators of this map shall not be liable, directly or indirectly to the user or any other third party for any accident, injury, loss or damage resulting from the use of the information contained.

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#### 3 Highfield Steps – 27 steps

At the top of the path when you reach Highfield turn left and follow the footpath towards the back of Marymount School. Along this road, when you see a green area on your left with a tarmac path, you will see steps on your left leading to the Donore Road. Cross the road at traffic lights and walk left towards the town.

#### 4 Donore Road Steps – 39 steps

Walk to the bottom of the Donore Road at the corner you will arrive at the Joseph Stanley 1916 Commemorative Garden. Take a stroll through the garden on your way to the next set of steps. Turn right and walk along John Street. At the Bull Ring cross Barrack Street and walk up the Pitcher Hill steps (Running from Bull Ring to Duleek St).

#### 5 Pitcher Hill Steps – 67 steps

At the top of the steps Millmount is on the right. Turn left at the top of the steps beside the pub (known locally as The Top Shop) onto Sampson's Lane. Walk along this street and take first turn right, passing a green area on the left hand side. Mary Street steps are directly ahead of you. These steps will bring you down onto Mary Street opposite St. Mary's C.O.I. (Gerrard's Church).

#### 6 Mary's Street Steps – 13 steps

Cross Mary Street, turn left and walk downhill. Towards the bottom of the hill you will see a set of steps on your right beside the last 'cut-stone' house. Take these steps down to The Dale.



Highlanes Steps

2

Start at the d Hotel and walk left along boardwalk. Cross the Boyne via the DeLacy Bridge, cross road at pedestrian crossing and walk right along the North Quay towards the Viaduct. Take the second turn left up Blind Gate/Constitution Hill and then take the first right onto the North Strand. Follow this road and walk up the 2nd set of steps on your left.

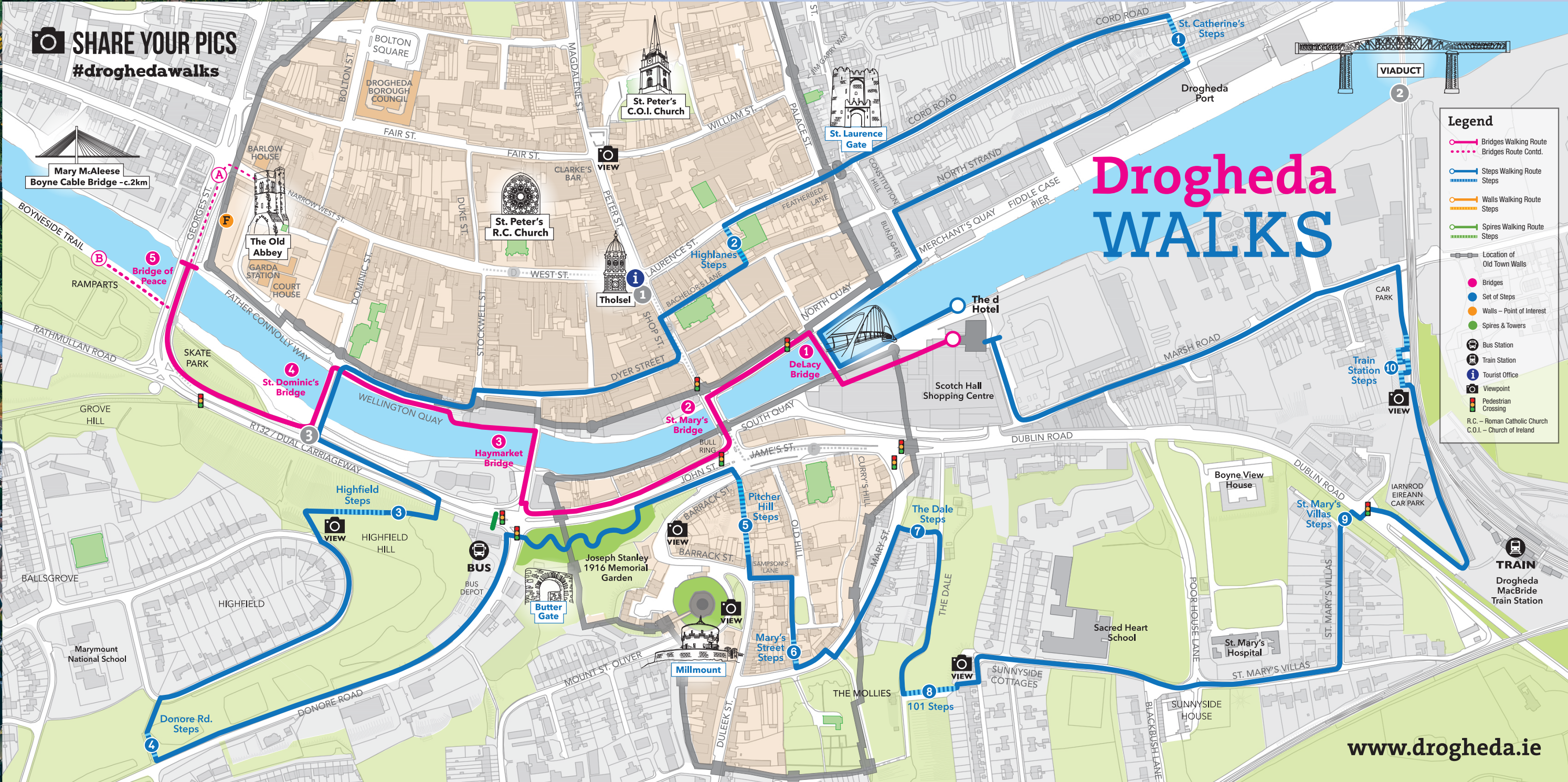
#### 1 St. Catherine's Steps – 77 steps

At the top of the steps turn left onto Cord Road. Pass under St. Laurence Gate, continue towards the town centre. After the Franciscan Church (now Highlanes Gallery) take the steps on left called Highlanes (Keyzers Lane). These steps will bring you down to Bachelor's Lane.

#### 2 Highlanes Steps – 23 steps

Turn right at the bottom of the steps, along Bachelor's Lane to Shop Street passing alongside St. Augustine's Church. Go left briefly on Shop Street, cross the road and then right onto Dyer Street and walk along Wellington Quay to the Dominican Church. Cross St. Dominic's Bridge. Turn left after crossing the bridge and walk up the slip way to the pedestrian crossing. Cross the R132/dual carriageway at the bus depot, turn right and take the steps and hill path up to Highfield.

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## STEPS c. 6.5k LOOP

The d Hotel — The d Hotel

### 10 Sets of Steps/553 Steps

Time to get the heart rate up by tackling some of Drogheda's many sets of steps. This walk takes you through ancient medieval thoroughfares and finishes on a piece of modern infrastructure, with some great views along the way.

The 101 Steps

8



The Wanderer Art Piece, St. Dominic's Bridge.





WALLS c.4K LOOP

The d Hotel The d Hotel

Old Town Walls

On this walk we'll explore the historic walls of Drogheda. In parts, these medieval walls measured 20ft in height and 6ft in width at their base. Construction dates from the 13th century. The walls spanned both sides of the river with many lookout towers and 11 named gates providing access to the town.

The route of our walk stays as true as possible to where the walls would have run. Unfortunately, only a few small sections of the walls and gates remain, which we'll highlight. Please be sure to pack your imagination for the remainder of the route, picturing yourself coming into the bustling medieval port town of Drogheda.

- Start at The d Hotel. Walk along the river towards town. Before reaching DeLacy Bridge look out for different style cobbleblock (amoeba shape) between the hotel and the bridge. This denotes the footprint of a tower on the wall, and the direction of the wall. A
- Continue walking past DeLacy Bridge and turn left around Scotch Hall. Cross road and walk up the steps on South Quay to James Street. St. Mary's R.C. Church will be facing you.
- Turn left & cross James Street. Pass St. Mary's Parish Centre on your right, turn up Curry's Hill and walk up the steps/hill.
- At the top of Curry's Hill stay left and walk along the lane. When you reach the two gable end houses on the right, walk down the small steps onto Mary Street.
- Cross Mary Street and walk to the right. Go up the steps on the grassy bank to the left of the old St Mary's Church of Ireland (Gerrard's Church).
- Follow the path along The Mollies. The wall is visible to your right at back of St Mary's C.O.I and at the end of residential gardens. Continue walking out to the road where St Mary's Diocesan School sits. Pass school on your left and you will reach Duleek Street. B
- Turn right at top of road and walk down Duleek Street. The wall forms the boundary between house numbers 25 and 26. C
- Continue walking down Duleek Street and you will reach the Martello tower at Millmount. Dating from the 12th Century, Millmount is a Norman fortified complex which would have been located inside the town walls. This motte and bailey construction played a key role in the town's defences against Cromwell during the siege of Drogheda in 1649. During the Civil War of 1922 the Martello tower became a shelling target as it housed Anti-Treaty forces. It has been restored since and houses a craft and cultural quarter. D
- Follow the road around Millmount and walk down Barrack Street. At the bottom of the hill turn left and walk along John Street. The green area on your left is the Joseph Stanley 1916 Commemorative Garden. The Butter Gate is visible at the top of the garden. It is believed that a toll had to be paid on the produce of butter entering the town through this gate; however, the name may also be a corruption of Bothar Gate, from the Irish meaning Road Gate. E
- Cross Donore Road at Bus Depot and cross again towards town. Turn left and walk down the slip road (alongside the R132/Dual Carriageway) to St. Dominic's R.C. Church and cross bridge. Turn left immediately after bridge at Dominican R.C. Church and walk past the Court House (note pavement in front, denoting Drogheda's historical timeline) and Garda Station into car park (across road from Garda Station). Largest section of exposed wall here under the Bridge of Peace. F
- Walk uphill to Narrow West Street. Barlow House will be facing you. Cross road and walk through George's Square. A sliver of wall between the business premises (currently chip shop) and adjoining residential house is visible and shows the remnant of the wall. G
- Turn right across Fair Street, then left through Bolton Square to the banks at Rope Walk. The wall would have been parallel to Patrick Street and banks. H
- Walk along Rope Walk, onto Magdalene St. and cross at Sunday's Gate to the front of St. Joseph's CBS School. I
- Walk past school (on your right) and turn right down King Street. Note cobblestone markings on Jim Garry's Way denoting the path of the wall. J
- Arrive at St. Laurence Gate, a barbican which sat outside the wall in front of the wall gate. St Laurence's Gate has been described as one of the finest of its kind and is designated as a national monument. It consists of two towers, each with four floors, joined by a bridge at the top and an entrance arch at street level. K
- Cross Laurence St. and walk down Featherbed Lane. The best section of exposed wall and supporting arches is visible here. L
- Double back up Featherbed Lane, turn right through Gate, then right again down Constitution Hill and Blind Gate to North Quay. The wall on the north side of town finished at the river.
- Turn right along Quay and follow path along to DeLacy Bridge, cross bridge and return to starting point at the d Hotel.

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SPIRES c.4K WALK

St. Mary's C.O.I. Bus Depot

Spires & Towers

The Spires and Towers of Drogheda walk covers sites of the earliest religious settlements dating from 1224 to the youngest of the 1970's through various denominations, and architectural styles.

Carved Cadaver Stone (c.1500), St. Peter's C.O.I., Peter's St.

- Start at St. Mary's Church of Ireland (C.O.I.) (Gerrard's Church) – 1807 – Mary St. Single cell Board of First Fruits style church set back from the road, surrounded by graveyard. From here you will get a great view of the Viaduct. Turn right and walk down Mary St.
- St Mary's Roman Catholic (R.C.) Church – 1892 – James St. French Gothic style church, elaborate carving and detailed rose window with a slender tower. After passing the church, cross John Street at the Bull Ring and walk over St. Mary's Bridge up Shop Street.
- St Augustine's R.C. Church – 1866 – Shop St. Front and back windows consist of seven tall lancets, instead of more traditional rose window. Also houses a collection of stained glass by the Harry Clarke Studio, best viewed from inside church (on left hand wall facing the street). From here, turn right up Shop Street and at the crossroads turn right up Laurence Street.
- Methodist (Wesleyan) Church – 1811 – Laurence St. Simple rectangular church design is on your left set back from the road.
- Franciscan R.C. Church – (now Highlanes Gallery) – 1828 – Laurence St. T-plan church built into the slope on the site of friary which was founded in 1240. The church was known locally as the High Lane church – and now houses the Highlanes Gallery. Continue up Laurence Street to St. Laurence Gate and turn left up Palace Street.
- Presbyterian Church – 1827 – Palace St. Built in the Gothic Revival style, with two octagonal turrets on either side of the façade. Continue up Palace Street and up King St, crossing at Scholar's Hotel. Follow the road left to the front of St. Joseph's CBS School, cross at pedestrian crossing through Sunday's Gate and down the hill through Hardman's Gardens.
- Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Church – 1957 – Beechgrove. The bell tower is visible from the top of the hill. Built in the Classic Revival style. Approx. 15,500 parishioners donated a minimum of £1 each to the construction of this church. Double back up Hardman's Gardens and turn right over Patrick's St. Take the first path on the left (pedestrian pathway).
- Magdalene Tower – 14th Century – off Magdalene St. The tower is all that remains of a Dominican Abbey. Walk down Magdalene St. and turn left at car park.
- St Peter's C.O.I. – 1752 – Peter St. A site of worship since the foundation of the town. Built in the Renaissance style with beautiful baroque plaster work. Note the Cadaver Stone (1500's) on the churchyard wall behind the church. From here, turn right at Clarke's Bar across Fair Street. Walk halfway across Fair Street and turn left down Duke Street. At the bottom of the hill, turn left and St. Peter's Church is on your left.
- St Peter's R.C. Church – 1880 – West St. Built in the French Gothic style, regarded as a masterpiece in craft, beauty and design. Houses the head of St Oliver Plunkett. Turn right over West St. and take the third left turn down take third left down St. Patrickswell Lane.
- The Old Abbey – 1206 – St Patrickswell Lane. Abbey of St. Mary d'Urso was a hospital for the sick and infirm. It passed to the Augustinians in the 14th Century, then to the Local Authorities in the 1500's. All that remains of the Abbey is the central belfry tower, surmounting a Gothic archway, with another fragment supported on a similar arch to the east, and a gable wall to the west. From here, walk down Old Abbey Lane to the Court House and onto Dominic St.
- The Dominican R.C. Church (St Magdalen's) – 1878 – Wellington Quay. Built in the French Gothic style, finished externally in rusticated limestone. Cross St. Dominic's Bridge, take the slip road to the right and cross the Dual Carriageway. Walk up Grove Hill. At the top of the hill, turn left through Ballsgrove and arrive at the back of the Holy Family R.C. Church.
- The Holy Family R.C. Church – 1973 – Ballsgrove. Built to meet the needs of the expanding town of Drogheda and designed to seat 850. The Holy Family is now a parish in its own right. At the front of the church, turn left and walk through Highfield. Walk down hill to the bus depot to complete your walk.