

St. John's Priory

This is St. John's **Priory**, at the corner of John Street and Michael Street in Kilkenny. It was founded in the early thirteenth century. The monks who lived here were **Canons Regular of St. Augustine**. In 1540 the monastery was closed when King



Henry VIII ordered the **dissolution of the monasteries** in Ireland. The lands of the priory were granted to Kilkenny Corporation. Over the years the Priory of St. John fell into ruins but in 1817 the **Lady Chapel** was re-roofed and

converted into a parish church to serve the Church of Ireland parish of St. John. The original Lady Chapel of the monastery was built about seven hundred years ago, so the nearest part of the building in this photograph contains a good deal of the remains of that chapel.

Farther in from John Street, you can see the ruins of the **chancel** of the church, with its window towards Michael Street. The **nave** of the monastery church was taken down in the 18th century, and its stones were used to build Evans Asylum behind the church.

Most of the priory buildings have long disappeared, but some remains can be seen at



Michael Street. The suburb of St. John's on the east bank of the Nore had its own walls.

The round building at the bottom right of this picture was a bastion on the south-east corner of this wall.