

St. Mary's Church



This was the Parish Church of Kilkenny from the early 13th Century onwards. In the middle ages the Corporation of Kilkenny was responsible for the upkeep of the church. On occasion the bell tower of the church

was used for their meetings. In the 17th Century, the Corporation laid down some rules for funerals at St. Mary's:

“Orders for burials—That the sword and four maces shall be carried before the Mayor at the burial of Aldermen and their wives; and that those that buried at St. Mary's church shall be carried in at the west gate; and if any howling or crying be at any such burial, the Mayor and company to withdraw till they leave off howling.”

The church hasn't been used for worship in the last forty years. The medieval church was very much larger than the present remains. Part of the old church is use as a parish hall. The rest is used to store some old monuments.



In the past, important merchants and wealthy families had their tombs in the church or in the churchyard beside it.