



THE QUEST FOR THE SILVER SALMON



An aerial view of the head-spinning location of the hermitage, daringly constructed below the south peak.

FINAL LOCATION

The Final Location of the **Silver Salmon** is **THE HERMITAGE'S ORATORY**.

To win overall you also needed to also mention four other key things: -

SKELLIG MICHAEL, STAR WARS, NEEDLES EYE and **SOUTH PEAK**.



THE BOOK OF KELLS



Four Gospels

The Book of Kells is a 9th-century illuminated manuscript, widely regarded as Ireland's finest national treasure and a masterpiece of Western calligraphy. It contains the four Gospels of the new testament (**Matthew, Mark, Luke & John**) in Latin, written on vellum, featuring lavish, intricate decorations in the Insular style. It is permanently displayed at Trinity College Dublin.

Bonus Coincidences?

It is a wonderful coincidence but entirely unintentional that the letters of KELLS appear in the word SKELLIG.

What's more, fish also appear in the book! See picture.

LEADING THE WAY...

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the **light** of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

JOHN 8:12

Skellig Michael (Great Skellig) is home to **two historic lighthouses**, one of which remains an active aid to navigation today. Built in the 1820s, these structures necessitated the construction of the island's lower road and many of its current access points.

Lighthouses often offer metaphorical guidance: they lead the way and are often associated with spiritual guidance, providing a "light" in the darkness on a quest.

(Note: Early on I did consider hiding the Silver Salmon in the remaining lighthouse on Skellig!)



John ①

“And if a **house** is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”

MARK 3:25



Mark ①



SKELLIG MICHAEL

Skellig Michael (Sceilg Mhichíl) is a dramatic, **UNESCO** World Heritage-listed rocky island 12 km off the coast of County Kerry, Ireland, renowned for its remarkably preserved 6th-century monastic settlement. Accessible only by summer boat tours, it features 600+ stone steps, **beehive huts**, and a vibrant seabird colony, famously acting as a Star Wars filming location.

LINK: Skellig Michael is also where an Irish king styling himself Daire Domhain was said to have prepared himself for battle with **Fionn McCumhaill** and his Fianna.



6 beehive huts!

Skellig Michael features six ancient dry-stone beehive huts (clocháns) dating from the 6th to 8th centuries.



AN IMPERIAL PINT
(SLIGO FLUID?)

An imperial pint = 20
(SLIGO's day) FLUID
OUNCES (ANAG) =
UNESCO WORLD
HERITAGE SITE



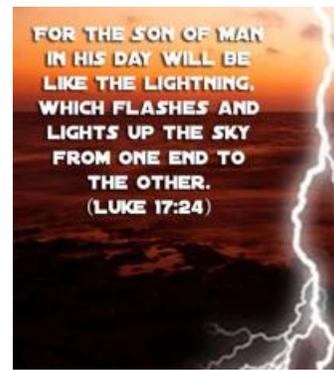
Tourists flock to remote island featured in "Star Wars"

Walker Irish Crest

STAR WARS



Luke ①



Luke Skywalker

Luke 17:24: *“For as the lightning flashes and lights up the **sky** from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day.”*

Skellig Michael has risen to dramatic prominence due to its starring role as Luke Skywalker’s Island Sanctuary on the planet Ahch-To in both Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens and Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi. Luke went to his **hermitage** and his place of meditation and gaining wisdom was an **oratory**.

After being featured in "Star Wars" the UNESCO World Heritage Site was stormed by fans of the Jedi.

<https://youtu.be/3aC34jjzoEQ>



'Beltane' Fire Dance - The fiery spectacle of Ireland's Beltane (or Bealtaine) is the Gaelic May Day festival marking summer's arrival with blazing bonfires, captivating performances, and ancient atmosphere.

According to 17th-century historian Geoffrey Keating, there was a great gathering at the hill of Uisneach each Beltane in medieval Ireland, where a sacrifice was made to a god named Beil.

In Irish mythology, Uisneach is described as the sacred centre of Ireland, the burial place of Irish gods such as Lugh and the Dagda, the site of a sacred tree (the Bile Uisnig), and a place of assembly (the mórdáil Uisnig) associated with the druids.

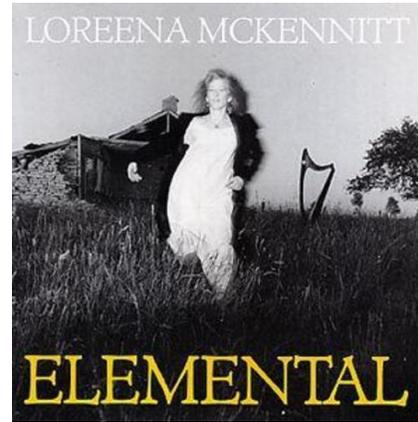
Nechtan's Well: Mythological accounts suggest that Uisneach is near Nechtan's Well, which is associated with the source of the River Boyne. This is often linked to the myth of the "Salmon of Knowledge".

“fetches bookstore” (ANAG) = “The Book Of Secrets”

THE BOOK OF SECRETS

Loreena McKennitt's music was an ongoing theme throughout the Quest.

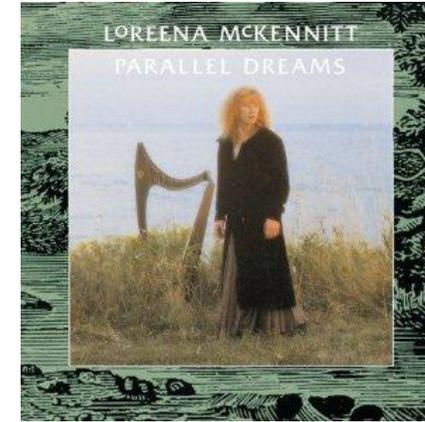
Track Dundalk = Track 3 (Day 3)



Track 3 =
"Stolen Child"

The Stolen Child (1889) - W. B. Yeats
*"Where dips the rocky highland
of Sleuth Wood in the lake"* -
Sliswood, Sligo.

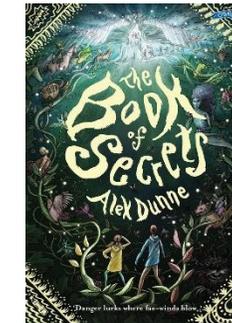
Luke Skywalker – a “Stolen Child”?
 Bit tenuous. Though not explicitly
 stolen, Luke was hidden from Darth
 Vader as a baby on Tatooine.



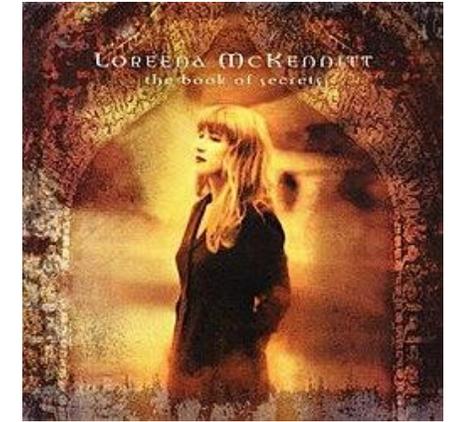
Track 3 =
"Huron 'Beltane'
Fire Dance"

"Huron 'Beltane' Fire Dance"
 takes its inspiration, in part,
 from Huron festivities and the
 Gaelic Beltane celebrations.

The Book of Secrets
 Book by Alex Dunne



Ó Caoinleáin Road = **Quinland Road**
 (Loreena McKennitt's record label)



Track 3 =
"Skellig"

*"I joined the brotherhood
 My books were all to me
 I scribed the words of God
 And much of history
 Many a year was I
 Perched out upon the sea
 The waves would wash my tears
 The wind, my memory
 I'd hear the ocean breathe
 Exhale upon the shore
 I knew the tempest's blood
 Its wrath I would endure
 And so the years went by
 Within my rocky cell
 With only a mouse or bird
 My friend, I loved them well"*

Puffin Crossing

(Pedestrian User-Friendly Intelligent)

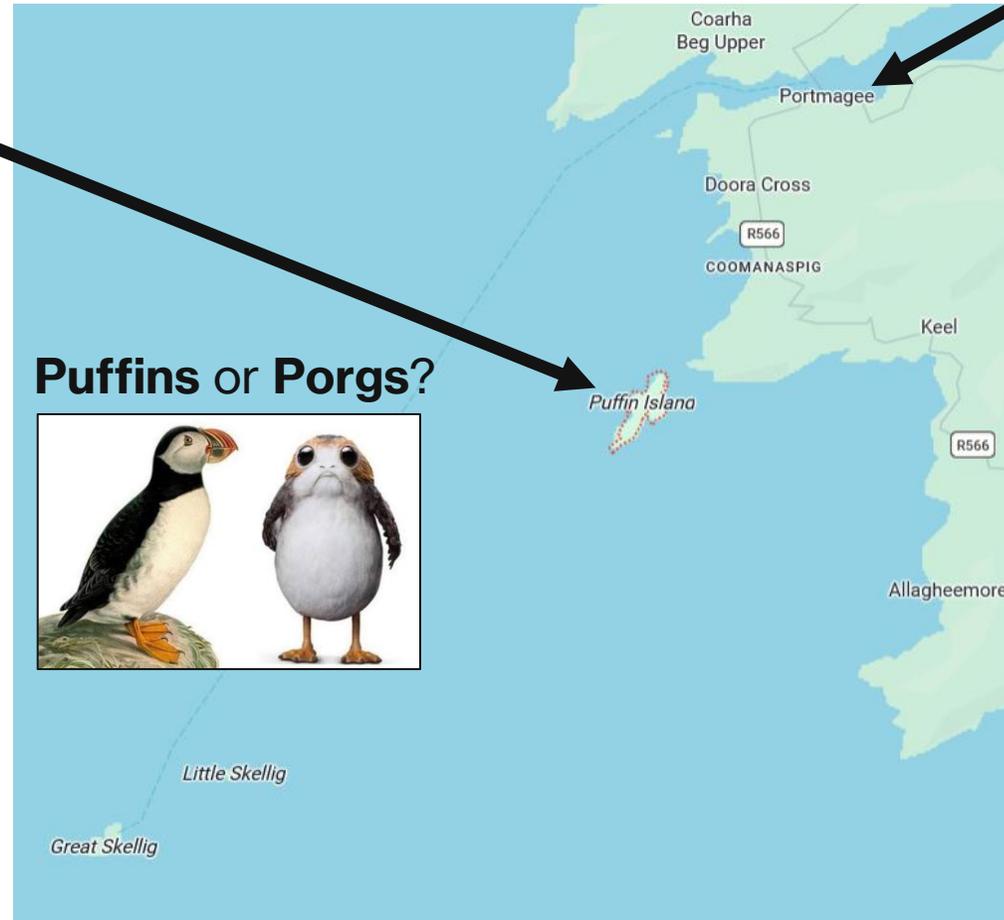
A Puffin crossing is a UK traffic-light system using sensors to detect pedestrians, featuring nearside signals (red/green figures on your side) and no flashing amber phase for drivers



Puffins or Porgs?:

During the filming of Star Wars: The Last Jedi on the protected Irish island of Skellig Michael in 2015, the resident Atlantic puffin population was so large and photobombing, they couldn't be removed. Filmmakers, forbidden from disturbing them, instead turned them into the inspiration for the movie's new, adorable, and marketable, native creatures: porgs.

Puffins or Porgs?



Portmagee

Portmagee in County Kerry, Ireland, is named after and was founded by Captain **Theobald** Magee. He was a notorious 18th-century Irish smuggler and former army officer for King James.

This gives a tenuous link to Father **Theobald** Matthew on the 1938 postage stamp.



Portmagee is also known as the gateway to the Skellig Islands.

PORTMAGEE & PUFFIN ISLAND

Pointing the way from the mainland to Little Skellig and Great Skellig (Skellig Michael).



St. Finian's Bay (or St. Finan's Bay, Irish: *Bá Fhionáin*) is an exposed bay on the Atlantic coast of County Kerry, Ireland.

The bay lies between **Puffin Island** to the north and Ducalla Head to the south. It is crescent shaped, with headlands at each end. Inland of the bay there are gently sloping grassy hills. Puffin Island is very close to the coast, while the Skellig Islands (**Skellig Michael** and Little Skellig) can be seen further out to sea.

LINK?: St Fionan's Monastery? St **Fionan** and St **Finian** – different Irish saints but share a linguistic root!

ST. FINIAN'S BAY

Named after Saint Finan/Finian, who is believed to have founded the monastery on Skellig Michael.

NOTE: There is no direct link between St. Finian's Bay and the mythological figure Finn McCool (Fionn mac Cumhaill). Saint Finnian and Fionn MacCool are two separate, prominent figures from Irish history and folklore, one a real-life Christian saint and the other a legendary warrior-hero. Their connection is primarily through the shared origin of the name "Finn" (meaning "fair" or "white") and their deep integration into Irish cultural heritage.



Never give up Scoil Fhionáin

**Never give in,
never give up!**

YouTube Video: Scoil **Fhionáin**
Primary school in Kilfinane, Limerick.

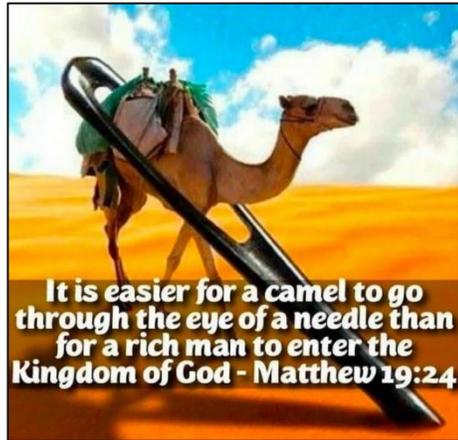
Dublin, Athlone, Dundalk, Kells?
 A father on a stamp's forename?
 Galway City & Westport called by bells?
 Castlebar & Wicklow may do the same!

Dublin, Athlone, Dundalk, Kells? = **1938**

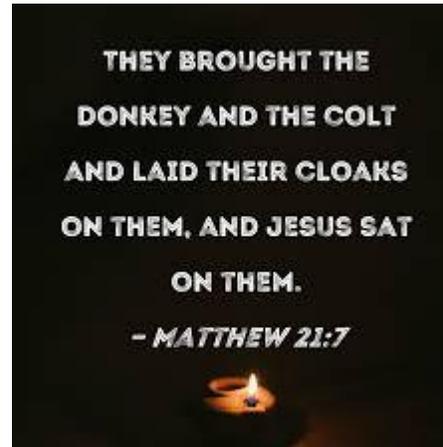
A father on a stamp's surname? = Matthew = Father Theobald **Matthew**,
 an Irish Catholic priest and reformer on 1938 Irish Stamp.

Galway City & Westport called by bells? = Bible Matthew **19-24**

Castlebar & Wicklow may do the same! = Bible Matthew **21-7**



Matthew 19:24 "And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the **eye** of a **needle**, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." Hence, **Needle's Eye**.



Matthew 21:7 states that Jesus's disciples brought a donkey and its colt to him, laid their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. Hence, **Christ's Saddle**.

Called by bells? "Skellig" is a song by Canadian singer-songwriter Loreena McKennitt, featured on her 1997 album *The Book of Secrets*. The lyrics include the phrase "The bells call all to mass".

CHRIST'S SADDLE



Christ's Saddle, western slope. The footpath leads to the starting point of the trail to the Needle's Eye.

NEEDLES EYE

Matthew 19:24

Biblical phrase "the eye of the needle" from Matthew 19:24, which describes the difficulty of a rich person entering the Kingdom of Heaven, using the imagery of a camel passing through a needle's eye.

The **Needle's Eye** on Skellig Michael is a, narrow, vertical rock chimney that serves as a treacherous passageway leading to the 9th-century **Hermitage** on the **South Peak**. It is located near **Christ's Saddle**, a, depression between the island's peaks, requiring climbers to hoist themselves up seven meters.

Matthew The Camel

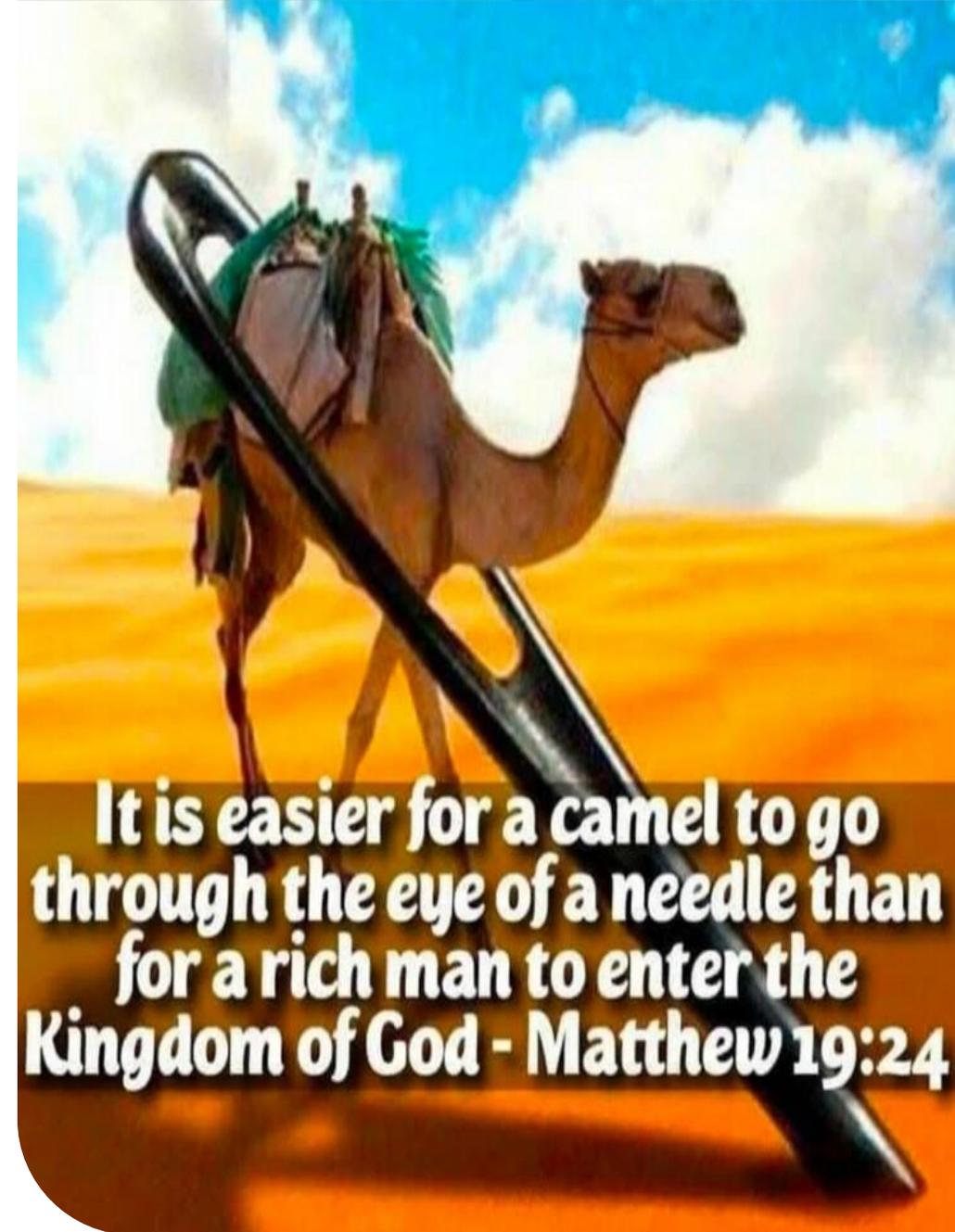
"Matthew The Camel" on days 19 & 24.

A feisty camel named Matthew at the Bronx Zoo on "The Zoo" TV Show. "Camel That Loves To BITE Goes To The Dentist!" – the camels all have biblical names.

(<https://youtu.be/tl3NES2gVXw>)



Matthew ⓘ





Skellig Michael Oratory:

The main monastic site on Skellig Michael contains two oratories, one larger and one smaller, both with distinct rectangular shapes. In addition to the oratories, the site also features six beehive huts, a graveyard, and a vegetable garden.

Little Skellig Oratory:

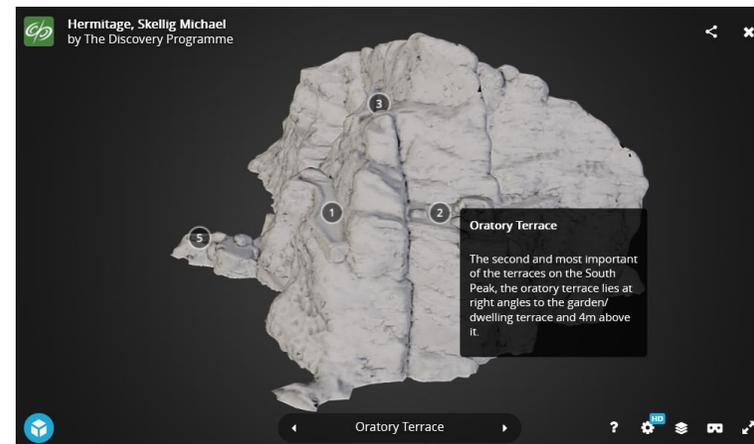
A different oratory was recently discovered on Little Skellig, an island known for its large population of gannets. The remains of this structure are located on a narrow terrace and are also a dry-stone, corbelled construction, which is typical of the early Christian hermitage style.

The 'Needle's Eye' or Hermitage Oratory:

A third oratory, also on the south peak of Skellig Michael, is a pilgrimage destination known as the 'Needle's Eye'. For the sake of the Quest for the Silver Salmon this is our **hermitage oratory**.

SKELLIG ORATORIES

Skellig Oratories refer to the early Christian religious structures found on Skellig Michael.



3-D Interactive Model

<http://www.3dicons.ie/3d-content/sites/280-skellig-hermitage#3d-model>

OGHAM ALPHABET



The ogham lines and notches spelled out “**Silver Salmon**”.

Ogham

Ogham is an Early Medieval alphabet, often called the "Celtic tree alphabet," used primarily to write Primitive and Old Irish, and sometimes Old Welsh or Latin, between the 4th and 6th centuries AD. It consists of 20 characters (feda) formed by one to five straight lines or notches carved vertically, typically read from bottom to top.

Aicme

Letters are arranged in four groups of five called *aicme*, with characters consisting of strokes, notches, or slashes on a central vertical line or stone edge.

Silver Salmon

With a direct character-for-character swap of the English words and letters the script looks like this:

SILVER:

SALMON: