HISTORY OF DUAGH
2013

Duagh gets its name from the crossing on the River Feale - Dubh Ath na Féile - and its name suggests a place of pre-Christian worship. Two rivers beautify the landscape that is intensively farmed along the banks of the Feale, and is now heavily forested on the banks of the Smearla. Many of the population are now employed in industrial and service industries in local towns. Two schools meet the educational needs of the parish: one in Lyreacrompane with the other in Duagh.

This Abbey was especially devoted to Brigid and when they founded their church in Duagh they dedicated the parish to their patron saint. Duagh has therefore remained devoted to St. Brigid since medieval times. The first church in Duagh was built near the old village, which was situated near the graveyard - a few ruins of this church still remain in the old graveyard. In 1806 Fr. O’ Flaherty built a thatched church at the present site of the village, about half a mile up from the old village David Moriarty blessed the present Church of St. Brigid in 1856. Lyreacrompane’s new church opened in 1916 and subsided after a number of years. A new church dedicated to the Sacred Heart was opened in 1966.

The church in Duagh Village is dedicated to St. Brigid. The Parish of Duagh dates back to c. 1200 when the Great Augustinian Abbey of Connell in Kildare was granted ‘10 carucates of land’ in Kerry.

A testament to the faith of the parish over the centuries lies in the finding of the Duagh Ciborium. This 18th century piece of Irish Silver was found in a turf delivered to the Presbytery in 1923 from a bog 5 km away. The parish Priest accidentally found the ciborium concealed in a sod of turf. It had obviously been for safe keeping in the bog during the penal times. It was found in a bog across the Smearla River from a Mass rock. Further testament to that faith is the great number of priests and religious native to the parish working in all five continents. In 1977 up to 40 women and men were actively involved in ministry all over the world. The people of the parish have been very involved in ministry all over the world. More recently the people of the parish have been undertaken a major refurbishment of the local graveyard.

In 2012 a memorial stone was unveiled in the Graveyard in memory of all who are buried there in the hope of the Resurrection.