Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

LESSON PLAN 3:

Dalkey and Killiney

Focus:
- Origin of names of Dalkey and Killiney. Some common prefixes

1. Resources
1. Teacher background Information
2. Photo of Dalkey Island Martello Tower
3. Photo of Killiney Bay and information
4. Photos of Old Killiney Church, Cill Iníon Léinín
5. Photo of Glendalough
6. Map of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown showing a selection of placenames
7. Student activity sheet

2. Introduction:
1. Re-visit Martello Tower drawings (lesson 2) and discuss
2. Show photo of Dalkey Island Tower 2.1. Discuss position of door (facing away from the sea).
   Where might the door be on an island tower? (On Dalkey Island it was on the roof!)

3. Development:
1. Look at the name Dalkey. It's a Viking name. Dalk means thorn and ey (or ei) means island in scandinavian.
2. The Irish name for Dalkey is the same as the Viking name Deilg (thorn) inis (island). This is the shape of the island when viewed from a height. During Viking times, Dalkey Island was a holding centre for Irish slaves being sent to Scandinavia.Students invited to suggest other placenames with 'Inis': *Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, Inis Oírr*. Sometimes used for peninsula Inishowen.
3. Show 4. Understanding placenames in Irish gives us information about that area. Near Dalkey is Killiney. Kill or 'Cill' in Irish is common in placenames. What does it mean? (Church) Cill Iníne Léinín means the church of the daughters of Léinín. This refers to the seven daughters of a local chieftain called Léinín who had a great reputation for holiness and who established a church there. The remains of the church are still to be seen.
4. Record student suggestions of other places with 'Kill' or 'Kil' in their names: Shankill (sean chill), Kilmacud (Cill Mochuda), Kiltiernan.
5. Show 5. Glen is another word that appears in Irish placenames. Glendalough gives us very little information but Gleann dá Loch tells us about the area (valley of the two lakes)
6. Show 6. Record other student suggestions of places with 'glen': Glencullen, Glenmalure. Sometimes the meaning is not clear: Glenageary could be Gleann na gCaorach (valley of the sheep) or Gleann na gCaora (valley of the berries). Which is it more likely to be?

4. Conclusion
1. Student activities: see attached sheet

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Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION
LESSON 3

Early Christian Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Many placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown begin with Kill or Kil: Killiney, Kilmacud, Kiltipper, Kiltiernan. 'Cill' in Irish means church and this is evidence of an early Christian church in that location, possibly associated with a hermit or with a monastery. Killiney – Cill Iníon Léinín is associated with the seven holy daughters of Léinín, a local chieftain of the late 6th century. A church dating from the 11th century is still standing there. It would have replaced an earlier wooden church.

There are many other places named after saints: Kill Avenue, Kill Lane, Abbey Road, St. Fintan's Park all relate to the ruined church at Kill o' the Grange associated with St. Fintan. Saints Patrick, Brigid, Columbanus, Gall all have places or streets named after them. Shankill, Seanchill, is of course 'the old church', the location of which is unknown. Monkstown also has a religious origin and is derived from the association with the monks of St. Mary's Abbey in Dublin. A local legend has it that, even earlier, the monks of Inispatrick/Holmpatrick, off Skerries fled the Vikings in the year 798 and sailed across Dublin Bay in their currachs, docking at the little estuary where Laoghaire had earlier established his dún. They proceeded up along the stream to establish their monastery where the old Monkstown graveyard is located at Carrickbrennan. Since this little stream was to become the location for the construction of the largest artificial harbour in the world a thousand years later we can see how important a role it played in three different phases of our history.

Where the remains of an early church or monastic settlement have vanished the placename is often the best way of identifying the location and of preserving the name of the saint. Kilmacud, (cill MacCoda) is one example. Taney, (Teach Naithí) recalls St. Nathy. There are several places named after these local saints. There is no evidence that MacCoda was a GAA supporter! Rathmichael is an example of a well preserved monastic site, constructed within an earlier Iron age fort. We cannot be sure who the founder was since Michael may be a corruption of an earlier name.

Several places in Dalkey carry the name of St. Begnet who established a monastery on Dalkey Island. The church can clearly be seen from the mainland, though it has been altered. The men building the Martello Tower there converted the church into a residence for the duration of the construction! By the way, since, as we have seen, the door to a Martello tower was on the landward side, what did they do on Dalkey Island which is surrounded by sea on all sides? (They used a ladder to climb to the roof and entered that way). The reason the door was on the landward side was of course to avoid an enemy ship landing a shell through it!

The name Dalkey is of Viking origin and means 'Thorn Island' ('eye' oe 'ei' is the scandinavian word for island), corresponding exactly to the Irish Deilg Inis. Bulloch is also a Viking word. Ireland's Eye got its name in the same way and has nothing to do with sight! The Vikings left their mark on Dalkey in other ways. There is evidence that they used Dalkey Island as a detention centre for Irish captives who were to be sold into slavery in their homelands. In the year 939, an Irish bishop who had been captured, drowned while trying to escape from the island.

Over time there is evidence that the Vikings became well integrated and many converted to Christianity. Ballaly or Baile Amhlaoibh or the Town of Olaf, a Viking saint. The early Christian churches still standing were most probably built by Vikings.

Killiney Church is very accessible from Killiney Dart station. It is located on Marino Ave. West. A key is held by local residents.

Scale: 1: 5,000

■ Easting: 726850   Northing: 726013
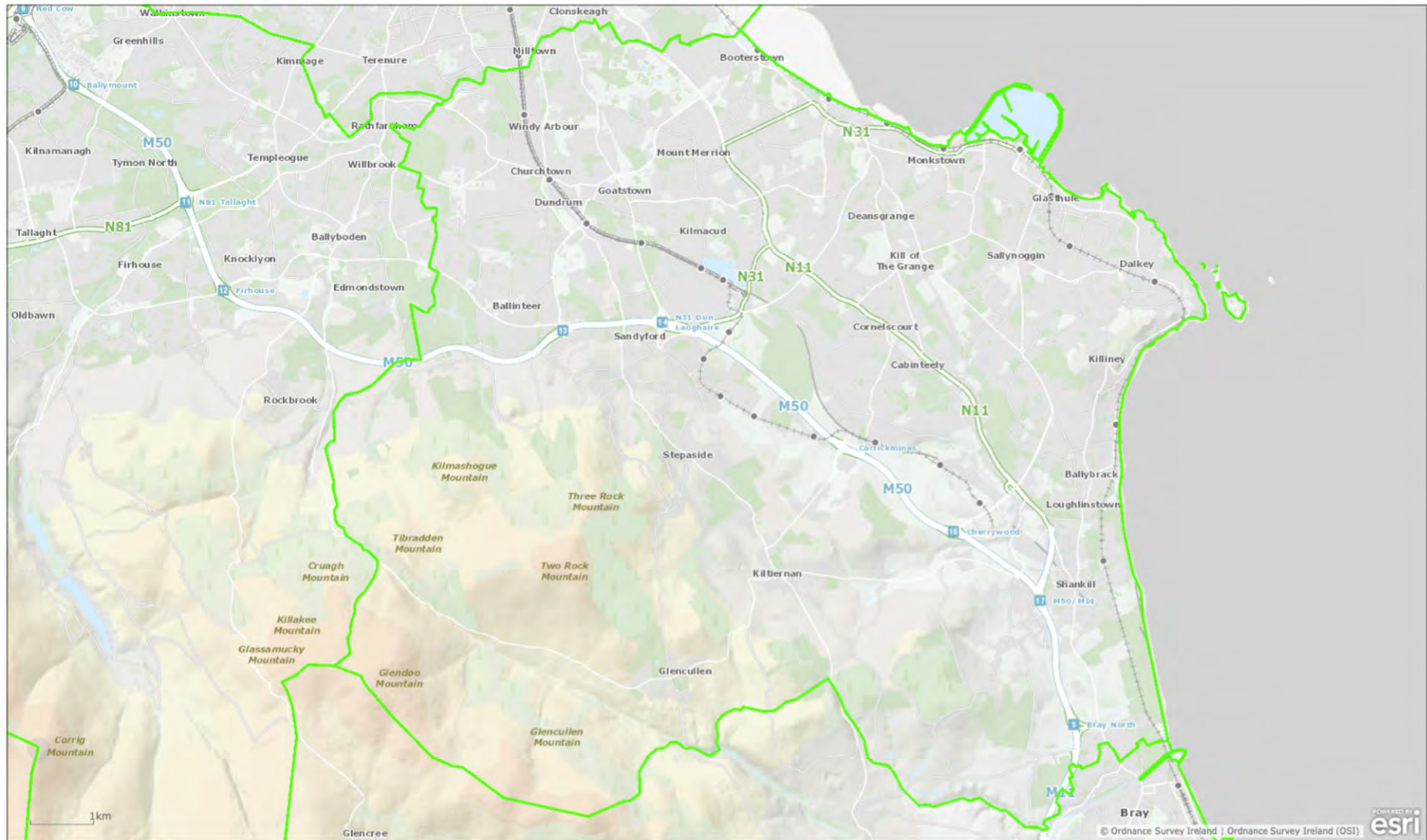
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■ Easting: 719493   Northing: 719956

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Scale: 1: 10,000

■ Easting: 708977   Northing: 695341

Resource 6

Scale: 1: 50,000

■ Easting: 708486   Northing: 717912

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

WORKSHEET 3
LESSON 3

Study the examples and add 3 more to each category.
You can use the map of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to help.

Gaeilge	English	Sample	Information
Inis	Island	Inis Mór	Big island
Cill	Church	Cill Iníon Léinín	Church of the daughters of Léinín
Gleann	Glen/Valley	Gleann dá Loch	Glendalough
Baile	Town	Baile Breac	Speckled town (scattered houses)