

# The Roscrea Spring Conference

The 42nd consecutive conference: 28th - 30th March 2008

at Mount St Joseph Abbey, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Theme: *The Round Towers of Ireland*

## FRIDAY 28th MARCH

- 6.00 Supper and registration  
6.45 Reception hosted by Roscrea Heritage Society  
7.20 Welcome: Dom Kevin Daly, Abbot of Mount St Joseph  
7.30 Official opening by Professor Peter Harbison  
7.45 *The bells are ringing*  
Fr Nivard Kinsella, OCSO, Mt St Joseph.  
8.10 *The Irish Round Tower – origins and development*  
Professor Roger Stalley, History of Art, TCD  
8.55 *Discussion*  
9.15 End of Session  
Hospitium

## SATURDAY 29th MARCH

- 3.45 Optional rise for vigils  
9.30 *The historical background to the building of the Round Towers*  
Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, Roinn na Staire, NUIG  
10.10 *The Round Towers of Ireland – similar yet distinct*  
Professor Tadhg O’Keeffe, UCD  
10.55 *Discussion*  
11.10 Coffee  
11.40 Scholars, controversies, and antiquarian and other images of the Round Tower  
a) *Antiquarian images in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and Irish Round Tower antiquarians* – Peter Harbison

- b) *Some nineteenth-century watercolours of Round Towers*  
Con Manning, Senior Archaeologist, DEHLG.  
12.40 *The Round Tower at Roscrea – historical background and introduction to the afternoon’s field trip*  
George Cunningham, M.Litt  
1.05 *Discussion*  
1.15 Snack Lunch

## Saturday Afternoon

### Field trips

- 2.45 St Cronan’s monastery at Church Street, Roscrea:  
The Round Tower  
Blackmills and replica of the High Cross  
Optional visit to Roscrea Castle and gardens  
5.30 Vespers  
6.00 Sherry reception hosted by Roscrea Credit Union  
Launch of ‘*The Making of a Missal and a Scroll*’ by Karl Donnelly. An account of the making of a missal and an exultet scroll for the community of Holy Cross monastery. Limited number available; made to order  
6.30 Dinner  
8.10 *Wish I had been present* – lecturers share a wish or a special moment  
8.50 *Illustrated quiz on Irish Round Towers and their bibliography*  
George Cunningham  
9.15 Hospitium



## SUNDAY 30th MARCH

- 9.30 *A Cistercian Round Tower*  
An tAthair Ciarán Ó Sabhaois, OCSO, archivist MSJ  
9.50 *The Round Tower at Roscrea –*  
b) *Nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century developments*  
George Cunningham,  
10.15 *Discussion*  
10.30 Community Mass  
11.30 Coffee  
12.00 *Case study: the Round Towers at Clonmacnois*  
Con Manning  
12.40 *The way forward: discussion on the research necessities connected with Irish Round Towers*  
Chair: Dáibhí Ó Cróinín  
1.15 *Summing Up*  
George Cunningham  
1.35 Lunch

*A date for your Diary*

The 43rd Roscrea Conference

31st - 2nd November 2008

Theme:

Wandering Irish medieval scholars

## THE ROSCREA CONFERENCE

Two historical/archaeological conferences are organised each year at Mount St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea: One on Early Christian Ireland on the weekend after Easter; the second held around Hallowe'en concentrates on Medieval Ireland. *The Round Towers of Ireland* is the 42nd Roscrea Conference.

### Previous themes:

- The Cistercians in Ireland
- Altar Vessels of the early Irish Church
- The Mendicant Orders in Medieval Ireland
- Books and their Shrines
- Education and learning in Medieval Ireland
- The Irish Church in the Eighth Century
- Bernard and Malachy and Irish/European Society in the late 11th and early 12th centuries
- High Crosses
- Monaincha: Saints, Hermits, Canons, Pilgrims
- Monastic settlements at home and across the water
- Aspects of the town in Medieval Ireland
- Relics, Reliquaries and Associated Places
- Aspects of early Irish castles
- Trees in History
- Aspects of Landscape and Settlement in medieval times
- Christianity and the environment in the early middle ages
- Fashion and furnishings in the late middle ages
- Aspects of Symbolism and Imagery in early Christian Times
- Enduring sermons - the medieval church on the Irish Landscape
- The Monastic Midlands
- The Cistercians of the Isles
- Recent research on the Early Christian Period
- Mss and the printed word in Medieval Ireland
- Regions of Contrast: The Burren and the Irish Midlands in early Christian times
- The Cathedrals of Ireland
- Researching 7th Century Ireland
- Aspects of Music and Liturgy in the Medieval Irish Church
- Researching 9th Century Ireland
- Irish Influences abroad in Medieval Times
- Treasures from Lorrha
- Preaching in Medieval Ireland
- Monastic, Cathedral and Ecclesiastic Libraries – old and new
- Farming in Ireland: History, Heritage & Environment
- Genealogy and Irish Family History
- Shannon Heritage from Derg to Ree
- In Deserto - Influences from the near east on the early Irish and Scottish Church
- Vernacular medieval lives of the Irish saints
- Building and Buildings in Medieval Ireland
- Aspects of Pilgrimage
- The Cistercian World at home and abroad; and Celebrating 40 conferences - 1987-2007
- Aspects of Irish books and Irish book people down the ages

Conference Fee: €55 (includes receptions, all lectures, coffee/tea). Full time students and unemployed €30. Part attendance is possible.

Full board at Mount St. Joseph main guesthouse and Clairvaux: €165 per person sharing (includes conference fee as above with accommodation on Friday and Saturday nights; supper on Friday evening; breakfast, snack lunch and dinner with wine on Saturday; breakfast and full lunch with wine on Sunday); single supplement €10 extra per night. Modern en suite accommodation is now available at the restored Clairvaux House (the guesthouse at the main gate). Some places for full-time students are available for an inclusive rate (full board and fee) of €80 per student sharing.

All bookings to, and additional information from Rev Fr Gabriel McCarthy, Guestmaster, Mt St Joseph 0505 - 21711, Fax: 22198, [guestmaster@msjroscrea.ie](mailto:guestmaster@msjroscrea.ie)

Damer Court Hotel (Grant's) have a special b/b rate for the conference: €45 per night b/b single or €85 for double or twin b/b; meals at the Abbey as required. Mention the conference when booking. Conference organizer and director, George Cunningham, (Dept. of History, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Limerick) Parkmore, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary; [georgencunningham@eircom.net](mailto:georgencunningham@eircom.net).

The Roscrea conference is run by *Roscrea People* in association with the Office of Public Works and Roscrea Heritage Society.

### Recent local publications for sale at the conference:

- \* *The Roscrea Conference – celebrating 40 conferences at MSJ*, edited by GC. Limited signed and numbered edition.
- \* *100 years of co-operation at Roscrea - Roscrea Bacon Factory, 1907-2007*. Eds Michael McEvoy and George Cunningham (all proceeds from this publication to local charities, courtesy of Glanbia Roscrea).
- \* *The Parish Churches of North Tipperary*, WJ Hayes and Joseph Kennedy.
- \* *Moments*, poems by Carmel Cunningham – limited edition. Also p/b.
- \* *Muintir Ros Cré, pt 2* by Ciarán MacNíocláis
- \* *Roscrea People 2007*

Brochure sponsored by  
**BANK OF IRELAND, ROSCREA**

## ROSCREA SPRING CONFERENCE —2008—

AT

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH ABBEY

ROSCREA CO. TIPPERARY

IRELAND

The 42nd  
Consecutive  
Conference

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*Theme*

*The  
Round Towers  
of Ireland*

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**28th-30th MARCH 2008**

