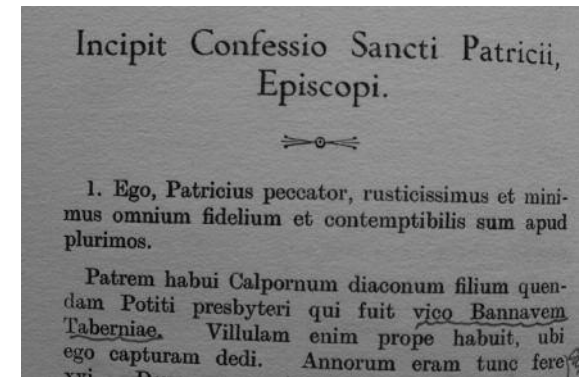


The Roscrea Spring Conference

The 44th consecutive conference: 17th - 19th April 2009

at Mount St Joseph Cistercian Abbey, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

Theme: *The early centuries of Irish Christianity: transition from paganism*



FRIDAY 17th APRIL

- 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 Fr Nivard Kinsella, ocsa
7.40 *Christening the Landscape*
Dr John Feehan, UCD
8.20 *What difference did Christianity make?*
Prof. Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, NUIG
9.00 Discussion
9.15 End of Session
Hospitium

SATURDAY 18th APRIL

- 3.45 Optional rise for vigils
9.30 *Landscape and agricultural change at the start of the Early Christian Period in Ireland*
Prof. Valerie Hall, QUB.
10.10 *The problem of St Patrick*
Dáibhí Ó Cróinín
10.50 Discussion
11.00 Coffee
11.30 *A function for the holy well?*
Dr Niamh Whitfield, FSA, London

- 12.15 *The archaeological evidence for the transition*
Prof. Etienne Rynne, Professor Emeritus of Archaeology, NUIG
1.00 Discussion
1.20 Snack Lunch

Saturday Afternoon

- 2.30 a) At Mt St Joseph
Background and practical demonstrations:
Back to the Future: The Galway Inscribed Stones Laser-Scanning Project
Thierry Daubos, Sander Westerhout & Doireann Dennehy, NUIG.
b) Visit Roscrea Heritage: Castle Complex and Blackmills
5.30 Vespers
5.55 Sherry reception hosted by Roscrea Credit Union to honour the republication of *The Landscape of Slieve Bloom* by John Feehan
6.25 Dinner
8.00 *Wish I had been present* – lecturers share a wish or a special moment
8.50 *Illustrated quiz centred on the conference theme*
George Cunningham
9.15 Hospitium

Brochure sponsored by
BANK OF IRELAND, ROSCREA

SUNDAY 19th APRIL

- 3.45 Optional rise for vigils
9.30 *Irish local names and customs: from paganism to Christianity.*
An tAthair Ciarán Ó Sabhaois, ocsa, archivist MSJ
9.50 *Pagan or Christian? Burial in Ireland 5th to 7th centuries AD*
Dr Elizabeth O'Brien, FSA, Research Fellow UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute, Dublin
10.20 Discussion
10.30 Community Mass
11.30 Coffee
11.55 *UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute's project on 'Mapping Death'; how one of the major themes now emerging from the evidence relates to the process of conversion.*
Dr Edel Bhreathnach, Academic Project Manager.
12.30 *Pagan Past & Christian Present: Ireland c. AD 500*
Discussion on conference theme and modern research on the various disciplines
1.30 Summing up - George Cunningham
1.45 Lunch

A date for your Diary
The 45th Roscrea Conference
30th October - 1st November 2009
Theme: *Irish Saints and the Liturgy*

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 early centuries of Irish Christianity: transition from paganism* is the 44th 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
- The Round Towers of Ireland
- Wandering Medieval Irish Scholars

Conference Fee: €60 (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: €170 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 €85 per student sharing.

Conference organizer and director, George Cunningham M.Litt., FSA (georgecunningham@eircom.net), Parkmore, Roscrea (also History Dept., Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, UL).

Further details and bookings to Fr Gabriel McCarthy, ocsa, guestmaster Mt St Joseph Abbey, 0505 21711; guestmaster@msjroscrea.ie.

Damer Court Hotel (Grant's) has 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 – early booking advisable. Damer Court Hotel at 0505 23300.

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



Reception on Saturday 18th April at 6.00 pm
to honour the republication of
The Landscape of Slieve Bloom
By John Feehan
(First published in 1979 and long out of print)

ROSCREA SPRING CONFERENCE —2009—

AT

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH ABBEY

ROSCREA CO. TIPPERARY

IRELAND

The 44th
Consecutive
Conference

Theme

*The early centuries
of Irish
Christianity:
transition from
paganism*

17th - 19th APRIL 2009

