

Religion & Ritual

Nov 2016 - May 2017

Tipperary County Museum
Lecture Series



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council



Religion & Ritual

From the beginning of time religion and its associated rituals have been constant yet ever changing.

A study of any period in the past will always include a study of the religious customs and beliefs. Ireland is known worldwide for its religious heritage, Tipperary's own Rock of Cashel being the iconic image portrayed across the world and Ireland is frequently referred to as the Island of Saints and Scholars. The fourth annual Tipperary County Museum Lecture Series investigates this deep and varied topic. The series will feature a host of speakers who have meticulously researched and studied their subject over many years.

The lectures will look at religious practices and beliefs from prehistoric to recent times, with particular reference to Tipperary in many of the case studies. It will look at the archaeological evidence for religion and ritual, the physical evidence through buildings & artefacts plus the intellectual and social aspects of religion. It will also examine the clash between the Church and the State. A tour of some of the sites associated with the lecture series will be arranged towards the end of the series.

Lecture Calendar

	DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
Lecture 1	Sat 5 th Nov 2016	The Archaeology of Religion in Tipperary	Richard O' Brien
Lecture 2	Sat 3 rd Dec 2016	The Secrets of the Bog Bodies	Eamon P Kelly
Lecture 3	Sat 7 th Jan 2017	The Derrynaflan Hoard and it's significance	Ragnall Ó' Floinn
Lecture 4	Sat 4 th Feb 2017	The Cistercians	Breda Lynch
Lecture 5	Sat 4 th March 2017	The Fracturing of Christendom - The Reformation in Ireland 1530-1700	Raymond Gillespie
Lecture 6	Sat 1 st April 2017	The Quakers of Tipperary	Michael Ahern
Lecture 7	Sat 6 th May 2017	The Mother and Child Scheme	Andrew McCarthy

LECTURE

01



The Archaeology of Religion in Tipperary

Sat 5th November 2016

Richard O' Brien



Biography: Richard O'Brien is from Cashel, Co. Tipperary and has worked as a professional archaeologist since 1993. He has worked throughout Ireland on archaeological digs, as well as in Germany and the Isle

of Man. A licensed archaeological director since 1997, he has directed excavations in Tipperary, Dublin, Meath and Wicklow. In 2001 he joined Waterford County Council as a Project Archaeologist. Since 2007 he has worked for the National Roads Authority in the Regional Design Office in Limerick. In 2015 the NRA became TII, Transport Infrastructure Ireland. In his spare time Richard operates the Rathnadrinna Research Project, involving geophysics and excavation on one of the largest forts around Cashel.

Synopsis: The 'Archaeology of Religion in Tipperary' lecture will focus on new discoveries throughout Tipperary which have been made on our Motorways and what this evidence reveals of religious practices in the past? Have we evidence of Druidic rituals? Is there evidence for any organized structures to religion in prehistory and what forms might it have taken? What impacts did the arrival of Christianity and later the arrival of the Monastic Orders have on people's lives? The lecture will be illustrated with images from various excavations throughout Tipperary.

LECTURE

02



The Secrets of the Bog Bodies

Sat 3rd December 2016 -

Eamonn P Kelly



Biography: Eamonn P. Kelly is the former Keeper of Irish Antiquities at the National Museum of Ireland who has published widely on diverse topics of Irish archaeology. His interpretation of the prehistoric

Irish bog bodies has been the subject of a number of TV documentaries and led to the popular exhibition in the National Museum entitled *Kingship and Sacrifice*.

Synopsis: Bog bodies are rare survivals of human remains from earlier times. The preservative properties of bogs are such that bodies are found with hair, skin, hands, internal organs and other soft tissue preserved. Such a discovery may make it possible to come face-to-face with a person who lived millennia ago and to observe how they looked; how they styled their hair or wore their clothing. It is also possible to find out what they ate; what diseases they may have suffered in life and the manner of their deaths. Up to one hundred bodies of all periods have been found in Irish bogs, representing accidental deaths as well as formal interment and more casual disposal. What characterises Bronze Age and Iron Age finds however is the fact that many appear to be victims of ritual killing. *Secrets of the Bog Bodies* will present evidence supporting the theory that these victims were ancient Irish kings.

LECTURE

03



Image courtesy of R. O'Floinn

The Derrynaflan Hoard and its significance

Saturday 7th January 2017

Ragnall Ó Floinn



Biography: Ragnall Ó Floinn was appointed Director of the National Museum of Ireland in 2013 having joined the Museum in 1976 as Assistant Keeper in the Irish Antiquities Division. He is a graduate of University College

Dublin with an MA in Celtic Archaeology. His research interests lie primarily in the medieval period with a particular focus on reliquaries and the cult of relics; decorated metalwork; the archaeology of the early medieval Irish Church, antiquarians and the history of collections. He has lectured widely and is the author of numerous papers and has co-edited a number of books, including *Ireland and Scandinavia in the Early Viking Age* (1998) and *Treasures of the National Museum of Ireland - Irish Antiquities* (2002). A co-authored monograph entitled *Viking Graves and Grave-Goods* appeared as part of the Museum's Dublin Excavations Series in 2014.

Synopsis: The discovery in 1980 of the hoard of altar vessels of 8th -9th century AD date at Derrynaflan, Co. Tipperary was the archaeological find of the last century. This lecture will outline the history of its discovery, its subsequent conservation and display and the excavations carried out at the site. The history of the site where the discovery was made will be explored and the art historical and archaeological importance of the hoard will be assessed. The ensuing court case, which led to fundamental changes to our national antiquities legislation, will also be examined.

LECTURE

04



Image courtesy of TCM

The Cistercians in Tipperary

Saturday 4th February 2017

Breda Lynch



Biography: Breda Lynch is a native of south Kilkenny and graduated from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth in 2009 with a Ph D in History. Breda's main area of interest is the Church in Medieval Ireland

with particular emphasis on the Cistercian Order and has published and lectured widely on this subject. Breda is employed by the Office of Public Works and is based at Jerpoint Abbey, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, from where she manages six other National Monument sites in the south east.

Synopsis: For many of us the monasteries we visit are stand alone features, viewed as complete structures. However this heavily illustrated lecture will show us just how misguided that perception is. Participants will leave with a new perspective on the role of the monastery and the way the monks utilised the complex immediately surrounding the church and cloister. Taking the Tipperary monasteries of Hore, Holy Cross, Inishlounaght and Kilcooley as examples Breda will help us to build a picture of the monasteries as places of industry, craft, manual labour, ingenuity, experimentation and quiet contemplation. The role of the Cistercian monks in the 12th century church reforms and the later re-emergence of the Cistercians in 19th century Ireland will also be discussed.

LECTURE

05



The Fracturing of Christendom - The Reformation in Ireland 1530-1700

Saturday 4th March 2017

Raymond Gillespie



Biography: Raymond Gillespie teaches in the department of history in Maynooth University. He is perhaps best known for his work in the area of local history but he has also written widely about the world of early modern Ireland. He is particularly interested in the cultural role of religion in that world and he is the author of, among other books, *Devoted people: religion and belief in early modern Ireland* (Manchester, 1997).

Synopsis: In the early part of the sixteenth century one of the things that had held Irish people together despite their ethnic and geographical diversity vanished. The coming of the reformation to Ireland fragmented Christianity in a way that had never been seen before. Imposed from above it seemed initially as if the new reformed ideas would meet little resistance but gradually they became entangled with other developments to ensure that institutional religion in Ireland became a deeply divisive force in Irish society. Resurgent Catholicism and entrenched Protestantism clashed violently, most spectacularly in the outbreak of the rising of 1641. Yet behind this there is another story. While institutions changed quickly in response to reform and counter reformation pressures the ideas that shaped individual minds changed more slowly. In the midst of a turbulent world people tried to rebuild the religious structures that allowed them to make sense of their world and create a new religious experience. This is their story.

LECTURE

06



The Quaker Ethos

Saturday 1st April 2017

Michael Ahern



Biography: Michael Ahern holds an M.A. and a Ph.D in history from the National University of Ireland. He is a retired vocational teacher and is a regular contributor to various journals and magazines. He is the author of *Figures in a Clonmel Landscape* (2006), *The Quakers of County Tipperary 1655 - 1924* (2009) and *Clonmel County Gaol* (2010). He lives in Clonmel.

Synopsis: The Society of Friends more commonly known as the Quakers had a large and lasting legacy on the County of Tipperary in areas such as business, education, railways and farming. In this lecture Michael will paint a vivid portrait of some of these families such as the Grubbs, Malcolmsons, Pims and Dudleys to name but a few. He will discuss their success in business, their passivism, their philanthropy and their lifestyles to illustrate what it was that set this social group apart and what caused them to all but disappear from the County that still holds them in such high regard.



Image courtesy of Andrew McCarthy

The Mother and Child Scheme

Saturday 6th May 2017

Andrew McCarthy



Biography: Andrew McCarthy teaches history at UCC. His research interests are twentieth century Irish history generally, Irish public health, financial and administrative history, and the economic modernisation of

Ireland in 1960s. He has written and co-authored a number of works on Irish history, including books with Dermot Keogh, *Twentieth Century Ireland: Revolution and State Building* (2005), *Limerick Boycott 1904* (2004), *The Making of the Irish Constitution, 1937* (2007) and with Larry Geary, *Ireland, Australia and New Zealand : History, Politics and Culture* (2008).

Synopsis: The Mother and Child controversy, long associated in the public mind as the rupture in Church-State relations in the clash between Archbishop John Charles McQuaid and Dr Noel Browne, was in reality a far more complicated affair. Andrew McCarthy will look at the origins of that scheme in the 1945 Health Bill, the politics of health in 1940s Ireland, tracing the range of opposition to the scheme, from medical, political, clerical, educational, personal and administrative. He will introduce the key players (of whom there were many) in the controversy - all before the election of Noel Browne to the Dáil in February 1948 - and under Browne, will chart the fate of the scheme down to the denouement of April 1951.



All lectures will be held in Tipperary County Museum, Mick Delahunty Square, Clonmel.



Lectures will commence at 10.30am sharp.



€5 per lecture. Space is limited. Seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis



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