



Ó Domhnaill Abú!

Clann Dálaigh - The O'Donnell Clan Association

Founded at Easter 1954 and registered with Clans of Ireland

Anniversaries: 70th & Donegal Castle & Abbey: 550th

Feast of St. Domhnall, 26 April 2024

Dear O'Donnells, kinsfolk, descendants and friends,

Today is the Feast of St. Domhnall, as per the *Martyrology of Donegal – A Calendar of Saints of Ireland*, prepared by Mícheál Ó Cléirigh (Tadhg an tSléibhe), of the Four Masters, in the early 17th century (c. 1630). The "Martyrology of Donegal" was begun and finished in the Franciscan Convent of Donegal (the Abbey), on the 19th of April, 1630 after ten years effort, including much undertaken in St. Anthony's in Leuven (Louvain).

The first *Rally of the Clans* was announced at the official launching of *An Tóstal* in 1953. The second President of Ireland at the time, Seán T. O'Kelly, declared: "*An Tóstal will be a time of pageantry and national rejoicing, in which the Irish Clans from far and near come together in joyful reunion*".

The Rally of the Clans took place early the following year, Easter 1954, with the O'Donnell Clan in premier place: it was the last to fold to English domination, and would be the first to arise *phoenix*-like. Thus the O'Donnell Clan Association (ODCA) was born in Donegal at the first rally of our Clan at home in about 350 years, and now we mark its 70th Anniversary, and the 550th Anniversary of Donegal Castle, and the foundation of the Abbey.

The ODCA has been re-formed and renewed again in 1989, and in 1997, and now in 2024. Over the past seventy years, it has grown from a small base in Ireland, with historic branches in Austria and Spain, to a truly global membership with members as far afield as Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Greece, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and of course next door in Britain. And we know of many O'Donnells in France, Germany, Sweden, and of descendants in the Gulf, south Asia, in fact almost every continent.

Over this time, expectations, values, and standards have also evolved, and so this gathering will adopt a new Constitution fit for the 21st century and our global presence, yet preserving our intangible cultural heritage, and in line with the guidance of the Charities Regulator. We need new leadership and strong teamwork across the board and across our partnerships. We will use an online platform for e-voting the new Council in advance of the EGM.

This gathering is your opportunity to help shape our vision for the future, and to engage in building it. It is also an opportunity for us to empower those whose voice has not been heard before, and to build the capacity to celebrate a diversity of lives lived in our traditions, as well as those who forged new paths in various ways and places over time. And most of all to listen to the aspirations of our younger ones, so children and youth are most welcome. Their mastery of new technologies will strengthen the planetary fabric of our community, and accelerate not only learning but achievement.

Join us, come, be there, engage!

The Interim Council

The current ad hoc Interim Council will stand down after the EGM on 9 June 2024, and be replaced by the newly elected Council. The current Interim Council Members are: Maria Angeles O'Donnell-Olson (Spain & USA); Frank Hannigan (Ireland); J. Hugh O'Donnell (Canada); Mary Louise O'Donnell (Ireland); John McCaffery (New Zealand); Seán O'Donnell (Ireland); Francis M. O'Donnell (Ireland; Chair)