

# BOOK LAUNCH

## **“Memorialising Emigré Dignity”** *the Cultural Heritage of the College of the Irish College Leuven*

Venue: Royal Irish Academy  
Date: 6pm, Friday 5 September 2025

### **Launch Programme**

- Up to 5pm      **Viewing *An Cathach***, St. Columba’s Psalter *aka* the O’Donnells’ Battle Book  
Reading Room, Royal Irish Academy
- 5-5.30pm      **Preparatory installation:** deployment of support personnel, stock of books, pull-ups,  
equipment, Irish Harp in Council & Members’ space, registration
- 5.30-6pm      **Arrival & registration** of participants, sponsors, speakers, and audience  
Reception hosted by Clans of Ireland & O’Donnell Clan Association
- 6.00pm      **Introduction** *Amb. Francis M. O’Donnell, Fellow, World Academy of Art & Science;  
President, O’Donnell Clan Association; & of Genealogical Society of Ireland*
- Formal presentation of copy to the Royal Irish Academy**
- 6.10pm      **Welcome to the Royal Irish Academy**  
*Barbara McCormack, Academy Librarian, RIA*
- 6.20pm      **Welcome to the Book Launch** - Introductory remarks; *co-author*  
*Dr. Mary Katharine Simms, MRIA; Fellow Emeritus, Trinity College Dublin*
- 6.30pm      **Keynote Speaker**  
*Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, Fellow, World Academy of Art & Science &  
Co-Chairman, InterAction Council of Former Heads of State & Government*
- 6.45pm      **Guest Speakers** (5-7 mins each)  
*Prof. John McCafferty, Chair of the Irish Manuscripts Commission and  
Director of the Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute, UCD*
- Dr. Benjamin Hazard, School of History, UCD and  
Editor & Researcher, Irish Manuscripts Commission*
- Rev. Fr. Francis Cotter, STD, OFM, Dún Mhuire House of Studies, Killiney  
Franciscan Historian & Theologian “The Franciscans of Today”*
- Print Co-Sponsors**  
*Mr. Luke McInerney, Leas-Cathaoirleach/Vice-Chair, and Director of Publications,  
Clans of Ireland, co-sponsor*
- Paul Manzor, CEO/Eneclann – Irish Family History Centre*
- 07.30pm      **Classical Irish Harp Recital** (Carolan’s Concerto, et al.)  
*Dr. Mary Louise O’Donnell, Creative Associate, Arts Council of Ireland, Musician-  
in-Residence, Tallaght University Hospital*
- 7.50-8pm      **Closing remarks** (Closure/end at 8pm)