



The Dooley Dispatch

March 2021

Celebrating 42 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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Major Dooley Division Richmond, Virginia

Webpage <http://aohrichmond.org> Check out the web page for better pictures, events, green pages, various reports

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[Jim Woods](#) 747-9286

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[Scott Nugent](#) 503-9888

*All phone numbers are area
code (804) unless otherwise
indicated*

Next Meeting – Tuesday November 9, 2021 7:00 p.m. ZOOM



President's Message:

Brothers All:

The Feast Day of the Patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick is next week, March 17th. "Things" are opening up so we can celebrate by getting out and participating.

March 17th

The Division will hold a Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Church Hill, at 9 am. All are welcomed. Afterwards we will gather at Rosie Connolly's for fellowship.

Annual Raffle

The raffle on-line is up and running. Check-out the details in this edition of the Dispatch. I encourage all Brothers to post the raffle link in all your social media accounts to sell no-contact tickets. Please post the reason for the raffle: to raise money for Catholic Schools, Seminarians, Pro-Life Programs, Freedom for all Ireland, and support of Catholic Parishes.

<https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/aohraffle>

Each Brother will receive a book of ten raffle tickets in the mail to sell or buy with the annual dues invoice. As in the past, a Brother can buy ten tickets for \$100 and have his \$35 dues paid in full.

I will not be with you this month. I am up in NY (Hudson Valley) this month because by Dad is seriously ill. Vice President Casey will run the March 9th Business Meeting.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Larry



Upcoming Events:

March 17 – 9:00 am St. Patrick Church Mass

10:30 am – Rosie Connolly's

2:00 pm – Rare Olde Times

5:00 pm – Rare Olde Times

7:30 pm – Rare Olde Times

See the sign-up sheets on the website for details on St. Patrick's Day events

https://aohrichmond.org/sign-up-forms/?sheet_id=47

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For March 9, 2021 Meeting

Please contact Fr. Jim Arsenault if you need him to visit and pray for and with someone in the hospital. Contact him at M 804-221-1508 and/or jarsenault@stelizcc.org

From Previous Meeting and since then:

- **Joe McGreal** passed away after his battle with dementia over the past several years.
- **Anne Kiernan** (93) – Aunt of *Brian Hegarty* – Died in County Cork
- **Mike Gudgeon** (66) – Cousin of *Scott Nugent* – Died from lung cancer

From Prior Meetings:

- **Lori Forbes** - Wife of *Tom Forbes* - Back from hospital. On the road to recovery
- **Tom Forbes** – Had cataract operation in January. Tom recommends it (only if you need it)
- **Larry Keefe** – Hemorrhage in left eye – Seeing specialist. Most likely surgery.
- **Fr. George Zahn** – Contracted COVID-19. Keep our Chaplain in your prayers.
- **Peter George**, father of *PJ George*, knee replacement surgery
- **Barbara Casey** – Sister of *Bill Casey* – Recovering from knee replacement surgery
- **Mary Kelly** (96) – Mother of *Frank Kelly* – Mary is diagnosed with Covid-19

- **Jim Woods** (83) – Father of *Jim Woods* – Recovering from heart operation
- **Siobhan Nolan** (53) – Sister of *Tom Nolan* – Having open heart surgery
- **Betty McAuliffe** – Wife of *Gary McAuliffe* – Recovering from eye surgery to repair a macular hole
- **Gary McAuliffe** – Dealing with tremors in his hand
- **Jim Calpin** – Recovering from stroke
- **Edward Maynes** – is having an upcoming heart procedure (date is not yet known)
- **Rita Hastings** – *Tom Hastings'* mother – Hip operation, gallbladder removed
- **Phyllis Collins** – Mother of *Mark Collins* – Had seizure. Has brain tumor. Age 87.
- **Joanne Kennedy** – Aunt of *John Kennedy* – Breast cancer. Operable. Good success for recovery.
- **Barbara Laroza** – Aunt of *Tom Nolan*
- **Siobhan Mooney** – Sister-in-law of *Jack Griffin* - Diagnosed with lung cancer. Had lung removed.
- **Dover Harper** (Social Member, Good friend of *Jack Cassells*) – Recovering from Triple Bypass Surgery
- *Mark Atchinson* – Brother **Daniel Atchinson** – Quadruple bypass in August, spot on lung discovered, biopsy indicated cancer, determining treatment.
- *Chad Costello's* brother-in-law (**Doug Dakin**). 48 years old, colonoscopy found cancerous mass in his colon.
- **Paulie McFadden** skin condition and his wife, **Mary Ellen**, back pains
- *Hugh Naughton's* wife, **Jessie Naughton**, has lower back, migraine issues and other ailments
- *Billy Spicer's* brother-in-law, **William McCracken**, had an infection on the brain and had brain surgery to remove it.
- **Pat Saizan**, sister of *Larry Keefe*, suffering from Lymphoedema
- **Don Lattanzi**, AOH Brother, had two back surgeries, pneumonia and breathing problems

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at swnugent44@yahoo.com

A Proclamation on Irish-American Heritage Month, 2021

Since before the founding of our Nation, Irish immigrants have arrived on our shores with an unyielding spirit of determination that has helped define America's soul and shape our success across generations. Driven by the same dreams that still beckon people the world over to America today, so many crossed the Atlantic with nothing but the hope in their hearts and their faith in the possibility of a better life. That's what brought the Blewitts from County Mayo and the Finnigans of County Louth to the United States. For years, they brought Ireland into their homes in America. Working

hard. Raising families. Remembering always where they came from. By 1909, my grandparents Ambrose Finnegan and Geraldine Blewitt met and married in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and passed on to my mother, Catherine Eugenia Finnegan Biden, a pride and a passion that runs through the bloodstream of all Irish-Americans.

The story of the Irish the world over is one of people who have weathered their fair share of hard times, but have always come out strong on the other side. From often humble beginnings, Irish Americans became the farmers, servants, miners, factory workers, and laborers who fed our Nation, kept our homes, and built our industry and infrastructure. They became the soldiers who won American independence, died to preserve our Union, and fought in every battle since to defend America and its values.

Irish Americans became the firefighters and police officers who have protected us. They are the activists who organized unions to give voice and strength to America's workers. They are the educators who taught generations of American students and the public servants who have answered the call to service in the halls of the Congress, the Supreme Court, and the White House. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Irish-American inventors and entrepreneurs who helped define America as the land of opportunity. Irish-American writers pollinated America's literary landscape with their love of language and storytelling, while Irish lyricism has brought poetry, art, music, and dance to nourish our hearts and souls.

As I said when I visited Dublin in 2016, our nations have always shared a deep spark — linked in memory and imagination, joined by our histories and our futures. Everything between us runs deep: literature, poetry, sadness, joy, and, most of all, resilience. Through every trial and tempest, we never stop dreaming. The fabric of modern America is woven through with the green of the Emerald Isle. This month, we celebrate the sacrifices and contributions that generations of Irish Americans have made to build a better America, and we renew the bonds of friendship that will forever tie Ireland and the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR

Shades OF Green



CELEBRATING IRISH-AMERICA
ST PATRICK'S DAY 2021

Shades of Green

19:30 ET 17 March

The Embassy and Consulates of Ireland in the United States, in partnership with the Irish Arts Center in New York and the Association of Irish and Celtic Festivals, invite you to Shades of Green, a virtual St Patrick's Day celebration showcasing the breadth and brilliance of Irish American arts. This 90 minute programme will feature stories across Irish America, musical performances, and much more.

Broadcast live on www.ireland.ie/usa. This webpage will go live a few days before the event.

For a list of events around the State, please visit the Events Calendar on the Virginia State Board website:

<https://aohvirginia.org/events/>

MARCH IS IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Contributed by Bill Halpin

Irish American Heritage Month is heralded by Presidential and Congressional proclamations that celebrate the achievements and contributions of Irish immigrants and their descendants to the fabric of America. IAHM is also featured on national websites at the Library of Congress, the National Archives and the Smithsonian Institution. Today 39 million Americans claim Irish heritage! So, there is plenty of reason to celebrate the month of St Patrick, Irish American Heritage Month. Here's why.

In the 1400s the Irish were rebelling against English rule. The English wanted a loyal population so they confiscated Catholic properties and granted ownership to loyal Scottish and English migrants. This occurred primarily in Ulster, Ireland's northern-most province.

About five generations later the English ordered all subjects to convert to the official church of England. The Scots had strong Presbyterian roots and refused. They were labelled "dissenters" and suffered discrimination under the so-called Penal Laws. Thousands decided to leave for America.

The “Ulster Irish” arrived in the colonies as skilled workers, artisans, and merchants. Their first settlement was named Donegal in the Pennsylvania colony and later they populated the Shenandoah Valley. They assimilated, prospered and became active in government. In 1776, eight Irish Americans, three born in Ireland, signed the Declaration of Independence.

During the American Revolution, about 35% of George Washington’s army was Irish with 1500 officers and 25 generals. Commodore John Barry is honored as the Father of the U.S. Navy. After the American victory, English leaders lamented the “loss of the colonies to the valorous Irish”. Through the 1800s, eight U.S Presidents claimed Irish heritage: Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Johnson, Grant, Arthur, Cleveland, and McKinley.

In the 1830s another wave of Irish immigrants began to arrive in America. These Irish had lived for generations under Penal Laws that officially deprived them of religion freedom, education, and owning land. In the 1840s the Great Hunger further decimated the Irish population and more than 800,000 fled, many to Boston and New York. These Irish were poor, unskilled, Gaelic speaking, and Catholic. They did not easily assimilate and faced religious and ethnic discrimination, from the Know-Nothings, a major political party based on an anti-immigrant philosophy.

Irishmen labored at menial jobs and in coal mines and canal and railroad construction. Irish women became domestic servants, exposing them to the finer aspects of life and raising their expectations for the American Dream.

In America’s Civil War, these “new” Irish joined the military to gain acceptance in their adopted country. For many it was a “job” providing enlistment bonus money to send home. Others joined to learn the art of warfare in anticipation of a future fight for Irish independence. Few units are as famous as Thomas Meagher’s Irish Brigade, especially here in Fredericksburg.

After the war, the Irish became a political force in major cities. William Grace and Hugh O’Brien were elected the first Irish-Catholic mayors of New York and Boston. The Irish became prominent in the labor movements and the Democratic party where they flourished in politically appointed public positions. Irishwoman Mary Harris “Mother” Jones organized the United Miners Union, George Meany was elected President of the American Federation of Labor and Peter McGuire is known as the “Father of Labor Day”. This upward mobility assured the third generation would be better educated and more successful than their parents and grandparents. This is evident as since 1900 eight more U.S Presidents claim Irish heritage: Kennedy, Nixon, Reagan, Clinton, both Bushes, Obama and Biden. Further, ten Supreme Court Justices, seven Speakers of the House and 253 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients claim Irish ancestry.

So, there is plenty of reason to responsibly celebrate the month of St Patrick, Irish American Heritage Month, not only with parades and festivals, but also in schools and the media.

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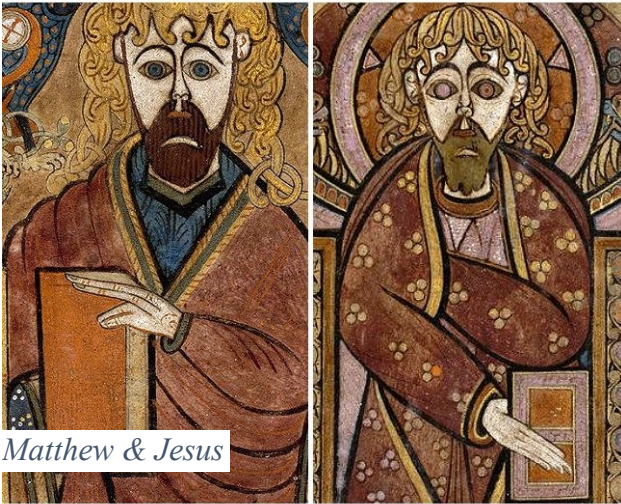
*Bill Halpin, a retired intelligence officer and graduate school professor, is founder and chairman of the Irish Cultural Center of Virginia, Inc., and Past President, Virginia Ancient Order of Hibernians and of Fredericksburg’s General Thomas F. Meagher Division, AOH.*





# The Book of Kells

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



Matthew & Jesus

Why do more than one million people every year come to look at a 1,200-year-old book? The Book of Kells sits in a darkened room encased in protective glass in the old library at Trinity College. To the Irish, it's regarded as one of the greatest cultural treasures of Ireland and described by some as the most famous manuscript in the world.

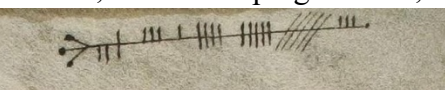
But why is it so famous and why do so many people from around the world want to see it? And, why is its artwork reproduced in such varied places as Irish national coinage and tattoos? There is no one answer to these questions but a key to understanding The Book of Kells is it always held different meanings for different people. One may say, it's a sacred scripture, part of the Christian Bible and it had been prepared and created with such care and attention that you may say its very composition was an act of devotion. At another level, it's

an artistic masterpiece the intricacies of which lead the mind and eyes along a path of imagination. The Book of Kells is to Dublin what the Mona Lisa is to Paris and the Sistine Chapel ceiling is to Rome. For Irish people it's a sense of pride, a link to Ireland's past reflecting its unique art. A symbol of Irishness. You haven't been to Ireland unless you've seen the Book of Kells.

In 613, Saint Columbanus wrote to Pope Boniface IV, "We Irish, inhabitants of the world's edge, are followers of St. Peter and Paul." This remarkable statement tells us the Irish saw themselves as Christians and unique, and yet in contact with the center in Rome. This is the world in which the Book of Kells was created.

The Book of Kells is simply a copy of an earlier text – a new edition. It's what we call a gospel book. It contains the four gospels which come from the New Testament of the Christian Bible. The book is very precious to the Irish because it comes from an era in Ireland of great learning from the eighth and ninth century. The Latin text is written on vellum (dried calf skin) in very clear insular script in various colors of ink. The quality and quantity of illustrations make the manuscript exceptional. Practically every page is adorned with intricate artwork.

The name the Book of Kells comes from the Monastery of Kells in what is now modern Co. Meath. The monastery was founded in 807 by monks fleeing Viking attacks on the western Scottish island of Iona. It's thought to have been started on Iona and brought by monks to Kells and finished there. While still in Kells, the gospel book was known as the Great Gospel Book of Columcille. Columcille, also known as Saint Columba, is an early Irish saint who was born in Co. Donegal and went as a missionary to the islands off the coast of Scotland. Columcille was famous for his scribal gifts, for learning, and his creativity. By the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the gospel book was regarded as a relic of Saint Columba. In 1007, monastic chronicles record the theft of the great gospel book of Columcille, described as the most precious relic in the western world, in order to steal its jeweled cover. The manuscript was secretly hid under sod, buried in the ground, and recovered some time later and remained in Kells during the medieval period. By the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, the manuscript, was considered miraculous and venerated by the local Catholic community. In the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century it was brought to Trinity College library, in Dublin, for safekeeping and has, remained there ever since.



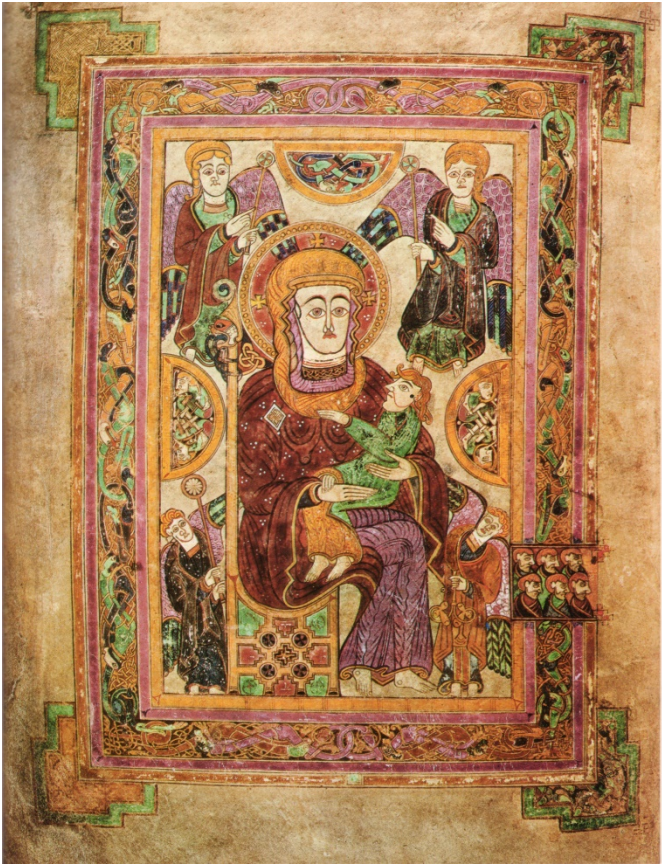
An interesting note about the Book of Kells is pages from the gospel of John are missing. This could have been due to being torn out by thieves or it was not finished, perhaps to be finished later. Either way, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> century

addition of some land charters to the blank pages in the manuscript show the everyday spoken language of those using it is Irish. Another item of interest is one monk while composing the manuscript makes a marginal note in Ogham script that describes his ale-induced hangover (above).

The Book of Kells was created by people of faith, who believed in Jesus Christ as the living Word of God. They sought to make the manuscript as beautiful as possible in both word and image. In this way they hoped that it would invite the viewers of the text into the central mystery of the Christian faith.



*Saint John holding a pen and an inkwell at his foot*



*Saint Mary holding Baby Jesus*



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## MAJOR JAMES H. DOOLEY DIVISION

