

Volume 1, Issue 97

January 2023

Ó Máille



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights

- A Happy New Year to you all
- Clan Gathering Bookings now Live!!
- Cardinal O'Malley reflects on the passing of Pope Benedict
- Remembering the terrible bushfires in Victoria, Australia – Mary O'Malley
- JP O'Malley on leaving Lviv when the war in Ukraine began
- Eoin O'Malley on what's needed to deal with the housing crisis in Ireland
- The full programme of events for the Gathering in June 2023
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- An upcoming online Clan Gathering travel workshop with Ireland101

A Happy New Year to you all from The O'Malley Clan!



Bookings for the O'Malley Clan Gathering 2023 are live!
Click on the image below

www.omalleyclan.ie



Cardinal O'Malley reflects on the passing of Pope Benedict

Cardinal O'Malley remembers and celebrates Pope Benedict XVI

Statement expresses personal appreciation to the pope emeritus

Boston Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley issued a statement Saturday praising Pope Benedict XVI, the emeritus pontiff who died that morning at the age of 95, as an “engaged leader, thoughtful in his decisions and always committed to the mission of the Church.”

The statement expressed personal appreciation for the confidence Pope Benedict had shown in O'Malley in 2006 when he named him cardinal in charge of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston.

O'Malley noted that the German-born theologian, formerly Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, “stunned the world and the Church” in February 2013 by becoming the first pope to resign in office in nearly six centuries. “His fidelity to maintaining the truth and clarity of the Catholic faith, cultivating ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and reaching out to inspire the next generation of Catholics have been great gifts to us all,” he wrote.

O'Malley's statement also shared memories of his interactions with the pope emeritus, including a reference to a visit they paid together to survivors of clergy sexual abuse. In that visit, Benedict “demonstrated his deep pastoral care for the survivors,” O'Malley wrote.

“Pope Benedict XVI recognized the pain experienced by survivors and all persons impacted by the abuse crisis,” he wrote. “He was then, and at all times remained, committed to the Church supporting their journey towards healing and doing all that was possible to ensure the protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.”



Above: Sean O'Malley, was elevated to cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI during a ceremony at the Vatican on March 24, 2006

Cardinal O'Malley reflects on the passing of Pope Benedict

Here is the full text of Cardinal O'Malley's statement:

"Today a loving God called Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI home to his eternal reward for a lifetime of dedicated service to the Church. That service included 71 years as a priest, 28 years as a Cardinal, and nearly eight years leading the Catholic Church as the Bishop of Rome and Successor to St. Peter.



His life and his pontificate were based in a deep and abiding faith and an extraordinary record of theological scholarship. In the years leading to the Second Vatican Council and at the Council itself, Father Joseph Ratzinger made substantial contributions to the renewal of Catholic theology, and he played a significant role in the drafting of key conciliar documents. Pope John Paul II called Cardinal Ratzinger to Rome to serve as the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In that role, he proved to be an invaluable contributor throughout the pontificate of his predecessor. Pope Benedict XVI's pontificate was characterized by broad and deep contributions to Catholic magisterial teaching.

"In all of my personal interactions with Pope Benedict XVI, I found him to be an engaged leader, thoughtful in his decisions and always committed to the mission of the Church. I am very appreciative of the confidence he showed in me when he made me a Cardinal in 2006 and his ongoing support and pastoral care for the Archdiocese of Boston.

"In February 2013, he stunned the world and the Church by becoming the first Pope to resign the office in nearly 600 years. At that time, I noted that he brought unique capabilities to the papacy. His fidelity to maintaining the truth and clarity of the Catholic faith, cultivating ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and reaching out to inspire the next generation of Catholics have been great gifts to us all.

"Perhaps the most moving experience for me was accompanying survivors of clergy sexual abuse to a meeting with the Holy Father in Washington, D.C. during his 2008 pastoral visit to the United States. It was a great privilege for me to be present at this meeting, as the Holy Father, in very personal ways, demonstrated his deep pastoral care for the survivors. Pope Benedict XVI recognized the pain experienced by survivors and all persons impacted by the abuse crisis. He was then, and at all times remained, committed to the Church supporting their journey towards healing and doing all that was possible to ensure the protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

"I am particularly mindful in this Christmas season of God's unconditional love for all of us manifested by the Incarnation. I continue to pray for all of those in need that they may know His love and of our blessings upon them, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pope Francis and each of you.

"I will miss Pope Benedict.

"May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace."

Mary O'Malley on the Australian bushfires of New Year 2020



Three years on from the Black Summer fires,

Mallacoota's community-led recovery has reaped big benefits but left volunteers exhausted and frustrated

Above Mallacoota mother Allison Marion took this photo as she and her two primary school-aged sons fled the fires.

In the smoky dawn of 2 January, 2020, a naval ship arrived off the shores of Mallacoota, the scene of an apocalyptic firestorm that completely isolated the Victorian holiday town, stranding 10,000 visitors and residents.

The fire was started by a lightning strike near Wangan River 40km away on 28 December, and arrived in the town two days later. Some 123 houses were destroyed.

As the ship anchored, news feeds across the world were making Mallacoota momentarily famous, with images that looked pulled from a dystopian movie. A young boy steering a boat, backlit by a blood-red sky. Ghostly figures huddled along the foreshore, backlit by streaks of flame like a macabre New Year's Eve fireworks display. No power, no water, the one road in and out cut off for what would be weeks.

Just 16 hours after receiving the SOS call, the crew of the HMAS Choules had assembled the resources for what was to become the largest civilian evacuation in Australian history. By 3 January, the first 1,000 evacuees were sailing away, traumatised by their experience but nurtured by naval staff who had foregone their own New Year's holidays to help. It was a stunning example of an organised and prepared response to a disaster. It is not, from the perspective of many in Mallacoota, an example that has been emulated across the nation. Disaster preparedness is a mindset sadly lacking in all levels of government and in responses at a community level in the three years since Black Summer, says Jenny Lloyd, the inaugural deputy chair of the Mallacoota and District Recovery Association (Madra). "The fact the navy could kick in so quickly is proof that other government sectors can do this too," says Lloyd, a former naval logistics officer.

Mary O'Malley on the Australian bushfires of New Year 2020

Lloyd says a key part of that preparation is acknowledging that climate change is causing sequential disasters. "Recovery is perhaps a misnomer as it implies a measurable end to a disaster which may never happen," she says. "We need greater emphasis on continuously improving preparedness."

It is a sentiment echoed by fellow Mallacoota resident Mike Amos, who has years of experience in disaster zones around the world.

"I've worked in a lot of developing countries where the agencies land and everyone knows who is doing what, from shelter, to water, to food etc," he says. "This hasn't happened here."

Amos says he sees little evidence of planning for surge capacity – the ability to assign experienced teams to respond to a disaster at a moment's notice, with provisions in place to backfill their normal roles.

"The long-term recovery piece also gets missed," says Amos.

Agencies are funded for short-term solutions, he says. They provide invaluable support in the time they are on the ground. But when they depart communities can be left in a worse position as wellbeing services are withdrawn while they are still needed.

"Everyone recovers at a different pace," he says. "For some people, the trauma triggers can be felt years after the fact."

Working (and volunteering) through tears

In the day or so after the fires, as I roamed among blackened stalks under an angry red sun, tears were ever-present. I had survived the terror of the sky turning red then black. The shrieks and explosions. The swirling firestorm snaking towards us. Yet the silence of bush bereft of wildlife – the stripped, smoking earth afterwards – it felled me.

In the months afterwards, as we recognised there could be no business as usual, tears were displaced by frenzied activity. With four other

women, I co-founded a collective to help the town rejuvenate through the catalysts of co-working, education and social enterprise. On the surface, I'd say I've healed. But then quiz me another day about Black Summer and tears will form.

Ask most people in this town for their one-word response to the past few years and it's either "tired" or "exhausted". In this town of 1,200, there are 65 community associations powered by volunteer hours and people who give their time across multiple committees. Everyone is stretched thin.

The reliance on volunteers to drive recovery initiatives is not sustainable, says Madra chairperson Carol Hopkins.

"Madra became a fantastic example of community-led recovery and the benefits to the town have been huge," Hopkins says. "Being able to articulate what the town wants and needs has been vital ... [But] what's wrong with someone earning a living managing a town's recovery initiatives?"

Disaster recovery grants, while generous, are rolled out at a time when many communities don't yet understand their needs. The grant application process can be taxing and competitive, and they rarely include wages. The load invariably falls on fatigued volunteers – some juggling full-time jobs.



Above: The Princess Highway into Mallacoota on 31 December 2020, a year on from the devastating bushfires.

Mary O'Malley on the Australian bushfires of New Year 2020



The emergence of grassroots organisations such as Madra, Lloyd believes, speaks to the need for a different system – and not just in disaster response. Communities such as Mallacoota want to be able to co-design their own destiny and work with governments on more systemic approaches to the issues that plague rural and regional communities.

One such issue – overlooked at the bureaucratic level – is the lack of young people.

“If you look at our volunteer emergency services personnel there’s a lot of grey hair out there,” says Lloyd, who also volunteers with the State Emergency Services. “We desperately need young people.”

That partly involves providing meaningful educational and career options to allow them to stay, as well as affordable, plentiful housing.

Fatigue aside, work continues on all these fronts.

There’s a maxim that’s relevant here. “There’s no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

Oddly, through fire and pandemic, Mallacoota has found that power. Watch this space.

Above: People gather on the beach in Mallacoota, one year after the fires.

Mary O'Malley is a Mallacoota-based journalist and co-founder of the Wilderness Collective, Mallacoota, a social enterprise formed in response to the bushfires.

JP O'Malley on Leaving Lviv

Leaving Lviv

An Irish writer reflects on fleeing his home in Ukraine.

On a Thursday morning in late February I awoke at dawn expecting war. A quick click on Twitter confirmed my worst fears. "Peaceful Ukrainian cities are under strikes", tweeted the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dmytro Kuleba. "This is a war of aggression and Ukraine must defend itself and will win," Ukraine's foreign minister added. "The world can and must stop Putin. The time to act is now."

Why didn't I leave sooner? As an Irish citizen, I'm privileged in having that option. I moved to Lviv two and a half years ago while trying to finish a novel. An affordable, picturesque city that sits on the crossroads between Europe and the Russian-speaking world, it seemed like the perfect destination.



Above: Lviv in Ukraine, JP's home for 2 years

In that time, the city has become my home. Once an important regional outpost of the Habsburg empire, Lviv has always been culturally closer to Vienna than Moscow. But since the 2014 Maidan Revolution, it has become visibly pro-European as Ukraine attempts to move away from its Soviet past. The use of the Ukrainian language in the public cultural and civic life of the city has been a particularly important part of that process.

I don't claim to be an expert on these matters. To my shame, I have little knowledge of the Ukrainian language. Yet I've also made good friends here – with Lviv locals, with people in Kyiv, and with Europeans and Americans in Lviv with similar literary and cultural interests. When the drums of war started beating, I didn't know if I should stay or go. In mid-February the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin told all Irish citizens it was no longer safe to stay in the country.

I ignored the advice. Leaving in a panic seemed drastic. Also, the close bonds I had built in Lviv had become important to me, especially as a war seemed increasingly likely. Our friendships had strengthened during the few months leading up to February. Finally, however, I booked a flight to leave Ukraine. I was checking Twitter every minute or so. My bags were packed, but I wondered if I would be too late.

Just after 8am on Thursday 24 February, with three bags and my passport packed, I decided it was best to get out sooner rather than later.

As I opened the door of my flat I saw my neighbour across the hallway. "You are leaving," she said. "Well, I hope everything will be okay." I said an awkward goodbye and then boarded the number 1 tram on the outskirts of Lviv. Heading down Lychakivska Street there were long lines of people outside ATMs, frantically withdrawing cash.

JP O'Malley on Leaving Lviv

Passing by Lviv Town hall in Rynok Square I heard the sound of emergency aerial bomb sirens. I messaged a good friend in Kyiv on WhatsApp.

“Stay safe,” I wrote.

“Stay alive,” she replied.

At Lviv-Holovnyi railway station at 9am crowds congregated calmly in the main hall looking for a ticket promising a way out of war. The mood was stoic, and quietly respectful. My train to Przemyśl, Poland, 114 kilometres from Lviv, was due to leave at 11am.

Two hours later the train station in Lviv was eerily empty, with no sign of moving transport. More Ukrainian military arrived outside the station in trucks, smoking cigarettes, unpacking their equipment. The emergency bomb sirens rang out in the distance. I messaged my friends who were fleeing to the Polish border by car. “We are a bit stuck,” one of them explained. “We might have to abandon the car and walk.”

The train finally left Lviv just before 4pm.

By 6pm, I was in Poland, where the press eagerly awaited the first contingent of war-fleeing migrants. I set up camp in Przemyśl train station, near the border, surrounded by others who had fled the country, and settled down for the night. We lay on deck chairs and texted our loved ones. A small, cute, ruddy cheeked infant laughed in front of me and made me smile. Her grandmother silently wept across the room.

Polish military handed out soup, coffee, bread, water, and chocolate to all arrivals. The cross-European tolerance, decency, and solidarity was reassuring; proof, if any more was needed, of why Ukraine wants to turn west. The hospitality continued the next day, on the train south to the capital, Kraków. More free water, fruit, sandwiches and smiles from the Poles.

But on the afternoon of Friday 25 February, the news coming from Kyiv was not good. Ukrainian officials urged residents to take shelter from advancing Russian forces, as Vladimir Putin encouraged them to take the capital by force. Another friend told me she was going to spend the night with her boyfriend at one of Kyiv's metro stations, hiding from rocket fire. Like tens of thousands of fellow Ukrainians, she was heading west towards Lviv, and then to the Polish border. But the exit strategy was getting harder and harder.



JP O'Malley on Leaving Lviv

An acquaintance in Lviv told me the city was becoming unsafe. "There are rumours of a full-scale Russian bombing on the city," he said. "And people are regularly going to bomb shelters."

At 6am on the Saturday morning another friend texted from Kyiv. Her 60-year-old uncle was preparing to go fight with a rifle on the capital's front line to defend Ukraine, she said. "Night was very hard," she told me. "There was many explosions just a few km from me for hours. Not going now to railway as there are shootings and street fights not far from me and railway. I'm also still hearing explosions from time to time."

"The Russians just bombed the airport close to my place," she added. "And got to a civil building too."

Miraculously, she managed to board a train a few hours later.

On Saturday afternoon in Kraków, I met some of my Lviv friends for lunch. It had taken them 24 hours to cross from Lviv into Poland. They were sleep deprived and trying to maintain their sanity. Finding ourselves suddenly in Poland with a war raging in the east, we all began to ask the question: *where to next?*

Some talked of staying in Kraków. Others mention going to Prague, maybe Berlin, or even Copenhagen. In these uncertain times, however, most plans weren't going beyond the next few hours.

I texted my friend in Kyiv again to see if the train had safely reached Lviv. It had. "You must be glad you finally made the decision to flee," I wrote. "No," came the response. "I am scared for my family and what happens to them and that I will never see them alive again," she wrote. "There are no words to describe all the bombings and the horror of the situation."

On Saturday at dusk, in Kraków's beautiful Old Town, we joined a hundred or so Ukrainians on a peaceful public demonstration. Some were refugees. Others were Ukrainians, long-term residents of the Polish city. We walked behind and joined in with the continual chanting, the demand for a No-Fly Zone to stop the Russian airstrikes, including the shelling of residential neighbourhoods. "Close the sky, close the sky, close the sky."

One American-Ukrainian friend from Lviv broke down in tears beside me. Her grandparents had fled to the west from Lviv after the Soviets occupied the city at the end of the Second World War.

"History repeating itself," we said.

That night we took a drink in a dive bar in Kraków. I read on Twitter how the Pravda Beer Brewery in Lviv had suspended all production of alcohol. It was now making Molotov cocktails instead.

We spent most of the night on our phones making contact with friends in Lviv and Kyiv. The news was moving fast and much of it was coming via Facebook and WhatsApp groups. Anyone who had left Lviv was offering their free apartments to fellow refugees fleeing from various other Ukrainian cities.

A small network of war-time bonding was building in real time. Most of the talk returned to Putin's next possible military moves. Some said they felt sick even looking at the news. At midnight I tried to sleep in my hostel. On my Twitter feed I looked on in horror as Kyiv and Kharkiv lit up in balls of orange flames.

On the Sunday afternoon, I boarded a bus from Kraków to Budapest. It was mostly Ukrainian refugees on board. I struggled to understand my relationship to them. As an Irish citizen forced to leave my home of two and a half years, am I also a refugee? I do not speak their language. I also had the privilege of being able to plan my departure.

We all left Ukraine suddenly, for the same reason: war. But their loss would be much greater than mine. That much I knew. Some might lose homes, family members even. The country they return to will have witnessed great horror, whatever changes it achieves.

JP O'Malley on Leaving Lviv

As we passed over the snow-capped mountains into Stanica, Slovakia, a Ukrainian woman beside me took a phone call, speaking in English. It appeared she was speaking to a man who was paralysed by panic. "Go to the Polish border now," she was telling him. "You need to move quick. But remember, it's women and children who go first," she added. "And in any case, Ukrainian men between 18 and 60 cannot leave Ukraine because of martial law...You must be patient and trust in God."

On the bus, I befriended a woman from Kyiv in her mid-20s who was sat beside me. She spent most of the journey on her phone watching live speeches from President Zelensky, on the strength of the Ukrainian resistance, and sanctions on Russia applied by the west, along with their contributions of military support.

"I feel I already want to return to Ukraine and help my country out somehow," she told me. When the driver announced there was a 10-minute break, we bought a coffee and smoked a cigarette. "Maybe we could find a church and pray," she said. But there was no time. So we went back to the bus as darkness fell.



Above: Lviv in Ukraine, in peacetime sunshine

On Sunday evening I made contact again with my friend in Kyiv who had fled for Poland on Saturday morning. "I think I'm having a nervous breakdown," she wrote to me, just after she crossed the Polish border at Przemyśl. "I got to Lviv and there was a huge clash of people trying to get the train to Poland to escape. Instead of the normal two-hour train, we spent 24 hours on a train without a toilet and the ability to sit or stand properly, and now I'm just sitting here crying."

On Monday morning, I was in central Budapest. When I bought a coffee outside my hostel on the central street of Dob Utca, most people around me were speaking Ukrainian, dragging their suitcases. I checked my Twitter feed. The UN claimed up to 368,000 had already by then – only four days after the start of the invasion – already left Ukraine. It's estimated that up to 4 million could leave in what is shaping up to be the most devastating conflict on European soil since 1945.

JP O'Malley on Leaving Lviv

I messaged my friend in Kyiv again, discussing possible options as she moves on from Poland. "I know it must be hard to plan ahead after what you have been through," I wrote. "But you should try and think of what you are going to do short-term, and what the easiest safest options are for you."

"I feel like it's a bad dream," she replied. "Like in a few days I'll be able to go back home to my ordinary life, to my parents, to walks, and to nice coffees. My mind refuses to accept this new reality."

In the afternoon I boarded a train to Zagreb. Snow fell as it passed Lake Balaton in the Transdanubian region of Hungary. Movement felt like a distraction. Or a coping mechanism of sorts.

My intended destination is Sarajevo. But I have no real plan. I'll most likely spend my days on Twitter, watching a conflict from afar that's becoming more brutal and unpredictable with each passing day. There's now a scary realisation that this is no small-scale war. Europe and the wider world, meanwhile, look on with horror. Now I have a little time to reflect on my journey, I remember that initial sense of relief on crossing the border to Poland. It didn't last for long.

New Humanist

JP O' Malley is a journalist and freelance writer based, until recently, in Lviv in western Ukraine. His work has appeared in many publications, including the Spectator, the Economist, the Daily Beast, New African, the American Interest and Times of Israel



Eoin O'Malley on what's needed to sort the Irish housing crisis

We moved mountains to tackle Covid threat so let's do the same for housing

Some political problems are acute. Others are chronic.

Acute problems are so immediate and severe they demand attention straight away. Chronic problems happen upon you slowly. Over time they become severe situations that might otherwise constitute an emergency, but their steady approach makes them seem bearable.

Many people consider Ireland good at acute problems but bad at chronic ones. When Covid-19

hit we might have been overzealous, but the whole apparatus of the State and civil society united to deal with the disease and prevent its further spread.

Housing is a chronic problem. It is a crisis for many people who find themselves homeless, and the many more who are paying far too high a proportion of their income to be housed, but for most others it is a problem that we read about. From a situation where there was housing oversupply in 2011, rents crept up over time to a point where many people with good jobs now struggle to rent.

The housing crisis is a “good” problem, in the sense that it's a problem we have because of the country's success. If you remember the 1980s, or need to be reminded, we had “bad” or “wicked” problems: a stagnant economy, high inflation, a weak currency, and high unemployment contributed to emigration and a sense of despair.

There were no obvious or easy solutions. Now people are choosing to move to Ireland, including many who emigrated after the last crash, because Ireland's economy is strong, its politics stable, and its society tolerant and cohesive.

Ireland's population grew by over 30pc in the last 20 years. Compare Ireland's population to Denmark, a similar sized country also in the EU, with population growth of just 9pc. Compared to other European countries Ireland is the outlier, not Denmark.

Changes in our household formation compound the problem. As families become smaller, we need more homes to house the same number of people. On top of this we have seen a huge number of refugees come into the country. There are about 60,000 from Ukraine, adding the equivalent of the population of Carlow in the last eight months.

While we might think they will return as soon as the war ends or the fighting subsides, all the evidence from major population displacements is that the majority of refugees will stay and put down roots here. This reflects well on our society and will add variety to our culture.

Reassuring ourselves that the housing crisis is a “good” problem doesn't absolve us from the duty to solve it. Because it is a chronic problem we've tended to look at small solutions, tweaking issues we identify. Governments in the last 10 years have endlessly tweaked planning regulations in the hope to ignite a



Eoin O'Malley on what's needed to sort the Irish housing crisis

Building boom as opposed to a property boom. But the Ukrainian refugee crisis might have done us a favour. It isn't sustainable or fair to take over a quarter of the country's hotel rooms. The invasion of Ukraine has tipped the chronic problem into an acute one.

And so the sort of radical response politicians had been reluctant to engage in becomes possible. While building numbers have risen, fears of an economic slowdown and rising costs might cause builders to pause some developments despite the strong demand for housing. So the left is correct to say you can't rely on the market. But its solutions — rent controls and eviction bans — just address the symptoms, doing nothing to fight the disease.

We also can't leave it to local authorities. Councils and local politicians naturally respond to local demands, and those demands from people who are already living in homes in the area are uniformly to build less. If every development that a TD or councillor protested about had been stopped, the housing problem would be far, far worse. Add to this the housing of refugees, and some people will have a conniption. The "Ireland is full" hashtag is being used increasingly. While it is frequently said that social media doesn't reflect real life, that's just not true. People may not say these things out loud and in person, but it doesn't mean they are not thinking them.

One councillor in Mayo described the proposal to build 28 modular homes to house refugees as "Putinism at its worst". We may dismiss his fears as those of a crank, but an *Irish Times* poll on Friday shows a clear majority of people in Ireland are concerned about the impact refugees will have on services such as housing.

They are also right to worry about building exclusively for Ukrainians. It would do nothing for the refugees' integration into Irish society to be put in monocultural housing.

And if Irish people see we suddenly start reacting to help refugees, they might reasonably wonder whether the State doesn't value Irish people. This would certainly feed racism, something Ireland doesn't need.

So what is there to do? It's clear we can't just keep going as we have. While measures like doubling the amount given to those taking Ukrainians into their homes is welcome and sensible, they'll only put a dent in the problem.

Governments often forget the awesome power of the State. They assume things are too hard to do, that laws prevent decisive action. But remember Covid. The State changed its laws, and did a lot of constitutionally questionable things in reaction to an acute threat. That story, as brilliantly described in Hugh O'Connell and Jack Horgan-Jones's book *Pandemonium* shows how a determined and stubborn Tony Holohan removed obstacles to get things done despite deep reluctance within the system.

The housing crisis is an acute threat to the State because a failure to deal with the problem will lead some to question the legitimacy of the State. The recent suggestion that we might have to use prefabricated and modular homes to address the problem is something we should embrace.

But we should start thinking big. It will be easier to build whole new suburbs or towns from scratch rather than house tens of thousands in small infill developments. They can be built more quickly and more cheaply than traditional approaches.

It could revolutionise how we do building in this country. For it to happen, however, we need someone with determination and an unbending will. We might need — and I can't believe I'm saying this — a Tony Holohan

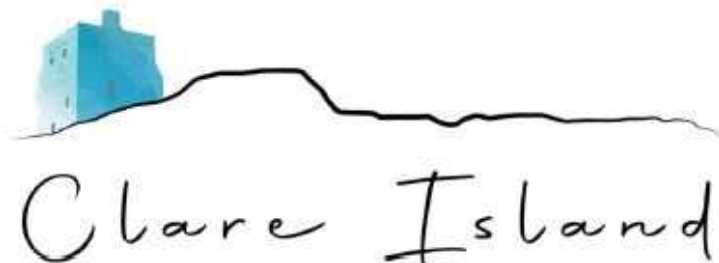
Eoin O'Malley

Irish Independent

The O'Malley Clan Gathering 23-25 June 2023



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 23-25 June 2023

NOTE: Details of events below are the best information available at time of publication and are subject to change.

Chieftain Martin O'Malley and the O'Malley Clan Association invite you to join us for the 67th Annual Clan Gathering in Co Mayo from the 23rd to 25th June, 2023

Note: All event bookings should be made at <https://www.ireland101.com/booking/book/omalley> only. Please do not contact the venues looking for tickets as they do not have them.



Friday 23rd June

Afternoon. (Exact time and Venue to be announced later) Annual General Meeting

Guardian Chieftain Ellen O'Malley Dunlop will chair the AGM.

6:00 p.m. Chieftain's Reception at Westport House

Welcome to the 67th annual O'Malley Gathering from Chieftain Martin O'Malley. Special guest Anne Chambers, biographer of Grace O'Malley.



8:00 p.m. Gala Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Westport

Shaun Davy, Rita Connolly Donal Lunny, David Brophy and Cora Venus Lunny will perform extracts from Shaun Davy's renowned Granuaile suite, portraying episodes in the life of Grace O'Malley, Ireland's Pirate Queen.

The O'Malley Clan Gathering 23-25 June 2023

Saturday 24th June

10:00 a.m. Update on Clan Projects. Venue to be announced later

Among other updates, Dr Maurice Gleeson will update us on the exciting Finding Grace's DNA project. We're trying to track down her genetic signature, so that O'Malleys everywhere can check and see how closely they may be related to the famous Pirate Queen.



11:30 a.m. Travel to Clare Island

Buses from the Octagon, Westport outside the Town Hall Theatre will take you to Roonagh, to catch a ferry to Clare Island. If you wish to make your own way to Roonagh and Clare Island, ferry tickets may be booked directly from the ferry companies at <https://www.omalleyferries.com/> and <https://www.clareislandferry.com/>. Ferries may also be available from Kildavnet pier, Achill Island. Check with the ferry companies.

1:00 p.m. Saturday Festivities on Clare Island

On arrival at Clare Island harbour, overlooked by Grace O'Malley's castle, walk to the Community Centre for a light lunch. Use the early afternoon as you wish - rent a bike to explore the island or go on a guided Famine Walk. You could go for a swim at the beach or just relax with drink and enjoy the scenery. There will be games and events for our younger visitors. Then assemble at Sailors Bar for an evening of music and dancing. We'll have some famous and not-so-



famous performers, and a chance to join in the Céili. Eat at the barbecue and drink at the bar (not included in your ticket) as you wish. Weather permitting, we'll sit around a bonfire and sing a song or two before departing to catch the ferry and bus back to Westport.



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 23-25 June 2023

Sunday 25th June

9:30 a.m. Travel to Clare Island

Buses from the Octagon, Westport outside the Town Hall Theatre will take you to Roonagh, to catch a ferry to Clare Island. As on Saturday, if you wish to make your own way to Roonagh and Clare Island, ferry tickets may be booked directly from the ferry companies at <https://www.omalleyferries.com/> and <https://www.clareislandferry.com/>. Ferries may also be available from Kildavnet pier, Achill Island. Check with the ferry companies.



11:00 Arrive on Clare Island

Walk/cycle/minibus to Clare Island Abbey. It takes about 40 minutes to walk to the abbey from the pier

11:45 Mass at Clare Island Abbey

Saint Bridget's Cistercian Abbey was founded in the 12th/13th century. It was rebuilt around 1460 and contains numerous O'Malley tombs. Tradition claims it as the site of the baptism, marriages and burial of Grace O'Malley.



1:30 p.m. Clan Lunch at Clare Island Community Centre

The formal heart of the O'Malley Clan Gathering. After a sit down lunch Chieftain Martin will review his year in office and recognise contributors to the O'Malley Clan.

3:00 p.m. (approx.) Inauguration of new Chieftain Nano O'Malley MacMahon

After the inauguration and the singing of Óro Sé do Bheatha 'Bhaile, relax and enjoy the company until it's time to say farewell and catch the ferry back to the mainland.



@clanomalley

The O'Malley Clan
Association
Unit 11, Abington Enterprise Centre
Murroe
Co Limerick
Ireland V94 XFD3

Email: omalleyclanireland@gmail.com

Website: www.omalleyclan.ie



www.facebook.com/omalleyclan



[o_malley_clan_association](https://www.instagram.com/o_malley_clan_association)

The O'Malley Clan Association aims to reach out to O'Malleys from all around the world and foster links between the O'Malleys around the globe and the clan at home here in Ireland.

The Clan Association formed in 1953 has been connecting O'Malleys around the world in The US and Canada, Britain, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, South America, and anywhere else you can think of for almost 70 years now.

We hope with our website, and newsletter, that We can go from strength to strength in our aim to connect all the O'Malleys around the world.

O'Malley Clan Association & Ireland 101 Online Travel Workshop 21st January

<https://www.ireland101.com/meeting-room/o'malley>



Host: O'Malley
Clan Chieftain
Martin O'Malley

Complimentary 'Plan your trip to Ireland in 2023' Meeting

Where: [ireland101.com/meeting-room/o'malley](https://www.ireland101.com/meeting-room/o'malley)

When: 21st January 2023, noon US East Coast,
5pm Ireland/UK time

Price: Complimentary

If you would like, please feel free to send your travel questions ahead of the meeting to Niamh at travel@ireland101.com

Travel@
Ireland
101



Host: Travel expert
Niamh Long

67th Annual

O'Malley Clan Gathering

Clare Island, County Mayo 23rd-25th June 2023

Tickets: [ireland101.com/booking/book/omalley](https://www.ireland101.com/booking/book/omalley)