



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights

- Happy Halloween to all those O'Malleys out there!
- Get in touch and share your stories!
- Mary O'Malley and The Lyric Theatre Belfast
- Ross House—An O'Malley Place
- John W O'Malley RIP
- Gombean—Grace O'Malley running a coffee truck!
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- Spreading the word about the O'Malley Clan Association.

Happy Halloween to all those O'Malleys out there!

Happy Halloween to all those O'Malleys around the globe!

The Chieftain can get a bit scary at times as you can see. Need to keep more than a staff length away from him during the winter months!

He's much more welcoming and cuddly when the sun's out though! So be sure to get planning that trip to Clare Island and Westport next June.



The Annual Clan Gathering will take place on the weekend of 23rd to 25th June and is going to be a mighty weekend of music, song, dance, great food, great scenery, and friendships to be made. **Check out the details on www.omalleyclan.ie**

Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!

Have you got an article or old photographs that you'd like to submit for future editions of "O Maille" The O'Malley Clan Association Newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you wherever you're based around the world. Old photographs and stories to go with them, old letters, family trees or just an arti-

cle that you'd like to share with the rest of the clan. Drop us a line and We'll get right to it!



Welcome to our new newsletter from Clan Chieftain Brigid O'Malley

Many, many, many, and many more of you are out there and we are so proud to have you all in our newsletter. We have with the creation of this newsletter a mission to ensure that we have a place to connect and engage the members of the O'Malley Clan Association. We hope all of our members, and all of those who are interested in the O'Malley Clan Association, will find it a helpful and interesting read. We are so proud to have you all in the world of O'Malley. We are so proud to have you all in the world of O'Malley. We are so proud to have you all in the world of O'Malley.

The New US Ambassador to Ireland Mr Kevin F O'Malley

Mr O'Malley has been appointed as the new US Ambassador to Ireland. He has been appointed as the new US Ambassador to Ireland. He has been appointed as the new US Ambassador to Ireland. He has been appointed as the new US Ambassador to Ireland.

Mary O'Malley and The Lyric Theatre Belfast

Mary O'Malley and Belfast's Lyric Theatre

Biographer Bernard Adams on an Irish socialist's successful cultural coup

Mary O'Malley wanted to change the world. In 1947 she came up from the South of Ireland to live in a place which badly needed changing – the Unionist-dominated statelet of Northern Ireland. She wanted to transform her Belfast world, politically and culturally.

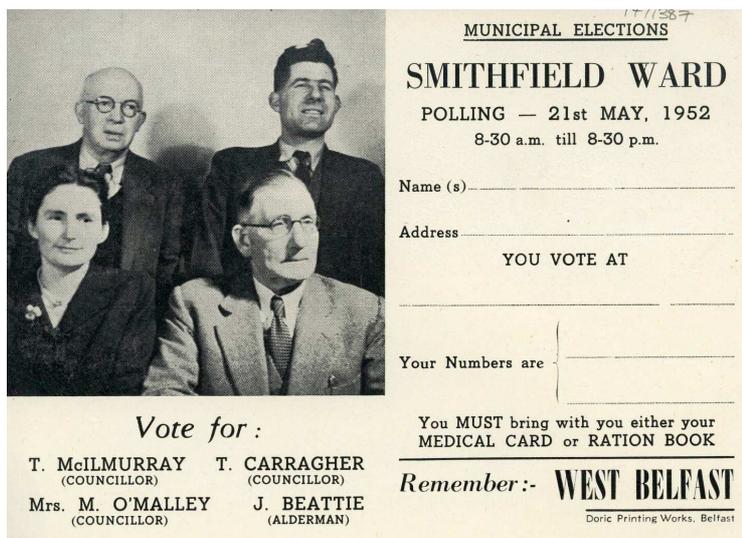
She served for three years in the early 1950s as an Irish Labour councillor on the Belfast Corporation. She had encountered desperate deprivation in the ramshackle homes of her constituents in Smithfield and, as a socialist, laboured hard to alleviate it. But she found the Unionist monolith too hard to crack at that moment. So Mary tried another tack: she directed her considerable energy to asserting her own culture, in her own theatre – trying to add a wider, Irish dimension to theatre-going in Belfast. In 1951 she had begun to put on verse dramas in the bay window of the front room of her Belfast home; in 1952 she moved to a bigger suburban house with a stable block at the back. There, in Derryvolgie Avenue, she made a theatre out of a room above the stable where she created a fine company of actors, turned distinguished Ulster artists into set designers, found a choreographer and a composer and put on 140 plays in seventeen years.

The Studio, as her theatre was sometimes called was divided by folding doors, which were soon removed to make a stage that was deeper than it was wide – twelve by ten feet – and an auditorium. The audience sat in the larger of the two rooms where there was just about enough space for fifty seats.

Mary, being Mary, made her first production an ambitious one: *Icaro*, an Italian play she had helped to put on some years ago with the New Theatre in Dublin. She managed to move no fewer than twenty-two players around her tiny stage.

She and her children's nurse had made the scenery; her mother had helped with the costumes. The production involved 'all the arts – music, dance, setting and costume'. The cast included many who had already stepped out on the Ulsterville bay window stage and some new names, including the precociously talented Norman Stevenson, who was still at school.

The press was invited to this first venture in her new playhouse and was complimentary about this 'unusual play in an unusual city theatre'. One paper said 'those ... privileged to see last night's production must have felt grateful to these performers who call themselves the Lyric Players'. This initial outing convinced Mary that her stable could become a professional theatre even though it meant, for now, a weekend home invasion as the audience walked in through a side door, along the front hall,



Above: Election literature with Mrs M O'Malley included.

Mary O'Malley and The Lyric Theatre Belfast

up the stairs, through a corridor and then down some stairs to get to their seats. It's worth noting that *Icaro* took place with the actors on the same level as the audience, although eventually a stage was built with two shallow steps leading up to it from the auditorium. There was a family feel to productions at Derryvolgie Avenue. After the play the public would gather for coffee – and sometimes even meals – in the O'Malley's breakfast room and the actors would join them.

Until 1960 it was a wholly amateur operation, subsidized by the earnings of Mary's husband, the psychiatrist Patrick Pearse O'Malley, who provided active, lifelong support for her projects. But Mary's ambitions were grand – and after many years of purposeful work in her tiny theatre, The Lyric Players Theatre became a non-profit association. Neither Mary nor Pearse had any experience of managing a fully professional theatre. The task was made even harder by the fact that Mary was a nationalist in a Unionist city. She would run out of the room as fast as she could when the first note of 'God Save the Queen' started. She was a socialist, but potential audiences were much more likely to be conservative. She liked poetic dramas, but local taste was for realism and comedy. Compromise was needed. That was always difficult for Mary.

It took some time, but Mary's fierce will eventually succeeded in getting support for creating a new theatre in Belfast – the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's funding was crucial to this. Yeats' *Cuchulain* cycle debuted the 300-seat Lyric Players Theatre that opened on Ridgeway Street in October 1968. It was maybe the worst possible time in the 20th century to open a theatre here. In a Belfast now torn apart by a sectarian chasm, her choice of play was closely scrutinised.

Nevertheless, she and the Lyric

made it through a suspected assassination attempt and an attempt to blow up the theatre with a 200lb bomb. Mary had courage and tenacity, which she needed as managing her theatre became more and more difficult, and The Arts Council maintained its unwavering support throughout.

From the start the violent uncertainty gripping Belfast, and indeed the whole of Ulster, created internal difficulties for the Lyric: in finance, administration and governance. Management came under unprecedented political scrutiny. Clear demonstrations of loyalty to the Northern Irish state, symbolized by the playing of the national anthem, took on an importance which they would not have had in more peaceful, less polarized times. Rioting and later bombing and shooting made the day-to-day management of the theatre harder: actors could not get to the playhouse on time when explosions closed off whole areas of the city; uncertainty affected advance bookings and an anxious public often preferred to stay safely at home. So, audiences became variable and sparse. Running any theatre at this moment in Belfast would have been difficult. But she and her players adapted and coped. As Linda Wray, one of Mary's trusty actresses from the 1970s, told me:

Belfast in the '70s: six o'clock at night, everything stopped. People just barricaded themselves, there was nothing happening. Bars didn't open. But the Lyric was the one constant thing ... and it was like a sort of beacon of hope, this little, unassuming building at the bottom of Ridgeway Street, it just stayed open.



Above: The interior, looking towards the stage, of the Derryvolgie Theatre

Mary O'Malley and The Lyric Theatre Belfast

The theatre did much more than put on eight or ten plays a year. There were one-night events and performances of various kinds, just as used to happen in the Studio. Recitals by Davy Hammond, a ballad singer with a relaxed and amiable style, were regular events; he had been entertaining Lyric audiences since the 1950s. There was no reason for him to stop now. There were Gilbert and Sullivan evenings; harp recitals by Grainne Yeats; and John Molloy's one-man show *From Inniskeen to Baggot Street*. Mary took every opportunity to lift the pervasive gloom. She even persuaded the Abbey Theatre to send players across the border to perform a play in Irish at the Lyric. They were apprehensive about coming, even more so when bombs went off nearby at Queen's University, and even in Ridgeway Street itself. 'Against this background the Abbey Players performed splendidly and did the Irish language proud. I think, however, that they were glad to get back to Dublin the next day', Mary said.

It was Mary's achievement to create, from the late 1960s, in the somewhat theatre-sceptical city of Belfast, a theatre – the Lyric, which now stands out proudly above the River Lagan, in its new, £11 million re-incarnation. It is delightful to imagine what Pearse and Mary would have made of the handsome, imaginative yet practical, new building.

Fierce Love: The Life of Mary O'Malley by Bernard Adams is published by Lilliput Press. It was launched at the Lyric in Belfast on Tuesday, September 13th.



Above : The Patrons, and Theatre Company, on the last night at the Derryvolgie

Right: Mary in front of the new Lyric Theatre in Belfast in 1968

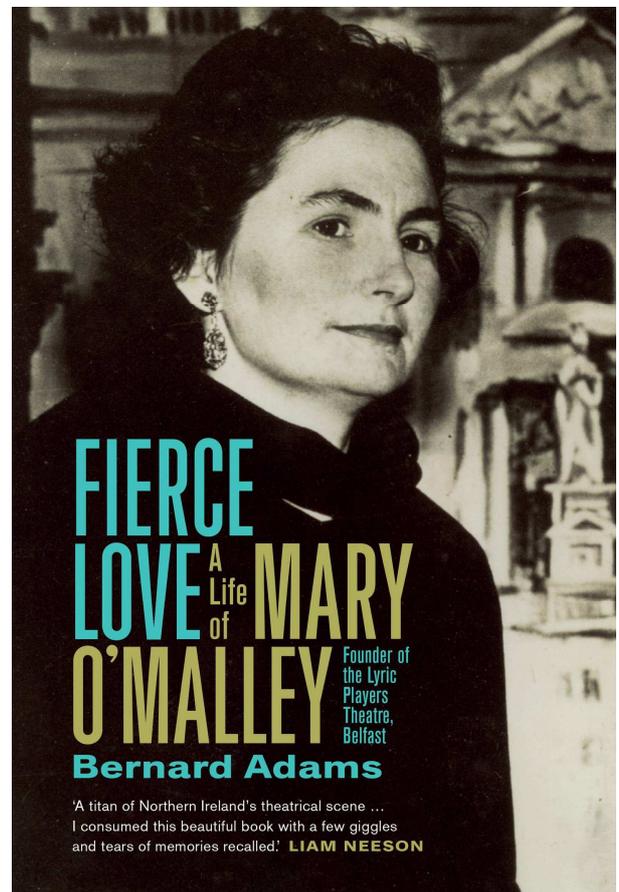


Mary O'Malley and The Lyric Theatre Belfast



Above: Opening night at the new Lyric Theatre in 1968

And Right: The new book by Bernard Adams, "Fierce Love: The Life of Mary O'Malley"



Ross House—An O'Malley Place

A New Era: Reflections on Ross House

Dear friends & family of the global House of O'Malley, I am writing to you with some reflections of the imminent [sale](#) of our Irish ancestral home, Ross House, Newport, Co Mayo. The property has so much history, including a megalithic tomb, known as 'Grainne and Diarmuid's Bed' (also as Odin's tomb on some maps). Ross was bought by my great-great, grandfather, Middleton Moore O'Malley, in the 1886 and includes 70 acres of adjacent lands and the local islands of Inishdaff and Inishloy (latter islands are not for sale). Ownership transferred to our cousins on the Blackwell line (some of whom are also O'Malleys), around 1913 but Ross House was the seat of my great-grandfather and the central home of our O'Malley Diaspora family gatherings from around the world. We'd gather from France, Spain, Canada and the US at least once a year, usually entailing lavish parties in the summer months where, for example, my grandfather would challenge cousins and friends to a swim across Clew Bay from Ross House all the way to Clare Island. This was of course a generation of tough-minded men, fearless, ambitious and hard-nosed, brought up between the wars. Like most We suffered at the hands of the British colonial incursions into Ireland, but in time our family recovered in terms of influence and wealth. Our particular branch of O'Malleys were always deeply proud and rooted in our sense of Irishness, but equally, we were pragmatic and ambitious.



Above: Ross House today



Above Left: Grainne & Diarmuid's Bed



Above Right: The O'Malley Crest (c1931)

Ross House—An O'Malley Place

Make of that what you will. We engaged in the politics and lifestyle of the era for wealthy, aspiring classes, under British rule and into Independence, with all the limitations and complications that this implies during this tumultuous era. Some joined rebellions, others joined armed forces abroad. In those days there were few options for 'gentle'men. There was the Church, law, politics, or the military. Our family were no different to many in the in that respect with most joining forces in France, USA, Britain (Irish Guards), & elsewhere. The men in our particular branch were almost always in the military at leadership level, for example, as either Captains, Majors, or Lieutenant Colonels, even [marrying](#) into British royalty. In our property in Biarritz (France), we used to entertain nobles and elites from across culture and society, including for example Charlie Chaplin.

There was, understandably, a complex relationship between Irish nationalists and members of the Irish families that joined the British forces during these years. But our family supported the independence movement. Indeed, we had a portrait of the Irish revolutionary, Michael Collins, in the family until at least the 1970s before it was sadly sold off.

Many of you will know that O'Malleys have an ancient lineage. But did you know that our family lineage goes back to King Brian of Connaught (365 AD), elder brother of Niall of the Nine Hostages from whom the princely House of O'Neil descend. According to some that makes our name the oldest registered name in the world. This seems unlikely, but we're certainly one of the oldest registered families of Europe. No wonder O'Malleys we're known as the 'Irish of the Irish' (see Malloy, 1998 - *O'Malley Journal*). Indeed, my great-grandfather (an O'Malley-Keyes) married into the Connecticut (USA) Malleys, distant cousins from Mayo and heirs to the [Edward Malley Store](#) fortune. I suppose that makes our branch a particularly 'O'Malley' branch of O'Malley!

Our pedigree originates from King Brian through Maille (the progenitor of the O'Malley name) and through Grace O'Malley's brother, Loughlin or Melaghlin (Chief, d.1575) and his son Edmund (last official Chief of the Name). I have a copy of the original Betham files (former Ulster King of Arms) showing this official pedigree, in full colour and glory, vellum bound with gold leaf. A summary lineage poster was presented at the recent Clan Gathering in Newport, in June, and it generated some lively discussions about the links between our family and other O'Malleys across the world. Of course, we do need to take these pedigrees with a little pinch of salt as these records go back into an entirely different worldview and belief system, into mythology. I imagine that a great deal of the Irish population descends from a [king](#) somewhere along the line! Kings tended, after all, to have a rather keen sexual appetite and not all descendants were officially recognised.

But perhaps what many of you will not know is that it was my great-grandfather (Lt. Col Middleton Joseph O'Malley-Keyes) in the 1930's who was, at least as far as I can tell, the very first person to [broach](#) the idea of an O'Malley Clan Association with Irish historian Tomás O'Máillé. He wanted in one sense to [establish](#) our family line for posterity, but also to dispense with the increasingly vocal infighting between the Belcare O'Malleys and our line, known as the Ross O'Malleys. Both families had claimed hereditary superiority and rights to Chieftainship after all and in retrospect, it is likely that both pedigrees are as valid as the other. I suppose we have to remember the difference between now and then. At the time my grandfather (Major Hamilton Joseph O'Malley-Keyes) didn't seem convinced about the Clan Association idea and always saw himself as



LADY IRIS MOUNTBATTEN, cousin of the King and daughter of the Marquess and Marchioness of Carisbrooke, was married on Saturday to Captain Hamilton O'Malley, Irish Guards, at Hayward's Heath.

Above: The marriage of Lady Iris Mountbatten and Captain Hamilton O'Malley

Ross House—An O'Malley Place

following his father as Chief of the Name even after the Clan was established. After his divorce from Lady Iris Mountbatten, he spent some time in the USA & England (getting married to Eleanor De Pentheny O'Kelly) before retiring in Spain and remarrying again (to the infamous retired [Normal Hartnell](#) model, 'Betty the Bullfighter') to set up a pottery shop, just for fun. They used to drink with glitterati like the author Ernest Hemmingway. In his later years he tried to settle back in Ireland but after some family trust was settled in America in the 1980s, tax complications caused him financial problems, so it was not meant to be. Funnily enough my great-grandfather left Ireland to retire in the Caribbean (Trinidad) for the very same reason.

My great-grand father's (Middleton Joseph O'Malley-Keyes') vision was not to be realised until many decades later when the notion of Clan Association was [instigated](#) again by Sir Owen O'Malley, and after various struggles, the first Clan Chieftain was elected in 1953. By initiating the O'Malley Clan, decisions on leadership could become democratized through the wider O'Malley family, as was the practice in ancient days. But the chieftain system could also become more fitting to developments in the modern Irish State where the ancient Irish Chieftain system of 'nobility' was explicitly [forbidden](#) by the Irish Constitution which of course affords every Irish citizen rights of leadership and election. Whether the outright abandonment of the ancient Irish Clan system was a good move for Ireland is still up for debate.

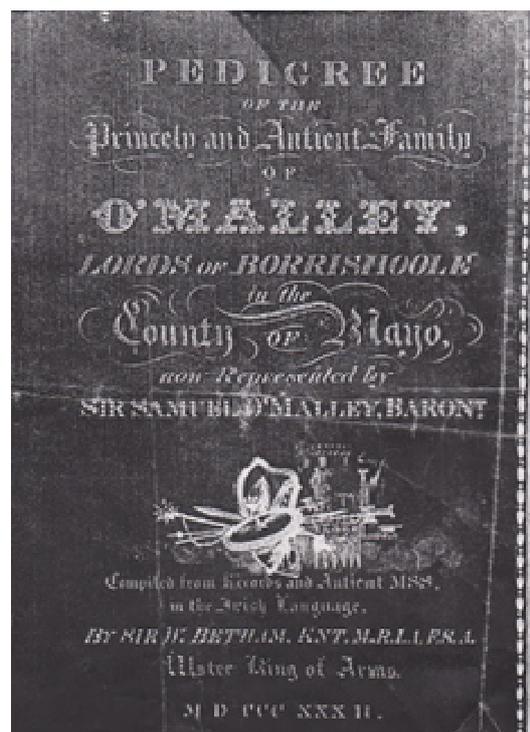
In any case, after a lull, in time we re-established close contact with the Clan. Many of you may have met some of my cousins from France (Dufaires, Labrouches) or USA (Malleyes and O'Malley-Keyes). But I do know that many of you local to Westport or Newport and surrounds will personally know and remember my grandfather's first cousin, Major Middleton ('Joe') Blackwell of Ross House (Chieftain 1987-88, since passed), and my dear American-Irish first cousin once-removed, Middie E. O'Malley-Keyes (Chieftain, 1999-2000). Typical for our family, both are tall, charming, and dashing.

As it stands today, the O'Malley Clan is a wonderful organisation (run on a shoe-string to be honest) aimed at helping to preserve the rich and diverse heritage and brotherhood we all share for O'Malleyes across the world, in a way that is open, modern, democratized, and less overtly problematic or political. "[History, Friendship, Loyalty](#)" are the values that the Clan rallies around today. And we've seen fantastic modernizing moves with the increasing presence of the Clan on [social media](#) and with the new Clan Constitution



Above: Major Middleton O'Malley Keyes in 1922

Below: Pedigree of the Princely & Ancient Family of O'Malley for Sir Samuel O'Malley (Sir W. Betham, Ulster King of Arms)



Ross House—An O'Malley Place

(agreed at the AGM in June) which offers fresh ways for O'Malleys, friends and relations to engage with the organisation.

As many of you will know, Governor Martin O'Malley, our new Clan Chief, has incredible plans for next year's Gathering on Clare Island, no doubt working closely with the formidable, yet ever so warm, Ellen Dunlop O'Malley (Clan Guardian). The "Grace O'Malley" [tall ship](#) will be visiting Clare Island. This will no doubt be a powerful and symbolic gesture of uniting two important aspects of our Clan, both historical and yet forward-looking. The Clan today offers a warm welcome and a compelling vision for bringing together young and old generations. All credit goes to the wonderful work of the Clan Guardians, Chiefs, and volunteers that help make the Clan what it is today.

With the sale of the [historic](#) O'Malley property and lands, Ross House, it is the end of an era. But perhaps it could be a whole new beginning, for a new generation of O'Malleys to make a home close to our ancestral lands.

It's not exactly affordable to most of us, nevertheless, I would implore friends and family to consider spreading the word about this opportunity to help keep it within the global House of O'Malley. If you know of someone who might be interested either in buying it outright, or as part of a conglomerate, or you have some other ideas or contacts that might help in funding it as a national heritage site, please do get in touch.

For purchasing queries please contact Sotherby's [direct](#), otherwise, you can contact me to explore some of the other options and I may be able to put you in touch with others of similar interests within the family. My email address is: eri_om@hotmail.com.

Yours in appreciation.

Dr Eri Mountbatten-O'Malley (FHEA)

Biographical note: Eri is [Senior Lecturer](#) in Education at Bath Spa University, a researcher, campaigner, activist, and philosopher.



Above: Sunday Times article 'Descent of O'Malley' featuring Middleton J. O'Malley-Keyes



The O'Malley Crest at Ross House in 2022

John W O'Malley RIP

Georgetown Mourns Beloved Jesuit Professor, Renowned Historian John O'Malley, S.J.

Georgetown mourns the loss of Rev. John O'Malley, S.J., a leading Jesuit scholar and historian who shaped the fields of Catholic Church history and Jesuit studies, and a beloved mentor, friend and professor at the university.

Fr. O'Malley died on Sept. 11, 2022, at age 95

Over his lifetime, Fr. O'Malley served as an internationally recognized scholar on the religious culture of early modern Europe, particularly Italy, and an expert on the

Catholic Church's Second Vatican Council. His work spurred the development of the academic field of Jesuit studies. At Georgetown, he mentored and taught generations of students, faculty members and Jesuits as a professor in the history and religious studies departments since 2006.

After 67 years of teaching, Fr. O'Malley taught his final course at Georgetown in May 2020.

"John — in his life and in his scholarship — captured the fullness of the Ignatian tradition that has been passed down to us from St. Ignatius and the first Jesuits. His prolific writings contributed important insights about Jesuit and Church history, and because of his work, we have a deeper capacity to engage in the richness of the Ignatian tradition," says John J. DeGioia, president of Georgetown University. "It was an honor for us to have his presence on our campus for 16 years and to have his faith and his scholarship as a resource in our community. As a friend and colleague, I will miss him greatly."

As a prolific author and scholar, Fr. O'Malley offered new insights into the forces that shaped Jesuit and the Catholic Church's history and sought to make church history more accessible to a wider audience.

His book *The First Jesuits*, for which he intentionally chose a secular publisher, won two best book prizes and was translated into 12 languages.

He wrote 28 other books, one of which, *Trent: What Happened at the Council*, won the American Catholic Historical Association's John Gilmary Shea Prize for best book in 2013. And his detailed accounting of Vatican II in *What Happened at Vatican II?*, which was translated into six languages, shed new light on what he called "quite possibly the biggest meeting in the history of the world" and the Church's engagement with the world.

"I'm sometimes called a church historian, but I think that's a very limited way of describing what I try to do," Fr. O'Malley said at a 2021 event hosted at Georgetown for his memoir, *The Education of a Historian*:



Above: Fr O'Malley taught history and religious studies from 2006 to 2020 at Georgetown University

John W O'Malley RIP

A Strange and Wonderful Story. “One of the purposes of my life was to get church history out of the church, to get it in the public forum and help people realize that these religious events were cultural events and sometimes political events.”

His interest in the Jesuits in particular, was sparked by joining them.

Fr. O'Malley entered the Jesuits in 1946 — the beginning of a process that helped him interpret the past through a more balanced lens, he said at the 2021 Georgetown event. Within his first 15 years in the Society, Fr. O'Malley was immersed in studying the German Counter Reformation and the role the Jesuits played in it. He would have continued these studies but for a fateful trip to Italy in 1960.



Above: Vice President for Mission & Ministry Rev. Mark Bosco, S.J. (left), Fr. O'Malley (center) and President DeGioia (right) in 2019.

“My first-time taste of gelato helped turn me into a resolute Italophile and prodded me to abandon German history in favor of Italian,” he wrote in his memoir. “The book thus reveals the crucial role of intuition in life and in scholarship. It illustrates how neither life nor scholarship is a tale of two plus two equals four.”

He earned his doctorate in history from Harvard, and would contribute to 150 journal articles and win three lifetime achievement awards from the Society for Italian Historical Study, the Renaissance Society of America and the American Catholic Historical Association. He was elected to serve in two historic Jesuit General Congregations, one of which also included the future Pope, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J.

After teaching at the University of Detroit Mercy and the Weston Jesuit School of Theology for 41 years, he began teaching at Georgetown in 2006, where he remained until his retirement in 2020.

“Fr. O'Malley was a beloved member of the Georgetown community, a devoted pastor and a trusted mentor, advisor and friend to students, colleagues and Jesuits around the world,” says Rev. Ron Anton, S.J., superior of the Georgetown Jesuit Community. “May he rest in peace.”

While at Georgetown, Fr. O'Malley published four books on ecumenical councils and received the Centennial Medal, the highest honor from Harvard's Graduate School of Arts and Science, in 2016.

“Fr. O'Malley's work on church councils and reform, on Christianity, art, rhetorical style and on the Jesuits was always not only of sterling quality in itself but always included tools and signposts for others to use in their own work,” says Rev. David Collins, S.J., associate professor and director of the Catholic studies program at Georgetown. “In this sense, his scholarship was seminal when he published it and will continue inspiring further research for years to come.”

John W O'Malley RIP

And while he was known for his scholarship, he was also known for his humility, humor and ongoing mentorship of his students.

Max Rosner (C'18), an alumnus who is an intelligence officer in the Navy, took a course from Fr. O'Malley in spring 2018. He often had dinner with the Jesuit and fellow classmates at Wolfington Hall, Georgetown's Jesuit residence — “we would always talk about film, history, God and of course the rich life he lived” — and once joined him at the opera, which Fr. O'Malley loved. Rosner kept in touch with Fr. O'Malley after he retired from Georgetown in 2020.

“He was sweet and even though his professional life was dedicated to scholarship and the academy, he was no less committed to his spiritual life,” Rosner said. “He saw a mystical quality in the world, and it was evident in his humor, grace and sensitivity to beauty and God's presence in the world.”

Rev. Collins, who was a mentee, friend and later colleague of Fr. O'Malley, echoed his warmth, encouragement and inspiration with faculty members.

“For colleagues, especially in the history and theology departments, it was a boon to have such an eminent partner in work and conversation,” says Collins. “His deep thinking about the nature of Jesuit education also redounded to the benefit of educational leaders across the university. We all found encouragement in his blend of erudition and joy for life. Both as a mentor and a friend, he was uncontainably cheerful and encouraging.”

“The world knew John O'Malley the brilliant scholar; those of us at Georgetown graced by his friendship knew Fr. O'Malley's compassion, courage and generous Ignatian heart,” says Jeanne Lord, interim vice president for student affairs.

Throughout his study of history, Fr. O'Malley sought to show how history informs “our corporate memory... [and] where we came from” — a memory, he said, that was badly needed in today's world.

“The overriding passion of my life is to show that history is not just nice stories; it's not just recreational reading,” Fr. O'Malley said at the Georgetown 2021 event. “If you really present history in the right way, it's not namby-pamby. It's not goody-goody stuff. But it does show how sterling characters have helped advance the human endeavor.”

For Fr. O'Malley, studying the past was more than an academic endeavor.

“I love what I do. And I've always loved it. ... You have to love what you're doing. That's been the greatest blessing of my life.”



“Gombean” Grace O’Malley reincarnated & running a coffee van!

The reincarnated Pirate Queen Grace O’Malley

A new one-woman show featuring a reincarnated Grace O’Malley received it’s world premiere at the Hawk’s Well Theatre in Sligo on Friday, September 16.

GomBean, a hilarious comedy written and performed by Niamh McGrath sees the reincarnated 16th century pirate queen running a horsebox coffee van on a pier in a fictional town in Sligo.

Directed by highly-regarded writer, director and actor Seamus O’Rourke, the comedy sees Niamh performing multiple roles as she delivers a high-octane dose of caffeine-fuelled fun.

The show previewed on Thursday, September 15, with its world premiere the following evening. Niamh is an actor, playwright and director from Enniscrone, Co Sligo.

When the Covid-19 pandemic led to theatres closing their doors, she found inspiration for GomBean while working in a coffee hut in Enniscrone.

In GomBean, Grace O’Malley is an entrepreneur who is high on debt and low on self-esteem. She’s a former wrestler and when her arch-nemesis Ruby Stephens arrives in town, Grace competes to win back the title she lost at the Community Games in 1994.

When a chance at a cash prize comes her way so does a shot at an unforeseen redemption. Niamh McGrath said, “I was thrilled to have the support of the Hawk’s Well Theatre during very trying times and a short residency gave me the opportunity to flesh out an idea I’ve had since watching WWF with my nephews back in the 90s.

“I was absolutely delighted when Seamus O’Rourke agreed to direct GomBean. He’s a gifted director as well as actor and writer.

O’Rourke said, “I was drawn to this play, obviously for its sense of fun, but also because, beneath all the madness, it has a real heart. Niamh McGrath is not only a great actor, but she’s one hell of a writer and GomBean is oh so tasty!”

GomBean is a Hawk’s Well Theatre production created with the support of the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund.

Tickets for the preview are €15, while tickets for the premiere are €18/15conc/9 u18s, (plus booking fees).

Tickets are available from the Hawk’s Well Theatre Box Office on 071 916 1518 or www.hawkswell.com



Above: Niamh McGrath as a 21st century reincarnated Grace O’Malley, running a coffee van!



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[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 over 60 years now.

We hope with our new 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 HELP SPREAD THE MESSAGE!

How can I help spread the message of the O'Malley Clan Association to everyone else with connections to this famous historic Irish Clan I hear you ask?

The Clan Association is very active on Social Media, and if you see a post, like it, share it, comment on it, share your feedback in comments, retweet if you're on Twitter, share our stories on Instagram and posts on Facebook.

EVERY BIT HELPS! ESPECIALLY IF YOU ATTENDED THE GATHERING IN MAYO IN JUNE

TAG THE O'MALLEY CLAN ASSOCIATION IN YOUR PHOTOS FROM THE TRIP

There are O'Malleys, Malleys, Melias, Maleys, out there that still don't know about the Clan Association and its efforts to connect O'Malleys all around the world, so lets try and spread the word

All interactions, (Likes/Shares/Retweets etc), get us onto more peoples feeds on their phones, laptops, and tablets, so get clicking!

Thanks for the Help

O'Malley Clan Association