



# Finte na hÉireann-Clans of Ireland

Broomhill House, Kilrush, Co. Clare, Ireland



Dear members of Clans of Ireland,

31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

It is my great pleasure to write to you to extend our greetings for the season and best wishes for this coming new year. It is indeed a time for warm family reunions, and also it is a time to celebrate our membership family, our clan of clans.

The past year saw the very successful launch of the “Memorialising Emigré Dignity, The Cultural Heritage of St. Anthony’s College, Leuven”, which took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> September at the Royal Irish Academy. The work was produced in co-operation with the Genealogical Society of Ireland, under the leadership of its president, Ambassador Francis O’Donnell, the Irish College Leuven and Luke McNerney, from the Board of Directors of Clans of Ireland. The publication celebrates the lives and burials of the many Irish gentlemen, scholars and friars, who are at rest in the Irish College Laueven, founded in 1608 by Archbishop Flor Conry under the patronage of King Philipp II of Spain. This Irish College became the beacon of Irish identity, preserving its cultural and spiritual heritage.

Looking forward to this coming year, on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026 we will hold a hybrid meeting on ‘Clan Gatherings Best Practices’. This came to fruition as a result of Irish Roots editor Julie Phibbs soliciting a write up on the subject. The article was published in Irish Roots winter edition. I am grateful to our contributors: Mr. Shane O’Dea, Dr. Joe Mannion, Madame Kieran O’Dowd and Ambassador Francis O’Donnell, who will share and discuss best practices with our membership.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026 we will also hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). To clarify the nomination process of Board Directors. The purpose of the EGM will be to amend Article 49 and Article 9 of the Constitution “ELECTION AND ROTATION OF STIÚRTHÓIRÍ”.

The proposed amendment will be properly circulated to the membership in due time and you will receive invitation to this hybrid meeting.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026, we will host our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Cultural Summit. The theme of the Summit will be “**Law and Legend. Discovering Ireland’s ancient system of laws**”. Our venue will be the Stephen’s Green Club, Dublin.

In 2026, we are working to introduce a more ceremonial Parade of Chiefs.

Linea Antica – this major project, under the leadership of Luke McNerney with the support of Rob O’Halloran, is making significant progress. The original manuscript has been entirely transcribed, and is currently under review with the adding of historical footnotes of academic standard. Dr Russel O’Riagain of UCD is completing this work, it should be finalised January end. We will then address the transcription of the genealogical tables. We will keep you up to date with the progress of this extremely complex work, a unique contribution to the Irish genealogical corpus.

Is mise le meas, athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh,

Michael O’Crowley

An Chathaoirleach,

Clans of Ireland/Finte na hÉireann

<https://www.clansofireland.ie>