

COLM CILLE: LIFE AND LEGACY FACT FINDING FILE

Watch the films in the **Life and Legacy Cinema** and use the information from them to fill out the following fact finding sheets on Colm Cille.

Museum Search boxes will take you to the **Virtual Museum** where you can find out more information about Colm Cille.

Colm 1: Introduction

Factual information about Colm Cille:

- Colm Cille's people belonged to a powerful royal dynasty called the _____ .
- Colm Cille was born in the year: _____ .
- Colm Cille was born in Ireland in County _____ in the beautiful area of _____ .
- Colm Cille left Ireland as a pilgrim for Christ in the year _____ ; he was _____ years old.
- Colm Cille went to the Island of _____ where he set up his most famous monastery.
- Colm Cille died on Sunday 9th _____ in the year _____ .
- Colm Cille was never canonised a _____ by the church.

Museum Search 1 (a)

Visit the **Manuscript Room** in the **Virtual Museum**. Make a list of the books written about the life of Colm Cille, as well as their authors:

Visit the **High Crosses** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Oran's Cross, Iona**. How was St Oran related to Colm Cille?

Visit the **Treasury** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Gartan Bell**. Describe what happened to this bell:

Colm 2: Colm Cille Legacy

- Colm Cille has been remembered for _____ years.
- Colm Cille was the _____ century founder of the famous monastery of Iona in the Scottish Inner Hebrides.
- Colm Cille was also the founder of the great _____ tradition.
- The monastic tradition spread over almost all parts of Ireland, throughout the whole of Scotland and down into _____, especially to the ancient kingdom of _____.
- The Columban monasteries produced fabulous works of art such as the _____ gospels and the Book of _____.
- His name, whether Columba in _____ or Colm Cille in _____ means the dove, in Irish the dove of the _____.

Colm 3: Association With Derry

- There is no historical evidence to suggest that Colm Cille founded a monastery in _____ before he left for Iona.
- Colm Cille probably founded a _____ house in Derry on one of his return visits there.
- According to the Annals of _____ in 545 Áed Ainmuirech King of Tír Chonaill gave the _____ grove covered island of Derry or Doire to Colm Cille to establish his first monastery.
- Colm Cille's apocryphal association with Derry was exploited in the 10th Century by the Cineál Chonaill who were desperate to re-establish a strong Irish connection with _____ and other Columban monasteries.
- Derry soon became the most holiest and most sacred spot in Ireland for followers of _____.
- Four centuries after the death of its founder Doire the oak grove was renamed _____.

Museum Search 3

Visit the **Treasury** in the **Virtual Museum** and find **St Mobhi's Belt**. What further information is providing about the founding of the monastery at Derry?

Visit the **Treasury** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Misach**. What association does this box have with Derry?

Colm 4: Derry Church, Cathedral and Chapel

- Three churches located on or near to sites connected with the ancient monastic settlement of Derry are:
 1. St _____ Cathedral
 2. St Columba's _____ Church
 3. St _____ Chapel of Ease
- The monastery founded in Derry in the 6th century survived until the end of the _____ century.
- Several other churches and monastic chapels were built there in ancient times including the great _____ century Teampall Mór.
- All we can say with certainty is that these three churches are located on sites which formed part of the original Columban monastic settlement which lasted for about a _____ years.

Colm 5: Drumceatt Convention of 575AD

- According to the Annals, the Convention of Drumceatt occurred in the year 575, but modern scholarship would suggest that it really took place about _____ .
- The location of the Convention of Drumceatt is said to have been the Mullach or _____ Hill just outside _____ .
- The main business of the Convention of Drumceatt was a meeting between:
 1. the Northern Uí Néill _____ King Áed Mac Ainmuirech, a relative of _____ , and
 2. Áedán Mac Gabráin, the King of _____ Dalriada.
- The purpose was to enable them to form an alliance against the King of _____ Báetán Mac Cairill.
- _____ attended the convention and indeed may have organised it.

Colm 6: Colm Cille Influences

- Legend has it that before Colm Cille was born his mother _____ had a dream in which a youth tossed a beautiful cloak high into the air. It stretched over the horizon to cover the length and breadth of Ireland and beyond Scotland.
- The cloak meant that she would bear a son whose _____ like the width of the cloak would spread throughout Ireland and Scotland.
- However it is more probable that Colm Cille went to Iona as an act of self imposed banishment from _____ .
- Colm Cille's involvement in the Battle of Cúl Dreimhne led him on a religious pilgrimage in an attempt to obtain _____ from Christ.
- It was this pilgrimage and permanent exile that lead to the founding of a _____ tradition which would have a lasting influence in politics, learning and art.

Museum Search 6

Visit the **Manuscript Room** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Catach**. What does the information tell us about Colm Cille's involvement in the **Battle of Cúl Dreimhne**?

Visit the **High Crosses** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Drumcliffe Cross**. What connection does this have to the Battle of Cul Dreimhne?

Colm 7: Columban Church History

- Columba established his monastery on Iona in the year _____.
- The monastery on Iona continued to be the _____
_____ monastery of the churches associated with the saint.
- At the end of the 8th Century the _____ appeared in the waters round these islands, attacking Iona itself and disrupting seaborne communication.
- In the year _____ the monks of Iona built a monastery at Kells, County Meath as a sort of refuge.
- The main focus of Columban Monasticism began to transfer to Ireland until the year _____ when the successor of Colm Cille became established at Kells.
- Kells remained the headquarters of the Columban Federation until the year _____.
- Political disorder in the Meath area meant the headquarters moved again, this time to _____ presided over by the famous _____ Flaithbertach Ó Broilcháin.
- Derry remained the principle Columban Church from then on, although the Columban Federation itself had collapsed by the beginning of the _____ Century.

Museum Search 7 (a)

Visit the **Treasury** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Fahan Bell**. Describe this bell and explain how it is connected to the monastery at Kells:

Visit the **Treasury** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Book of Durrow Cumdach**. Who were the Mac Aeda family?

Visit the **Treasury** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Kells Crozier**. Describe this object:

Museum Search 7 (b)

Visit the **Treasury** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Misach**. Describe this box. What association does it have with the monastery at Kells?

Visit the **Treasury** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Cuilebadh-Flabellum**. What was this object? How is it connected to Kells?

Visit the **High Crosses** in the **Virtual Museum**. Make a list of the crosses situated in Kells:

Colm 8: Cathach of St Columba

- The oldest surviving Irish manuscript, the copy of the _____ known as the Cathach is said to have been made by Colm Cille.
- Legend claims that when Colm Cille secretly copied a version of the psalms his action led to the famous copyright judgment by the High King, 'To every cow its _____ , to every book its _____ .



Museum Search 8

Visit the **Treasury** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Cathach**. Describe the legend associated with this book:

Visit the **Manuscript Room** in the **Virtual Museum** and find the **Catach**. Make a list of 5 key points about this book:
