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Ceann-latha: 16 Dàmhair 2019

Airson sgaoileadh sa bhad

Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' foillseachadh Colmcille 1500 – plana gus an 1,500^{mh} ceann-bliadhna bho bhreith Chaluim Chille a chomharrachadh.

Ann an 2021, bidh 1,500 bliadhna ann bho rugadh an Naomh Calum Cille. Tha an dìleab aig Calum Cille fhathast a' leantainn chun an latha an-diugh ann an Alba, agus tha e air aon de na trì pàtran-naomha ann an Èirinn.

Gus seo a chomharrachadh, bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' foillseachadh phlanaichean airson breith Chaluim Chille ann an 521AD a chomharrachadh – leis an tìotal Colmcille 1500. Thèid seo ainmeachadh aig Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Ghlaschu 2019.

Ruithidh “Colmcille 1500” bho 7 Dùbhlachd 2020 gu 7 Dùbhlachd 2021. Ged a tha 14 mìosan gu bhith ann gus an tòisich bliadhna a' chomharrachaidh, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig, ann an co-obrachadh le Foras na Gaeilge ann an Èirinn - an dòchas gum faigh coimhearsnachdan agus buidhnean tìde gu leòr gus an obair aca a phlanadh agus a cho-òrdanachadh.

Tha buidhnean poblach ann an Alba, Èirinn, Alba Nuadh agus Eilean Mhanainn air ùidh a nochdadh ann a bhith a' comharrachadh dìleab Chaluim Chille mar-thà.

Tha Shona NicIllInnein, Ceannard Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, an dòchas gun urrainn barrachd choimhearsnachdan air feadh an t-saoghail tighinn còmhla gus comharrachadh ceart a dhèanamh air ceannard cruinneil a chuidich le bhith ag aonachadh dhaoine agus dhùthchannan tron stiùireadh spioradail aige agus tro chultar na Gàidhlig.

Thuirt i: “Chan urrainnear cuideam gu leòr a chur air cho cudromach 's a tha Calum Cille ann an eachdraidh na h-Alba. Thàinig e a dh'Alba aig àm nuair a bha còmhstri fhuilteach a' dol air adhart eadar treubhan de laoiach. Aig a' cheann thall, dh'aonaich e chan e a-mhàin na Gàidheil, ach cuideachd na Cruithnich, a bha air luchd-ionnsaigh a chumail air ais fad linntean, a' gabhail a-steach fiù 's neart ìmpireachd na Ròimhe.”

Tha còmhraidhean a' dol air adhart aig an àm seo eadar buidhnean ann an Èirinn, Alba, Alba Nuadh ann an Canada agus ann am Manainn air an dòigh as fheàrr gus dìleab Chaluim Chille a chomharrachadh. A bharrachd air Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Foras na Gaeilge, tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba, Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean, Ealain na Gaeltachta ann an Èirinn, Iomairtean na Gàidhlig ann an Alba Nuadh agus Riaghaltas Mhanainn an sàs sa chùis.

Thuirt Ms NicIllInnein cuideachd: “S e prìomh chuspair Colmcille 1500 còmhlas, a' brosnachadh dhaoine a bhith a' com-pàirteachadh aig ìre ionadail, nàiseanta agus eadar-nàiseanta. Bu chòir dha aire a thogail mu dhìleab Chaluim Chille agus mun bhuidhe a bh' aige gus an latha seo fhèin air na cànanan agus cultaran Gàidhlig co-roinnte againn.

“Le bhith a' comharrachadh a bhreith an ath-bhliadhna, togaidh e dàimhean, agus cruthaichidh e càirdeasan ùra, ag aonachadh daoine le spiorad còmhlas is co-obrachaidh”.

An deireadh

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Nòta do luchd-deasachaidh - eachdraidh Chaluim Chille

A rèir nan leabhraichean eachdraidh, rugadh Calum Cille ann an Dùn na nGall, na ogha aig Niall, Rìgh na h-Èireann, air an robh an t-ainm cuideachd *Niall Noígíallach* - Niall nan Naoi Giallan. Chaidh baile Ghleann Cholm Cille ann an Tír Chonaill ainmeachadh air.

Chaidh e a-steach dhan t-sagartachd aig aois 20, nuair a bha e na sgoilear aig Naomh Fionan ann an Abaid Chluain Ioraird (*Clonard*). Nuair a thug co-ogha a bha na phrionnsa beagan talmhainn dha ann an Doire, stèidhich e a mhanachainn fhèin, agus thug seo cothrom dha a bhith a' siubhal air feadh ceann a tuath na h-Èireann a' teagasg mu Chrìosdaidheachd. Stèidhich e 30 manachainn ann an dìreach 10 bliadhna.

Ach, ann an 563AD, bha aige ri Èirinn fhàgail mar pheanas às dèidh dha cogadh a thòiseachadh a chionn 's nach robh e deònach lethbhreac den t-Soisgeul a rinn e gun chead a thoirt air ais. Chaidh 3,000 duine a mharbhadh anns a' chath eadar dà thruabh Èireannach a thachair mar thoradh air seo.

Mar pheanas a ghabh e air fhèin, dh'fhàg Calum Cille Èirinn agus ràinig e Eilean Ì le 12 luchd-leantainn ann an 563AD, far an do stèidhich e coimhearsnachd mhanachail. An sin, thog e Abaid Ì, a dh'fhàs cudromach ann an obair gus làmh-sgrìobhainnean, obair-shnaidhidh agus croisean Ceilteach a dhèanamh. Lean seo ùine mhòr às dèidh bàs Chaluim Chille, agus dh'fhaodar a ràdh gur e Leabhar Cheannanais, a rinneadh ann an 800 AD, an obair as fheàrr a chaidh a dhèanamh ann. Tha e air a thaisbeanadh ann an Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath a-nis.

Bha e ainmeil am measg luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig rìoghachd Dhail Riada, gu h-àraidh a chionn 's gun tug a mhanachainn foghlam do mhic nan rìghrean.

Ach b' ann às deidh a bheatha a dh'fhàs a chliù, gu h-àraidh mar thoradh air Adhamhnain, fear de na daoine a lean e mar Aba Eilein Ì. Sgrìobh e mu na 'mìorbhailean' aig Calum Cille anns an leabhar Vita Colum Cille, no Beatha Chaluim Chille.

Am measg nam mìorbhailean, bha turas Chaluim Chille gus Bruidhe, Rìgh nan Cruinneach fhaicinn sa chaisteal aige ann an Inbhir Nis. A rèir Adhamhnain, bha na geataichean glaiste nuair a nochd Calum Cille, ach nuair a rinn e comharra na croise, dh'fhosgail iad dha. Chuir seo an uiread de dh'iongnadh air Bruidhe is gun deach iompachadh sa bhad.

Ann am mìorbhail eile, thàinig Calum Cille air tìr air bruach Abhainn Nis ann an 565AD, agus chunnaic e gun robh muinntir an àite a' tìodhlacadh fear a chaidh a "fhìor dhroch bhìdeadh" le uilebheist a bha a' fuireach san uisge. Thug Calum Cille air fear den luchd-leantainn aige snàmh a-mach dhan Nis, agus e a' tàladh an uilebheist - ach rinn Columba comharra na croise agus theich an t-uilebheist eagalach gu loch a bha faisg air làimh. Thathar ag ràdh gur e seo a' chiad iomradh sgrìobhte air Uilebheist Loch Nis.

Chaochail Caluim Chille agus chaidh a thìodhlacadh ann an Eilean Ì, agus bha an t-eilean na àite taistealachd mar thoradh air seo. Bha rìghrean airson a bhith air an tìodhlacadh faisg air agus chaidh lionra de chroisean Ceilteach àrd a thogail timcheall air an sgrìn aige.

Bithear a' comharrachadh latha fèill Chaluim Chille air 9 Ògmhios. Chaidh an Naomh Anndrais na àite mar phàtran-naomh na h-Alba, ach tha e fhathast air aon de phàtranan-naomha na h-Èireann às dèidh Pàdraig agus Brìghde Chill Dara. 'S e pàtran-naomh Cathair-bhaile Dhoire a th' ann cuideachd, far an do stèidhich e an tuineachadh mhanach aige.

Date: 16th October 2019

For Immediate Release

Bòrd na Gàidhlig unveils Colmcille 1500 – a plan to celebrate the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of St Columba

In 2021, it will be 1,500 years since the birth of St Columba. Known as St Colmcille in Gaelic – meaning Dove of the Church – his legacy in Scotland remains to this day, while he is one of Ireland's three patron saints.

To celebrate this event, Bòrd na Gàidhlig is announcing at the Royal National Mòd Glasgow 2019, plans for a year of global celebrations marking St Columba's birth in 521AD – entitled Colmcille 1500.

"Colmcille 1500" will last from 7th December 2020 to 7th December 2021. While there is still 14 months to go until the year of celebration begins, Bòrd na Gàidhlig – in conjunction with its Irish counterpart Foras na Gaeilge – hopes launching Colmcille 1500 now will give plenty of time for communities and organisations to plan and co-ordinate their events.

So far public bodies in Scotland, Ireland, Nova Scotia and the Isle of Man have shown an interest in marking the legacy of St Columba.

Shona MacLennan, Bòrd na Gàidhlig chief executive officer, hopes more communities around the world can unite together to co-ordinate a proper global celebration of a leader who helped unify peoples and countries through his spiritual guidance and through Gaelic culture.

She said: "St Columba's historical significance in Scotland cannot be underestimated. He arrived in Scotland at a time of bloody rivalries between warrior tribes. He went on to unite not just the Gaels, but also the Picts, who for centuries had resisted invaders, including the might of the Roman empire."

Discussions are currently underway between organisations in Ireland, Scotland, Nova Scotia in Canada and Isle of Man on how best to celebrate St Columba's legacy. As well as Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Foras na Gaeilge, included are the Scottish Government, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Ealain na Gaeltachta in Ireland, Gaelic Affairs in Nova Scotia and the Isle of Man Government.

Ms MacLennan added: "The theme of Colmcille 1500 is very much one of togetherness, encouraging people to engage with each other at a local, national and international level. It should also increase awareness of Columba's legacy and his impact to this day on our shared Gaelic languages and cultures.

"We hope by celebrating his birth next year it will build relations and develop new friendships, uniting people behind a spirit of togetherness and co-operation."

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Notes to Editors – a history of St Columba

According to the history books, St Columba was born in Donegal, the grandson of the Irish King Niall, also known as Niall of the Nine Hostages. The village of Glencolmcille in Donegal is named after him.

He entered the priesthood aged 20, when he became a pupil of St Finnian at Clonard Abbey. When a prince cousin gave him some land at Derry, he started his own monastery, allowing him to travel throughout the north of Ireland teaching Christianity. In just 10 years he founded some 30 monasteries.

However, in 563AD he left Ireland as an act of penance after sparking a war by failing to hand over a copy of the Gospels he had illegally copied. The resulting pitched battle between two Irish tribes led to the deaths of 3,000.

As a self-imposed act of penance, St Columba left Ireland and arrived at Iona with 12 followers in 563AD, where he established a monastic community. There he built its abbey, which became prolific in its production of manuscripts, carvings and Celtic crosses. This continued well after St Columba's death, with arguably its greatest work being the Book of Kells, which dates from 800 AD, and is now on display in Trinity College, Dublin.

He was revered among the Gaelic speakers of the kingdom of Dal Riada, mainly thanks to the fact his monastery provided education for the sons of its kings.

But it was after his lifetime that his 'fame' grew, mainly thanks to one of his successors as Abbot of Iona, Adomnan. He encapsulated the 'miracles' of St Columba in the book *Vita Colum Cille*, or *Life of Columba*.

One such miracle was when Columba visited King Bridei of the Picts at his castle in Inverness. According to Adomnan, Columba arrived to find the gates locked, however, when he made the sign of the cross before them they opened of their own accord. Bridei was so astonished he converted on the spot.

Another involved Columba, arriving on the shores of the River Ness in 565AD, finding locals burying a man who had been bitten "most severely" by a monster living in the water. Columba made one of his followers swim out into the Ness, attracting the monster – but Columba gave the sign of the cross and the terrified monster fled to the nearby loch. This has been interpreted as the first written reference to the Loch Ness Monster.

Columba died in 597 and was buried on Iona, which became a place of pilgrimage. Kings wished to be buried near to him and a network of Celtic high crosses developed around his shrine.

St Columba's feast day is celebrated on June 9. He was supplanted by St Andrew as the patron saint of Scotland, but remains one of three patron saints of Ireland after St Patrick and St Brigid of Kildare. He is also the patron saint of the city of Derry, where he founded his monastic settlement.