

A Church Reborn

at Glenstal Abbey



Abbot's Message



The dynamic centre of every Benedictine monastery is its Church. Every other thing that happens in the monastery receives its energy and is given sense and meaning by our worship in that Church. This is the identifying hallmark of all that we do and are. It was with this in mind that the Glenstal community, which was founded in 1927, built the first Benedictine church in Ireland since the Reformation. Every day since then, a constant stream of prayer has reached heavenward from this House of God.

Every church needs regular maintenance, and every generation needs its own spiritual ambience. The incentive to address this need at this time comes from the offer of two artistic treasures, the Red and Blue Crucifixions by the artist Hughie O'Donoghue.

The overall visionary plan of the architect, Seán Ó Laoire, will give a unifying result to the whole interior, providing us all with a sense of connectedness which will enhance our liturgy and with it our lives. We hope that you, as part of the Glenstal family, will support us in our efforts to realise this vision by the end of the year 2015.

A significant increase in the numbers of people visiting Glenstal Abbey and attending the liturgy deserves a more hospitable and prayerful environment. Our aim is to make our daily worship in the church more fertile for both the monastic community and for those who visit us seeking a more fruitful if fleeting experience of liturgical prayer.

Mark Patrick Hederman OSB

What we need to do

- New underfloor heating and cavity wall insulation
- Repainting and redecoration throughout
- Redesign of organ casing
- New windows
- New wiring
- New lighting system
- New sound system
- New Altar, Ambo and Chair
- Adaptation of choir and sanctuary to receive the "Passion Series Paintings.

How you can help

Sponsor one of the following

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Floor Tile | €250 |
| 2. Window | €500 |
| 3. New Sound System | €1,000 |
| 4. Setting for Art Work | €2,500 |
| 5. Church Heating | €5,000 |

What will it cost?

The total cost of this project will be **€1,000,000**

New horizons for more ancient imagery

The Crucifixion is central to Christian thought. It is the only religious event consistently represented in Irish art in every century from the ninth to the present day. The size and the texture of Hughie O'Donoghue's Red and Blue Crucifixions, with their combined figurative and abstract treatment, provide a focus and a freedom for our contemplation of this mystery. These monumental canvases provide an understanding which has travelled through the catastrophes of the twentieth century while, at the same time, allowing connections to be made in the history of art, from the Renaissance to Abstract Expressionism, from Tintoretto to Barnett Newman's Stations of the Cross. As such they present an effective vocabulary with which to compose our own meditation. They are imposing without being prescriptive. They allow imaginative freedom to penetrate their depth and move beyond them to the greater inexpressible mystery. *Per crucem ad lucem*: they lead us through the cross to the light of resurrection beyond.

*"Let the oratory be what it is called, a place of prayer;
and let nothing else be done there or kept there."*

Rule of St Benedict



Glenstal Abbey Church - Options for Giving

Glenstal Abbey Trust is a Registered Irish Charity – Number CHY 4001.

Irish Donors

All donations to Glenstal Abbey Trust qualify for tax relief in Ireland.

Glenstal can reclaim tax on all personal donations greater than €250.

If you donate €1,000, Glenstal can reclaim tax of €449. The total value of your donation to Glenstal is €1,449.

Irish companies can also claim tax relief on charitable donations. If a company donates €1,000, the donation is treated as a deductible trading expense and the company obtains tax relief of €125.

Option for giving can be made as follows:

- Cheque made payable to Glenstal Abbey Trust
- Pledging to give a specified amount each year

Please use the Donation Form overleaf for all donations.

This will provide us with the details required to initiate tax relief claims.

US or UK Donors

Tax efficient donations can be made via The American Ireland Fund.

The American Ireland Fund is registered in the United States as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organisation.

The Ireland Fund of Great Britain is a UK registered charity – registration number 327889.

The Church Renewed



Donation Form

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Mobile _____

_____ Email _____

I've enclosed a gift of € or I hereby pledge €

or I would like to set up a Direct Debit and please contact me

Please make all cheques payable to **Glenstal Abbey Trust** and return to The Bursar, Glenstal Abbey, Murroe, County Limerick, Ireland.

The names of donors will be recorded in the church.