

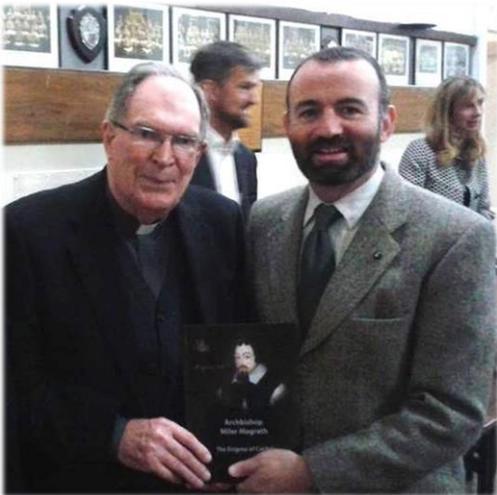


Speech by the Clan McGrath Ceann Fine, Mr Seán Alusdrann Mac Craith at the book launch of Archbishop Miler Magrath, The Enigma of Cashel, 7th October 2014

Fr. Paddy, friends and Kinsfolk, it is a great, great honour and pleasure to address to you on this auspicious occasion. I have been looking forward to this day immensely.

For those of you who are familiar with the people of Ulster, you will know that we are often first to point out the faults of others and often in a loud and let's say colourful way. And those on the receiving end of our criticisms are too often those we are closest too. However, we in the North are also first to welcome our wayward sons home, first to offer them shelter and first to defend them even when they don't always deserve it.

So it is with Archbishop Miler McGrath, a man at the very centre of the traumatic episodes of 16th and early 17th century Ireland, he has been the cause of much debate, discussion and perhaps some embarrassment amongst not only his descendants and kinsfolk but also his fellow countrymen, who attempted to furnish themselves with a history of the man, from guess work, hearsay, myth and misinformation.



When I first met Fr. Paddy Ryan a number of years ago at the Clans of Ireland AGM, he informed me over a cup of coffee that he was working on a book on the life of Archbishop Miler Magrath, I was at first surprised that he would pick such a controversial figure to work on, but my surprise soon turned to anticipation and even excitement at the prospect of reading the work when I discovered Paddy's heartfelt enthusiasm to tell the story of this controversial and enigmatic figure, warts and all. And now at last, we can.

Fr. Paddy, we the members of the Clan McGrath offer our full support and assistance in whatever way we can to promote and publicise this book. I believe that Miler and the evidence of his life and deeds which have been so carefully and beautifully compiled by you, will give everyone who reads it, a balanced and historically accurate account of the man, his family, his work and his influence on Tudor and later Stuart Ireland and the powers that shaped it. By your hand, Fr. Paddy, you have supplied us with the subject of discussions and lectures for many a McGrath Clan gathering to come.

For bringing this wonderful and important story to life and allowing the Clan McGrath of Ulster to welcome the real Archbishop Miler Magrath back home, Fr. Paddy, we offer you our heartfelt thanks.

Go raibh maith agaibh