



Ollscoil na hÉireann  
National University of Ireland



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

## Dublin Festival of History Viking Seminar 2023

# St Olaf: An International Norwegian Saint

Henry Roe Room, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin 8  
10:15am to 3:30pm on 13 October 2023.

In September 2022, Dublin City Council erected a commemorative plaque to mark the site of the medieval church of St Olave at Fishamble Street, Dublin.

Olaf II Haraldsson, also called Saint Olaf of Norway, was born c.995 AD and died July 29, 1030. After his death, his cult spread rapidly to Scandinavian colonies overseas, including Dublin, Waterford, York, and Novgorod. St Olave's Church, Dublin is not documented until the late twelfth century, however, it was founded sometime in the mid-eleventh century.

In this seminar, a panel of national and international speakers will discuss the origins of the cult of the saint in Norway and how it spread overseas. Thus, placing the church of St Olave in context.

Organisers: Dublin City Council, National University of Ireland, and Royal Norway Embassy in Ireland in association with Christ Church Cathedral and the Friends of Medieval Dublin.

- 10:15 Registration
- 10:30 Welcome
- 10:45 *Saint Olaf abroad: the early dissemination of the cult of Saint Olaf in the North Sea world, c.1030-c.1100*, Steffen Hope, University of Oslo
- 11:15 *Wooden churches from the eleventh and twelfth century-town in early Christian Scandinavia*, Anna Petersén, NIKU
- 11:45 *The cult of Saint Olav in Austrvegr, along the eastern Viking trade route, with a special focus on Estonia*, Else Berit Eikeland, Former Norwegian Ambassador to Ireland
- 12:15 *The cult of Saint Olaf in medieval Ireland and Norwegian-Irish relations*, Ann Buckley, Trinity College Dublin
- 12:45 Lunch (will be provided)
- 13:45 *A far-western outpost in a land of saints: St Olave's Church, Dublin*, Howard Clarke, Royal Irish Academy
- 14:15 *Saints Olave and John: to whom doth "this boke pertayneth"?*, Fiona Baldwin, University College Dublin School of Music
- 14:45 *Olaf & old gaffs: untangling antiquarian errata*, Stuart Kinsella, Christ Church Cathedral

### Registration is free of charge

To register for in person attendance please book here.  
Places for in person attendance are limited; however, the lecture will also be streamed live.  
See [www.nui.ie](http://www.nui.ie) for further details.



Christ  
Church  
Cathedral  
Dublin

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