



The Museum of Newport Irish History MNIH

Fifth and final talk of our 24th Annual Lecture Series

☞ *Made possible by a generous gift from Francis J. Furtado, ☞
given in memory of his wife, Barbara Carr Furtado*

Echoing Ancient Voices: The Literary and Cultural Legacy of Ireland's Blasket Islands

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Sean O'Callaghan

Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Wyndham Newport Hotel
240 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, R.I. 02842
and Live-Streamed via Zoom

The once-Irish-speaking Blasket Islands, abandoned by their last inhabitants in the 1950s, stand as an eternal testimony to an ancient culture that lived at the very edge of Europe. The people of the Blaskets lived off the sea, and their stories have been told in several remarkable books which preserve the language and customs of a lost Ireland.

This talk will explore the lives of the Blasket Islanders through excerpts from the rich literature that emerged from this island community, chronicling the distinct culture and landscape of this Atlantic outpost. For the people of the Blaskets, the next parish beyond them was America, and they lived both at the edge and center of Irish culture.

DR. SEAN O'CALLAGHAN is an associate professor in the Department of Religious and Theological Studies at Salve Regina University. He grew up in Ireland, attending an Irish-speaking school (though his Irish is a little rustier than he would like these days), and has a strong interest in Irish cultural history. He has a Ph.D. in systematic theology, and his main areas of expertise are in the fields of world religions and the intersection between Artificial Intelligence and religion and culture. In 2025, he co-authored *AI Shepherds and Electric Sheep*, a book aimed at equipping religious leaders and educators for the challenges and opportunities posed by AI. We welcome Dr. Callaghan for this, his second talk to our membership.

Reservations Required for In-Person and Zoom Participation

Doors open at 5:30 pm

\$5 fee payable at the door, cash or check to "MNIH"

Light hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar available

No fee to Zoom

Reminder

Winners of our "Luck of the Irish" fundraiser will be drawn at the conclusion of the talk and Q&A. Raffle tickets will be sold between 5:30 p.m. and the start of the lecture at 6:00 p.m.

To reserve, visit www.NewportIrishHistory.org, click "Lectures," then the appropriate link to reserve under the Mar. 23 listing (In-person or Zoom). You will receive an E-confirmation. If you do *not* see this email, check your spam. The talk will be videotaped, and a link will be available on our website's "Lectures" page after the event.

Questions or Assistance with Registration:

Please contact Ann Arnold at (401) 841-5493, (917) 270-3372, or tpm1@earthlink.net

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