

Jesse Harrington

Máel Ísa (Malchus) of Mellifont

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hebis.

Máel Ísa (Malchus) of Mellifont († c. 1186)

1. Name variants: Máel Ísa, Malchus (baptismal), Connery, Ó Con Áirge, O'Conarchy, Ua Conairche, Ua Condoirche, Ua Connairche (family)

2. Places: Bangor, Mellifont

3. Biography: M. was a monk of Bangor, student of Malachy Ua Morgair, and reputed brother of Gilla Críst of Lismore, the Gaelic Irish Cistercian abbot of Mellifont and bishop of Lismore. M. appears twice in Bernard of Clairvaux's vita of Malachy. It is Bernard who identified M. as a blood brother of Gilla Críst, yet closer still in spirit. Some modern authors claim that M. became a monk of Mellifont and succeeded his brother as abbot when Gilla Críst was elected bishop of Lismore, c. 1151. However, the surviving succession lists for Mellifont make no mention of M. It has been held that M. died at Mellifont. A date of c. 1186, the same as that of his brother, is sometimes suggested for his death, but it is not certain.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: –

b. Liturgical commemoration: The Bollandists, CHALEMOT, and HENRIQUEZ record his feast day as 28 Jun.

c. Patronage: –

d. Attributes: –

5. Fontes: Bernard of Clairvaux, *The Life and Death of Saint Malachy*, transl. R. T. MEYER, Kalamazoo 1978, 32–33, 66; C. HENRIQUEZ, *Menologium Cisterciense Notationibus Illustratum*, Antwerp 1630, 209; C. CHALEMOT, *Kurze Lebens Verfassung der Heiligen und Seeligen auch Berühmbten Männer deß Heiligen Cistercienser Ordens*, 1686, 191.

6. Literature: C. CONWAY, *The Story of Mellifont*, Dublin 1958, 15, 37, 231, 233; J. HENNESSY, *Mellifont Abbey, Co. Louth, its Ruins and Associations: A Guide and Popular History*, Dublin 1897, 53, 64–65, 128; J. D'ALTON, *The History of Drogheda 2*, Dublin 1844, 415–432; J. B. LESLIE, *Armagh Clergy and Parishes*, Dundalk 1911, 372; J. O'HANLON, *Lives of the Irish Saints 6*, Dublin 1875, 821.

7. Illustrations: –

Jesse Harrington