

Dictionary of Cistercian Saints

Jesse Harrington

Áed (Edanus) Ua Cáellaide

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Áed (Edanus) Ua Cáellaide († 24 Aug 1182)

- 1. Name variants: Aodh, Aodhán, Edan, Hugh, Odanus, Odo (baptismal); Ó Caollaighe, O'Kelly, Ua Cellaide (family)
- 2. Places: St. Mary's (Louth), Clogher-Louth
- 3. Biography: Á. was a relative of the Gaelic Irish kings of Uí Buide. Bernard of Clairvaux's vita of Malachy Ua Morgair calls him Malachy's disciple. In c. 1138/39, Malachy chose Á. – Bernard says after a vision of an episcopal ring on his finger – to succeed his late brother Gilla Críst, bishop of Clogher, and consecrated him bishop. In 1142, he was installed abbot of St. Mary's, Co. Louth, the first house of Arrouaisian canons in Ireland. The introduction of canons may have been partly to ensure the see's ecclesial independence and free episcopal elections in the future. Á. transferred his cathedral church from Clogher to Louth, adding Armagh's territory in Louth to his see, with the approval of Malachy and the king of Airgíalla, Donnchad Ua Cerbaill. As a result, the bishop of Clogher became known as bishop of Louth during Á.'s tenure, his jurisdiction corresponding with Airgíalla. Á. also served as spiritual father and confessor to Diarmait Mac Murchada, King of Leinster, who had been fostered by Á.'s family. In 1166, Diarmait granted Ballidubgail (Baldoyle), near Dublin, to Á.'s see for the use of the Arrouaisians of All Hallows, Dublin. The grant was witnessed by St. Laurence O'Toole, archbishop of Dublin, and reconfirmed by Henry II of England (to whom Á. submitted) in 1172. Á. resigned as bishop in 1178. Where he died is unknown, but probably in Ireland. His death is listed on 24 Aug in the Benedictine necrology of San Savino in Piacenza, where he is described as 'Edanus, bishop of Louth and prior of the canons, monks, and nuns of Ireland'. At the end of the century, however, Á.'s see was moved back from Louth to Clogher, with the territory of Louth returned to Armagh. Bernard's vagueness about Á.'s see may partly explain the 'Odanus, archbishop of Armagh' in several early modern Cistercian calendars, though Á. was never archbishop. Less probably, the entries may be a confusion for Donatus Ua Fidabra († 1237), a Cistercian bishop of Clogher and archbishop of Armagh. The Irish Arrouaisians widely commemorated Á.
- 4. Cultus:
- a. Relics: -
- b. Liturgical commemoration: 24 Aug (BREEN; FLANAGAN)
- c. Patronage: –
- d. Attributes: -
- 5. Fontes: Bernard of Clairvaux, The Life and Death of Saint Malachy, transl. R. T. MEYER, Kalamazoo 1978, 48–50; Irish Royal Charters: Texts and Contexts, ed. M. T. Flanagan, Oxford 2005, 268–281.
- 6. Literature: A. Breen, Ua Cáellaide, Áed, in: Dictionary of Irish Biography 9, Cambridge 2009, 563; K. Simms, The Origins of the Diocese of Clogher, in: Clogher Record 10 (1980), 180–198; M. T. Flanagan, Irish Church Reform in the Twelfth Century and Áed Ua Cáellaide, in: Ogma: Essays in Celtic Studies in Honour of Próinséas Ní Chatháin, ed. M. Richter / J.–M. Picard, Dublin 2002, 94–104; J. B. Leslie, Clogher Clergy and Parishes, Enniskillen 1929, 3; J. Ware, History of the Bishops of Ireland, ed. W. Harris, Dublin 1739, 180.
- 7. Illustrations: -