

“IONA CATHEDRAL OF THE ISLES” was raised by CLAN DONALD HIGH CHIEF, LORD OF THE ISLES, “JOHIS DE YLLE COMIS ROSSIE DOMINI INSULARUM”, c.1450-80.

This political goal was the zenith of a many decades long sequence of connected events.....

BY SUCCESSIVE CLAN DONALD CHIEFS (FOUNDER’S HEIRS) and CLAN DONALD ABBOTS, BISHOPS MANAGING

“CONDITIONALITY OF ENDOWMENT”.

1386. Donald (II - of Harlaw) becomes Lord of the Isles. Imposed abbey governance restrictions on “corrupt” MacKinnon excess :- “the greatest tyrant who had his lands from the goods of the monastery”.

1387. Split from the opposing polity of Isle of Man, *The Isles* becomes a separate See under the archdiocese of York.

c.1395-1421. 25 YEAR PARTNERSHIP of :- Donald of Harlaw and Clan Donald Prior and Abbot, John MacAllister.

c.1390-5. Donald II defeated the “hateful and corrupt” MacKinnons’ attempted inside coup of the Lordship (their reaction to his abbey governance). Their Chief was hung; their “wicked” Abbot Finguine “neutered” by Donald and “confined”, despite the Pope confirming him “in possession” 1397, but removed 1405 by *commissio privationis*. He was expelled by Prior **John MacAllister, obviously Donald’s new abbey “Manager”, 1395, who then commenced the long, difficult process of tracing and recovery of MacKinnons’ “*usurped abbey property*” and reform of the impoverished, collapsed monastery. He “*devoted much of his career to securing full control of the monastic revenues as a preliminary to the repair of the abbey*”. **THEY BROKE THE CORRUPTION AND NEPOTISM OF THE “NEFARIOUS” FINGUINES (1st, 2nd, 3rd), THE MACKINNON LINEAGE OF ABBOT, SON PRIOR, SON MONK (c.1350 – 1450) and tamed the “moral delinquency of those wicked and perverse noblemen; unlawful occupiers, the greatest tyrants”.****

1412-21. Donald (II), 1386-1421, gifted the prestigious, precious and status raising reliquary of St Columba’s body part, via Abbot John MacAllister [clearly not to a MacKinnon!].

**1421. a. Donald (II) annexed three perpetual vicarages to the abbey to boost revenue and fund its reparation.
b. Donald (II) presents Dominic MacKenzie, from Ross, as the new abbot to continue MacAllister’s reforms.**

1433. Donald II’s son, Bishop Angus (I), first “native Bishop of the Isles”, removed the **Cathedra, Bishop’s Seat, from Skye to Iona. He petitioned for 12 cathedral canons/prepends. He is buried in his ‘[Monastic Cathedral](#)’.**

1443. Under Donald II’s son Alexander, the power of Clan Donald reached its high tide. He threatened to “*diminish the monastery*” by invoking the serious and real threat of removing the “*relics and bones of his progenitors who are buried therein (Iona) and the precious things which have been given.*” **He was in fact threatening to “shut the place down”. [Why? The local MacKinnons were once again trying to 're-found' and continue their corruption under Finguine MacKinnon (III).] If he removed the bones of his ancestors (to their Oransay or Saddell foundations) the nexus of *divine service* for souls in return for endowments to the abbey was breached and under *functional reciprocity* there was no obligation to continue that recurring income. Alexander died in Dingwall, **1449.****

1450-80. John, 4th Lord of the Isles, greatly enlarges and enhances the abbey church to Cathedral standard. It was:- “So comprehensive a scale as to involve the destruction of nearly three-fourths (3/4s) of the structure.” (1462 : John’s Grand Treaty of Ardtornish–Westminster with England..... What EXPECTATIONS!)

1472. Donald of Harlaw’s grandson, Angus , becomes the Lordship’s second Bishop of the Isles.

**IONA CATHEDRAL IS CLAN DONALD'S LEGACY.
“THE ROYAL FAMILY OF MACDONALD”,
“FORMERLY KINGS OF THE WESTERN PARTS OF SCOTLAND AND THE ISLES.”**

INTERRUPTIONS: OVER EARLDOM OF ROSS, 1402; KING JAMES I, 1406. Including Battle of Harlaw, 1411; Alexander imprisoned, 1427; Battle of Inverlochy, 1431.