



## **New Abbot Features on Glenstal Monks Album**

### ***Philosopher John O' Donohue leaves legacy on CHANT***

The monks of Glenstal have released a double CD and DVD, titled Chant, capturing the peace and spirituality of Glenstal Abbey, Co. Limerick. The album includes exclusive prayers from the Abbey's monks, spiritual hymns and Gregorian chant and features spoken word by newly elected Abbot of Glenstal Abbey, Mark Patrick Hederman.

John O' Donohue, the best-selling philosopher and poet, also reads some of his later poems on Chant. The former Catholic priest, who passed away January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008, aged 52, was a gifted story-teller best known for his international best-seller *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom* and lectured around the world.

O' Donohue joins other Chant contributors including acclaimed spiritual singer, Nóirín Ní Riain, who was the first woman to graduate with a doctorate in Theology from the University of Limerick. Ní Riain lives in Glenstal Abbey and prays regularly with the monks.

"This is a beautiful album which immediately invites you into the presence of God", says acclaimed spiritual singer and Chant contributor, Nóirín Ní Riain. "These are voices which can be listened to on all occasions, bringing peace and tranquillity to daily living."

Recorded at Glenstal, Chant features the voices of ten Glenstal monks accompanied by a variety of spiritual contributors and singers. The beautifully shot DVD features unique performances in the Abbey's Icon chapel. It also includes interviews with some of the monks providing an insight into the rich spirituality of the monastic tradition.

Founded in 1927, the Benedictine monastery of Glenstal is a community of monks who combine prayer and liturgical celebration with managing a boarding school for boys, a farm and guest house. The 39 monks residing at Glenstal assemble in church 4 times a day for prayer featuring Gregorian chant.

"We are delighted to be releasing this album and DVD which depicts our everyday prayers and chant and features John O' Donohue and other formidable contributors", says Abbot Hederman. "Visitors to Glenstal often remark on the peacefulness and spirituality of life here and Chant gives them the opportunity to take home their memories of the Abbey and join us in prayer."

Abbot Hederman was ordained on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 2008 by Archbishop Dermot Clifford of Cashel. A former student of Glenstal, he studied philosophy and theology at the Saulchoir in Paris and received a doctorate in education from UCD before returning to Glenstal and becoming headmaster of the school. A philosopher and lecturer, he released his book 'Walkabout – Life as Holy Spirit' in 2005, documenting his three years of world travel in search of the Holy Spirit.

Chant features 2 albums, Dies Domini - Sunday prayer at Glenstal and Biscantorat – Sound of the Spirit and a bonus DVD of exclusive interviews and performances at Glenstal Abbey, including spoken word by the Abbey's new Abbot, Mark Patrick Hederman.

**Chant, priced €22.95, is available now from all good music stores, including Eason's, HMV and Celtic Note. See [www.daisydiscs.com](http://www.daisydiscs.com) for further information.**

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