



# Wexford Window Celebrated in New Book on Harry Clarke

A new book entitled *Strangest Genius: The Stained Glass of Harry Clarke*, features Harry Clarke's exquisite window located at the Church of the Assumption, Bride Street in Wexford Town. The book was published last month by The History Press Ireland. It was written by Wexford author, Lucy Costigan, and photographer, Michael Cullen. The book is part of a trilogy of projects based on the life and work of Harry Clarke, including a website [www.harryclarke.net](http://www.harryclarke.net) that features the entire collection of the artist's windows that will be launched on RTE's Nationwide program in October. The Wexford window is also included in a new film documentary, *A Revel In Blue*, created by Anthony Costigan, Theresa Cullen and Raymond J. McGovern and will be available later in the year.

The Madonna with Saints Aidan and Adrian was commissioned by Mrs. O'Keefe of the Faythe, to commemorate her son, Lieutenant William Henry O'Keefe, who was killed at the Battle of Arras, in France in 1917. The window was completed by Harry Clarke in 1919. The two-light window is in the art nouveau style. The trefoil tracery light portrays a bearded Franciscan monk in brown habit and a shimmering blue and multicoloured halo. Various symbols of Wexford are depicted in the window, including a motif of Bride Street Church.

The two main lancets show the Madonna and child, with Saints Aidan and Adrian, whose names are inscribed around their halos. In the first light, the Madonna is adorned in a shimmering cloak and gown of deep blue. The baby Jesus sits on Mary's lap. The O'Keefe coat of arms is shown in the bottom left-hand panel.

In the second light Saint Adrian, patron saint of soldiers, is depicted in a lemon, crimson and black cloak, with a blue balaclava and helmet. Saint Aidan is shown holding a church in his right hand and a silver staff in his left. Several religious