



Post Production Script

Client Nine Muses	Project The Founder	Version 4
Date 14/10/2014	Duration 1 Hour	Production no. NWS14004

VOICEOVER

[1] PRE-TITLES

The story of Andrew Kerins, or Brother Walfrid as he's more commonly known is inextricably linked to the birth of one of the most famous football clubs in the world. (10s)

His early life was impacted by a human catastrophe on a scale the likes of which has never been seen before or since. (6s)

His story is one of triumph over adversity, of compassion and humility. (5s)

And his legacy is remarkable; both in terms of the club he started and in his care of the poor, the hungry and the downtrodden in Glasgow and London.

Inspired by a new portrait by Peter Howson, this is the story of Andrew Kerins - Brother Walfrid – The Founder. (18s)

[2] SET-UP PAINTING/INTRO PETER

Peter Howson's 'The Founder' - a study of Brother Walfrid, son of a peasant farmer, Irish Immigrant, Christian Brother and the central figure in the formation of Celtic Football Club, clearly links the man with his roots, in famine ravaged rural Ireland, as well as his role in starting Celtic. (18)

[3] RELIGIOUS WORKS

Howson returns time and again to religious subject matter and in particular, Christian, Catholic and Biblical themes. He can perhaps be credited with starting a renaissance in religious paintings in the world of contemporary art. (13s)

His images often challenge us to consider preconceptions of religious characters and stories. (5s)

[4] WALFRID PORTRAIT

Peter Howson's painting of Walfrid is particularly notable in that the subject is not widely known outside the world of Celtic FC. But the man who would go on to form a future football superpower was motivated entirely by his charitable endeavours, and specifically, in feeding the hungry. (18s)



[5] PRINTS

Brother Walfrid is to be released as a signed, limited edition print, meaning his image can be shared throughout the world. (6s)

[6] BIOG ANDREW (UP TO FAMINE HITTING)

Andrew Kerins was born on the 18th of May 1840 near Ballymote in County Sligo, Western Ireland. The town is centred in a largely farming community, and would have been particularly badly affected when famine struck in 1845. (18s)

[7] FAMINE

In a country where the poor and the lower classes relied on the potato as their staple diet, the loss of that year's crop, as well as the seed potatoes for the following years, resulted in an unprecedented natural disaster. (13s)

[8] POTATO BLIGHT

Potato blight is caused by a fungus-like organism which spreads rapidly through the plants foliage and down into the tubers themselves. Although the disease might not be visible in freshly dug potatoes, they will rot during storage. (13s)

[9] RECON: POTATOES ROT IN STORAGE

In that fateful year of 1845, tenant farmers throughout Ireland dug their crops as usual. In many cases, they were unaware of any problems.

In the days and weeks that followed however, as people looked in on their stores, they discovered to their horror that they had lost their only source of nourishment. (21s)

[10] FAMINE GROTESQUES

Howson's Walfrid doesn't shy away from portraying the horrific and frightening face of famine.

His cast of characters, often appearing in other paintings, take on the roles of the starving men, women and children who suffered disease and death as a result of the failure of the potato crop. (18s)

[11] DENIS MAHON/PETITION

The story of Major Denis Mahon of Strokestown Park in County Roscommon, crystallises the gulf between the impoverished tenant farmers and the landed gentry.

Civil unrest was on the increase and in an impassioned letter to Mahon, now known as the Cloonahee Petition, the oppressed men of the area pleaded with him to help them in any way he could. (22s)



[12] MAHON IGNORES PETITION

The Cloonahee Petition fell on deaf ears. It was cheaper for Mahon to clear his land of the poorest families, and he sent around fourteen hundred people on one of the so-called 'coffin ships' bound for Quebec. (14s)

[13] MAHON ASSASSINATED

On the second of November 1847, Denis Mahon was returning home after attending a meeting of the Strokestown Relief Committee, during which he had queried the list of those entitled to relief.

In the grounds outside his estate, a marksman shot Mahon in the chest, killing him instantly.

The assassination sent shockwaves throughout Ireland and Westminster. (23s)

[14] EMIGRATION

Emigration was seen as the most cost-effective solution to Ireland's increasing problems. It was cheaper to clear starving tenant farmers off the land than to pay rates for them to be placed in the workhouses. (11s)

[15] ANDREW LEAVES IRELAND

Andrew Kerins left his hometown of Ballymote in 1855, at the age of fifteen, bound for Glasgow. (7s)

[16] ARRIVES ST MARY'S

Andrew and his fellow emigrants would presumably have known that they were going to settle in Glasgow's east end, around the Calton and the parish of St Mary's. (8s)

[17] ST MARY'S HALLS

Located to the rear of St Mary's church were the St Mary's Halls; a focal point for the community where, among other activities, the poorest families of the area, including many Irish immigrants sought charity – notably hot meals. (13s)

[18] ANDREW TAKES VOWS

The Marist Brothers had played a key role in establishing solid educational and charitable institutions around St. Mary's and other parts of Glasgow and a young and idealistic Andrew was drawn to their way of life.

In 1864, at the age of 24, he sought admission to their novitiate in France where he was to take his vows. (20s)

Andrew returned to the parish of St. Mary's in 1868 as Brother Walfrid. (5s)



[19] RECAP PAINTING

Howson's interpretation of Brother Walfrid captures a sense of compassion. It also places him at the centre of a famine scene and highlights perhaps the greatest motivation for his lifelong devotion to helping the needy. (12s)

[20] OTHER WORKS

~~Howson's religious works have been bought by collectors all over the world.~~

[21] BIRTH OF CELTIC

Inspired by the successes of other Catholic soccer clubs, and seeing an opportunity to replicate this on his own turf, Walfrid set into motion the birth of what was to become Celtic FC. (12s)

[22] RUMOURS OF SAINTHOOD

Rumours of a possible canonisation of Brother Walfrid have circulated in the past. But how likely this would be is anyone's guess. (7s)

[23] CELTIC

The successes soon mounted up and in 1892, Celtic beat Queen's Park to win the Scottish Cup. They moved to their new ground that same year. (9s)

[24] NOVEMBER 6th 1887

It is highly appropriate that the meeting where Celtic was born took place in Brother Walfrid's beloved St' Mary's halls. (6s)

Walfrid left nothing to chance, and had even prepared a draft constitution. (4s)

[25] STATUE AT CELTIC PARK

Brother Walfrid's legacy is far reaching – but perhaps the most visible aspect of this is a prominent addition to the east end skyline. (9s)

And at the approach to Paradise, a fitting tribute to the man who indeed set the ball rolling. (5s)

[26] LINK CELTIC & ST MARY'S

The links between Celtic and the parish of St Mary's are still strong. A Celtic mosaic greets you at the entrance, and Brother Walfrid himself looks down from the doorway.

Some of the old stones of the now demolished halls have themselves been sculpted into Celtic crosses. (17s)



[27] LONDON

After many years of doing great work in his adopted hometown of Glasgow, Brother Walfrid was moved to London, where his compassion for the poor and the hungry led him to start up new charitable institutions. (11s)

[28] MEETS CELTIC ONCE MORE

Brother Walfrid was to have one more encounter with his beloved Celtic. Upon their return from a European tour, he is quoted as saying: “Well, well. Time has brought changes, and outside ourselves, there are few left of the old brigade. I know none of these present players, but they are under the old colours and quartered in the old quarters – and that suffices.” (22s)

[29] CANTERBURY

Brother Walfrid’s last posting, prior to his retirement, was in Canterbury. (4s)

[30] ST JOSEPH’S

With his health in decline, and after having worked beyond the usual retirement age, Brother Walfrid finally retired to St. Joseph’s college in Dumfries, at the time, a Catholic boarding school. (12s)

[31] DEATH

Brother Walfrid lived out his final years at St. Joseph’s and died on April 17th 1915.

He is buried in the Marist cemetery at Mount St Michael’s in the grounds of St Joseph’s...and it’s not difficult to spot his grave marker... (16s)

[32] BALLYMOTE LEGACY

It’s also fitting that Brother Walfrid is commemorated in his hometown of Ballymote. A fine statue takes pride of place in the community park. (9s)

And just outside the town, the Walfrid story perhaps comes full circle. (4s)

[33] CELTIC LEGACY

Brother Walfrid’s impact on Glasgow and on the world of football is obvious. But it’s fair to say that he would have hid away from any idea of fame or celebrity. (10s)

[34] OUTRO

Peter Howson’s Walfrid has sparked a new interest in the man who made it his life’s mission to put food in the bellies of those who could not afford to feed themselves.

It is, in itself, a new chapter in the Walfrid story. (13s)

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