

Donlevy, Andrew, (1680-1746), Irish ecclesiastic active in France, was born near Ballymote in Co Sligo, into a comfortably off family. He was educated locally and travelled to France c. 1710. There he registered in the Paris law faculty in 1718, took his BA in 1719 and his licence in law in 1720. In Paris, he sided with a reforming party (*zelanti*) who believed the Irish Church should conform to European practices, especially with regard to the education of priests. This was contentious as the Irish seminary community, housed in the Collège des Lombards, was divided into two groups: already ordained priests who had travelled to Paris for theological training and younger clerics following the Tridentine discipline. Long standing financial tensions between the two groups were exacerbated by Donlevy's proposal, as prefect of the clerics since 1722, to remove ordained priests from the seminary. He was supported by Abbé Vaubrun and Cardinal de Fleury but excited the ire of Irish bishops who feared that exclusively Paris-formed clerics would be unlikely to return to the mission. Donlevy, exercising influence with Fleury succeeded in having a new code of discipline drawn up for the college. Pending royal ratification, the community of priests complained to Ireland and to Rome. In the college elections of 1734 the Donlevy party was ousted. Rome intervened to allow priests to remain but removed the student right of election of college officers. Future appointments were made the responsibility of the archbishop of Paris. Donlevy continued as superior of the clerics until his death.

Donlevy lamented the decline of the Irish language and worked to preserve its monuments. He recognised the language's importance in religious education and was anxious to replace the Franciscan catechisms of the early 17th century which had become scarce. He was helped by Philippe Joseph Perrotin who funded a school of Irish in the college to print catechisms and works of piety for the mission. As part of this scheme Donlevy published, in 1742, the bilingual *An Teagasg Críosuidhe* to which was appended a verse abridgment of christian doctrine, compiled by Bonaventure O'Heoghusa and Donlevy's treatise on 'The Elements of the Irish Language.' Donlevy's catechism, conceived as a resource book for more advanced religious education, was written in Irish, the English version was a literal translation. It is the most complete formal text in Irish for this period and draws on the author's spoken Irish but was influenced too by the technical vocabulary of the early 17th-century Irish Louvain Franciscans. Donlevy died in Paris on 7 December 1746 and was buried in the Irish College chapel, the present day Eglise St Ephraim des Syriens.

