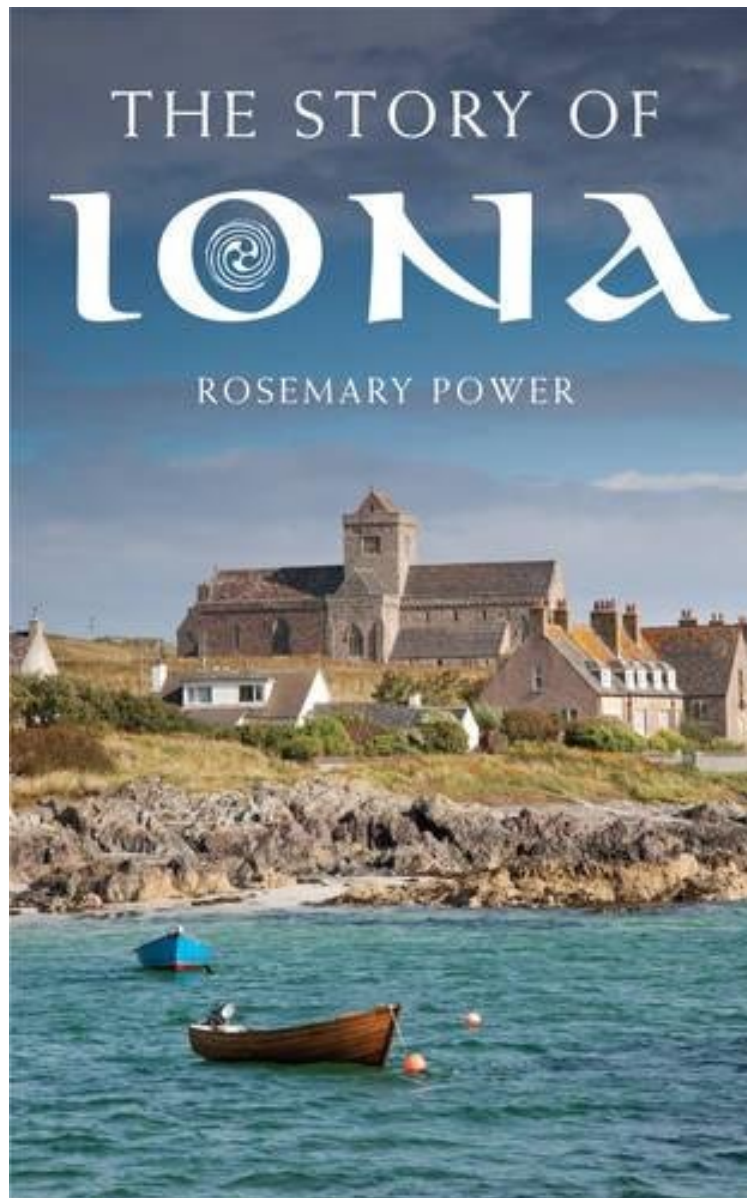


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The Story of Iona

Rosemary Power

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Rosemary Power : The Story of Iona before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Story of Iona:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It sounds so good...let's go!By Lois SibleyThis is a welcome and informative look at the long history of a famous location that is west of Glasgow in Scotland, and northeast of Ireland. A small island in the Inner Hebrides, surrounded by water, Iona can be reached by ferry from Oban in Scotland, to the

Isle of Mull and then by bus to Fionnphort, and another ferry from there to Iona. It's not a long distance, but it may be a wet and very cold and windy day. Patient travelers will be rewarded. Author Power begins with the early days of life on Iona, and continues with the story of Irish Saint Columba arriving in the sixth century and beginning a monastery there. Using descriptions and photos of physical remains of the buildings and artifacts found, as well as written sources, she helps readers imagine life as it was on Iona. After Columba, there were 350 years of Benedictine and Augustinian monasteries and nunneries present and busy there. Power describes what happened during and after the Reformation as well as stories of the community now living on Iona. She includes poetry, prose, and prayers of the early, medieval, and high medieval communities. Today, there is a group called the Iona Community, not an official monastery but they live by a Rule, which includes daily prayer and Bible study, music and worship, as well as their concern for justice and peace. There are also other local residents, who make a living by farming, fishing, and tourism. Visitors will find there are a few hotels, bed and breakfast places, and a golf course. If you plan to go, *The Story of Iona*, by Rosemary Power and published by Canterbury Press, would serve as a helpful guide.----Lois Sibley

Historian and Iona Community member Rosemary Power tells the story of the small Hebridean island of Iona and its remarkable spiritual influence over fifteen centuries. Beginning with the earliest Stone Age settlements, she combines new translations of early Gaelic and medieval Latin prayers with original research to chart: the founding of the abbey in 563AD six centuries of monasticism: food, lifestyle, work and the pattern of daily prayer architecture, the high crosses and early art medieval Iona: the nunnery, womens lives, and catering for pilgrims post Reformation Iona: the rebuilding of the Abbey, the lives of the resident population and what visitors from the 17th century onwards experienced

About the Author DR ROSEMARY POWER is a historian specialising in Norse and Gaelic studies. She is associate researcher of the National University of Ireland, Galway, and has published academically on Iona.