



Onset, the restoration of Nicker Church will be phase one of the project

its side as it to churches

ers to raise €750,000 for their churches

easier," said Mr Ryan. A tendering process is underway and they expect building in Nicker to commence later in the Summer. Once that is completed phase two will be Templebraden church.

This church, located in Ballyneety beside the named Sarsfield's Rock, was built in 1884 by Fr Michael Ryan at a cost of 800.

Mr Ryan says the attendances are very good in the two local churches.

"There is a lot of vibrancy around the church. Last Sunday we had a packed church for all the exam students. There is a very good sense of community and church," said Mr Ryan, who is originally from Kilduff.

The only sad part about their optimistic plans is that the late Mike Ronan won't be able to see the work, that he helped start, be completed.

Mr Ronan was the chairman of the building

committee and attended meetings right up until his death in April.

"This project, when it is completed, certainly will stand as a testament to his dedication to community and parish," said Mr Ryan.

New members are welcome to join for the remaining four draws at a cost of €10 per month or €40 for the remaining draws. You may join the draw by contacting Fr Burns, Mr Ryan or any of the committee.

Anger over St John's Hospital theatre closure

Nick Rabbitts

LIMERICK'S socialist party representative Cian Prendiville has said he thinks proposed theatre closures at the city's St John's Hospital will be permanent.

This week, our sister newspaper the Limerick Chronicle revealed two inpatient theatres are set to be closed to cover annual leave. Due to the HSE's recruitment embargo, front line medical staff cannot be brought in.

The move will see 200 patients waiting for crucial scheduled treatments face further inconvenience.

Mr Prendiville pointed out in 2008, the ground floor ward was closed at the hospital, leading to the closure of 20 beds.

"Three years later they still haven't reversed that 'temporary' closure - in reality it was just Orwellian double-speak for permanent. This is part of a sustained campaign to wind down critical services at St John's and turn it into nothing but an outhouse for the Regional Hospital, which is already crumbling under the pressure," he said.

He described the plans - confirmed by St John's acting CEO John

Cummins - as a "scandal" adding: "At this moment, right across the country there are 1,794 hospital beds 'temporarily' closed according to the INMO. At a time when hundreds are on waiting lists, to close down theatres and send nursing staff home is a disgrace. It was also revealed this week that the HSE, in Limerick is facing a serious complaint from a patient who was left waiting and waiting for a diagnostic test which revealed he had cancer, but by which time the cancer is claimed to have worsened. The reason for the delay? Lack of theatres."

Also critical of the closures this week was Labour's city east councillor Gerry McLoughlin, who sits on the board of management at the day care hospital.

He said: "St John's Hospital's reputation was the highest in the country at one point. Standards were very high, and people used to like going there because they were treated well. Now we could lose all that."

Mr Cummins stressed St John's Hospital's day care theatre would remain open. "We would anticipate limited inconvenience," he said.



St John's: two theatres not open until September

leaves for Tidy Towns