

LIMERICK LEADER



BOLD NEW IDEA

Support is growing for the ambitious new plan for the Shannon footbridge **Page 4**



SPORTS PULLOUT FULL TIME

INSIDE
ALL THE WEEKEND'S TOP LOCAL SPORTING ACTION



TODDLER FIGHTS FOR LIFE AFTER HOTEL FALL

Prayers as two-year-old boy moved to Temple St hospital

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PRAYERS were said at Masses yesterday for toddler Neil Shanahan, who is in a critical condition in hos-

pital after falling from the top floor of the Strand Hotel.

Neil, two-and-a-half years, fell from the sixth floor bal-

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Fall: the Limerick Strand Hotel



Emotional scenes: Dominican's last Mass

IT was the end of an era in the city yesterday as the Dominican Friars celebrated their final Mass. There has been a Dominican presence in the city since 1224. Attending the Mass were Irene Casey, Prospect and Fr. Donal Sweeney. Full story: page three PICTURE: GARETH WILLIAMS



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NEWS

RELIGION: ORDER TO MOVE OUT OF CITY BUT DOMINICAN CHURCH TO REMAIN OPEN IN CITY

End of an era as Dominican's mark last Mass in Limerick

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IT was the end of an era in the city yesterday as the last Mass held by the Dominican order took place.

St Saviour's Church was packed to the rafters as people came to say goodbye to the order, which is withdrawing from the city after close on 800 years.

The Limerick Diocese is to take on the running of the church - retaining a Mass at 1pm each day - while nuns based in Nashville will move into the building later this summer.

But despite this, there were tearful scenes from clergy and congregation alike, as the priests of the Dominican order filed out following the Mass of thanksgiving and farewell.

The Dominican order arrived in Limerick in 1224, setting up a church in 1227, and have been based in Glentworth Street for 200 years.

Addressing the congreg-



Attending the last Mass by the Dominican Oder were Senator Maria Byrne, Fr John Harris and Marie Rigney, Dooradoyle

PICTURE: GARETH WILLIAMS

ation in his homily, Fr Francis Downes, prior of the community, said: "In times of strength, of weakness and great persecution, we remained steadfast, thanks to the support and generosity

"It has formed so much of my spiritual life than anyone could ever know"
Monica O'Brien-Smith

of you and your ancestors, the people of Limerick. Our presence in Fish Lane, off Sir Harry's Mall dated back to 1755 when the Roche family of Mary Street gave refuse to the Friars in their back garden."

Before this, the Dominican's of St Saviour's, although having no chapel of their own, lived in Gaol Lane. They moved to the present site in Glentworth Street in 1816.

Sharing her memories of St Saviour's Church, Patricia Hogan, now of the Pennywell Road said: "When I was at boarding school, we took the train from Nenagh to Limerick, and we had time before we caught the next train to Ardrahan. So we used to come in here to the Dominican's and pray. We're going to miss it terribly."

Monica O'Brien-Smith, who grew up near to the Dominican's, added: "This was the best church, absolutely. I'm just so sad. It has formed so much of my spiritual life than anyone could ever know."

Eoin Mulqueen, 27, of the Hyde Road, was an altar boy in the church.

He said: "It's not hit me that they are moving out yet. My fondest memory would be each Christmas helping my Dad put out the Christmas tree and the crib."

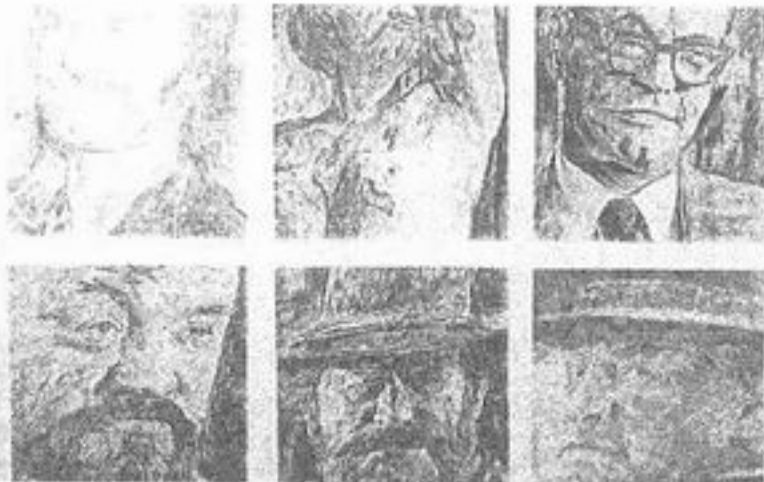
At the end of the Mass, Fr Downes handed the keys to the church to Fr Eamonn Fitzgibbon, representing the Diocese.

City artist hopes sketches will make Archibald prize

ACTOR Jared Harris, the star of Mad Men and son of one of Limerick's one famous thespians, sat for Limerick artist Thomas Delohery for these sketches.

Delohery, who used to live on the Ennis Road but now resides in Australia, undertook these portraits for the prestigious Archibald Prize 2016. Finalists will be announced on July 7. The artist was in Limerick late last year in his role as artistic curator of the portrait competition under the Richard Harris International Film Festival, and got Jared to sit for him.

The pair first met in Kilkee when the statue was unveiled in honour of Richard Harris in 2006. After



The sketches of Jared Harris in his various roles by artist Thomas Delohery, now living in Australia

drawing Jared from life, Delohery started the background/surface of the main painting by doing six further studies of Jared Harris in his various roles from The No-

torious Bettie Page, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Mad Men, Sherlock Holmes, A Game of Shadows, Lincoln and Paganini, and The Devil's Violinist.

Sadness at death of Frank McCourt's younger brother

TRIBUTES have been paid to Alphonse McCourt, the youngest brother of legendary Limerick writer Frank McCourt, who has died, writes Anne Sheridan.

Alphonse passed away suddenly in New York at the age of 75 late on Saturday night.

His only surviving brother Malachy McCourt, 84, confirmed the sad news in a message on Facebook yesterday.

Dominic Taylor, of the Limerick Writers' Centre, who invited Alphonse to a plaque unveiling of his brother Frank last year outside South's bar, said he was saddened to hear this news but said "it was a privilege to have known him".

Born in Limerick in July 1940, Alphonse grew up in the



Alphonse McCourt, who sadly passed away over the weekend, pictured on one of his many visits back to Limerick PICTURE: OWEN SOUTH

city, before emigrating to America in 1959, spending a good part of his life in the restaurant and bar trade.

He is predeceased by his siblings Frank, Michael,

Oliver, Eugene and sister Margaret, and survived by brother Malachy, wife Lyn and daughter Alison. Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced.