

City's African community to celebrate first anniversary

By ALAN JACQUES

THE African community of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will celebrate their first anniversary with a little taste of home this Sunday at 3pm.

Twelve months ago, the chaplain of Our Lady of Lourdes, Fr

Pat Seaver, got together with a few friends and decided to celebrate the Eucharist in an African style.

And according to church secretary Mary Hanum from Nigeria, Fr Seaver, after his many trips to Ghana, Togo, Benin and Ivory Coast, understood perfectly the need for Mass to have the "African feel".

"Not long after that, the first Mass was celebrated in grand style, and the rest as they say is history," said Ms Hanum, who has lived in Limerick for the past four years.

"There is more music and colour in the African service. There is also a lot more participation from the congregation," she

said.

"We are also lucky to have our own Tanzanian priest, Fr Thadeus Mkamwa, a PhD student in the University of Limerick, who also resides in the presbytery in Our Lady of Lourdes," she said.

At the celebrations this Sunday, Bishop Donal Murray will administer the sacraments of First Com-

munion and Confirmation. Dr Murray will also baptise several Irish-African children.

"Speaking on behalf of the community, the president of the Parish Council, Frederick Amponsah, has gone all out to make sure that all who attend will enjoy the experience thoroughly. There will be lots of African music and lots

to eat and drink. It is now all hands on deck," said Ms Hanum.

"Anyone who is African or has any affiliation with Africa, who wants to praise the Lord in the African mode, who wants to have fun and an interesting day out, is invited and should expect to receive an African welcome there on the day," she said.

New hotel will bring extra quality to city

LIMERICK City's biggest new hotel, the Quality Hotel on Childers Road, opens its doors to the public this Friday at midday.

The 199-room hotel is the eighth Quality Hotel in Ireland and cost €35m to build and equip.

It comes with 26 two-bedroom suites, four one-bedroom suites and 143 other guest rooms.

The hotel also has a bistro-type restaurant, Lanigans, for evening dining and will run a daily lunch carvery in Bar 23/19, named after Munster's Heineken Cup victory score.

"We hope to have Jerry Flannery to officially open the bar in about a month's time," said Lisa Colahan, sales and marketing manager.

In the meantime, the bar will be open to customers.



Thelma Wijngaarde, Quality Hotel's general manager, outside the new facility this week (LL)

"Everything is ready and in place. We will be serving our first lunches in Bar 23/19 at 1pm and

checking in our first guests at 3pm," Ms Colahan said.

The hotel's facilities

also include a leisure centre, Club Vitae, which caters both for residents and non-residents. Club Vitae has a 20-metre pool, jacuzzi, sauna and steam rooms as well as a fully-equipped gym.

In order to woo customers to the city's newest inn, a special opening offer of €49 per room is available.

"This offer is for the first 1,000 rooms booked and used before September 10," Ms Colahan said.

The hotel expects to attract commercial and leisure clients. It has 16 rooms available for meetings and seminars, but also hopes to attract out-of-town visitors for short city breaks and for shopping and leisure weekends.

The Quality Hotel group is part of Choice Hotel International which also includes the Comfort and Clarion chains.



Work underway at the new hotel on Sir Harry's Mall (LL)

Patrick Punch's opens its doors

By AINE de PAOR

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PATRICK Punch's Hotel took in its first guests at the weekend. It is the latest in a string of new hotels about to come on stream in Limerick.

Next Christmas sees the opening of another in Sir Harry's Mall on King's Island. Built by O'Reilly Developments it will bring visitors to the historic heart of the city.

Meanwhile, Punch's has been transformed from a landmark bar into a 72-room hotel.

The work took 18 months and the finished product includes a leisure centre and new fusion restaurant located off the bar.

It has a four star rating and is owned by the Dunne Hotel Group which has a string of establishments across the country.

Brendan Dunne of the group, said there

had never been a better time for business in Ireland.

"People have plenty of money to spend," he said. "Compared to when I first started out and all the money went on drink—people wouldn't dream of eating out because it was cheaper to do that at home."

And Mr Dunne should know, he has been in the business for decades, acquiring his first hotel, the Two-Mile Inn in 1979. He then joined forces with other family members and together they have created one of the strongest hotel chains in the country. The addition of Patrick Punch's means they now have eight hotels.

The hotel restaurant, Lemonsol, opens for business this Friday and the leisure centre is expected to be up and running in a couple of weeks.

A room at the hotel costs €125.



The Quality Hotel, Childers Road: opens for business this Friday (LL)



Forest Energy 2006 National Wood Chipping Demonstrations

Teagasc invite you to demonstrations on the production of quality wood chip from forest thinnings

Location:	Meet at:	Date:
Kilbrin, Co. Cork	Kilbrin Community Centre (7km from Kanturk)	Wednesday 30th

- The value of thinnings
- Terrain Chippers
- Tractor-mounted Chippers
- Roadside Chipping
- Chips forwarding
- Data on chip costs / quality

Buses will depart from the meeting point at intervals from 12.00 to 1.30 pm

All Welcome