By IAIN DEMPSEY
FRANK Leddin, twice former Mayor of Limerick, was laid to rest this Monday following a funeral Mass where hundreds of mourners of Limerick, Dr Donal Murray, and the Labour Party's deputy leader, Deputy Brendan Howlin. Mr Leddin, described as a "father figure" of the Leddin family, died in St John's Hospital last Thursday following an illness. A special meeting of Limerick City Council...
FRANK Ledin, twice former Mayor of Limerick, was laid to rest this Monday following a funeral Mass where hundreds of people turned up to pay their respects.

The former Labour party councillor’s funeral was attended by Irish rugby internationals Brian O’Driscoll and Shane Horgan, the Bishop and the Labour Party’s deputy leader, Deputy Brendan Howlin.

Mr Ledin, described as a “father figure of the Ledin family” by Mr Ledin’s son, Mr Ledin, died at 80 years of age. He had served on Limerick City Council for over 30 years.

Hundreds of mourners gathered at St Joseph’s Church for the funeral, where respect was paid to the former Telecom Eireann employee.

Cllr. Joe Ledin, nephew, spoke of how Mr Ledin dedicated most of his life to Limerick city.

“Frank was a committed politician and a kind, gentle man,” said Cllr. Ledin.

He lent his abilities to helping make Limerick a better place, especially in the role of education.

“He was actively involved in VEC developments, including the formation of the Limerick Adult Education College, the formation of the Limerick Institute of Technology, the formation of the school of music, the development of St. Mary’s Community College and the transformation of the School of Commerce to Limerick Senior College.

“Frank will be greatly missed by his family, colleagues and many many friends.”

Mr Ledin was elected to the City Council in 1966, as a member of the Labour Party and was re-elected in 1968 and again in 1970.

He retired from the Council in 1976. He was described at the special meeting at the Council as a “father figure” of the Ledin and Keys family, who have had a representative on the City Council since the foundation of the State.

Mayor John Cronin said of Mr Ledin, “Frank was always a gentleman and made his views clear in a quiet and effective manner.”

He dedicated his lifetime to the people of Limerick and Limerick is a better place without him.

On behalf of the Labour Party in Limerick, Deputy Joe O’Donnell said, “He was a warm, caring humanitarian who gave to others without expecting anything in return. He was a public servant and gave a great deal of commitment to his city.”

Chairman of the VEC, Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon, said, “Over the 42 years Frank represented the people of Limerick VEC both at home and abroad, with honour and distinction and until his death, represented the VEC on the city council education board, and on the governing body of the Limerick Institute of Technology.”

“We were lifelong colleagues and friends and we contributed over 100 years to the Labour Party. We had a lot of deep conversations with him at the recent general election and I am deeply saddened to learn of his death.”

“The coffin of former Mayor of Limerick Frank Ledin is carried from St Joseph’s Church.

Deputy Brendan Howlin, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, at the funeral (LL)