



Ann McCabe embraces the bust of her late husband, Det Garda Jerry McCabe

# Commissioner unveils bust to murdered Garda McCabe

By JIMMY WOULD

A BRONZE bust of the late Det Garda Jerry McCabe, unveiled in Henry Street Garda headquarters on Friday was, said his widow, an important memorial to her husband who was gunned down by the IRA in Adare.

And Ann McCabe added that the solidarity of the ordinary people of Limerick in the aftermath of the killing will be as important and as lasting a memorial as far as the family was concerned.

The bust was unveiled by Garda Commissioner Patrick Byrne during an ecumenical ceremony.

The Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, Dr Edward Darling, and Mons Michael Lane, representing the Catholic Bishop of Limerick, Dr Donal Murray, led the prayers in which members of the McCabe family did some of the readings.

Det Garda Ben O'Sullivan, who was seriously wounded in the IRA gun attack in June 1996, placed his dead colleague's Garda hat in front of the plinth on which the bust stands.

In his reading Det Garda O'Sullivan reflected: "For 32 years I came to work, I enjoyed your company, Jerry, and the challenge of the job. I had five years to run and I had great plans."

"But God's ways are not ours and now I am happy,



Det Garda Ben O'Sullivan gives a reading

pilot me, God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me, God's angels to save me from harm."

Commissioner Byrne said the killing of Det McCabe challenged the bedrock of democracy in this country.

But the good people of Limerick "associated and co-operated with An Garda Síochána with unprecedented determination and vigour in the defeat of evil."

"For this I am grateful. I am grateful for their courage and their determination that the rule of law must prevail."

"The new awareness of evil by the citizens of this country clearly demonstrated: enough was enough."

He said a tribute to Jerry McCabe would not be complete without mention of his friend and colleague, Ben O'Sullivan who he thanked for his

performance as a member of the Garda.

Commissioner Byrne added: "The one thing we must all recognise is that the Gardaí police by consent and without that help of the citizens a police force will be ineffectual."

"Jerry McCabe epitomised the philosophy of policing by consent. He was an excellent policeman, an astute detective and a loyal colleague and friend. His discreet approach and calm attitude made him a person in whom people could confide, could trust and be sure that this trust would not be betrayed."

"He had friends in every conceivable walk of life and they had the same importance to him. His attributes can be put in a nutshell when Tom King, the former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who Jerry had protected, paid tribute in the House of Commons to Jerry's professionalism."

Ann McCabe, widow of Det McCabe, said the real value of the bust was

remember Jerry the man.

In a tribute to the people of Limerick, she said on the sad day of Jerry's funeral, thousands stopped what they were doing, came out of shops and places of business, and stood in silence as the cortege passed by.

"At a time of deep personal anguish, this gesture by ordinary decent people, was intensely moving and comforting to my family and myself."

"It was, as if, by their silence, and by their sheer numbers, the people of Limerick were saying that they had had enough, and that they were unwilling to give any form of support to crimes like this, no matter what their so-called political motivation might have been."

"It is to these people that I say, thank you; your support and solidarity are, perhaps, as important and as lasting a memorial to my husband as this fine piece of sculpture that we have unveiled today," said Mrs McCabe.

She thanked the Commissioner, Chief Supt Noel O'Sullivan, Supt Tony Kennelly, Supt Eddie McKeon, Supt John Kerin, Inspector Gerry Mahon and Chief Supt Michael Fitzgerald, now in Cyprus with the UN, who she said was very much involved in the initial stages of planning the memorial.

Mrs McCabe also paid tribute to Limerick man, Jim Connolly the sculptor, who now lives in Kilbaha, Clare.

The people of Adare were represented at the ceremony by Lord Thady and Lady Geraldine Dun-



Ann McCabe with Annette Kenny, North Circular Road



Commissioner Pat Byrne gives his address



Catherine McCabe, Caherdavin, and Kay McCabe Conway, Caherdavin, sisters of the late Jerry McCabe



Det Garda Ben O'Sullivan, Ann McCabe and Commissioner Pat Byrne who unveiled the bust of Det Garda Jerry McCabe



Chief Supt Noel O'Sullivan, head of the Limerick