



Church hits back at McCourt over 'untrue' claims

Weather

TODAY will be a bright crisp winter's day, with plenty of sunshine, but bitterly cold at two to five degrees at best, in a biting northerly to north-westerly wind. Frost will persist in some rural parts all day. There is a risk of some sleet or snow showers drifting into the west and north-west coasts of the Limerick region. Tonight temperatures will plunge to minus three to minus five degrees with a widespread hard frost and a danger of some icy patches. Tomorrow will be a mostly dry sunny but cold day, with temperatures struggling to get much above freezing. It will not, however, feel quite as bitter as today, as the north-westerly winds will have eased.

No gas

CITY firemen went to a house at Lissadell Drive, Clareview, at 12.10 early this morning when a householder thought she smelled gas. The brigade checked out the premises, and confirmed it safe.

Correction

IN a court report in the Limerick Leader, February 3, the address of a defendant who pleaded guilty to a charge of violent disorder was given as 8 O'Curry Place. In fact the defendant's address is Little O'Curry Street.

Appeal over ice on roads

GARDAI in Limerick have appealed to motorists to be particularly careful when driving in sheltered parts of the road, especially in the county, following overnight frosts.

The road at Griffin's Cross near Parteen was described as icy.

However, roads generally were dry overnight near the city.

In the county a number of spots along the Shannon estuary had areas of black ice where "frost pockets" had formed in sheltered parts of roadways.

Askeaton gardai appealed to motorists to take particular care at night-time when using the main Foynes road.

New houses

A NEW £1.25 million housing scheme for Verdant Place, overlooking the Shannon, was signed at City Hall this afternoon.

The new scheme is for 14 dwellings. John Loftus, building contractor from Pallaskenry, was awarded the contract.

By EUGENE PHELAN

THE Catholic Church has hit back at "untrue" claims by Frank McCourt that Bishop Donal Murray refused to allow them use churches in the city for filming of Angela's Ashes.

"It is untrue to suggest that the Bishop refused permission, actually, the situation could not be further from the truth as we did all we could to help the filming," said Fr Michael Wall, Diocesan secretary.

A story in the Los Angeles Times claimed that Frank McCourt said filming was not allowed in the Redemptorist, St Joseph's and the Franciscan's and the Bishop refused to let



Flashback to the set of Angela's Ashes at St Joseph's church.

them film in a local church.

"In fact," said Fr Wall "we gave them permission to film in St Joseph's Church and did all we could to help them." And the parish of St Joseph's was paid by the film company for helping them out.

This included re-erecting flag poles, putting lighting in the church and even the disruption of a funeral.

"All we asked was that the structure and decor of the church not be changed and that we could get on with normal business," said Fr Wall.

Fr Dan Baragry, rector

of the Redemptorists, said that he did not feel it was appropriate that their church be turned into a film studio, so he made the decision to turn down a request from the company.

"No matter what film company, I would have felt the same," he commented.

He said they did allow Frank McCourt be interviewed in the church in the past and that filming of documentaries came into a another category. They were different than having the church taken over for the shooting of a film.

In a radio interview after the article Mr McCourt again blamed Bishop Murray for not being allowed use local churches, but added that he had been told this by film director Alan Parker

He stressed he was not at all anti-church and had great affinity to the Redemptorists in particular.

There was no one available at the Franciscan church for comment.