

chief prosecution witness James Martin Cahill during his evidence in the trial. At one point he said: "I'm getting like voices and I don't want to convict someone in the wrong."

Mr Cahill, who is currently serving a life sentence for shooting Mr Fitzgerald, went on to say that he did not remember Mr Dundon being present when Mr Fitzgerald was pointed out at his place of work or during a visit to the victim's house before the murder.

Dundon and that he was requiring them to acquit him. He warned them that this move should not affect the trials of the other three defendant's when they come to deliberate their cases.

Gary Campion 24, of Pineview Gardens, Moyross, John Dundon's brother Desmond 23, also from Hyde Road Ballinacurra Weston, and Clare business man Anthony Kelly 50, of Cragg House, Killrush all remain on trial. All three men deny the charge

DEATH

FOX (NEE CONNERY) on Nov 9th 2007 (after a short illness, in New Zealand). Marian, late of Connery's Shop, Pearse Ave, Janesboro. Deeply regretted by her daughter Sharon, granddaughter Shania, sister

Christine (Downes), uncle Eric, aunt Phyllis, relatives and friends R.I.P. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Janesboro on tomorrow Tuesday eve. at 7 pm.

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The leader of the Green Party outlined the party's plans for their five-year term in Government and said for the first time ever a cabinet committee on climate change and a carbon budget are to be established in the near future.

When questioned on the pay increases recently introduced for TDs, Minister Gormley said he intends to donate his pay increases towards a climate change fund. A smaller portion of his wage will also be donated towards party funds, but said he is limited in donating a larger portion of his



Gormley targeting SUV drivers

income towards the party as personal donations are capped at €6,000. However, he said he is also seeking to lift that cap to allow for greater donations to the party, as he said the

of affairs. I have to say it was things which motivate me to join the Greens, when I saw what had happened to the River Shannon."

The convention was also attended by the Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture Trevor Sargent and Senator Deirdre de Burca, who took part in a debate focusing on the future of Europe and Ireland's role within the EU.

Deputy Sargent urged students to keep the campaign against genetically modified food to the forefront of peoples' minds, and said the issue of food security is becoming a major problem.

McCourt's Christmas present to SVP

By ANNE SHERIDAN

THE local branch of St Vincent de Paul will be one charity receiving royalties from the sales of Frank McCourt's new book, *Angela and the Baby Jesus*, this Christmas.

The famous author and Pulitzer Prize winner was in Limerick last Friday to launch his fourth book and said SVP will benefit from the sales of the book, due to the kindness and generosity the charity gave the McCourt family when he was growing up in Limerick.

Speaking at the launch Mr McCourt recalled his own Christmas' in Limerick. "There was no problem with presents because we didn't have any money. The SVP society often provided us with our Christmas dinner. They kept us alive and I'm not exaggerating," he said.

The children's book follows the story of his mother Angela, who steals the Baby Jesus, from St Joseph's church at Christmas, as she fears the baby will become cold at night.

"In a way I feel like a

bit of fraud. I wrote the story, but it was a story my mother told me when I was seven. We all heard this story, sitting around the fire, in a house near a lane up by Sarsfield Barracks. I'm the author of this story, but she's the real author," he said.

Mr McCourt said the story was written many years ago and he had filed it away in a notebook until his publisher suggested he write a children's book for Christmas.

"I was intrigued with it; it stuck in my head for years and years. I wrote it one time when I was aspiring to be a writer - aspiring and despairing - and I put it in a notebook. Years passed, I became a teacher and this was one of the stories I told my pupils in New York," he said.

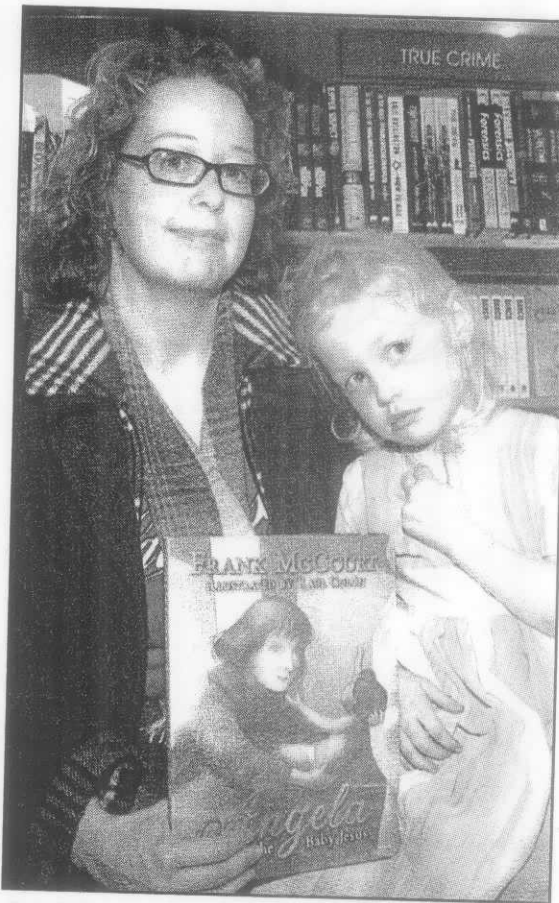
Mr McCourt was also advised aspiring writers at the book launch to avoid become rich, as he claimed poverty provides far greater inspiration. "Being rich is not dramatic - don't do it. Just stay miserable. If you become rich, you become comfortable and all you think about is Weight Watchers and obesity," he said.

Barney Sheehan, one

of the organisers of the White House poetry revival, was one of many people who has purchased the book and said he has become enthralled with the story. "I found it the simplest story in the world but he coloured and told it in a beautiful way," said Mr Sheehan.

David O'Mahony of O'Mahony's bookstore said it was a great honour to host the launch of Angela and the Baby Jesus - the first time the author has revisited the store since the launch of Angela's Ashes eleven years ago.

"At that time he was just Frank McCourt, but now it's Dr Frank McCourt, Pulitzer Prize winner, National Book Award winner and with a multitude of other awards to his name. I was slightly surprised to be told that after Tis and Teachers Man, a children's book was in the offing and I was scratching my head, but I must say I'm absolutely delighted with the result. It's a marvellous production and a great story for children of all ages. I think it has a particular resonance for the people of Limerick because it's set in Limerick."



Geraldine and Róisín O'Reilly, Kildimo, at the Frank McCourt book signing in O'Mahony's Bookshop

Picture by Dave Gaynor