

CHRONICLE BRIEFS

Mass times

MASS time sheets are now available at the Limerick Leader offices on 54 O'Connell Street. The sheets feature service times for all religious denominations in the city and are available free of charge.

Slovak orchestra

VLADIMIR Jablokov and the Slovak Festival Orchestra will perform at the University Concert Hall on Friday, March 28. The renowned conductor, solo player and founder of the orchestra will be joined by soprano Celine Byrne on the night for an evening of music from Dvorak, Strauss, Mozart and more. Tickets are €25 and can be booked by ringing the UCH on 331549 or by going to www.uch.ie

Lotto frenzy

A LOTTO frenzy has gripped the nation ahead of the mid-week draw with an estimated jackpot of €15 million. The numbers drawn on Saturday were one, three, eight, 26, 31, 39 and the bonus number was 29. If the jackpot rolls over again on Wednesday, the prize money could jump to €18 million when the Lotto adds an extra €1 million to celebrate St Patrick's weekend.

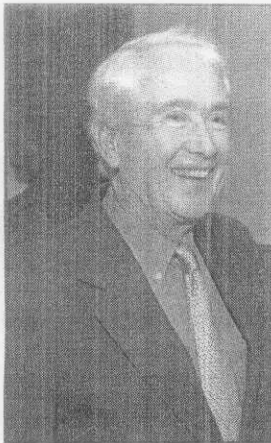
Bus lanes

City scribes make awards shortlist

By **PETULA MARTYN**

TWO Limerick writers are among a host of renowned authors shortlisted for this year's Irish Book Awards.

Frank McCourt, one of Limerick's most famous writers, has been nominated in the children's book category for his offering "Angela and the



Shortlist: Frank McCourt

Baby Jesus".

And Kevin Barry, who is originally from Ballinacurra Gardens, has been shortlisted for the Newcomer of the Year award for his collection of short stories, "There are Little Kingdoms".

This is the third year of the Irish Book Awards, which were established to acknowledge the wealth of talent in Irish literature. The awards incorporate the entire book trade in Ireland making it the only industry-wide event of its kind. All Irish authors who had a book published during the last 12 months can enter in the nine categories. The overall winners will be announced at a gala awards ceremony which will take place in Dublin's Mansion House on April 24.

Man Booker Prize winner, Anne Enright, as well as other writers of international stature including Julia Kelly and Diarmaid Ferriter have been shortlisted.

Frank McCourt, at the age of 66, was launched

into the literary stratosphere with the publication of his first book, the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Angela's Ashes". He has since written "Tis" – the sequel to the Limerick childhood memoir – and "Teacher Man". He is currently rewriting a play he wrote several years ago, "The Irish and How They Got That Way", and is in the process of writing a fourth book, which will focus on the modern woman.

Kevin Barry was last year's recipient of the €10,000 Rooney Prize for Literature for his first collection of short stories. He now lives in Clontarf, Dublin, where he works as a columnist for the Irish Examiner and the Sunday Herald in Glasgow.

Mr Barry began his journalistic career with the now defunct newspaper, the Limerick Tribune, and has since written for The Guardian, The Irish Times, The Sydney Morning Herald, among other publications.



City author Kevin Barry, whose debut collection of short stories, *There Are Little Kingdoms*, has been nominated for the Irish Book Awards

Video streaming