

Nov 27 2004

# bypass' former not the Malley

that we have a junior Minister for Health in the area. Was he asleep on his watch? I can't understand why he didn't use his influence to have Limerick included. We also have cabinet minister Willie O'Dea. Now Fianna Fail in Limerick has always claimed that with a full minister, Limerick would get all sorts of things. I would say, was the Cabinet Minister also asleep?" demanded Deputy Noonan.

Junior Minister Tim O'Malley however has countered Deputy Noonan's accusations, saying he was focusing on the treatment of patients and delivering services to them. "A lot of people raise hares about status, titles and jobs. Everybody has a right to be concerned about jobs but nobody will be made redundant."

"I am more worried about getting services for people rather than offices where managers live."

What was being undertaken, Minister O'Malley said was the "biggest reform" of the health of the

state. "If managers have to move from one office to another, so be it. This has been one of the huge problems dogging the health service for years."

There are horrific problems in the health service and the Government was tackling these, he added. He also cautioned that people should be a little patient and allow all the details of the re-organisation to emerge.

Meanwhile, members of Impact in the mid-west have voted to take strike action unless management meets them to discuss their future. At a meeting last Thursday, members voted not to cooperate with the changes unless they are given assurances about their employment terms and conditions.

A spokesman for Siptu which has over 400 members in the mid-west health services said they were also concerned about changes. But he warned that no changes could take place except through consultation and agreement.



Attending the mass for William Geary at St Michaels Church, Ballyagran were Peter O Donoghue, Rathkeale, Frank Prendergast, Limerick, Con and Angela Smith (Niece), Cork, Carina Markett, New York, Granddaughter of William, Mary Geary, Mullingar, Mary O'Donoghue (Niece), Rathkeale and Liam Geary (Nephew), Mullingar

## Friends and admirers gather in tribute to an honourable man

ON a November morning in 1928, the late William Geary left his family and his beloved Castletown / Ballyagran for New York, writes Norma Prendiville.

It was a sad parting, yet he could not have known then that he would never see his home-place again.

But he felt he had no choice. Having been dismissed from his position as Garda Superintendent a few months previously, accused of accepting a bribe from the IRA, he felt the dishonour as a slur and a stigma on his own name and on the family name.

"I was branded a criminal, a felon and I was ashamed to stay around in Ballyagran," Mr Geary said in an interview with

the Limerick Leader.

In the years that followed, Mr Geary fought to clear his name and finally succeeded in doing so in 1999. But by then, it was too late for him to return to Ballyagran to see Clonee Cottage, the home he had grown up, and to see also the grave in which his parents were buried.

Had his good name been restored in the 1970s, he said, he would have made the journey.

It was fitting then that family members, relations, friends and admirers returned to Ballyagran last Sunday, to pay last respects to the man who, because of the integrity and probity which were his long life,

brought signal honour to his family name and to his homeplace.

William Geary never forgot Castletown/Ballyagran, even up to the last days of his life, which ended on Thursday, October 14 in a New York hospital.

And on Sunday, it was clear, Castletown/Ballyagran also remembered him.

Speaking at the Month's Mind mass organised in his remembrance by his grand-daughter Carina Markett, Fr Joe Shire described William Geary as a "deeply spiritual man", one who lit a candle each day.

And he reminded the congregation that William Geary believed that God's hand was at work in

his life always. He also recounted snippets from Mr Geary's early life in Ballyagran and pointed out that he was a prolific writer always.

"All his papers are now in the Garda museum in Dublin," Fr Shire said. He also paid tribute to those who had helped and cared for Mr Geary.

Later, Carina Markett read a prayer in thanksgiving and former TD, Frank Prendergast read the prayer/poem "I will remember".

Outside afterwards in the bright November air, the sense of having paid just tribute to an honourable man was strong. To a man and woman, we knew for certain that wherever honour is talked about, the name

of William Geary will be remembered in the same breath.

Mr Geary, born February 28, 1899, died on October 14, 2004. He was predeceased, by his wife, Margaret, his brothers and sisters and is survived by his daughters Helen and Anne and their families, by his godson Judge John Collins of the New York Supreme Court, by other relatives and many friends both in Limerick and New York. Ben McNamara, Secretary of the Garda Síochána Retired Members Association, Limerick Branch, attended along with retired member Vincent Donnelly, Croom.



oad, from left, Cllr Kevin Sheehan, Cllr Niall Collins, I and Chris Hamilton of Jacobs Babite Consultants

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Lantern Lodge cross or else by Murphy's Cross (Ballingarry junction) It is not yet clear whether



Mary and Tony Geary (nephew), Doon with Theresa Geary, Adare, at the mass for William Geary



Lil Stack, Tarbert and Jack Hanley, Bayside New York, personal friends of William

