

Mackey is expected to take over reins at City Hall in the next few weeks.

Mackey, 49, currently serves as city engineer at Waterford City Council. He has been working with Waterford City Council for the last 10 years.

Mackey is a native of Tramore and is married with two children.

Mr Murray has been in the position of city manager for the past number of months.

Mayor John Cronin paid tribute to the work that Mr Murray has put in. "Mr Murray has been a brilliant asset for Limerick City Council and has put in tremendous effort over the past number of years," he said.

However, I wish Mr Mackey the best of luck in his new position. I believe he will start within City Hall within a month or so. We will be here to support anything that we can."

Mayor Cronin said he would have preferred if someone from within Limerick City had been appointed to the position.

"His role needs continuity in City Hall. I believe it would have been better if we had appointed someone from within Limerick. We know someone that knows the city and continuity is extremely important. However, we do wish our new city manager well in his new role within Limerick," said Mayor Cronin.

sales jobs and that the manufacturing for Europe would move to Raheen.

The Bray operation will complement Limerick," added the spokesman.

## **AMPDOWN on 'young thugs' at city shops**

AMPDOWN on "young thugs" - alleged to be harassing shopkeepers and their assistants in Limerick - was ordered at the City Court during the hearing of a case in which two teenagers aged 15 and 16 were accused of throwing an aerosol tin into the face of a shoe shop manageress.

On charges of assault on Michael O'Niha's in Thomas Street on January 4 and at Mullany's in Cord Row on January 5, the teenagers were returned until May for a welfare report.

An application to bind another defendant in the case of a teenage girl was granted for three years.

JP Jim O'Donnell told the court that city shopkeepers were being harassed and intimidated by young thugs.

Referring to the defendants before the court, he said: "They are not the young thugs in this."

The court heard that two girls went to Michael O'Niha's on January 4 at 3pm and adopted an intimidatory attitude towards the manageress.

They took up an aerosol tin containing a spray for leather and threw it in her eyes.

A teenage boy was also present.



**Certified:** Students from Scoil Carmel had their picture taken by a Limerick Leader photographer having been successful in the Feile Luimni in 1979

## **25 years ago**

### **Limerick's Savoy is closing for good**

LIMERICK'S Savoy theatre is to close, the proprietor, Mr Tony O'Mara, announced this Friday.

He has granted the building a one-month reprieve to honour commitments.

But after the John Player Tops will come the final curtain.

Mr O'Mara told the Limerick Leader that he was determined to close the Savoy. "I have carried the place for too long and have had nothing but hassle," he said.

It was regrettable, he added, that the local authorities were not in a position to become involved.

"The next generation will never forgive us for letting this grand old building die," he declared.

Other cities throughout the world, he added, either funded or became involved in theatres.

"There is no way that a private individual can keep a venue such as the Savoy in operation 52 weeks a year."

Were it not for the initiative and enterprise of the late Brendan

Murray, he said, the Savoy would have closed years ago.

"I can show you our books - we never made a penny out of it," he said.

Mr O'Mara told the Limerick Leader that he had no longer-term plans for the Savoy and that as far as he was concerned, it would close for good after the Limerick area final of Tops.

A disappointed Mr O'Mara was also angry at the people of Limerick for, he said, not giving the complex the support it deserved.

### **Priest says vandalism is a rising of have-nots**

URBAN vandalism can be at least partly explained as a rising of the have-nots against those who have too much, famous Redemptorist preacher, Fr Vincent Kavanagh, told pilgrims at the weekly Marian Year Diocesan Pilgrimage at Mount St Alphonsus this Thursday night.

On a return visit to the city where he fostered the spectacular growth of the Solemn Novena to

Our Lady, Fr Kavanagh spoke from the pulpit where he constantly spoke out against social injustice over the years.

Now based at St Patrick's in Esker, near Athenry, he told an overflow congregation of pilgrims from ten parishes in the diocese that the Blessed Virgin would agree with the Bishop's statement on social justice that "it is a national disgrace that one on five are still going to bed hungry and cold and that the gap between rich and poor is still widening".

He also spoke on what he described the "savage slaughter of the innocents".

"Life was cheap in the days of the Mother of God," he told the pilgrims.

"When Herod slaughtered 20 or 30 babies in Bethlehem to hold on to power, he was remembered for his savagery," he added.

"Three million babies, many of them Irish, have been slaughtered in England. Will history record that we, in our generation, lived through the savage slaughter of our times and simply called it by a nice name?" he asked.

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