

CITY PARISHES

ST. MICHAEL'S

Looking to the old market and new plan

By PATRICIA FEEHILY

THERE is a certain air of expectancy these days in Limerick's most central parish, St. Michael's.

Like their neighbours in St. John's, the people who live around Denmark Street are waiting for "the Plan", the programme of inner city renewal which one way or another will affect all their lives.

"We're not exactly in the zone," says Parish Priest, Fr. Frank Moriarty. "But it's on our doorstep, and if nothing else should make us more houseproud."

Loyalty

Fr. Moriarty says that there is a "city wide loyalty to St. Michael's" where the Church has played a prominent role in the community for over 200 years. A "drop-in" church for country shoppers, visitors to the markets and anyone who happens to be in the city centre, St. Michael's is probably the best known church in Limerick.

The older church on the same site was one of the first built outside the city walls after the Siege of Limerick, and it was here that the Liberator, Daniel O'Connell held his rallies to protest against the British Government's aim to control the Catholic Church by having some influence in the choice of Bishops, according to Charlotte Murphy, in her recently published guide to the architecture of the city.

The population isn't there now, Fr. Moriarty admits, but he claims that it is still a parish "with a tremendous identity."

Not everyone, even in the parish itself would agree with him. It has suffered from the flight from the inner city, from the closure of small businesses and industries, and from a definite lack of foresight in yesterday's planners. The wonder is that there is an air of expectancy in St. Michael's today.

Residents

The bustle is there — in the markets on Saturday mornings, where stall-holders are like permanent residents and part of the culture, where pub owners enjoy, but don't always avail now of the privilege of early morning opening, and where Tommy Garvey has the only early morning barber's shop in the city.

It would be unfair to compare it to the market squares of Continental towns, where the church is often the focal point, but it has its own essential character, albeit now in sad decay in most places.

It is dotted with fine stone warehouses, all bricked up, and the remains of Tom Vaughan's forge — the last forge in the city. And still proudly displaying its signs of former industrial dignity is Cines Tobacco factory.

Citizens

One of Limerick's best known citizens, Mr. Joe Malone, passing by, recalls how his own relations the Kennys left Chunes in the early 1900s and emigrated to Argentina to become tobacco twistlers "one of the most elite manual jobs in the Southern Hemisphere." From there they progressed to become cigar rollers in Havana.

The awful obstruction of modern Corporation monuments like Watergate flats do not, strangely enough, dim what Fr. Moriarty



Nancy Mulcahy outside "Nancy Blakes" pub in Denmark Street.

describes as "the little oasis" dotted throughout the parish from the beginning of Rutland Street to Mallow Street.

One of them, Chapel Lane, is scheduled by the Corporation for cobblestoned pedestrianisation and the preservation of old shop fronts.

It is in fact a parish of quaint old shop fronts, and one which immediately captures the eye is "O Maolcaigh" in Upper Denmark Street which is soon to celebrate its 200th anniversary.

Changed

Proprietor Mrs. Nancy Mulcahy is chairman of the Limerick Vintners Association and has lived in the parish for thirty years. "Things have changed a lot," she says. "Many families who used to come in here are no longer there."

The markets made one of the biggest contributions to the area. "They are part of our heritage," she says.

Many of her customers over the years have been farming people from Co. Clare and Tipperary who are familiar with every stone in that part of the city. "We are grateful to them all," she says.

For a parish now bereft of many of its young families, who according to Fr. Moriarty still "come back to baptise their children and bury their dead," St. Michael's is in the unique position of having 2,800 schoolchildren to cater for every day.

"There wouldn't be 40 of those children from the parish itself," says the priest.

Parish

St. Vincent de Paul is active in the parish but both young and old have only to go outside their doors to enjoy all the facilities of centre city living.

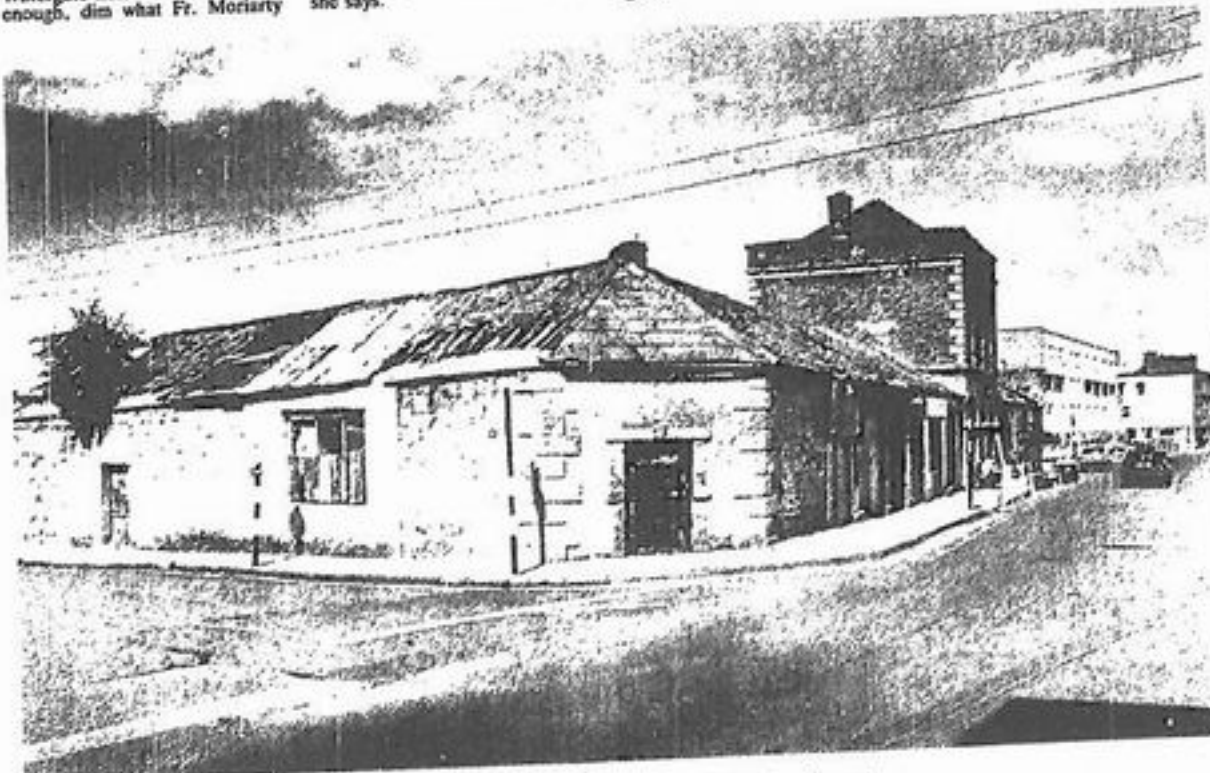
"The question now," says the Parish Priest, "is will they be able to bring people back here to live again."

And while there is an expectancy of better days ahead, the people of Denmark Street are also worried that the one thing that has sustained business life there, the markets, which have temporarily been removed to the hay market, may never be the same again.

Rumours abound of "hold-ups" to the renovation plan for the Market Trustees, Mr. Jim Kenny, says that there is no doubt that the markets will be open and full of life again for Christmas. The poet, John Francis O'Donnell, who was born near here, immortalised the Market in what was arguably his best poem, "Limerick Town."

Here I've got you, Philip Desmond, standing in the market place.

Mid the farmers and the cart-stacks and the hay in either space; Near the fruit stalls and the women, knitting socks and selling lace . . .



The Market area near St. Michael's Church.

Rose
From Page 1
A member of the Gabrielle Wallace School of Speech and Drama, Elaine intends to sit for her Diploma next

£300,000 banquet conference centre

TELEVISION

RTE 1

FRIDAY

5.05—News Headlines - Spacestars. 5.30—Sons and Daughters. 6.00—The Angelus. 6.01—Newstime. 6.25—Cartoon Time. 6.35—The Sullivans. 7.05—Knight Rider. 8.00—John Player Tip Tops. 8.30—Life Begins at Forty. 9.00—News. 9.20—The Friday Film: Heroes. 11.20—Guinness Jazz Festival. 11.50—Late News. 11.55—Transmission Ends.

SATURDAY

1.40—News Headlines, followed by Sports Stadium. 5.05—Grizzly Adams. 6.00—The Angelus. 6.01—News. 6.10—Animal Trail. 6.30—Feature Film: The Man From The Alamo. 8.05—Remington Steele. 9.00—News, Weather Forecast. 9.15—Faces And Places. 10.15—Return To Eden. 12.00—Late News.

SUNDAY

12.15—Service. 1.00—Interlude. 1.25—News Headlines, followed by Room Outside. 1.55—All-Ireland Football Semi-Finals. 5.05—Charlie Chaplin. 5.35—Súil Thart. 6.00—The Angelus. 6.01—News, followed by Sports Results. 6.15—Box Camera. 6.50—Cartoon Time. 7.05—Summer Film Season: I Wanna Hold Your Hand. 9.00—News, Weather Forecast. 9.15—Dempsey And Makepeace. 10.15—The Sunday Game. 11.15—Party With The Rovers. 11.40—Late News.

RTE 2

FRIDAY

6.55—A Country Practice. 7.25—Gardeners' World. 8.00—Nuacht. 8.05—Misfits of Science. 9.00—The Comedians. 9.30—Dawn Run. 10.30—Wilde Alliance. 11.30—Late News Summary. 11.35—Transmission Ends.

SATURDAY

5.15—White Rock. 6.35—The Flying Dutchman. —7.35—History In Action. 7.55—Nuacht and News for the Deaf. 8.00—Treasure Hunt. 9.00—Grayhound Racing. 10.00—Crazy Like A Fox. 10.55—Repercussions.

SUNDAY

4.00—Dragon's Lair. 4.20—The Sunday Matinee: The Wrong Arm of The Law. 6.00—Dickens of London. 6.55—The Shakers: Hands to Work, Hearts to God. 8.00—Nuacht and News for the Deaf. 8.05—How's Your Father? 8.35—The Sunday Concert. 9.40—The Feature Film: FM.

BBC 1

FRIDAY

6.00—Six O'Clock News. 6.35—Wait 'Til Your Father Gets Home. 7.00—Wogan. 7.35—Les and Dustin's Laughter Show. 8.10—Dynasty. 9.00—Nine O'Clock News. 9.30—In at the Deep End. 10.20—Omnibus at the Proms. 11.10—Film: Countdown. 12.50—Weather.

SATURDAY

6.45—8.00 a.m.—Open University. 8.30—The Clangers. 8.40—The Family Noss. 8.45—The Saturday Picture Show. 10.55—Grandstand. 5.5—News, Weather. 5.15—Regional Programmes. 5.20—The Montreux Rock Festival. 6.10—The Dukes of Hazzard. 7.00—Film: King Kong. 9.10—What the Butler Saw. 9.20—News and Sport. Weather. 9.35—Laugh Attack. 10.5—Evita Peron. 11.40—Late Night in Concert. 12.10—Weather.

SUNDAY

6.45—Open University. 8.55—Play School. 9.15—Knock Knock. 9.30—This Is The Day. 10.00—Asian Magazine. 10.30—Aristocrats. 11.20—Cameo. 11.30—Three In The Wild. 12.00—Bugs Bunny. 12.5—Sign Extra. 12.35—Farming. 12.58—Weather News for Farmers. 1.00—News Headlines. 1.5—Bonanza. 1.50—Cartoon. 2.00—Eastenders. 3.00—Film: The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp. 5.40—The Pink Panther Show. Cartoons. 6.00—Wild Britain. 6.30—News, Weather. 6.40—Songs of Praise. 7.15—Howards Way. 8.5—That's Life. 8.50—News. 9.5—Born in the Gardens. 10.40—Choices. 11.20—The Black and White Media Show. 12.10—Weather.

BBC 2

FRIDAY

6.10—Film: The Family Rico. 7.20—Top Priority. 7.30—Ebony. 8.00—The Great Egg Race. 8.30—Gardeners' World. 9.00—My Music. 9.30—The Healing Arts. 10.20—Harty Goes To Edinburgh. 10.50—Newnight. 11.35—Weatherview. 11.40—Cricket: Third Test. 12.10—International Show Jumping.

SATURDAY

6.50 a.m.—Open University. 1.55—Film: The Valley of Gwangi. 3.30—The Sky at Night. 3.50—Cricket: Third Test. 6.10—Around the World in Seven Minutes and Four Times on Saturday. 7.00—World Chess Report. 7.40—Newsview. 8.20—9.10—The Rolling Stones.

LEADER PROF

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Nora Hogan

NORA HOGAN doesn't remember the Limerick held two Munster Championship year. But she has adopted Limerick's 1 minors as her own. Postmistress, publican five, Nora Hogan of Meanus is the best known Limerick G.A.A.

If Nora could look back to 1940, when she and Senior provincial titles together, she would Sunday afternoon without a hurling match to Rain, hail or snow off she goes, with husband often as not.

The Limerick G.A.A. Supporters Club dreamed up with Brother Michael O'Gr: 'returning from a fantastic week-end in I Limerick senior team.' Now, as treasurer of Club, Nora, as much as anyone, is battling Stand fund.

For that, and other achievements, she is to be named Limerick G.A.A. Personality of the

Nora Hogan's living room resembles a bookshop, with books, ledgers, journals and assorted papers everywhere. She is also treasurer of the Meanus post office, the famous

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

Born on the Cork/Kerry border as a farmer's daughter, the family moved to Limerick where her interest in G.A.A. developed, and medal in camogie with Bruff. Marrying Pádraig family, her interest was, of necessity, curtailed.

As soon as the two boys and three girls were however, Nora ensured that each week-end in match. She was interested, in particular, in the team, whose fortunes, immediately after their were in an indifferent phase. She believed, the team needs consistent support in bad times.

Becoming remarkably well known, through personality, she quickly 'volunteered' for a variety of roles. But it wasn't until she came up with the idea that things finally fell into place.

The County Board was understandably she admits. "They didn't know whether we were them or whether we'd make a mess of it."

SATURDAY

9.25—Get Fresh. 11.30—11.58—Lunchtime News. 12.00—12.05—Saint and Gravsie. 1:10—1.20—Airwolf. 2.15—Con 2.45—World Championship Bc Results Service. 4.55—Sports R ITN News. 5.03—Ulster News: Grumblewaeds Show. 5.35—Return to Treasure Island. 7.31 8.15—Summertime Special. 9.1 and Sport. 9.27—Ulster News 9.30—The Clint Eastwood Movie Josey Wales. 12.00—At Ho Oaksey. 12.25—News at Bedtir

SUNDAY