

measure for family

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A LIMERICK mum whose house was destroyed in a fire has thanked tailor Tony Connolly for ensuring her son Darren can go to his debs this Friday in fine style.

The Roches "lost everything" when a fire ripped through their bungalow off Edward Street on Christmas Eve.

Ger and Suzanne Roche - who chose not to renew their house insurance in October to pay other bills - said they were only grateful there was no loss of life. Not only did every Christmas present go up in flames but the Roches also lost every appliance and stick of furniture as well as items of huge sentimental value.

When menswear boss Tony Connolly read that Darren, 17, had lost his debs suit,



Darren Roche is all ready for the debs thanks to Tony Connolly

he stepped in to replace it. "He sat us down and made us feel very comfortable and let us pick out what we wanted. I was actually crying in the shop. It wouldn't be possible for Darren to go without this and I can't thank

him enough," said Suzanne, a mother-of-four.

The Limerick CBS debs takes place this Friday at The Strand but Darren will have to get ready at girlfriend Rachel's house in Hilltop because the Roches don't ex-

pect to be able to move back into their home for some time.

Heiton Buckley, James McMahon and Irish Wire are among the Limerick companies who have supplied building materials while friends and neighbours have helped with the labour. Friends are also appealing for new furniture and kitchen appliances.

Suzanne is founder of the Limerick charity Indira and spent the days before Christmas handing out hampers to the needy. She never thought she would have to rely on charity herself.

"People have been so good to us. They were giving us stuff from under their own Christmas trees," she said.

Friends Deirdre Organ and Rose Moloney are organising an appeal and can be contacted at 086 3317190. A bank account has also been opened at Bank of Ireland in Caherdavin (sort code 90-07-62, account number 50026313).

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Tributes paid to soccer star and gentle giant Joe O'Mahony

ONE of the greatest soccer players to ever put on a Limerick jersey, Joe O'Mahony, has died.

He won the league in 1980 and the cup in 1971 and 1982 and captained Limerick against Real Madrid in the European Cup at Lansdowne Road and in the Bernabeu stadium. He was anone of the best defenders in the League of Ireland for a 20 year period. Those games were a long way from Caledonian Park and Shelbourne Park when he first played with Reds United. The arrival of Eoin Hand in Limerick turned senior soccer on its head and brought long awaited success. For years Joe played alongside Al Finucane, and they were the most recognisable centre back pairing in the League of Ireland.



Joe O'Mahony who captained Limerick against Real Madrid in the Bernabeu stadium.

A youths international he narrowly missed out on full international cap. He was on the bench for the World Cup qualifier against Czechoslovakia in Prague in 1969.

Outside football Joe was a quiet gentleman, who had time to talk to everyone.

Former Limerick Leader Sports editor Cormac Liddy said he had no doubt but if O'Mahony had played with a certain Dublin club he would have won a few Irish caps.

"Modest and quiet spoken Joe, when in the mood could spend hours talking soccer in a small group but he disliked public events. He always had to be forced to reflect on a career which saw him help Limerick to achieve their two FAI Cup successes and a league title. Joe was modest and a true gentleman," said Cormac.

His remains will be reposing at Griffin's funeral Home, John's Gate on Thursday from 4.30pm. Removal at 6.30pm to Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Funeral on Friday after 12 noon Mass to Castlemungret. Cemetery.



Presentation of medal

Members of the Patrick Sarsfield Branch of ONE (the organisation for ex-servicemen and women) recently visited a fellow member, Retd Sgt Jim Devereaux, who resides in Athlunkard Nursing Home to present him with

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