



ST PAUL'S

SEE THE LIGHT

A NUMBER of weeks ago these notes reported that the public lighting in the Dooradoyle estate was operating day and night — that is continuously. This situation prevailed for five or six weeks despite the fact that a number of residents had reported the matter to the ESB. It was eventually corrected and the normal switching on occurred for the past few weeks. However, as the title of the TV programme "Ripley's Believe it or Not" puts it, the problem re-occurred last week and the public lighting has switched on and off erratically during the days of last week. If one can be forgiven for being facetious, it is hardly being done to brighten up our days during the very poor summer weather.

BE A DONOR

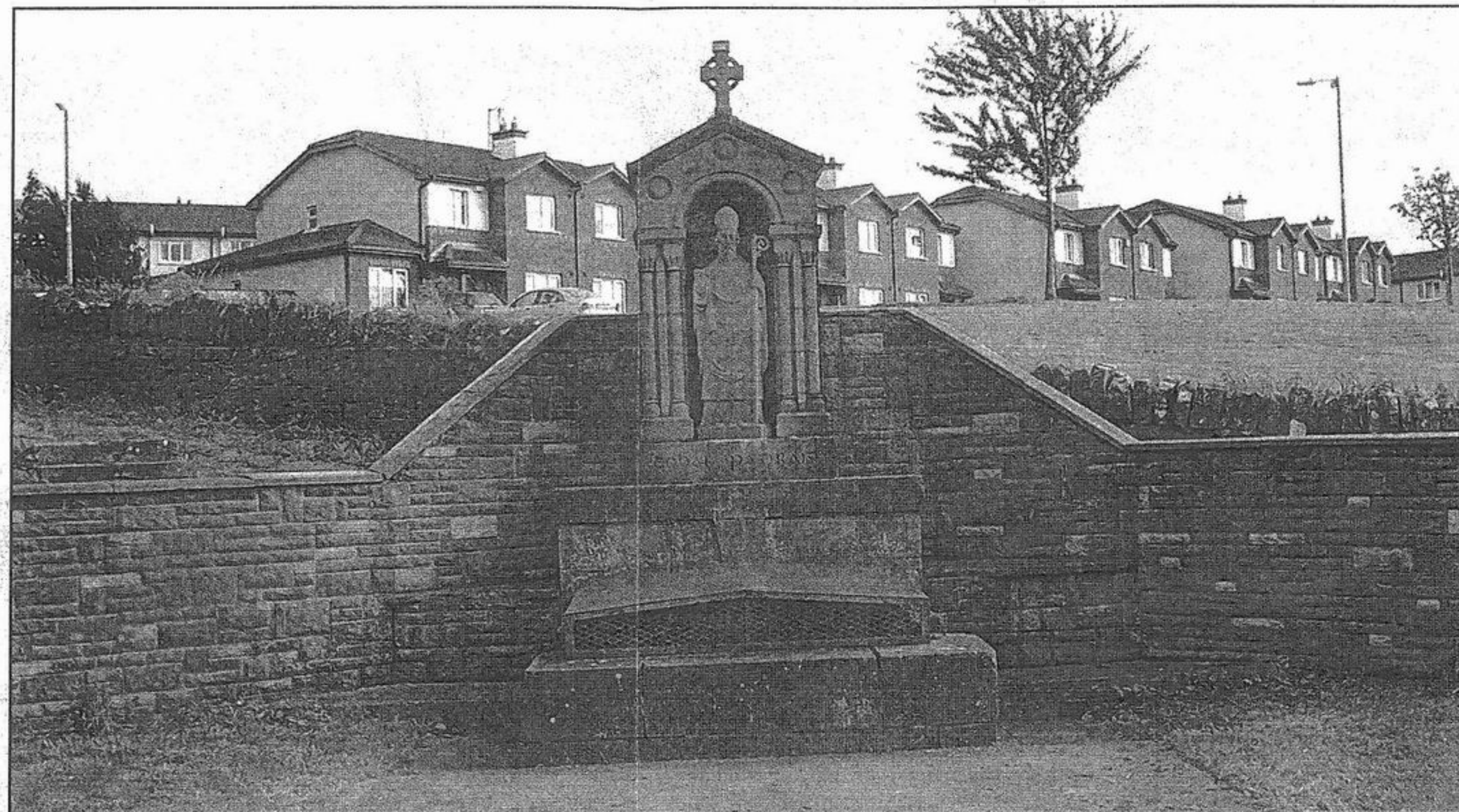
On next Monday afternoon the Irish Blood Transfusion Service will be holding a clinic in the South Court Hotel from 5pm to 8pm. As blood supplies are very low at present, the clinic is hoping to have as many donors as possible to meet demands. Therefore, if you are a regular donor or if you would like to become a donor, please come along on next Monday, July 9.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Motorists are being asked by Limerick County Council to take note that the N69 Dock Road will be temporarily closed to traffic from 10pm to 6am from Monday, July 9 until Thursday, July 12. All traffic from Limerick, Shannon and Galway towards Cork are advised to go via Lower Mallow Street, O'Connell Street, St. Nessan's Road and the Raheen roundabout. While traffic from Foynes, Cork and Tralee towards Limerick divert at the Dock Road roundabout towards the Raheen roundabout.

MACRA NA FEIRME

The Limerick Macra na Feirme that meets in the Unicorn every second Wednesday of the month is still very active and engaging in many national events up and down the country. In August it is hosting a tag rugby tournament at the Young Munster rugby grounds. So make a note of the date August 26. If you are interested in finding out more about this organisation, go to the Macra website www.macra.ie. There are clubs throughout the county that participate in activities and various sports activities. For further information contact Lisa Cahill on 086 4085877 or e-mail limerick.macra@macra.ie



All's well that ends well: Ten volunteers from St Patrick's/ St Brigid's have formed a working group to maintain historic St Patrick's Well in Singland, where it is said the patron saint himself rested for a time

There Be Dragons". It is a summer reading adventure and participants must read any five books from the collection. There are two different collections for two different age groups. For the age group five-to-eight years, there are six books of fun, magic and adventure with titles such as Hugo Popper and Alfie Green. For the nine-to-12-plus age group, there are six books of adventure, discovery and fantastic worlds with titles such as Percy Jackson and The Highwayman's Footsteps. All participants must collect a bookmark card at the library desk and have it stamped each time they read one of the books. At the end of the summer their names will be entered into a draw for a prize.

ST PAUL'S NOTES

By way of response to a number of inquiries the notes for St Paul's were unfortunately not reproduced in last week's Limerick Leader due to a technical error.

ST PATRICK'S

RENOWNED CAPUCHIN TO VISIT ST. BRIGID'S

DON'T miss a great opportunity to see one of the world's most renowned preachers in St Brigid's Church on Thursday next, July 12th. Brother John (Alphonsus Ryan), who is a Capuchin friar from Dublin, will bring relics of St Padre Pio on that night. It will be a very special occasion. The devotions will start at 8.15pm sharp. The rosary will be recited at approximately 8.30pm followed by the celebration of mass at 9pm. After mass, the Capuchin friar will give a blessing with the relics of this great saint of our times. Everybody is invited to come along. There will be a welcome for all. Please bring especially a friend or loved one you know who is in serious need of a special blessing. St Brigid's Church is located on the top of Singland Hill on St Patrick's Road just across from

Hilltop and Granville Park. We hope to see as many as possible attend on this night. Holy hour devotions have been taken place every Thursday night weekly in St Brigid's Church organized by Fr Terry O'Connell CC with two young people, Feargal and Caroline, leading the prayers. St Padre Pio is very well represented long-term in St Brigid's. Some months ago, a life size statue of the saint was presented as a gift while a smaller statue displayed in the sanctuary and a framed picture of St Padre Pio are also gifts from kind parishioners. Every morning, a prayer to St Padre Pio is recited before morning Mass concludes. It is therefore a great honour to have Brother John visit our church next Thursday night. It will be a memorable ceremony.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST PADRE PIO

St Padre Pio was born of simple, hard-working farming people on the May 25, 1887 in the small Italian village of

Pietrelcina. At the age of 15 years, on January 6, 1903, he entered the monastery as a novitiate of the Capuchin Friars. A year later, on January 22, 1904 he took simple vows. St Padre Pio was ordained a priest on August 10, 1908 in the cathedral of Benevento. Because of several years of ill health, he had to remain in his own home area. God favoured him with extraordinary mystical gifts. On Friday September 20, 1918, the five wounds of Our Lord's Passion appeared on his body. St Padre Pio is the first stigmatised priest in the history of the church and the saint bore the stigmata for over 50 years. He radiated God's love. St Padre Pio endured much suffering and spent long hours in prayer. He particularly loved the rosary. St Padre Pio had extraordinary gifts, including the gift of healing and bilocation. Between his celebration of mass and hearing confessions, his work day schedule took 19 hours of his time daily, allowing him very little time to sleep. Countless penitents were attracted to his confessional and his

saintly council and spiritual guidance was given to many through correspondence. He was called to his heavenly reward on the September 23, 1968, worn out by over 50 years of intense suffering and apostolic activity in San Giovanni Rotondo. His public funeral attracted almost 100,000 people and his body was entombed in the crypt of Our Lady of Grace Church. Large Numbers visit his tomb from all parts of the world and many testify to spiritual and temporal graces received. The late Pope John Paul II canonised Padre Pio on June 16, 2002 in one of the largest liturgies in the history of the Vatican. San Giovanni Rotondo, where Padre Pio lived and is now buried, draws approximately eight million pilgrims annually.

LEGION OF MARY

St Patrick's branch of the Legion of Mary continue to meet weekly in the sacristy of St Brigid's Church every Wednesday evening at 8pm New members are welcome.

ST PATRICK'S WELL

About 10 volunteer workers have come forward to form a working group to maintain St Patrick's Well. This is indeed welcome news for our parish as the well is such an important place in our parish, steeped in local history. St Patrick's Well is said to be the traditional baptismal font used by St Patrick himself when he came to Singland and he is believed to have rested here for some considerable time circa 448 AD. For centuries parishioners have prayed the rounds at the well for the nine days preceding St Patrick's feast day on March 17 but this traditional religious practice seems to have lapsed in recent years. In the past it has been the place of pilgrimage and some attributed healing to the curative properties of the water from the holy well. There was a large attendance of parishioners at a candlelight procession at the well circa 1950. In June of this year, benediction of the blessed sacrament took place at the well following our first Corpus Christi procession for many years.

ST MUNCHIN'S/ ST LELIA'S

MASS TIMES

A NOTE to remember that as and from now the four weekday masses in our parish are at the following times — St Lelia's Church: Saturday vigil, 7pm; Sunday, 10.30am and in St Munchin's Church: Saturday vigil, 6pm; Sunday 11.30am.

LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina meetings which were held