

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LIMERICK LEADER, 54 O'CONNELL ST., LIMERICK

Smearing Catholics

□ THERE seems to be a concerted effort among certain elements in our society to gut the Catholic Church over the sex abuse scandals to the extent that the young are being targeted.

A certain hate propaganda has crept in with dramatisation such as "States of Fear," "Goldenbridge," "The Magdalen Laundry," all aimed at influencing the youth against the Catholic Church, productions which cannot be understood in the context of today's liberal attitudes towards sex or corporal punishment.

As society sinks lower into drugs, sex out of marriage, contraception and suicide, the Government need the Catholic Church as does the Minister for Justice.

To detract certain evil doers with the aim of detracting all Catholics is a cunning crime of the Devil, to vilify certain priests with a view to tarring all priests is his aim.

The Labour Party needs to look at itself in opposition.

This party has publicly condoned abortion which is the ultimate possible abuse of a little child, namely killing him or her before they are even born, and often with great cruelty.

The Government is by all accounts funding the abortion/sterilisation, etc., UNFPA and is doing

this with our money and against the will of many people.

This is a disgrace and an enormous injustice, but we hear no whisper about it from opposition benches.

What about compensation to these defenceless little children, whose very lives have been taken in an abominable "acceptable" crime?

They will get full compensation in another court at another time, when their angels bear witness for them before the Blessed Trinity.

FRANK O'MEARA
Newline Road
Quin

For the record

□ IF the concluding words from "The Death of history kills us all" Limerick Leader Features (Brendan Halligan) September 6, 2003, have not been ascribed already, then I respectfully submit them for posterity.

Here they are and let them be those which will give our often pilloried editor a place in history — if he wants it.

"history shows that a country without an appreciation of its past is a country without a future."

Indeed he might have used them in the Wordly-wise slot, but then judging the man from his pen he would be unlikely to do so.

JIM O'BRIEN
89 Camborne Road
Sutton

Surrey
SM2 6RF

Delayed action

□ I WONDER what productivity agreement is in place at the local Road Design Office for the next round of Benchmarking?

In July 2001 we were promised our CPOs for Christmas that year. Somehow six month's work has been dragged out to over two years.

Rather than getting a bonus for this abysmal record perhaps the powers that be should be looking for staff reductions or closure.

BJ HODKINSON
Annaholty
Birdhill

Misleading article

□ AS editor of a large newspaper, one must assume that you are a man of intelligence, and also that you possess a decent knowledge about most things that impinge on our lives.

So you must know that sacraments cannot be bought or sold.

Unfortunately, it appears there are some misguided people, who believe otherwise.

So your article "Mass Business is Booming" (Limerick Leader Saturday, September 27) is at the least misleading.

To say that clergy trade in sacraments in sac-

risties, is ludicrous.

MARY MEADE
51 Glenview Gardens
Farranshane
Limerick

Limerick stand tall

□ RECENT statements that the spire of the cathedral of St John the Baptist Limerick is indeed the tallest church spire in Ireland are factually incorrect. The tower and spire stands at a total height of 258 ft.

The recent scaffolding specifically imported from Germany for the preservation work to the tower and spire confirms the height of the spire, 258 ft.

The completion of the tower and spire was designed by Limerick architects M&S Hennessy and the construction to 258 ft was completed by skilled stone masons, stone carvers, sculptors and general workers under the guidance of the clerk of works, Mr T. Byrne.

Around the 1980s there was a mention of installing an automatic ringing system for the 1883 bell, also installation of a carillon of bells and a lift to the viewing balconies of the tower to help to promote the Cathedral as a tourist amenity and attraction for the city.

Since 1861 after 300 years of penal suppression the Cathedral of St John The Baptist has been the mother church of the diocese, a parish commu-

nity and a place of prayer and worship for all in the city and county.

A thousand years from now, nay ten times ten thousand years from now, the name of St John the Baptist will be remembered, honoured and revered to make glad the heart of Christian civilised people of the world.

Le Corbusier, writing about his chapel at Ronchamp, said "the key is light and light illuminates shapes and shapes have emotional power."

A great cathedral is one of the mightiest most sublime works of man. To fully appreciate the beauty and silence of the interior of the cathedral church of St John the Baptist one should visit the cathedral at different times of the day and at various times of the year to see the shafts of sunlight rays, the coloured harmonies of great traceries and clerestoried windows.

It is a way to praise God along with the many from earlier generations who have worshipped and prayed there over the past 142 years. 157 X 64 RF

Salisbury Cathedral is standing 687 years, elegant and imposing and said to be one of the most beautiful in the world. It would be very unwise not to learn from Salisbury, especially to relieve the load pressure of the spire on to the tower and foundations of the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, especially the pressure created with high winds.

Whether the spire of

the Cathedral of St John the Baptist is the tallest or smallest, it stands alone; a permanent reminder of our history, the craft skills of our predecessors and a landmark that travellers feel at home as soon as it comes into view.

It does not need fallacious embellishment and it is an ecclesiastical and architectural gem, and only when Limerick people recognises the height of the spire at 258 ft can they stand tall.

BILLY WALLACE

Glenamona
Garrigue Drive
Broomfield
Limerick

Enjoy the weekend

□ ARE you over 17 and looking for something to do from the 7th to 9th of November? Interested in making new friends from all over the country?

If so, come along to the Belmont Hotel, Knock, for a weekend of fun and entertainment organised by the Connaught Young Pioneer Committee.

The event is open to pioneers and non-pioneers alike, and will include guest speakers, (including Dr. Gerry Cowley), games, quiz, disco, banquet, cinema, bowling and go karting.

CAROLINE WALSH
Secretary, Connaught
Young Pioneer
Committee

Ballyglass
Kiltimagh
Co. Mayo
094/9381762

11/3/2014

Bridge? It will catch on!

commemorate the events of previously, Limerick County unanimously named the main the county's principal town, West, in honour of Con Colbert who had been executed by firing his part in the 1916 rebellion. It accepted at the time that the "bert Square" would also cover Michael, who subsequently a time as a TD.

years ago the County Council named and erected attractive plaques throughout the town. The "Square" make no reference to the name. But that is not because, when the councillors gave their gesture in 1966, none seemed to know that they were not just naming but were re-naming the Square from its previous designation, "Devon Square". It was so named for the Earls of Courtenay family who, as the records, had been instrumental in building the long dormant town and infrastructure from the 1700s. It is to remark, today, "The remains just that to everyone, none of any formalities enacted in a council chamber. So, to those who agree with the City Council's decision named Shannon Bridge in honour of John F Kennedy after the lapse of half century, let there be no alarm - it'll never catch on!

RNES
MEET, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO LIMERICK

St Mary's RFC: built on a cal endeavour

RE in a national newspaper gave the impression that the St Mary's RFC were built by the state. This is a totally untrue assumption.

Limerick people know - and as the Leader has always reported - the enormous facility was built by the committee that saw Ger Hogan helping hours with his horse Peig during the floods in the nearby St Mary's where the family lived a stone's throw

from the original wood hut clubhouse in the Abbey. It was built by donations from savings of old age pensioners and a weekly draw subscribed to by good people which brought in up to €1,500 per week. It was built by the members and the contributors to the door to door bucket collections in St Mary's parish and Corbally. It was built by members who picketed the town hall for two weeks to push planning permission through.

When the building of the clubhouse was first mooted there was £300 in the club's finances and it was estimated it would cost to the value of €900,000 in today's money to build. When it was finished approximately five years later there was a small loan owed to the Credit Union. The clubhouse was designed, engineered, project managed and physically built by St Mary's people.

So let it be known and understood that the proud and resourceful people of St Mary's didn't rely on charity to build this magnificent development.

BRIAN O'DONOGHUE
THORNFIELD, MONALEEN, LIMERICK

Author responds on height of spire

I AM grateful for the welcome extended by Billy Wallace (Limerick Leader, February 22) to my recent book on the Diocese of Limerick. His comments about the spire of St John's cathedral are, however, incorrect.

It is not true, as he asserts, that there is no documented proof of its height and I have no idea where he obtained his own grossly inaccurate figure of 258 feet.

During the restoration of the cathedral in the 1977-84 period, Bishop Jeremiah Newman had the spire measured scientifically by the architectural firm of Patrick J. Sheehan and Partners which showed it was 308 feet and three inches from the base of the tower to the top of the cross. It is therefore, as I state in my book, the tallest in Ireland, followed in the following order by those in Cobh, Killarney and Maynooth. We can however both agree on its beauty and architectural merit.

LIAM IRWIN
DROMCOLLOGHER, CO LIMERICK

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr Wallace provided

drawings from M & S Hennessy, Architects, to support the statements in his letter published last week.

1-3-14 Down memory lane in lovely Limerick

DURING the school midterm break last week, I spent three days in Limerick with my children. We had a great time. The people of Limerick were so friendly, polite and helpful. The sun was shining and the Limerick Strand Hotel, where we stayed, has amazing views over the city.

I left Limerick as a child in 1977. My own children were all born in Dublin and I think it is very important for them to know that there is life outside Dublin. We went on a trip down memory lane and walked around the Ennis Road, the North Circular Road and O'Connell Avenue.

One of my many memories is going to Jim's Shop on the North Circular Road to buy a penny ice cream. Another is going to town, sitting on the crossbar of my Uncle John's bike. This was a different era, another life and a far cry from my children's lives today. However, they will not forget their weekend in Limerick and I hope I have created a memory for them.

Limerick City of a Culture 2014 is looking fantastic. Congratulations to all of those involved.

GRAINNE RYAN
(AUTHOR OF DANNY COOL BONJOUR)
THE GALLOPS, LEOPARDSTOWN, DUBLIN 18

Book on history of Abington Creamery

READERS of the Limerick Leader may be aware of Dom Mark Tierney's fine work Murroe and Boher: The History of an Irish Country Parish.

Given that Abington Creamery was, at one time, the largest in the country in terms of the number of its suppliers, it is notable that Fr Mark does not mention what was the local creamery in his book. I am hoping to address this gap in local knowledge by writing a book on the history of the creamery, focusing on the economic and social impact it had on the community it served. To do this, I need primary sources and it seems likely that many documents lie

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VINTAGE CLUB
THURS. 8.30
Lunch
10.30 - 11.30
12.00 - 1.00
All are welcome
to join the club

Limerick

INSIDE TONIGHT

Aileen
in race
around
the
world

Neighbours
everybody
needs good
neighbours

PAGE 10

FROM THE ARCHIVE



Saturday, March 25, 1997

Dear Editor,

I would like to comment on Liam Irwin's reply to William Wallace's article on the height of St. John's tower and spire as in Limerick Leader on 1 March '14.

In it Mr. Irwin claims his citation is based on findings made by P. Sheehan and Partners, Architects, who surveyed the tower during restoration work between 1977-84, which returned a height of 308 feet and 3 inches.

I cannot understand how a period of time is sufficient to corroborate Mr. Irwin's opinion on a matter without reference to a source such as a book, archive, or journal with details of publisher and year of publication.

On the other hand William Wallace has fully verified his claim on tower's height at 258 feet based on drawings by architects M&S Hennessy used at the time of its construction.

He has sent copies to the Editor and to me in response to my published letter on the book 9/1/'14. I have lodged the papers with Michael Mc. Guire, City Librarian for inclusion in Local History Archives and for access to researchers.

In addition, Mr. Wallace recalls that a second source reveals in the 1990s that scaffolding imported from Germany for tower restoration work had specifications for a tower of 258 feet also. Since William worked as a craftsman in the Cathedral there is good reason to consider the recollection worthy of verification through further research.

As things stand, Mr. Irwin's evidence is on thin ice until he finds a citation to support it which the public can access, whereas Mr. Wallace's technical drawings of the tower and spire of St. John the Baptist's Cathedral, Limerick belong to the domain of fact at the moment until falsified by a serious academic onslaught.

Thanks,

Daniel R. Clery

2/3/'14

South Circular Road Limerick

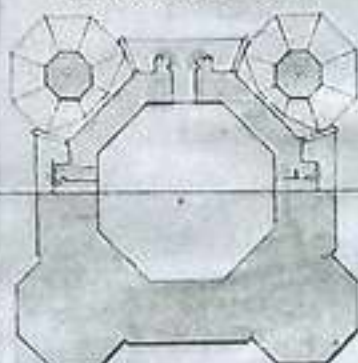
LIVERICK

M & S HENNESSY, Architects,

DETAILS OF TOWER

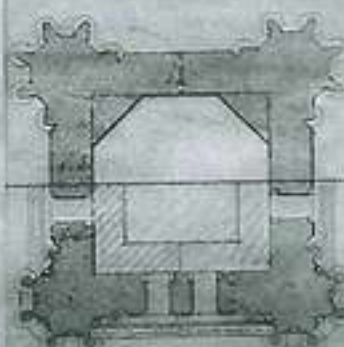
AND SPIRE

SECTION ON LINE R.H.



SECTION ON LINE (1.1).

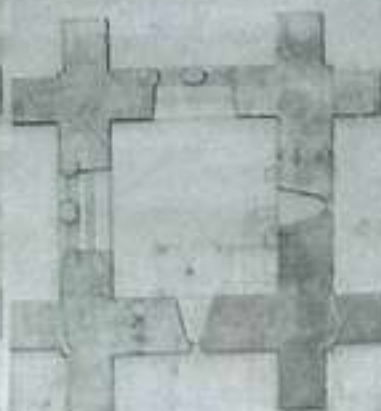
SECTION ON LINE C.F.



SECTION ON LINE G.H.



SECTION ON LINE K.L.



SECTION ON LINE M.N.



Total Height 250' 0"

Height of Spire 100' 0"

Base Line of Spire

Top of Gallery Coping

Gallery String Course

Head of Gallery Window

Top of Gallery Window

Bottom of Spire

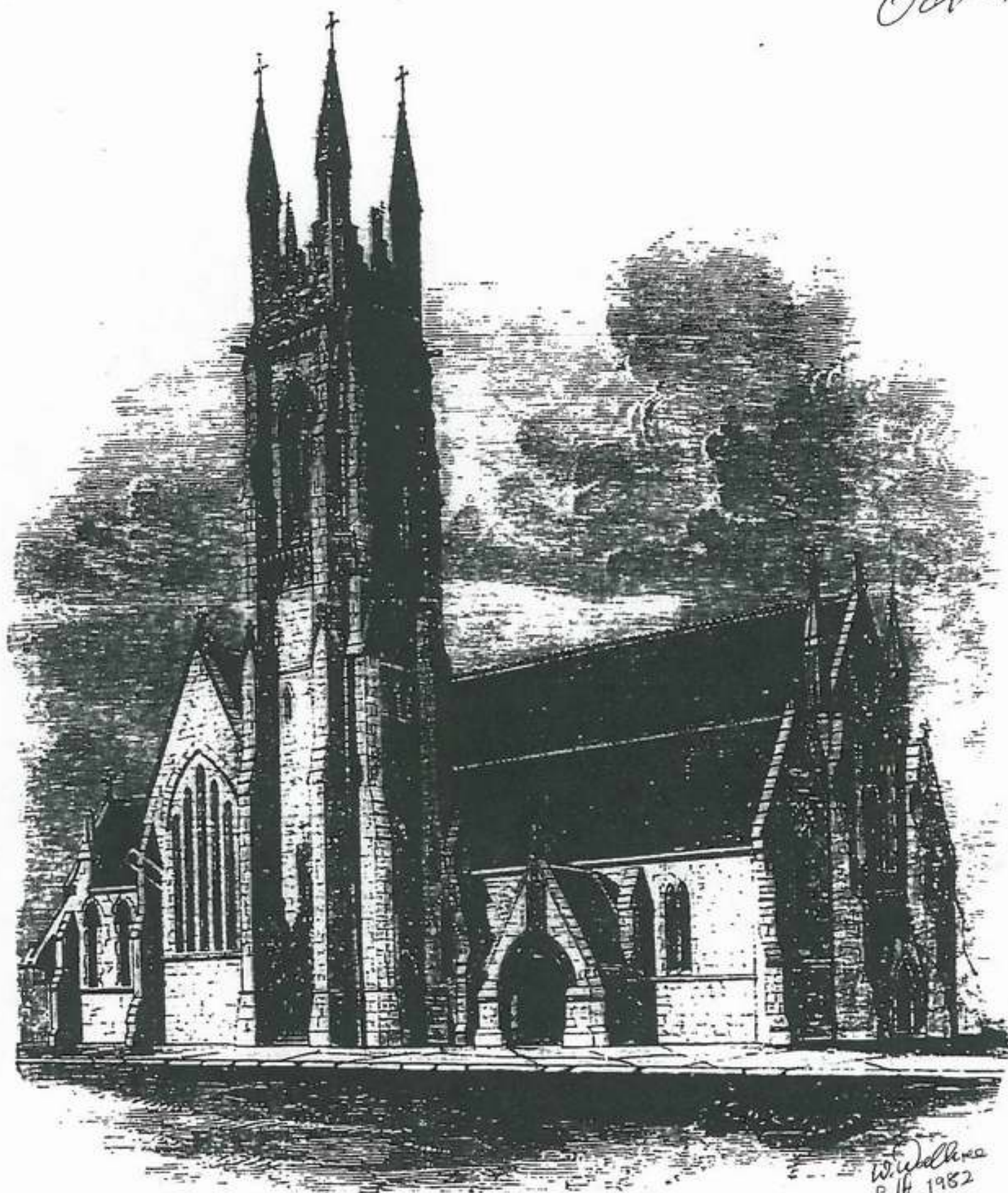
Present Height

of Hall

Proposed height of spire 150' 0"

PHILIP HARDWICK, ORIGINAL PROPOSAL.
AND DESIGN.

Wm Wallace
Oct. 11th 2003



W. Wallace
Sept. 1982



This photograph is taken from the
finished drawing / Exhibited last
Dublin Exhibition & now in my
possession / of which this is the
original study. Hill Oct 11th. 2003