

THE IRISH CENTRE, 52 CAMDEN SQUARE, LONDON, N.W.1.

APRIL, 1968.

- 2nd Tuesday Special Mass in Hall at 8.30 p.m.
3rd Wednesday C.B.S. Building Fund Committee Meeting.
4th Thursday Kilkenny Beer Festival Dance.
6th Saturday Tipperary Association Dance.
8th Monday Cork Association Meeting.
9th Tuesday Quiz Final.
11th Holy Thursday Services.
12th Good Friday Services.
13th Easter Saturday Services.
14th Easter Sunday - Dance.
15th Monday Dance in aid of Boys' Band.
16th Tuesday Council of Counties Meeting.
20th Saturday Galway Association Dinner & Dance.
22nd Monday Mountmellick Parish Reunion.
25th Thursday Donegal Association Dinner with their Bishop.
27th Saturday Tipperary C.B.S.
28th Sunday Tipperary Association Film Show.
29th Monday Club Meeting re Summer Fair.

BINGO : Sunday, Wednesday & Friday.

DANCE : Every Sunday night.

WEEKLY TOTE DRAW : Every Wednesday night.

The morning and afternoon of Sunday 24th March were sunny and beautiful. Then quite suddenly the skies opened and we had almost a cloudburst. One could almost say this was appropriate because it was just about this time that the sad news of the Aer Lingus crash reached our ears. Everyone was shocked. It seemed that all Irish people had someone belonging to them on that plane. And when you think of it, in a way, we had - our own Irish brothers and sisters were suddenly before their God, and gone from us. We are all proud of the Aer Lingus record and when disaster did strike it shocked us all.

One of the victims, Father Hegarty, was on his way to the Irish Centre to join his parishioners in a reunion on Tuesday 26th March. Fr. Hegarty who was curate in Ballyphehane, Co. Cork, was over for this same reunion last year. But he like the rest had to leave us and be united with God and the Saints. May they all rest in peace. On Tuesday the 2nd April, at 8.30 p.m., a special Mass is being offered here at the Irish Centre for the repose of the souls of the victims. The priests, staff, members and associates are having this Mass in conjunction with the Council of Irish County Associations. On your behalf we have sent our condolences to the parents, relatives and friends of the victims through the Lord Mayor of Cork. Also we sent a note of sympathy to Aer Lingus.

People who applied for membership of the Centre Club have been wondering why they did not receive their card sooner, but the simple explanation is that we were up to our ears with the Albert Hall tickets.

Speaking of the Albert Hall Concert, we take this opportunity of thanking you for your support. The general comments on the concert are that it was excellent. It is always difficult to get something to suit both young and old at the same time, but we do our best.

As you know from the last newsletter, we had the Bunny Carr Show and the Late Late Show here at the Centre. Most of the panel did very well. As for one individual in the audience - well he will have to put up and defend his own statements. "Its awful to be taken on the hop".

The Taoiseach, Mr. Jack Lynch and Mrs. Lynch paid us a visit on Monday the 18th March and showed great interest in the Centre. He did a complete tour of the Centre and was sorry he had not more time to spend with us. He wished to be remembered to you all.

The organising committee of the St. Patrick's Day Parade must be congratulated on both the Dinner and the Parade. Their Dinner at the Criterion was excellent. And the Parade - well all credit to the people responsible for the different floats. I would say next year's will be even more colourful and everyone will be looking forward to it.

The roof of the new extension is completed and the work on the interior is going ahead.

Our Summer Fair takes place at the Irish Centre on 15th June. We are expecting great things this year. Many people expressed the view that Parliament Hill was too much out of the way. We hated to have to change, especially that the nuns were so good to us but, as always, the majority vote won. There is a meeting here at the Centre on Monday the 29th April at 8.30 p.m. to discuss the Fair and find out what organisations and individuals are doing.

The Mayor's Banquet will be on the 1st May. As you know, Camden Borough gives a grant of £1,500 to the Centre, and this is your act of acknowledgment to the Borough in the person of its No.1 citizen.

God bless you all.