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St. Patrick’s Festival

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I take this opportunity to say, once again, a heartfelt ‘Thank you’ to the chaplains and their assistants for this work, for their help in so many parishes and for all the pastoral care they provide.

This Festival is an important means of financing the work they do. I hope that all of you present tonight will not only enjoy the evening, but also continue to support this vital work.

God bless you all.

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The Irish Chaplaincy in Britain

The Irish Chaplaincy was organised in 1957 at the request of the Bishops in England and Wales when Irish people were concentrated in the many construction projects scattered throughout the country. Later as the work in the big projects were completed, the workers began to move into the cities and settle there. Irish chaplains followed them and worked with them from parish centres. The different dioceses and the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants began to identify areas of need in the ministry for Irish Chaplains. Each year the work of the Chaplaincy is reviewed during its Annual Conference. It endeavours to identify new needs among the Irish people and co-operates with the local Church in meeting those needs.

The overall objective of the Chaplaincy is to help Irish people to integrate into the new community. To define integration would be simple—people taking and sharing responsibility in their own community. It does not happen of itself but has to be fostered. It takes a person who is happy with his own identity and conscious of his own culture and roots to contribute to a new community.

To enable integration, the Chaplaincy, as time went on, took on new apostolates. These included chaplaincies to Hostels, Hotels, in Housing, Nurses and Hospitals, Youth, Battered Wives, Travellers, Prisoners, Homeless and lost people.

Over the years Religious, Sisters and Brothers, have come into the Chaplaincy to help in the various caring agencies such as hostels, welfare agencies, and in later years to work as parish sisters.

The needs of the Irish community have changed over the years and will continue to do so in the future. It has been an enriching experience for those who have worked in the Chaplaincy, being with the Irish community in the realisation of its needs and aspirations.
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We at the Export Board can tell you a great deal more about all this. We provide lots of services — free, of course — to make it easier for buyers and store managers to do business with Ireland. Call on us at any of our offices and tell us of your interest. You can be assured of ours.

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Irish Centre Community Services is today’s response to the changing pattern of needs. A quarter of a century or more on, thanks to the financial support of the Irish Government, the London Borough of Camden, and the untiring efforts of the Irish community in Britain and at home, the services have developed and expanded to meet a wide spectrum of needs.

At No. 50 Camden Sq. we now provide a comprehensive service—personal interviews re. work, accommodation, advice, support, counselling, information, repatriation, referral, resettlement in Ireland, crisis intervention, domiciliary visits, extensive correspondence and telephone service. Information on social, legal, welfare, educational, governmental, housing services in Ireland, and on services and rights in Great Britain. In addition we provide for—Housing Advisory Service, Marriage Counselling, classes in basic English, Irish Language and reference library. We look forward to providing a Day Centre for the retired with provision for a Youth Centre.

Hostel accommodation for men is now based at Conway House, Kilburn, and accommodates 100 with full board. The girls hostel, St. Louise’s in Victoria, accommodates 130 in self catering units.

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VEHICLES ARE ALL RADIO CONTROLLED
THE BACHELORS—Con Cluskey, Dec Cluskey and John Stokes were all born in Dublin, Eire. During their school days the brothers Con and Dec learned to play the harmonica, which led to a great deal of time being spent in a club catering for harmonica enthusiasts. It was there that they met John Stokes and together they formed a trio called 'The Harmonichords'. The group soon began to appear at engagements all over Dublin and they eventually secured an appearance on the radio version of Hughie Green's 'Opportunity Knocks'.

In 1961 Con, Dec and John were seen by Decca Executive, Dick Rowe, who immediately signed the trio to a recording contract, and they became THE BACHELORS.

December 1962 saw the release of Charmaine which eventually sold 250,000 copies and remained in the Top Ten for an unprecedented 19 weeks! THE BACHELORS went on to record a staggering array of hit records including Far Away Places, I Believe, Ramona, Diane, No Arms Could Ever Hold You, I Wouldn't Trade You For The World, Marie, Marta and Whispering.

THE BACHELORS first London appearance came at The London Palladium in 1964, on a bill headed by the legendary Lena Horne. Five years later they were headlining their own show at London's Victoria Palace.

They have made innumerable television appearances throughout their long career, including their own series and eight top-of-the-bill spots on 'Sunday Night at the London Palladium'. They were chosen to appear in two Royal Variety Shows in 1964 and 1966, and have toured the world presenting their top-class cabaret shows.

Now in 1983 THE BACHELORS can look back over twenty years at the top of their profession, and can look forward to continuing success with confidence. Decca records have re-released Charmaine to coincide with the anniversary of their 20 years as leading stars, and have also released a new compilation album The Best of the Bachelors which includes no less than eight of their chart hits!
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The St. Patrick’s Day Festival at the Wembley Conference Centre, which is now an annual event, is a great celebration for Irish people and their friends. Having received the Faith through St. Patrick, Irish people everywhere carry with them the consciousness of this great gift. We take pride in our heritage and culture and wish to share it with others. This occasion, then, is a further opportunity for us to celebrate our traditional values and to share them with our friends.

On behalf of the Irish Chaplains I would like to thank very sincerely all those who contributed so generously towards our Souvenir Programme. To all of you who have come here tonight; to those who sold tickets; arranged coaches and who helped in any way in making this occasion such a happy and successful one, thank you. A special word of thanks to the Festival Committee. Mr. T. Dunne; Mr. S. Troy and Mr. J. O’Connell without whose help this festival could not be possible.

Hoping you will all enjoy this evening and have a very happy St. Patrick’s Day.

Rev. J. Gilmore

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St. Patrick's Festival

STARRING

The Bachelors
Niall Toibin
Sean O'Se
Shaskeen
Colette McGahon

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Niall Toibin

Niall Toibin’s thirty years as an actor have included spells with the Abbey and Gate Theatres and tours, especially with his six one-man shows to every playhouse in Ireland. His foreign work has brought him for three seasons to the National Theatre in London, to a Tony Award on Broadway for “Borstal Boy” and work in Germany, Canada and many other countries.

His most recent work in Britain & Ireland includes “Murphy’s Stroke”, “Brideshead Re-visited”, “Bracken”, “The Ballroom of Romance” and the part of SLIPPER in the highly successful “The Irish R.M.”

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Sean O'Se

Seán O Sé is probably best known for his hit record 'An Poe ar Buille' recorded in 1961. This unique recording is still regularly requested on RTE programmes and is still selling solidly.

This record was arranged and produced by Seán O Riada with whose group Ceoltír Cualann Seán O Sé made numerous radio and TV programmes.

Since O Riada’s death in 1971 Seán O Sé has carved out a career for himself as one of Ireland’s most successful and popular singers. Amongst other achievements have been 7 LP’s—his most recent 'The Strands of Ballylickey' has just come on the market and was sold out over the Christmas period. Other hit singles have included 'The Manchester Rambler', 'Carrigfergus' and his most frequently requested number 'The Banks of My Own Lovely Lee'. He has appeared on all the major Irish TV programmes including Gay Byrne's Late Late Show and has hosted his own programme 'The West Wind'. On radio he has just concluded a highly successful series entitled 'Musical Memories' which he presented and scripted himself.

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Coletts McGahon

Colette was born in Dundalk in the County Louth and studied singing in Dublin where she won all the major competitions open to her. These included the “Golden Voice of Ireland” and the College of Music Gold Medal.

She was a finalist at both the Hertogenbosch Vocal Competition in 1978 and the 1982 Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Competition.

Colette has sung with the Irish National Opera and the Dublin Grand Opera Society as well as the famous Wexford Festival.

She is now with the internationally renowned Glyndebourne Touring Opera and has come back to London especially to delight us with her remarkable talent.

Gaelic Athletic Association

Cumann Luthchleas Gael Coiste Contae Lonndain le gach dea-ghui ar an obair iontach ata a dheanamh agaibh

The London G.A.A. wish the Irish Chaplaincy scheme every success

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Shaskeen

Shaskeen Traditional Group who are now entering their eleventh year and still playing Irish Music and song all over Ireland and on tours of England etc.

The group has made four albums, a good few singles, and are now on their fifth album.

Benny O'Connor—Drums, Bodhran and Bangos; Sean Conway—Concert flute, tinwhistle, vocals and bass guitar; Charlie Harris—accordion player; Mike Fahy—vocalist and also provides backing on guitar; Tom Cussen is the leader of the group and plays tenor banjo, mandolin and concertina.

Shaskeen's 4 albums to date and about 6 singles are available on the Pickwick Evergreen label. The four albums are Shaskeen, Green Groves of Erin, The Dawn and The Ash Plant. Their fifth album will be available on the English Tour starting on 12th March 1983. Called Joys of Life, it is available in cassette form only from: Tom Cussen, Slieveaun, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway (091) 86156.

The group are planning a tour of the U.S.A. in 1984.

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Ted Kavanagh was born in Derry City and started dancing there at an early age. He won several Ulster and All Ireland solo championships before coming to London where he started to teach and to choreograph.

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