

T H E I R I S H C E N T R E

N O V E M B E R 1 9 6 8 .

: NEWS-LETTER :

D i a r y

- Sat. 2nd. Tipperary Association Dance
Mon. 4th. Aer Lingus Dance in aid of The Irish Centre at
The Gresham Ballroom
Tues. 5th. Re-Union of Clonmel Legionaries
Thurs. 7th. Re-Union - Rockchapel, Cork.
Sat. 9th. Kerry Association Bacon & Cabbage Dinner
Sun. 10th. Offaly Association - A.G.M.
Mon. 11th. United Ireland Meeting - 8 p.m.
Tues. 12th. Re-Union - Silvermines
Thurs. 14th. Re-Union - Rathvilly & Hacketstown
" " Lecture on Northern Ireland in The Irish Club,
82 Eaton Square, S.W.1., at 8.15 p.m. by Mr. Eddie
McAteer, Leader of the Nationalist Party in the 6 C'ties
Sat. 16th. Kilkenny Association Dance
Mon. 18th. Clare Association Re-Union
Thurs. 21st. Inagh Church Fund Dance.
Fri. 22nd. Royal Albert Hall Concert in aid of The Glumban Fathers
with Val Doonican and Company.
" " Wexford Association Concert in The Porchester Hall, 8 pm.
Sat. 23rd. Wicklow Association Dance
Thurs. 28th. Salmon Football Club Dance
Sat. 30th. Galway Association Christmas Dinner.
Sat. 9th. Meeting of the Federation of Irish Societies.

BINGO - Sunday, Wednesday & Friday
WEEKLY TOTE DRAW - Every Saturday

Dear Member,

If someone should ask you "What is The Irish Centre?", what would you tell them? Would you be inclined to outline the social side more than the Welfare? Or would you be able to give a full and true picture of the Centre? I believe many members would only know about the social aspect of this establishment, and would just know that we do welfare work - in the sense that we help Irish boys and girls coming over from Ireland. And the simple reason why you may not know about our welfare work is simply that we have not kept you informed.

I suppose one could say that your position is on a par with the Ephesians of old, "-we have not as much as heard there is a Welfare Office".

In the main, there are two types of people calling here:-

- (a) People looking for accommodation and employment
- (b) People who, as well as looking for accommodation and employment, have a personal problem of one kind or another, and so require patient advice and help, all of which may not be possible in one short interview.

Up to the end of August this year, 1,251 persons were interviewed. During the month of August, 180 persons were interviewed; 120 of which were new. The remainder were seeking follow-up advice because they had new problems.

For the month of September; 168 were interviewed; 122 of whom were new applicants.

We give you these figures just to give you some idea of what goes on here, and to put you in the picture.

In the past two News-Letters we have issued, there has been a serious omission, and I want to rectify that right now. We would like to congratulate Brendan & Bernie on the birth of their son, Anthony. He is going to be a real bouncer. In his quieter moments he is very like Bernie; in his hungrier moments he is very like Brendan, and I suppose by the time he gets around to praying, he will be like both of them. In a word, we hope he will grow to be just as good as his father and mother, God bless him.

The writer of this letter has had the privilege of being in Lourdes for a week-end. This was my first time there, and I must say it was a wonderful experience. Whether you are Catholic or not, Lourdes is a place you must enjoy, (in the best sense of the term). Before I went, I thought there would be a lot of sentiment about it, but now I know differently. It is a centre of real prayer and devotion. My advice is go whenever you get the chance.

The Associations of Cavan, Leitrim, Meath and Cork had their annual dinners during the past month. All four lived up to the high standards of previous years. For Leitrim, it was their first annual dinner, and they have everything to be proud of. Dr. Daly, Bishop of Clonmacnois and Ardagh, was present and delivered an excellent speech. He also took time off to visit The Irish Centre and if he was as impressed by our efforts here as we were by his charity and humility, then the work of the Centre must be very close to his heart.

The Taoiseach, Mr. Lynch, was over for the Cork Dinner. This is the second time he has come for this event, and even though we are not all from Cork we are still very proud of Mr. Lynch in as much as he has shown such interest in The Irish here in Britain.

Enclosed you will find an order form for Christmas Cards. These cards will be on display next week here at the Centre, and will be on sale. If you are not able to come to the Centre, perhaps you would like to order the cards - all reproductions of old masters - and post and packing is 2/- extra up to 4 dozen cards, adding 1/- per every additional 2 dozen. By purchasing your cards from us, you will be helping the Centre, and fulfilling your need with complete satisfaction.

If anyone is interested in going home for a few days at Christmas, Quex Road is chartering a flight - coach will leave the Church at 9.30 a.m., Tuesday, 24th December (Christmas Eve), and returning from Dublin 8.30 p.m., the following Saturday, at an all-in charge of £12.10.0. The man to contact is Fr. Coady, MAlda Vale 1701.

We are always very interested to know where we can find flats for married couples or single people. If and when you have any information on the matter kindly let us know.

We are having a Dance at The Gresham Ballroom next Monday 4th November. By buying a ticket for this Dance you can win a trip to Ireland for two, flying with Aer Lingus.

God bless you,

Fr. P. Sheridan O.M.I.