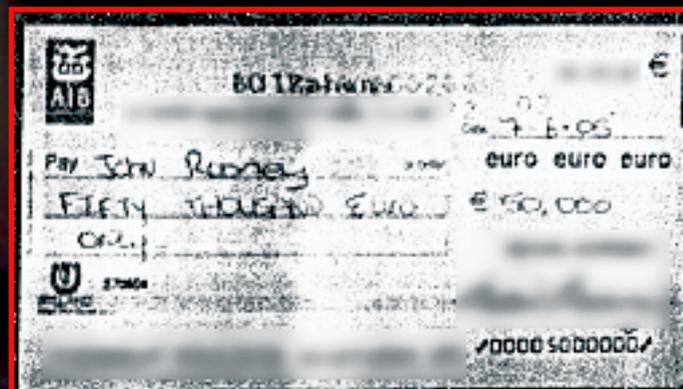
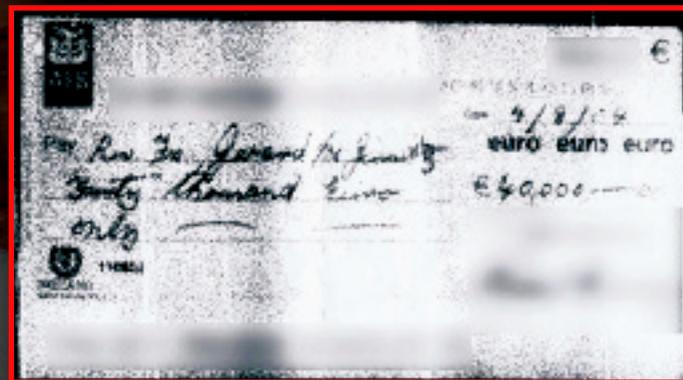


# ABOUT 'VISIONARY' GALLAGHER'S DECEPTION



DONATIONS: An example of the cheques signed over to the House



JAILED: Samuel Jennings

## Murderer challenges conviction

By AODHAN O'FAOLAIN

SAMUEL Jennings, the man jailed for the murder of a Co Waterford mother-of-two Mary Walsh, will this week apply to have his conviction referred to the Supreme Court.

Ms Walsh's body was found in the boot of her car on August 31, 2004. She died from severe head injuries and was found covered in a bloodstained sheet with a rope loosely tied around her neck.

Jennings (61) will seek permission from the three-judge Court of Criminal Appeal to bring a Section 29 application – a point of law of exceptional public importance – to the Supreme Court.

### Money

Jennings, originally from Aberdeen in Scotland but with an address at Ashtown, Kilmacthomas, Co Waterford, was convicted at the Central Criminal Court in November 2006 of the murder of Ms Walsh (54), of Kilrossanty, Co Waterford, in 2004.

Jennings' application is due before the court on Tuesday. Last July the CCA dismissed Jennings' appeal against his conviction for murdering the mother of two. Jennings, who denied murdering Ms Walsh, was given the mandatory life sentence by Mr Justice Barry White.

Mary Walsh was a loan company agent who was murdered for money, the trial of her killer was told.

# ELDERLY COUPLE REVEAL THEY WERE BRAINWASHED BY CULT



They were stunned when they heard that McGinnity was telling his parishioners that the cheques – published in the Sunday World last month – were forgeries.

They were even more shocked when they learnt the priest lied to his superior boss, Cardinal Sean Brady, about his involvement with Christina Gallagher.

### Quizzed

McGinnity was recently called in by the cardinal and quizzed about his role in the House of Prayer which is on the opposite side of the country to his Co Louth parish. But he blatantly lied to his superior when he claimed he had no part in fundraising.

Cardinal Brady revealed what went on at the meeting in a letter – seen by the Sunday World – sent to a House of Prayer victim.

The cardinal said he had discussed matters with McGinnity "who has sought to assure me that everything is in order and that he is not directly involved in the raising and administration of funds."

"I was told that where family members object to a relative donating, the money

would be returned."

The cardinal ended by saying: "I wish to underline that Fr McGinnity has neither sought nor obtained my approval for his involvement with the House of Prayer."

But Betty and Michael Morrissey said yesterday they felt "betrayed" by McGinnity's lies. And they said they were hugely disappointed the cardinal had not banned the priest from preaching at the House of Prayer.

"If the Church had acted sooner, we and many others would still have our money in our pockets," said Mrs Morrissey.

And she revealed for the first time how they got sucked into giving ever and ever bigger donations to the House of Prayer after she started going there on bus trips in 1995.

"Fr McGinnity started telling the crowd one Saturday that money was urgently needed for an extension to the House which had opened two years earlier and which was too small," Mrs Morrissey recalls.

"He said Our Lady had told Christina she wanted it as a retreat for priests. They needed £250,000 at that time."

The Morrisseys ended up giving £21,000 in several installments but began to worry where their money had gone when the extension wasn't built for many more years.

In 2004, McGinnity rang Mr Morrissey to arrange a meeting and asked him for more money to help buy a new home for Gallagher because she had financial problems and couldn't afford the big

house she was living in.

The big-hearted builder agreed to give €40,000. When the priest asked him to sign the cheque to himself, he didn't think anything of it because "I trusted him completely".

Since then the Morrisseys have learnt that Gallagher still owns the big house she "couldn't afford" to keep – and several more, including the fabulous mansion in the celebrity millionaire's row estate of Abbotin in Malahide, Co Dublin.

The following year the couple were invited to another meeting with McGinnity outside Mullingar along with other major donors.

A House of Prayer official started reading out apocalyptic messages that Our Lady had allegedly given Gallagher which terrified many of the elderly in the crowd.

"To say the messages were threatening would be a huge understatement. If we had money and property and didn't answer this call we were going to suffer," said Mrs Morrissey.

"We would suffer in this world and we would suffer eternal damnation in the next if we did not contribute to this worthy project to save millions of souls."

Amazingly, McGinnity never revealed what the project was except to say it was so secret that if word got out it would be blocked.

The Morrisseys found themselves pledging €100,000 which they couldn't possibly afford. In all, €1.8 million was

pledged at the meeting after a lot of mental bullying by the priest.

The Morrisseys and the others at the Mullingar meeting were told to sign their cheques to a John Rooney. "This is the most amazing thing – we were so brainwashed or hypnotised that nobody asked who this John Rooney was."

The pensioners were horrified when they discovered from the Sunday World that Rooney was, in fact, the man who owns the luxury €4 million mansion where Gallagher lives in Malahide – and he bought it around the time they were writing cheques to him for €1.8 million.

### Foreboding

"We were in this mind frame of foreboding for the future and feeling very insecure, feeling that we really had to give the money. Wherever we got it from we had to give it.

"We were terrified coming out of that meeting, totally drained. We kept wondering why we were put under such pressure. The whole thing was orchestrated psychologically.

The couple eventually decided they couldn't possibly raise €100,000. But they were still pressured into giving €50,000, with one of the staff members actually filling in Mr Morrissey's cheque which he signed. The couple are currently taking legal advice.

"How stupid can you be? But we were terrified by these messages of doom and eternal damnation. The older you get, the more you worry about the next life," said Mrs Morrissey. "We think it is the greatest fraud preying on people's beliefs.

"If we got the money back, we would give most of it to charity as we don't have any family. But we would keep enough to repair our heating system which we can't afford to fix."

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## TO HONOUR AND BETRAY

A BRIDEGROOM was arrested for karate kicking his new bride just hours after they vowed to love each other forever.

Pennsylvanian cops said the 32-year-old groom, a dentist, drop-kicked his 25-year-old bride after a row erupted in the hotel. Both face charges.