

PRAYER UNCOVERED

ME LIKE A DOG



MEMORIES: Christina with her husband Paddy on their 25th wedding anniversary



ALL THE MOD CONS: Christina out shopping recently



FUNDRAISING: Fr McGinnity

PROBE REVEALS WEALTH

By JIM GALLAGHER

● A SIX-month *Sunday World* investigation has laid bare the secrets of Christina Gallagher's House of Prayer.

Our probe uncovered a string of properties linked to the self-styled visionary leader including a €1 million house in Co Mayo and a sprawling €4 million mansion in the popstar estate of Abbington in Malahide.

● That house was purchased in the name of Gallagher's chief fundraiser John Rooney. But we revealed how followers were ordered to hand over cheques in the name of Mr Rooney instead of the House of Prayer.

● Our investigation also discovered how Catholic priest Fr Gerard McGinnity had donations made directly to him for the House of Prayer.

Dozens of former devotees have since come forward to testify how they stumped up millions in cash and property to the Achill Island cult which has been strongly criticised by the Catholic Church.

● After we discovered Christina – who claims to get regular messages from the Virgin Mary and suffer the stigmata wounds of Christ – being driven in a top of the range BMW and staying in her Tuscan villa in Abbington, she went to ground.

● However she re-surfaced again yesterday to lead her remaining followers in the House of Prayer.

● Gallagher has branded the *Sunday World* investigation into her church's dodgy finances as "the work of the devil" and promised believers that there will be a "miracle" a the end of an unspecified period of prayer which will save the House from the *Sunday World's* investigation and from former disciples who now want to get their money back through the courts.

my doctor who is nearby in the health centre, but they ignored my requests. "They didn't know what to do and they decided to carry me to a room and I was left there. They put me on a bed and left me there until Monday afternoon."

He said an X-ray showed his knee had been crushed.

Volunteer

"The doctor asked why they had waited three days before bringing me in." Surgeons in Castlebar General Hospital carried out an operation before transferring him to Ballina where he recuperated.

"While there I got a call from Christina. She said, 'I want you out.' I told her I was going back to the House of Prayer, but she said, 'that's the last place you are going. I want you to go back home to England to your daughter, I'm ordering you.'"

He said he presumed Gallagher was so hostile because she did not want any more bad publicity or a lawsuit. The *Sunday World* has carried a series of

articles this year exposing Gallagher's incredibly wealthy lifestyle and her portfolio of luxury homes.

The former staff member said as well as pressing charges he planned to sue the House of Prayer for negligence.

Since the accident two other House of Prayer volunteers have quit the cult in disgust at the way the former employee was treated.

A woman pensioner, who has worked free at the centre for three years, told the *Sunday World* she was horrified at his treatment.

"When he told me how they treated him that was the deciding factor. I never went back to work the following day – and unbelievably a month later they have not rung me once to see if I am dead or sick," she said.

"And that was after I worked for them full time six days a week as a volunteer.

"I am now kicking myself at being



FIRST WITH THE NEWS: *Sunday World* has revealed the House of Prayer scandal

taken in by them. It was supposed to be Our Lady's house but in the three years I was there I never saw any love or compassion. Most certainly the House of Prayer is a hoax."

The Waterford woman said she struggled to get any details about her colleague's accident or even which hospital he was in.

Secrecy

"There was so much secrecy. It was such a big deal finding out where he was. The way he was treated was abominable. I couldn't possibly lift a spoon for them now in the House of Prayer."

The woman said she was pleased she had sold her house to family members before moving into the House of Prayer otherwise she would have given it to them.

A Garda spokesman said: "We are currently investigating four complaints related to activities at the House of Prayer."