

## INSIDE THE HOUSE

## JUDGEMENT

**THIS is the dramatic moment that self-styled visionary Christina Gallagher never foresaw happening.**

She was caught totally by surprise when she was served with a High Court summons inside her Achill Island church last Wednesday, accusing her of wrongfully taking more than €100,000 from two followers.

For a woman who claims to have foreseen virtually every global calamity of recent times, it was nothing short of a disaster for her that she had no advance knowledge that this particular event was about to envelop her.

It was such a momentous occasion that it is likely to mark the beginning of the end of her financial empire – one that has seen her amass a fortune over the years by preying on the sick, the frail, the elderly and the terminally ill.

The one-time-housewife-turned-bogus-prophet was presented with the explosive legal document as she celebrated the 15th anniversary of her money-spinning island House of Prayer four days ago.

### Chancer

It was handed to her inside the small church attached to the imposing County Mayo property. To Gallagher's humiliation, the serving was witnessed by dozens of her followers.

*Sunday World* photographers were present to capture the blank look of bewilderment on her face as the writ server placed his hand on her left shoulder before handing her the document.

A few seconds later and amid extraordinary scenes inside the chapel, he served a second writ on Gallagher's sidekick, Fr Gerard McGinnity, the chancer who acts as her spiritual director.

The priest was so enraged that he refused to accept the document, flicking it up into the air in anger.

As the High Court summons fell to the ground, the writ server was quickly approached by a number of church ushers and asked to leave the building.

The remarkable scenes have left Gallagher reeling in shock and her fast-diminishing legion of followers in a state of dismay.

Many of them now wonder what the future holds for the woman they had placed so much trust in and given so much money to after being led to believe she had special powers that allowed her regular and direct contact with both Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Since *Sunday World* reporter Jim Gallagher exclusively lifted the lid on her fraudulent activities in a series of exposés over the past year, numerous people have come forward complaining they have been relieved of their money by her.

The self-proclaimed miracle worker is now the subject of separate investigations being carried out by both the Gardaí and the Revenue Commissioners.

It is thought that their probes will also involve interviews with Gallagher's business partners, Fr Gerard McGinnity and John Rooney.

**Drama as Christina Gallagher and Father McGinnity are served with €100k court summons**



**Cathal O'SHEA**  
ON ACHILL ISLAND

Pilgrims who had attended the House of Prayer last Wednesday in the hope that their leader would answer the *Sunday World* revelations that she had built up a multi-million euro property portfolio through deception and fraud were left bitterly disappointed.

Instead, Gallagher used the occasion to launch a savage attack on this newspaper and accuse both it and journalist Jim Gallagher of telling lies about her.

Speaking about the media treatment of her in general, she portrayed herself as being the innocent victim of a well-orchestrated and organised campaign at discrediting her and which was causing her great personal pain.

She insisted that her followers should be fully aware that there was a sinister force behind this campaign against her.

It was being led by someone with an awful lot of money, she said, and at the end of the day people had to realise that "it was all about money and nothing else".

Gallagher's ill-fated anniversary celebrations at the House of Prayer kicked off with private prayers at 8am last Wednesday morning and continued until 7pm.

The dozens of staff on duty for the occasion included car parking attendants, souvenir shop and tea room

assistants and a group of female ushers who were employed in the church showing people to their seats.

Items being sold on site included House of Prayer t-shirts at €15 each, artificial roses for the church altar at €5 a pop and a 12-page House of Prayer pamphlet costing €5 a copy.

Various other religious artifacts, compact discs and books were also on sale.

However, Gallagher's hopes that the anniversary would be marked by thousands of followers descending on the property in support of her proved unfounded.

It is estimated that during the entire course of the day, no more than 500 people would have been in attendance.

Many of those were elderly and a number were in obvious declining health, accompanied by sons, daughters or younger relations.

Some of those who made the journey confessed to the *Sunday World* that they were, in fact, aggrieved followers. They had only made the trip in the hope that Gallagher could now explain the source of all her vast riches to them.

"She certainly has questions to answer, but she hasn't done so yet," one disillusioned and frail pensioner who has been a follower of Gallagher for almost 20 years explained.

"I have given her a number of cash donations over the years, but they were for the church, not for her," he said. "I would hate to think she has used my hard-earned money to build mansions for herself and buy flash cars."

"Certainly if that is the case I know who will be going to hell and it isn't going to be me."

**SERVED: Fr Gerard McGinnity, Christina Gallagher's 'spiritual director' is handed a writ**

relayed to a flat screen television screen for onlookers sitting outside. Although dozens of seats had been placed outside the church for the expected crowd, many of them remained empty.

Gallagher claimed that the recent shock revelations regarding her were out-and-out lies that were causing both her, her family and Fr McGinnity extreme distress.

And she warned those in attendance that they could expect even more false allegations to be made against her in the weeks ahead because as she spoke a reporter was in the United States trying to dig up further untruths about her.

Although she didn't name *Sunday World* journalist Jim Gallagher, she was clearly referring to him. Our man is currently in the US investigating the overseas branches of her House of Prayer.

While the pilgrims listened in silence, Gallagher heatedly dismissed the revelations made in this newspaper about the source of her great wealth as being blatantly false.

But she complained that other newspapers had now begun publishing similar stories about her and her character was not alone being blackened at home but throughout the world.

### Suffering

She suggested that even the Pope and staff in the Vatican had been made aware of the accusations being made against her, as a newspaper in Italy had recently published them.

It wasn't just her who was suffering, but it was also having a detrimental impact on her family members' lives.

Gallagher complained that her son was recently holidaying in Spain and had been left traumatised after seeing a front-page newspaper story there containing further lies about her.

But she said that while she was not going to "pass judgement on those behind the series of calumnies" she was being subjected to, she had no doubt but God would deal with those responsible on Judgement Day.

Gallagher added that she had been cruelly betrayed and the person responsible was someone who had once been very close to her and who she had foolishly trusted implicitly.

Her speech and attack on the media was greeted with restrained applause, suggesting that many of those in attendance were not satisfied with her denials of wrongdoing.

It is now thought that she will have to put in a far more saintly and impressive performance if she is to convince a High Court judge shortly that she didn't misappropriate anyone's money.

Meanwhile Gallagher, whose money-grabbing activities have been condemned by the Catholic hierarchy in Ireland, will also need whatever help she can get from above if she is to satisfy the Gardaí and the taxman that she has done no wrong.

Among the list of devastated donors who have made complaints to the Gardaí about her are one elderly couple who say they have been left living in poverty after donating their life savings of €90,000 to the House of Prayer.

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