

Joyrider jailed for rampage

By ELAINE KEOGH

A JOYRIDER who drove a car at over 120kph while the damaged bonnet was pushed up against the windscreen obscuring his view, has been sent to prison for two and a half years.

Angelo O’Riordan hit three cars including two garda cars and had even dragged a man along the ground on the night of January 20 last year.

The details of what his barrister described as “a rampage” were outlined to Dundalk Circuit court by Garda Liam Archbold.

He told Judge Michael O’Shea that O’Riordan has 16 previous convictions including 10 for road traffic offences.

O’Riordan (20) from Point Road, Belluragan, admitted four charges of endangerment related to his driving on the night of January 20 last year.

Dragging

The garda told the court a red Nissan sunny was reported stolen that day. Later that day it was driven to a petrol station on the Castleblayney road, Dundalk where €30 of fuel was put in.

The driver went to leave without paying and a when a staff member went towards him to talk to him, the car was reversed and struck him. It drove away dragging the man along the road for over 10 yards before he managed to free himself. During the rampage he also damaged another garda car before he collided with a bridge.

O’Riordan said he had taken various prescription tablets and had been drinking that night.

Judge O’Shea imposed two and a half year sentences on each of the four counts.

HSE U-TURN ON SURGERY

THE health authorities have done a U-turn and have now agreed to pay for a spinal operation in London for a 12-year-old Cork girl who has been on a waiting list for surgery at a Dublin hospital for 10 months.

An anonymous benefactor had offered this week to fund the €100,000 operation for Ann-Marie Kelleher, from Killavullen, near Mallow, after her parents raised her plight through the media.

On Friday it emerged the State was now offering to pay for Ann-Marie’s treatment after all.

NUN JAILED

A CATHOLIC nun (79) has been jailed for a year for enjoying randy romps with two young boys more than 40 years ago.

Sister Norma Giannini acknowledged she had had intercourse and oral sex with two schoolboys, aged 12 and 13, when she was their headmistress at a school in Milwaukee.

ANOTHER SUNDAY WORLD EXCLUSIVE



LUXURY: The mansion in Malahide, Co Dublin where Christina Gallagher (left) resides when in Dublin



SONGS OF PRAISE

By JIM GALLAGHER

PRIESTS, Catholics and the general public have heaped praise on the *Sunday World* for exposing the astonishing wealthy lifestyle of “holy” woman Christina Gallagher.

In a series of hard-hitting articles, we have unveiled the shocking financial dealings involving her controversial House of Prayer in Achill and its obsessive secrecy.

Last week, we revealed how she and her spiritual director Fr Gerard McGinnity collected cheques totalling millions of euro around Ireland from devout Catholics but asked them to sign them to a “John Rooney”.

Massive

We revealed how one of her key money men was called John Rooney and that he had bought the fabulous €4 million mansion where Gallagher now lives shortly after the massive fundraising campaign.

Deeply religious people across the country were left wondering what happened to the huge amounts of money, sometimes their life-savings, they handed over.

One cleric wrote to us saying: “As a priest of the Archdiocese of Tuam, I wish to compliment

Church pays tribute to the *Sunday World* expose on House of Prayer



FLASHBACK: Gallagher’s Mayo home, and how we broke the story

you and your paper for your courage in blowing the cover on something that has been a source of major concern to many right-thinking priests and laity for many years, ie the House of Prayer on Achill and the activities of its leadership.

“Anybody who dared question what happened there down through the years were accused, as you have been, as working for Satan or were threatened with legal action.

“I listened to the pathetic explanations given by Gerry McGinnity on Joe Duffy’s Live-line and on our local radio station here, MWR, for all that your newspaper has uncovered.



“Their reaction to your revelations is the classic reaction of a cult when its cover is blown.”

The priest, who asked not to be named because of the abuse critics of the House of Prayer receive from Gallagher’s followers, said: “You have done everyone a favour. People dare not criticise her because they are then lashed for being agents of the devil.

Threats

“These kinds of threats are classic cult behaviour. The House of Prayer has a lot of the hallmarks of a cult, the secrecy, the threats and the focus on one person.”

Another Co Mayo cleric told

us: “A lot of priests who used to work in that area are glad all this has been exposed. What I want to know is where Christina Gallagher goes to Mass herself? They can’t say Mass at the House of Prayer and she doesn’t go to the church on Achill and I know she didn’t go to the parishes where she used to live around Newport and Castlebar. Does she even go?”

Today we also publish a letter from the Bishop of Austin, Texas, Rev Gregory Aymond who has warned his flock not to back the House of Prayer Gallagher set up there last year.

The bishop said the house in Leander had opened without his approval.

“It should not be considered as sanctioned by the Catholic Church,” he wrote to parishioners. “The House of Prayer is associated with Ms Christina Gallagher of Tuam Archdiocese in Ireland. The Tuam Archdiocese does not recommend her or the House of Prayer as credible.

“Father McGinnity has not been given permission to celebrate Mass at the House of Prayer and will not have the faculties from the Austin Dio-

cese to serve in any ministerial capacity.”

The Archbishop of Tuam, Rev Michael Neary, himself is refusing to condemn the House of Prayer saying only that it is a private concern and has “no ecclesiastical approval”.

Numerous callers told the *Sunday World* they were furious at the Church for not taking a stronger stand.

“If they had moved against them years ago, people around the country would not have handed over huge sums of money,” said one man.

Destroyed

The *Sunday World* asked Fr McGinnity’s diocese in Armagh – he is parish priest of Knockbridge, Dundalk – whether it approved of his links with Christina Gallagher.

A spokesman said: “Cardinal Sean Brady is away so I cannot comment.”

Meanwhile, one midlands man told us Gallagher had “destroyed” his family.

“My parents have got caught up in this and they have given away thousands of euro to the House of Prayer. I think Christina is an out and out fraud.”



BACKLASH: McGinnity

50 YEARS ON – THE MUNICH DISASTER REMEMBERED – SEE PAGES 61-65



HONOUR: Taoiseach Bertie Ahern places a wreath at the Liam Whelan Bridge

BERTIE HONOURS UTD HERO

By NAOISE WOLSEY

TAOISEACH Bertie Ahern yesterday unveiled a plaque in honour of Irish soccer star Liam Whelan, who died tragically in the Munich Air Disaster 50 years ago.

The plaque has been erected on a bridge over the river Tolka at Cabra on Dublin’s northside, near Liam’s original home.

Mr Ahern, who is a lifelong supporter of Manchester United, recalled the horror of half a century ago when 22-year-old ‘Busby Babe’ Whelan was among 23 people who died in the crash.

The casualties also included seven of his

Man Utd colleagues who had been returning to Manchester from Belgrade on February 6, 1958.

In a tribute to Liam’s short but brilliant career, An Post is issuing a 55c stamp featuring a photograph of him in his player’s jersey next to the iconic image of the Munich Memorial Clock at Old Trafford.

Meanwhile, in Manchester, the modern United superstars watched in reverent

silence when they were given a history lesson on the Busby Babes.

Overseas talents Cristiano Ronaldo and Carlos Tevez joined home-grown players such as Ryan Giggs and Gary Neville.

According to United boss Sir Alex Ferguson “you could hear a pin drop” as Munich survivor Sir Bobby Charlton told the story of the Flight 609 crash.

The presentation stressed the importance of the plans to commemorate the 50th anniversary on the actual day when United play Manchester City next Sunday.