

DAYS

MESSINA MENACED

Late FATHER JOHN KELLY

"AMBUSH" IN BOG And What Came Of It

STRAY SCRAPS A Wedding

Old

Allies Closing In

Special Tribute From Newcastle West

At Shanagolden District Court on Wednesday, before Mr. C. S. Kenny, B.L., D.J., James O'Connor, Clashganiff, Shanagolden, was charged with the larceny of a quantity of turf, the property of John Woulfe, Glenbawn, Athea, on 28th June last.

(By RAMBLING THADY).

Reports this afternoon from Allied Headquarters in North Africa state that both the American 7th Army and the British 8th Army are now only about 50 miles from Messina.

When this century was very young Father John Kelly came to Newcastle West for the first time and preached a Lenten sermon in the parish church. It was an age of eloquence in pulpit and platform.

Inspector Griffin, G.S., prosecuted, and the defendant was represented by Mr. M. J. K. Dore, solicitor.

"They are Irish clouds—at one time bright and sunny, and at another flinging their dark shadows over the landscape." Effortless the words which I read somewhere as a boy flashed across my mind as I sat at the foot of a wynd of hay on Saturday evening last in a field far removed from the road, but skirting the railway which connects Bruree with Charleville.

Numerous barges have been sunk in the Straits of the Port.

The Germans are desperately resisting in the Sicilian tip, according to Cairo Radio.

To-day's Italian communique announced the evacuation of Catania.

To-day's air communication from Allied forces in North Africa says that attacks on communication centres and positions in Sicily were continued yesterday.

Road and railway communications in the port of Messina were attacked by heavy bombers with fighter escort.

Night bombers and fighter bombers carried out numerous attacks on enemy concentrations.

Electrical installations were attacked during the day.

"Last night," adds the report, "our bombers attacked enemy troops and shipping in the neighbourhood of Messina."

MISSING AIRCRAFT. "From all these operations eight of our aircraft are missing."

The Italian communique says that in the central sector of the Sicilian front, Italian and German units are engaged in tenacious defensive combats.

Catania (it adds), which for three weeks had been assaulted with overwhelming forces and daily exposed to the most violent naval shelling and air bombardment has been evacuated.

The population endured the enemy bombardment and the attendant privations in an exemplary way.

Italian and German bombers, it concludes, have again attacked the Ports of Palermo and Augusta, hitting and damaging shipping.

Five enemy warships, the Axis claim, were destroyed by fighters.

The supplement to the communique gave casualties as a result of Wednesday's air-raid on Naples as 210 killed and 454 wounded.

NEW RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE. Following the recapture of Orel and Byelgorod, Russian forces are now menacing the Briansk-Kharkov railway, the German life-line linking the Ukraine with central Russia.

A double thrust from Orel and Byelgorod, and the fighting further south in the Donbas and Isyum may yet develop into a mighty Red Army offensive to regain the Ukraine.

The weather for a big armoured thrust is improving.

General Rokovovsk's armies, which yesterday occupied Orel, are now driving along the railway towards Bryansk.

The fighting here is now referred to in Moscow as the Bryansk sector.

The Soviet armies, moving north and south of the Orel-Bryansk railway, are driving forward to grip in a pincers the station and town of Karachev, 25 miles east of Bryansk.

LIMERICK ART GALLERY PROJECT

The rejection of the plans for the proposed Municipal Art Gallery and the resultant possibility of the project being shelved for an indefinite period, have caused the Committee, headed by Mr. J. M. Flood, B.L., D.J., to make strong representations to the Department of Local Government on the matter.

LIMERICK RED CROSS APPEAL

Limerick Branch of the Irish Red Cross has issued a new appeal to the citizens for books, magazines and games for prisoners of war.

But there was a distinction and an appeal in this young priest's sermon that made a profound impression, even on a generation, then passing out, that had known very eloquent and very impressive pulpit preachers.

That sermon was remembered in the homes of the people for many a day. The years passed and Father Kelly came to Newcastle West as curate to Monsignor Hallinan, parish priest, in later years Bishop of the Diocese.

It was a happy choice. He was not long amongst us when he made friends with all—poor and rich, gentle and simple.

But the poor had his especial care and solicitude. All the good he did for them will not be known this side of eternity, for he would have it so.

Still his care for the poor and the stricken, and his constant charity towards them, could not be kept always a secret.

I remember vividly a poor man who had seen better days, who used to call sometimes at the office where I worked a generation ago.

Fortune had frowned on him dismally, and of course the world frowned on him too.

But one fine morning he called at the office, to my surprise, dressed as he had been used to in his early days.

There was the new light of hope in his eyes that I had not seen for many a long day.

"Father John has got me a job," he announced proudly, "and he made me a present of those new clothes."

That was like Father John, I knew, and I knew also even then that this was only one of his many great Christian works of charity.

Shortly after his arrival here Father Kelly became Director of the Confraternity of the Holy Family. The Confraternity flourished greatly under his directorship, and many new members joined the Sodality on Father Kelly's personal appeal.

His lectures to the Confraternity men, which frequently dealt with the happy early days of the Faith in Ireland and the heroic struggle to save it in the Penal Days, will be remembered while one of the generation that heard them survives.

Necessarily brief reference has been made in the obituary notices to his work for an Irish Ireland and for national independence.

Some years before Father Kelly came to Newcastle West, Monsignor Hallinan had thrown himself heart and soul into the Irish revival movement.

When past middle age he had learnt the language himself and brought it into his schools despite the frowns of educational officialdom.

Now he had a young and active and enthusiastic, and above all very able, supporter in Father Kelly. Feisanna were held, Irish concerts and Irish lectures were frequent, the Irish language was used in the prayers in the church, and altogether a Gaelic atmosphere was being brought back to the parish.

Some old people still survived who had learned the language at their mother's knee, and had much of the old Gaelic lore, and amongst them Father Kelly went about collecting every fragment of Gaelic learning that could be saved from the past, and those old people loved this young priest who made so much of them and told them how precious were those phrases and idioms and proverbs and verses and words in the native tongue which they had preserved in their long memories.

When Father Kelly became senior curate, Father M. Hayes, who had been President of the Gaelic League in Limerick, came to Newcastle West as second curate. It is hard to mention one priest without thinking of the other, and of yet another priest who is happily still with us.

Their work for a Gaelic and free Ireland before 1916 and after is part of the history of the time. The sacrifices they made, the dangers—and some of us know how great the dangers were—they faced unflinchingly in the dark nights of 1920 for the cause they espoused will be remembered while patriotism and valour are revered.

TEMPLEGLANTINE'S NEW P.P.

The parishioners of Abbeyfeale, though glad of his appointment to the pastoral charge of Templeglantine, find that feeling mixed with regret at their meeting with the new priest.

John Woulfe, farmer's son, said that he had a quantity of turf cut and on the roadside. On Sunday, 13th June, he noticed that some of the turf was missing, and he again missed some of it on 27th June.

Realising that a considerable quantity of the turf was missing, he lay in ambush in the bog about 1.30 a.m. About an hour later he heard a cart coming along, and after he had hid behind sally bushes he saw the defendant come along with the cart and proceed to fill it with hard, black turf off witness's rick.

When defendant had four or five bags of the turf put into the cart, witness came out from hiding and said: "Good morning, young man; it is about time I should meet you." (Laughter).

Justice—What did he say to that? Witness—He made no reply, only looked at me.

Inspector Griffin—And did the young man go away then? Witness—He did. He said it was his first morning coming there.

Witness added that he was missing in all about £7 or £8 worth of turf.

Guard Roland produced a statement made by defendant in which he admitted the offence.

Answering Mr. Dore, witness said the defendant had never been in trouble before.

Mr. Dore pleaded for leniency and said that the defendant was of respectable parents.

Defendant was fined £1 and 5/- expenses and ordered to pay 1/- compensation.

Mrs. Nora O'Connor, licensed trader, Foynes, was charged with a breach of the licensing laws on Sunday night, 23rd May.

Inspector Griffin prosecuted, and Mr. M. F. Noonan (Messrs. P. T. Liston and Co., solicitors) defended.

Sergt. M. Parsons deposed that at 9.45 on the night in question he entered defendant's premises by the front door, having been admitted by the licensee, an old woman.

Guard McCormack, who was with him, entered by the rear. In a tap-room at the back of the bar witness found two men with bottles of stout in front of them.

The men said they were invited in by a boarder who was staying in the house. Witness found two men upstairs and said they came in to see another boarder. These two men had no drink.

Mr. Noonan admitted the offence and said that were it not for a recent legal decision in Killarney he would have raised the point that the men were invited in by boarders.

The licensee was in business for 50 years and the house had a very good record.

Inspector Griffin said there was no previous conviction since 1935.

The Justice imposed a fine of 15/- and the men found on the premises were fined 2/6 each.

The Minister for Agriculture summoned Michael Kennedy, Ballynahill, for having four unlicensed bulls in his possession.

Guard Lyons gave evidence of having found four unlicensed bulls on defendant's lands on 21st April last.

Defendant said that he did not understand the requirements of the Act. He complied with the regulations on the day after the Guard's visit.

DEATH OF SALESIAN PRIEST

The death has occurred in England at the age of 37, of Rev. Fr. David F. Hourigan, S.C., a native of Castletown, Pallaskenry, County Limerick. Fr. Hourigan entered the Salesian Missionary College at Pallaskenry in 1919, and made his first vows at the Salesian Novitiate at Cowley, Oxford, in 1921.

I was physically tired but mentally never happier. I was alone, if I may exclude my son, who I could see was equally impressed.

Not a sound broke the stillness of the rapturous evening; we were alone with nature in her most resplendent mood.

Would that I had the soul of a poet, the musician's touch, the mind of an author or the artist's brush that I might reproduce in song or music, words or painting the entrancing loveliness of an Irish sky when the sun shines out after an August shower.

But it is not to be; nevertheless I thank God for the gift of feeling what I can never hope to express.

To our ears came softly the sound of the Angelus bell from distant Charleville—the spell was broken.

We had tea from a farmer well over 70, who lives alone with a son well under 40. There was no woman in the house, and I was so surprised at the beautifully flavoured cake that I asked who did the baking.

The old man said simply—"Oh, I always do my own baking; the secret of the flavour comes by using whole new milk which is allowed to get sour."

Physical enervation usually follows a holiday, but the mental recuperation which accompanies it is sufficient compensation for these minor discomforts.

Such was how I felt after my return from a holiday spent in the city on the green mossy banks of the Lee.

Mrs. Thady had preceded me "to buy a carriage for her niece's forthcoming marriage and I had to remain some time to mind the house."

A few days ago our little niece was Nurse Bridie A. O'Sullivan of the County Infirmary, Clonmel, but for better or worse, sickne or in health, from this day forward she will be known as Mrs. Tom Daly.

It was very nice of Bridie to ask me to her wedding, knowing as she did that I had nothing to wear but the grey coat and pants I bought for a fiver from Bobby Wallace of William Street thirteen months ago.

However, a sweaty hour with a heavy iron and a damp cloth made me feel quite presentable and much more at home than if I had been turned out like a tailor's dummy.

I caught Bridie's eye as she noticed the razor-edged crease on my pants, and I kissed my fingers across the table, which action translated into words meant: "All for you, my dear."

The bride's parents, Florry O'Sullivan and Mrs. O., known at home as the master and missus, had come from their lovely home on the banks of Glenmore Lake, at the foot of the Healy Pass, to give away the bride.

Mary, a younger sister, acted as bridesmaid, and her brothers, Diarmuid and Jacky, with the healthy appetites of the open spaces, came along with anticipatory mouth-watering visions of luscious dishes.

In the midst of the celebrations the bride's sister, Annie, arrived from London in a whirlwind of excited hugs and kisses in a coat which evidently had been purloined from the back of a Norfolk sheep.

The best man, whom I immediately christened the "Baby," was Pakie Ryan, one of the famous athletic family of the Ryan Malachys of Pallasgreen.

Without his stockings he stands three inches above the six foot mark and is at least two inches taller than the bridegroom.

Both bridegroom and best man are members of the Garda force, the former being a detective officer, with headquarters at Tralee the latter having only just completed the tillage returns at Carrick-on-Suir.