

OF PRAYER QUESTION RELIGIOUS ICON'S WEALTH

OF HEAVEN



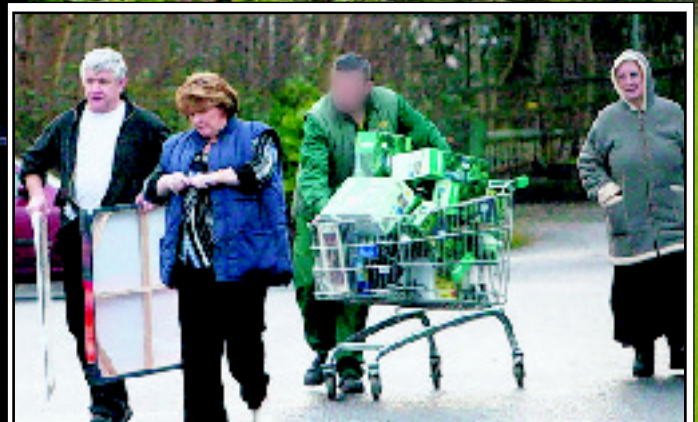
UNDER PRESSURE: A blonde Christina Gallagher



HUMBLE ABODE: Self-professed visionary Christina Gallagher's stunning mansion in the exclusive suburb of Malahide in Dublin
Pics © Sunday World



PALATIAL PAD: Our man Jim at Christina Gallagher's Dublin mansion



DIY SPREE: Bodyguard Tony Fitzpatrick (left) and a former Dominican nun called Sister Treasa (far right) with Christina Gallagher

Gallagher's palatial pad on millionaire's row

urgently needed to complete the work" on the House of Prayer and its six sister homes in America and Mexico.

It also lists addresses where believers should send their "donations and contributions".

The website also lies that the House of Prayer has charity status but that was actually taken away two years ago following a lengthy review.

Two weeks ago, we published an extraordinary letter sent to prospective financial supporters in the US telling them that Gallagher wanted "cash only" and no cheques.

The letter said money should be sent to Gallagher's then address in Cortoon, Culmore, Westport, rather than the House of Prayer because "Christina wishes to answer you immediately her-

self." The letter from Fr Robert Burns of Omaha said: "It will be opened only by Christina. Do not let the envelope be bulky with written pages."

Amazingly, would-be donors were told to keep the weight of the package under 11lb in weight or they would have to fill out a customs declaration form "which you do not want to have to do".

Transformed

Gallagher was just an ordinary housewife and mother of two 20 years ago when she first claimed she was receiving regular messages from Our Lady. Since then her life has been utterly transformed.

She later said she had developed the stigmata wounds of Christ although there was no evidence of them in our

photos this week.

She said she set up the House of Prayer on Achill Island after being told to do so by the Virgin Mary.

Today the religious centre pulls in an incredible 10,000 visitors a year - many leaving donations - even though it does not have the official backing of the Church.

Fr Fintan Monaghan, secretary for the Tuam Diocese and a spokesman for Archbishop Michael Neary, told the *Sunday World* earlier this month: "The House of Prayer does not have the support of the Archdiocese."

We revealed how one former staunch follower, who says he gave the House of Prayer one third of everything he owned, was demanding to know where his money went.

He told how workers at the House of

Prayer who owned their own homes were encouraged to sell them and give the money to help Christina Gallagher's work.

Other people were asked to will their homes, money and land to the cause.

Cult

He told how he himself persuaded two wealthy Catholics to donate between €50,000 and €100,000 to the House of Prayer which he now deeply regrets.

Last night he said: "This is simply shocking. How can she explain away all this wealth?"

"Her followers do not know about these houses and Christina Gallagher has to come forward and explain where all this money is coming from."

"They have always fawned over peo-

ple with money while treating some of their loyal staff like dirt. It's like a cult."

One young man told the *Sunday World* this week how his depressed mum, who was on social welfare, had handed over €5,000 to the House of Prayer - including a €2,000 loan from the Credit Union - while there was no food in the house for him and his sisters.

"It's like brainwashing. My mum is told the end of the world is coming and she must pray at the House of Prayer to be saved," said the Co Louth youngster.

Gallagher's wealth is not the only thing to anger supporters as some of her messages are now deemed heretical. In July 2006, she caused outrage in Catholic circles with an apocalyptic message threatening millions of deaths in the US.

She warned: "If the House of Prayer in Texas is not free of debt in the ninth month of this year it is to be dissolved... the greater part of that state will be levelled and torn to shreds."

Sixteen months after that shocking message Texas is still standing.