

BETS ON THE BOX

with PADDY POWER



MORNING EDITION VIEWERS TIPPED TO RISE

RTE's new rolling news programme, Morning Edition, kicked off last week getting off to as groggy a start as many of its viewers pulling in only 18,600 pairs of sleep filled eyeballs.



The good news is that we make it an unlikely 5/1 for the Keelin Shanley presented show's viewership to remain under 35,000 with odds of 11/10 available on the average being between 35,000 and 45,000 and over 45,000.

Meanwhile, Paddy Power are also taking bets on which morning show, Ireland AM or Morning Edition, will attract the most viewers next Monday. Here, the TV3 show is the clear favourite at 1/50 with the state broadcaster's effort available at 10/1.

You can hardly blame the Morning Edition for its slow start as very few of us kick off with a bang at that hour but as our odds would suggest the only way is up once the show becomes more established!

CHANNEL 4 TO DIG UP TIME TEAM?

With the UK in a hoop over the discovery that the 'skull in the car park' is indeed Richard III, bets are on for all things archaeological to be dramatically resurrected.

Paddy Power is offering odds of 4/1 that the powers-that-be at Channel 4 will dust off 'Time Team', following last night's triumph of a programme documenting the Richard III dig.



Punters can also have a short 2/1 punt that Channel 4 will follow up the Richard III spectacular with a special on the remains of the Princes in

the Tower - whose fate is still unknown but who it is suspected were murdered on Richard's orders to clear his way to be crowned King of England and an even shorter 6/4 for them to announce a series on another lost King, Alfred the Great.

THE HOBBIT SET FOR GIANT 2013

Last week we were given a sneak peak of the year's biggest films when a glut of trailers were realised in time for the Superbowl and we're betting on which of them is going to rake in the most cash this year.

'The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug' which isn't set for release until

December is the early favourite at 2/5 with the first instalment of the revamp of the Superman series, 'Man Of Steel' considered its nearest rival at 2/1.



Further down the list is 'Iron Man 3' at 12/1 with 'The Hangover III' looking the value bet at a chunky 40/1.

paddypower.com
poker · casino · betting · games

EXCLUSIVE SPIRITUAL GETAWAY



GETAWAY: Fr Cuthbert Brennan brings Ger to her Pod



COMFY: Gerakline gets settled in

IN POD WE

AS A *Sunday World* reporter, my job is all about meeting people - lots of them.

So when the boss told me to go off and "be a hermit", I felt very... well, alone!

I was to join a monastery and live in an actual monk's cell, with occasional breaks for prayers.

To this chatterbox, the religious equivalent of solitary confinement sounded like hell - or at least purgatory.

I still have nightmares about my three days of starvation and sleep deprivation on Lough Derg a few years ago.

I went through an intensely religious phase as a nine-year-old, but by the time I entered a strict convent school it was clear that I was not cut out for sainthood.

And I was taking no chances as I searched for my perfect spiritual retreat: If I was going to be a hermit, I wanted to do it in comfort.

I was fed up seeing religion hijacked by Holy Joes. And where better to open the hotline to Himself than in my very own God Pod - a luxury wooden cabin in the grounds of Glenstal Abbey, Co. Limerick.

"Monasteries were the first hotels," Father Cuthbert pointed out as he greeted me with tea and biscuits. "We welcome people of all faiths and none."

Singer Sinead O'Connor visited the Abbey in 2004, and can be heard on the

Our girl enjoys holy holiday

By GERALDINE COMISKEY

best-selling album *The Monks of Glenstal Abbey*.

And President Michael D Higgins is one of the many well-known people from the world of the arts and business to stay in their 12-bedroom guesthouse. "We get people from all walks of life," Fr Cuthbert said.

Nature

I believe him, because my cool uncle Ronnie, a travelling salesman who drove flashy cars, used to bunk off to join the monks whenever he needed a break from women!

But the God Pods are a brand-new idea. Located in the middle of a nature reserve, the two huts were built to blend in with the natural environment, thanks to a €250,000 donation by local millionaire JP McManus out of his Pro-Am fund.

They've just opened - and they're nearly booked up for the month. But I got to stay in one this week, making me the first ever hermit in the grounds of Glenstal Abbey.

The single-room wooden huts are the



● JP McManus



GUEST: Sinead

modern version of monks' cells, but they're a world apart from the old sack-cloth-and-ashes image. Instead of a hair shirt, I was given a hairdryer - and a fluffy white bathrobe.

I had a private patio at the back so I could do a bit of sunbathing if the weather improved. Meanwhile, I could enjoy the great indoors while looking at the great outdoors.

The Pod, designed by top architect Brian O'Brien of Solearth Ecological Architecture, is mostly glass, so it was like being in a conservatory, with panoramic views of the mountains.

An electric shower, three electric heaters and a wood-burning stove ensured I would not freeze. The ceiling spotlights had dimmer switches, the wooden floorboards felt springy and the bathroom mirror had lights so I could do my make-up!

Normally hermits would have to forage for wild berries, but my God Pods had a microwave, toaster, electric hob, fridge, pots, pans, tea and coffee.

As a nod towards monastic austerity, I had brought herbal tea, but was amused to find wine-glasses in the room.

"We don't mind if you