

# IRISH RICH IN VISIONS



rough Patrick. Pilgrims trek up this mountain in their bare feet every year on St Patrick's Day. Their reward? A cure.

### CO. OFFALY

St Cormac's wells, near Kilcormac. Miraculous cures have been reported. St Cormac leapt from the round tower here after he was hunted down by evil spirits in the form of wolves.

### CO. ROSCOMMON

Ogulla Spring and Shrine, Tulsk. This shrine is said to have healing properties.

### CO. SLIGO

Ballindoon Abbey on Lough Arrow. The Stone of St Dominic in the key is believed to cure ts.

### CO. TIPPERARY

Obabar Iosa holy well, near Cahir. This early Christian pilgrimage spot was vandalised earlier this year. It's believed to have healing powers.



VISIONARY: Joe Coleman waiting for Our Lady at Knock

### CO. WATERFORD

**U** St Declan's boulder, on the beach at Ardmore, Co Waterford. The boulder is said to have miraculously followed St Dec across the sea from Wales after he had gone on a trip to visit relatives there.

Cures have been reported at the boulder and the nearby well in modern times.

### CO. WESTMEATH

**V** St Brigid's Well, Mullingar. The ancient spring is believed to have cured many ailments.

### CO. WEXFORD

**W** Lady's Island, near Rosslare. Just two weeks before the Halloween hysteria at Knock, a rumour spread that Our Lady was due to appear here but those who turned up were disappointed. "Nothing happened," local woman Lizzie Connors told the *Sunday World*.

Relic of St Adjutor, in Franciscan Friary, Wexford town. Said to cure sore throats. Pope Pius IX presented the relic of St Adjutor to Thomas Devereux of Wexford in 1856. It now lies under a marble slab in the sanctuary.

Legend has it that the boy saint was murdered by his father, a pagan woodcutter, who was furious at him for going to Mass.

### CO. WICKLOW

**X** St Kevin's Bed, Glendalough. The hermit is believed to heal pilgrims who visit this spot to pray.

Holy well at Kilcoole. The energy from this sacred well is believed to 'unblock auras' - or at least that's what a psychic told yours truly.

# BOOKS ON TOP OF THE WORLD

BY STAFF REPORTER

THREE *Sunday World* journalists have ended up in a Best Books of 2009 poll.

Investigative reporter Jim Gallagher, crime writer Niamh O'Connor and fiction writer Amanda Brunker have all been lauded for their work in a survey by Irish books giant Eason's.

Gallagher wrote the explosive *Immaculate Deception: The Shocking True Story of Christina Gallagher and her House of Prayer*, published earlier this month.

### Murders

O'Connor published *Blood Ties: The Real Story Behind Ireland's Most Notorious Murders*, which was released in the autumn.

And Brunker wrote *Champagne Babes*, following the adventures of an Irish socialite, in the summer.

*Immaculate Deception* tells the shocking but true story of how fake visionary Christina Gallagher grew from rags to riches with the opening of her controversial House of Prayer on Achill Island.

It reveals how elderly followers were brainwashed into handing vast fortunes to the Mayo woman



BEST-SELLER: Amanda Brunker

and how she now lives the life of a multi-millionaire.

*Blood Ties* reveals the truth behind three of Ireland's most notorious murder and attempted murder cases.

They include the case of Joe O'Reilly, who battered his loving wife Rachel to death, and the Sharon 'Lying Eyes' Collins hitman-for-hire scandal.

*Champagne Babes* follows on from Brunker's No.1 selling hit, *Champagne Kisses*, and updates the story of a party-loving girl.

All three titles are available at Eason's and good book shops.

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