



Pictured at the rehearsal of the Folk Mass Group in the Presbytery of Rathmines Church were left to right: Back row: Elizabeth Ivors, Mick Homan, Maria O'Keefe, Christie O'Toole, Pat Cleary and Christine Douglas. Middle row: Mary Dunne, Anne Marie Keogh, Pat Swarbrigg, Geraldine Moore, Kathleen Lawles, Finola O'Siochri, Una Mc Cann. Front row: Kewin McNamara, Eoin Douglas and Diarmaid Fitzgerald.

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# SINGING SERVICE!

DEDICATION AND CO-OPERATION ARE THE PASSWORDS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE RATHMINES FOLK CHOIR. ON WEDNESDAY LAST WE PAID A VISIT TO A PRACTISE SESSION OF THE GROUP, HELD IN THE PRESBYTERY OF RATHMINES CHURCH. THE CHOIR HAVE PROVED AMAZINGLY POPULAR, DRAWING CROWDS OF APPROXIMATELY 1500 EACH SUNDAY. THE REASON FOR THIS IN THE WORDS OF CHOIR MEMBER ANNE MARIE KEOGH IS THAT "WE ENSURE EVERYONE HAS A SAY, PLACING THE EMPHASIS ON UNITY RATHER THAN LEADERSHIP. THIS TOGETHER WITH PRACTISE HAVE MADE THE GROUP WHAT IT IS TODAY."

BY  
**FLORRIE O'TOOLE**  
and  
**ROSEMARY O'CLEARY**

The choir originated three years ago, as a result of several approaches to Fr. Walshe by local people interested in starting a Folk Mass. He in turn put this suggestion to the girls of St. Louis Convent, and aided by some co-operative males, the group got underway. They now number twenty five, the majority having been together since the start.

As we listened to the group group's adaptation of Roger Whittaker's "New World in the Morning" we were prompted to ask what determined their choice of songs. Mike Homan told us

that each week the group, together with Fr. Quinlan, study the Readings, establish the theme of the Mass, and subsequently select songs to convey the meaning.

### PARTICIPATION

The group feel that through the medium of song they can endeavour to attain the ultimate participation between choir, priest and congregation. A pamphlet distributed at the beginning of Mass contains the words of the songs which enables the community to sing along and take an active part in the Service

### SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

The group do not confine themselves solely to singing at Sunday Mass, they also perform at Weddings and other social functions. Recently they paid a visit to the Morning Star Hostel for down and-outs and alcoholics. The consider this type of work to be extremely rewarding. Mike Homan described how, after the initial uneasiness, the group were swopping song for song with their hosts. Chris O'Toole, another member, interjected at this point to explain that this type of activity promoted unity and spirit within the group. "We feel that enjoyment breeds dedication" he said.

### CREATIVITY

Instrumental backing for the group is provided by three guitars, a piano and a flute. Creativity is not lacking among these young people. As well as adapting other people's songs, Kevin Mc Namara and Pat Cleary also produce some of their own material.

During the session we found ourselves responding to the atmosphere of friendliness and unity emanating from the circle of singers and musicians. Their service is a valuable one and it is no wonder that it should be so deeply appreciated by the people of Rathmines.