

## Clare's Diary

20<sup>th</sup> April 2011

### Wednesday

Tonight I pop down to the Tullow Rose selection in Co Carlow; I have family here and two of my cousins are escorting the Roses. My own Escort is none other than the talented Sean O'Brien who plays rugby for both Leinster and Ireland, and what a gent he is. Unfortunately I have to leave at half time as I have an early start tomorrow but first I squeeze in a quick catch up with Jessie Adamson and Anthony Dempsey, our superstar 2010 Carlow Rose and Escort.

### Thursday

Mum and I are on the road to Dublin first thing as we need to be seated in Farmleigh House by 10am. We are so lucky to have been invited to celebrate the Chernobyl Children's International charity's 25th anniversary. Every time I meet its founder Adi Roche, I am awestruck by her strength and kindness but today there are a select few very special volunteers who are being recognized through an awards ceremony. We listen to moving speeches by President McAleese and two incredible young women, Anna Gabriel and Raisa Carolan. Both were adopted from Chernobyl by Irish families when they were small and have triumphed over all the obstacles to become clever, spirited, talented individuals; just meeting them is inspiring. After Farmleigh, I am off to Stephen's Green where I am doing a photoshoot with the ISPCC to encourage people to support them in their upcoming 5 mile run. After this, we collect Dad from the train and the three of us make our way to Sandymount where we are having a wrap party for our India documentary; it's great to see everyone again!

### Friday

I make some travel arrangements for Oz today although there is so much happening in the next few days I haven't actually adjusted to the idea I am going in 10 days time!

### Saturday

I am back down in Tralee today, and delighted to be so as always! I am honoured to have been asked to take part in RTE's Easter Vigil ceremony which this year is coming from St. John's Church in Tralee. I arrive just in time for a quick afternoon rehearsal before squeezing in a walk on Banna beach. I need to be back in the church at 10pm and there is a palpable air of excitement as parishioners arrive for the service which is televised to 150,000 people worldwide. I read the epistle and it all goes well, phew! The remainder of the service is lovely and I even get to meet little Roisin Marie who has just been baptized. I am convinced that she is the best baby in Kerry; as the priest poured a bucket of water over her tiny crown, she opened her eyes had a quick look and promptly fell asleep again!

### Sunday

Back to Kildare and straight to Kilashee House in Naas where the county's selection is being

held today. I even find enough time for a swim before climbing back into one of my beautiful Fiona Whyte evening dresses and donning the stilettos! At the end of the evening the gorgeous Claire Walsh is selected as the 2011 Kildare Rose.

### **Monday**

A day off. A walk up to the Rock of Dunamase on this beautiful sunny afternoon. And a long sleep.

### **Tuesday**

This evening I am launching the Rose of Tralee Regional Finals in the Portlaoise Heritage Hotel in the beautiful town of Portlaoise. The Rose committee are thrilled to be holding the event here again for the third year in a row; every year the Regionals keep getting better and better and I already know that the girls who will be attending in just a few weeks time are in for such a treat. I am excited to be a part of the occasion as the London Rose goes straight to Tralee so I haven't been here before and I'm not completely sure of what to expect, all I know is I better start organizing a few dresses!