



Archdiocese of Cardiff Commission for Christian Unity

Archesgob Caerdydd Comisum Undod Cristnogol

June 21 Mehefin 2011

Mission Statement

'The Commission for Christian Unity has been given the important task to work in different ways to build a deeper unity in Christ with Christians of all denominations. Its inspiration and vision comes from Jesus' own words... 'Father may they all be One as you and I are one....' (Jn 17:21)

The commission takes as its own the 'binding imperative' that Pope John Paul II placed on all Catholics to work towards this goal- **nothing less than, 'Full and visible communion with all Christians' (Nouvo Millenio Inuente)**

Three Denominations Link Arms

"We will strive not to do separately anything which we can do together." This is the closing sentence of the new Mission Statement, signed by Churches Together in Cowbridge and District during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



In January, a short time before his untimely death, Father Pierce Maher, Catholic parish Our Lady & St Illtyd and St Cadoc, Rev'd Heather Weddell, United Free Church, Canon Derek Belcher, Rectorial Benefice of Cowbridge, came together at the United Free Church, to sign a joint Mission Statement. This declaration is the result of two years thoughtful preparation and consultation. Committee members from all three churches in the town were there to witness this historic and joyful moment.

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In this issue:

Mission Statement	1
Ecumenical Dialogue	1
Local News - Cowbridge	2
Local News - Newport	2
Sharing spirituality	2
Getting involved	2
Contact Details for C.U.	2

Christian Ecumenical Dialogue by Fr. John Owen

In a recent book, 'Harvesting the Fruits' by Cardinal Kasper recently retired President of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, he writes about the Christian ecumenical dialogue; "The current ecumenical dialogue is based on the principles of ecumenism as started by the Second Vatican Council. The Council sees the ecumenical movement as an impulse of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has initiated the pilgrimage towards unity which is not possible without conversion, renewal or reform. As a result ecumenical discussions no longer take as their starting point the difference between us but what we have in common. Through common baptism a real but incomplete communion exists between the Catholic Church and the other Christian denominations. On this

basis, we are trying better to understand what divides us. Such a dialogue is not only an exchange of ideas but an exchange of gifts which can enrich and challenge us all. In the end Jesus Christ himself is the basis and goal of our dialogues. This dialogue is a dialogue in truth and practical cooperation, a dialogue of love and life, at its heart a spiritual dialogue".

It is within this context that the Commission for Christian Unity for the Archdiocese of Cardiff is attempting to bring about closer cooperation between all the Christian denominations in our Diocese. It is very important that this work should be at the heart of all diocesan work.



Newport Night Shelter, by John Haywood

St Mary's Church on Stow Hill, Newport is one of the six communities that comprise All Saints' Parish. For the last two winters we have been part of an Ecumenical project to provide food and shelter for some of the homeless people in our city. The project was initiated by 'Teen Challenge Newport' in association with the 'Abundant Life' centre in Dock Street, an evangelical community with whom we have established excellent relations.

On a Wednesday night for two months of the year, our church hall (St Mary's Institute) has been committed to providing food and beds for approximately 12-15 rough sleepers. Operating a shift system, trained volunteers

provide an evening meal and company if needed for the guests. At ten o'clock the night shift arrives for the overnight session which lasts until six in the morning, when the early morning team take over.

Allied to this effort, St Mary's is also part of a well-established Christian project to provide lunch bags on a Sunday to the homeless and hungry. This ministry is not seen as peripheral to Christian witness, but central to it. Jesus reminds us, "in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." (Matt. 25;40)

Sharing spirituality

Each month 'The Commission for Christian Unity' selects a quote from a religious/spiritual leader. This is printed in 'The Catholic People' along with further information and updates. Look for the logo...



A Family affair

'Christian Unity is not just one more thing among many to busy ourselves with. It is a family affair. By our faith in Christ, the gift of the Holy Spirit and our baptism, we are already one family together - God's family. We are in varying degrees of unity (or 'communion') with each other and there remain serious differences, although we are already brothers and sisters in the same family - the Body of Christ - and that makes 'ecumenism' something we should be passionate about! There will be frustrations and obstacles, as in any family, and it may take a long time, but we rely on the Holy Spirit's gifts of endurance, hope and trust.'

Selected by Lucy Williams, from 'Together in Christ' leaflet 1

How to become involved in Ecumenical Activity...

For background information read :

Vatican II Document – Decree on Ecumenism, 'Unitatis Redintegratio'.

Pope John Paul II's Encyclical, 'Ut Unum Sint'.

For easy reading -- 'The search for Christian Unity' published by The Catholic Bishop's Conference. ISBN 0905241 215 Available from the C.T.S.

A series of user-friendly leaflets - 'Together in Christ'. Contact Sr. Maureen Davies SSJ, The Pastoral Resources Centre, 910 Newport Road, Rumney Cardiff CF3 4LL Tel. 02920 360044

Contact details:

For further information on Christian Unity, contact Carys Whelan (Chair) Tel. 01446 772888

e-mail: unity@rcadc.org www.rcadc.co.uk/christian-unity-commission.html