

CREGGAN News



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WHERE IS THE VOICE OF CHRISTENDOM?

When Christ was on earth spreading the new and everlasting testament to mankind, He openly opposed injustices, oppression, and corruption. Where are those who today profess to follow in the footsteps of Christ? Where are their voices? Where are their pens? Where is their action? against the evils of foreign troops in our land, against the horrors of H-Block Long Kesh? Where is their opposition to the treatment meted out to the young boys and girls in the Strand Road Barracks of the RUC? If Christ were to come back as a man to this world at the present moment, the very same men who profess to follow him would more than likely have him arrested as a troublemaker, a revolutionary, or as a Provo, and have him put away so as not to disturb the peace. Today the world of Christendom seems to be more concerned with its respectability image than the root causes of all injustices in our country. They seem to play politics; more than to teach the Word of G_od...

What satisfaction is it to a mother whose son is being tortured in Long Kesh to say that you will do all you can, but no one is to know what you are doing. It was a good job that Christ did not hide behind closed doors or we would have no Church here today.

-- Creggan Wasper

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

Last Friday I had the pleasure of going round with the PDF box accompanied by that charming lady I was telling you about in the last issue of Creggan News, Violet Tully. Anyway, what I want to say is that I thank you, the people, for your generous help to the PDF and the courteous way most of the people in the area greeted us. One day -- yes, very soon -- our boys and girls will be home from the prisons and hellholes of Long Kesh, Armagh and Crumlin. Then they themselves will thank you for your support. But in the meantime, on their behalf, I thank you all who give so generously.

SUPPORT THE MEN & WOMEN "ON THE BLANKET"

Protest by Sinn Féin every Saturday at 3 p.m. in Waterloo Place in the City Centre. SUPPORT THE MEN IN H-BLOCK, THE GIRLS IN ARMAGH, THE MEN IN CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL PROTESTING FOR RECOGNITION AS P.O.W.S. Special Powers, Special Tortures, Special Courts = Special Category Status.

AROUND CREGGAN

Going around with the Creggan News last weekend in Iniscarn, I met some young children at the Pensioner's Dungalows. I asked them what they were looking for and they told me they had saved some pocket money to give to an old age pensioner, but they couldn't get any answer at the door. I told them that some old Pensioners in Creggan were proud people and perhaps did not want to take their money. I suggested to them that they put their money in the letter box and give anonymously. They agreed and did this. Thank God the Irish culture of loving and caring for one another is still alive in old Derry. England has not and will never kill the spirit of Ireland.

POLITICAL STATUS PROTEST

A protest has been organised for Letterkenny for 3 p.m. on Saturday, 17th Jan. and all friends and relatives of the p.o.w.s are urged to attend.

LONG KESH LETTER

(The following has been sent out from H-Block Long Kesh and we are asked to publish it.)

A chara,

Recently your paper carried articles concerning life here in the "H-Blocks." Since that time, we here in H-3 have begun to feel the vindictive reprisals from it. The examples are many, but I shall only give one that happened a few days after Christmas, the so-called "season of goodwill."

On Thursday, 29-12-77, a boy named Gerry Moore from Creggan was asked to put on prison clothes to go to court to face further charges. This he refused to do. He was then put into a cell on his own along with three screws and a P.O. and forced to wear them against his will.

Since then, he has not returned to this block. We know he is in the punishment cell block. He most likely has been charged with something connected with his refusal to wear the clothes. On 19-12-77 he lost all his "privileges" for a period of fourteen days, up to 2-1-78. This means he has been sentenced twice for the same offence (refusing to be a criminal.)

Life in the punishment block is an endurance test. There, many protestors "on the blanket" don't eat, because they are denied the use of the toilet outside the cell. The temperature is next to, if not below, freezing point. To add to this, they must suffer the abuse from the screws: hardly the place to be welcoming in the New Year!

We expect a lot more reprisals, owing to someone having the nerve to write about here, in the near future. Any action on their part will be met by us and returned in the same manner by which it is meted out. The time of croppies lying down has long ceased to exist.

Is mise,

Liam MacEoin

P.R.O., Republican P.O.W.s Long Kesh

LOST AND FOUND

Several items have been found and turned in to the Sinn Fein Centre in Creggan. If you have lost -- or found -- anything, call by and check at the Centre to see if your property has been turned in or if someone has lost what you found.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To Lily from Martha and Brian. How many candles on the cake now? ha-ha

FOR JOBS FOR OUR YOUTH....

...we need our natural resources. Sinn Fein has a fully-developed policy set forth in an interesting booklet entitled "Mining and Energy" and another entitled "Our National Offshore." Both explain, from slightly different perspectives, how our natural resources and mineral wealth are currently being sold to the highest bidder in a criminal policy of "first grabber gets all" by both Free State and Six County regimes. Both booklets also detail Sinn Fein proposals for developing our resources for providing for the needs of all the people in the Irish nation.

To get these inexpensive booklets, try Siopa an Phobail, Rossville Street, or the Brnadywell Sinn Fein Centre, Lecky Rd., opposite Our Lady of Lourdes Hall.

FREE SERVICE!

Yes, absolutely free! Greetings ads for Creggan News, Shantallow News also. Birthdays, anniversaries, greetings to friends "inside" and "on the blanket", etc. Leave ads at Creggan or Shantallow Sinn Fein Centres....

A POEM HANDED IN TO THE EDITOR BY SOMEONE OUTSIDE ABOUT THE MEN IN H-BLOCK...

Don't stand and wonder why we suffer so,
Study your history and you will know.
Mothers, do not weep for me,
Let no one ever pity me,
Captured though my body be:
I'm still in mind and conscience free.
But pity those who bend the knee,
Content to live in slavery.
I have a dream for Ireland and for you
And the power is vested in all of you
To fight with me and ake that dream come true.
If our people would muster their courage
and pride,
No Mason, no Brit, would stem the tide.
That's my message to you from this
prison cell,
In Long Kesh, H-Block -- Britain's Hell.

THE PATRIOT

Believing that the British Government has no right in Ireland, never had any right in Ireland, and can never have any right in Ireland, the presence, in any one generation of Irishmen, of even a respectable minority, ready to die to affirm that truth, makes that Government for ever a usurpation and a crime against human progress.

-- James Connolly, from his "Speech to Court Martial, 9 May 1916