

By AIDAN CORR

making up songs and singing them to the unborn child, and from an early age he too has sung spontaneous songs and sings to himself while playing. Nourishment with sound can begin from conception, for singing and voice work are beneficial

for everyone concerned during pregnancy. I had been writing poems from an early age and play piano by ear. An expectant mother and father can share voice exercises together, strengthening their compassion for one another and the coming child.

Singing during pregnancy can relax and sustain an expectant mother, complementing the prenatal exercises designed to enhance delivery and are beneficial during powerful contractions." Thea's friend in Sneem had been responsible for

It was now time for Jake to settle into some form of formal education and on hearing of the Waldorf system of education, Thea and Jake headed for Cooleenbridge school in Feakle, which is based on the teaching ethos of Rudolph Steiner, providing

Thea reads a lot, sings a lot, plays piano a lot, and studied the psychology of Jung. "I sang all the way through my pregnancy and gave a number of concerts in Glastenbury and my unborn baby was subjected to a lot of music. I sang solo in St. James' Church in Piccadilly in London and at present have a performance

take exercises home with them. Voice Work benefits most if practised regularly. It can also help us to see how we use our voices with those closest to us. We can sing with our children and tell stories with family and friends. "My work in Limerick has yet to take off. The East Clare Women's Health Group have been a great sense of inspiration to me. I work very intensively and

over Labour role... ment intensifies

found it regretful Jim Kemmy had exception to her remarks merely the discontent of and the unemphatic such issues as social welfare, and the continuing levels of unemployment her statement

ment, that Fianna Fail's Sean Haughey was expressing the opposite view and saying that Labour had too much influence in Government. "Labour can't win," he said. And he added "I would have expected a more enlightened view from someone representing workers and trade unions.

Once again, Ms Hanberry has allowed her nationalist politics to distort her sense of justice and fair play." He said that the decline in Limerick Trades Council membership was due to the playing of politics by some delegates, and added "It is time that the Trades Council took steps to restore its former influence and competition in Limerick life."

Bishop's statement

A STATEMENT from Dr Newman issued this Wednesday said:

"The following is the relevant extract from the Directory on Ecumenism in Ireland, issued by the Irish Episcopal Conference and currently in use:

"Participation in the Eucharist raises special problems, because of the unique place of the Eucharist in the Church's faith and worship.

"Should Christians of other denominations assist at Mass, it is very appropriate, if they so wish, that they would join with the congregation in the prayers. They may act as leader in prayer (eg, prayers of the faithful or bidding prayers).

"Since, however, the liturgy of the word is an integral part of the total eucharistic liturgy, they may not act as scripture reader or preacher at Mass. For reasons which flow from the meaning of the Eucharist itself as the supreme expression and the sacramental realisation of the unity of Christ's body, the Church, Christians of other denominations may not be admitted to Holy Communion.

"The Eucharist is the

great sacrament of unity, manifesting and presupposing that gift of unity which Christ won for his Church by His death on the Cross.

"As such, it implies that those who gather to celebrate it are already one in faith and worship. In the absence of such unity, the practice of intercommunion would conflict with the deepest meaning of the sacrament. It would assert an untruth, namely that divided Churches are already one.

"So far from giving impetus to work for unity, it would lessen this impetus, by dimming awareness of the fact, and the sadness of being divided."

According to the new Directory of Ecumenism published by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, published last year, the reading of scripture during a Eucharist celebration in the Catholic Church is to be done by members of that Church.

However, it states that bishops "on exceptional occasions, and for a just cause, may permit a member of another Church or ecclesiastical communion to take on the task of reader".

Mayor clashes with Bishop over Mass reading snub



A CATHOLIC bishop and a city's mayor were at loggerheads last night over the cancellation of a plan for her to read the lesson at Mass.

in the city's St John's Cathedral at the launch of Limerick Civic Week. City manager Jack Higgins, who was to have read the second lesson at the Mass, withdrew following last-minute change in arrangements claiming the decision was the Mayor's.

By FERUGS BLACK THE Catholic Bishop of Limerick has been urged to make "full and unqualified apology" in the city's Protestant Mayor Jan O'Sullivan's name.

"I was shocked. Civic week is for all the citizens of Limerick and for our visitors as well. If the custom is that the Mayor reads the lesson, it has to be that all quarters do it," he said.

"I decided I wouldn't do that on the grounds that I felt the original arrangements should have stood," he told the Irish Independent.

Apologise, Bishop! Bishop 'forced' to bar mayor from reading Mass lesson

Bishop's ban on mayor's reading not based on church ruling Bishop in 'insult to mayor' row defended

How the media reported the controversy.

Bishop and Mayor come under national scrutiny in Mass row

By MAIRÉAD NALLY

THE recent controversy over the refusal to allow the mayor to read at the civic mass has received sizeable media coverage.

In his statement the Bishop explained the decision was based on regulations in the Directory of Ecumenism.

However, the front page of The Irish Times stated this Wednesday that the revised Directory of Ecumenism allows readings by members of other churches "on exceptional occasions".

the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity last year specifically allows bishops, "on exceptional occasions and for a just cause", to permit a 'member of another Church or ecclesiastical communion to take on the task of reader,' The Irish Times wrote.

They also stated that the first woman Mayor of Limerick, Frances Condell, who was also a Church of Ireland member, had read the lesson at St. John's Cathedral in 1963 in the time of Dr Newman's predecessor, Dr Henry Murphy.

In The Irish Press, the Bishop was defended by Cllr Frank Prendergast as a

courageous man who had become "a hate figure among some of the Irish liberal establishment". Cllr Prendergast added that somebody had slipped up in not clearing the lines and making the mayor and city council aware of the situation.

The Mayor's City Council colleague Labour Party chairman, Jim Kemmy, described the decision to ban the Mayor as a calculated insult which was sectarian in nature, according to the Irish Independent.

party would have to review its attendance at future ceremonies in St. John's Cathedral during Limerick civic week.

Mayor O'Sullivan, who said she was shocked at the decision has now written to Dr Newman seeking clarification. She was told of the change in arrangements just before she went into the cathedral for the mass.

"In the absence of a satisfactory explanation Limerick City Council will have to consider its position with regard to the nature of its future participation in the civic mass," Cllr O'Sullivan said in The Cork Examiner. She did, however, read the prayers of the faithful at the ceremony.

Mayor hopes for end to controversy

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

THE Mayor hopes for an end to the "Mayor/Bishop controversy" following a satisfactory explanation of the refusal to allow her to read the lesson at the Civic Mass in St John's Cathedral on Sunday.

"Following clarification of the role of the Mayor I would hope that we can get back to the good relations that have previously existed," she told the Limerick Leader.

Explaining the incident, Mayor O'Sullivan said she has been asked by the Church through the office of town clerks in City Hall to read the first lesson at

the Mass. Copies of the readings were made available to the Mayor through the office of town clerks the previous Friday.

"I arrived on my own and was in the house at the side of the Cathedral, on Sunday morning with Jack Higgins, city manager, Flan O'Neill, town clerk, and members of City Council before going over to the sacristy.

"In the sacristy, I greeted Bishop Newman, who was sitting at a table, and then a priest whom I do not know by name but who had greeted us on arrival approached and said words to the effect that: 'You will not be reading the lesson' or: 'You may not read the lesson'.

"I do not remember saying anything, I was very taken a back", she said.

Mr Higgins, she said, was then asked to read both lessons.

He declined following the change in arrangements because it was unfair to the Mayor.

Mayor O'Sullivan said she was then asked by a priest to read the prayers of the faithful.

"I agreed to read the prayers. There was no time to say anything else as I it was 12 o'clock and Mass was about to start," she said.

The readings were read by a lay person.

Because of a prior commitment at 1pm, the Mayor left the cathedral immediately after the Mass.

"I was shocked by the whole thing. I did not feel it was a personal issue. I felt it was an issue for the city,"

she said. On Monday evening the Mayor brought the matter to the attention of the party leaders on the Council at their normal meeting held in committee before each monthly meeting of Council.

At that meeting, she was fully supported by the members, and it was agreed to write to Bishop Newman to seek an explanation.

"I'm very disappointed over this incident, because the City Council have always tried to foster an ecumenical spirit," she said. "This is the first time that anything like this has happened to me" she added.

Meanwhile, Dr Newman was called on by Barbara Dillon, chairwoman of Limerick Federation of Women's Organisations, to

make a full statement clarifying his refusal to allow the Mayor read the lesson.

"I do not agree it was because Mayor O'Sullivan is Church of Ireland," stated Mrs Dillon who added that she herself read a lesson in the Redemptorist Church, some years ago during a Girl Guides Mass at which Dr Newman was the chief celebrant.

On the same day, she said, John Pomeroy, at the time was area commissioner of the Scouts Association of Ireland, and a non-Catholic read the second reading that day.

"Bishop Newman did not make any comment on this at the time" she said.

"We need an answer this time. He cannot avoid the issue any longer," she stated.

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