



INFORMATION

Immediately

FOR RELEASE _____

PAPAL VISIT TO DROGHEDA

Arrangements for the forthcoming pastoral visit of Pope John Paul II to Drogheda on Saturday September 29, were announced at a press conference (Tuesday, September 11) in Drogheda. Cardinal Tomas O Fiaich addressed the conference, which was attended by Bishop Francis McKiernan, Chairman of the national coordinating committee and Monsignor James Lennon, Vicar-General of the diocese of Armagh and Chairman of the Drogheda coordinating committee, together with others involved in the organisation for the visit.

The Pope will arrive by helicopter at the open-air venue at Killineer, two miles north of Drogheda on the main Dundalk road, at 4.00 p.m. At the altar, now being erected on the high ground there, His Holiness will participate in a liturgical service - scripture readings and prayer - and will deliver a homily to the congregation.

/More...

INFORMATION RELEASED ON BEHALF OF
BY

September 11, 1979

PRP

PUBLIC RELATIONS PRACTITIONERS LTD. 1 HOLLES STREET, DUBLIN 2. TELEPHONE: 764351
Managing Director Joe Dillon PRP - A SUBSIDIARY OF ARROW ADVERTISING.

Press arrangements...../2

Press transport and car parking are being provided and the communication centre will be operational and manned by Friday September 28.

From Sunday September 23, there will be 50 international telephone operators stationed in Drogheda exchange.

P.R.P. staff, together with other P.R. organisations and individuals, have volunteered their services to help handle the national and international press needs during the visit. PRP have been appointed to handle the press centre for the Drogheda visit.

ends....

/.....2

He will pass amongst the assemblage by motor vehicle along the access pathways at the site - nobody will be more than 30 yards distant as the Pope passes by.

Prior to the arrival of John Paul II, the relic of St. Oliver Plunkett will be taken in procession from St. Peter's Church, Drogheda to the Killineer site. The procession begins at 12.30p.m. Beginning at 2.00 p.m. there will be a mass, concelebrated by the Vicars-General of the ecclesiastical province of Armagh. Communion will be distributed by some 300 priests. Hymn-singing will be led by a combined choir from the diocese.

Arrangements are being made to accommodate an attendance of up to 180,000 on the 35 acre site, provided for the occasion on the lands of a local businessman Mr. Terence Grant. Ten acres of adjacent land have been made available by Mrs McGinn, to be used for any overflow. Assembly is expected to start at 10.00 a.m. on the morning of September 29, controlled by some 2,000 stewards directed from an on-site crowd-control centre. Access paths, dividing the site into 38 assembly areas, will make for easy approach and exit. The hilltop altar will be visible from every part of the site.

A first-aid service will be in operation, manned by 500 doctors, nurses and the Knights of Malta, the Red Cross and the Civil Defence Forces. Toilet facilities will be provided at convenient points about the area. Special arrangements are being made to accommodate 3,000 invalids.

/More...

/...3

Car parking facilities which will be flood-lit in the evening are being provided one mile from the site on the main approach roads. Special bus service arrangements are being made with CIE, who will operate a ferry service to the northern and southern approaches.

The raised, carpeted altar, surmounted by a high stainless steel cross - which will be floodlit for the duration of the Pope's visit to this country - commands a view of the plains of Louth and Meath, the Boyne Valley, the hill of Slane and New Grange. A helicopter pad is being prepared beside the altar.

ends.....