

A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM....

Tuesday's Child calls people to prayer for end of conflict in Palestine

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VENUE: CLONARD MONASTERY TO BELFAST CITY HALL

DATE: TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY

TIME: 6.45 p.m start

The Belfast-based children's charity Tuesday's Child invites you to join in a torchlight procession of prayer through its home city tomorrow night for peace in The Holy Land.

Tuesday's Child has been lending a helping hand to some of the many children suffering in Gaza since December 2007. Our greatest fears were confirmed last night when ground forces were mobilised into the region. The firepower sent into this 40 km strip of land is enough to invade a continent. The tragedy is that 53 percent of the 1.5 million people living in Gaza are under 17 yrs old.

We believe that only prayer can now avert genocide. The war is particularly tragic in that it comes at a time when we celebrate Christmas and the birth of the King of love and peace. We urge people to remember that all children are entitled to be treated with justice regardless of the boundaries of land or cultural beliefs on which adults seem to place so much emphasis.

We are calling people across the province to join us in prayer tomorrow night for an end to the conflict between Israel and Palestine. We raise our prayers to the little Child in the manger to inspire those who hold influence in both Palestine and Israel. We ask the infant child to open hearts and minds and put an end to the bloodshed.

Speaking of her recent visit to Gaza and the impact of recent strikes, Ms Sheehan said *"I have never witnessed a humanitarian crisis like Gaza. The strip was completely decimated then. Children were starving and malnourished and subject to many other violations of their human rights. I was shocked by the things I saw. They were suffering enough. I shudder to think of how traumatised their little lives must be now"..*

The torchlight procession will commence from Clonard Monastery and walk to The City Hall in prayer and song for peace. We ask that people, of all ages, from all Christian denominations and churches in Northern Ireland join us in our vigil of prayer. Tuesday's Child donates 100 percent of all proceeds and so we ask that you bring your own candle or torch with you.

"If children and young people could lead nations, we would not have catastrophies like Gaza", said Ms Sheehan. "On the feast of the three wise kings, let the Christ Child be shown to all nations who are in a position to put an immediate end to this conflict".

We call upon the children and the youth of Northern Ireland to come out and lead by example.

The procession is one of peace, not protest.

For further details please contact Orla Sheehan on 07813 834045 or email orla.sheehan@btinternet.com or the charity email info@tuesdayschild.org.uk

Ends./

