

COMMENTARY

THE ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER. The appointment of a new Archbishop of Westminster is always more than a matter of domestic interest for the Catholic Church in this country, and in the person of Mgr William Godfrey we may be sure that the responsibilities of this high office will be worthily sustained. At a time when even ecclesiastical appointments necessarily involve much administrative detail, the new Archbishop's known simplicity and ease of access will secure that pastoral care which is always a bishop's first function. In wishing Mgr Godfrey every blessing for his arduous work, we may perhaps see a happy augury in the new Archbishop's motto, *Pax a Deo*, and we must pray that his years of office will see an increasing realization of its truth.

CHRISTIAN UNITY. The week of prayer for Christian unity is by this well established, and the papal commendation of its intentions should inspire Catholics throughout the world to share in its observance. But prayers must always be nurtured by knowledge: the will can only move towards that which it knows and loves. That is why there is so great a need for information, for a candid and realistic understanding of the religious situation as it is. From the beginning, the Church Unity Octave has included in its intentions the countless millions who do not even bear the name of Christian. Its prayer is commensurate with that of Christ and his Church, namely 'that they *all* may be one'. The unity we pray for is infinitely more than a local reconciliation of those in our own country who have been separated from the centre of Catholic unity, though naturally enough their problem is nearer to us and so commands a more immediate interest. In this number of **BLACKFRIARS** an attempt is made to see the true dimensions of the ideal for which we pray, and hence the Jews and Islam must be part of the picture. At a time when the Middle East is aflame with the passions of political conflict, the religious allegiances which still lie at their root can scarcely be ignored. And the Christian prayer for peace is a prayer for unity no less. That it seems so far beyond likely human achievement can never be a reason for despair, if, at least, the Gospel is accepted in its

imperative strength. In the meantime there remains the need for knowledge, for recognizing peoples and their beliefs as they truly are and not as propaganda has so often made them appear.

RISING COSTS. It is only absolute necessity that compels us, with this number, to increase the price of **BLACKFRIARS**. When so many reviews with a much longer history than ours are finding the struggle to exist an impossible task, we are most grateful for the continuing support of our readers. 1957 is not likely to be an easy year for anyone, but we believe that the need was never so great for a review that seeks to interpret the abiding principles that should govern a Christian judgment on the world in which we live. That is a high ambition, but it is one for which this review exists. In wishing all our readers all possible blessings in the New Year we have no hesitation in asking them to go on giving us the help of their interest and recommendation, without which we could not continue. It is hoped during this year to arrange further meetings of contributors and subscribers to **BLACKFRIARS**. In the past few years we have found that this is an excellent way of stimulating support as well as the constructive criticism which any review must always want to provoke. The Editor will always be glad to hear of any suggestions for promoting local interest in **BLACKFRIARS** in this way.