

G8 services in Enniskillen (continued from pages 8 & 9)

idea if rich countries who have a genuine desire to help developing countries added the Naboth test into the economic algorithms which have to be made when aid or investment is being contemplated.

"The Naboth test would require a healthy amount of self-suspicion about our own motives ... questions like - Who is really benefiting in the long term from this transaction, and, are there any hidden motives that I am conveniently ignoring?"

"The Naboth test might also take into account some factors that have greater value than money; in fact may be something that money can't buy. Something like the self-respect of the receiving country and its real long-term interests."

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

Bishop McDowell continued: "No country - whether one that gives aid or one that receives aid - has the right to barter with the riches it has received in whatever form, without



From left: the Revd Alistair Warke, the Revd Rob Clements, Archbishop John Sentamu, Bishop John McDowell and Dean Kenneth Hall (Photo: Glenn Moore)

first guaranteeing that an even better result can be handed on to another generation.

"Today in most Western countries there is a large group of people who are not quite the unborn generations but who have every possibility of

becoming the forgotten dead without having the opportunity to become the fully living - the young unemployed."

He added: "There are also times in the lives of every man or woman living, and in the lives of nations too, when our true character

shines out in acts of almost reckless generosity.

"Unrepayable debt demoralises people and crushes hope, and eventually destroys whole societies. Generosity gives hope and life."

The Bishop concluded: "Generosity is at the core of the Gospel and we all can think of a hundred reasons why we shouldn't be generous, but generosity is the very spirit of Jesus. There was nothing sensible in his life. He gave without calculating the cost.

"The Pharisee would have looked at his life and his death and asked 'Why this waste?' We all fear becoming poor. Jesus dreaded that any man should be rich; such was the danger of riches to the soul ...

"In the Scriptures, eternal life, the life of God, does not belong to the sensible people. It doesn't belong to those who hoard their lives, but to those who spill out their lives for the love of God and their neighbour."



The Three Priests group singing in St Macartin's Cathedral (Photo: William Holmes)