

revealing Derrida as a continuation of emancipatory Enlightenment values ('by other means') whilst also opening up space for the possibility of a religious imagination. This is not an orthodox position in any field, but it is one that tries to stay loyal to the impossibilities that form the heart of both theology and deconstruction. As such it should be read and re-read as a classic example of theology as a public and integrating discourse.

GUY COLLINS

**CHRISTIAN UNITY AN ECUMENICAL SECOND SPRING?  
by Michael Hurley SJ. *Veritas* 1998 (Dublin). 420 pages. NP.**

Michael Hurley is a Jesuit of great initiative. He founded the Irish School of Ecumenics in 1970 and the Columbanus Community of Reconciliation in 1983. These achievements have sown many seeds and continue to flourish. Now in retirement, he has published this highly readable survey of ecumenism and the future of the churches.

Ireland, north and south, is the main focus, but a chapter covers visits to Mount Athos and to China. Theologians will enjoy the sections on the Church of Ireland and on Calvin and Wesley. Buckley brings out the catholicity of Calvin and his reference to the Church as "the mother of all the faithful". In Wesley's "prevenient grace" he sees a key to ecumenism and to inter-faith prayer and dialogue.

Chapter 3 concludes that the ministry of forgiveness is the prime role of the church in conflict situations. It examines mutuality, apology, repentance and reconciliation. By contrast, chapter 15 points to the moderating functions of the churches in Northern Ireland. I was left wondering whether the full force of the gospel may have been muted by long-standing customs and traditions. It is largely religious fears that have produced the partition of the heart and separate development in Northern Ireland.

Ecumenists, who need every available encouragement, will find in this book real food for thought, spurring them to hope and to action. I hope all readers will ponder the concept of "uniting churches" as the remedy for division.

LORD HYLTON