

REPORT ON ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONS AND NATIONAL
ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC DIALOGUES, 1973-4

by the Revd. Colin Davey

AUSTRALIA

The Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission's Canterbury Statement on Ministry and Ordination was studied at a Conference arranged in the autumn 1973 by the Queensland Ecumenical Affairs Committee in Brisbane, attended by both Anglicans and Roman Catholics, led by Archbishop Felix Arnott, Archbishop Rush, and the Bishop of Rockhampton. It has also been discussed at a similar gathering in Melbourne, and by the Anglican Bishops' Conference. The Missionary and Ecumenical Affairs Commission of the General Synod has prepared study material, and is circulating a critique by the Revd. Dr. John Munro, Chairman of the Australian Board of Missions.

General reaction in discussion and the Press has been favourable to the Statement; some of the more conservative Evangelicals in Sydney see too drastic a compromise and some of the Irish Roman Catholics believe Apostolic Succession and the position of the Pope have been jeopardised.

In May 1974 there was a meeting of the Joint Working Group of the Australian Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Bishops Committee on the doctrine of Man in Society.

There has been consideration of co-operation in Theological Faculties in most States and Universities.

BELGIUM

The Anglican/Roman Catholic Working Group has continued its meetings. Its February 1974 Assembly was devoted to discussion of the Canterbury Statement on Ministry and Ordination, and its Steering Committee in April and June 1974 discussed the Statement of the Belgian Bishops on the Holy Year and made plans to study Authority in the Church.

CANADA

The Seventh Meeting of the Canadian Anglican/Roman Catholic Dialogue took place in November 1973, when Professor Fairweather led the discussion of the Canterbury Statement, which he described as a "minor miracle" in view of the divergence of views expressed during its preparatory stages. Plans were announced for the document to be studied by the Bishops of both Churches, and for the collation of general reactions to it. The eighth and ninth meetings took place in March and May 1974 and were concerned with preparatory work for A.R.C.I.C.'s study of Church and Authority, based on papers by Dr. H. McSorley and the Revd. W. McKeachie on "Dei Verbum as an authoritative description of the authority of Scripture". The members also helped in the planning of a proposed meeting of Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops, and took note of the results of the Survey undertaken in Anglican and Roman Catholic parishes in Montreal in the summer of 1973.

ENGLAND

The English A.R.C., in addition to its own study and discussion of the Canterbury Statement, has produced a Discussion Leaflet on this (obtainable from the Roman Catholic Ecumenical Commission, 44, Gray's Inn Road, London, WCLX 8LR or from the Board for Mission and Unity, Church House, Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3NZ at 2p plus postage).

Its meetings in November 1973 and March 1974 have also been concerned with the possibility of a joint booklet on Marriages between Anglicans and Roman Catholics, the production of a preparatory paper for A.R.C.I.C. on "Indefectibility and Infallibility", the Holy Year, the International Theological Commission's Report on "Theological Pluralism", and the notion of "Ecclesia Supplet", which, it was felt, "had very limited usefulness" in discussion on the recognition of Anglican orders (the South Pacific A.R.C. had proposed this as a possible way forward).

The Canterbury Statement is to be debated in the Canterbury and York Convocations in October 1974 and the General Synod will discuss both the Windsor and Canterbury Statements in November.

A number of one-day joint study conferences on the Windsor and Canterbury Statements have taken place, most notably in Liverpool in May 1974, where over 170 Anglican and Roman Catholic clergy met to study the Agreed Statement on Eucharistic Doctrine.

A joint diploma course in Theology is now arranged through the University of Southampton between Chichester and Salisbury Theological Colleges and St. John's Seminary, Womersley.

The Anglican and the Roman Catholic Churches are both involved in the Commission of English Churches to explore the possibility of local unity.

FRANCE

The Anglican/Roman Catholic Working Group in France is publishing shortly in "Unité des Chrétiens" a French translation of Bishop H.R. McAdoo's booklet "Where do Anglicans stand?". It is preparing a film-strip on the Anglican Church, and it has already published a study comparing the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon approaches to ecumenical problems. It is also preparing a booklet on mixed marriages, the pastoral care of mixed couples, and the religious education of their children. It promotes the twinning of dioceses, parishes, and seminaries, and meetings between laymen of both Churches with economic, social, and political responsibilities. Its total aim, as Fr. Siegfried Tunmer O.P. has written, is "to secure a more effective pastoral care for the Anglicans living in France and to hasten the progress of our two Churches towards the unity Christ has willed".

HONG KONG

The Ecumenical Commission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong and the appointed committee of the Diocese of Hong Kong and Macao have produced a joint declaration on Holy Baptism.

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HONG KONG (Continued)

The Bishop of Hong Kong writes:

"We have agreed to accept as members of the Body of Christ, the Church, all who have been baptized by water and the Threefold Name of God, the Father Son, and Holy Spirit. In other words, we recognize each other as Christians; and we have pledged ourselves to work towards unity in all areas of Church life and doctrine.

"I believe that other Christian bodies may also wish to subscribe to similar statements, and I hope this may be the beginning of more dialogue on the basic doctrines and expressions of our common faith in Christ."

INDIAN OCEAN

In Mauritius from the beginning of this year the Anglican Secondary School of St. Barnabas, Rodrigues, and the Roman Catholic Secondary School of St. Louis, Rodrigues, have merged into one institution. Under a constitution drawn up by the Archbishop and the Roman Catholic Bishops, the management of the College will be shared by the two Churches.

The recently enlarged and much restored Royal Naval Chapel for H.M.S. Mauritius, Vacoas, has been dedicated for joint use by Anglicans and Roman Catholics.

The Roman Catholic Retreat House in the south of Mauritius has been fully available to Anglicans and clergy retreats have been held there. In Seychelles a similar arrangement has been made.

JAPAN

The Japanese A.R.C. at its May 1973 meeting discussed the Windsor Statement, Mixed Marriages, and the pastoral care of inter-church families. In December 1973 it discussed the Authority of the Bible, and in July 1974 held a Joint Retreat and Workshop on Ministry, which included translation and discussion of the Canterbury Statement.

LATIN AMERICA

The Latin American A.R.C., the Joint Commission of CELAM (Episcopal Conference of Latin America) and CALA (Anglican Church of Latin America) was appointed in 1973 as a permanent body, as was recommended by the Conference of Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops who met at Bogotá, Colombia, in February 1971. A meeting of the Commission is due to take place, probably at the end of September 1974, when the Archbishop of Canterbury is at Bogotá, Colombia, during his visit to South America.

The Commission's task has been defined as follows:-

- 1) To serve as a contact organ between CELAM and CALA;
- 2) To examine the areas of co-operation and collaboration in the continental area;
- 3) To favour and promote the same co-operation at grass roots level;
- 4) To study the theological and practical subjects of common concern.

Its members are headed by the Most Revd. Richard L. Guilly (formerly of Georgetown, Guyana) and the Rt. Revd. David Pytches (Chile). Our correspondent is Fr. Jorge Mejía of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Joint Commission of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches continued in 1973 and 1974 to study and discuss Eucharist and Ministry, including the Windsor and Canterbury Statements, the published papers by Fr. Tillard on these subjects, and Julian Charley's commentary on the Agreed Statement on Eucharistic Doctrine. It also prepared a paper for students on "Christ and the non-Christian religions".

At its meeting in March 1974 it recommended the formation of a new Commission composed entirely of Melanesians, with a mandate which should include:

"(a) an examination of the life and belief of the two Churches in relation to the hopes and aspirations of Papua New Guineas for the Christian community in this country;

(b) bringing the churches together in visible unity in order

- (i) to understand their life in relation to Melanesian culture and beliefs;
- (ii) to be redeemers of their total environment; and
- (iii) to be catalysts for social justice and peace amongst all men.

(c) reporting on their proceedings and findings to the church authorities and the general public."

SCOTLAND

An important step in the ecumenical relations between the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches in Scotland was taken in May 1974 with the publication of their Joint Study Group's Report on "The Ecclesial Nature of the Eucharist". They have described this as "extensive and thorough agreement on the doctrine of our respective traditions with regard to the Eucharist, sacrament and sacrifice". The document has received the approval of the Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland and of the Provincial Synod of the Episcopal Church. It remains, however, merely a "report", and is intended as a basis for further study.

The group is now to examine the ministry of the Church, raising the issues of intercommunion and Anglican Orders.

SOUTH AFRICA

The following motion was carried at the meeting of the Anglican Provincial Synod in 1973:

"This Synod welcomes and endorses as adequately expressing the Christian Eucharistic faith an 'Agreed Statement on Eucharistic Doctrine' as issued by the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission in 1972."

The Anglican/Roman Catholic Bishops Joint Meeting took place in May 1973, and it was agreed that a representative from among the clergy should be appointed in each Anglican diocese to co-operate with his opposite number in the Roman Catholic Diocese, in order to promote mutual relationships and practical co-operation in the interests of growth towards unity.

SOUTH AFRICA (continued)

The Tenth Series of Conversations between Anglicans and Roman Catholics took place in December 1973. It discussed Scripture and Tradition, as well as Authority and the role of the Ministry, and this prepared the way for the writing of a paper for A.R.C.I.C. on "The redemptive authority of Christ".

After a full discussion of topics concerning marriages of Anglicans to Roman Catholics, a paper containing requests and recommendations about these was forwarded to the Bishops' Meetings.

Joint ownership of church buildings was also discussed.

SOUTH PACIFIC

The second meeting of the Anglican/Roman Catholic Commission for the South Pacific took place in February 1974. It welcomed the Canterbury Statement on Ministry and Ordination and declared "we agree with it... and accept as sufficient the description of what our two traditions mean by the Apostolic Succession". It hoped that the formula "ecclesia supplet" might make it possible for it to be declared "that Apostolicae Curae does not apply to the present situation." It agreed "to continue our pastoral ministry to one another in our area, under the control of the local bishops".

TANZANIA

In the strongly Muslim Rufiji district there is already one joint church and it is proposed to have still closer co-operation and a meeting of the clergy is being held to discuss this.

The Oecumenical Commission for the Dioceses of Masasi, Nachingwea, and Mtwara in South East Tanzania held its 27th meeting in December 1973. A translation of Fr. Adrian Hastings' Report on Christian Marriage in Africa (commissioned by the Anglican Archbishops of Africa) was summarised and discussed. A common form of words of the Lord's Prayer, Creed, and Gloria, is being sought. Its April 1974 meeting discussed a translation into Swahili of the Canterbury Statement and the new liturgy of the Anglican Church of Tanzania. Its next meeting in September 1974 will discuss marriage. However, "we have no practical problem about mixed marriages, since we have a modus vivendi in our matriarchal society: the bride's church (Roman Catholic or Anglican) dictates where the marriage will be and where the children will be brought up."

UGANDA

The Uganda Joint Christian Council (Secretary Fr. Vincent Kanyonza) consists of some 40 members, Bishops, clergy, and lay people, of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches, and has been in existence for several years now. Its work is in five sections: Education, Health, Social Services, Mass Media, and Ecumenism. The last-named section whose Chairman is the Roman Catholic Bishop James Odongo, has been studying recently A.R.C.I.C. documents and Mixed Marriages.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

At the General Convention, October 1973, the Windsor Agreed Statement on Eucharistic Doctrine was affirmed to be "a significant theological description of the ongoing Eucharistic lives of the Churches in question, without trying to force that description into the polemical categories of the past; substantial matters have been discussed and substantial agreement has been reached. We welcome the progress made in this Theological Statement, recognizing that a doctrine of Eucharist cannot be considered in isolation from a doctrine of Ministry. We expect the Commission's forthcoming statement on the Doctrine of the Ministry to illuminate further its Agreement on the Eucharist".

Diocese were asked to encourage the study of the Agreed Statement and to make it the subject of ecumenical dialogue. They were also asked "with the co-operation of the Bishops, Clergy and Laity of our sister Church, to encourage the development of covenant relationships between Episcopal and Roman Catholic Parishes and Missions that thereby our unity in the Body of Christ may be manifested and strengthened".

The Anglican/Roman Catholic Consultation in the U.S.A. at its fourteenth meeting in January 1974 expressed its "enthusiastic reception" of the Canterbury Statement on Ministry and Ordination and its "substantial agreement with it", as well as making some minor comments about it.

In keeping with the principles stated in U.S. A.R.C.'s document "Doctrinal Agreement and Christian Unity: Methodological Considerations", an agenda has been developed for completion by 1976. Each of the topics on the agenda will result in a booklet of studies and consensus statements designed for the use of discussion groups. The topics on the agenda are:

1. The Purpose or Mission of the Church
2. The Church as Eucharistic Fellowship
3. The Ministry as it exists within the Eucharistic Fellowship
4. Authority as the means by which the Nature of the Church and its Mission are safeguarded and Given Effect in the Life of the World. (Special attention to the relation of the papacy to different TYPOI of the Church, i.e. embodiment of the universal church in particular ecclesial communions).
5. Review of the relation between Church Authority and other aspects under which the life of the Church is expressed and understood.

John E. Hines, Presiding Bishop of E.C.U.S.A., and John M. Allim, Presiding Bishop-Elect, described the Canterbury Statement as "a second major milestone in the long journey towards reconciliation between our two churches". In April 1974 Bishop Allinn visited the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity and the Anglican Centre in Rome during a short visit to Europe as part of his preparation for his service as Presiding Bishop.

In March 1974 a three-day Anglican/Roman Catholic workshop took place in New York, sponsored by the Word of God Institute, to explore the ecumenical dimensions of Biblical Preaching.

Other Episcopal/Roman Catholic Conferences have been held, at Graymoor Ecumenical Institute, New York, in Memphis, Tennessee, and elsewhere.

WALES

The Church in Wales/Roman Catholic Joint Working Group has now completed and issued its Interim Report, giving a full account of its theological study and discussion of matters of practical concern over the past three years. The group increasingly find that Anglicans and Roman Catholics stand "close together in the general religious situation in Wales" but they do not see this as "in any way constituting a threat to a wider ecumenism." Reflecting on their dialogue together, they write: "Although unresolved differences remain, we can honestly say that the dialogue revealed a surprisingly large area of agreement between the two Churches. On no account must the differences be minimised. Yet after four centuries of separation it is the area of agreement that should be emphasised - not only as a matter of profound thanksgiving but as providing the basis for continuing growth towards restored communion between our two Churches."

The Joint Working Group has recommended to the Bishops of both Churches that encouragement should be given to the sharing of churches where the need arises, and that the possibility of sharing should be considered before either undertakes the construction of new church buildings.

In conclusion they write: "More important perhaps than the registration of any specific agreement is the fact that the Joint Working Group is in being. Over the past two years mutual confidence has grown and individual friendships have been made. The representatives of the two Churches are learning to understand and appreciate their respective traditions in a new way."

ZAMBIA

In June 1974 a further meeting of the Anglican/Roman Catholic Theological Talks in Zambia took place at Holy Cross Cathedral, Lusaka. The main business was the study of the Canterbury Statement on Ministry and Ordination. It was hoped that there would be quarterly meetings of regional Anglican/Roman Catholic groups in Lusaka and on the Copperbelt. Plans were also made for a meeting of the two Episcopates, and for a common Retreat for Anglicans and Roman Catholics.