



THE ANGLICAN CENTRE IN ROME

CENTRO *News*

| LENT | 2022 |



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR *Christian Unity*

***"Pride is a real obstacle to communion!
We must have the courage of humility,
the one way to come to worship God in
the same house, around the
same altar." Pope Francis***

Cardinal Kurt Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said that just as the Magi found the truth of their own lives in adoring the child in the manger, so "only a theology able to kneel before the mystery will draw us towards unity".

[Read more on page 5](#)

A Pilgrimage to Rome

The Anglican Centre hosted a group of students and pilgrims from America for a two-week course organised by The Living Church Foundation and Nashotah House Theological Seminary. "We shared in prayers as well as historical and ecumenical visits. Those have been transforming days that allowed us all to deepen our experience of communion between Roman Catholic and Anglican / Episcopalian brothers and sisters." Thank you for your visit *e a presto!*

[Read more on page 6](#)



"The Anglican Centre in Rome is an abiding and active witness to and catalyst for Anglicans and Catholics growing together in unity and mission worldwide. Its vocation of promoting dialogue and reconciliation is as vital as ever in today's increasingly fragmented world."

The Rt. Rev. Bruce Myers OGS
Bishop of Quebec and Convenor of the Canadian Friends

A Message FROM THE CHAIR

A continuing commitment to the ACR

Greetings from Ireland! In so far as my local episcopal activities may be of interest to readers, I find myself in the interesting position of being bishop of one diocese at the beginning of Lent and bishop of another when it comes to Easter. After sixteen years in my present position I am about to be translated to the newly-configured and geographically vast diocese of the West of Ireland, to be known as Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. Three points arise that deserve mention here -

- This move does not in any way affect my continuing commitment to the ACR and the work of its governors.
- By an extraordinary quirk of canonical history, my 'opposite number' as bishop of Kilfenora, one of the tiny medieval dioceses incorporated into the new conglomerate, is none other than (at least in theory!) Pope Francis.
- It has been wonderful to receive warm assurances of prayer and support from a range of Roman Catholic bishops both in the diocese I am leaving and the one to which I am going. The recently - retired Anglican bishop of Limerick Kenneth Kearon (sometime Secretary General of the Anglican Communion) and his RC counterpart Bishop Brendan Leahy were amongst the 'IARCCUM pairs' of bishops from many countries commissioned in 2016 to promote growth in communion between our churches and to assist the local reception of the fruits of our theological dialogues. It will be fascinating to move to a diocese where the ecumenical soil has already been made so fertile thanks to this partnership.

I would value your prayers, and as always trust that my diocesan work and my commitment to the ACR can work together for the enrichment of both.

The Rt Rev Michael Burrows

Chair, ACR Governors



FROM THE DIRECTOR

To lead one's own life within the very life of God

Being an Anglican in Rome is experiencing the Church in a certain way. The past months have clearly shown that love is at the heart of the world in spite of the uncertain and troubled times we are living through. Self-denial enabling and supporting everything that we need to build, be it bonds of friendship and avenues of collaboration. In this process of giving and receiving, the Anglican Centre continues to be open to those who wish to walk the extra mile. On this pathway of mutual recognition, we are able as the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope insist upon, to lead one's own life within the very life of God.

The act of prayer is an imperative as it gives energy to the mission that belongs to us here in Rome. With ecumenical partners meeting together in prayer each week around the Word of God, a frame work is provided as we seek to liberate ourselves from an inward-looking perspective to that of being an instrument of grace in our divided world.

Archbishop Ian Ernest

Director, ACR

ACR Friends from Chester Diocese led by Canon Jane Brook and Revd Tim McQuibban visiting the Centre on 15 March 2022

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR *Christian Unity* 2022

17 JANUARY ▶ The week of Prayer for Christian Unity for 2022 was inaugurated by a Vigil of Prayer organized jointly by the Anglican Centre in Rome, the Methodist Ecumenical Office, Rome and the Centro Pro Unione.

VIGIL OF PRAYER

Beyond Separation to God's new paths

Drawing upon the importance of praying together, the directors of the partnering institutions - the Revd Matthew A. Laferty from the Methodist Ecumenical Office Rome, Fr James F. Puglisi from Centro Pro Unione, and Archbishop Ian Ernest, Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, wanted to start their observances of this special week in a simple but powerful act of prayer, inviting friends in Rome and around the world to pray with them.

Fr James F. Puglisi stated:

"We, as separated Christians, feel our sin in our hearts because we cannot be with one another at the celebration of the Eucharist. The celebration of the gifts of Jesus Christ, given broken, poured out for each and everyone. The famous German theologian Jürgen Moltmann made a statement once about the closer we are to the cross of Christ the closer we will discover that we are one people. It is through solitary of suffering, it is through solidarity of love that we realize that each of us has that vocation to be a light in the world."



Hosted by the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome, the Centro Pro Unione and the Anglican Centre in Rome

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Q6cyhrKkBk>

18 January ▶ Father Anthony Curren from the PCPCU was the preacher.



Revd Fr Anthony Curren

Official for Relations with Anglicans and Methodists at the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

TUESDAY EUCHARIST

St Augustine of Canterbury Chapel, ACR

"Every gift that the Spirit gives is intended for the good of all and for the up-building and unity of the whole of God's Holy People."

"Different Christian traditions and communities have different insights, different emphases which they bring to worship. Some might focus on Jesus as the one who comes to establish the justice of the Kingdom, others on his eternal glory, and others again might focus on his loving suffering for us and our salvation. Each insight is a gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gives these gifts to individuals and to particular communities, but they are never given exclusively for the benefit of the recipient."



To read the sermon, please click on:

<https://www.anglicancentreinrome.org/tuesday-eucharist>

19 January ▶ An Ecumenical Service was held at the Chiesa Parrocchia di San Leone I. Abp Ian preached for the occasion.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Chiesa Parrocchiale di San Leone I, Diocese of Rome

An Ecumenical Vigil of Prayer was organized by the Office for Ecumenism and Dialogue of the Diocese of Rome at the church of San Leone I on Wednesday 19 January. Archbishop Ian Ernest preached *in Italiano* on that occasion, which was his *première!*



To read the sermon, please click on:

<https://www.anglicancentreinrome.org/tuesday-eucharist>

20 January ▶ An Ecumenical Service was held at the Parrocchia of Santi Valentino E Ilario in Viterbo. The diocesan bishop Monsignor Lino Fumagalli presided and preached.

"The child whom the Magi went to worship is the one who defeats divisive modes of living by giving His life on the Cross for us. So, as we once again pray for the Unity of Christians, we are invited to offer ourselves to the other and to follow this pathway beyond the barriers that divisions have set before us. This new pathway and the new way of life will enable us to be a light in the world we live and to worship God in truth and spirit and to love him with all our hearts and to love our neighbour as ourselves."



Abp Ian participating in the service

23 January ▶



Rev. David Hodgdon, Pastor, Rome Baptist Church

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ROME

All Saints' Church

The Churches together in Rome, a fellowship of English language churches in Rome, organized a Unity Service at All Saints' Anglican Church. We gathered together for prayers with our Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Evangelical, Anglican, and Lutheran brothers and sisters. The sermon was delivered by Pastor David Hodgdon from Rome Baptist Church.

25 January ▶ His Eminence Cardinal Mario Grech was the preacher.

TUESDAY EUCHARIST, ACR

"Clearly, as a 'body,' the Christian community has an external, historical, institutional dimension. However, the Church's external, institutional dimension is not an end in itself. Just as the human body is meant to be an 'icon' of the soul, so the external dimensions of the Church are meant to manifest in truth our unity in Christ brought about by gift of the Holy Spirit. In our day, perhaps we all are invited to ask ourselves if we have reduced the Church to these external, institutional realities. Have we settled for a religion rather than the Lord Jesus Himself?"



His Eminence Cardinal Mario Grech

Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, Vatican



To read the sermon, please click on:

<https://www.anglicancentreinrome.org/tuesday-eucharist>



VESPERS at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls to conclude the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

On Tuesday 25 January at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Pope Francis presided at Ecumenical Vespers for the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul to conclude the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Holy Father processed into the basilica accompanied by other Christian leaders who minister in the city of Rome, stopping to pray at the tomb of Saint Paul together with His Eminence Metropolitan Polykarpos, the representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and His Grace Archbishop Ian Ernest, the personal representative in Rome of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The theme of the Week of Prayer for this year,
"We saw the Star rise in the East and we came to worship him" (Mt 2:2)
 had been chosen by the Middle Eastern Council of Churches.



To read the Pope's sermon, please click on: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2022/documents/20220125_vespri-unitacristiani.html



IS *Christian Unity* ESSENTIAL?

In this video, Colm Flynn, Vatican Correspondent for EWTN followed this week of prayer and explores whether this unity is necessary.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAL_wHH5bjI

Roman Pilgrimage and the Gift of Unity



In January of 2022, Nashotah House Theological Seminary (Nashotah, WI) and the Living Church Foundation for the second time hosted a group of 24 pilgrims, seminarians, and scholars at the Anglican Centre for a course entitled, "Christian Unity in Rome: Anglican Ecclesiology and Ecumenism." Christopher Wells and I, representing our two institutions, led a lively two weeks of academic seminars that was anchored in daily worship and interspersed visit to various holy places and historical sites, as well as encounters at places as varied as the Centro Pro Unione, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the Lay Center at Foyer Unitas, and with Cardinal Grech, the General Secretariat of the Synod on Synodality. Near the conclusion, we joined with many Christians at St. Paul's Outside the Walls where the Holy Father always leads Vespers to concludes the Week of Prayer and where Archbishop Ian joined in giving the final blessing.

Matthew S. C. Olver, PhD

Assistant Professor of Liturgics and Pastoral Theology
Nashotah House Theological Seminary

In Rome there's not just one "holy, blissful martyr for to seek," but more martyrs and saints and relics than you can count. And our purpose for being together was to see these things, study together, and pray during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. I would highly recommend a pilgrimage to Rome with Christians of different traditions. You'll have the experience you have. But then you'll see it through their eyes, too. Christian unity in our age is the discovery and rediscovery of history together, witnessing God's work together, the confirmation of a shared love of God. It is the uniting and united witness of what the Holy Spirit is doing in any place (helped, I think, by practice in the great Holy Cities), the Spirit who is the deposit and guarantee of our shared inheritance in Christ. Understanding and honoring one another's love for God in its varied (if sometimes contested) expressions, and our various vocations in that love, and sharing them under the roof of the Church — that is ecumenism and its goal. And, like the city of Rome itself, it's a gift of God.

Amber D. Noel

Associate Director, Living Church Institute

More than a diplomatic institution, the Anglican Centre in Rome embodies the hunger and thirst for Christian unity. Inscribed on our broken bodies, and ritualized in the liturgies of the Centre, the anguish of Christian disunity is only redeemable by our full communion in Christ's Body. Until then, "love alone is credible." Thank you, Archbishop Ian, friends, and fellow pilgrims at the Anglican Centre, for your love, hope, and beauty.

Kenneth Amadi
University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA



"The Anglican Centre in Rome is a place marked by genuine witness, hospitality, and Christian fellowship. Archbishop Ernest and his staff went out of their to make our group feel welcome in the Eternal City, and to connect us with Roman Catholic friends as well as other Christians. The Centre deserves to be better known—and supported!—in the Anglican world."

Dr Joseph Mangina
Professor, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto

Exploring how a Synodal Church can be a listening Church



• The Most Revd Linda Nicholls



• Prof Dr Myriam Wijlens



• The Right Revd Dr Vicentia R. Kgabe



• Sr Nathalie Becquart

In the first agreed statement of ARCIC III, 'Walking Together on the Way', the commission explored how our churches might receive from one another. One suggested way among many was that the Catholic Church might draw upon models of synodality found in Anglican churches (para 147).

The opening of the Synodical Journey by Pope Francis gives an opportunity for other churches, including Anglicans, to share their experiences of synodical government with the Catholic Church.

The webinar on 22 February 2022 brought together experts from different parts of the world. From the Catholic side, Professor Myriam Wijlens and Sr Nathalie Becquart, and from the Anglican side, Archbishop Linda Nicholls and Bishop Vicentia Kgabe.

Professor Wijlens and Sr Nathalie set out the background and journey of this new phase of the Synod – seeing it as entirely consistent with the trajectory of the Second Vatican Council and moving the synod from being purely a Synod of Bishops to a Synod of the whole Church. Archbishop Nicholls and Bishop Kgabe outlined Anglican experiences of synodality, pointing out the important role of the laity and other clergy in synodical decisions whilst maintaining the distinctive role of the bishops and also in the legislative functions of synods: it is synods who make law for the Church.

This was a rich and fruitful webinar and the Centre is grateful to the speakers and all those who participated.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS ON KINGSHIP IN THE BIBLE

at the ACR by our scholar in residence, Dr Virginia Miller, every Tuesday at 6 pm in the Saint Augustine chapel. The theme is:

THE KINGS OF THE WORLD *and* THE KING NOT OF THIS WORLD

Virginia Miller is a research fellow at Charles Sturt University, Canberra, Australia. Her research work in biblical studies is focused on kingship in the Bible. Her recent book, *A King and a Fool? The Succession Narrative as a Satire*, discusses the story of King David with reference to irony. Her current research project concerns the theme of divine kingship.



I consider myself an old friend of the Anglican Centre and have always profited from my time spent here. My stay in 2017 contributed to the publication of two books, *Child Sexual Abuse Inquiries and the Catholic Church: Reassessing the Evidence*, and, an edited volume I co-edited with the then director, the Most Revd Sir David Moxon, titled *Leaning into the Spirit: Ecumenical Perspectives on Discernment and Decision-Making in the Church*.

During this visit I will continue my research into child sexual abuse inquiries but also further my work in Biblical Studies. To continue my work in Bible studies I have enrolled in a second doctoral program, this time at the Gregorian University here in Rome. My first doctorate concerned the Old Testament; this second doctorate focuses mainly on the New Testament. However, my aim is to concentrate on the Bible as a composite, but unified, work.



To read the reflections, please click on:

<https://www.anglicancentreinrome.org/news/lenen-reflections-at-the-anglican-centre>

Guests Highlights

Canon Robert Key



'Thy Kingdom Come', the global wave of prayer started by the Archbishop of Canterbury and inspired by the actions of the earliest Christians as recorded in Acts 1:14, has reached around 173 countries around the world. Individuals and congregations agree to pray for five friends or family members who are not yet committed Christians to come to know the saving love of God in Jesus Christ. We also pray "Come Holy Spirit" on our communities and countries that we may be governed by God's Word not the ever-changing whims of secular society. During my visit to Rome, Archbishop Ian arranged for me to meet strategic leaders of mission-focussed departments in the Vatican as well as representatives of the Armenian, Lutheran, Methodist and Scottish churches in Rome. All of this is a wonderful relationship between TKC & the Anglican Centre to encourage all our churches to join in God's great mission of salvation for the world.



<https://www.thykingdomcome.global>

Bishop Precious Omuku

The Anglican Centre hosted Bishop Precious and Martha Jarvis for their meetings with the Vatican and Church of Scotland about an upcoming visit to South Sudan by the Pope, Archbishop of Canterbury and Moderator of the Church of Scotland. This ecumenical visit is in solidarity with the people of South Sudan, who are still experiencing the effects of conflict. Bishop Precious advises the Archbishop of Canterbury on conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa and Martha is part of the Archbishop's Reconciliation Ministry.



Martha Jarvis

Martha also shared more about the Reconciliation Ministry's Difference course. Difference is a 5 session course which explores following Jesus in a conflicted world. It has been run in churches, home groups, prisons and universities around the globe. We live in a messy world full of division – from the level of global conflict right down to our own relationships. Difference equips you to cross divides, navigate disagreement and pursue a just and flourishing world.



If you would like to find out more, visit



<https://difference.rln.global> or contact hello@rln.global



Meet

Joris Felix Bürmann

MA, MDiv - Graduate of the École normale supérieure, Paris

Intern at the ACR

As a missionary sent by The Episcopal Church to the ACR and St. Paul's-within-the-Walls, I rejoice to have the opportunity to assist two different but complementary Anglican ministries in the City of Rome. The realities of a parish and its Refugee Centre are very different from the representation role and ecumenical hospitality which is the mission of the Anglican Centre but they both embody our radical commitment to serving and engaging with people whoever they are and wherever they are from. During these few months, I hope to put my personal, pastoral and listening skills at the service of these ministries and grow in the love and knowledge of God's people while walking together with them.

You can learn more about Joris's work and experience in Rome on his website.



<http://jorisburmann.com>

UPCOMING Event

HOLY MONDAY - 11 April 2022

Vigil of Prayer | 18:30 | ACR Chapel

organised by the Ecumenical Prayer Group

Three short reflections from the Passion narrative - betrayal, denial, and death of Jesus Christ, along with prayers.

Welcome to the ACR newsletter – Centro News

You can access the newsletter at our website: <https://www.anglicancentreinrome.org/>

Information on upcoming events, articles on events and links to homilies, videos of events and other information are available at this site.

Question or suggestions about the newsletter please email: administrator@anglicancentre.it

Join us every Tuesday at 12:45pm (Rome Time) for Holy Eucharist

Live on our Facebook Page "Anglican Centre in Rome"

