

FROM THE MASTER AND THE ADMINISTRATOR

There have inevitably been many responses to the announcement on Tuesday 20 October of the forthcoming publication of an Apostolic Constitution that would provide for some a possible and appropriate way to full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. The details of the Constitution will require careful study and consideration in due course.

We appreciate this initiative from the Holy Father; as Guardians of the Anglican Shrine we remain committed to searching for the paths that lead to unity and wish to identify with the statement by the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster: *The Apostolic Constitution is further recognition of the substantial overlap in faith, doctrine and spirituality between the Catholic Church and the Anglican tradition. Without the dialogues of the past forty years, this recognition would not have been possible, nor would hopes for full visible unity have been nurtured. In this sense, this Apostolic Constitution is one consequence of ecumenical dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion. The on-going official dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion provides the basis for our continuing cooperation. The Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) and International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM) agreements make clear the path we will follow together.*

In Walsingham we speak of two Shrines but one domain. We live daily with the knowledge and joys of our common faith, as well as the reality and diminishment caused by our sad divisions. Our daily prayer is for the unity that Christ wills. Until that gift is realised between our two communions we remain committed to the pattern of discipleship outlined by the Archbishops, in which *“we grow together in unity and mission, in witness to the Gospel in our country, and in the Church at large”*.

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Master of the Guardians

Lindsay Urwin OGS
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