

PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE  
ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC PERMANENT JOINT COMMISSION

DUBLIN, 10TH MAY 1969

Today the following were present at an informal meeting to prepare for the setting up of the Anglican/Roman Catholic Permanent Joint Commission: The Rt. Revd. the Lord Bishop of Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin, Professor Howard Root and Canon John Satterthwaite from the Anglican Communion and the Revd. Fr. J. Hamer, O.P., General Secretary of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, the Rt. Revd. Dom Christopher Butler, O.S.B. and the Very Revd. Canon William Purdy from the Roman Catholic Church.

The Bishop of Ossory spoke of his recent meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury and outlined the hopes expressed by His Grace for the Permanent Joint Commission. Father Hamer then gave his views and it was agreed that the aims appeared to be identical. The function of the Commission was discussed (with reference to paragraph 21 of the Malta Report) and it was agreed that the Joint Commission should have oversight of major Anglican/Roman Catholic dialogue and help in the co-ordination of this in all parts of the world, and that the Commission should also begin as soon as possible serious theological dialogue on the points at issue, listed in the Malta Report.

The Bishop of Ossory stressed the desirability of some solution being pressed for over the thorny problem of Mixed Marriages, and he spoke of the particular concern over this matter, both of the Archbishop of Canterbury and also of the Archbishop of Dublin (Anglican Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Mixed Marriages).

The Bishop of Ossory said that he himself thought that four sub-commissions would be necessary so that particular study could be given to the following matters:

(a) a thorough examination of the Faith which was held in common by our two Churches.

(b) a study of Church and Ministry, with reference also to Intercommunion.

(c) the question of authority, its nature, exercise and implications.

and (d) special consideration to be given to certain aspects of Moral Theology.

Canon Satterthwaite expressed the hope that the Commission would be able to promote regional dialogue, in addition to continuing its own theological conversations, and that the work of the Commission should not be allowed to become too diverse without any aim in view.