MALINES CONVERSATIONS GROUP

COMMUNIQUÉ
MARCH 29, 2019

The seventh international meeting of the Malines Conversations Group took place in York, UK, between Sunday 24th March and Thursday 28th March 2017. Under the patronage of The Right Reverend and Right Honourable The Lord Williams of Oystermouth (former Archbishop of Canterbury), this informal group comprises Anglican and Roman Catholic theologians from seven different countries and meets with the blessing and support of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity and Lambeth Palace. It includes members of both ARCIC and IARCCUM.

The Group was hosted by the Dean and Chapter of York, and welcomed by the Dean, The Right Revd Dr Jonathan Frost. Celebrating the historic relationship between the Archdiocese of Malines and the Diocese of York, Cardinal Josef de Kesel was represented throughout the meeting by the Bishop of Liège, The Right Revd Dr Jean-Pierre Delville, who gave a paper entitled *The Eucharist in the context of a divided Church*. The Group visited the Community and College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, for a seminar, and joined with the Community for a celebration of the Eucharist having viewed items belonging to Bishop Walter Frere CR, a participant in the original conversations. On the final evening, the group attended Evening Prayer at the Parish Church of Kirby Underdale, where a window commemorates Cardinal Mercier and Viscount Halifax. The Group joined the Earl and Countess of Halifax for dinner, at which Lord Halifax spoke movingly about his ecumenically-pioneering great-Grandfather.

During seminars and conversations, the Group was once again guided in its thinking about scripture by The Revd Professor Gordon Lathrop, in considering issues around gender by Professor Joseph Selling of KU Leuven, and in exploring canonical questions by The Revd Professor Georges-Henri Ruyssen SJ, of the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome. The social entrepreneur and impact consultant Jurgen Mortier also led a working session on organisational strategy. This year's gathering focussed in particular on issues of gender, orders and Eucharist, responding to the challenge laid down for our churches to find new yet faithful ways of considering old problems in the context of a communion ecclesiology.

The meeting took place within the context of daily prayer in York Minster, and concluded with a celebration of the Eucharist with the Mercier Chalice, in which is set the Episcopal Ring of Cardinal Mercier. In the week after his funeral, the Group prayed in particular for their former patron Cardinal Godfried Danneels who died on 14th March 2019. May the Lord grant him eternal rest.

The Malines Conversation Group is immensely grateful to all its sponsors and supporters, Anglican and Catholic alike. An eighth meeting is planned for next Spring, in Madeira, where Viscount Halifax first met the Abbé Portal. Preparations are also underway for the centenary of the Conversations in December 2021.

ANGLICAN MEMBERS:

The Most Revd David Hamid, *Suffragan Bishop of the Church of England Diocese in Europe; Co-chairman of IARCCUM*

The Most Revd David Moxon, *Former Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Holy See and the director of the Anglican Centre in Rome; Former Co-Chairman of ARCIC III*

The Revd Canon Professor Emeritus Sarah Coakley, *Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity Emerita, University of Cambridge, UK*

The Revd Dr Jennifer Cooper, *Director of Initial Ministerial Eduction, Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle; Research Fellow, Campion Hall Oxford*

The Revd Dr James Hawkey, *Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey and Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge; member of the International Anglican-Reformed Dialogue.*

The Revd Dr Jeremy Morris, *Master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge; Senior Associate of the Cambridge Theological Federation, Affiliated Lecturer at the Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge University, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society*

The Very Revd Canon David Richardson, *Former representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Holy See and director of the Anglican Centre in Rome*

The Revd Canon Professor Nicholas Sagovsky, *Former Canon Theologian at Westminster Abbey; member of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission* (*ARCIC*)

CATHOLIC MEMBERS:

His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Tobin, C.Ss.R, *Archbishop of Newark* - not present -

Revd Anthony Currer, *Secretary to the Anglican and Methodist dialogues at the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Rome*

The Revd Professor Marc R. Francis, *President of The Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Illinois* - not present -

Professor Joris Geldhof, *Professor of liturgical studies and sacramental theology at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium; Chair of the Liturgical Institute Leuven; Editor-in-chief of the bilingual journal Questions Liturgiques/Studies in Liturgy; President of Societas Liturgica*

Dr Maryana Hnyp, *Coordinator of Inter-Religious Affairs, KU Leuven; Institutional Development Officer, Caritas Europe*

Professor Arnaud Join-Lambert, *Professor of Practical Theology and Liturgy at the Université Catholique de Louvain* - not present -

Revd Professor Keith Pecklers, SJ, *Professor of Liturgy at the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome), Professor of Liturgical History at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute of Sant'Anselmo (Rome); Founding president of the International Jungmann Society*

Revd Professor Thomas Pott OSB, *Monastery of Chevetogne (Belgium); Professor of Oriental Liturgy and Sacramentology at the Pontifical Atheneum Sant'Anselmo and at the Pontifical Oriental Institute (Rome); Consultor of the Sacred Congregation for the Eastern Churches and of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity*

Revd Cyrille Vael OSB, *Monastery of Chevetogne (Belgium); Advisor of NNE (New Narrative for Europe) of the Department for Promotion and Protection of the Regional Cultural Heritage of Europe (European Commission)*

GUESTS:

The Rt Revd Professor Jean-Pierre Delville, *Bishop of Liège, Belgium*

The Rt Revd Dr David Stancliffe, *Former Bishop of Salisbury and Chairman of the Church of England Liturgical Committee*

The Revd Professor Gordon Lathrop, *Professor Emeritus of Liturgy at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia*

The Revd Dr Benjamin Gordon-Taylor, *Dean of Chapel, Lecturer and Tutor, College of the Resurrection, Mirfield; Director of the Mirfield Liturgical Institute*

Professor Dr Joseph Selling, *Professor Emeritus of Theological Ethics, KU Leuven*

Mr. Jurgen Mortier, *Social Entrepreneur and Impact Consultant; Founder and Director of Embrace Foundation*

The Revd Professor Georges-Henri Ruyssen, SJ, *Dean of the Faculty of Eastern Canon Law of the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome*