

Dear Sir,

As Anglican Co-Secretary of both the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), which is responsible for theological dialogue between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church, and the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM), which seeks to find practical application for the fruits of that dialogue, I was rather surprised to hear it reported that “top level unity talks ... have collapsed” (Telegraph, 1<sup>st</sup> December).

It is hard to know where to begin addressing such a monumental misrepresentation. ARCIC is due to finish its work on an agreed statement on the Virgin Mary next year, but talks have already begun in planning the continued life and work of the Commission, and a replacement for Bishop Frank Griswold is being actively sought at the moment, in order to carry that commission’s work into the next phase of its life.

IARCCUM, which works alongside ARCIC and is not intended to supersede it, is having to put on hold its work on a Common Statement of Faith – understandably so in the light of the uncertainty in the life of the Anglican Communion at the moment - but whilst the plenary session planned for early next year has been postponed, both the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) and the Anglican Communion Office are encouraging the sub-committees to continue their work in preparation for the day when the Commission can hold its next plenary session. Indeed, only last week the President of the PCPCU acceded to a request from the Archbishop of Canterbury to refer the ecclesiological issues raised by recent developments to a new ad hoc sub-committee of the Commission, which will meet early next year.

So whilst it is true that the Roman Catholic Church has indicated that recent developments in the Anglican Communion do constitute a new obstacle on the path to full visible unity, the “top level unity talks” continue. As Cardinal Kasper, the President of PCPCU, said to the Archbishop of Canterbury when he visited Rome in October, we will continue to talk.

Yours faithfully

Gregory K Cameron  
Director of Ecumenical Affairs at the Anglican Communion Office  
Anglican Co-Secretary of ARCIC and IARCCUM