

The 'rotten fruit' of ARCIC: Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission

The following is an extract from my December 2003 ministry newsletter 'News From The Front' –

• ENGLAND – MARCH 2004

I have been invited by the United Protestant Council to speak at their Annual Public Meeting on Saturday 6 March 2004 [DV]. The meeting is scheduled to be held at 2.00pm in St John's Wood Road Baptist Church, London NW8. The topic I have been asked to speak on is – 'Evangelising Roman Catholics'.

In the course of my talk, I said the following –

In the wake of **Vatican 2**, what seems like a never-ending series of **initiatives** and **individuals** have emerged with the common purpose of **eroding** and **eradicating** the Christian belief in the '**NEED TO EVANGELISE ROMAN CATHOLICS**'.

I believe it is important for our understanding and protection to identify some of these **initiatives** and **individuals**.

1. From 1981 onwards, a group called the **ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION [ARCIC]** produced a series of documents. One was called '**SALVATION AND THE CHURCH**' and in the **CONCLUSION [paragraph 32]** we read –
'The balance and coherence of the constitutive elements of the Christian doctrine of salvation had become partially obscured in the course of history and controversy. In our work we have tried to rediscover that balance and coherence and to express it together. We are agreed that this is not an area where any remaining differences of theological interpretation or ecclesiological emphasis, either within or between our Communion, can justify our continuing separation. **We believe that our two Communion are agreed on the essential aspects of the doctrine of salvation and on the Church's role within it**'. [Catholic Truth Society Booklet p26: ISBN 0 85183 692 5] (CTS)

So, in the opinion of the **12 Anglicans** of **ARCIC** there would be **'NO NEED TO EVANGELISE ROMAN CATHOLICS'** as they and **ROME** **'are agreed on the essential aspects of the doctrine of salvation'**.

A further ARCIC III document was issued and a Roman Catholic appraisal of it can be viewed on –

<https://cruxnow.com/church-in-uk-and-ireland/2018/07/arcic-document-hailed-as-groundbreaking-by-catholics-and-anglicans>

In that document we read –

Paula Gooder, a British theologian and an Anglican member of the commission, known as ARCIC III, described the statement reflecting on authority and ecclesial communion as “groundbreaking.” **“We feel that ... we are walking together more closely than ever,”** Gooder told *Catholic News Service* in a July 2 telephone interview. “I think this is a really important document.” **She described the commission’s work as entering “new territory”** and that she sees “great potential for future conversations and that is really exciting.”

Despite acknowledging the reality of problems posed by the Anglican attitude to women ‘holding ‘office’ it seems evident from what has happened at the Vatican in recent times that Rome and The Pope are willing to ‘compromise’ when it suits their agenda. I’m referring of course to the visit to Rome by the so-called ‘Archbishop of Canterbury’, Sarah Mullally. Here are some photos of her visit –





Ms Mullally said to the Pope – ‘Your Holiness, thank you for your gracious welcome today. It was a joy and honour to meet and pray with you. In the years to come, I will remain united with you in prayer: for peace in our world, for justice, and for every person to discover the fullness of life that God offers. We are sustained by hope – a hope grounded in Christ himself, who calls us forward, even when the way is not yet fully clear. **May we continue to walk together** in that hope, trusting that the one who has begun this good work among us will bring it to completion.’

The following is a part of the report of another engagement she carried out whilst in Rome –

‘On the day of her audience with Pope Leo XIV, Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally commissioned the Anglican Centre in Rome’s Director, Bishop Anthony Ball, as her Representative to the Holy See. Bishop Ball was previously commissioned in his role as Director in May 2025, during the time of the vacancy in the See of Canterbury.

The Service of Choral Evensong took place on Monday evening in Chiesa Sant’ Ignazio di Loyola, which was consecrated in 1626 in honour of St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuit Order. The preacher was His Eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect in the Dicastery for Evangelization. Worship was led by a choir drawn from All Saints’ Church and St Paul’s Within the Walls, and the New Chamber Singers.’

My sadly, late brother in Christ, Shaun Willcock wrote a very helpful booklet called **'The Jesuits: The Secret Army of the Papacy.'** On the back cover of Shaun's booklet, he wrote – **'History is filled with evidence of Jesuit intrigue, deception, duplicity, plots, murders and attempted murders etc. And against Protestantism, in particular, the Jesuits have always directed their energies by INFILTRATION of Protestant churches'.**" This is a time when so little is known of the Jesuits, and yet so much needs to be known. And this is the purpose of this book'.

On page 48 of his booklet, Shaun wrote - **'Christians must be aware of the bigger picture: that there are forces at work, under the direction of the evil "god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4) waging war against the Church of Christ and the true Gospel, that Romanism, "the Mother of Harlots" (Revelation 17:5) has always been the greatest enemy of the Church and the Gospel, and that the Jesuits are therefore at the very centre of Satan's purposes, for they truly rule over the Papal system. The evidence speaks for itself: let all Christians take heed.'**

The **'rotten fruit'** of the ARCIC process is manifest in Ms Mullally having no problems about 'officiating' at a commissioning service in a building dedicated to the memory of **Ignatius Loyola** – a man whose main purpose in life was to reverse the soul-liberating truths rediscovered at the time of The Reformation. I wrote quite extensively about Mr Loyola in the article located on this link –

<https://www.takeheed.info/maynooth-community-church-promoting-the-jesuit-cause/>

Seeing the horrendous apostasy that is now 'mainstream' for the Church of England brought to mind some words written by that wonderful 19th century man of God, Bishop J C Ryle, a former Anglican Bishop of Liverpool. In his book **'Warnings to the Churches'** he wrote –

'False doctrine, even in our own day and under our own eyes, is eating out the heart of the Church of England and periling her existence. One school of Churchmen does not hesitate to avow its dislike to the principles of the Reformation, and compasses sea and land to Romanize the establishment ...I protest against the common notion so often proclaimed by men in high places that UNITY is of more importance than sound doctrine and PEACE more valuable than truth (pp 126-128) ...

What is the religion that prevails around St Peter's and under the walls of the Vatican? What is Romanism at Rome, unfettered, unshackled, and free to develop itself in full perfection? ... Romanism in perfection is a gigantic system of Church-worship, Sacrament-worship, Mary-worship, saint-worship, image-worship, relic-worship and priest-worship. – that it is, in one word, a huge organised IDOLATRY ... the Church of Rome is an IDOLATROUS Church (pp 157-158)

It is vain to deny that a large party of English clergy and laity in the present day (1870's) are moving heaven and earth to reunite the Church of England with the idolatrous Church of Rome ... Hundreds of men and women have fairly and honestly left our ranks, and become downright Papists. But many hundreds more have stayed behind and are yet nominal Churchmen within our pale. The pompous semi-Romish ceremonial which has been introduced into many churches, has prepared men's minds for changes ... I hold, for one, that this Romish movement ought to be steadily and firmly resisted ... I regard it as a most mischievous, soul ruining and unscriptural movement. **To say that reunion with Rome would be an insult to our Martyred Reformers, is a very light thing; it is far more than this: it would be a sin and an offence against God** ... I write these things with sorrow ... I have very grave fears indeed. The tide of events seems running strongly against Protestantism and in favour of Rome ... all Bible-reading Christians must either leave the Church of England, or else sanction idol-worship and become idolaters!' (pp 164-167)

If Bishop Ryle were alive today to witness Ms Mullally and her visit to Rome, I somehow feel he would be the first 'out the door' if ARCIC hadn't already driven him to take that principled action.