

EDITORIAL

'Nuntio vobis gaudium magnum: habemus Papam'

Cardinal Arturo Medina Jorge Estévez, St Peter's Rome, 19 April 2005

Moments of serendipity are to be treasured. One such was the coincidence of the Sixth Colloquium of Anglican and Roman Catholic Canon Lawyers meeting in Rome and the election of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as the 265th Pontiff. That the Anglican team should arrive in the city on the first full day of the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI could never have been predicted when the event was planned. It instilled a vitality to the meeting as well as imposing practical problems for Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Holy See and the Director of the Anglican Centre, each of whom honoured their commitment to host parts of the event despite the additional demands placed on their time and energies.

His Holiness Pope John Paul II, when meeting the Anglican Canonists on the eve of the First Colloquium at an audience on 28 April 1999, had spoken warmly of the study of canon law as an instrument of ecumenism and with some fondness for Wales. His encyclical letter *Ut Unum Sint* (1998) had expressed a desire for unity and convergence, and this was carried forward in discussions between successive Archbishops of Canterbury and Cardinal Walter Kasper of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity. The work of the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM), after a short hiatus, is now back on track, and already Pope Benedict XVI has through deeds and actions committed himself towards a meaningful dialogue on ecumenism. The work of the Colloquium of Anglican and Roman Catholic Canon Lawyers will provide a focus for a conversation on practical issues in relation to recognition of orders and the Petrine office.

Likewise the work of the Ecclesiastical Law Society continues to feature ecumenism. In this Issue is reproduced the text of the fifth Lyndwood Lecture 'Mixed Marriages: Conversations in Theology, Ecumenism, Canon Law and Pastoral Practice' by Bishop John McAreevey. This erudite and thoughtful study gives a scholarly analysis of a subject which continues to touch deeply upon family life in many instances. The growing collaboration between this Society and the Canon Law Society for Great Britain and Ireland is to be welcomed and the warm hospitality afforded in the Throne Room of Archbishop's House, Westminster cemented bonds of affinity.

The Anglican Covenant proposed by the Lambeth Commission in the Windsor Report is the subject of a paper by Professor Norman Doe, who was a member of the Commission, and whose work in the renaissance of the study of ecclesiastical law was recently acknowledged by the conferral of a Lambeth DCL. The Bishop of Chester considers the significance of the Declaration of Assent, being a revised version of a paper which

he delivered at the Society's 2004 conference in York considering clergy discipline in relation to matters of doctrine.

On a slightly broader theme is the text of the 2003 Warburton Lecture delivered by Lord Bingham of Cornhill, senior Law Lord, considering the nature of religion in the formulation of the modern discussion on human rights, and a paper on Church and State in the emergent democracies in Eastern Europe by a distinguished Hungarian scholar, Balázs Schanda. Room permits only one of the briefer comment pieces, but the subject is timely and controversial as Javier Garcia Oliva reflects on the increasingly hostile relationship between the Catholic Church and the Socialist Government in Spain.

The Temple Talks were established a few years ago as a means of promoting the Ecclesiastical Law Society by inviting distinguished scholars to give lectures on subjects of interest to both members and non-members. They have become a regular feature of the ELS calendar, and most of the lectures have been reproduced in this Journal. Previous speakers have been: Professor Richard Helmholz (Ruth Wyatt Rosenson Professor of Law in the University of Chicago) 'Discipline of the Clergy: Medieval and Modern' (2002) 6 Ecc LJ 189; Professor Jonathan Riley-Smith (Dixie Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Cambridge) 'Were the Templars guilty? Their responses to interrogation by the inquisition and by papal and episcopal commissions, 1307-1312'; Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch (Professor of the History of the Church in the University of Oxford) 'The Birth of Anglicanism' (2004) 7 Ecc LJ 418; Professor Eamon Duffy (Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Cambridge) 'The Shock of Change: Continuity and Discontinuity in the Elizabethan Church of England' (2004) 7 Ecc LJ 429.

This year, the Society is delighted that its Patron, the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr Rowan Williams, has agreed to give the Temple Talk. It will be on the work and legacy of Richard Hooker, a subject upon which the Archbishop has written recently in his volume *Anglican Identities*, and which is particularly apt for exposition in the Temple Church itself of which Hooker was Master.

The precise details are yet to be finalised and further information will be circulated in due course. However, it is intended that the lecture will follow the pattern of previous years. It will be given in the Temple Church, off Fleet Street, at 6.30 pm on **Wednesday 26 October 2005** immediately preceded by Choral Evensong at 5.45 sung by the choir. The lecture will be followed by a reception in Inner Temple Hall. **A booking form is included with this Issue of the Journal.**

I am pleased to welcome to the Editorial Advisory Board, Professor Norman Doe, Director of the Centre for Law and Religion at Cardiff University, Sir John Laws, a Lord Justice of Appeal, Dr Julian Rivers of Bristol University, Professor Ian Leigh of Durham University and Professor

Marco Ventura of the University of Siena. Professor Francis Lyall has stood down after many years of service. The Editorial Committee, which has not met for some years has now been formally disbanded, and I should like to express my thanks to all those who have served on this Committee under my editorship and that of my predecessor. Frank Cranmer has taken over from James Behrens the responsibility for collating synod reports and he will also be responsible for parliamentary material; and the important work of Lindsay Yates as the Society's Education Officer is recognised by bringing her within the editorial team.

I indicated at the Society's residential conference in Bath in January 2005 that I would welcome feedback on the style and content of this Journal. As the readership continues to expand, and the size and catholicity of the Issues increase, I am happy to repeat that invitation in print.

Mark Hill
Editor