ARCIC

The Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission

COMMUNIQUÉ

October 2026

The Anglican–Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) held a plenary meeting, online, on 5 October. The meeting marked the conclusion of the second phase of the work of ARCIC III, which began in 2019. During the meeting, the members of the Commission approved the final draft of the Agreed Statement for this phase of their work, ***While They Were Talking and Discussing: Learning to Do Moral Discernment in Communion***. An editorial sub-committee has worked since the Commission's previous plenary meeting, in Melbourne, Australia in October 2025, to complete the Agreed Statement, sharing drafts of their work with the full commission for comment, in advance of circulating the final draft for approval.

The Agreed Statement consists of an Introduction and four chapters.

Introduction *'While they were talking and discussing'* (Lk 24:15)*:*
The Challenge of Doing Moral Discernment in Communion

Chapter 1 *'Two of them were going to a village called Emmaus'* (Lk 24:13)*:*
The Way Already Travelled

Chapter 2 *'The apostles and the elders met together'* (Acts 15:6)*:*
Sharing Moral Discernment in Communion

Chapter 3 *'Their eyes were kept from recognising him'* (Lk 24:16)*:*
Case Studies in Moral Discernment and Ecclesial Wounds

Chapter 4 *'You are witnesses of these things'* (Lk 24:48)*:*
Moral Theology for a Synodal Church

The Statement will be published in the coming months with an official Roman Catholic commentary. The document will also be reviewed by the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith and Order, with a view to its eventual commendation for reception at the next meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council, which will take place in India in 2029.

When published, this Agreed Statement will complement the first document published by ARCIC III, ***Walking Together on the Way: Learning to be the Church – Local, Regional and Universal*** (2018). With the finalisation of its second Agreed Statement, ARCIC III has now completed its work in response to the mandate it received from the late Pope Benedict XVI and Archbishop Rowan Williams, to study 'the Church as Communion, local and universal, and how in communion the local and universal Church come to discern right ethical teaching.'

Participants in meetings of ARCIC during the period 2019-2026

Anglican Communion

Co-Chair
The Most Revd Philip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne, *Anglican Church of Australia*

Members
Dr Moeawa Callaghan, *Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia*
The Revd Dr Isaias Ezequiel Chachine, *Anglican Church of Southern Africa*
The Revd Dr Stewart Clem, *The Episcopal Church* (2023-2026)
Canon Dr Paula Gooder, *Church of England* (2019)
The Rt Revd Garth Minott, *Church of the Province of the West Indies*
The Most Revd Linda Nicholls, *Anglican Church of Canada*
The Reverend Dr Alexander Ross, *Anglican Church of Australia*
The Revd Canon Dr Peter Sedgwick, *Church in Wales*

Consultant
The Rt Revd Christopher Hill KCVO, Church of England

Co-Secretaries
The Ven. Dr William Adam, *Anglican Communion Office* (2019–2022)
Canon Dr Christopher Wells, *Anglican Communion Office* (2022–2026)

Staff
The Revd Neil Vigers, *Anglican Communion Office*
The Ven. Jonathan Gough

Catholic Church

Co-Chair
The Most Revd Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham, *England*

Members
Sister Margaret Atkins OSA, *England* (2019-2020)
The Revd Albino Barrera OP, *USA*
The Revd Paul Béré SJ, *Italy*
The Most Revd Robert Christian OP, *USA* (2019)†
Prof. Kristin Colberg, *USA*
Prof. Sigrid Müller, *Austria*
Prof. Emmanuel Nathan, *Australia*
The Revd Prof. Vimal Tirimanna CSsR, *Sri Lanka*

Consultants
Prof. Paul Murray, *England*
The Revd Anthony Currer, *England* (2023-2026)

Co-Secretaries
The Revd Anthony Currer, *Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity* (2019–2022)
The Revd Martin Browne OSB, *Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity* (2022–2026)

World Council of Churches Observer
Prof. Myriam Wijlens, *Germany*