



News Release

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Anglican Anger Naïve

Expressions of anger by senior members of the Church of England against the Roman Catholic Church was criticised today at a meeting at the York General Synod. The reaction was described as surprising and naïve.

Church leaders had been said to be angry and surprised at a recent Roman Catholic statement on unity entitled *Dominus Iesus*. This statement had called into question the status of the Church of England and of its clergy. However, the meeting was told that *Dominus Iesus* had done no more than repeat the well known teaching of the Pope and the Second Vatican Council.

One of the speakers, Dr Garry Williams, argued that the Roman Catholic Church had not changed its views on the key issues which divided Christians nearly 500 years ago. The Second Vatican Council had, he said, added ideas such as 'collegiality' and given new importance to the laity. However, these things had not altered the old teaching on salvation, the authority of the Pope and on Mary.

The meeting was held in advance of a presentation and discussion at the Synod on Christian Unity.

The Bishop of Bristol, Barry Rogerson, attending the meeting, argued that unity already exists because of common baptism. Dr Williams countered that there is no common understanding of baptism and that true union can only be based on a shared faith in the biblical gospel.

Dr Williams stated that "Anglicans should pray for the Roman Catholic Church to change her mind. That is the true path toward reunion."

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Church Society exists to uphold biblical teaching and to promote and defend the character of the Church of England as a reformed and national Church.

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