



## Press Release

### Anglican and Catholic bishops pray at the Church of San Gregorio al Celio as Ecumenical Summit prepares to travel to Canterbury

This week's "Growing Together" summit has seen pairs of Anglican and Catholic bishops gather for a series of ecumenical discussions and visits to holy sites in Rome, that have significance to the common roots shared by both traditions.

Today, before the summit moves to Canterbury for the second phase of the programme, the bishops gathered to pray at the Church of San Gregorio al Celio during their last day in Rome. It was a fitting location, as San Gregorio al Celio is the church from where St Augustine was sent to England by Pope Gregory the Great in 597, to be the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

During the service, Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop Anthony Poggio, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, along with Archbishop Donald Bolen and Bishop David Hamid (Co-Chairs of IARCCUM) stood at the Chair of Gregory the Great.

The Catholic and Anglican bishop pairing from England (Bishop Peter Collins, East Anglia and Bishop Stephen Race, Beverley) read from the Letter of St Gregory the Great to St Augustine of Canterbury.

During their time in Canterbury (26-29 January), the bishops will make pilgrimage visits that include a candlelit tour of Canterbury Cathedral, a Vigil Mass of St Thomas of Canterbury parish and Cathedral Eucharist, where Cardinal Stephen Chow will preach.

The summit will also continue ecumenical discussions on joint witness and mission, and work on the preparation of a Joint Statement, for how the bishops will take forward the fruits of their discussion in their home dioceses.

***Speaking of their highlights from the programme in Rome, the Chairs of the Summit, Archbishop Donald Bolen, Archbishop of Regina, Canada and Bishop David Hamid, Suffragan Bishop in Europe said:***

*"During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Gathering together like this as Anglican and Catholic bishops is extremely important, especially at such a time as this when the world is so fragmented. Visiting Rome has been a special opportunity to meet and pray at*



*holy sites that hold significance to both our faith traditions. The commissioning we have received this week from Pope Francis and The Archbishop of Canterbury reminds us again that the faith we share is a sending faith that goes out into the world to serve, bring transformation and share the saving love of Christ. We are looking forward to our ongoing discussions in Canterbury.”*

## **Ends**

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About IARCCUM**

- IARCCUM aims to foster closer co-operation between the Anglican and Roman Catholic traditions and put into practice progress made in theological conversations.
- It works through pairs of bishops in particular countries, one Anglican and one Roman Catholic, meeting together and promoting shared mission.
- It was established in 2000, by Archbishop George Carey and Cardinal Edward Cassidy, the then President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.
- IARCCUM's work is co-chaired by Bishop David Hamid, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese in Europe, and Archbishop Donald Bolen, the Catholic Archbishop of Regina, Saskatchewan. It is supported by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome and the Anglican Communion Office, Secretariat to the Anglican Communion.

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### **Press photos are available here and will be uploaded during the week:**

<http://tinyurl.com/iarccuspressphoto>

Password (lower case) iarccum@press

### **News releases**

The Anglican Communion Office will share a series of new releases, social media commentary, photos and short film clips during the week. Channels used will include:

#### **The Anglican Communion office website:**

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/communications/press-and-media.aspx>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheAnglicanCommunion>

X: <https://twitter.com/AnglicanWorld>



**Anglican Communion News Service:**

<https://www.anglicannews.org/>

X: <https://twitter.com/AnglicanNews>

*Some news and stories will also be shared on:*

**IARCCUM website:** <https://iarccum.org/>

**The Archbishop of Canterbury / Lambeth Palace:**

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ArchbishopofCanterbury>

X: <https://twitter.com/JustinWelby>