

# *Newsletter*

LUSITANIAN CHURCH (PORTUGAL) ANGLICAN COMMUNION

JANUARY 2020





# Welcome the New

*D. Jorge Pina Cabral  
Diocesan Bishop*

Says an old Legend at the lands, of “Trás os Montes” – Northern Portugal, that on the evening of the year, the old year and the New Year meet together crossing the river over the foals. Lighter, given its natural physical freshness and less loaded with accumulated baggage and traditions over time, the New Year is able to reach the fringes first, thus overthrowing the old year. The story is told to the children trying to give an explanation for the success of the years, presenting the alternation between the old and the new, as something natural and necessary for the renewal of our own individual and collective walk.

This is the sense of the necessary complementarity, that must exist between different generations, and becomes today, and in nowadays, an imperative for our own collective survival. Facing a power, exercised in different areas, for generations somehow old in age and in thought, it is increasingly evident the importance of knowing how to listen, dialogue and cooperate with younger generations in solving the problems of our common house.

The aphorism that "young people are the future of humanity" is overtaken by the lucid, prophetic and transformative role of thousands of young people in different parts of the world. Young people like Pakistani Malala Yousafzai, who at the age of 17 won the Nobel Peace Prize for her activism for the right to education of young women, and Greta Thunberg, the 17-year-old Swedish activist who has become the world-face in the fight against climate change is the visible expression of this renewal and transformation that is already present.

In this regard, and in his New Year 2020 message, United Nations General-Secretary António Guterres stated that "young people are the greatest source of hope" and that the "world needs its active ingenuity", urging them to “thinking big and overcoming barriers while putting pressure on policy makers”<sup>1</sup>

As accepting this challenge and assuming it as an incarnate faith, fifteen thousand young Christians from different ecclesial traditions, including young people from the Lusitanian Church, met this year's end in Wroclaw, Poland at the invitation of the Taizé community. Facing the cold weather and enduring challenging travels of thousands of kilometers, the young people knew how to say: “present”. Together they prayed and reflected on three important challenges that they intend to work on throughout the year: narrowing the gulf between rich and poor; welcome immigrants and refugees; promote peace among humans in solidarity with creation as well. This is Ecumenism in its full expression! At the beginning of a new year, it is important to be aware of the “signs of the times” (Mt 16,3) and to assume that young people “are not God's future but God's now”<sup>2</sup>

Of this spoke to us and continues to speak the Christmas we celebrated, when the Word incarnated in a child, breakout down barriers and distances and intergenerational distances between them. The amazing news of Christmas comes to us through a child, not an adult. In Jesus Christ, we realize that the old is no longer valid, and what was yesterday is not for life. Welcoming the contribution of the young, even in their fragility and humility, is not a favor that is done, but an obligation that is imposed on anyone who wants to be open to what is new.

Happy New 2020!

+ Jorge

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fVXUeA6HQ>

2. Papa Francisco – Homilia JMJ 2019



# ANGLICANISM COURSE

*Highlighted at IAET School Year opening*

The solemn opening of the School Year of the Anglican Institute of Theological Studies of the Lusitanian Church (IAET) took place on Saturday 23 November at the premises of the parish of the Good Shepherd in Vila Nova de Gaia. The session was attended by most of the students of the Institute and other clergy and parish leaders; It began with a Eucharistic celebration presided by the diocesan Bishop, Jorge Pina Cabral, followed by a lunch in the dining hall of the Good Shepherd community center.

In the afternoon, the guests of honor were the Reverend Canon Carmen Etel Gomes and Lucia dal Pont Sirtoli, coordinators of the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil (IEAB) Center for Anglican Studies (CEA). With this Study Center, IAET has been developing, for about two years, a partnership to make available to the students of the Lusitanian Church of the Distance Course «Immersion in Anglicanism», which now begins the second year of attendance for Portuguese students.

## IAET PREPARES NEW PROJECTS

The course “Immersion in Anglicanism (an introduction to Anglican ecclesiology and spirituality)” will continue to be the Institute's main action in this School Year 2019-2020. Especially now as the original course content will now be adapted modules to the reality of the Lusitanian Church (in the Liturgy and Church History disciplines) and a new compulsory subject, fully prepared by IAET professors and dedicated to Intentional Discipleship.

In the meantime, the activities using the Pilgrim course will continue, with new groups already in operation, and a new mini-course for small study groups is in the early stages of preparation, similar to the previous one entitled 'The Joy of the Gospel'. It is a collection of studies by Paula Gooder based on Pope Francis' recent exhortation on the proclamation of the Gospel in the present world. Other short-term training activities are also being planned to rehearse a response to specific needs of the Church, which will be reported in good time.

# Bishops *of* Lusitanian Church Gallery

On October 22nd, at the Diocesan Center of the Lusitanian Church, another portrait was placed at the gallery of diocesan bishops, this time of the Bishop Emeritus D. Fernando da Luz Soares. This ceremony, simple but very significant, was attended by numerous relatives, friends and people of the Church who thus wanted to testify to Bishop Emeritus his affection and recognition. In his speech, the current Diocesan Bishop underlined his joy and gratitude to God for the tireless and dedicated episcopate exercised by his predecessor. He also expressed a heartfelt word of appreciation about his family members present for the way they knew how to be with their husband, father and grandfather in the natural demands that an episcopate always carries.

In his turn, D. Fernando thanked everyone for his presence, and underlined in his speech that he would like to be remembered as a layman and a Christian, called to serve God in unexpected circumstances in his life, from the call to the became a Reader to the call made by God and the Church for the episcopate. The event, interspersed with hymns and songs of thanksgiving to God, also deepened the awareness and recognition of the historical episcopate as God's gift to his Church.

The painting is by Mestre Carlos Campos, retired professor at the School of Fine Arts of Porto, who had previously collaborated with the Lusitanian Church. The current gallery of paintings will now be properly photographed, to be installed at the Lusitanian St. Paul's Cathedral in Lisbon. At the end of the ceremony, the sense of an ecclesial communion capable of remembering and thanking became stronger and thus projecting for the coming generations a proper way of being a Church.





# Angola *is already a full diocese of the* Anglican Communion

On December the 1st, the Primate of the Anglican Province of South Africa, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, presided over the ceremony of institution of the full diocese of Angola, after sixteen years as a missionary diocese, and the installation of Bishop André Soares as Diocesan Bishop. The ceremony also included blessing the ground for the future Anglican Cathedral in Luanda and laying the foundation stone of the Temple. Present among several guests was Bishop Carlos Matsinhé of the Anglican Diocese of Libombos in Mozambique.

This new ecclesial development will bring new Mission opportunities for the Anglican Church in Angola, as Bishop André Soares said to the “Novo Despertar”: “With the elevation to full diocese we have opened the door to new challenges. The objective is to create in 2022 a Portuguese-speaking Anglican Province in Africa through the creation of three new dioceses in Angola and six more dioceses in Mozambique.

This is the great challenge that lies ahead beyond that of theological formation. So we ask the prayers of our sister churches.” Since 2003, Bishop André has served the Church in Angola as a missionary Bishop, with the Church currently having 63 parishes and about 58,000 members. With a strong social intervention, the Church in Angola develops several projects, particularly in the area of health and community support.



# The Porvoo Communion, Church Leader's Consultation

*The voice of the Church in the Public Square*

*Porto, Portugal*

Last October, the Consultation of the Porvoo Communion Church Leaders and the Contact Group Meeting of that Communion took place in Porto - Portugal. This meeting, prepared and welcomed by the Lusitanian Church, took place at "Casa de Vilar Seminar" from 10th - 12th beginning with a jointly presided Eucharistic celebration by the Bishop of the Lusitanian Church and Bishop Matti Repo of Lutheran Church of Finland.

Representatives of the various Anglican and Lutheran Churches Members of the Communion of Porvoo attended this event, at the highest ecclesiastical levels. So we had representatives coming from Norway, Wales, Church of England, Iceland, Ireland, Sweden, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Scotland, of the Spanish Episcopal Reformed Church, and in representation of the Lusitanian Church that hosted the Consultation, the Diocesan Bishop D. Jorge Pina Cabral, the Reverend Sergio Alves, the young Catarina Sá Couto and our brother José Sequeira.

As Ecumenical Guests, the Bishop of the Portuguese Methodist Evangelical Church, José Sifredo Teixeira and Bishop D. Armando Esteves Domingues, Auxiliary Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Porto, attended the meeting. These guests spoke at one of the sessions to convey the fraternal greetings of their Churches and they took part in the reflection and discussion of the theme under analysis.

The topic discussed and mentioned above was treated and presented by several participants according to the sensitivities and experiences of each church. The Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough, Most Reverend Michael Jackson, shared with us a reflection with the main title "Secularism: Confused Friend or Active Enemy?". Then we heard the reflection of a young Layman, and Head of Digital Communications Department of the Church of England,

Mr. Adrian Harris. The Reverend Cristina Grenholm from the Church of Sweden, and Dr. Sven Thore Kloster from Norway, spoke about the nature of the involvement of the Lutheran Church at the Public Square and the consensual dimension that this Church reach in itself today.

We also considered very important a special panel focused on Brexit- where many opinions, some of them very different, helped us for a better understanding of all this process and its consequences for civil society and for Christian communities. Very successful it seemed to us the great conclusion of this panel: "Relationships between churches transcends divisions and borders..." At the invitation of the Lusitanian Church we had with us the very well-known Portuguese journalist António Marujo, an recognized expert in religious affairs, that shared with us his perspective of the Portuguese concept of "public square". He recalled that because the Roman Catholic Church is the majority Church in the Country, usually the public always has great expectations about its contribution and its voice. He also remembered that at various times, the Church declined to make use of its voice.

Lena Kumlin and Ver Tomi Karttunen shared the important work that the Church of Finland has done regarding climatic studies based on a theological and Christian ethical basis, they offered to the participants a copy of the dossier about Climate Program that this Church is developing at the moment.

At the end of the meeting, there was also the possibility to visit the Lusitanian Parish of the Good Shepherd for a moment of gathering, prayer and convivial dinner, which was excited with a session of traditional Portuguese Fado. Porvoo Contact Group expressed its gratitude to the Lusitanian Church and its Bishop for their pleasant and competent way this meeting was hosted and organized, and it was decided that the meeting for year 2020 will be in Sweden.



# Retirement of the Archbishop of Utrecht

On January 11th the Bishop of the Lusitanian Church was invited to attend and take a part in The Netherlands, in the Retirement Service of Yoris Vercammen, Archbishop of Utrecht. In 1965, both Churches, the Lusitanian Church and the Utrecht Communion, signed a Full Communion Agreement.

Taking part and be invited for this Service, with his presence, the Portuguese Bishop expressed his personal recognition to the Ministry exerted by Yoris Vercammen over almost twenty years. The Archbishop of Utrecht has been always a great friend of the Lusitanian Church, whose Church he visited several times.



# XX FÓRUM ECUMÉNICO JOVEM

## Youth Ecumenical Movement celebrates anniversary

Young people from the Lusitanian Church together with Youngers from other churches celebrated last October the 20th anniversary of the Youth Ecumenical Forum. Since the II European Ecumenical Assembly held in Graz in 1999, that young people from various Churches in Portugal have been meeting annually to celebrate their faith in Jesus Christ.

This year the meeting brought together about 200 participants that, through prayer, workshops and celebrations, deepened the theme «Dare to be» based on the Beatitudes.



*The cover painting refers to the Theotokos theme (classic iconography of the Virgin Mary with the Child Jesus), however, in an Amazonian context. Mary is sitting on a royal victory with the boy on her lap, and the halos represent the symbolism of the Marajoara pottery (in this case, the halo of the child Jesus bears the symbolism of the cross, denoting its divinity).*

*Authored by Presbyter Luíz Coelho,  
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whom the New Awakening thanks the permission given for  
the use of the illustration.*



**IGREJA LUSITANA  
COMUNHÃO ANGLICANA**