



Conference Greeting from the Most Rev'd Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

T.S. ELIOT made a deeply significant contribution to Anglican self-understanding in Britain and more widely. Not only did he comment – astringently and powerfully – on some aspects of the Church of England's development in the mid-twentieth century, its politics and liturgy, he also outlined a vision for its proper engagement with contemporary society and defined for many the basic features of a modern Catholic Anglican ethos.

This ethos, reticent but passionate, centred upon the mystery of the Incarnation, fully alive to the riches of the European Catholic heritage as well as the seventeenth-century Anglican Fathers and steeped in the spirituality of St John of the Cross, is not the most obviously visible style of Anglican identity today; but it has a depth and seriousness without which Anglican Christianity will become dull, rootless and unappealing to anyone with a mature imagination.

I am very pleased to learn of the conference in Sydney, and hope that it will help to throw light on this essential dimension of Eliot's life and work – and also that it will remind us of the treasury of insight for our Anglican and Catholic enterprise that his witness offers us. I wish the conference every blessing and success.

✠ Rowan Cantuar:

From Lambeth Palace, 1 July 2007

