



Mount Street Gardens Entrance



LGBT+ Catholics
Westminster



Farm Street Church Entrance



NEWS & NOTES - NOVEMBER 2025

LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council,
c/o Farm Street Jesuit Church, 114 Mount Street London W1K 3AH
020 8986 0807

communications@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org - www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org
<http://www.facebook.com/lgbtcatholicswestminster/> - <https://x.com/LGBTCathWestmin>

Younger Adults Group (YAG) - <https://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/yag>
yag@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org

<http://www.facebook.com/lgbtcatholicasyag>  <https://twitter.com/lgbtcatholicasyag>

Farm Street Church: <http://www.farmstreet.org.uk/activities>

Westminster Diocese: <http://rcdow.org.uk/directory/lgbt-chaplaincy/> / <http://rcdow.org.uk/events/>

London Jesuit Centre: <http://www.londonjesuitcentre.org/>

See also the Farm Street Parish Website for other information & events.

"Jesuits are never content with the status quo, the known, the tried, the already existing. We are constantly driven to discover, redefine, and reach out for the magis. For us, frontiers and boundaries are not obstacles or ends, but new challenges to be faced, new opportunities to be welcomed. Indeed, ours is a holy boldness, "a certain apostolic aggressivity," typical of our way of proceeding."

(Jesuit General Congregation 34: Decree 26; para 27)

The Diocese of Westminster & LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans Catholics, parents, families and friends to the Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception (Farm Street), 114 Mount Street, Mayfair, London, W1K 3AH. As part of the Diocese of Westminster's pastoral provision for LGBT+ Catholics, we are invited to gather for the 17.30 Masses at the Jesuit Church:

9 & 23 November; 14 & 28 December 2025.

We also gather every couple of months at St. Joseph's Church, Lamb's Buildings, off Lamb's Passage, Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8LD, 12.00-16.00. NEXT GATHERING - Saturday, 17 January 2026
Nearest Stations: Barbican, Old Street, Farringdon Elizabeth Line (Barbican Exit)

The ordinary Farm Street Mass schedule : Monday to Friday: 8.00, 13.05, & 18.00; Saturday: 8.00 & 18.00; Sunday: 8.00, 9.30, (Family), 11.00 (Latin), 12.30, 5.30, & 19.00 (Farm Street Young Adults, 18-35)

All Masses can be viewed on Farm Street Jesuit Church's live-streaming page: www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream

Farm Street's Nearest Tube Stations:

Bond Street

&

Green Park

(Central / Jubilee / Elizabeth)

(Piccadilly / Victoria / Jubilee)

114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH, is in the heart of Mayfair, central London, between Hyde Park and Regent Street. The nearest tubes are Bond Street (Central and Jubilee lines) and Green Park (Jubilee, Piccadilly and Victoria lines). There are many buses within half a mile of the church, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 19, 22, 23, 36, 38, 73, 74, 82, 94, 98, 137, 139, 148, 159, 189, 390, 414, 436, and C2, with the 113 and 274 stopping slightly further away.

LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council



Terms of Reference, recognised by the Diocese of Westminster :

- to identify the pastoral and sacramental needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans Catholics, their parents and families;
- to take part in 2nd & 4th Sunday 17.30 Masses at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, and to be responsible for the planning and organisation of faith-development activities relevant to LGBT+ Catholic communities;
- to communicate with the Archdiocese of Westminster on matters of pastoral care relating to LGBT+ Catholics, their parents and families.

The following are elected and co-opted members of the LGBT Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council 2024-2025 : Sammie Alexandra (Trans Liaison), Kaitlyn Miller (Catering/ Refreshments), David Hothersall (Spirituality and Website/Social Media), Dunstan Thomas (LGBT+ Refugees Liaison), Tony Mullik (Safeguarding), Peter O'Hare (Welcoming), Martin Pendergast (Secretary, Communications & Media, & Music Group), Guillermo Quintanilla-Pinto (Younger Adults Group), Chiara Razza di Nunzio (Bi Liaison), Joe Stanley (Deputy-Chair/ Treasurer), Sophia White (Co-opted – Safeguarding). **Observers:** Fr. Dominic Robinson SJ (Farm Street Parish Priest), Steven Fachada (Chairperson, Farm Street Parish Council), Mgr. Keith Barltrop (Westminster Diocese).

THE LGBT+ CATHOLICS WESTMINSTER PASTORAL COUNCIL

AGM



TAKES PLACE AFTER THE 17.30 MASS, SUNDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2025 AND INCLUDES PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS. OUR CONSTITUTION REQUIRES THAT THE 3 LONGEST-SERVING MEMBERS SHALL RETIRE BUT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION.

THESE ARE: DAVID HOTHERSALL, MARTIN PENDERGAST, & JOE STANLEY.

WE WELCOME NEW NOMINATIONS TO THE PASTORAL COUNCIL.

NOMINATION FORMS WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE ON SUNDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2025 AND SUBMITTED, AT THE LATEST, BY AFTER-MASS, SUNDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2025. THE NEWLY-ELECTED PASTORAL COUNCIL WILL MEET, 26 NOVEMBER 2025.

ALL THOSE IN LGBT+ CATHOLICS WESTMINSTER ARE WARMLY INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A HALF-DAY GATHERING:

Hopes, dreams & realities - LGBT+ Catholics Westminster & the next 3 years.

SATURDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2025, venue/time - tbc - details later.

Mgr. Keith Barltrop, keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk - Parish Priest of St. Mary of the Angels, Bayswater, is Chaplain and our Liaison with Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and available for pastoral support.

The LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council - Feel free to submit agenda items to the above e-mail address for future meetings. Next Pastoral Council meeting: **26 November 2025.**

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) As a recognised diocesan chaplaincy we comply with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster (RCDOW) policy in this regard. We are currently developing a Privacy Policy which will appear on our website. If you wish to stop receiving our e-mail communications, please inform us and we will unsubscribe you from our circulation-list.

LGBT+ Catholics T-Shirt - WEAR THESE AS PROUDLY LGBT+ & PROUDLY CATHOLIC !



RAINBOW-CROSS PIN-BADGES FOR SALE - £5.00

Buy a T-shirt here: https://teespring.com/en-GB/LGBT_Catholics_Westminster?pid=387&cid=103448



We wish Bishop Nicholas Hudson well on his appointment as Bishop of Plymouth

Synodal Reading Group - The Future of Synodality - *how we move forward from here*. This takes place in The Cana Lounge, London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street W1K 3AH on the 4th Saturdays of each month, 10.00 (refreshments) for 10.30-12.00. **Dates: 22 November. Registration is essential** for each session so that we can circulate relevant chapters ahead of each meeting:

martinjpendergast@gmail.com

The Vatican's Synod Office Newsletter :

<https://www.synodresources.org/newsletter-subscr>

More Information: <https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/synod-on-synodality>

<https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/>

Boston College, USA – School of Synodality : <https://formaciononline.bc.edu/en/home/>



Root & Branch is an initiative, stemming from Catholic grassroots: <https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org/>

Spirit Unbounded, a network of Catholic reform group: <https://spiritunbounded.org/>

A Call to Action (ACTA) is an initiative to develop dialogue within the Church in England & Wales, and to reclaim the renewing vision of the 2nd Vatican Council. <http://www.acalltoaction.org.uk> ACTA pre-dates Pope Francis' call for a more Synodal Church.

LGBT+ Pastoral Provision - Cardinal Vincent has mandated us to develop pastoral provision for LGBT+ Catholics, parents and families in Westminster Diocese. This means that pastoral provision should not **ONLY** focus on Mass-attendance, but also develop our awareness of the Church's teaching on sexuality, not least as expressed by our own local Church in England & Wales. This helps us to integrate our faith and sexuality with conscientious integrity. It continues to surprise how poorly understood is the Church's developing understanding of human sexuality and gender identity, as well as our historical contexts, even by clergy and pastoral workers.



LGBT+ Catholic Women's Group For details contact
communications@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org

THE 6th LGBT+ CATHOLICS ROME PILGRIMAGE - 8-14 FEBRUARY 2027



The 5th LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pilgrimage after Mass in Cardinal Vincent's Titular Church, The Most Holy Redeemer & St. Alphonsus

If you took part in the LGBT+ 2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage and got a quick bite of the Eternal City, why not join us for the start of Lent, 8-14 February 2027, and really DO Rome ?

Please e-mail us: communications@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org

Weekday Live-streamed Masses: Westminster Cathedral live-streams the following: Weekdays - 9.00 & 17.30 Mass; Holy Hour - 12.00. Sundays - 10.30 & 17.30 Mass; 16.30 - Vespers & Benediction - www.churchservices.tv/westminster Farm Street Jesuit Church : www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream

OTHER CHURCHES IN ENGLAND WITH LIVESTREAMED MASSES CAN BE FOUND HERE:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/country/england/>

Unattached ? (from a church that is!) - Apart from taking a more active part in the life of Farm Street Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception, including its other Masses, you may wish to check out other churches as welcoming communities on Sundays. We are often asked for friendly priests/parishes so let us have details of any church you find helpful since we are updating our list. They don't have to be in London.

A number of Dioceses in England & Wales have, or are exploring the provision of Masses welcoming LGBT+ Catholics, parents and families. Up-coming Masses – Birmingham:

Patrick's Church, Deedmore Road, Wood End, Coventry CV2 2AA. **Further details** - 024 76612193 / **e-mail** - st.patricks.covty@rcaob.org.uk / <https://coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk/new/catholic-lgbtq/> ;

Clifton: 3rd Sundays - 15.00, <https://tolentino.org.uk/lgbt-mass/> inclusionforall@cliftondiocese.com St. Nicholas of Tolentino Church also live-streams Mass, Sundays @10.00, Tuesday-Friday @ 18.00, Saturdays, 12.00 :

<https://www.facebook.com/stnicksbristol/> ; **Hexham & Newcastle:** Details: proud.catholics@yahoo.com /

[Proud Catholics](#) ; **Liverpool** : All Saints, 3 Oakfield, Anfield L4 2QG. **Details:** frsmaloney@aol.com / 0151 287 8787 - <https://www.facebook.com/LGBT-Catholics-Archdiocese-of-Liverpool-100269689181030> ;

Middlesbrough: 2nd Sundays, 15.00, Bar Convent, 17 Blossom St, York YO24 1AQ,

www.lgbtmiddlesbroughcatholic.org.uk/ - frtony@lgbtmiddlesbroughcatholic.org.uk **Nottingham: Details**

from: <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/lgbt-pastoral-ministry-mass> ; **Salford : Details:**

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/mass-lgbt-catholics-nov-25/> - manchesterrclgbti.pastoral@gmail.com -

questinthenorth@questlgbti.uk

Quest - London South East : <https://questlgbti.uk/regional-groups/londonandsoutheast/>

Open Table is a national ecumenical LGBT+ network with various online activities - <http://opentable.lgbt/>

Visiting the USA or Canada? New Ways Ministry has a list of LGBT welcoming churches:

<http://www.newwaysministry.org/gfp.html> Links to these and other websites can be found at

www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/External-Resources/websites

JOIN IN OUR WELCOME !



Welcoming Ministry – can you help?

This involves getting to Farm Street by 16.45 on 2nd & 4th Sundays, preparing and handing out hymn-books and Mass-sheets, taking-up the Collection, tidying up after Mass, and helping people find their way to after-Mass refreshments in the Arrupe Hall. **Contact:** welcome@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org



After-Mass Refreshments : Kaitlyn Miller takes the lead in organising after-Mass refreshments. Help is needed to set things up before Mass and to clear-up/wash-up afterwards. This gathering-time is a key moment to greet new-comers and visitors, engage with each other, and pray briefly for any of our particular concerns. Please contact LGBT+ Catholics – hospitality@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org if you are able to help, or call Kaitlyn - **07907 119 125**.

This vibrant LGBT+ Catholic community doesn't run on auto-pilot ! If you'd like to help in any way, please e-mail us ! This will also help us keep in touch with you and let you know about other events: communications@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org

Reading, Eucharistic, & Music Ministries - 17.30 Masses



We really need more readers! It is good practice to have more than one person reading at Mass so as to express the diversity of all God's people. Those named on the rota for 17.30 Masses on 2nd & 4th Sundays are requested to contact others from within our community to assist with the Readings & Bidding Prayers. **At present, the rota includes only two women and one YAG member.** Perhaps we can give a more inclusive example to the rest of the Parish? If you would like to join the Farm Street Readers' Rota for the 17.30 Masses, please contact George McCombe, Parish Administrator, indicating your availability: 0207 529 4835 - farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk



Westminster Diocese & Farm Street has restored Communion from the chalice. We need additional Eucharistic Ministers for the 2nd & 4th Sunday, 17.30 Mass. If you are already a Eucharistic Minister in your home-parish or would like to be considered for the Farm Street Rota, please contact Fr. Dominic Robinson SJ, Parish Priest: dominicrobinson@rcdow.org.uk



The 530 Music Group provides music for both 2nd & 4th Sunday 17.30 Masses. **We're always looking for more singers and instrumentalists, including string & woodwind, etc, to join the group.** Great if you can read music, but it's not necessary! Interested? Come and join us in contributing to Farm Street Parish's liturgical diversity! Contact - secretary@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org



These words of welcome have special meaning for us **NOW**. A number of our regular attenders, from Egypt, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Central America, Russia, Armenia currently struggle with their asylum claims. Here are just some details of **Godfrey's story**: <http://westendextra.com/article/ugandan-gay-man-fears-for-his-life-if-he-is-deported> **After 20 years, he finally received 'leave to remain' in 2021.**

The LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council has also endorsed the North London Metropolitan Community Church's LGBT African Asylum Seeker Research Project. The work was also supported by the United Kingdom Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group (UKLGIG) - <https://uklgig.org.uk/?p=2870> The MCC-NL Report can be downloaded here: <http://mccnorthlondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LGBT-African-Asylum-Seeker-Research-Project-Report.pdf>

AFRICAN EQUALITY FOUNDATION - <https://www.africanequalityfoundation.org.uk/> **OUT & PROUD AFRICAN LGBTI GROUP** - <https://www.facebook.com/opalgbti/> & **MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE** - www.movementforjustice.org & **RAINBOWS ACROSS BORDERS** - <http://rainbowsacrossborders.org.uk/> and this one in Uganda - www.saintpaulsvoicecentre.org/ are groups who are highlighting the situation of LGBT+ people in Uganda and other parts of Africa, as well as the degrading treatment of LGBT+ refugees and asylum seekers from these countries, here in the UK. Members of our community are constantly facing threats of dispersal to other parts of the UK where they have no contacts, or deportation back to possibilities of torture and even death in the countries they have had to leave.

It is right and just ... that we account for Mass collections, particularly on 2nd & 4th Sundays. Your offertory gifts contribute to the day-to-day expenses of Farm Street Parish including the provision of pastoral activities. This information is available in the Farm Street Newsletter. **Current LGBT+ Pastoral Council funds: £1023.23; LGBT+ Hardship Fund: £550.91.** We receive no funding from either Farm Street Parish or Westminster Diocese. We must therefore be self-supporting in all that we do! Perhaps you'd consider a Standing Order to LGBT+ Catholics Westminster, please? **CONTACT US FOR DETAILS:**

treasurer@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org **DONATE:** [Donate page | LGBT Catholics London](#)
(lgbtcatholicswestminster.org)

IF YOU KNOW OR THINK THAT ANYONE MIGHT BE ISOLATED, PLEASE CONTACT THEM OR LET US KNOW, SO THAT WE CAN OFFER SUPPORT. WE HAVE A HARDSHIP FUND TO OFFER SMALL GRANTS TO ANYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY UNABLE TO GET TO FARM STREET FOR FINANCIAL REASONS.

STAY INFORMED! Browse the information table, over after-Mass refreshments, for all the latest news from LGBT+ and other sources. If you wish to receive the latest LGBT+ Catholics information by e-mail, please complete an E-mail Circulation Sheet on the information-Table, during after-Mass refreshments, or e-mail us – communications@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org For updates and other events please keep an eye on **OUR WEBSITE:** www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org



YAG MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: your inclusion on YAG's e-mail circulation does not mean that you automatically receive main LGBT+ Catholics Westminster notices, news of events, etc.
<https://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/yag> - yag@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org



Testimonies - www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/testimonies - moving stories of faith journeys and what our LGBT+ Catholic community means to people - **DO YOU HAVE AN EMPOWERING STORY TO SHARE WITH OTHERS ?**

Homilies - You can read some of the homilies preached over recent years on the website:
www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/homilies

Want to prepare reflectively for Mass? These web-sites provide helpful resources on scripture readings, spirituality, justice, and prayer contexts: www.liturgy.slu.edu - www.girardianlectionary.net/ - British & Irish Jesuits offer these prayer and theology resources: www.prayasyougo.org.uk/ / www.sacredspace.ie / www.thinkingfaith.org / <http://www.bibleclaret.org/celebrating-the-word-of-god/> / <http://qspirit.net/saints/> **Carmelite Lectio Divina** - <https://ocarm.org/en/prayer/lectiodivina>



The Pontifical Biblical Commission's 2019 "What is Man? Outline of Biblical Anthropology". **Chapter 3** includes the section on homosexuality. The full text is available as a pdf in various languages : Click on **TRANSLATE** as necessary ...

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/pcb_documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20190930_cosa-e-luomo_pl.html



Issues in Sexual Ethics Reading Group - **4th Thursday of every month, 19.00-20.30** - in partnership with the London Jesuit Centre - exploring sexual ethics issues for LGBT+ Catholics, parents and friends, using texts from a range of contemporary Catholic authors. **Next Gathering : Thursday, 27 November 2025, theme : tbc Due to change of days/dates please check with the London Jesuit Centre website for essential registration link** - <https://www.londonjesuitcentre.org/>

OUR LEAFLETS: Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales Marriage & Family Department's leaflet, Everybody's Welcome as well as 3 other leaflets: Wonderfully Created - an introduction to being transgender & the Catholic Church; Gender Identity & the Bible; Bisexuality & the Bible. We also have copies of Created Design, a booklet containing the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales 1979 pastoral care guidelines and Cardinal Basil Hume's 1997 "Note" on Church teaching.

God calls each person, whatever his or her sexual orientation, to fulfil that part of his created design which only that person can fulfil - Cardinal Basil Hume, 1995



is a website under the auspices of the Jesuit's America Magazine, including news and essays as well as helpful resources like videos, books and links to welcoming organizations.

<https://outreach.faith/news-views/>

Marianist LGBT Initiative USA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItQVlyXjd4&feature=youtu.be>

Ignatian Prayer Group - This continues online via Zoom - Tuesdays at 19.00. To register interest and receive an invite: spirituality@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org . Sessions, different each week, include a stillness exercise, reading of a gospel scene or psalm, input from a trained prayer guide, and 20 minutes of quiet prayer. There is optional sharing after the prayer and intercessions. The prayer group is open to everyone, no experience needed and you are welcome to also just join for one session to "taste and see that the Lord is good!"



Parents of LGBT+ People Support - Pope Francis, 26 January 2022 : *"I am thinking, too, of parents in the face of their children's problems: parents who see different sexual orientations in their children; how to deal with this and accompany their children and not hide in an attitude of condemnation."*

Sue is a founder-member of **Called-To-Be-One**, an informal phone support for Catholic parents of LGBT daughters and sons. She can be contacted on 01642 465020

European Network for Parents of LGBTQ People - contacts: Joe and Joseanne Peregine – Drachma (Malta) enpmalta@mail.com Its mission is to unite the national organisations and initiatives of Parents of LGBTQI people at the European level; to be a voice for LGBTQI people's dignity and equality and to empower initiative groups and organisations of parents of LGBTQI to become a voice for equality for LGBTQI people - <https://enparents.org/> **See this link to their Launch Video:**

www.dropbox.com/s/47cvt2k3upa8jsr/ENP_Sept04.mp4?dl=0

La Tenda di Gionata, in Italy, has produced this moving video, What happens when a child comes out to their parents? <https://youtu.be/vU62suliiA0> - with English subtitles.

Think2Speak supports LGBT+ young people & their families: 01 427 325 535 - www.think2speak.com/ / hello@think2speak.com



Understanding The Impact Of Coming Out To Religious Parents UK, 2020 - This Report reveals key challenges faced by this section of the LGBTQ+ community at one of the most vulnerable times of their lives (coming out), the negative impact these difficulties can cause and the importance they place on parental and familial acceptance. Further information: <https://www.nazandmattfoundation.org/>

The Catholic Bishops of England & Wales on Civil Partnerships - 2014:

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/editors-desk/1/2393/a-lesson-in-mercy-and-maturity>

AND A CATHOLIC THEOLOGIAN'S VIEW ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

<https://www.lgbtchristians.eu/resources/the-coniugio-a-catholic-perspective/>



Do you know someone who has been away from the Church and is considering returning? Landings offers a safe place to land, especially if life has been difficult, and is a place for being heard, for asking questions and reconnecting with your faith. The Landings process, is run by a small group of active Catholics, some returnees themselves. In a non-judgmental environment, we share and explore our faith together. through lots of listening, telling stories, prayer and sharing.

LOOKING FOR ACCOMMODATION ? We often have people in our community needing or offering emergency accommodation. If you can ever help, contact us: communications@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? Need garden advice/help? The Green Brothers will solve your problems: www.green-brothers.net or Paul: 0794 995 7514 / pauljezioranski@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - **St Vincent de Paul Society-Farm Street** is always looking for more volunteers to take part in their visiting/befriending programme. They receive referrals from social services about people living in central London who are elderly, lonely and often confined to their own homes.

Volunteers are asked to visit someone regularly (e.g. an hour once a week or every other week). If you are interested in finding out more, contacts: Heather - heather_c_burke@hotmail.com **ALSO** Helpers sought to assist with Farm Street lunches, Wednesdays & Saturdays, for people who are homeless.

Contact Farm Street Office: FarmStreetOffice@rcdow.org.uk

Counselling & Spiritual Accompaniment

John Foley - Psychotherapy and Spiritual Direction - offers a secure and confidential setting in which to talk about whatever issues may be troubling you – whether it is anxiety, depression, repeating patterns of behaviour, addictions, problems in relationships, loss and bereavement, long term emotional difficulties, or a lack of fulfilment or sense of meaning in life. Further information: www.john-foley.co.uk

Martin Kelly offers counselling and spiritual direction in London with a basic Ignatian approach. These are offered on low-cost and donations basis- Further details: 07910 503372 - martinkelly300@gmail.com / <https://www.martinkellycounselling.co.uk/>



Catholics for AIDS Prevention & Support is a national registered charity - www.caps-uk.org .

Positive Catholics is a peer-support group for Catholics living with HIV - details from 07505 608 655 or CAPS PO Box 24632, London E9 6XF or e-mail: info@caps-uk.org + Positive Catholics Support Group: hello@positivefaith.org.uk + www.positivefaith.org.uk POSITIVE FAITH is a website and film resource on HIV & Christianity - some of it filmed at Farm Street - www.positivefaith.net .

The Interfaith Health Platform (IHP) - a multi-religious collaborative space for capacity building, awareness raising and joint advocacy among faith groups, organisations and communities engaged in HIV/AIDS :

<https://www.interfaith-health-platform.org/>



LGBTQ Newcomers - If you have trouble with your drinking, or if your drinking has reached the point of where it worries you, you may be interested to know something about Alcoholics Anonymous and the AA programme of recovery from alcoholism. Consider your drinking carefully in the light of what you learn from this website: <https://aa-london.com/meetings/lgbtq-newcomers-190000-f2f-78664/>

LGBT+ Catholics Trans Support



It's good that trans people find a safe and welcoming community amongst us. We value the involvement of trans-people in all aspects of the Church's life and activities and are happy to enable an occasional support group, as needed - diversity@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org / trans.fs.cath@gmail.com

Infinite Dignity, the latest Vatican DDF Declaration which refers to gender identity issues (Nos. 55-60) has prompted all sorts of negative reactions, understandably. Here is the full text of 12,000 words of which only 1000 cover sexuality and gender issues:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2024/04/08/0284/00588.html#en>

Here are responses from the Bishops of England & Wales & LGBT+ Catholics Westminster:

the former making only passing reference to the sections on Gender Theory or Sex Change :

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-conference-welcomes-vatican-declaration-on-human-dignity/>

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/49541>

The Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF) Trans Response, 31 October 2023:

<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/17886/vatican-says-trans-people-can-be-baptised-act-as-godparents>

Trans-ministry Clergy-training - <https://www.ncronline.org/news/people/zoom-series-trains-priests-minister-transgender-people> & Transgender Ministry of Accompaniment | Fortunate Families

Trans Memorial Day is 20 November - resources from can be found here: <https://www.glaad.org/tdor>

The Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education issued a guidance document on Gender, *Male & Female He Created Them*, 10 June 2019. This prompted worldwide response negative responses.

Check out New Ways Ministry for some excellent links and response summaries -

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/> <https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/10/02/fr-martin-shares-trans-related-letters-with-vatican-official-behind-anti-lgbtq-document/>

George White, a past member of LGBT+ Catholics Westminster, is an openly transgender and Catholic part-time teacher of Religious Education in a Catholic School and offers training on LGBT+ Inclusion for Catholic Schools. Please see his website for details or email geowhite24@gmail.com :

<https://transcatholicteacher.com/> - [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Linktree](#)

The Bishops Conference of England & Wales issued this statement on 20 April 2018, at the end of their Spring Plenary Meeting : Guiding Principles on issues of Transgender:

<http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/News/Bishops-Plenary-Meetings/Plenary-April-2018/Statement-Gender>

The LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council response is here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZEYj1eCM0NA4rkRUCbLw7sewZlvHgRDO/view>

On International Trans Memorial Day, having been attacked by some who call themselves Catholics, the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales defended its call for prayer, November 2018 :

<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/11066/church-committed-to-care-of-trans-people>

WONDERFULLY CREATED - an introduction to being transgender and the Catholic Church, is a leaflet launched by us in 2018 and available on our website shortly. The following link is to an interview with Dr. David Albert Jones, Director of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre, Oxford, who advises the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales on gender identity issues. In the course of this project he has engaged with a number of trans Catholics and refers to our recent response in this article:

<https://cruxnow.com/interviews/2018/07/26/ethicist-says-church-teaching-on-gender-not-incompatible-with-accepting-trans-identity/>

TRANSCATHOLIC - A USA-based Roman Catholic apostolate to support the dignity and inclusion of transgender laity - <https://transcatholic.org.wordpress.com/>

Other online resources: www.transfaithonline.org / www.shannontlkearns.com

TranschristianUK - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1239546282786208/>

The Sibyls is a Christian spirituality group for trans people, meeting on the 2nd Thursday of every 2nd month, open to all trans people, friends, spouses & supporters. **Sibyls website:** www.sibyls.co.uk

Contact details: 07546 213 971 / sge4144@gmail.com / sibylslink@gmail.com / enquiries@sibyls.co.uk

Spectra Soho Trans Drop-in Group - 1st Thursdays, 19.00-21.00 - St Anne's Church, 55 Dean Street, London W1D 6AF Details: <https://spectra-london.org.uk/event/soho-trans-group/all/> **OR** email : info@spectra-london.org.uk or call 0800 587 8302 / 020 3322 6920. **Spectra Website:** <http://spectra-london.org.uk/>

Teaching, working with young people?

Children of God: LGBTQIA+ youth ministry and experiences in the Catholic Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=1&v=GNXld2VRURM&feature=youtu.be> - Transcripts can be found here:

<https://millionminutes.org/blog/childrenofgod> - Million Minutes held this Webinar, 23 November 2020. A number of people involved with LGBT+ Catholics Westminster took part. Here's another great video resource if you teach in school: <https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/katie#sthash.pvctfgXe.xiqq>

ALSO USA Marianist Resource on LGBT+ Youth:

https://static.showit.co/file/A8pNyctRTwWCVHAoY0YLpg/99684/marianist_lgbt_final_-2-15.pdf

Made in God's Image - a good, anti-homophobic bullying resource from the Catholic Education Service. The document was leaked by conservative Catholics, opposed to the inclusion of LGBT+ people in the Church - Read the full publication here:

https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/images/CES-Project_Homophobic-Bullying-Booklet_JUN18_PROOF-9.pdf

AND MORE ABOUT IT HERE: <https://newwaysministryblog.wordpress.com/2017/05/14/new-anti-bullying-manual-for-catholic-schools-is-a-gift-to-the-church/>

Applying Equality Law in Practice : Guidance for Catholics & Catholic Organisations was published by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales in November 2014 and gives general guidance on equality and diversity issues and the Church: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/applying-equality-law-in-practice-guidance-for-catholics-and-catholic-organisations/>



LGBT+ Catholics Westminster was a founding member of the Westminster LGBT+ Forum in 2012 bringing together non-commercial LGBT groups, including other local churches, voluntary groups, police local health & Council services. The Forum deals with community safety, policing, & health issues, update on Pride plans, as well as any other LGBT concerns in Soho & the City of Westminster. **ANYONE** who lives, works, spends leisure time in the City of Westminster & Soho, is welcome. **Website:** [LGBT+ Westminster / wlgbtcf@gmail.com](mailto:wlgbtcf@gmail.com) **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/wlgbtcf>

Worried about homophobic /transphobic incidents, or harassed in Soho / Westminster? Let us know or get in touch with the Westminster LGBT+ Community Forum (see above) or contact LGBT Police: LGBT & Hate Crime Liaison Police Officer and is based at the Community Cohesion Team, West End Central Police Station, 27 Savile Row, London W1S 2EX – due to Police restructuring, specific telephone numbers are still being arranged so best contact is e-mail: AWMailbox-LGBT+CLO@met.police.uk



NO PLACE FOR HATE - National Hate Crime Awareness Week: <https://nationalhcaw.uk/>
<https://nationalhcaw.uk/april-acts-of-remembrance> - <https://youtu.be/XmI0tOaurhA>
<https://nationalhcaw.uk/plan-your-nationalhcaw>

We're a very international community - See all the links to other parishes worldwide, on our website: www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org Parlate Italiano? www.gionata.org **OR** <http://www.camminidisperanza.org/> Mówisz po Polsku? Wizyta ta <https://www.wiaraiteczka.pl/> & <https://kongreskk.pl/> Europe: <https://inclusive-churches.eu/download/Annual-Review-Full-2021.pdf>



Check out James Alison: www.jamesalison.co.uk - James responds to Pope Francis on same-sex unions: <http://jamesalison.com/pope-francis-backing-same-sex-unions-isnt-a-surprise/> Also in The Guardian newspaper: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/oct/22/pope-francis-same-sex-unions-surprise-gay-people> **DURING COVID-19 Time:** <http://prayingeucharistically.com/> An article (13 August 2020) by James: <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/how-my-mind-has-changed/brought-life-christ> James recounts the reinstatement of his priestly faculties with a phone call from Pope Francis: <http://jamesalison.co.uk/texts/this-is-pope-francis-calling/>

UK Catholic News on Independent Catholic News: www.indcatholicnews.com



YOUNGER ADULTS GROUP - an opportunity for younger LGBT+ Catholics & their friends to socialise in a relaxed atmosphere beyond church services, with shared meals, games activities, discussions, films and other events. YAG meets monthly. More information: **email:** yag@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org - <http://www.facebook.com/lgbtcatholicusyag> <https://twitter.com/lgbtcatholicusyag>

Trans Support - although there is no regular meeting we are willing to enable trans members of our congregation to gather, as needed. **Those on our e-mail list whom we know as trans will receive particular e-mails about any relevant news & information that we receive** . You can read our response to the recent Gender Statement from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales : <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZEYj1eCM0NA4rkRUCbLw7sewZlvHgRDO/view>

The LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council is affiliated to a number of international, national and local networks:



Roman Catholic Church Working Group - <https://www.lgbtchristians.eu/>

Catholics in England lead the way on LGBTQ+ inclusion, research finds - Liz Dodd, *The Tablet*

The Catholic Church in England and Wales is among the most supportive and inclusive of LGBTQ+ people in Europe, according to a report released this week. Inclusive theology that affirms the dignity of all, as well as robust and organised grassroots pastoral care, helped to boost its ranking within a comprehensive new index of Christian churches, although a lack of institutional support and robust public policy saw it score zero points in some areas.

The [Rainbow Index of Churches in Europe](#) (RICE) 2025 is a substantial, academic research project that scores and ranks the measures that churches across Europe take to include and support LGBTQ+ people in their communities. It is the second such index to be published by the European Forum of LGBTI+ Christian Groups. The Catholic Church in England and Wales was ranked joint 22-23 with the Belgian Catholic Church overall. The two countries' churches came second only to the German Catholic Church (11 overall) within the Catholic index.

Martin Pendergast, a co-researcher, said: "This shows the impact that the officially recognised, seven diocesan LGBT+ Catholic diocesan ministries have had in England and Wales. The Church now has to implement the various calls made during the recent Synodal consultations. It needs to reframe its 1979 LGBT+ pastoral guidance by adopting more welcoming and inclusive language and press the Dicastery of the Faith to do likewise, not least in opening up the celebration of same-gender blessings and liturgies." Some 46 national churches across Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions were studied for the 2025 index, which was launched at De Tomaskerk in Amsterdam during an **International Consultation on LGBTI+ Inclusion and Allyship in Churches**. The three-day event brought together allies, influencers and LGBTQ+ activists from across Europe to consider topics such as the anti-gender movement, hate speech, and building inclusive narratives.

Misza Czerniak, co-president of the European Forum of LGBTI+ Christian Groups, which convened the consultation, welcomed the indication in RICE 2025 that churches are becoming more inclusive, but told *The Tablet* that progress was too slow. "The average progress for churches in all traditions since 2020 is five percent, or even less. That percentage represents actual lives. For me, that might mean that it will be forty or fifty years before my church is prepared to bless my relationship. What about people who are in situations where they're being beaten or killed for who they are? This is a reality in many Christian communities in the world," he said.

"I would love queer people of faith to be flourishing in their communities, and to be contributing, because they have so many gifts to bring. But when the church doesn't want to be the vessel for that they have to flee for spiritual self-preservation. They have to seek God outside church. When I think about that, I think that five per cent is too slow."

The Metropolitan Community Church in Vienna was ranked first overall in RICE 2025, followed by the Reformed Catholic Church in Poland. In the UK the Lutheran Church in Great Britain narrowly surpassed the Catholic Church, coming in twenty-first place. The Church of England came joint 29-30 overall, tied with the Catholic Church in Switzerland. The ranking was determined according to a list of 52 indicators across categories that included theology, church policy, leadership and advocacy and networks.

Indicators included both the availability and support of grassroots organisations, as well as structural and hierarchical indicators. The report's co-authors, Professors Doctors Regina Elsner of the University of Munster, Germany; Pekka Metso of the University of Eastern Finland; and Valerie Nicolet of Umea University, Sweden, acknowledged the work of local co-researchers within each country, who both scored and submitted supporting material about their respective country's church.

Scoring 27.5, or 52.9 per cent, out of a possible 52 points, the Catholic Church in England and Wales had improved its overall score by 32.7 per cent since the last index in 2020, when it scored just 9.5 points. In 2025 the Church scored very highly for institutional equality and non-discrimination and church practices, but poorly for public policy. Catholic theology was seen to be supportive of the equal dignity of all, including LGBTQ+ people, and to allow parishes and congregations to have discussion and agency around affirming the rights of LGBTQ+ people.

The inclusivity of sacraments, in particular Communion and Baptism, within the Catholic Church was particularly affirmed – that is, people were not denied baptism because of their sexuality, and the children of same-sex couples were not denied baptism because of the sexuality of their parents. The Church in England and Wales fell short when it came to public support for LGBTQ+ people, scoring poorly overall for its public policy. The institutional church failed to make any public statements regarding the rights of LGBTQ+ people to access some public services, on their gender rights, or on their reproductive rights; however, it scored some points for affirming publicly the right to safety and political organisation and

expression of LGBTQ+ people.

Both within the Church in England and Wales and internationally, the impact of Pope Francis' affirming and inclusive teaching and statements towards the LGBTQ+ community was seen as transformative. This was seen both across practical measures, such as *Fiducia Supplicans*' opening a way for priests to bless same-sex couples, and more broadly because his language allowed local leaders more freedom to minister according to their conscience.

Michael Brinkschroder, part of the Roman Catholic Working Group of the European Forum, said that the Catholic Church in England and Wales stood out for the improvements it had made. "It should be a case study. Improvements came about both because of the vast unity of the bishops' conference and the good pastoral infrastructure. Sometimes the bishops are supportive, sometimes they are the problem, but the Church in England and Wales shows that if there's no grassroots, nothing happens," he told journalists and allies at the launch event.

The ***European Forum of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Christian Groups*** is an ecumenical association of LGBT Christian groups in Europe. The European Forum aims to achieve equality and inclusion for LGBT people within and through Christian churches and other religious bodies and multilateral organisations. With over 40 member groups from more than 20 countries in Europe, the European Forum works for freedom of religion for LGBT people, for human rights, for the dignity of LGBT people and for an affirmative discourse on human sexuality. Its Roman Catholic Church Working Group submitted this Statement to the Vatican's 2022-2024 Synodal Process:

<https://rainbowcatholics.org/statement-to-the-synodal-process/>



Global Network of Rainbow Catholics Website: <http://rainbowcatholics.org/>

GNRC THEOLOGICAL STATEMENT: <https://www.newwaysministry.org/2021/07/06/new-report-seeks-methodological-change-in-how-catholic-lgbtq-theology-is-done/> - theologicalcommittee@gnrcatholics.org

&



CONSORTIUM
for stronger LGBT+ communities

<https://www.consortium.lgbt/>

The LGBT Consortium UK - A national specialist infrastructure and membership organisation working to strengthen and support LGBTQ+ groups, organisations and projects.

&



Westminster LGBT+ Community Forum : <https://www.westminsterlgbtforum.co.uk/>

LGBT+ CATHOLICS WESTMINSTER



**ABOVE ALL ELSE WE ARE A EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY, THE BODY OF CHRIST,
THE INCLUSIVE PEOPLE OF GOD, AND ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE**