



LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council
PO Box 24632, London E9 6XF

PRESS RELEASE

LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Marks 25th Anniversary of Masses welcoming LGBT+ Catholics, parents, families and friends

London, 1 May 2024. LGBT+ Catholics Westminster marked the start of its 25th anniversary month by laying 25 red roses during the annual commemoration of Soho's Admiral Duncan pub bombing which took place on 30 April 1999. The ceremony took place with a capacity crowd, filling St. Anne's Gardens, Wardour Street, Soho.

LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council Secretary, Martin Pendergast, who was also a co-founder of the Westminster LGBT+ Community Forum in 2000, spoke alongside the Leader of Westminster City Council, Cllr. Adam Hug, and the City of Westminster's Lord Mayor. Cllr. Patricia McAllister.

Martin Pendergast said: *“On the Sunday after 30 April 1999 we had planned the first of monthly Masses welcoming LGBT+ Catholics, parents, families and friends. As it happens, one of the priests who regularly celebrated these Masses was at the Wardour Street end of Old Compton Street when the bomb went off on that gloriously sunny but equally devastating evening. He ran back to offer prayer and blessing to those lying injured around the pavements.*”

The late Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, terminally ill himself, was the first faith-leader to respond to the tragedy, saying ‘There can be no place for homophobic violence among us. The Church has a serious responsibility to work towards the elimination of any injustices perpetrated on homosexuals by society. As a group that has suffered more than its share of oppression and contempt, the homosexual community has particular claim upon the concern of the Church.’ And so we offer these 25 roses in love and solidarity that those who have died may rest in peace and rise in glory and power.”

Other events marking LGBT+ Catholics Westminster's 25th Anniversary:

SATURDAY 11 MAY 2024, 3-5 PM: REFLECTING & RECALLING OUR HISTORY: From Oscar Wilde to Farm Street Jesuit Church.

A Central London Prayer & Reflection Walk to mark the 25th anniversary of Masses welcoming LGBT+ Catholics, parents & families. Starting at the Oscar Wilde Memorial, Adelaide Street (behind St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square), stopping at Notre Dame de France Church, St.

Anne's Church, Admiral Duncan Pub, Church of the Assumption & St. Gregory, Farm Street Jesuit church

**SATURDAY 23 MAY 2024 10 am to 4pm: 25th ANNIVERSARY DAY CONFERENCE:
LGBT+ Catholics in a Synodal Church**

With a keynote address by Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP, London Jesuit Centre Aula Magna, 114 Mount Street W1K 3AH. REGISTER BEFORE THURSDAY, 23 MAY 2024:
communications@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org

26 MAY 2024 TRINITY SUNDAY - 25TH ANNIVERSARY MASS 17.30, FARM STREET JESUIT CHURCH, 114 MOUNT STREET, LONDON W1K 3AH

Presided by the auxiliary bishop in Hertfordshire, Rt. Rev. Paul McAleenan

For further information contact:

Ruby Almeida, Tel. 07960 985 496 chair@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org

Martin Pendergast, Tel. 020 8986 0807 communications@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org

Note to Editors: The LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council is mandated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, to develop pastoral support for LGBT+ Catholics, parents & families. Masses welcoming LGBT+ Catholics, parents and families, were first established in May 1999 and now take place at Farm Street Jesuit Church, Mayfair, London, on 2nd & 4th Sunday evenings.

<https://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org>

<https://rcdow.org.uk/directory/lgbt-chaplaincy/>