



Mount Street Gardens Entrance



LGBT+ Catholics
Westminster



Farm Street Church Entrance

**MARKING
25 YEARS
1999 - 2024**

NEWS & NOTES - MAY 2024

**LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council, PO Box 24632, London E9 6XF
020 8986 0807**

communications@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org - www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org

<https://www.facebook.com/lgbtcatholicswestminster/> -  <https://twitter.com/LGBTCathWestmin>

Younger Adults Group (YAG) - <http://www.lgbtcatholicsyag.org.uk/>

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

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

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

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

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

The Diocese of Westminster & LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender 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 Catholic Diocese of Westminster's pastoral provision for LGBT+ Catholics, we are invited to gather for the 17.30 Masses at the Jesuit Church: **12 & 26 May; 9 & 23 June 2024.**

We also gather every couple of months at St. Joseph's Church, Lamb's Buildings, off Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8LD, 12.00/16.00 - Saturdays, 18 May, 20 July, 21 September, 16 November 2024.

The ordinary 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
(Central / Jubilee / Elizabeth)

&

Green Park
(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.

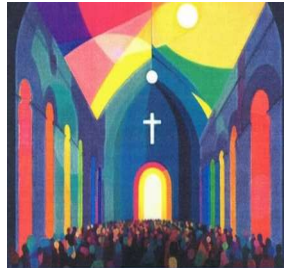
The following are elected and co-opted members of the LGBT Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council 2023-2024: Ruby Almeida (Chair/Safeguarding Officer), Nicolete Burbach (Trans Liaison), Peter Hart (Catering/Refreshments), David Hothersall (Website/Social Media), Godfrey Kawalya (LGBT+ Refugees Liaison & Welcoming), Tony Mullik, Peter O'Hare (Welcoming), Martin Pendergast (Secretary, Communications & Media, & Music Group), Guillermo Quintanilla-Pinto, Chiara Razza di Nunzio (Bi Liaison), Joe Stanley (Deputy-Chair/Treasurer), Sophia White, Sherwyn Sicat (Co-opted – Safeguarding Officer). Observers: Fr. Dominic Robinson SJ (Farm Street Parish Priest), Steven Fachada (Chairperson, Farm Street Parish Council), Mgr. Keith Barltrop (Westminster Diocese).

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 PO Box/e-mail address for future meetings. Next Pastoral Council meeting: **21 May 2024.**



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



The 2nd Synod Assembly in the current process takes place, 2-27 October 2024. WATCH THIS SPACE !

HOW TO BE A SYNODAL CHURCH

Some 35 people from a range of parishes, including LGBT+ Catholics Westminster members, gathered at the London Jesuit Centre, 10 February 2024, to engage in the next phase of the Synodal Journey in response to the invitation of Cardinal Vincent and Bishop Nicholas. A summary report from The day's

Conversation-in-the-Spirit on the themes, **Shared Responsibility & Formation**, is here:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dbc89b54eede32f3cd35bbe/t/65eb593be7cba31eb40c018d/1709922621384/RCDOWSynodalResponseFebruary2024.pdf>

This forms a submission to Westminster Diocese and the Synod Office in Rome.

Check out the international LGBT+ Catholics Synodal Webinar Series :

[The Relevance of the Synodal Process for LGBTI+ People - Part 1 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9ocWx_TIYE&t=26s)

[Fiducia Supplicans and the Synodal Process - Developing Blessings of Same-gender Couples \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9ocWx_TIYE&t=26s)

[Understanding the Vulnerabilities of LGBTI+ People - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9ocWx_TIYE&t=26s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9ocWx_TIYE&t=26s)

THE SYNODAL JOURNEY CONTINUES : OCTOBER 2023 SYNTHESIS REPORT:

<https://www.synod.va/en/news/a-synodal-church-in-mission.html>

The following link includes a 'roadmap', guidelines, and a Work-sheet towards October 2024:

<https://www.synod.va/en/news/how-to-be-a-synodal-church-in-mission.html>

The Vatican's Synod Office Newsletter: https://mailchi.mp/synod/newsletter172022_en

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales Synodal Response:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/synod-plenary-resolution-autumn-2023/>

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

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



Root & Branch is a 2021 initiative, stemming from Catholic grassroots - **INCLUSIVE SYNOD: 5-12 September 2021** - - Videos & texts are here: <https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org/>

A new network of Catholic reform groups, **Spirit Unbounded**, held a hybrid event in Rome, 13-14 October 2023, preceded by online sessions, 8-12 October 2023, **Theme: DISCIPLESHIP OF EQUALS - LAY-LED RESPONSE TO THE SYNOD**. If you are interested in the Online meetings in Rome from 9 to 14 October 2023 : www.spiritunbounded.org / hello@spiritunbounded.org.

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.

THE 5th LGBT+ CATHOLICS ROME PILGRIMAGE - 3-9 MARCH 2025



Pope Francis' Ash Wednesday Mass, Santa Sabina - St. Peter's Square, 2023

Please contact secretary@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org if you would like to join us. Limited to 20 places, we already have 14 names confirmed. **£150 Deposits to secure accommodation are required NOW.**

2025 will also be a Holy Year - Jubilee 2025 - with special events in Rome.

Our 4th pilgrimage took place for the start of Lent, 20-26 February 2023:

See website for recent pilgrimages, including photographs:

<http://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/news-notes/rome-pilgrimage-2015/lentpilgrimagerome2017>

<http://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/news-notes/rome-pilgrimage-2015/romepilgrimage>

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 **18.00**, 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 - 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 :** tbc, 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 from:** <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/mass-for-lgbtqia-catholics/> 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:** secretary@lgbtcatholicswestminster.org



After-Mass Refreshments : Peter Hart 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 Peter - 0751 363 6809.

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 fails to include any of the women who have previously read regularly, nor any YAG members.** 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 will be restoring 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, 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> & <http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/6993/0/catholics-rally-behind-gay-ugandan-who-faces-deportation>
After 20 years, he final 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: £441.92; LGBT+ Hardship Fund: £917.01** 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

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.



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.prayasougo.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>

Saturday, 20 April 2024 - For the Bible Tells Me So, a film addressing the conflict of faith faced by 5 American families, caught in their perceived cross-fire between scripture, religious belief, and sexual identity. **12.00** Liturgy of the Word & Communion, St. Joseph's Church, Lamb's Buildings, off Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8LD, followed by Bring-&-Share Lunch, and afternoon film-showing.



18 May 2024 - Fr. Nick King SJ, a member of the Farm Street Pastoral Team and one of the UK's leading biblical scholars, will respond to **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 ... This event will follow 12.00 Mass & Bring-&-Share-Lunch, St. Joseph's Church, Lamb's Buildings, off Lamb's Passage EC1Y 8LD. 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 Tuesday of every month - 28 May, 25 June, 23 July - 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.

RSVP to sign up & get further information: <https://londonjesuitcentre.churchsuite.com/events/myeb7qqp>
OR communications@lgbtcatholicswestminster.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. Its annual conference was held, 16-18 June 2023, Fordham University, New York City. **Conference Keynote speeches:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpzEzSLy7vrHUWw_YnVsHTq / <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 Peregín – 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. Next **Landings** Programme - **TBC Contact Ruby:** landings.london@gmail.com for further details.

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: Yasko - y.kurahachi@gmail.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/>


Fr. David Birchall SJ offers spiritual accompaniment/direction/guidance - dbirchallsj@jesuit.org.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 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> - **SEE STOP PRESS FOR FULL TEXT**

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:

<http://www.tgdr.co.uk/liturgies/liturgies.htm> / <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 / sgen4144@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=GNXId2VRURM&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/>

Westminster LGBT+ Forum



LGBT+ Catholics Westminster was a founding member of this Forum in 2012 which brings together a range of 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:**

<https://www.westminsterlgbtforum.co.uk/> **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/wlgbtf>

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/Xml0tOaurhA>
<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/> <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/features/2/16788/-this-is-pope-francis-calling->

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

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.



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 : www.lgbtcatholicseyag.org.uk - email: lgbtcatholicseyag@gmail.com - <http://www.facebook.com/lgbtcatholicseyag> <https://twitter.com/lgbtcatholicyag>

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>

LGBT+ Catholics T-Shirt - WEAR THIS AS PROUDLY LGBT+, PROUDLY CATHOLIC !



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/>

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 made submitted this Statement to the Vatican's 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/>

The GNRC Theological Committee aims to name and nurture the richness of LGBT+ Catholic realities and undertake theological reflection on these experiences that will support and enhance the faith and identities of GNRC groups and their members. We are gathering examples of liturgies and rituals used in the celebration of same-sex marriages, blessings, baptisms, namings, etc, in a Catholic context. By 'Catholic context' we mean events which are celebrated within a Catholic community, and where at least one of the participants is a Catholic of any Rite, and/or where the presider is a Catholic minister, lay or ordained. We welcome any information about other publicly available celebrations in order to develop a list of resources. These may include audio/video sources, as well as printed material. We particularly wish to ensure that these resources reflect the rich cultural diversity of GNRC's membership. Please send material to: 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 LGBT+ 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.

FOR YOUR DIARIES

REFLECTING & RECALLING OUR HISTORY: From Oscar Wilde to Farm Street Jesuit Church

SATURDAY, 11 MAY 2024, 15.00-17.00 approx.

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

PLEASE CONTACT MARK IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP WITH READINGS DURING THIS EVENT :
markponman@hotmail.com

25th Anniversary Day- Conference: LGBT+ Catholics in a Synodal Church
with a keynote address by Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP

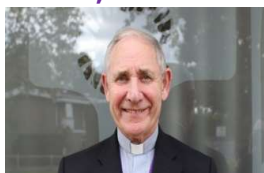
SATURDAY, 25 May 2024, 10.00-16.00, London Jesuit Centre Aula Magna,
114 Mount Street W1K 3AH

REGISTER BEFORE THURSDAY, 23 MAY 2024 :

&

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

AUXILIARY BISHOP IN HERTFORDSHIRE, RT. REV. PAUL MCALEENAN WILL PRESIDE



A number of priests on our previous Soho Presiding Rota will also be joining us.

STOP PRESS: LGBT+ Catholics Westminster response to "Infinite Dignity"

The Vatican Declaration, "Infinite Dignity" (8 April 2024), is a welcome re-affirmation of the centrality of human rights protection in promoting the common good of all, and their universality, especially for LGBT+ persons and communities. The LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council particularly welcomes the denunciation of policies and legislation allowing "*that in some places, not a few people are imprisoned, tortured, and even deprived of the good of life solely because of their sexual orientation.*" (No.55). However, the document should go beyond criticising governments for these policies; in too many countries Catholic Bishops' Conferences have colluded with, and actively supported such human rights abuses. When will these be brought to order and comply with Pope Francis' pastoral approach and inclusion of LGBT+ people in Church and society?

Sadly, the Declaration's fine principles are abrogated when it comes to recognising the reality of gender transition and the use of surrogacy by LGBT+ persons and others as they pursue their rights to self-identity and desires to found a family. The confusion of gender transition with the treatment of genital abnormalities such as experienced by intersex people is compounded by the document's inadequate exposition of gender theory and the pseudo-concept of "gender ideology", created by those opposed to developing understanding on the diversity of gender identities and the impact of social construction. Pope Francis' 2016 Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love), and many subsequent statements, emphasise the need to start with the human realities of time and space, rather than attempting to apply abstract, theoretical principles to truly human concerns. We also welcome the occasional acknowledgment that Church teachings in these areas are not always "one size fits all" positions and that there might be divergencies from a "rule". An authentic theology of sexual diversity and gender identities will only emerge when we take this seriously.