



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

PRESS RELEASE

LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Welcome Vatican Same-Gender Blessings Move

London, 19 December 2023. The news that Pope Francis has approved blessings for same-gender couples and those in 'irregular relationships' is nothing short of wonderful for those many couples in committed relationships.

The Catholic Church has always been very comfortable to give blessings to a vast range of inanimate objects ranging from homes, offices and vehicles, even machines of war, as well as to beloved pets and other animals. The idea, not to say practice, that a loving and committed same-gender couple could deserve a blessing in their faith and from the Church that they love so much, has been a struggle for the Church for far too long.

LGBT+ Catholics Westminster are delighted to receive this welcoming, Christmas gift from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and Pope Francis. Following on the recent announcements about LGBT+ access to, and involvement in baptism & confirmation celebrations, the Church is taking another small step towards the radical inclusion of LGBT+ people of God, very much in tune with the current Synodal Journey towards October 2024 and beyond. This is a massive step forward in the recognition and acceptance of all who seek a blessing for their loving and committed relationships.

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/>