



Mount Street Gardens Entrance



Farm Street Church Main Entrance

### NEWS & NOTES - FEBRUARY 2021

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 **ONLINE 18.00 Masses** at the Jesuit Church, 2nd & 4th Sundays, **14 & 28 February 2021**.

#### Public worship suspension until further notice

Following a consultation led by the Parish Pastoral Council it has been decided that, in the interests of public safety, public Masses will be suspended from Friday 22nd January until the dangerous situation in London regarding the possibility of COVID and its new variants' infection improves. **The church will be open from 11am – 5:30pm (on Sunday from 12:30pm) with daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 4pm. There will be two livestreamed Masses Monday to Saturday at 10.00 & 18.00 (on Saturday the Vigil Mass of Sunday) and Sundays, 11.00 Solemn Latin and 18.00, English with music.** [www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream](http://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream)

#### COVID-19 VIRUS PRECAUTIONS: CHECK FARM STREET CHURCH WEBSITE FOR DETAILS:

<https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/> - The Sunday obligation remains dispensed.

#### Farm Street's Nearest Tube Stations:

Bond Street & Green Park  
(Central/Jubilee) & (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, PO Box 24632, London E9 6XF  
020 8986 0807**

[lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com) - [www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org](http://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/lgbtcatholicswestminster/> - **Twitter:** @LGBTCatholicsWestmin

**Younger Adults Group (YAG)** - <http://www.lgbtcatholicsvag.org.uk/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/lgbtcatholicsvag>  
<https://twitter.com/lgbtcatholicsvag> - <https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/activities>

**Westminster Diocese Website Link:** <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/lgbt-chaplaincy/>

See also the **Farm Street Parish Website** for other information & events :  
[farmstreet@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:farmstreet@rcdow.org.uk)

#### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2019-20: **Neil Cocking** (co-opted 2019 - [530 Music Group](#)), **Peter Hart** ([Catering/Refreshments](#)), **David Hothersall** ([Website](#)), **Kirk Jacob**, **Godfrey Kawalya** (co-opted 2019 - [Welcoming & LGBT+ Refugees Liaison](#)), **Martin Kelly** (elected 2019), **Rose Kelly** (co-opted 2019), **Robert Kirabira** (re-elected 2019 - [LGBT+ Refugees Liaison & Welcoming](#)), **Peter Liska** (re-elected 2019 [Treasurer & Pride Liaison](#)), **Thomas Lofaro** ([Chairperson](#)), **Rámond Mitchell** (elected 2019 - [Secretary](#)), **Martin Pendergast** ([Communications & Media](#)), **Joe Stanley** ([Co-Chair](#)).  
**Observers:** **Fr. Dominic Robinson SJ** (Farm Street Parish Priest), **Steven Fachada** (Chairperson, Farm Street Parish Council), **Mgr. Keith Barltrop** (Westminster Diocese), **Ruby Almeida** (Quest).

The **LGBT Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council** - **Feel free to submit agenda items to the above PO Box/e-mail address for future meetings.** Date of next Pastoral Council meeting: **tbc**

**Mgr. Keith Barltrop**, [keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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.



**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.**

#### Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue RIP



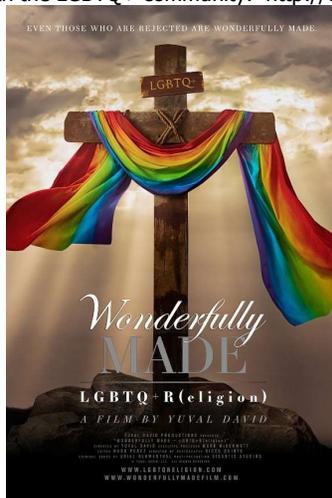
Let us pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop Pat. O'Donoghue (4 May 1934-24 January 2021), formerly a priest and Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Westminster and Bishop Emeritus of Lancaster. Bishop Pat., often known as 'Pod', was Area Bishop in in West London, also Chair of Westminster Diocese Pastoral Affairs Committee, when Masses welcoming LGBT+ Catholics, parents, families and friends were first mooted by the then Roman Catholic Caucus of the Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement. He had a warm pastoral streak, a great sense of humour, and an open heart. He gave his approval to begin the Masses at the Convent of the Helpers of the Holy Souls, Centre-peace, in Camden Town, but requested that as then part of an ecumenical network, Roman Catholic regulations regarding intercommunion and access to the Eucharist should be respected. As is known, these began on 2 May 1999, three days after the Admiral Duncan bombing in Soho. Later, along with Emeritus Bishop John Crowley he supported *Called To Be One*, an informal, national telephone network for Catholic parents of LGBT+ people. Following his appointment as Bishop of Lancaster he adopted a more conservative stance, opposing Government requirements that adoption agencies should not discriminate against LGBT prospective adopters. When his diocesan child-care agency decided to comply with the Government regulations they were forced to become a service, independent of Lancaster Diocese. Sadly, he then began to find himself out-of-line with his fellow bishops on a number of issues which caused him and others pain. He retired back to Ireland in 2009. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

**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 enables 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 following new initiative from Pope Francis offers us some creative opportunities over the next year - ideas & suggestions welcome! Amoris Laetitia Family Year, 2021-2022: Pope Francis, 27 December 2020** - "In order to continue the synodal journey that led to its publication, I have decided to call a special Year dedicated to the Family Amoris Laetitia, to be inaugurated on the forthcoming Solemnity of St. Joseph (19 March) and to conclude with the celebration of the 10th World Meeting of Families, to be held here in Rome in June 2022." Website: [www.amorislaetitia.va](http://www.amorislaetitia.va)

**Look out for this up-coming film: "Wonderfully Made"** is a feature-length documentary film exploring the challenges and aspirations of LGBTQ+ Catholics. The film is the first of a planned docu-series, "LGBTQ+R(eligion)," each episode of which will focus on other faith traditions and LGBTQ+ identities. "Wonderfully Made" features interviews with leading advocates of LGBTQ+ Catholics, and provides behind-the-scenes footage of the creation of unprecedented iconography: sophisticated photo art depicting Jesus in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community. <http://www.lgbtqreligion.com/>



**COVID-19 - IF YOU KNOW OR THINK THAT ANYONE MIGHT BE ISOLATED, PLEASE CONTACT THEM OR LET US KNOW, SO THAT WE CAN OFFER SUPPORT. WE ARE NOW OPERATING A HARDSHIP FUND TO OFFER SMALL GRANTS TO ANYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY UNABLE TO GET TO FARM STREET FOR FINANCIAL REASONS.**

#### 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](http://www.churchservices.tv/westminster)

**Check this list of live-streamed or recorded Masses from LGBT+ friendly churches:**

**Sunday Masses** - there may be more than one on-line Mass ...

10.00 St. Nicholas of Tolentino, **Bristol** [www.facebook.com/stnicksbristol/](http://www.facebook.com/stnicksbristol/) / <https://tolentino.org.uk/>

**When this streaming ends this can be accessed by clicking on the Videos link on the same page.**

10.00 Our Lady's, Acomb, **York** - [www.ourladysofcomb.org.uk/](http://www.ourladysofcomb.org.uk/) / [www.facebook.com/ourladysofcomb/](http://www.facebook.com/ourladysofcomb/)

17.30 Farm Street Jesuit Church - [www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream](http://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream)

**Weekday Masses & Other Services**

19.00 Rosary/Way of the Cross, Our Lady's, Acomb, **York** - [www.ourladysofcomb.org.uk/](http://www.ourladysofcomb.org.uk/)  
[www.facebook.com/ourladysofcomb/](http://www.facebook.com/ourladysofcomb/)

18.00 St. Nicholas of Tolentino, **Bristol**, Tuesday-Friday; 12.00, Saturdays.

[www.facebook.com/stnicksbristol/](http://www.facebook.com/stnicksbristol/) / <https://tolentino.org.uk/> - **When this streaming ends this can be accessed by clicking on the Videos link on the same page.**

18.00 Farm Street Jesuit Church - [www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream](http://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream)

**OTHER CHURCHES IN ENGLAND 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 - PLEASE CHECK WITH CONTACTS RE CURRENT PROVISION, COVID-19 DEPENDING:**

**Clifton Diocese**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays - 15.00, <https://tolentino.org.uk/lgbt-mass/> [inclusionforall@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:inclusionforall@cliftondiocese.com)  
St. Nicholas of Tolentino Church is also live-streaming Mass, Sundays @10.00, Tuesday-Friday @ 18.00, Saturdays @ 12.00 : <https://www.facebook.com/stnicksbristol/> ; **Hexham & Newcastle**, further information - [proud.catholics@yahoo.com](mailto:proud.catholics@yahoo.com) **Middlesbrough Diocese**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, 15.00, *relocated from the Bar Convent to* Our Lady's Church, Acomb, junction of Gale Lane and Cornlands Road (YO24 3DX) [www.lgbtmiddlesbroughcatholic.org.uk/](http://www.lgbtmiddlesbroughcatholic.org.uk/) - [frtony@lgbtmiddlesbroughcatholic.org.uk](mailto:frtony@lgbtmiddlesbroughcatholic.org.uk) ; **Nottingham Diocese** has expanded its ministry: Annual Diocesan Mass - postponed until 2021 - [lgbt.pastoral@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:lgbt.pastoral@dioceseofnottingham.uk) / [questinthemidlands@questlgbti.uk](mailto:questinthemidlands@questlgbti.uk) - [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/news/nottingham-diocese-lgbt-ministry](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/news/nottingham-diocese-lgbt-ministry) ; **Salford Diocese** - 15.00, Church of the Holy Name, 336-339 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PG - [manchesterrclgbti.pastoral@gmail.com](mailto:manchesterrclgbti.pastoral@gmail.com)

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

#### LGBTQ\* UK COVID-19 Lockdown Experiences Surveys

Marie Houghton previously authored research into Exploring Lesbian and Bisexual Catholic Women's Narratives of Religious and Sexual Identity Formation and Integration to which some of our women members contributed. She and Fiona Tasker are now conducting a 2<sup>nd</sup> Survey - see their website for details : <https://lgbtq1835c19lockdown.wordpress.com/> + [f.tasker@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:f.tasker@bbk.ac.uk) & [mhough01@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:mhough01@bbk.ac.uk)



Despite the lockdown due to Covid-19, February will see the launch of national LGBT History Month and a packed agenda of virtual events. This year's theme is 'Body, Mind, Spirit' and like the last few years, is linked to a National Curriculum subject. Details: <https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/>

**Monday 1 February 2021, 18.00:** As part of *elop* and Tower Hamlet's LGBT+ Forum free events programme, join them for an online discussion and Q&A with the Bishopsgate Institute presenting some of their LGBT+ archive, and the LGBT+ Helpline, Switchboard, talking about their history and the podcast 'The Log Books' created with historical call logs stored at Bishopsgate Institute. Click [here](#) to book a free space.

**JOIN IN OUR WELCOME !**



## Welcoming Ministry – can you help?

**When we return to our usual pattern**, this involves getting to Farm Street by **16.45** on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Godfrey, Robert, or William, if you'd like to help in this way:

[godfrey66silver@gmail.com](mailto:godfrey66silver@gmail.com) **AND/OR** [roberta1uq@yahoo.com](mailto:roberta1uq@yahoo.com) / [wkrantoine@me.com](mailto:wkrantoine@me.com)



### After-Mass Refreshments Rota :

In usual times, 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 [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com) 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 and/or fill in a **TALENT SHEET** after Mass ! This will also help us keep in touch with you and let you know about other events: [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com)

*Reading, Eucharistic, & Music Ministries - 17.30 Masses*



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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.** 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](mailto:farmstreetoffice@rcdow.org.uk)



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](mailto:dominicrobinson@rcdow.org.uk)



The **530 Music Group** provides music for both 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 17.30 Masses. Neil Cocking - 07850 790747 - coordinates music for these Sundays. We're looking for more singers, particularly women's voices, and especially instrumentalists, **including string & woodwind**, etc, to join the group. Great if you can read music, but it's not necessary! Interested? Contact Neil / [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com)

**Come and join us in contributing to Farm Street Parish's liturgical diversity.**



These words of welcome have special meaning for us **NOW**. A number of our regular attenders, from Egypt, Sri Lanka, Uganda, 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>

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>

**SAY IT LOUD** [www.sayitloudclub.co.uk](http://www.sayitloudclub.co.uk) + **OUT & PROUD AFRICAN LGBTI GROUP** - <https://www.facebook.com/opalgbti/> & **MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE** [www.movementforjustice.org](http://www.movementforjustice.org)  
**RAINBOWS ACROSS BORDERS** <http://rainbowsacrossborders.org.uk/> and this one in Uganda, [www.saintpaulsvoicecentre.org/](http://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.

**THIS IS WHY WE TAKE PART IN PRIDE IN LONDON - TO WITNESS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO INTEGRATE FAITH, GENDER & DIFFERENT SEXUALITIES AS FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF GOD - PROUDLY CATHOLIC & PROUDLY LGBT+ !**



LUKE DOWDING, known to many of us from Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, is the Faith & Belief link for the Community Advisory Board of Pride in London - [luke.dowding@onebodyonefaith.org](mailto:luke.dowding@onebodyonefaith.org)

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



We are also delighted to offer you the chance to buy our very own T-shirt! You can select your size and it will be sent directly to you. The price is £10.96 (plus standard delivery of £2.75 and handling fee of £0.42). In order to make sure that you receive the t-shirt quickly we suggest that you add 'rush delivery' at additional cost of £3.99 and in that case the total price of your t-shirt will be a bargain! **CLICK HERE TO ORDER:** [https://teespring.com/LGBT\\_Catholics\\_Grey1](https://teespring.com/LGBT_Catholics_Grey1) (if for some reason the website does not show you prices in £, please make sure that you select 'United Kingdom' in shipping info below the image)

**It is right and just ...** that we account for Mass collections, particularly on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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: **£758.26**; LGBT+ Hardship Fund: £475.00 We receive no funding from either Farm Street Parish or Westminster Diocese. We must therefore be self-supporting in all that we! The only regular money we receive are the few coins in the Refreshment Table Donation cans. Perhaps you'd consider a Standing Order to LGBT+ Catholics Westminster, please? **CONTACT US FOR DETAILS:** [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com)

**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 - [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com) For updates and other events please keep an eye on **OUR WEBSITE:** [www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org](http://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org) **YAG MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:** your inclusion on YAG's e-mail circulation does not mean that you automatically receive main LGBT+ CW

notices. You can also check us out (LGBT Catholics, their families and friends) on **Facebook**:

[https://www.facebook.com/pages/LGBT-Catholics Westminster/ 149420788463271](https://www.facebook.com/pages/LGBT-Catholics%20Westminster/149420788463271)

**Twitter:** @LGBTCatholicsWestmin



**Testimonies** - [www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/testimonies](http://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](http://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/homilies)



**COMING UP** - *subject to Covid 19* - **A GATHERING TO REFLECT ON AND DISCUSS KEY BIBLICAL TEXTS AS THEY IMPACT ON THE LIVES AND FAITH OF LGBT+ CATHOLICS, PARENTS & FAMILIES WITH A SHOWING OF THE AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY *For The Bible Tells Me So* WITH ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU, BISHOP GENE ROBINSON, RABBI STEVE GREENBERG & OTHERS .....** Copies of The New Jerusalem Bible are available at a discount-price: **£5.00** The opening session will be followed by monthly seminars on the theme: **DISCERNING OUR CREATED DESIGN** – *exploring theological ethics for LGBT+ Catholics*. These sessions will be based on the new book, **INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL ETHICS**, by Professors Todd A Salzman & Michael G. Lawler, Creighton University, USA. **RSVP to sign up & get further information:** [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com) **DATES TO BE CONFIRMED**

**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**

**From Marianist LGBT Initiative USA:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= ItQVlyXjd4&feature=youtu.be](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 a link, e-mail [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com) . 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** - **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](mailto: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/47ct2k3upa8jsr/ENP\\_Sept04.mp4?dl=0](http://www.dropbox.com/s/47ct2k3upa8jsr/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/vU62suliA0> - with English subtitles.



### 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 VIEW ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

[https://www.euroforumlgbtchristians.eu/images/pdf/2018\\_conjugacy\\_en.pdf](https://www.euroforumlgbtchristians.eu/images/pdf/2018_conjugacy_en.pdf)

**Do you know someone who has fallen away from the Catholic faith 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](mailto: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: [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.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](mailto:y.kurahachi@gmail.com)

### 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](http://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](mailto:martinkelly300@gmail.com) / <https://www.martinkellycounselling.co.uk/>

**LGBT+ Catholics TG 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 - [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com) [trans.fs.cath@gmail.com](mailto:trans.fs.cath@gmail.com) [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com)

**Pope Francis' Trans Housing Support - August 2020:** <https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/08/20/in-new-letter-pope-francis-again-affirms-nuns-ministry-to-transgender-women/>

**Trans-ministry Clergy-training** - <https://www.ncronline.org/news/people/zoom-series-trains-priests-minister-transgender-people>

**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*, on 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/>

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/1ZEYj1eCMONA4rkRUCbLw7sewZlvHgRDO/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://cruznaw.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/>

**TRANSFAITH** is a follow-up to *THIS IS MY BODY*, also published by Darton, Longman & Todd. It is a pastoral resource including trans-context Bible studies and liturgies, by Chris Dowd, Christina Beardsley & Justin Tanis.

**Other online resources:** [www.transfaithonline.org](http://www.transfaithonline.org/) / [www.shannontkearns.com](http://www.shannontkearns.com)

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

**The Sibyls** is a Christian spirituality group for trans people, meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every 2<sup>nd</sup> month, open to all trans people, friends, spouses & supporters. **Sibyls News:** website - [www.sibyls.co.uk](http://www.sibyls.co.uk)  
**2021 online gatherings** - Thursday 25 February, Thursday 25 March 19.00, - Contact details: 07546 213 971 / [sgen4144@gmail.com](mailto:sgen4144@gmail.com) / [sibylslink@gmail.com](mailto:sibylslink@gmail.com) / [enquiries@sibyls.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sibyls.co.uk)

**Spectra Soho Trans Drop-in Group** - **1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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> **Million Minutes** - <https://millionminutes.org/> - 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.xiqg> **ALSO USA Marianist Resource on LGBT+ Youth:** [https://static.showit.co/file/A8pNyctRTwWCVHAoY0YLpg/99684/marianist\\_lgbt\\_final\\_-\\_2-15.pdf](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](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/>

**Catholics for AIDS Prevention & Support** is a national registered charity - [www.caps-uk.org](http://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](mailto:info@caps-uk.org) + **Positive Catholics Support Group:** [info@positivecatholics.com](mailto:info@positivecatholics.com) [www.positivecatholics.com](http://www.positivecatholics.com) **POSITIVE FAITH** is a website and film resource on HIV & Christianity - some of it filmed at Farm Street - [www.positivefaith.net](http://www.positivefaith.net).

**Westminster LGBT Community Forum** : [contact@westminsterlgbtforum.com](mailto:contact@westminsterlgbtforum.com) The LGBT+ Catholic community is regularly represented at this Forum 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. Due to Coronavirus restrictions, current meetings are virtual. As part of LGBT+ History Month, the Forum will be holding an LGBT quiz at its next Forum meeting - Sunday, 21 February 2021 at 16.00. **ANYONE** who lives, works, spends leisure time in the City of Westminster & Soho, is welcome. **Website:**

<http://westminsterlgbtforum.org/> - **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/WestminsterLgbtForum/> **Twitter:**

@WLBTF **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 Liaison Team: PC Zoe Bradley** is the 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: [Zoe.Bradley@met.police.uk](mailto:Zoe.Bradley@met.police.uk)



**NO PLACE FOR HATE - National Hate Crime Awareness Week:** <https://nationalhcaw.uk/>  
<https://nationalhcaw.uk/april-acts-of-remembrance>  
**A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE 2020 SOHO ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**  
<https://youtu.be/Xml0tOaurhA>

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

### ROME PILGRIMAGE FOR LENT - 15-21 FEBRUARY 2021



St. Peter's Square, Ash Wednesday 2019

**THE UK GOVERNMENT'S COVID-19 REGULATIONS, NOW LAW, RESTRICT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. WE REGRET THAT THIS HAS FORCED US TO POSTPONE THE 4<sup>TH</sup> LGBT+ ROME PILGRIMAGE. FUTURE OPTIONS COULD BE SEPTEMBER / EARLY OCTOBER 2021, OR THE BEGINNING OF LENT 2022 - 28 FEBRUARY-6 MARCH 2022.**  
**PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED TO TAKE PART:** [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com)  
**See website for recent pilgrimages, including photographs:**  
<http://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/news-notes/rome-pilgrimage-2015/letpilgrimage2015>  
<http://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/news-notes/rome-pilgrimage-2015/romepilgrimage>

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

**We're a very international community** – See all the links to other parishes worldwide, on our website: [www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org](http://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org) **Parlate Italiano?** [www.gionata.org](http://www.gionata.org) **OR** <http://www.camminidisperanza.org/> **Mówisz po Polsku? Wizyta ta** [www.wiara-tecza.pl/](http://www.wiara-tecza.pl/)



**Visiting the USA, Trump-willing,** 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](http://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/External-Resources/websites) See **LGBT+ Catholics Westminster website** for other links.

**Check out James Alison** - [www.jamesalison.co.uk](http://www.jamesalison.co.uk) - James responds to Pope Francis on same-sex unions: <http://www.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>

**James recounts the reinstatement of his priestly faculties with a phone call from Pope Francis:** <http://www.jamesalison.co.uk/texts/this-is-pope-francis-calling/>

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

**DURING THIS TIME OF COVID-19:** <http://prayingeucharistically.com/> Latest article (13 August 2020) by James: <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/how-my-mind-has-changed/brought-life-christ>

**UK Catholic News** on Independent Catholic News: [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) For a window into the Vatican, the latest news and gossip, try [www.thetablet.co.uk](http://www.thetablet.co.uk) + [www.whispersintheloggia.blogspot.com/](http://www.whispersintheloggia.blogspot.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>



**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. For more information :

[www.lgbtcatholiccyag.org.uk](http://www.lgbtcatholiccyag.org.uk) - email [lgbtcatholiccyag@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholiccyag@gmail.com) - <http://www.facebook.com/lgbtcatholiccyag>  
<https://twitter.com/lgbtcatholiccyag>

or

LGBT+ CATHOLICS WESTMINSTER PASTORAL COUNCIL PO BOX 24632, LONDON E9 6XF - 020 8986 0807

**TG Support** - although there is no regular meeting we are willing to enable trans members of our congregation to gather, as needed. 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>

**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/>

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



**The European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups**  
<http://www.euroforumlgbtchristians.eu/index.php/en/>

&



The GNRC brings together groups and their members who work for pastoral care, justice, inclusion, dignity and equality for LGBTIQ people and their families in the Roman Catholic Church and society.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved You" – John 15:12

Follow us on



GNRCatholics



GlobalNetworkofRainbowCatholics

**Website:** <http://rainbowcatholics.org/>

**Mail:** [media@gnrcatholics.org](mailto:media@gnrcatholics.org)

**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 published 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](mailto:theologicalcommittee@gnrcatholics.org) or [lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com)

&



**CONSORTIUM**  
for stronger lgbt+ communities

**The LGBT Consortium UK**  
<http://www.lgbtconsortium.org.uk/>

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



**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL DATES FOR VARIOUS EVENTS LISTED IN NEWS & NOTES ARE SUBJECT TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS AND THEREFORE IT IS BEST TO CHECK WITH CONTACTS WHETHER THEY ARE LIVE OR VIRTUAL.**