



LGBT+ Catholics
Westminster



Mount Street Gardens Entrance

Farm Street Church Entrance

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

lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com - www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS & NOTES - OCTOBER 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 17.30 Masses at the Jesuit Church, 2nd & 4th Sundays, 8 & 22 August; 12 & 26 September.

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)

The dispensation from Sunday obligation remains in effect until Advent Sunday. 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)

(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.

COVID-19 VIRUS PRECAUTIONS:

CHECK FARM STREET CHURCH WEBSITE FOR DETAILS: <https://www.farmstreet.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 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 2019-21: Ruby Almeida (co-opted 2021), 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), Rámond Mitchell (elected 2019 - Secretary), Martin Pendergast (Communications & Media), Joe Stanley (Acting-Chair). **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. Date of next Pastoral Council meeting: **12 October 2021. LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council's Annual General Meeting, including elections, will take place after the 17.30 Mass, Sunday, 24 October 2021. Please join us to celebrate our post-Lockdowns' new beginnings ... Nominations are now invited for 12 elected members of a new Council - CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS, SUNDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2021.**



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.

A REFLECTION FOR OCTOBER 2021: *We continue the theme of SYNODALITY* with this from **Mark Guevarra** which first appeared on New Ways Ministry blog, 26 September 2021.



For Catholics who seek equality for LGBTQ people in the church, now is the time to redouble our efforts to speak our truth for the sake of justice. Beginning in October, the global Catholic Church will embark upon a synodal journey that has the potential for renewal that we haven't seen since the Second Vatican Council. As the Synod Handbook describes, the entire church will enter into an intense period of prayerful "listening and dialogue" towards "personal and communal discernment" and "humble learning" to enable us to hear "how God is calling us to be Church in the third millennium."

Who we, as a church, should listen to is clear in the handbook's telling. Rather than being "tempted not to look beyond the visible confines of the Church" we are called to hear from "all the baptized" and "the widest possible audience" especially "those who feel excluded or marginalized," "women, the handicapped, refugees, migrants, the elderly, people who live in poverty, Catholics who rarely or never practice their faith, as well as children and youth." The list includes those who have been "sexually abused and abused by the power of clerics and consecrated persons." What's more, it calls Catholics to listen to their siblings in other Christian traditions and those in other faith traditions. While not explicitly named, LGBTQ people are clearly voices to which the church in its synodal journey should be listening. The guidelines for the synod make it clear that the purpose of the Synod is "not to produce more documents; rather, it is to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to

learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.”



The difficulty of this invitation to listen and to dream is captured well in the Mass's readings for 26 September. In the first reading, we hear of concerns from Joshua, Moses' aide, that Eldad and Medad are teaching, even though they present with the seventy elders when the group received the spirit. Moses rebukes Joshua accusing him of jealousy and counters by saying, "Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!" Those of us speaking from and working in the margins know all too well the rejection by leaders in the church. Hopefully with the direction from the synod's preparatory document and handbook, and through the synodal process itself, LGBTQ+ voices and others might finally be seen as of God and for the kin-dom.

The Gospel reading amplifies these ideas. The Apostle John dutifully reports to Jesus that the other apostles prevented someone from driving out demons in his name because he "does not follow us." Like Moses, Jesus rebukes them: "Whoever is not against us is for us." Instead, he shifts the condemnation from any person who does good, to those who would cause others to sin: "it would be better if a great millstone were put around their neck and thrown into the sea."

Looking back through 2,000 years of Christian history we can think of times when our church has misread the situation and rather than trusting the Spirit, we place our trust in power and fear, fuelled by jealousy and tribalism. And on an individual level, we are all guilty of the same thing. Consequently, our actions have led to grave sins like cultural genocide and deep division.

The synod handbook warns against misreading the times and "the temptation of wanting to lead ourselves instead of being led by God; rather, synodality is a spiritual process that is led by the Holy Spirit. We can be tempted to forget that we are pilgrims and servants on the path marked out for us by God. Our humble efforts of organization and coordination are at the service of God who guides us on our way."

So many of us have been calling our church to reform, even if few listen or even if change rarely happens. So many of us have been and continue to minister to each other even if we've been rejected by church authorities. We do this because, empowered by the Holy Spirit, "The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart," as the psalm for the day reminds us.

As we embark on the synodal journey, let us be renewed in our work as ministers raising the voices of those on the margins for the sake of dignity and justice, and the joy of the kin-dom of God.

New Ways Ministry will be holding a **webinar**, "[From the Margins to the Center: LGBTQ Catholics and Synodality](#)," on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 15:00-16:30, Eastern U.S. Time (**20.00 – UK Time**). This 75-minute webinar featuring **Dr. Robert Choiniere** will look at how all Catholics, especially LGBTQ people and allies, can help make sure that every voice is heard and recorded during the Synod on Synodality these next two years. **For more information or to register:**

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/programs/upcoming-programs/synodality/>

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 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, (27/12/2020) "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



Hardly in the spirit of The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia) the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) issued a Response to an alleged question about the legitimacy of same-sex unions' blessings, just 4 days before the launch of *Amoris Laetitia* Family Year – 2021-2022. Check out New Ways Ministry on the groundswell of rejection for the CDF's document: <https://www.newwaysministry.org/category/same-gender-blessings/>

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

18.00 Farm Street Jesuit Church - 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, 3rd Sundays - 15.00, <https://tolentino.org.uk/lgbt-mass/> 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 ; **Middlesbrough**, 2nd Sundays, 15.00, returns to the Bar Convent, York, 11 July, www.lgbtmiddlesbroughcatholic.org.uk/ - frtony@lgbtmiddlesbroughcatholic.org.uk ; **Nottingham**, Forthcoming Masses: 13.00, 23 October, Corpus Christi, Cleethorpes DN35 7AF lgbt.pastoral@dioceseofnottingham.uk www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/news/nottingham-diocese-lgbt-ministry ; **Salford** - 15.00, Church of the Holy Name, 336-339 Oxford Road, M13 9PG - manchesterrclgbti.pastoral@gmail.com

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

JOIN IN OUR WELCOME !



Welcoming Ministry – can you help?

Now that we have returned to our more usual pattern, 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** Godfrey, Robert, or William, if you'd like to help in this way: godfrey66silver@gmail.com AND/OR roberta1ug@yahoo.com / wkrantoine@me.com



After-Mass Refreshments Rota : 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 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

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 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. 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



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. Neil Cocking - 07850 790747 - coordinates music for these Sundays. We're 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? Contact Neil / 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 Ome Office to investigate 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 + **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.

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+ !



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 (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 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: £697.70; LGBT+ Hardship Fund: £624.34** We receive no funding from either Farm Street Parish or Westminster Diocese. We must therefore be self-supporting in all that we! Perhaps you'd consider a Standing Order to LGBT+ Catholics Westminster, please? **CONTACT US FOR DETAILS**: 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 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



COMING UP IN THE AUTUMN - 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 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 recent 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 **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>

Ignatian Prayer Group - This continues online via Zoom - Tuesdays at 19.00. To register interest and receive a link, e-mail 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 Peregin - 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/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 THEOLOGIAN'S VIEW ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE
https://www.euroforumlgbtchristians.eu/images/pdf/2018_coniugacy_en.pdf



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: lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com

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/>

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 / trans.fs.cath@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/1ZEY1eCMONA4rkRUCbLw7sewZlvHqRDO/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://cruknow.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.shannontkearns.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 News website:**

www.sibyls.co.uk **Contact details:** 07546 213 971 / sqen4144@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=GNXd2VRURM&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/A8pNyctRTwWCVHAoY0YLp/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

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/>

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: info@positivecatholics.com + www.positivecatholics.com **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/>



Westminster LGBT Community Forum : contact@westminsterlgbtforum.com **NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 20 October, 18.30, - <https://www.westminsterlgbtforum.org/index.html?cmid=d99cd81a-e7f7-4b89-90e1-a7cbcacc13c6> - Joseph Galliano & Lynne Bradley on 'Queer Britain'. LGBT+ Catholics

Westminster was a founding member of 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. 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: @WLGbTF **Westminster?** **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



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>

National Hate Crime Awareness Week, 9-16 October 2021
<https://nationalhcaw.uk/plan-your-nationalhcaw>

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/>

The 4th LGBT+ CATHOLICS+ ROME PILGRIMAGE - LENT - 28 FEBRUARY - 6 MARCH 2022
£759 per person, including £250.00 DEPOSIT. **PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU WISH TO TAKE PART:**

lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com

BOOKINGS: Pax Travel - ludo@paxtravel.co.uk / Tel: 07825 992733 / Tel: 07787 346099



St. Peter's Square, Ash Wednesday 2019

See website for recent pilgrimages, including photographs:

<http://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org/news-notes/rome-pilgrimage-2015/lentpilgrimage2015>

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

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.wiaraiterca.pl/> & <https://kongreskk.pl/> Europe: <https://inclusive-churches.eu/download/Annual-Review-Full-2021.pdf>



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

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

The LGBT Consortium UK - <https://www.consortium.lgbt/>

A national specialist infrastructure and membership organisation working to strengthen and support LGBT+ groups, organisations and projects



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



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

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 See LGBT+ Catholics Westminster website for other links.

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 THIS TIME OF COVID-19:** <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 For a window into the Vatican, the latest news and gossip, try www.thetablet.co.uk + 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> **ACTA** pre-dates Pope Francis' call for a more Synodal Church. **Root & Branch** is a 2021 initiative, stemming from Catholic grassroots - **INCLUSIVE SYNOD:** 5-12 September 2021 - **Speakers** included **James Alison, Ruby Almeida, Helena Kennedy, Mary McAleese** & many more - **Videos & texts** are here: <https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org/>

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 - email:

lgbtcatholiccyag@gmail.com - <http://www.facebook.com/lgbtcatholiccyag> - <https://twitter.com/lgbtcatholiccyag>

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 be receiving a particular e-mail shortly about a possible Autumn trans gathering.** You can read our response to the recent Gender Statement from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales : <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZEYj1eCMONA4rkRUCblw7sewZlvHGRDO/view>

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



<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