



Mount Street Gardens Entrance



LGBT+ Catholics Westminster



Farm Street Church Entrance

NEWS & NOTES - FEBRUARY 2023

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

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, **2nd & 4th Sundays: 12 & 26 February; 12 & 26 March 2023.**

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

&

Green Park

(Central / Jubilee / Elizabeth)

(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.

AS WE JOURNEY TOGETHER, BUILDING UP THE LGBT + EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY, WE GATHER AGAIN FOR MASS, 12.00, SATURDAY, 18 MARCH 2023, FOLLOWED BY BRING-&- SHARE LUNCH & AFTERNOON DISCUSSION - ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, LAMB'S BUILDINGS, OFF LAMB'S PASSAGE, LONDON EC1Y 8LD. NEAREST STATIONS: OLD STREET (Northern Line - Bank Branch, London Overground); **BARBICAN** (Circle, Metropolitan, Hammersmith & City Lines); **FARRINGDON** (Elizabeth Line - Barbican Exit); **LIVERPOOL STREET** (British Rail, Central, Circle, Elizabeth, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan Lines); **MOORGATE** (Circle, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan, Northern - Bank Branch - Lines).

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 2022-2023: Ruby Almeida (Chair), Nicolette Burbach (Trans Liaison), Peter Hart (Catering/Refreshments), David Hothersall (Website/Social Media), Godfrey Kawalya (LGBT+ Refugees Liaison & Welcoming), Rose Kelly (Trans Liaison), Peter Liska (Treasurer & Pride Liaison), Toni Matosevic, Michael Moloney, Martin Pendergast (Secretary, Communications & Media, & Music Group), Chiara Razza di Nunzio (Bi Liaison), Joe Stanley (Deputy-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: **18 APRIL 2023.**



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.

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.



TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WESTMINSTER DIOCESE'S SYNODAL PATHWAY, CHECK HERE:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/>

or

The Global Synodal Journey

synodus@synod.va / webmaster@synodresources.org - www.synod.va

The Continental Phase of the Synodal Process was launched in Rome, 26 August 2022:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7w6jeYH8dZg>

Synod Office Newsletter: https://mailchi.mp/synod/newsletter172022_en

Our Submission to the Westminster Diocese Synodal Report also found its way into the National Synthesis from the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, so our voices are beginning to be heard: [Westminster Diocese Bishops' Synod Report - Diocese of Westminster \(rcdow.org.uk\)](https://www.rcdow.org.uk)

The Continental Stage Document, 27 October 2022, is here with links to various languages:

<https://www.synod.va/en/highlights/working-document-for-the-continental-stage.html>

"Fear not! Enlarge the space of your tent for all." (Isaiah 54: 2-4,10-15)

Some 25 people from across the various groups in Farm Street parish gathered for a Synodal day of further discernment, reflection, and discussion on Saturday 21 January 2023 -

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/46484> The rich contributions from participants in the context of the current Continental Stage of the global Synodal journey were shared with the delegates from England & Wales to the European Synodal Assembly in Prague, 5-12 February 2023. These include Nicholas Hudson

(Auxiliary Bishop in Westminster), Fr. Jan Nowotnik (Synodal Lead at the Bishops' Conference), Sarah Adams (Clifton Diocese), and Jessica Wilkinson (Leeds Diocese), who have been involved in local Synodal processes. The 10-fold National Reference Group, in continuing conversation with the Prague Delegates throughout the Assembly and participating online, include enabling LGBT+ voices to be heard. Through the initiative of a friendly key-person in the Assembly's Secretariate, the Report has also been passed to the Final Document Writing Committee of the Prague Assembly.

European Continental Synodal Assembly, 5-12 February 2023. Along with colleagues from the European Forum's Roman Catholic Church Working Group and GNRC European Region member-groups, we were involved in planning activities in Prague, 3-5 February 2023, to engage with official Assembly delegates. **James Alison was a keynote speaker on Friday evening, 3 February 2023, along with Susanne Birke from Basel:**

<https://www.facebook.com/duhovi.krestania/videos/718076549825929?idorvanity=1408105826594468>

EUROPEAN LGBT+ CATHOLICS JOURNEYING TOGETHER ON THE SYNODAL PATH

Catholic members of the European Forum of LGBT+ Christian Groups and European members of the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics have welcomed the Continental Phase of the Church's Synodal Process, first announced by Pope Francis in 2020. However, across Europe, LGBT+ Catholics and their family members have considerably varied experiences of participation in consultations during the Diocesan stage of the Synodal Journey. While in some countries LGBT+ Catholics contributions have been valued and welcomed in National Syntheses, in others, along with other lay-Catholics, they have been marginalised or ignored. How this can be addressed before the October 2023 Synod in Rome remains problematic given the tight time-scale of Synodal processes.

The Continental Stage Document (CSD) gives a global overview and LGBT+ Catholics in Europe were pleased to see some explicit reference to their concerns as quoted in different national submissions. Nevertheless, the 3 concluding Questions proposed by the CSD beg the need to address systemic issues within the Church with a fear that so many of these, evident in the Synodal Listening Phase, may be de-prioritised. Nevertheless, the process has opened up conversations on LGBT+ experiences of integrating faith, gender identity, and sexuality, as never before, and these are being discussed more openly where, in the past they were simply anathema and unwelcome.

Although top-down doctrinal statements have not yet been turned upside down, the *sensus fidei fidelium* is now more clearly heard. A test of the Continental Synodal Assemblies will be as to whether and how the essential reception by the People of God of the Church's teachings and pastoral practice can be made manifest in the ongoing praxis of synodality. Likewise, and this is echoed in many national Synodal Syntheses, there will need to be an ecclesial conversion that emphasises the gifts which LGBT+ Catholics bring to the Church rather than the predominant focus that sees LGBT+ Catholics as problems to be dealt with.

How institutional structures develop, better expressing subsidiarity in decision-making, pastoral praxis, and doctrinal reflection, whether at the Rome level or in the global Church, are a longer-term challenge and task. If the ecclesial culture-change desired by Pope Francis results in a re-affirmation that the Catholic Church is primarily a communion of local Churches with their own identities and perspectives, rather than a pseudo-imperial hierarchical system, this will be a vital restoration of the early-Church tradition.

In responding to the needs of LGBT+ Catholics, parents and families, another means for achieving this will be to initiate a global, trans-continental listening process with LGBT+ Catholics, parents, pastoral workers, theologians, bishops and other clergy, so as to embody a journeying-together rather than a narrower two-way conversation between the LGBT+ people of God and Vatican institutions.



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/>

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 4th LGBT+ CATHOLICS+ ROME PILGRIMAGE - LENT - 20-26 FEBRUARY 2023

Our pilgrimage takes place at the start of Lent, 2023 with *Anthony R Coles Travel and Conferences*.

Bookings - Anthony Coles, 18 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX.

Tel: 020 7431 3414 / arctc@btinternet.com **ONLY A FEW PLACES NOW AVAILABLE !**

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU WISH TO TAKE PART: lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com



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/romepilgrimage>

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/>

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2022/03/03/amoris-laetitia-church-thinking-needs-to-move-from-the-abstract-to-the-particular/>

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 from proud.catholics@yahoo.com / Proud Catholics ; **Liverpool :** tbc, All Saints, 3 Oakfield, Anfield L4 2QG.

Details from: 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/manchesterrclgbt.pastoral@gmail.com> - questinthenorth@questlgbt.uk

Our Lady of Medjugorje LGBT+ Evenings – The last Wednesday of each month, 17.30-20.00, St. Mary of the Angels Church, Moorhouse Road, Notting Hill W2 5DJ. 0772 421 2678
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083183833829>

Quest - London South East : <https://questlgbt.uk/regional-groups/londonandsoutheast/> Weekend Retreat, jointly hosted by Quest London and Southeast and Quest Southwest, at the Anglican Franciscan Hilfield Friary near Dorchester. April 27th-30th 2023. Booking Form on website.

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 if you'd like to help in this way: godfrey66silver@gmail.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



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



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 - lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com



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/opalgbt/> & **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.

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** https://teespring.com/en-GB/LGBT_Catholics_Westminster?pid=387&cid=103448 (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: £251.78; LGBT+ Hardship Fund: £578.84** 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

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>

COMING UP IN 2023

We hope to benefit from the expertise of Fr. Nick King SJ, a member of the Farm Street Pastoral Team and one of the UK's leading biblical scholars.



The Pontifical Biblical Commission published "What is Man? Outline of Biblical Anthropology" in 2019. **Chapter 3** includes the section on homosexuality.

The full text is available as a pdf in various languages : Click on **TRANSLATE** as necessary ... https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/pcb_documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20190930_cosa-e-luomo_pl.html

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 We also hope to promote a course in partnership with the London Jesuit Centre - exploring theological ethics for LGBT+ Catholics, parents and friend, based on the 2019 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



Outreach 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 will be held on 24-25 June 2022, Fordham University, New York. Further details: <https://outreach.faith/news-views/>

From Marianist LGBT Initiative USA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItOVlyXjd4&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 - 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 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/vU62suliiA0> - 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.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: 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/>



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/>

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.tqdr.co.uk/liturgies/liturgies.htm> / <https://www.glaad.org/tqdr>

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/1ZEYj1eCM0NA4rkRUCblw7sewZlvHqRDO/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.shannontkerns.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=GNXld2VRURM&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/A8pNycRTwWCVHAoY0YLp9/99684/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



NEXT MEETING: tbc. TO JOIN: [Westminster LGBT+ Forum - Events & Meetings](https://www.westminsterlgbtforum.org/events-meetings) -

<https://www.westminsterlgbtforum.org/friends.html>

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. **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: @WLGFBT

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> - <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://inclusivechurches.eu/download/Annual-Review-Full-2021.pdf>



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

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 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.



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 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>

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. 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

contact@westminsterlgbtforum.com **Website:** <http://westminsterlgbtforum.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestminsterLgbtForum/> **Twitter:** @WLBGTF

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

