



LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council
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PRESS RELEASE

Clarification on our response to the declaration Dignitas Infinita

London, 7 August 2024. Adverse comments have been received by Cardinal Vincent Nichols about our response to the Vatican's Declaration, "Dignitas Infinita," published in the May 2024 "News & Notes." At his request, we would like to make it clear that, in adherence to the commitment we made to Cardinal Murphy O'Connor in 2006, we do not campaign to change or contradict Church teaching. Our role, mandated by the diocese of Westminster, is rather to reflect on the experience of our members and to suggest fruitful ways of pastoral accompaniment of LGBT+ people.

We accept that the issues around transitioning and surrogacy to which we referred are complex and will benefit from sustained reflection for many years to come. We are committed to working in communion with Church leaders and others to develop models of pastoral accompaniment in an authentically Catholic way. The People of God have a duty and responsibility to inform the Church's pastors about concerns within their experience and competence (Canon 212).

We would respectfully note some questions raised by "Dignitas Infinita," such as the lack of reference to the considerable body of medical and psychological evidence and the widespread experience that transitioning can be of great benefit; the differences between various self-conceptions of trans people and the prevailing scholarly views of transness on the one hand, and the concept of "gender ideology" on the other; and the possibility that surrogacy may in certain circumstances be compatible with Catholic principles. We hope to be able to contribute positively and fruitfully to future dialogue on these issues.

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Note to Editors: The LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council is mandated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, to develop pastoral support for LGBT+ Catholics, parents & families. Masses welcoming LGBT+ Catholics, parents and families, were first

established in May 1999 and now take place at Farm Street Jesuit Church, Mayfair, London, on 2nd & 4th Sunday evenings at 17:30. All are welcome.

<https://www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org>

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