



**LGBT+Catholics
Westminster**

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MEDIA RESPONSE - IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION - 8 MAY 2025

LGBT+ CATHOLICS WESTMINSTER WELCOME POPE LEO XIV



The LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council warmly welcomes Pope Leo XIV as a successor of Peter the fisherman, as one who will follow the pathway of Pope Francis, judging from his first words as Bishop of Rome. Taking the name, Leo XIV, establishes him in the social justice tradition of Leo XIII and the practice of Catholic Social Teaching. His speech from St. Peter's balcony emphasise his commitment to build bridges, to dialogue and journey together, including everyone in the people of God.

A strong supporter of the Church's Synodal Conversion, developed by Pope Francis, we hope that he has moved on from his 2012 address to bishops, when he expressed concern that Western news media and popular culture promote "sympathy for beliefs and practices that are at odds with the Gospel," specifically referencing the "homosexual lifestyle" and "alternative families comprised of same-sex partners and their adopted children." We trust he will be open to listen to the lived experience of LGBT+ Catholics, their parents and families.

Opinions and ideas can change, and he supported Pope Francis' change in pastoral practice to allow divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive Holy Communion, and he showed support for *Fiducia Supplicans*, allowing blessings for same-sex couples. He has expressed openness to marginalized groups, though his stance on specific issues remains ambiguous, including the concerns of LGBT+ Catholics.

His election is a clear rebuff to those who wanted a return to a rigorous legalism and a more fortress-style Church.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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