

CWO
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news March 2015 issue 78

Welcome to the March issue of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit <http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/News> and previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for April e-news by 20 April. info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given. Many thanks to Ruth Wood for proof reading the e-news.

Apologies for last month's e-news having the wrong date in the first paragraph. It had got left in from the month before.

Hope for women deacons - Sarah Macdonald's article in last week's tablet <http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/1897/0/hopes-rise-for-women-deacons-to-be-ordained-in-the-church>

We enjoyed a lively discussion on our new mission statement on 7 March. Thanks to everyone who contributed so energetically. The new mission statement can be found on the landing page of our website

Things to note

- you are very welcome to CWO retreat at Noddfa – book up NOW (see below)
- the early bird for WOW finishes on 15 April (see page 2)
- check out the 3 vigils in Birmingham, Liverpool and London on vocations Sunday and come along if you can (see page 3)
- Look at links (page 4 and elsewhere) while they are still live

CWO Annual Retreat at Noddfa, North Wales Friday 31 July - Sunday 2 August 2015. This is for all CWO members. Please book before it is too late!

Noddfa is a lovely place: 12 places are available to CWO members and a few are already booked! If we don't have a few more we may need to consider cancelling the Retreat so please let me know asap if you would like to come on info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Some of those on the Retreat offer reflections or activities and we have a liturgy together on Sunday morning. No-one has to prepare anything or attend every session! You will enjoy beautiful, calm surroundings and have wonderful food. You can take yourself off to the sea for a paddle, climb a mountain, read a book or just be quiet in a beautiful place. The sessions take place in the Library and in the Chapel. More information noddfa.org.uk Cost will be £100 per person. Please send £50 deposit to Noddfa to reserve your place. (Cheques to Noddfa) Bookings will close on 31 May 2015.

Please also contact email above for any queries, dietary requirements and to let

Third WOW Conference 2015

Gender, The Gospel, and Global Justice.

18 – 20 September 2015

Marriott Hotel

Philadelphia PA



Will you be there?

The early bird fee of \$275 is available till 15 April. It increases to \$300 up to 31 July and late registration is \$350.

It is easy to register via the website – they deal with converting sterling to dollars

<https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=WOMA18E&TID=So5TRn5clhKVluNtnsPU1g%3d%3d>

You can opt to share a room. They will match you up with another delegate. The rooms are large with two double beds in each.

15 April is also the date by which you can submit workshop proposals

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Dj3lkhk1xGPIlcBkS9ViNWce6FEvfi8mfD1CwTPpTGM/viewform>

Speakers list: Teresa Focades, Tina Beattie, Sr Mary John Manzanan, Christina Rees, Dr. Mary Hunt, Dr. Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza, Barbara Blaine, Kristina Keneally, Ursula King, Sister Genny Dunnay, Sister Christine Fernando, Shannon Dee Williams, Maeve O'Rourke, Mari Steed, Jamie Manson, Theresa Kane RSM, Asra Normani, Kate Kelly, Sr Maureen Fiedler, Patricia Fresen

Watch a video of Asra Normani <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNHEHR9WNZc>

Priest panel includes Tony Flannery, Paul Collins and Roy Bourgeois

If you can't attend you might be able to help someone from the developing world to attend by contributing to the solidarity fund. Any amount is welcome.

You can donate here: -

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/WomensOrdinationConferenceInc/wow2015.html>

Or you can send me a cheque made out to WOW. My address is on the merchandise form at the end of this enews. If you know anyone who might be worth approaching for a donation please let me know about that too. We desperately need financial backers for this event.

info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Sign up to receive WOW e-news <http://womensordinationworldwide.org/connect/>

Vocations Sunday 26 April 2015

We will hold 3 vigils on Vocation Sunday. These will be at the cathedrals at Westminster, Birmingham and Liverpool.

Jillian Dempsey is the contact for the London vigil which will be held at the Saturday vigil mass on 25th as there is a major event in London on the Sunday which will cause transport disruption. The mass is at 6pm so people would probably need to get there by 5pm to set up and get organised.

Cathy Wattebot is the contact for the Birmingham vigil at St Chad's cathedral in Birmingham. Their vigil will be on Sunday 26th April. The midlands CWO group are meeting to discuss this. The consensus so far is for a prayerful engagement which also highlights the exclusion of women, with a gathering in Birmingham on the Sunday morning, handing out prayer cards. The mass is at 11.00am but it might be possible to meet by 9.30 to catch people coming out of the 9.00am mass as well as those going in to 11am. A meeting is to be held locally to plan for the event and members will be notified when a date is fixed. Please contact Cathy if you would like to help or to have any more information.

Pat Brown is the contact for the Liverpool vigil. If we can gather at about 10.15am we can catch people coming out of the 10am mass and going in to 11am mass.

Please contact info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk if you would like to take part in one of these prayerful vigils.

Quote of the Month

It is evident that the current shape of ministry raises questions for which answers cannot be found solely by reference to the past. This is particularly so for issues related to the ministry of women in the church. The church however, must answer those questions in ways that accord with its apostolic identity, as well as its need for unity. The resolution of this conundrum must centre on the church's attentiveness to the Holy Spirit, expressed in the discernment of the whole community of faith, the *sensus fidei fidelium*, to seek what is the most appropriate expression of the pilgrim church in the present. What is at stake is the church's capacity not only to discern where the Spirit might be at work in the new circumstances, but also to fashion responses that reveal the church as a sacrament of that Spirit.

Richard Lennan, *The Church as Mission: Locating Vocation in its Ecclesial Context*, in Christopher Jamison (ed.), *The Disciples' Call: Theologies of Vocation from Scripture to the Present Day*, London, Bloomsbury Press, 2013, p. 58



We celebrate all women who say "yes" to God in the face of difficult circumstances <http://bridgetmarys.blogspot.co.uk/>

Mary Sings

My soul is a glass: gaze and see how great is Mother God.
And my spirit sings out in joy, for Mercy has come to save.
For the One who is Mighty has taken flesh in me
Holy is Wisdom.
Holy is that Wisdom that shall be born and called Emmanuel
Yes, my soul is a glass: gaze and see how great is Mother God.
My spirit sings out in joy for the Mercy who comes to save.
Because I mirror the motherhood of the One who gives me birth.
Yes, from this day forward all who are born of woman may call me full of joy.
For the Mighty One has done great things to me.
And holy is that Wisdom which is before all things,
That Mercy reaching from age to age to all who reverence her
Power is in the arm that shelters and embraces me.
Routed shall be the proud of heart.
Down from their thrones shall princes fall, while the lowly learn that the least are
greatest.
Mother God will give her breast to those who hunger, and the rich shall go away with
parched tongues.
Light will fall on the path of those who escape from the snare.

originally published in: Ritamary Bradley, *In the Jaws of the Bear* (Toronto: Peregrina Publishing Co., 1991) p. 3

Links

International women's day in Rome

<http://www.womensordination.org/blog/2015/03/09/voices-of-faith-2015-reflections/>

Miriam Duignan's article in Conscience

<http://www.catholicsforchoice.org/about/conscience/current/documents/Conscience2014-4.pdf>

Is the idea of two sexes simplistic?

<http://www.nature.com/news/sex-redefined-1.16943>

Vatican seeks peace with US Nuns

<http://www.catholicregister.org/faith/faith-news/item/19393-vatican-seeks-to-bury-the-hatchet-with-american-nuns>

Pope Francis on women

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/faith-and-justice/where-pope-francis-stands-when-it-comes-women>

The courage of Oscar Romero

<http://ncronline.org/news/global/archbishop-oscar-romero-el-salvadors-most-trusted-news-source>

Mary McAleese unleashed!

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/mary-mcaleese-hits-out-at-misogynyof-pope-318625.html>

Egyptian mother's story

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/23/abu-daoo-h-dressed-like-man_n_6925956.html

Some good news from India

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/bombay-archdiocese-to-implement-gender-policy/>

Punished for celebrating mass with a woman priest

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/08/father-bill-brennan-92-di_n_2258202.html

The bishop of Portsmouth, Philip Egan, has just forbidden all parish priests in his diocese to support - through their parish projects - any charities, anywhere in the world, which are known to support, or may be suspected of supporting, directly or indirectly, provision of contraception to women within health-support and poverty-eradication schemes.

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/03/20/bishop-egan-to-priests-be-careful-about-the-charities-you-support/>

Related to the above

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/03/12/unraveling-the-church-ban-on-gay-sex/?r=0>

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/571/0/mp-told-he-has-excommunicated-himself-for-backing-gay-marriage>

Therese Koturbash received an email from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops about the Man Ray image of the bound woman's torso used by the Pontifical Council of Culture about which many of us protested and which has now been replaced by

<http://www.cultura.va/content/cultura/en/plenarie/2015-women/outline.html>

"Thank you for your email. The staff of the Pontifical Council for Culture used this work of art to underscore the plight of women in some areas of society. It was the backdrop of a major discussion on the terrible discrimination faced by women in so many parts of the world and how we, as Catholics, could help. The President of the Council, Cardinal Ravasi, is aware of the controversy resulting from its use. He and the members of the Pontifical Council regret very much that, while well intended, its use has caused such misunderstanding and controversy.

Yours sincerely in Christ Our Lord"

To Mary Magdalen

May your tongue proclaim these things, woman,
and explain them to the sons of the kingdom
who wait for me to awaken; me, the Living One.

Go quickly, Mary, gather my disciples.

in you I have a loud trumpet:

play a song of peace to the fearful ears of my hidden friends,

waken them all from sleep,

so that they may come to meet me

and light their torches.

Go and say: "The bridegroom is awake, coming out of the tomb,
leaving nothing within."

(Romanus the Melodist in *Sources chrétiennes* 128: 401) 6th Century

Interfaith Sabbath Evening Service with the York Liberal Jewish Community

I met Ben Rich of the York Liberal Jewish Community www.jewsinyork.org.uk after we had both done a radio interview about the role of women in our religious communities. We were outside York Minster on the day of consecration of the first Church of England woman bishop, Libby Lane. Ben's first Rabbi had been Julia Neuberger and he wasn't used, initially, to a synagogue service being led by a male rabbi. How different from the RC experience! He is Acting Chair of the York Liberal Jewish Community. They have no synagogue currently so meet at the York Friends' Meeting House. The massacre of Jews in York at Clifford Tower in 1190 has meant York holds painful memories for Jews and a shameful history for Christians. Ben, his family and community are building a renewed presence in York.

He invited CWO to an Interfaith Sabbath Service, led by the first UK woman Rabbi, Jackie Tabbick, on a Friday a few weeks later, so not enough time to advertise it to CWO nationally. Four of us went from Leeds CWO. It was packed! (It was held in the same large room where the CWO York course was launched some years ago.) The service was led by Rabbi Jackie with her husband Rabbi Larry Tabbick. It was beautiful: both shared their different energies to explain and lead us in prayer and song in Hebrew and English. We know Christianity comes from Jewish origins - the Last Supper happened at a Seder Meal - and I was reminded of how Early Church gatherings would have been in people's homes and communities ministered by women and men together. We drank bread and wine and later saw the York Scroll. The York Scroll had been rescued with 1,583 others from Prague by the Memorial Scroll Trust after the Holocaust. Unlike many of the other scrolls which came from named communities the York Scroll, is an "orphan" scroll. No one knows its original community and synagogue. It is much cherished in its new home in York. Rabbis travel from other communities to minister to the Liberal Jewish Community in York until they have their own. Women and men in the community organise services and gatherings at the Meeting House and in their own homes.

The evening finished with a lovely buffet and an opportunity to meet the community. There are a lot of young families so there is a hopeful energy for the future. Thank you to Ben and the York Liberal Jewish Community.

Pippa Bonner

I approve of silence and could talk about it for ever.

G. B. Shaw

Two of the prayers used at the Service (slightly adapted) for the recent CWO National Coordinating Group Meeting (with thanks to Siddur Lev Chadash 1995 and used with permission of Liberal Judaism. Transliterations by Rabbi Larry Tabbick.)

Sung by the Jews in 1170 in Blois as they were on their way to be burned by the Catholics during an Auto-da-Fe (adapted)

Let us now praise the God of the Universe and proclaim the greatness of its Creator, whose unity it is our mission to make known, whose work it is our task to make effective.

We are amazed and thank God, the Holy One, ever to be praised.

Who spread out the heavens and established the earth, whose glory fills the highest heavens, whose power extends everywhere, who alone is our God, for no other exists, ...as it is written: "Know then this day and take it to heart: the Eternal One is God in the heavens above and on the earth below; there is no other."

Blessing from the Dead Sea Scrolls based on Numbers 6. 24-26

May God bless you with all good, and keep you from all evil. May God teach your heart the meaning of life, and grant you knowledge of the Infinite. May God reach out to you with tenderness, that you may have enduring peace.



Christopher Lamb and Abigail Frymann Rouch write in the Tablet - Cardinal rebukes 500 priests for going to the press with call to resist change to church teaching

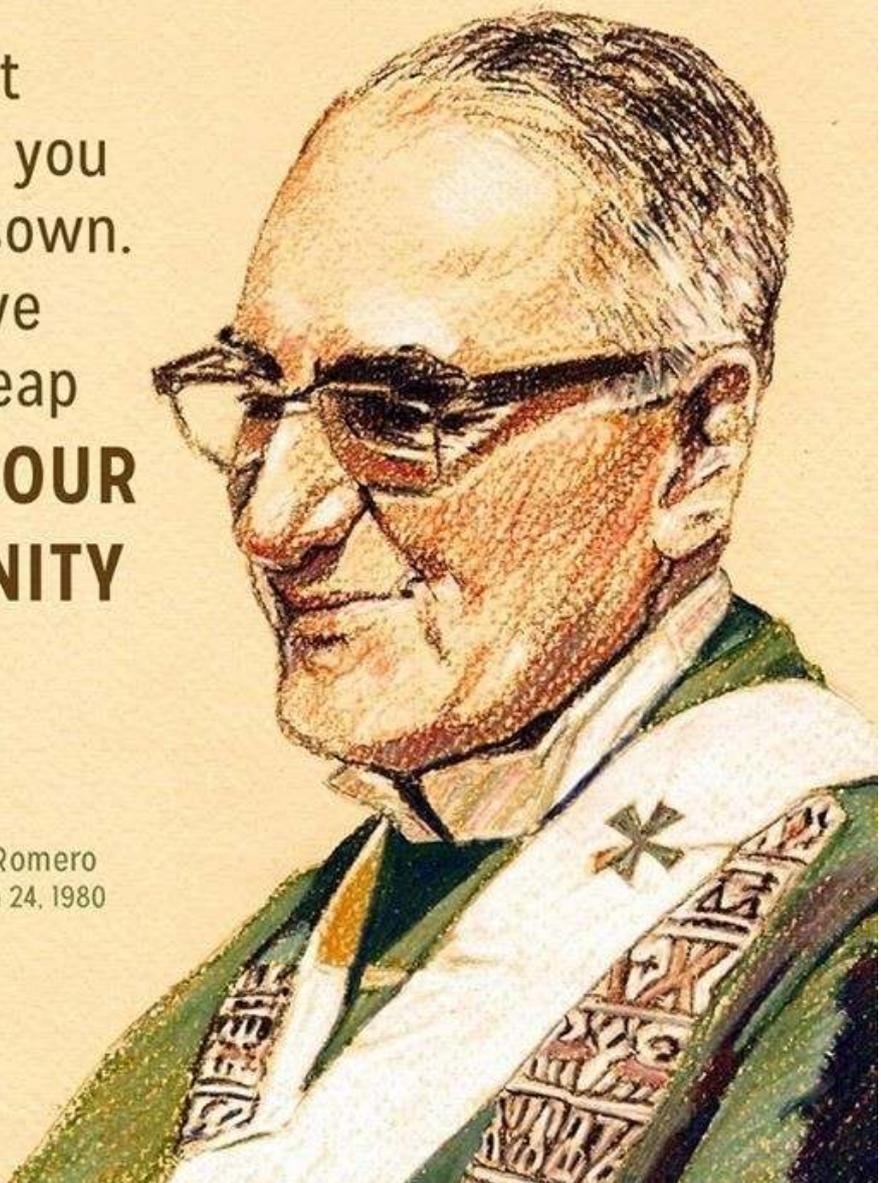
Around five hundred priests have signed a letter saying they are against change in Church teachings at the Vatican's next Synod on the Family in October. Cardinal Nichols has reminded priests that they have been asked to reflect on the synod discussion.

Read whole article here

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/1909/0/cardinal-rebukes-500-priests-for-going-to-the-press-with-call-to-resist-change-to-church-teaching->

You cannot
reap what you
have not sown.
How are we
going to reap
**LOVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY**
if we only
sow hate?

-Archbishop Oscar Romero
August 15, 1917 - March 24, 1980



The Last Supper painting

Copies of this inclusive “Last Supper” are available from [WAC Ireland’s website](#) where you can order online and delivery is worldwide.

The 3 different sizes of the “Last Supper” now available are:

Large print	38” x 19”	(97cm x 48cm)
Medium print	16.5” x 8”	(42cm x 20cm)
Postcards	8” x 4”	(21cm x 10cm)

We Are Church Ireland is a Not For Profit organisation working for reform of the RC Church and especially for the full equality of women, including all ordained ministries. And of course we are members of WOW.



My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that, if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

Call For Papers - Translating Christianity: *Word, Image, Sound & Object in the Circulation of the Sacred from the Birth of Christ until the present day*
28-30 July 2015, Humanities Research Centre, University of York

Christianity today is a religion of over 2,000 language groups in the world. Moreover, more people pray and worship in more languages in Christianity than in any other religion and it has been the impulse behind the creation of more dictionaries and grammars of the world's languages than any other force in history. Behind this lies the fact that Christianity is a translated religion without a revealed language. Translation is its second nature: 'the Church's birthmark as well as its missionary benchmark' in the words of Lamin Sanneh. Accordingly, the transformation of Christianity into a world faith is the direct result of 'the triumph of its translatability'. However, Christianity is also a translated religion in a very different sense. For much of its history (and in the majority of its variants), its ritual practice has been predicated upon the translation of material objects - relics. Their movement in time and space has traced shifting lines of power and influence in illuminating ways, as well as making a significant contribution to the eventual global spread of Christianity. In turn, missions have been the spur to what, cumulatively speaking, must be the greatest campaign of cultural translation (and description) ever attempted, which even its not infrequent blunders and tragic misunderstandings cannot gainsay. Finally, translation can be understood not only linguistically and physically but also metaphorically, as in the case of the handing on of authority from one place or person to another. This theme and plenary speakers have therefore been chosen with the intention that they might encourage papers which address the issues raised by:

- the challenge of translating or editing scripture, catechisms and related literature from one language to another (to be sung and spoken as well as read)
- the quest for linguistic common ground (by means, for example, of 'Jesuit Slovak' or of other so-called 'general languages' such as Quechua in Latin America).
- relics, (their discovery, identification, transportation, collection, display and reception)
- the translation of the Christian message as shaped and impacted by various media: from papyrus to the pdf via print and the print/woodcut as well as painting, sculpture and architecture
- missionary narratives as history, hagiography and ethnography
- the challenges of attempting religious dialogue and mediation
- the construction (and deconstruction) of textual canons
- the emergence and practice of vernacular worship.

Confirmed plenary speakers (to date): Joel Cabrita (Cambridge) for the Winter Conference, Simon Ditchfield (York), James Grayson (Sheffield, emeritus), Anne Lester (Colorado at Boulder), Joan-Pau Rubiés (ICREA, Barcelona) all for the Summer Conference; Simon Ditchfield (incoming President)

More information <http://www.history.ac.uk/ehsoc/content/ehs-theme-2015-16-translating-christianity>

Chester Theological Society 2015

7:30pm, Friday 1st May – Binks Lecture Theatre, University of Chester **Pope Francis and the Future of Catholic Social Thinking**

Paul Vallely CMG FRSA - Inaugural Lecture as Visiting Professor

Pope Francis has issued some powerful condemnations of the operations of the contemporary global economy. He has called for “a poor Church, for the poor”. But do his trenchant criticisms merely reiterate the critique of “savage capitalism” developed by Catholic Social Teaching throughout the 20th Century? Or is he developing that teaching in new Ways?

Paul Vallely CMG FRSA is a writer, broadcaster and consultant on international development and business ethics. He is Visiting Professor in Public Ethics and Media at the University of Chester and Senior Research Fellow at the Brooks World Poverty Institute at the University of Manchester.

Admission at the door: £3.00 (Students: £1.00) Wine and Refreshments

More information <http://www.chester.ac.uk/departments/trs/chester-theological-society>

Harrogate School of Theology and Mission

St Peter's Church Harrogate HG1 1RW

Forthcoming events

Saturday 18 th April	Professor Richard Bauckham <i>The Gospels and the Eyewitnesses</i> (live lecture)	St. Mark's Church, Leeds Road, Harrogate 9.30 am – 12.00 noon
Saturday 16 th May	Mark Roques <i>Celebrity, theology & Mission</i> (live lecture)	St. Mark's Church, Leeds Road, Harrogate 9.30 am – 12.00 noon

More information <http://www.hstm.org/>

CWO Saints

Mary MacKillop
Ruth Norton
John Hatfield
Celia Greenwood
Michael O'Gara
Sheila Houlihan
Mary Daly
Estelle White
Pat McCarron
Marcella Althaus-Reid
Astrid Klemz
Jean Palmer
Elizabeth Rendall
Maureen Brown
Tissa Balasuriya
Jack Sutcliffe
Pat Regini
Mary Ann Schoettly
Pam Skelton
Robert Kaggwa

Pray for us



Prayer Link

Wednesday between 6.00 and 7.00pm,
please pray for CWO, its members and
its mission.

Saturdays at noon, join with women and
men all over the world to pray for the
work of Women's Ordination Worldwide
(WOW!)

Please take part in one or both of these
prayer networks if and when you can

The CWO Prayer

Moved by a compulsion of the Holy
Spirit, we cannot remain ignorant of this
injustice in our midst.

We long for all humanity to be
acknowledged as equal,
particularly among your community of
the church,
so we pray grieving for the lost gifts of
so many women.

We ask you, God of all peoples, to bring
insight and humility to all those in
positions of dominance, and an
understanding that the ascended Lord
called us all to act doing Christ's work
here and now.

We ask this of you, God our Creator,
Jesus our Redeemer, Spirit our Sustainer

Websites (apologies for smaller print – that’s to fit them in!)

<http://www.womensordination.org/>

News of Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

www.wijngaardsinstitute.org

All previous housetop websites can be reached via this address

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.com/>

A global network seeking renewal of the Church

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign for women’s equality in Church of England

<http://ncronline.org/>

National Catholic Reporter

<http://www.acalltoaction.org.uk/>

Catholics inspired by Vatican II.

<http://www.gras.org.uk/>

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

www.we-are-church.org.uk

We Are Church in the UK is a call to recognise that all the Baptised, are part of the Church.

<http://www.ccc4vat2.org.uk>

Catholics for a Changing Church

<http://lgcm.org.uk/>

Campaigns against and challenges homophobia and transphobia, especially within the Church and faith based organisations, as well as working to create and praying for an inclusive church.

<http://questgaycatholic.org.uk/>

Proclaims the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ so as to sustain and increase Christian belief among homosexual men and women. They offer pastoral support for LGBT Catholics friends and families Sign up for quarterly newsletter

<http://82.70.116.125/index.html>

Women Word Spirit

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

<http://www.spirituschristi.org>

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

<http://www.stcuthbertshouse.co.uk/>

Rachel is a professed hermit of the R C Diocese of Nottingham.