



## An Open Conversation on Diversity and Inclusion with James Alison

<sup>1</sup>“There is space in the Church  
for everyone... Everyone,  
everyone, everyone!”

Pope Francis

Over the past two years, there have been two historic events affecting the future, the role and relevance of the Catholic Church in Australia: Pope Francis' invitation to enter into a synodal journey and the Plenary Council of Australia. Both call for a more inclusive, participatory and synodal Church which listens and dialogues with the faithful and helps us to understand the current reality of the Catholic Church in Australia.

During the Plenary Council, the need for inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community within the Church was raised. The National Council of CRA discussed the importance of this and decided to bring James Alison to Australia to continue the conversation.

Through CRA's collaborative efforts with other organisations, James Alison has over 20 speaking engagements in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane and Perth from September to October, 2023.

<sup>1</sup> Vatican News, 4 August 2023.

### About James Alison

James Alison is a theologian known for his firm and patient persistence in promoting truthful conversation and dialogue in the Church with regard to matters LGBTQIA+ and for his pastoral outreach in the same sphere. He shares a vision of an inclusive, psychologically healthy Christian life that is scripturally based, theologically orthodox, and ecclesially grounded. He is also renowned for his application of René Girard's anthropological insight to Christian Systematic Theology.

James joined the Mexican Dominicans in 1981 and completed the novitiate in England, at Blackfriars, Oxford. He was ordained in 1988. From 1987, James studied at the Jesuit theology faculty in Brazil and completed his doctoral thesis by 1994.

Over the last thirty years, James has been a prolific writer and his books have been translated into six languages. Currently he works as a travelling preacher, lecturer and retreat giver, based in Madrid, Spain. James has been to Australia in 2004, 2010, 2014 and 2016.



# A mission-focused discussion about the Catholic Church and matters LGBTQIA+

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## Event Details

What have we discovered from those to whom we minister about these issues? How do these learnings challenge us, and where do we find ourselves blocked in dealing with them?

- Date:** Thursday, 28 September 2023
- Time:** 3.30pm – 6.30pm
- Venue:** Mary MacKillop Place
- Address:** 11 Mount Street, North Sydney
- Format:** Hybrid (in-person and Zoom)  
Speaker presentation, group discussion and Q &A
- Audience:** Religious Institute Leaders and co-workers in their education, healthcare and aged care ministries; Ministerial PJPs; staff and associates who wish to come together to think about these issues in a mission-focused way.
- Fee:** \$40 p/p for either in-person or Zoom
- Registration:** <https://events.humanitix.com/syd-lgbtqia-28-sept>
- Enquiries:** Contact Gillian Lee by phone: 02 9557 2695 or by email: [secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au](mailto:secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au) or visit the [webpage](#).



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