



An Open Conversation on Diversity and Inclusion with James Alison

¹“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.

¹ 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.



CRA Events

How did we get here, and where are we going: opening up the discussion about the Catholic Church and matters LGBTQIA+

The seminar will begin with a presentation focused on opening up the discussion about the church and matters LGBTQIA+, followed by a workshop to deal with issues of truthfulness, transparency, shame and violence as we face outwards to a world in which first person discourse is ever more common for LGBTQIA+ people.

This topic will be discussed in Melbourne and Sydney.

Audience: Religious Institute Leaders and all Religious who want to meet, discuss and consider issues relating to their members and staff, and how to facilitate transparency and psychological well-being as part of coping with change in self-understanding in this area.

MELBOURNE

Date: Tuesday 19 September

Time: 2.00 – 5.30pm

Venue: Treacy Centre
126 The Avenue, Parkville

Fee: \$40 p/p (includes afternoon tea)

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/melb-lgbtqia-19-sept>

SYDNEY

Date: Tuesday 26 September

Time: 2.00 – 5.30pm

Venue: Mary MacKillop Place 11 Mount Street, North Sydney

Fee: \$40 p/p (includes afternoon tea)

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/syd-lgbtqia-26-sept>

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

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?

Audience: Religious Institute Leaders and co-workers in their education, healthcare and aged care ministries; MPJPs; staff and friends who wish to come together to think about these issues in a mission-focused way.

SYDNEY

Date: Thursday 28 September

Time: 3.30 – 6.30pm

Venue: Mary MacKillop Place
11 Mount Street, North Sydney

Format: Hybrid (in-person and Zoom)

Fee: \$40 p/p for either in-person or Zoom

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/syd-lgbtqia-28-sept>

Developing a pastoral response to LGBTQIA+ members and their families

Audience: Religious, their associates, staff and friends who wish to explore and discuss a pastoral approach to inclusivity and diversity in our Church and in our community

PERTH

Date: Monday 16 October

Time: 12.00 – 4.00pm

Venue: Redemptorist Monastery
190 Vincent Street, North Perth

Fee: FOC for CRA Members \$10 for non-members (includes light lunch)

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/perth-lgbtqia-16-oct>
(registration is required)

All Enquiries: contact Gillian by phone: 02 9557 2695 or by email: secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au



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