

Blessed are the Brave 2018 - a weekend for LGBT affirming faith leaders

When is it? Where is it? How much?

The retreat will happen from 26th to 28th January, 2018 at the Corrymeela Centre. The retreat will run from 6.30pm on Friday to 2pm on Sunday. The address is: The Corrymeela Community, 5 Drumaroan Road, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim BT54 6QU. The retreat costs £99 for a shared room and £139 for a single room. If this is not affordable to you, please don't let the price put you off. We would love to have you there.

How can I get there?

You can drive (and offer a lift to others too) - we have plenty of parking. In the week leading up to the retreat we will check if folks have spaces in their car to offer lifts from where they are traveling. You can get a bus to Ballycastle, and we can pick you up after 5.30pm.

Can I come if I'm not gay?

Of course you can - this event is for anyone involved in faith leadership who wishes to deepen their conviction and commitment to LGBT inclusion.

"LGBT affirming Faith leaders" - what's that?

This retreat is for Christian faith leaders who believe that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people should rightly enjoy full membership and leadership in all aspects of society.

We chose the term 'faith leader' because it is a broad term - you might lead a congregation, lead a small group, be involved as a chaplain, have faith responsibilities in your work, or be a part of a group of another group of faith-oriented people. Upon application we will ask you to outline your faith involvement.

Is it a weekend to discuss if the bible affirms LGBT people?

"Blessed are the brave" weekends are for people who read the bible in a way that affirms the lives, stories and gifts of LGBT people in faith and society. If you are looking for a space to ask "Does the bible affirm LGBT people?" Corrymeela runs *other* events specifically for those who wish to engage with that conversation; however, Blessed are the Brave is not such an event.

Will participants' names/photos be published?

No, they will not.

L.G.B.T.?

LGBT - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender. There are many ways for people to refer to the LGBT community - and we know that any terminology will ultimately be limited. Our identities are complex - and this weekend will be about resting in the richness of that complexity, rather than defining any identity-boxes into which we must fit!

What will happen at the weekend?

Our retreat will have time for prayer, sharing, networking between faith representatives, time for stories, talking around fireplaces, planning and walks. Corrymeela is in a beautiful location and you will have Saturday afternoon off for exploring.

Who will run it?

The weekend will be run by Pádraig Ó Tuama. He's a trained mediator and theologian, and a poet. He has worked in dialogue groups and retreat work for the last decade, and believes that retreats can be a powerful place for rest, action and engagement. Pádraig is gay, from Cork, and since 2014 has been the Corrymeela Community Leader.

What is the Corrymeela Community?

The Corrymeela community was founded in 1965 as a response to the growing community tensions in Northern Ireland. Now it encompasses a residential centre, an urban office, staff and volunteers working across multiple projects - education, community, faith and youthwork. The Corrymeela Community also exists as a community of faith, with a membership of 150 who commit to "embracing difference, healing division and enabling reconciliation" in their daily lives - through prayer, work at Corrymeela events, and support of initiatives that help make a world of difference.

To book or ask further questions, please email belfast@corrymeela.org