



PRIDE IN OUR FAITH

Sunday 17 July




BOY
Renaissance



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We are standing today on unceded country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. I would like to acknowledge Aboriginal elders past and present, and am committed to centring the First Nations peoples of this land in the process of decolonisation.



AN INTRODUCTION (THINGS IMPORTANT TO KNOW ABOUT ME)

Chris

29

Queer

Trans

Non-binary

Progressive Christian

Doctor

They/them



MY STORY

TERMINOLOGY AND LABELS – A DISCLAIMER

- Rapidly changing and moving field
- People use the same word to mean different things
- As much about what feels right as is specific
- Words I use to explain me to me vs words I use to explain me to other people

- Time for questions at the end!

ALPHABET SOUP

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual (also pansexual and other multi-gender attracted people)
- Transgender (also non-binary and other gender diverse people)
- Queer
- Intersex
- Asexual/aromantic (Ally?)
- +

GENDER AND SEX

- Complicated
- Different ways to (over)simplify
- Are sex and gender that different? In which cases/for which people are they treated as different? Is making a distinction useful?
- What do you need to know about the person you are talking to? What is the context? How do you introduce yourself?

WHAT DOES GENDER MEAN?

- Gender identity
- Gender roles
- Gender expression (appearance and language)
- Gender assigned at birth (It's a!)

WHAT DOES SEX MEAN?

- Any of the definitions of gender
- Legal marker (changeable)
- External sex characteristics (genitals, body shape, body hair, facial hair)
- Invisible sex characteristics (hormones, chromosomes, gonads)
- Reproductive roles

MORE LANGUAGE AROUND GENDER

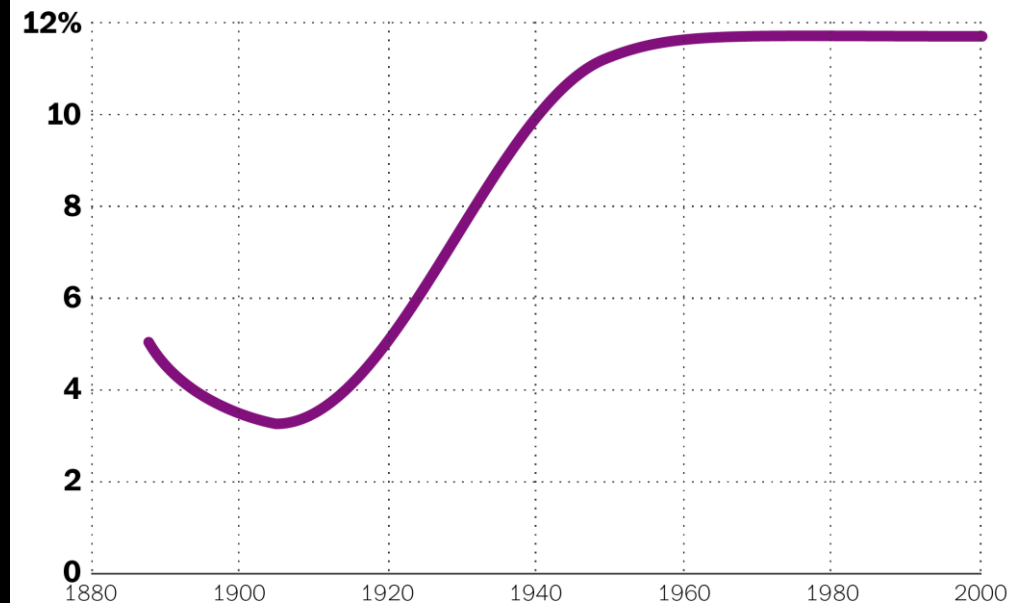
- Cis (cisgender, cissexism)
- Pronouns (he, she, they, xe, ey, etc. etc.)
- Binary genders (man/male, woman/female) vs non-binary genders
- Trans as adjective
- Dysphoria

- Practice makes perfect!
- <https://www.minus18.org.au/pronouns/>
- Apologies: short and sincere is best

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY TRANS AND NONBINARY PEOPLE THESE DAYS?

The history of left-handedness

Rate of left-handedness among Americans, by year of birth



WAPO.ST/**WONKBLOG**

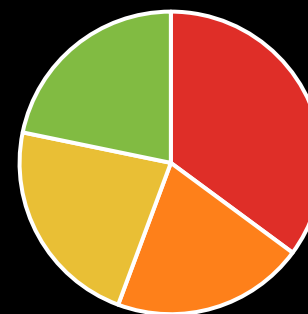
Source: Survey data reported in "The History and Geography of Human Handedness" (2009)

RELIGION AND INCLUSIVENESS

Table 8: Identity with regard to beliefs/religion/spirituality (n = 6,818)

Religion	Number	%
No religion	5,056	74.2
Catholic	328	4.8
Anglican (Church of England)	205	3.0
Buddhism	139	2.0
Uniting Church	90	1.3
Judaism	83	1.2
Islam	27	0.4
Greek Orthodox	30	0.4
Presbyterian	20	0.3
Hinduism	15	0.2
Other	825	12.1

Degree of LGBTQIA+ inclusiveness



■ Very/extremely ■ Somewhat ■ A little ■ Not at all

Participants who indicated a religion other than 'no religion' and reported belonging to a religious/spiritual community were asked to what extent they feel it is LGBTIQ inclusive/friendly. Of the 1,236 participants who identified as being religious and who indicated that this question was relevant to them, one third (35.1%; n = 434) responded 'very' or 'extremely', 20.6% (n = 254) 'somewhat', 22.6% (n = 279) 'a little' and 21.8% (n = 269) 'not at all.'

SO WHY ARE ANY LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE RELIGIOUS?

- Practising faith by yourself is lonely
- Finding faith communities which don't require choice between faith and living an authentic life
- Progressive traditions and theology provide a space for this
- (speculation) Deep introspection of identity can lead to increased self-awareness of one's own faith and spirituality

Negative

Positive

Repulsion

Pity

Tolerance

Acceptance

Support

Admiration

Appreciation

Nurturance



IN SOLIDARITY, JUSTICE AND JOY

"And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others."

Pope John Paul II, 1986, speaking in Alice Springs to Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders

GROUP REFLECTION

- Introduction (name and pronouns)
- What things about you are important for other people to know to truly understand you? Are they celebrated when you are at church?
- Are there important things about you that you find difficult to share? What makes the difference between wanting to share or not? (NB you don't have to share what the important thing is)
- What gifts do you bring to St Michael's and the lives of your loved ones? How can we nurture gifts of people other than ourselves?

OPEN AND AFFIRMING CHURCHES PROJECT

- Uniting Network Australia initiative
- Planning to take steps here at St Michael's
- Sign up if you would like to be involved going forward (LGBTQIA+ people and allies both welcome!)



After leaving today:

- What can you do to make LGBTQIA+ people feel more at home at St Michael's?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Margaret, Neil, the St Michael's council and congregation
- TransHub, ACON
- Private Lives, La Trobe University
- Minus18
- Washington Post
- SIU Edwardsville
- Boy Renaissance
- Queer Theology and Daring Conference event

QUESTIONS?

- Imperfect language is okay
- Parts of my story are personal
- **MUST BE ASKED IN GOOD FAITH**