Which viewpoints does The Society explicitly reject?

- Sexism of any form. The Society's position is solely based on the beliefs and practices of the major part of the universal church.
- The notion that "any man will do" when it comes to the priesthood. The Society's position has at its heart the historic apostolic succession.
- Any suggestion that altars at which women priests celebrate the Eucharist are "tainted". The Society strongly supports the Five Guiding Principles, including the notion of mutual flourishing.

Where is more information available?

To find out more about The Society and Forward in Faith, including details of how to join Forward in Faith or to make a donation to its work, please choose one of the following:

Go to our website: www.forwardinfaith.com

Email us via: admin.assistant@forwardinfaith.com

Call us on: 020 7388 3588

Write to us at: Forward in Faith, St Andrew Holborn, 5 St Andrew Street, London EC4A 3AF.

The Society
SUPPORTED BY FORWARDINFAITH

The Society and Forward in Faith in the Church of England

What is the purpose of The Society?

The Society exists so that, following the Church of England's decision to ordain women to the episcopate in 2014, there can be an expression of full communion between those – clergy and lay – who uphold the Church's historic position; the position in place before that decision was taken and also before the decision was taken to ordain women to the priesthood in 1992.

The Society operates under the 2014 House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. The Five Guiding Principles underpin the Declaration and emphasise the importance of those of different theological views respecting one another's opinions and roles within the Church of England.

The practical working out of the Declaration involves Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) passing resolutions which set out their reasons for requesting pastoral and sacramental oversight from a Society bishop. This form of episcopal oversight is key to traditional catholics living out their ordained and lay vocations in the Church of England with integrity.

What role does The Society play?

The Society is the name given to traditional catholic witness within the worshipping life of the Church of England. This principally involves the celebration of sacraments in the 450 traditional catholic parishes by the 1,000 Society clergy, and those ordinations undertaken, and those Chrism Masses celebrated, by Society bishops.

The Society is led by its serving bishops. Clergy, religious and ordinands may affiliate to The Society, which is an ecclesial body and not a legal entity.

What role does Forward in Faith play?

Forward in Faith is a membership organisation for traditional catholics, both individuals and parishes. It campaigns on their behalf and supports the work of The Society. Forward in Faith also supports the work of the Catholic Group on General Synod. It is governed by its Trustees and is registered with the Charity Commission.

As part of their subscription to the Charity, individual members of Forward in Faith receive a high-quality publication, *New Directions*, six times a year.

FORWARD INFAITH
supporting The Society

What is The Society's approach?

The key aspects of The Society's approach are an emphasis on:

- Our ecumenical responsibilities to our brother and sister Christians around the world in their various churches, including the great churches of the West – the Roman Catholic Church – and of the East – the Orthodox churches, which together form the major part of the universal church.

- The central role to be played by the seven sacraments, which are God's gift to the universal church, and which are not ours to modify unilaterally.
    - For the sacrament of Holy Orders, The Society adheres to the historic apostolic succession, as traditionally understood by the major part of the universal church, which involves men being ordained to the priesthood by male bishops who themselves were ordained to the episcopate by male bishops.

- The importance of mutual flourishing in the Church of England, whose breadth is to be treasured. All traditions should be supported as fully as possible in their witness, and there should be the highest possible degree of communion between the different traditions.