

Choose Life 2013

This content is for your parishioners, parish newsletters and websites to assist in promoting the Church's position on the sanctity of unborn human life.

Church Teaching

Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth. All human beings, from their mothers' womb, belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with his own hands, who gazes on them when they are tiny shapeless embryos and already sees in them the adults of tomorrow whose days are numbered and whose vocation is even now written in the "book of life" (cf. Ps 139: 1, 13-16). There too, when they are still in their mothers' womb-as many passages of the Bible bear witness -they are the personal objects of God's loving and fatherly providence. (*Evangelium vitae*, 61, Encyclical Letter of Pope John Paul II, 1995.)

Abortion Legislation

The right to life is the most fundamental of all rights because it is the foundation of all other rights.

Assurances that the Abortion Bill will provide very 'limited' access to abortion in response to suicidal ideation are unreliable. The Abortion Bill, in keeping with the X Case judgement, is clear that the risk of suicide need not be "immediate" or "inevitable" to satisfy a judgement "in good faith", that there is a risk to the life of a mother. The Abortion Bill fails to adequately balance the right to life of the mother with that of the baby, something which current law and medical practice does. This [medical practice] has contributed to Ireland continuing to be one of the safest countries to carry an unborn baby through to birth. On the basis of testimony from medical professionals abortion is not an appropriate treatment for suicidal ideation.

"We have to ask the question again: in what other area would a 'treatment' that is not appropriate, that brings clear risks to the health of a mother - and which results in the death of another totally innocent person - be legislated for by our public representatives?" - Archbishop Michael Neary, 2 June 2013.

Extract from *Prayer for the Child in the Womb*

Guide the work of doctors, nurses and midwives. May the life of a mother and her baby in the womb be equally cherished and respected. Amen



Weekly Quotes

"We must never be afraid to allow our faith to influence and shape our political choices, especially on questions which involve the most basic human values, such as the right to life itself." - Archbishop Charles J Brown, 2 June 2013.

"From the moment of conception, every human life is sacred and precious. Everyone who recognises the wonder of human life appreciates that" - Bishop John Kirby, 3 June 2013.

To avail of Cura's crisis pregnancy support service see www.cura.ie or call 1850 622626

Life Website

See chooselife2013.ie which includes news, life videos and Prayers of Intercession.

Smartphones can scan this QR code for: *Prayer for the Child in the Womb.*

