

“I’m so thankful the Eighth Amendment was there to protect me from making a quick and rash decision when I was experiencing a crisis pregnancy”

Emma Maloney, 25, from Co. Kildare, pictured with her son Rossa >



Emma’s Story “I felt I wasn’t ready to be a mother when I found myself pregnant at 23. I had always considered myself pro-life but I had no idea how difficult it would be to deal with a crisis pregnancy.

“I was blessed that I had two things that helped me through my pregnancy when things got tough. Firstly my faith, trusting that God had a plan for me and my baby, and secondly a supportive family.

“My pregnancy wasn’t a joyful time. It was an extremely lonely, worrying time. I’m so glad the Eighth Amendment was there to protect me and my baby when I was feeling vulnerable and scared.

“My beautiful boy Rossa is now two years old. I can’t imagine my life without him. He has brought a true happiness to my heart. Being a single mother can be a challenge at times but Rossa is such a joyful little boy who is loved by so many people.

“Many young women feel they have no choice other than abortion because they aren’t ready to be mothers. I felt that I wasn’t ready either but I’d like any woman in a similar situation to know that they can have their baby and their life will go on.

“I’m so thankful the Eighth Amendment was there to protect me from making a quick and rash decision when I was experiencing a crisis pregnancy. I often think if I had local access to abortion when I was feeling vulnerable I could have made a decision that I would have regretted later.

“I can honestly say that I am a much happier person now than I was before I got pregnant. Women need support in crisis pregnancy. They need to be told that they are strong enough to have their babies. My child is alive today thanks to the Eighth Amendment.”

What can I do?

Visit our newly redesigned website www.chooselife2018.ie for the most up-to-date videos and resources on the unborn child’s right to life.

Your Questions

What will happen if the Eighth Amendment is repealed?

The Eighth Amendment protects the right to life of pregnant women and unborn babies *equally*. Without it, Ireland’s abortion rate will rise dramatically. Statistics from the Department of Health UK reveal over 185,000 abortions were performed in 2016. When abortion was legalised in the UK in 1967, no one could have predicted that in just 50 years 1 in 5 British babies’ lives would end in abortion every year. Similar rates are seen in Sweden (1 in 4), France and Spain (1 in 5), Italy and Portugal (1 in 6).

Why do abortions take place?

In 2016, 97% of abortions were performed in England and Wales for social reasons. Some 38% of the total number of abortions were performed on women who had at least one previous abortion. The rate of abortion was highest among women aged 22.

Week 10

Hi Mammy!

In seven days, I doubled in size *again*! My fingers are now completely separated and my tiny fingernails are starting to appear. Taste buds are now starting to form on my tongue. My neck muscles are now developed and I can move my head back and forth. I'm extremely active at this stage. I can wave my arms, kick my legs and roll over now. Your womb is now a big playground for me to explore!



Over the coming weeks we will be following the development of Baby Bump based on pregnancy milestones up to 12 weeks.

Church teaching

Our Common Humanity, Irish Bishops' message of March 2018

"Every one of us has a right to our life. It is not given to us by the *Constitution of Ireland* or by any law. We have it 'as of right', whether we are wealthy or poor, healthy or sick. All human beings have it.

"For us as a society to now declare that any category of human beings should have that right taken from them would be a shocking step. It effectively says that unborn children do not exist or, if they do, they do not count. That is a manifest injustice."

Reasons to cherish a culture of life

Life before birth

At the moment of conception, 23 chromosomes from the mother and 23 chromosomes from the father combine to create a new, unique human life. The combined 46 chromosomes contain the entire genetic blueprint of a new human life including gender, fingerprints, freckles, eye colour and blood type.

By day 21, a baby's heart is beating. Facial features are forming from week four. At just six weeks, the baby's eyes and eyelids, nose, mouth and internal organs have developed in their basic form.

The first movements occur at seven weeks. From week eight the nervous system is beginning to respond. From week nine the baby can yawn. From week 12 the baby can suck its thumb.

A stunning slideshow highlighting the development of life in the womb up to 12 weeks is available to view on our website www.chooselife2018.ie.



"I will never forget the effort my counsellor made with me when I experienced a crisis pregnancy. She helped me through some of the worst times of my life and I've come out the other side. I'm feeling stronger and better every day" Tara, 27.

Cura is an agency of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference which supports women experiencing unplanned pregnancies. If you need Cura's help call **1850 622 626** or visit **Cura.ie**

"OUR FAITH CONFIRMS THE fundamental truth upon which every human right and the very future of humanity depends. That is that every human life is



beautiful, every human life is precious and every human life is sacred. Every human life is created in the image and likeness of God. In the face of new life we see, not a threat, but a promise. We do not take back our welcome. Human life is at its most defenceless in the womb and has a right to receive protection."

Excerpt from the Pastoral Message of Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam

Family Prayer

O Mary, Mother of the Life Within,
All life we entrust to you.

The life of every expectant mother
and the child within her womb.

the life of every human body

the life of every human soul

the life of every newborn child

and the life of all grown old.

You held the Lord to your own heart
and drew Him so close in.

So draw us now in all our needs

O Mother of the Life Within. Amen.

Our website has been newly redesigned. To access videos, testimonies and frequently asked questions visit www.chooselife2018.ie