

# ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

## PARISH NEWS 2 MARCH 2014



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES  
Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship

### CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship SENSE AND NONSENSE ON "ASSISTED DYING"

'Assisted dying' is often in the news. There is a Private Member's bill before Parliament to try to legalise it. But just what is "assisted dying"? What does the law say about it? What do doctors have to say about it? What does the Church say about it and what are the problems with it?

#### WHAT EXACTLY IS "ASSISTED DYING"?

"Assisted dying" really means assisting someone to commit suicide. It is the language used by those who want to change the law to legalise assisted suicide. A law permitting "assisted dying" would licence doctors to supply lethal drugs to terminally ill patients.

#### SHOULDN'T EVERYONE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHEN AND HOW THEY DIE?

An 'assisted dying' law could easily put vulnerable people at risk. There are real concerns that there is scope for such a law to be abused. For example, some terminally ill people might feel under pressure to end their lives, either from others or from feeling that they should remove a care or financial burden from their families. Others might wish to do so as a result of depression, a common feature of terminal illness. A 'right to die' could become a 'duty to die'.

#### WHY SHOULD DYING PEOPLE BE FORCED TO STAY ALIVE AND SUFFER?

End-of-life care in Britain has advanced hugely since the days when death was commonly associated with pain and suffering. An international survey by The Economist in 2010 ranked Britain top among 40 nations, including the United States, for quality of end-of-life care. What is needed is to ensure that everyone has access to the best palliative care available. In contrast, assisted suicide is a counsel of despair.

#### WHAT'S THE LAW ON THIS NOW?

It's against the law to encourage or assist another person's suicide. This reflects a widely-held view that, while people who attempt suicide should be treated with compassion, helping someone to commit suicide is not something that should be encouraged. Indeed, as a society we go to great lengths to prevent suicides.

#### WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY ABOUT ASSISTING SUICIDE?

In a message addressed to Catholics in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, Pope Francis said, "Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live for ever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect". The Church supports high quality care for the dying and protection for the weak and vulnerable. The Church teaches that life is a gift from God (John 10:10) and that suicide is the ultimate inability to accept the gift of life. Although attempting suicide should be treated with compassion rather than with blame, suicide should never be encouraged or promoted. Moreover the Church teaches that deliberately ending or helping to end someone else's life, even if that person may have requested it, is wrong. Those who take someone else's life take to themselves the power of life and death, which ultimately belongs to God.

#### WHAT DOES THE MEDICAL PROFESSION HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT?

The BMA and the Royal Colleges of Physicians, General Practitioners and Surgeons are opposed to legalising physician-assisted suicide. And most doctors don't regard it as a proper part of clinical practice - they are all too well aware from experience that dying patients can be vulnerable.

#### WHAT'S WRONG WITH CHANGING THE LAW?

There are powerful practical reasons why the law shouldn't be changed. It's almost impossible to be sure that a request for assisted suicide from someone who is terminally ill reflects a clear and settled wish that has not been influenced by depression or pressure of one sort or another. Changing the law might give a very small number of strong-minded people what they want but it could easily put much larger numbers of vulnerable people at risk of harm.

*continued on p3*

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**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

**FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY**

Saturday 1	6.00 p.m.	Deceased members of McCready family	
Sunday 2	8.30 a.m.	People of the Parish	
	10.30 a.m.	Int. of Mary Alcock	M and R Plummer
Monday 3	9.15 a.m.	Rosie Woods RIP	
Tuesday 4	9.15 a.m.	Mick O'Dowd RIP	M Swift

THE SEASON OF LENT

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday 5	9.15 a.m.	Ints Father Emanuel	
	7.30 p.m.	Special Intention	
Thursday 6	9.15 a.m.	John Andrews RIP	
Friday 7	9.15 a.m.	Ann Baker RIP	M Swift
Saturday 8	9.15 a.m.	Fr. Austin Hart RIP	

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY**

Saturday 8	6.00 p.m.	Mary Connaughton	
Sunday 9	8.30 a.m.	Ted Parker RIP	
	10.30 a.m.	People of the Parish	

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE**

EVERY SATURDAY AFTER MORNING MASS WE HAVE EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT DURING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FROM 9.45 A.M. TO 10.15 A.M.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEKEND'S MASSES**

<b>6.00 p.m.</b>	<b>8.30 p.m.</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b>
Pat Creavin	Pat Green	Mary Brooks
Carol Turnbull	Margaret Bailey	Chris Brooks
Marian Anderson	Jan Jarvis	John Tobin

**READERS FOR THIS WEEKEND'S MASSES**

Niamh Creavin	Alan Bailey	Paula & Peter Sanders
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**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES (8/9 MARCH)**

Ian Restall	Carol Giles	Willa Jackson
Ewa Kania	Ken Eady	Dom. D'Alberquerque
Adam Kania	Mary Allum	Pat Burton

**READERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES (8/9 MARCH)**

Paul Bolton	Gerry Sarah	Marina Moffat
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**ANNIVERSARIES**

We pray for all those whose anniversary whose anniversary occurs at this time, and all our relatives and friends, especially:

Raymond Bolt, Frederick Rackstraw, Henry Smith, Edward Parker, and John Allum. Priests of our Diocese: Mgr Patrick O'Donnell (1981), Fr. Brian Galvin (1994), Fr. Francis Hastings (2003), Fr. Malachy Kelly (1976) and Canon Joseph Whitfield (1961) May these and all the faithful departed Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory and Grace.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN OUR PARISH**

Nicholas Sharkey, Daniella DiLisio, Paul Denton, Don Whittle, Simone Austin. Anita Czupeynski, Jacqueline Birnie, Maureen Flaherty, Pauline White, Mairead O'Driscoll, Nora McPherson, Diane Griffiths, Mary Dillane, Vince Vitali, Mary Boyer, Mano Subryan, Kathleen Green, Beryl de Prazer, and Mary Sheehan. Our Lady of Lourdes intercede for them. If there are any changes please let Fr. Leslie know.



**CATECHISTS**

An evening for Catechists will take place on Wednesday 26 March at 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Please let Sister Nuala know if you wish to take part. We are also looking for new Catechists to offer themselves in this wonderful ministry. Please give this a thought.

**KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA CHARITY SUPPER DANCE**

The Knights of St. Columba are holding a 50s & 60s Charity Supper Dance on 8 March 2014 at the Cathedral Hall Brentwood. The live vocalist will be Diane Moore. Hot and Cold supper - bring your own drinks. Tickets £20.00 available from Bill O'Regan, Jim Jarvis, and Tim Murphy. Charities include Mary's Meals (Feed the Hungry) and BCCS.

**ST JOHN PAYNE SCHOOL PTA SPRING BALL**

St John Payne School will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary with a Spring Ball on Saturday 10 May 2014 at Furze Hill Hotel, Margaretting. Tickets are £39 each and includes drinks on arrival, three course meal, 1/3 bottle wine and tea/coffee There will be raffles and auctions, and Carriags at 12.00 p.m. Contact sc.may@talktalk.net or text 07890312492

**PLEASE NOTE - PARKING**

May I remind all parishioners and visitors that you park in the school playground at your own risk. Thank you.



Fr. Leslie writes

Welcome to our parish today especially to our visitors.

It is always a great joy when families come together to share a meal whether it is a special occasion or a

simple Sunday lunch. So too with God's family when we come together each week to celebrate the Eucharist. As Catholics we have an obligation to respond to the Lord's invitation. The Catechism (1397) says "the Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognise Christ in the poorest."

This year Family Fast Day is Friday 14 March. It may seem a few weeks away but now is the time to prepare for this Fast Day. How can we transform the land and lives of our brothers and sisters? CAFOD asks us to "dig deep this Fast Day to transform land and lives. Are we are up for the challenge?"

Today is our last Sunday in Ordinary Time before Lent begins. Lent is a time of intensive spiritual discipline. But today, God reminds us that we are not to worry and fret over the details of life. This is one of the themes in today's Gospel. We are all prone to worry, to a greater or lesser extent, but it robs us of the peace of Christ whether it is over the cares of life, or our family, or health or because we have disappointed ourselves when we constantly fall into sin through our own desires of pleasure. The basis of our anxiety is that we lack faith. Jesus' teaching here gives us several reasons why we should not worry; it is to miss the point of life, which is far more important than things such as food, drink and clothing; it makes little sense for if God feeds the birds, surely he will not let us go hungry; and it is a waste of time because it will never lengthen our lives.

We should always remember that the past has gone, the future is mystery, all we have is the present and it is a gift. The answer to worry is "to seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness." We need to uphold God's standards. To be faithful to his teaching and remain always in his love. Once we remember we are always in his hands and he loves us so much then we can begin our Lenten preparation for Easter.

*Thank you God bless and have a great Sunday.*

*Fr Leslie*

**FLK**

"In any relationship "sorry" is the most important word."



**FINANCE MATTERS**

For the week ending 22/23 February you gave £264.59 of which £91.30 was Gift Aided. Thank you

*continued from p1*

**WOULDN'T THERE BE SAFEGUARDS IN ANY LEGALISED SYSTEM?**

Yes, but what safeguards and how effective would they be? In the tiny number of other countries where assisted suicide has been legalised there is emerging evidence that the safeguards don't work. For instance, some laws seek to restrict access to assisted suicide to terminally ill people who are in full possession of all their faculties and are acting freely. But prognosis of terminal illness is fraught with difficulty: terminally ill people often live for much longer than the predictions they are given when they are diagnosed - occasionally, they even recover. And the evidence from overseas shows that doctors have sometimes failed to spot clinical depression among those who have been supplied with lethal drugs to end their lives.

**IF I CAN END MY LIFE BY REFUSING TREATMENT, WHY CAN'T I HAVE MEDICAL HELP TO END IT?**


Everyone has the legal right to refuse treatment, but patients who refuse treatment rarely do so in order to end their lives: they do it because they are finding the treatment burdensome and they want to let nature take its course. There's a world of difference, in medical ethics and in law, between accepting that death can't be prevented and seeking assistance to end your own life.


**DON'T DOCTORS SOMETIMES HASTEN PATIENTS' DEATHS UNDER THE GUISE OF PAIN RELIEF?**

These days pain relief is a sophisticated science. When analgesics are properly prescribed and administered, there is no risk to the patient's life. Research has shown that in Britain illegal action of this kind by doctors is rare or non-existent.

**BRITISH PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SWITZERLAND TO GET HELP WITH SUICIDE. WHY SHOULD THEY NOT BE ABLE TO GET THAT HELP HERE?**

Though every "Swiss suicide" makes the headlines, only around 1 in every 25,000 deaths of Britons in the last 10 years has taken this form. The fact that a very small number of British people choose to seek assisted suicide in another country doesn't mean we should legalise the practice here. We make our own laws, and the legal protection of the weak and vulnerable is a fundamental duty of the state and of society.

 **OUR POPE ON TWITTER**

All of us who are baptized are missionary disciples. We are called to become a living Gospel in the world. 

**Children's Corner**

**A Prayer to say**

*Thank you, Father God, for all the lessons Jesus gave to help us to know how to live the best lives we can, help us not to worry, and to trust you to look after us*

*Amen.*

**BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL LENTEN LECTURES**

The cost of Discipleship – four reflections on the nature joys and challenges of Christian discipleship

- Wednesday 12 March: Paying a price for belief  
Speaker Lord Acton of Liverpool
  - Wednesday 19 March: Speaker Fr. Mark Reilly - Assistant Priest at Brentwood Cathedral
  - Wednesday 26 March: Speaker Msgr Mark Langham - Catholic Chaplain at Cambridge University
  - Wednesday 2 April: Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham Archdiocese
- ADMISSION IS FREE AND ALL ARE WELCOME**  
All lectures begin at 7.30 p.m. in the Cathedral Parish Hall.

**DESERT ISLAND PRIESTS**

On Thursday 6 March, 20 March and 3 April Father Martin Boland will interview Priests of the Diocese about their favourite spiritual reading and how it has influenced them as men and Priests. **One Desert Island, six Priests, six books, six remarkable stories to tell.** All sessions will commence at 7.30 p.m. Admission is free. Please see Notices on the Board at the back of the Church.

**VACANCY AT BCCS**

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is recruiting a senior Social Worker to be their new part time (19 hours) Head of Professional Services to practice manage a strong existing team and to work with the existing Deputy Director who is moving to a part time role. Application Pack from Steven Webb (Director) on [swebb@bccs.org.uk](mailto:swebb@bccs.org.uk) or 01268 784544

**NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH**

will be held on 10 - 18 March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. Each year the Mill Hill Community prepares for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary work of the church, as well as, for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Fr. Denis Treacy MHM, at St Joseph's Missionary Society, Communications House, 12 Craufurd Rise, Maidenhead SL6 7LS or email [novena@millhillmissionaries.com](mailto:novena@millhillmissionaries.com)

**JOB! A CANTATA BY MICHAEL STEVENS**

Job! (a Cantata by Michael Stevens) will be performed by The Holy Family Choir and Orchestra, Benfleet & Young Singers from Brentwood Cathedral at Brentwood Cathedral at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 8 March 2014, in aid of The CAFOD Appeal for the People of Syria. Cost is £10.00 (Adults); £7.00 (Seniors) and £1.00 (Under 16s). Tickets available from Music Office, Cathedral House, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT. Make cheques payable to Brentwood Cathedral Music. Please enclose sae or phone 01277 265288/07854 330962

**LETTER FROM CARITAS ANCHOR HOUSE**

On behalf of everyone here at Caritas Anchor House, I would like to say how grateful we are for the recent generous donation of £163.31 from St Joseph the Worker as part of Homelessness Sunday 2014. It is contributions like these that allow us to continue to support the vulnerable and marginalised people who come to Caritas Anchor House, so please do pass on our sincere thanks to all the parishioners.

**CHARITY PLACES - PRUDENTIAL RIDE LONDON - SURREY 100**

Sunday 10 August 2014. Feeling inspired by Team GB heroes such as Bradley Wiggins? Why not take part in this fantastic new cycling challenge which takes in the route of the London 2012 Olympic Road Race. Starting in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford, the 100 mile route will take you and 25,000 other cyclists through traffic free streets out into Surrey's stunning country roads and hills before returning to London to finish along the Mall. This is cycling's equivalent to the London Marathon and promises to be a truly spectacular event. This will be a really challenging event as you have to train to a level that ensures you'll complete the 100 miles in nine hours, and you'll be sharing the road with 20,000 other cyclists. The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has a limited number of charity places in the Ride London Surrey 100. You must be able to complete the 100 mile route in less than 9 hours and commit to raise a minimum sponsorship of £750. If you would like to be considered for one of our places or would like further information then please contact Sarah on 01268 784544 [swhite@bccs.org.uk](mailto:swhite@bccs.org.uk)

**ALFRED BUHAGIAR RIP**

Thank you to all parishioners who attended Alf's Funeral Mass last week. The family were really grateful for the support you gave. May he rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Katy, his wife, has returned to their home in Malta where Alf's ashes will be buried in the family grave after a Memorial Mass.



Jesus said that we should not worry about what we are to eat, or drink, or what to wear because God feeds the birds of the air and he made flowers which are more beautiful than even King Solomon's clothes. We should not worry about our lives, but if we try our best to follow in God's ways he will take care of us.



**CATHOLIC AND HAVE LOST TOUCH?**

If you have been a non Church-going Catholic for a long time, it can be very helpful to read about contemporary Catholic beliefs and life. It may appear to you that some things have changed.

Free materials are available from the Catholic Enquiry Office.

Contact: "Coming Home", CEO, 114 West Heath Road, London NW3 7TX  
Tel: 020 8458 3316. e-mail: info@comehomeforchristmas.co.uk



david hennon counselling services

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