

MPs should be in ‘listening mode’ on assisted suicide, says Catholic Union President

The Catholic Union, an organisation that works with those in public life to tackle the pressing social issues of the day, has held its AGM where the focus fell on the assisted suicide debate.

Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union, reiterated her call for people to write to their MPs about their personal experiences of death as a constructive response to Kim Leadbeater’s Bill, that received its First Reading this week.



Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Bishops’ Conference, and Baroness Hollins

addressed the Catholic Union’s well-attended AGM. Maggie Doherty, Director of the Centre for the Art of Living and Dying Well, delivered the keynote speech which explored vividly, and hopefully, how learning about dying well and promoting death literacy across our networks can help us to live better.

Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union says:

“You can’t legislate for love. This Bill is a worry on many fronts but MPs, many of whom are new to Parliament, should be in listening mode to their constituents so sharing your personal perspective, however hard that might be, is a useful exercise to ensure that all unintended consequences are exposed, explored and considered.”

Baroness Hollins also talked about the need for GRACE in life: Give – do something for somebody else, Receive – letting others do something for you, Active – helps your mental and physical health, Create – creativity and Engagement – Engage in relationship, trusting somebody else in your daily life.

Maggie Doherty, Director of the Centre for the Art of Living and Dying Well, St Mary’s University, says: “Every one of us is dying – learning about dying well doesn’t just prepare us for the end – it teaches us how to truly live. Understanding mortality can reshape our approach to all aspects of our life and our death. As a nation, we need to get better at talking about life and about death.”

Before the AGM, Bishop Sherrington, who has responsibility for life issues, celebrated Mass at Farm Street church for all members of the Catholic Union – living and dead.

Bishop John Sherrington says: “Understanding death as part of life can help all people to gain a deeper appreciation of the gift of life in all its aspects and relationships. It helps Christians to see more clearly the pattern of the paschal mystery in their daily lives as they live under the horizon of eternity.”

Cup Of Salvation

The sons of Zebedee hardly know what they’re asking in today’s Gospel. They are thinking in terms of how the Gentiles rule, of royal privileges and honors.

But the road to Christ’s kingdom is by way of His Cross. To share in His glory, we must be willing to drink the cup that He drinks.

The cup is an Old Testament image for God’s judgment. The wicked would be made to drink this cup in punishment for their sins (see Psalm 75:9; Jeremiah 25:15, 28; Isaiah 51:17). But Jesus has come to drink this cup on behalf of all



humanity. He has come to be baptized—which means plunged or immersed—into the sufferings we all deserve for our sins (compare Luke 12:50).

In this He will fulfill the task of Isaiah’s suffering servant, whom we read about in today’s First Reading.

Like Isaiah’s servant, the Son of Man will give His life as an offering for sin, as once Israel’s priests offered sacrifices for the sins of the people (see Leviticus 5:17–19).

Jesus is the heavenly high priest of all humanity, as we hear in today’s Epistle. Israel’s high priests offered the blood of goats and calves in the temple sanctuary. But Jesus entered the heavenly sanctuary with His own blood (see Hebrews 9:12).

And by bearing our guilt and offering His life to do the will of God, Jesus ransomed “the many”—paying the price to redeem humanity from spiritual slavery to sin and death.

He has delivered us from death, as we rejoice in today’s Psalm.

We need to hold fast to our confession of faith, as today’s Epistle exhorts us. We must look upon our trials and sufferings as our portion of the cup He promised to those who believe in Him (see Colossians 1:24). We must remember that we have been baptized into His passion and death (see Romans 6:3).

In confidence, let us approach the altar today, the throne of grace, at which we drink the cup of His saving blood (see Mark 14:23–24).

Scott Hann



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

PARISHES OF
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ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford

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29TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR B (I)

Entrance Antiphon Ps 16:6, 8

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading: Prophet Isaiah 53:10-11

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 32

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Second Reading: Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!!

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, says the Lord; no one can come to the Father except through me. .

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

Communion Antiphon: Ps 32:18-19

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

SATURDAY 19th October ... St Jon de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues & Companions

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Eucharistic Ministers.. **No Mass...** Confession after Mass
4:30 pm Adoration & Confessions before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... Political Office Holders
5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot
6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot... Political Office Holders

SUNDAY 20th October ... 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Evie Nolan
11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford... Evie Nolan

MONDAY 21st October ... St Callistus ... NO MASS

TUESDAY 22nd October ... St John Paul II

12:00 noon Rosary before mass St John Wallingford ... All the Sick

WEDNESDAY 23rd October ... Diocesan Day of Reparation For Life

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ...
6:00 pm Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... K.J. Mathai (RIP)... Soniya Mathew

THURSDAY 24th October ... St Anthony Claret

9:30 am Mass St John Wallingford ...

FRIDAY 25th October ...

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ...

SATURDAY 26th October ... Ss Chad & Cedd

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Diya Leneesh’s Birthday... Soniya Mathew... **Confession after Mass**
4:30 pm Adoration & Confessions before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot
6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

SUNDAY 27th October ... 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ...
11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford... Denis & Ruby Rodrick (RIP) Rodrick & Family

In your prayers, please remember: Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Pat McLoughlin, Barry Molloy, David Woodley, Ann Furlong and all the sick and housebound of our churches.



DEATH/FUNERAL NOTICE

Maureen Josephine Bone (RIP) 84... Requiem Mass, Wednesday 23th Oct, 12noon... Wallingford



Tuesday Rosary Before Mass In October

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is because the liturgical Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th, we shall be praying the rosary on Tuesdays at St John the Evangelist Church Wallingford. There will be no adoration before the mid day mass on such Tuesdays. Join us to pray for world peace.



Our Annual Diocesan Day of Prayer and Reparations

Next Wednesday, 23rd October, is our annual diocesan Day of Prayer and Reparation for Life. It's now almost sixty years since the 1967 Abortion Act - one of the most liberal in the world - came into effect in the UK. Since then, ten million babies have been aborted, one in five pregnancies. As a people of life, our efforts as Catholics to defend the unborn child, to care for pregnant mothers and to reverse or blunt this Act have had mixed results and this month, unjustly, new legislation will no longer allow us even to pray outside hospitals and clinics. This is why we keep every 23rd October, the day the 1967 Abortion Act was passed, as a diocesan Day of Prayer and Reparation for Life. On that day, I ask our priests to offer a Mass for the Progress of Peoples, but wearing the purple vestments of penitence. Moreover, as a people of life, we cannot idly stand by before evil, injustice, suffering and violence in our world, including the abuse of the Earth and its resources. We must act. Pope Francis, in his brilliant Encyclical Letter Laudato Si, begs people to live an authentically human ecology, a more balanced, simple life-style, a life that respects the environment, helps end poverty and espouses justice. As Catholics, we should live



an integrally 'green' and natural way of life. Finally, we cannot stand idly by now as another death-wish is arising in our society for assisted suicide and euthanasia. This is another new line in the sand that our legislators seem poised to cross and which we need to resist for the sake of the vulnerable and the elderly. Here is a prayer we can say:

Lord Jesus, you are the source and lover of life. Reawaken in us and in every citizen respect for every human life. Help us to see in each child the marvellous work of our Creator. Open our hearts to welcome every child as a unique and wonderful gift. 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. Help those who make our laws to uphold the uniqueness and sacredness of every human life, from the first moment of conception to natural death. Give us wisdom and generosity to build a society that cares for all. Together with Mary, your Mother, in whose womb you took on our human nature, help us to choose life in every decision we take.

Chorister Opportunities at Westminster Cathedral Choir School

Boys with musical potential in Years 2, 3 or 4 are invited to become a chorister at Westminster Cathedral with the opportunity to sing in the Cathedral choir and on international tour. Boys also receive an outstanding education at one of London's leading schools on a boarding basis up until Year 8. Scholarships with bursaries worth up to 100% of fees available on a means-tested basis. The choir school is an inclusive and diverse community. The only universal element is a love of singing! If you and your child are interested, you are invited to join a brief Zoom session on Wednesday 27th November. Please contact Lucy Freeman lfreeman@choirschool.com for a link. More information can be obtained here: <https://www.choirschool.com/>.



Join Abingdon Pilgrimage of Faith, Fellowship & Parisian Pleasures

Join us for a 3-day trip to Paris this February! Together, we'll explore the spiritual and cultural heart of the city, including visits to Notre-Dame de Paris, Sainte-Chapelle, and the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal for Mass and Adoration. Enjoy fellowship, a Bateau Mouche cruise, and time to discover Paris' famous museums and landmarks.

Dates: Tuesday, Feb 18 – Thursday, Feb 20, 2025

Departure: London St. Pancras, early morning

Return: Late evening

Accommodation and Eurostar bookings are independent but could be coordinated by the organising team at the Parish of Our Lady and St Edmund Abingdon. **For more details, contact Sabina 07449825161.**

Parish Safeguarding Rep

Our Safety Officer for all adult and child safeguarding issues is Stefania Harford, please contact Stefania via the parish office on 01235 812338, if there is no response and in an emergency then dial 999.

Polish Mission in England and Wales Celebrates its 130th Anniversary

The Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales continues to celebrate the 130th anniversary of its founding. The latest celebrations took place on 12-13 October, and were attended by the Secretary General of the Polish Episcopal Conference, Bishop Marek Marczak.



On 12 October, a pilgrimage took place to Walsingham, the main Marian sanctuary in the British Isles, led by Bishop Marczak. The following day, on 13 October, in the main church of the Polish Catholic Mission in north London, Our Lady of Czestochowa and St Casimir, he was the chief celebrant at a Mass attended by representatives of Polish communities and representatives of Polish parishes from around England and Wales. Among the invited guests were the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United Kingdom, Prof. Piotr Wilczek, and the Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Ms. Renata Kowalska. In his homily, Bishop Marczak encouraged the congregation to zealously continue the Mission in the service of sacrificial love for one's neighbour.

Exhibition

After the Holy Mass, an exhibition dedicated to the history of the Mission was opened in the basement of the church, where the cultural and social centre is located. The exhibition was prepared by the staff of the archives of the Polish Catholic Mission, which is the largest Polish archive in Great Britain, under the direction of Ms Jadwiga Kowalska. Visitors could see, for the first time, photographs of the first six rectors of the Mission, including the first Rector, Fr Antoni Lechert CR.

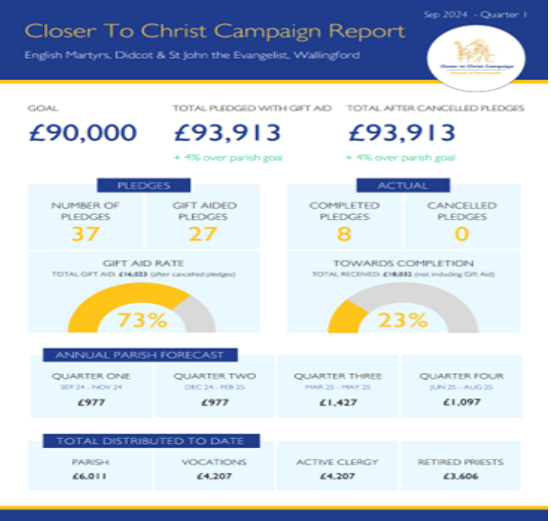
The Rector of the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales, Fr. Bogdan Kołodziej, thanked everyone for attending and reserved special recognition for the daily, selfless work of volunteers in parishes for the good of the Polish Catholic community in these lands. He also expressed his gratitude to representatives of Polish patriotic, cultural and educational circles for their kindness and close cooperation.

The celebrations concluded with a piano concert of works by Fryderyk Chopin performed by Mr. Ryszard Bielicki, a composer born in north London, one of the organists in the parish in Devonia Road. Many volunteers were involved in the organisation of the event, to whom the current Rector expressed his gratitude.

Our Closer to Christ Campaign

The Diocese Finance and Fundraising team plans series of personalised Parish dashboards which provide details of parish's performance in relation to the Closer to Christ fundraising campaign. The intention is to issue these reports on a quarterly basis alongside parish disbursements of campaign funds. Hence, this will provide full disclosure of the part our parish has played in the overall success of the campaign.

The dashboard displays the total funds pledged by our parishioners, together with notification of unfulfilled pledges or those which have been cancelled due to a change in the donor's circumstances. You will also see a forecast for the remainder of the year and a breakdown of how our parishioners have contributed to the collective effort to train more seminarians for the future, care for priests in active ministry, look after retired clergy following a lifetime of service and provide specific support for English Martyrs, Didcot and St John the Evangelist, Wallingford.



November 14th is Seniors' Lunch

On Thursday 10th of October, our wonderful team hosted the Seniors to roast gammon with pineapple. We thank all those who prepared and attended this great event of friends.

A list is on the notice board by the entrance to the Tea Room for those interested in the November 14th Seniors' Lunch. If you have neighbours you think will benefit from our warmth and friendship, kindly invite them to come along. It is free. Jacquie & Kim

World Mission Sunday — Go and invite everyone to the banquet!

Today, parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, we stand united as God's global family, in prayer, solidarity, and action. We are called to 'go and invite everyone to the banquet' for the joy of Christ's Resurrection is a gift meant to be shared with the entire world. Please pray for missionaries and give what you can to this vital collection, bringing God's compassion, peace, and justice to those in need. To donate, use the Missio envelope, call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit, and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

