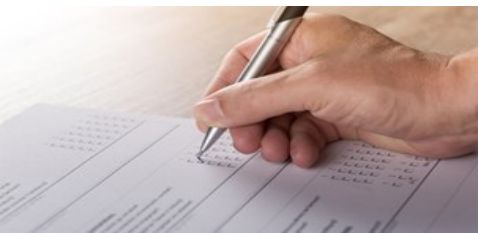


Too many 'complicating factors' to safely implement assisted suicide, says British public in new poll

56 per cent of those who express an opinion (71% of all those surveyed) support legalising assisted dying/assisted suicide (AD/AS) in principle but feel there are too many complicating factors to make it a practical and safe option to implement in Britain.

A majority feel that if AD/AS is legalised in the UK, patients should have the legal right to choose to be treated by doctors and other health professionals who have opted out of participating in it.

Legalising AD/AS is not a political priority for most people. Legalising AD/AS ranked 23 out of 24



of issues that need attention, with "regulating AI" and "international trade deals" ranking higher. Only four per cent thought it should be a priority for politicians.

60 per cent of those surveyed worried that legalising AD/AS would fundamentally change the relationship between doctor and patient, including more than half (51%) of those who support AD/AS.

Assisted dying/assisted suicide has too many "complicating factors" to be implemented safely, says the British public in a major new poll. The poll, of more than 2,000 British adults, by British Polling Council member Whitestone Insight, finds that behind the headline figures of support for AD/AS, the public expressed ambivalence about its consequences and signalled serious doubts.

The poll, commissioned by the think tank Living & Dying Well (LDW) and released just ahead of a new attempt in the House of Lords to change the law, also found:

Seven in 10 (70%) said that assistance in dying in countries like Canada and the Netherlands, where young people with no terminal illness are helped to die, has gone too far. This rose to more than eight in 10 (84%) when those who answered "don't know" were discounted.

Young people reject AD/AS more than do any other age group. Fewer than half (44%) of 18-24-year-olds supported legalising AD/AS.

A clear majority – 56% – voiced fears that legalising AD/AS would lead to a culture where suicide becomes more normalised than it is today. This rose to 67% when those who answered "don't know" were omitted.

Similarly, 43% fear that introducing AD/AS when the NHS and Social Care budget is under such pressure would inevitably place an incentive on health professionals to encourage some people to end their lives early.

Four in ten people (41%) are concerned that introducing AD/AS when the NHS is under such strain would "inevitably" risk funding for palliative care services.

The survey was conducted in the wake of comments made by a handful of politicians, who wrongly believe the public are broadly supportive of changing the law to legalise assisted suicide and euthanasia. It is being released on the eve of the first reading of a new bill in House of Lords. It pushes back against the narrative frequently promoted by those who say the public support a change in the law and highlights the serious concerns of ordinary people that need to be considered by parliamentarians ahead of any future discussion.

The poll shows that support for AD/AS suicide amongst the public changes when confronted with evidence from where it is legal. Nearly half (47%), for instance, worried that people in places where it is legal opt for AD/AS because they feel they are a burden. Of those expressing any opinion this concern rose to 59% of those who said they support AD/AS.

Half (50%) of those who supported it in principle think that the fact that Canada saves money with every patient euthanised was a strong argument against legalisation. A third (33%) of those who support AD/AS in practice thought that the revelation that rates in Oregon – the model for the current bill – went up by 260% was concerning. 40% of those who had supported legalisation reconsidered when confronted with the fact that young people suffering from mental illness were euthanised in Belgium and the Netherlands.

On conscientious objection, more than three quarters (77%) felt all doctors, healthcare workers, and hospices should have the right to opt out of the service. This rose to nine in 10 (89%) of those who expressed an opinion.

These results run in stark contrast to previous polls on the subject that frame the debate in a simplistic way without asking people to consider what



changing the law actually entails. The poll shows that the British people are increasingly suspicious of AD/AS as disturbing evidence emerges from places like Canada.

Tanni, The Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE, chair of LDW, said:

"This nationally representative poll conducted under British Polling Council guidelines gives a very different snapshot of ordinary peoples' attitude towards assisted suicide than the glossy picture presented by pro-AD/AS organisations. It shows that, at best, people are ambivalent about the prospect. And the survey shows that the more people know about the issue, the more likely they are to reject this legislation." Source: LDW-Press-Release-July-2024-2.pdf (livinganddyingwell.org.uk).



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

PARISHES OF
THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Didcot
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford

www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org

Office email: office@didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org
(Parish Office Hours Tuesday—Friday 9am to 1pm approximately)

Telephone: 01235 812338

15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ

Fr Dominic Adeiza email: dadeiza@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR B (I)

Entrance Antiphon Ps 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading: Book Josh 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 1:14:12

Alleluia, alleluia!!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: John 6:60-69

Communion Antiphon: Ps 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

SATURDAY 24th August ... St Bartholomew

9:30 am Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot ... **Confession after Mass**
4:30 pm Adoration & Confessions will take place prior to the Vigil Mass at St John's Wallingford
5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John's ... David Watson RIP (Anker Watson)
5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot
6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot

SUNDAY 25th August ... 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot ... Paddy Byrne RIP
11:00 noon Mass St John's Wallingford ... Parish Volunteers

MONDAY 26th August ... NO MASS

TUESDAY 27th August ... St Monica

12:00 noon ... Adoration before mass in St John's Wallingford ... Altar Servers

WEDNESDAY 28th August ... St Augustine of Hippo

9:30 am at English Martyrs, Didcot ... Our Benefactors and Benefactresses

THURSDAY 29th August ... The Passion of St John the Baptist

9:30 am Mass at St John's Wallingford ... Our Benefactors and Benefactresses

FRIDAY 30th August ... Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward

9:30 am at English Martyrs, Didcot ... Altar Servers

SATURDAY 31st August ... St Aidan & All Saints of Lindisfarne

9:30 am Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot ... **Confession after Mass**
4:30 pm Adoration & Confessions will take place prior to the Vigil Mass at St John's Wallingford
5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John's
5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot
6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot

SUNDAY 1st September ... 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot
11:00 noon Mass St John's Wallingford
6 pm ... Benediction ... Didcot



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.



CAFOD's UK Summer Reach Out Raffle 2024

Best chance to play the CAFOD Reach Out Raffle. The closing date is 30 August 2024. The draw date is 13 September 2024. The raffle helps CAFOD to reach out to more people who are experiencing poverty, social injustice, conflict, and climate disasters.



Play online at www.cafod.raffleentry.org.uk/entries where you will also find the rules for eligibility.

Vatican reveals theme for 2025 World Day of Peace

“Only from a genuine conversion on all levels – personal, local and international – will true peace be able to flourish,” says the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in its statement on the theme for the 2025 World Day of Peace.

In Thursday’s statement, the Dicastery adds that peace comes not only from an end to conflicts, “but also in a new reality in which wounds are healed and each person’s dignity is recognised”.

The World Day of Peace is observed each year on January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Since its establishment in 1967 by Pope St Paul VI, the Popes have taken the occasion to offer magisterial reflections in Messages for the day, dealing with topics such as the United Nations, human rights, diplomacy, and economic development.

The theme chosen by the Holy Father for the World Day of Peace for 2025 is, “Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace”, corresponding to “the biblical and ecclesial understanding of the Jubilee Year”.

Hope and forgiveness at the heart of the Jubilee

In its statement, the Dicastery says the theme is inspired by Pope Francis’s encyclical letters *Laudato si* and *Fratelli tutti*, “and above all by the concepts of Hope and Forgiveness, which are at the heart of the Jubilee, a time for conversion that calls us not to condemn, but instead to bring about reconciliation and peace”.

The Dicastery goes on to note by “considering the reality of conflicts and social sins afflicting humanity today in light of the hope inherent in the Jubilee tradition of the forgiveness of sins and the cancellation of debts, together with the reflections of the Fathers of the Church in this regard, concrete principles emerge that can lead to a much needed spiritual, social, economic, ecological and cultural change”.



Environmental Conference: Saturday 14th September, 10am-1pm

As part of the Season of Creation the diocese is holding an environmental conference, ‘To Hope and Act with Creation’ at St Peter’s and Winchester Martyrs parish on Saturday 14th September, 10am-1pm. We have John Paul de Quay from the Ecological Conversion Group Charity speaking on ‘Fellowship of believers, how faith should motivate us in caring for our common home?’. There will be updates from COP28 and preparation for COP 29 and practical actions for parishes. For more information please visit the website.

Children’s Liturgy Poster Competition

Calling Children of ALL Ages.
Have fun designing a Poster we can use to advertise our Children's Liturgy and Masses.
Return your entry by Sunday 8th September 2024.
Prizes for Winner and runners up ... Good Luck To All
For more info speak to Jacquie or Gay (Children’s Liturgy Group).

14th September Is the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress

The Adoremus National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress will take place on Saturday 14th September 2024 at St. Mary’s College, Oscott. Bishops, priests, and people from all the dioceses of England and Wales will gather for a day of renewing and deepening devotion to the Eucharist. A limited number of places have been allocated to each diocese. Clergy are asked to encourage regular Eucharistic Adorers and committed parishioners to consider attending. For further information contact Canon Michael Dennehy at mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.



Our Centenary Celebration is 22nd September

Our Parish Church in Wallingford, St John the Evangelist will celebrate 100 years standing, 22nd September. This is about us, the faith and the community, the celebrations of the sacraments, vocations to the married life and the priesthood. Well done to everyone, living and dead. To celebrate this remarkable achievement, our team has chosen 22nd September as the big day. Activities leading up to this day shall be in our newsletter henceforth. Any fantastic idea, speak with Fr Dominic.



Seniors’ Lunch Is Here Again

The Thursday of 19th of September will kick off a string of Seniors’ Lunch organised by our wonderful chefs. Watch the board and the newsletter for dates and menus. The Tearoom at 12noon will host those who have put their names down. If you have not, no worries it is just up, put down your name. If you have neighbours you think will benefit from our warmth and friendship, kindly invite them to come along.

The menu is choice of steak pie or salmon wellington, served with mashed potatoes, cauliflower and carrots. Dessert will be jelly and ice-cream or fresh fruit. Of course, the usual tea and coffee as top ups. These are served amidst banter, laughter, jokes and friendship. Please come and share in our love. Jacquie & Kim

We Need Support for “Ride and Stride” for churches

This year’s Ride and Stride for churches, will be held on 14th September 2024. People can be sponsored to visit churches, many of which will be open that day to welcome visitors, or they can help by welcoming people to our own churches in Didcot and Wallingford. If you have any questions, please contact Douglas Henderson (in Didcot), or Raymond and Lilandia Eaton (in Wallingford, 14 September 2024 from 10am to 6pm). Donations are spent in grants to churches of all denominations for repairs and improvements.



Please, if you wish to help out as welcomer in Wallingford, kindly put your name down at the back of the Church on the paper provided.

Are You Registered In The Parish?



When you register or fill out the parish membership form, you gain a sense of belonging and identity in the parish community. It is a commitment to practice your faith.

*Registration enables the parish priest and staff to get to know you better, to welcome you and to minister to you. This is especially important during a time of crisis so that the pastoral staff can attend to your spiritual needs and the needs of your family.

*Registration helps you stay connected with your parish and helps your parish stay connected with you. Providing your contact information is important so that parishes provide you timely updates via email, direct mail, phone, etc. Also, if you use offertory envelopes, online giving or the digital plate, the parish may be able to claim 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you give, if you are a registered tax payer. Once you are registered, please notify the parish office of any changes in address or phone number. Your data is SAFE.

*Registered active members are eligible for sponsor/godparent validation.
*Registered active members are sometimes eligible to rent parish facilities.
Census numbers may determine how many priests are assigned to a parish and how many Masses and enrichment programs are planned and scheduled. These numbers help in how much levy we pay to the diocese.

Our Church Finance is Healthy

Last week, some members of our Finance Committee gave us an update on our parish finances. By your generosity, our church accounts look healthy with an increase of 36%. This is a reflection of your free giving, prudent management of entrusted funds, volunteering to do otherwise, paid jobs and making helpful suggestions on how to save or cut costs. For all these and many others, THANK YOU.



Of course, work has just begun. We shall be improving on our Church heating systems in both Churches. Some window panels are crying for help. We plan to procure better audio or public address systems and audio-visual projectors to encourage singing or active participation at liturgical celebrations. Thank you for being part of this great effort.

Flame is Here Again

The largest youth gathering of Catholics, Flame is once more taking place at the OVO Arena, Wembley on Saturday 15th March 2025, with the theme ‘Unstoppable’. The event provides young people the opportunity to join with other young Catholics, to enjoy modern inspirational faith filled music, to hear motivational speakers, to share the faith and to spend time in prayer.

Early Bird tickets can be purchased at £29 per person before the 30th September, after which the price will increase. The full price of a ticket is £35.

To enable young people to attend Flame 2025 with the Diocese, purchase Early Bird tickets now by returning the attached Booking Form to youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

A coach will run from Portsmouth Cathedral directly to the OVO Arena, seats can be booked via the same Booking Form.



Weekday Evening Masses to Begin September

The Liturgy Group met and decided on an extra weekday mass to be celebrated in the evening in the English Martyrs Church, Didcot. This is to meet the spiritual needs of working groups who are unable to attend the daily masses in the mornings. This additional weekday mass will be celebrated at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, beginning September 4th 2024. This will be reviewed.