



"I've been an obstetrician for more than 30 years. I've delivered over 5000 babies. The 8th Amendment never prevented me from protecting a woman's life or health in pregnancy. Abortion ends lives. It is not healthcare"
Dr. John Monaghan, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist



Fr. Taylor's Homily given on 5th May 2018 in Knock for your consideration on issues raised by the forthcoming referendum.

In John 10.10 we read; ((I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." Jesus contrasts what he is offering to the thief who comes to steal, to kill and destroy. It is a characteristic of the thief that they do not respect the equal dignity of the other person. The "you" of the other becomes an object, an "it" to be abused, exploited or destroyed. The thief operates with the calculus of power, strength, violence. he depersonalises his victim.

As we journey to the referendum, we are being asked to remove from our Constitution the right to life of a cohort of our brothers and sisters in the human community, who are at the most vulnerable stage in the wondrous journey of the unfolding of human life. Because they are so vulnerable, so dependent, so voiceless, they have special claim to our protection.

Modern medical science confirms the age old intuition that human life begins at conception and the formation of the DNA code.

All of us gathered here today are individually "a cluster of cells", but this reductionist description of the human person brackets out of consideration, the astonishing beauty of the human being, who, if nurtured and loved can become for example the athlete, the artist, the giver of love, the receiver of love. If we look back even briefly, at human history, we see that so much pain and cruelty were inflicted because people viewed others as less than human. Think of slavery, racism, the treatment of indigenous peoples, the Holocaust, and what the Nazis called the "unmenschlich".

The Constitution of any country recognises and expresses the fundamental values that support mutual interaction and human flourishing. It is like the banks of a great river that allows the water to flow and many to draw from its vitality. When you remove the banks of a river all you get is a swamp.! While politicians have a vital and noble role in society, we know that expediency and short term interest invariably muddies the clarity of their decision making. Jesus was a victim of expediency. Here in Knock, the apparitions revealed Jesus Christ as the Sacrificed Paschal Lamb!

Nurses, doctors and health care workers strive tirelessly to bring comfort and healing to those whose bodies or minds are frail or disintegrating. They witness on a daily basis family and friends of the sick drawing deeply from the wells of compassion, care and love, often at considerable cost to their own lives. I recently celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation with children in St Raphael's Special school in Celbridge and saw first hand such a great outpouring of love and affirmation from parents and family members ,for young people with various life limiting conditions. As the poet John Donne said no man is an island. We are not self contained monads but are profoundly interconnected and affected. The dry, parched, cracked landscape of our frailties, limitations and disabilities can in fact facilitate the absorption of the refreshing, consoling and enabling waters of kindness.

Some years ago, when working as a hospital chaplain in Australia, I saw that life is saturated with the divine. A couple whose 3rd child Anita, was born suffering from anencephaly was, in the presence of her mom and dad and 2 sisters welcomed into life. She was baptised, confirmed, held and cuddled in the arms of her family members; with photos and little handprints made. She lived and was loved for the 5 hours she had and is a remembered and loved part of her family story. It confirms that length of days is not the true measure of life. Jesus whose life on earth was extinguished arbitrarily by the Roman soldiers on the cross does not want us to be extinguishers of life. Sometimes feeling helpless, but never hopeless we are called to be supportive companions on the road of life. In a small Anglican church in Sussex England there is a plaque on a wall dating from 1729 approx. It says: A vision without a task is an illusion. A task without a vision is drudgery. A Vision with as task is the hope of the world. The Gospel of Life is both a vision and a task. As we gather united in prayer with Mary, Mother of the Church, who herself lived with both vision and task we invoke her prayer for our country. Let us today, renew our commitment to the vision Jesus Christ offers enables us to embrace; life, life to the full. Refreshed in our Communion with Him we take up the task, remembering as Pope Francis says in his recent Apostolic Exhortation (27) Rejoice and Be Glad (Gaudete et Exultate); "life does not have a mission, but is a mission."
Rev Paul Taylor. P.P.

To celebrate Bealtaine Festival the Acre Project invites you to an afternoon of music, poetry and song Wed 30th May 2.30 - 4.30pm. All welcome no charge.

Voting in Ardclough will take place at the Ardclough Village Centre not the new school

Advance Notice: Cemetery Mass in **Donacomper** on Sun10th June at 3.30pm and **Straffan** Wednesday 13th June at 7.30pm
Anyone who undertook to do the **33 Days to Morning Glory Retreat** ends on Sunday 20th May, the Consecration to Our Blessed Lady takes place in the Church on Mon 21st May, after 10am Mass.

Weekly Hour of Prayer for Life every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm in St. Patrick's Church, Celbridge. After silent prayer we pray the Night prayer of the Church & finish with Benediction.

Planned Giving: €1086.71. Thanks to collectors

STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP DIARMUID MARTIN

ON THE DEFENCE OF HUMAN LIFE

The Church must always be pro-life. That means that the Christian community must be a beacon of support for life especially at its most vulnerable moments and a beacon of support at vulnerable moments of any woman or man along their path of life.

Christians must be pro-life when it comes to the unborn and those who are vulnerable at the end of their lives.

The Church must be pro-life at many other moments in the lives of people. Being pro-life means recalling all of us to reflect on the deeper meaning of life and to reject many of the paths of superficiality that lead away from true human fulfilment. The Church is called to be pro-life not just in words and statements and manifestoes but to be pro-life in deeds, by being a Church which reflects the loving care of Jesus for human life at any stage. That loving care includes support to help those women who face enormous challenges and who grapple with very difficult decisions to choose life. Being Pro-life means protecting and loving every human being. There are no second-class humans worthy of less protection and care than others are. For too long, a mentality was common in Ireland in which single mothers were ostracised and humiliated. This narrow moralistic culture was often sadly enhanced by the attitude of the Church. It was women who stood up and challenged that culture and affirmed their desire and right to be able to keep and give love to their children. We owe a debt to those women who, then and now, witness to life. It is still not easy to be a lone parent and we have to create an environment to ease the obstacles and burdens of lone parents and their children. Ireland has a great record in the care of mothers and of children. The overall ethos of medicine in Ireland has been marked by a passionate commitment to do all to protect the life of both mother and child.

The 8th Amendment to the Constitution sets out to ensure equal protection of both the mother and the unborn child. The Amendment ought to have been accompanied by an appropriate legislative framework to assist doctors in dealing with complex situations. This is still possible.

Repealing the Eighth Amendment is not about permitting limited abortion. It would bring about a radical change to our broad pro-life culture. It would end any Constitutional protection whatsoever for the unborn. Proposed future legislation would permit abortion without restriction up to 12 weeks, but also permit abortion on physical and mental health grounds up to six months.

How abortion legislation evolves into the future would be left entirely to the Oireachtas without any Constitutional framework within which legislation can be set. In future it is possible, that small minority parties of a coalition government could demand that abortion legislation be extended as part of a programme for government. Future legislation regarding abortion could become the sole prerogative of an Oireachtas in a future culture that could be desensitised if abortion became more frequent. This has been the experience in many other countries.

Repealing the 8th Amendment in such circumstances means that the rights of the unborn would definitively left without Constitutional protection. It would be a point of no return. I ask you to reflect on that. It seems incongruous that just as medical science allows us to understand much more about the evolution of the baby in the womb and his or her originality and unique identity that we should simply throw out all Constitutional protection of the unborn child. For that reason I will be voting No.

I ask the Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Dublin to join in moments of prayer in the coming days in each parish. I ask you to invoke the Spirit of Jesus to touch hearts and commit our society to be pro-life in defending the lives of unborn children and in supporting women and men in the challenges they meet in accepting the joy of parenthood.

16th May 2018.

No winners of this week's Lotto
1st draw 19,10,8,30 **2nd draw** 13,17,20,5
Consolation prize winners: Shane Malone, C. Phillis, Eamonn McAuley

Weekend Mass intentions

St. Brigid's Sunday 11am: Ann Dennehy
St. Patrick's Sat 6.30pm: Ned Noonan (m.m) Sheila Oliver James Ellen Noonan, Gerard Peppard
Sunday 8.30: Charles, Kathleen, Philip & Billy Timpson, Special intention
9.30pm Pauline Cusack, Maeve Clarke
11am Thomas Kirwin, Vincent Gerard, Lucy Smyth, Brendan McWey
12.30pm Harry Doolan (m.m) The Cushen family, Tom Sheehan
7pm Ned, Peg & Eileen Lynch
Mon: Kathleen Murphy, Harry Doolan
Tue: Una O'Neill, Ollie Kenny
Wed: Ned Noonan, May Fitzsimons
Thur Frank & Esther Kenny, Nellie Rutledge
Fri: Ned Noonan, Special intention

Let me see the world

It's a miracle, a sweet mystery
How an act of love has created me.
Let me leave this haven with dignity,
So that I can see the world.
Let me hear the skylark greet the morn,
Let me walk through fields of golden corn.
Say yes to life and let me be born,
I just want to see the world.
Keep me here inside you, safe and warm,
Don't heed those others who'd do me harm.
So that someday soon I'll be in your arms,
And then I can see the world.
Will I build cathedrals tall and grand,
Be a surgeon skilled with healing hands?
Or marry a farmer and love the land?
Who knows? If I can see the world.
Will I see my mother's smiling face,
As she cradles me in a fond embrace?
Don't let me vanish without a trace.
I just want to see the world.
I have ten small fingers and ten small toes,
I have two blue eyes and a button nose.
And how far I'll go, God only knows,
If I just can see the world.
Oh! please let me see the world.
By Garry McMahon (son of Brian McMahon - Listowel