

6. PRAYER FOR BLESSING AND PROTECTING YOUR HOME:

“Visit this house,  
we pray You, O Lord,  
drive far away from it  
all the snares of the enemy.  
May Your holy angels  
stay here and guard us in  
peace, and let Your blessing  
be always upon us.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.”

*From Night Prayer / Compline.*

**TAKE CONTROL:**

My heart, my mind,  
my body, my soul,  
I give to You, take control.  
I give You my body  
a living sacrifice, Lord,  
take control, take control.

*Author unknown.*

**DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God from Whom  
all blessings flow.  
Praise Him all creatures  
here below.  
Praise Him above  
you heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father,  
Son and Holy Ghost!

Angel of God, my Guardian dear,  
to whom God’s love  
commits me here,  
ever this day/night be at my side,  
to light, to guard,  
to rule and guide. Amen.

**A PRAYER OF  
ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN**

*Bringing to the Lord  
the shared aspect of  
death and suffering*

**O Lord,  
support us  
all the day long  
of this troublous life,  
until the shadows  
lengthen,  
and the evening comes  
and the busy world  
is hushed,  
and the fever of life  
is over,  
and our work is done.  
Then, Lord,  
in Thy mercy,  
grant us a safe lodging,  
a holy rest,  
and peace at the last.  
Amen.**

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**Eternal rest  
grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light  
shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace.  
May their souls,  
and the souls of all  
the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. Amen.**

3. **+ J. M. J. + JESUS, + MARY, and + JOSEPH +**  
*Newsletter Supplement: Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
17th November 2024 - November is Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory.*

**MANY, MANY THANKS**

to those who were able to come and pray the Holy Hour last Wednesday evening: 5:30-6:30pm before the Blessed Sacrament - Jesus, our Eucharistic Love, exposed for Adoration upon His Altar, in His Holy Mother’s Church, here in Crayford.

We joined our prayers with those of the Bishops of England and Wales, who were likewise joined in prayer, in the plenary Session.

The Holy Hour was held to pray, in this ‘important moment in our history’ on the matter of  
**THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE -**  
that we are already  
**the children of God,**  
and in particular about  
**THE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL**  
which will have its second reading in  
**Parliament on  
Friday 29th November 2024.**

**LORD ALTON,**

that great anti-abortion campaigner,  
has written to us and  
asked us to support  
**“NOT YET DEAD UK”**  
*(a network of Disabled  
and terminally ill people)*  
in their postcard campaign against  
**the Bill on 29th November.**  
Please collect a card,  
fill in the details,  
affix a postage stamp  
and send it to  
the House of Commons.

**ABOUT ASSISTED SUICIDE:**

Please see the Archdiocese of Southwark Website and follow on from where the Archbishop John Wilson urges us:

“Please act  
on assisted suicide,”  
12. 11. 2024 Archbishop John

Please also, if you can,  
watch the BBC Documentary:  
**“BETTER OFF DEAD.”**

And, please check out the  
**ANSCOMBE CENTRE  
FOR BIOETHICS:**

[www.bioethics.org.uk](http://www.bioethics.org.uk)

**The most urgent thing  
is to contact, in writing,  
by Email, or Postcard,  
or visiting his / her surgery.**

“This is an important moment in our history. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard. Many have not yet made up their minds how to vote. May God bless us all, bless our countries, and bless those who make our laws with the courage to embrace and uphold a culture of life.”

*Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President,  
Catholic Bishops’ Conference  
of England and Wales,*

**4. Catholic Bishops of England, Wales, and Scotland:  
Statement concerning the Bill  
on assisted suicide**

**Be compassionate**

As Catholic Bishops in England and Wales, and in Scotland, we believe that genuine compassion is under threat because of the attempts in Parliament to legalise assisted suicide. 'Compassion' means to enter into and share the suffering of another person. It means never giving up on anyone or abandoning them. It means loving them to the natural end of their life, even if and when they struggle to find meaning and purpose. Compassion means accompanying people, especially during sickness, disability, and old age. This kind of genuine compassion is witnessed through the care and respect we show to people with terminal illness as they complete their journey in this life.

We appeal to those who share our Catholic belief in human dignity and sanctity of life, including fellow Christians, other religious people, and people of reason and good will, to join with us in defending the weakest and most vulnerable who are at risk through this proposed legislation.

Life is a gift to be protected, especially when threatened by sickness and death. Palliative care, with expert pain relief, and good human, spiritual, and pastoral support, is the right and best way to care for people towards the end of life. More adequate funding and

resources for hospices and palliative care teams authentically serve and honour our shared human dignity. In the discussion around assisted suicide, so much is made of freedom of choice and autonomy; but autonomy is not absolute and must always be placed within the context of the common good of society as a whole. People who are suffering need to know they are loved and valued. They need compassionate care, not assistance to end their lives.

Assisted suicide raises serious issues of principle. The time given for Parliament to consider the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which will permit assisted suicide is woefully inadequate. Although the Bill indicates safeguards will be in place, the experience of other countries where assisted suicide has been introduced shows that such promised safeguards are soon forgotten. In Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada, and parts of the USA, the criteria for assisted suicide have been expanded significantly, in law or in practice, often to include people with mental illness and others who have no terminal diagnosis. It is not always easy to predict the length of time a person with a terminal illness has to live, making this Bill unworkable.

We are alarmed by the impact that legalisation will have on the most vulnerable members of our society. The option to end life can quickly, and subtly, be experienced as a duty to die. Some may well feel their continued existence is a burden to others, and,

implicitly or explicitly, be pressured into assisted suicide. This includes people who are elderly, infirm, and living with disabilities. The protection of such people is the foundation of civilised society. It is at the heart of good government.

We are also concerned that this Bill will fundamentally damage the relationship between medical practitioners and their patients. It will potentially lead to pressure on medical staff to recommend or facilitate such procedures. Will the right to conscientious objection for individuals and institutions be guaranteed? The impact on hospices, care homes, and those who work in social and community care cannot be underestimated. It will radically alter the ethos of trust and support which underpins our service to those in need and their families.

We urge all people of good will to oppose this legislation and, instead, to

advocate for better funded palliative care which is consistently available to everyone in need in England, Wales, and Scotland. **Please inform yourself and others about this issue and contact your Member of Parliament to make your opposition known, asking him or her to oppose or not support the Bill.**

As Catholic Bishops, we call upon all Catholics, and invite all those who share our Christian faith, to turn in prayer to God our Father. **Please pray that the dignity of human life will be protected and defended. On the cross, Christ united Himself to every form of human suffering and every person who suffers. In Him, life is changed, not ended. He shows us, in His own crucified and risen body, that love is always stronger than death.**

**ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL RESOURCES**

a Bill that is to be debated in the House of Commons later this month (**Friday 29th November**) that would legalise assisted suicide in this country.

The Anscombe Bioethics Centre (formerly the Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics), which is the national Catholic bioethics centre for the UK and Ireland), has some new resources on this

<https://www.bioethics.org.uk/educational-resources/resources-on-eas/>

There are also useful resources on the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Website

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

It is extremely important that concerned citizens write to their MP to make their voice known. This vote could go either way, and we know that MPs are getting many letters from the assisted suicide lobby.