

**Statement from
the Archbishop of Southwark**

Following the Vote on
Assisted Dying
in the House of Commons

I am deeply saddened and extremely worried by the progress made in the House of Commons towards the legalisation of assisted suicide. While this is not yet the final step in enacting this legislation, it represents a seismic and concerning shift in our nation's approach to caring for the most vulnerable among us.

Compassion, rightly understood, means standing with those who suffer, sharing their burdens, and honouring their dignity until the natural end of their lives. It does not mean hastening death, even in the face of pain or despair. Every human life is of immeasurable value, and our response must always be to protect and support those who are most in need.

The experience of other countries where assisted suicide has been introduced serves as a grave warning. Promised safeguards are eroded over time, leaving the elderly, disabled, and seriously ill at risk of feeling their lives are a burden to others. The subtle, and sometimes overt, pressure this creates threatens the very fabric of a society built on care and protection for the weakest.

Legalising assisted suicide also undermines the essential trust between

patients and healthcare professionals. Those who dedicate their lives to healing and comforting the sick are being placed in an untenable position. Conscientious objection — the right of medical practitioners, nursing and care staff, and institutions to refuse to participate in practices that violate their deeply held ethical or religious convictions — must be upheld and protected. Without this assurance, the ethos of our healthcare system and the integrity of those who serve within it are at serious risk.

Instead of moving towards assisted suicide, we must commit to improving palliative care, ensuring that expert pain relief, emotional support, and spiritual care are available to all who need them. No one should feel alone or abandoned in their suffering.

As we face this challenging moment, I call on Catholics and all people of goodwill to advocate for the protection of life at every stage and to stand in solidarity with those who are most vulnerable. Let us also turn to the Lord Jesus, who shared in human suffering and revealed the depth of his love through his death and resurrection. Through him, we find the strength to defend the dignity of every person and to build a society that values the gift of life from conception to natural death.

Archbishop John Wilson
29th November 2024

3.

+ J. M. J. + JESUS, + MARY, and + JOSEPH +
Newsletter Supplement: Second Sunday of Advent (C)
8th December 2024 - December is Month of the Immaculate Conception
And the Preparation for the Coming of Christ.

Please come to **OUR CHURCH**
CHRISTMAS EVENT

on **SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER**
after **10:30am Holy Mass**

until **3:00pm** when the
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

will be drawn,

followed by

the **Parish Christmas**
CAROL SERVICE

in Church at **3:30pm.**

***PLEASE COME, AND INVITE
YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!***

**FROM SOUTHWARK AGENCY
FOR EVANGELIZATION
AND CATECHESIS AEC,
AND FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY
CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE:**

From today, **every parishioner**, as well as **teachers** and **parents** in our schools, has free and unlimited access to the workshops created by the world-renowned

CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE.

From Scripture to parenting workshops, to catechetical training and mentoring, there is something for everyone. For information on how to register your free account visit:

**[https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/
franciscan](https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan)**

THE ANGELUS:

V: The Angel of the Lord
declared unto Mary;

R: **And she conceived
by the Holy Spirit.**

V: Hail MARY, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of
thy womb, JESUS.

R: **Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.**

V: Behold the handmaid of the Lord;

R: **Be it done unto me,
according to thy word.**

Hail Mary, ...

***(Please, if you can, try and
kneel for this next verse...)***

V: **AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH;**

R: **And dwelt amongst us.**

Hail Mary, ...

V: Pray for us,
O Holy Mother of God;

R: **That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4. PRAYERS EVERYONE OF SEVEN YEARS,
AND ABOVE, SHOULD KNOW BY HEART

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS:

In the Name
of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

**THE "OUR FATHER" -
THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

Our Father,
Who art in heaven;
hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day
our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us,
and lead us
not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

THE "HAIL MARY"

Hail, MARY, Full-of-Grace,
the Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou
among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, JESUS.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now, and
at the hour of our death.
Amen.

THE "GLORY BE ..."

Glory be to The Father,
and to The Son,
and to The Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

**A SHORT AND SIMPLE
"ACT OF CONTRITION":**

O my God,
because You are so good,
I am very sorry that
I have sinned against You,
and by the help
of Your Grace,
I will not sin again.
Amen.

GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER

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

FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:

V: Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord,

R: 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.

5. **THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR
THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:**

Let us pray that this JUBILEE
(Year of 2025) strengthens us
in our faith, helping us
to recognise the Risen Christ
in the midst of our lives,
transforming us into
pilgrims of Christian Hope.

JUBILEE 2025

Every 25 years there is a
YEAR OF JUBILEE IN ROME.

The Holy Father,
Pope Francis, invites us all
to become & Be Pilgrims
and journey to Rome to pray at
the 4 main Basilicas and the tombs of
the Apostles Peter and Paul, they are:
St John Lateran, St Mary Major,
and the Tombs of Peter and Paul:
St Peter's in the Vatican City, and
St Paul's -outside-the -Walls.

In Southwark Diocese we are invited
to gather IN AYLESFORD on
Saturday 7th June,
Pentecost weekend,
and to England's Nazareth
IN WALSINGHAM, Norfolk,
28th June 2025,

the day of the Immaculate Heart of
the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the
weekend of Saint Peter and Saint Paul.
In this Deanery of Bexley, we can be
Pilgrims too and travel, on foot,
or by car, or bus, or cycle,
to ST JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH,
Heathfield Road, BEXLEYHEATH,
on a Saturday still to be determined
in May / June / July 2025.
BE A PILGRIM OF HOPE IN 2025!

**WE CAN STILL DEFEAT
THE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL!**

There is a clear path toward the
assisted suicide Bill being defeated
at Third Reading. Early analysis
shows that at least 36 MPs sup-
ported the Bill but have con-
cerns that mean they may vote
NO at later stages.

Just 28 MPs switching their stance
to NO would ensure it is defeated
at Third Reading. We need MPs to
know that their constituents want
them to vote NO at Third Reading.

***Please take action now and
visit***

**www.righttolife.org.uk/
ASvote**

***to find out how your MP vot-
ed and ask them to vote
against the Bill at Third
Reading.***

**SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE
ROSARY PRAYER PROJECT**

***Everyone is warmly invited to
join this Archdiocese-wide
prayer initiative, PRAYING
A DECADE OF THE ROSARY EACH
DAY FOR PRIESTS AND PARISHES
IN THEIR DEANERY.***

***For details see the poster on
the noticeboard, pick up an
invitation leaflet at the back
of church or email:***

**[southwarkrenewal
@gmail.com.](mailto:southwarkrenewal@gmail.com)**

***PILGRIMS OF HOPE
TOWARDS 7TH JUNE 2025***