



Diocese of Down and Connor

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Dear Father & Parish Secretary

The vote at the Second Reading of the Assisted Suicide Bill passed by a much narrower margin than expected, in no small part due to church communities mobilising against the Bill. With only 28 MPs needed to change their vote at Third Reading to ensure the Bill does not pass, continued opposition from churches will make a big difference in helping defeat this dangerous Bill.

Past experience has shown that the volume of correspondence an MP receives from their constituents can have real sway over how they vote. By 2nd April, you will receive postcards for your parishioners to send to their MPs from a disability campaign group called "Not Dead Yet UK". These postcards ask MPs to vote against the legalisation of assisted suicide in the parliamentary vote at Third Reading.

Parishioners can use the postcards to easily contact their MP to encourage them to vote against assisted suicide. Although this Bill would change the law in England and Wales, Northern Irish MPs are able to vote on this Bill. If assisted suicide is legalised in England and Wales, this will put pressure on Northern Irish lawmakers to legalise assisted suicide in Northern Ireland too, to keep UK legislation consistent on this issue and avoid assisted suicide "tourism".

Please distribute these postcards to parishioners from Saturday 5th April and encourage them to write to their MP in good time before the vote at Third Reading. The inclusion of a notice in the bulletin would also be helpful.

Thank You for your help with this very important issue.

With every good wish & blessing
Yours Sincerely

+ Alan Mc Guckian S.J.
Bishop of Down and Connor.

Down and Connor Diocesan Trust Charity Number: 103983
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