



14<sup>th</sup> December 2007

**To all parish priests in England and Wales**

Dear Father,

I am enclosing for your parish some important briefing materials relating to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, which is currently being debated in the House of Lords. It will go to the House of Commons early in the New Year.

**Please do not feel you need to take any action on this until after Christmas.** We wanted to send the material now, however, so that as soon as possible in the New Year you would be able to use it within the parish. It will be very important that people write to their MPs in January.

You will find four enclosures with this letter:

**1. 6 copies of a Parish Resource Pack**

*Please read this yourself and pass copies to active parishioners who might be willing to organise meetings and to co-ordinate action on this Bill.*

**2. One copy of a one page briefing note entitled "What is the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill and What can I do?"**

*There is a space on this document for you to write in the name of your local MP, and of a parish contact. Once this is done the page can be photocopied and widely distributed within the parish, perhaps by appending it to a weekly newsletter or by inviting some parishioners to distribute copies after Mass one Sunday.*

**3. A copy of the Michigan Catholic Conference DVD**

*This is an excellent short film, recently produced by a regional Bishops' Conference in the USA, which explains clearly the science of stem cell research and why research on human embryos is not necessary. It is ideal for showing at a parish meeting.*

**4. A flyer for a series of public meetings being organised by Life, Right to Life and CARE at different venues around the country in the Spring of 2008**

Further copies of these documents can be downloaded from the Bishops' Conference website at [www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk) There will also be regular updates on that site as the Bill progresses through Parliament when amendments may be added to change the law on abortion.

I am sorry to burden you at a particularly busy time of year, but I know you will appreciate and recognise the importance of the moral issues raised by this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Archbishop of Cardiff  
Chairman, Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship