



*19 December 2007*

### **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill – Parish Resource Pack**

With the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill currently passing through the UK Parliament, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has sent out a resource pack to parishes to raise awareness about the Bill and to help Catholics proactively respond to it.

The parish resource pack highlights Church teaching and looks at the ethical considerations of elements like hybrid embryos, stem cell research, the welfare of the child and the Bill's possible impact on abortion legislation.

This document offers links to documents/papers referenced in the parish resource pack:

*Section: Hybrid embryos*

## **2.4 What does the Church teach?**

“[Human beings] are part of creation, formed out of the earth, and dependent on the rest of creation for our continued existence”

*From:*

### **The Call of Creation**

*Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (2002)*

<http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/resource/GreenText/>

*Section: The Welfare of the Child*

## **3.5 What does the Church teach?**

“The child has the right to be conceived, carried in the womb, brought into the world and brought up within marriage: it is through the secure and recognized relationship to his own parents that the child can discover his own identity and achieve his own proper human development.”

*From:*

### **Instruction on Respect for Human Life (II A.1)**

*Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_1\\_9870222\\_respect-for-human-life\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_1_9870222_respect-for-human-life_en.html)

*Section: How Future Decisions are Made*

## **4.3 What does the Church teach?**

“The common good cannot exclude or exempt any section of the population. If any section of the population is in fact excluded from participation in the life of the community, even at a minimal level, then that is a contradiction to the concept of the common good and calls for rectification.”

*From:*

### **The Common Good (70)**

*Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (1996)*

<http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/resource/cg/cg003.htm>

*And:*

“any kind of social and cultural discrimination... must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God’s design”

*From:*

**The Church in the Modern World** (paragraph 29)

*Gaudium et Spes: His Holiness, Pope Paul VI (December 7, 1965)*

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_cons\\_19651207\\_gaudium-et-spes\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html)

This quotation is also found in the **Catechism of the Catholic Church (1935)**

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s1c2a3.htm>

*Section: Abortion*

### **5.3 What does the Church teach?**

The Church teaches very clearly that every human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception.

*From:*

**Catechism of the Catholic Church (2270)**

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc\\_css/archive/catechism/p3s2c2a5.htm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s2c2a5.htm)

*And:*

The first victim of abortion is the unborn child whose life is ended

*From:*

**Cherishing Life** (173)

*Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales (2004)*

<http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/cherishinglife/cl38.htm>

*And:*

The Church “does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even a shattering decision.”

*From:*

**The Gospel of Life** (paragraph 99)

*Evangelium Vitae: Ioannes Paulus PP. II (1995)*

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_25031995\\_evangelium-vitae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae_en.html)

*And:*

“Sometimes the woman is subjected to such strong pressure that she feels psychologically forced to have an abortion.”

*From:*

**The Gospel of Life** (paragraph 59)

*Evangelium Vitae: Ioannes Paulus PP. II (1995)*

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_25031995\\_evangelium-vitae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae_en.html)

*Section: Abortion*

#### **5.4 Is it right for a politician to vote for an amendment to a law that still allows some abortions?**

The Church teaches that, if it is not possible to overturn a pro-abortion law, a politician whose absolute personal opposition to abortion is well known, may morally support ‘proposals aimed at limiting the harm done by such a law and at lessening its negative consequences’.

*From:*

**The Gospel of Life** (paragraph 73)

*Evangelium Vitae: Ioannes Paulus PP. II (1995)*

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_25031995\\_evangelium-vitae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae_en.html)