



The Parishes of Holy Family Ince Blundell
Our Lady of Victories, Hightown
22nd June 2025



'The vote in the House of Commons in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is a watershed moment in the history of our country. It fundamentally changes society's long held values and relationships on matters of life and death.

'The task is now clear: every effort must be made to limit the damage that will be done by this decision. This duty lies both on the House of Lords and on His Majesty's Government. The list of challenges is long. It has been well rehearsed in recent weeks by responsible bodies and distinguished individuals, including the Public Commission on Palliative and End-of-Life Care whose recommendations have yet to be discussed. The appeal to personal autonomy, so much at the centre of the Parliamentary debate, cuts both ways: the provision of a choice to die cannot exclude the provision of properly resourced care for those who choose to live until a natural death.'

'As Catholics we will continue to play our part in the building of the common good. The decision of Parliament does not change our firm belief in the sanctity of life, never simply a burden, but always a gift of God, given and received. Our duties are clear: to live by the teaching given to us by God; generously to accompany with care and compassion those facing disability, isolation and suffering; to continue to put forward, with respect and clarity, the objective norms that inform our firm beliefs on how to live, and to die, well.'

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

President

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Peter Frost, Trustee of the Thomas More Legal Centre and senior employment lawyer.

The Thomas More Legal Centre provides legal assistance and advice in cases involving religious freedom or discrimination on the grounds of religious belief.

For many Catholics, it can be very difficult to discuss or practise our faith in the workplace and elsewhere. The HR orthodoxy says that everyone can "bring their whole selves to work". In practice as society has sadly turned away from God, new causes have taken His place in people's lives. Adherence to these causes becomes an article of faith. Catholic moral teaching is often seen as antithetical to the secular values of many businesses. "Saying the wrong thing" can lead to opprobrium, isolation, disciplinary action and, for some, the ending of a career. This can happen even when Catholics are simply responding to action which they consider plainly contrary to the requirements of the faith. Catholics can also face moral dilemmas in how they comply with the gospel injunction to "go out and preach to all nations" at work or elsewhere. Businesses often implicitly – and sometimes explicitly – prohibit proselytization and such policies have been upheld by the courts.

Questions of conscience can also arise outside the workplace. Catholics may face difficulties in their marriages, particularly where their spouse fails to honour undertakings to raise the children of the marriage as Catholics. Sensitive issues can arise around the provision – and withdrawal – of end-of-life care. And questions can arise as to whether "anti-Catholic" legislation can be challenged.

The Thomas More Legal Centre seeks to help Catholics deal with these issues. Our advisers – all experienced lawyers – provide free and empathetic advice. We aim to help those who seek our advice find a practical way forward which does not compromise their faith while avoiding unnecessary confrontation and hostility in the workplace and elsewhere. Where legal proceedings cannot be avoided, we can advise on organisations that may be able to represent their interests.

