

## "Ethical Dilemmas". From New Milton Catholic Church Newsletter – March 2015.

The first one, below, is a reply from the Tory candidate. The second (in two parts) is from Paul Bailey.

**I have promised You** to publish my letter to the parties about the General Election this year. My letter and first answer which I have received is here:

**Dear New Forest West Conservative Association:** May I begin by introducing myself? My name is Fr. Marcin Drabik and I am the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in New Milton Our parish, which comprises about 550 baptized Catholics, covers the towns/villages of New Milton, Barton on Sea, Ashley, Hordle. I am writing in view of the forthcoming General Election. I wanted to ask your views on matters relating to the dignity of human life and the well-being of the community.

As you are no doubt aware, Catholics believe that human life is sacred from conception to natural death because it involves the creative action of God and "no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2258). This fundamental principle leads us to recognize the human embryo from conception onwards as a human being. We believe life is not ours to dispose of and so we also repudiate euthanasia, suicide and assisted suicide as gravely contrary to the love of God. We believe in the traditional religious culture of family and marriage - a loving, monogamous, covenantal relationship of one man and one woman with the procreative purpose of raising children - as the best environment for bringing up children and as the basic cell of society. We also believe in a preferential love for the poor and the needy and so always wish to promote within every member of society and within the international community a real concern for other people and for the common good.

I am writing to all the prospective candidates in our constituency in order that the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes in New



Milton might have a clearer view of the position of the various candidates and so be able to vote in accordance with their consciences. **May I therefore ask you four questions about your views?**

If you were elected to Parliament for our constituency, would you, and if yes, how would you:

- work to protect the rights of the unborn child from the moment of his/her conception?
- work to restrict moves towards legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide?
- work to support and upbuild traditional family-life?
- work to support the poor, needy and most vulnerable members of our society?

Forgive my writing in such a direct manner on what we all recognise are highly complex and controversial issues. I write with deep respect for your own conscience and views on these matters. I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone in our parish when I say that the Catholic community is grateful and appreciative of all that you aspire to achieve for our constituency. My intention here is only to inform parishioners more accurately about your own position on some of these crucial moral issues, so that they may have accurate information when deciding how to vote.

With my respect, prayers and best wishes

**HERE IS REPLY WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED:** Father. Many thanks for your message. I am happy to respond in the affirmative to all your questions. You will find my views on many issues set out on my website at [http://desmondswaynemp.com/current\\_issues\\_and\\_blogs.htm](http://desmondswaynemp.com/current_issues_and_blogs.htm)

All the articles you will find there have been published in the *Forest Journal*. Some of your questions are rather broad. Two people may well be able to give their agreement and yet argue about policy prescriptions within them. I can, for example, put my hand on my heart and say I support the poor and needy, by reforming a welfare regime that has trapped them in poverty. Others might disagree. Yours Sincerely Desmond Swayne

**In the last Newsletter** You could read a letter to the parties about the General Election this year. Shortly I remind what I have asked them: **May I therefore ask you four questions about your views?**

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**HERE IS ANOTHER REPLY WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED:** Dear Father - I am very pleased to receive your direct contact and more than happy to answer/give my views on the important questions you raise. I suspect we will agree on most things but probably not all! Having read the response from one of my rivals, I felt that reply was rather ambiguous and cursory. I would therefore like to give you a more considered reply as follows:

1. I passionately support the case for protecting unborn life from the moment of conception. This means in principle I am against abortion both because I am a Christian, and a humanist. That said, on all questions influenced by moral dilemma, I believe we should ask ourselves, whether there is any circumstance where one can imagine an exception, thereby allowing for some flexibility when making laws on such issues. For example, were a woman to be brutally raped or, the life of a mother put at risk due to complications, I see these as extreme examples where the right to abortion can be justified. - 2. The issue of assisted suicide is of course another incredibly difficult dilemma. Do I think a person should be allowed to seek medical assistance to die because: a) they are depressed - No b) they are getting old - No c) they have mental health issues - No d) they have as a result of an accident or through birth a physical dis-order that is so painful and denies them little or no quality of life - Yes with very tight and definitive legislation. - 3. I would absolutely support and promote traditional family life. Whilst there has to be tolerance and indeed room in society for those who do not conform to traditional views, it does not mean that we should not hold those views as our ideal and aspire to teach our children along those lines. In a practical sense I would want to see education concentrating on bringing children up on the family model of a man and a woman, aspiring to enjoy and benefit from the heavenly gift that is bringing children into this world.
4. In a practical way, in terms of supporting a section of the poor, needy and most vulnerable members of society (the homeless), I would like to see qualified consultants present at places where the homeless gather in any number i.e. soup kitchens, hostels etc to thereby also add an advice service. I believe a good number of these unfortunate people lack knowledge in relation to their rights and where they can get additional help from. Making easy access to such advice would in my view, greatly balance and add to the basket of help they would be receiving. If I am elected I would want to make a case for pro-actively promoting such efforts and if needs be, making it a requirement of local government to further assist in this way. **Paul Bailey - UKIP Parliamentary Candidate, New Forest West Constituency (www.ukip-nfwest.co.uk)**

