

# Bellerive - Lindisfarne Catholic Parish

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Fr Richard Ross PP

## Assisted Suicide Bill to be introduced into Parliament this week

Mersey MLC Mike Gaffney will introduce a Bill that will legalise assisted suicide into the Tasmanian Legislative Council on Thursday, August 27. This Bill will make Tasmania's laws some of the most permissive in the world. The Bill does not require the person to have a terminal illness and has watered down a number of safeguards that are meant to protect vulnerable people. Please contact your local State MPs to express your concern.

## Key points for letters

It is impossible to develop assisted suicide laws that can ever adequately protect the vulnerable.

Palliative care can help alleviate end-of-life suffering. Better funding is needed to improve the availability and cost of palliative care.

Doctors should focus on a patient's health, not providing them with means to end their life.

In the context of the COVID pandemic, Parliament ought focus on jobs and health not suicide by stealth.

## Structure of letters

Address the person you are writing to eg Dear John...

Introduce yourself, your name and occupation, and say that you are writing in regards to the End-of-life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Bill 2020

Include a personal story, explain how this issue affects you.

State why you are opposed to the Bill.

## Tips:

**DO:** Handwrite your letter, re-write copies for other politicians

Use emotive personal stories

Proofread your letter before sending

**DO NOT:** Refer to this as 'assisted dying' but as 'assisted suicide'

Make claims you cannot back up

Use religious arguments

Use the same letter as a friend

## Sample Letter or Email

Dear (insert title and name)

I oppose the End-of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Bill 2020 that is being promoted by Mike Gaffney MLC. I recently experienced the death of my mother. Palliative Care did a good job in helping alleviate her suffering and provided a caring environment for us to prepare for her death. I am concerned that by legalizing assisted suicide it will mean that vulnerable people will feel pressure to take this option as they may feel like a burden on their carers and family. I encourage you to vote against this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

(insert your name)

## INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

An inquiry night will be held in the O'Loughlin Room at 7pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September for anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, with the potential option of joining our church community through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process. Please share this invitation as widely as possible. Further information: Fr Richard Ph 6245 0501.

**SICK AND AGED PRIEST FUND** The Sick and Aged Priest Fund ensures our sick and aged priests receive adequate care and are provided for in their retirement and declining years. Give generously in recognition of their selfless service to generations of Tasmanian families. Because of COVID restrictions envelopes cannot be distributed in the churches but will be available on the reading table outside the office in the carport or you can donate securely at [www.hobart.catholic.org.au](http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au)

Copies of the Newsletter, latest edition of Australian Catholics and the Standard are available on the reading table outside the office in the carport.

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday 6:00 pm Church of the Incarnation (Reconciliation 5:30)

Sunday 8:30 am John Paul II (Live streamed)

10:30 am Corpus Christi

6:00 pm Corpus Christi

## WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Wednesday 11:30 am Cathedral: Brian Nichols 40th Anniversary

Thursday 12:00 pm John Paul II

Friday 9:30 am Corpus Christi

Next week's Readings: Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27