



# Robert Rigby (T79)

## Chairman of the Catholic Union of Great Britain

Robert Rigby (T79) has been elected Chairman of The Catholic Union of Great Britain. Formed in 1870, by Henry, 15th Duke of Norfolk and others, it is the leading lay organisation in this country, championing the spiritual, moral and social teaching of the Catholic Church in the public sphere. Generations of Old Amplefordians have been members and Robert follows in a tradition of enthusiastic service. There is a further Amplefordian connection in the person of the President, Lord Brennan, a former parent and friend of the school and monastic community.

The Catholic Union is the voice of Catholics in public life, seeking to influence those in authority of our legislative bodies. A recent success has been in the abolition of the Liverpool Care Pathway following the Neuberger Inquiry, where Catholic Union doctors presented a great deal of

medical and other background evidence, which did much to assist in the wider understanding of the Pathway and its application.

Apart from this, the Catholic Union enjoys consultative status with the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales helping to preserve a Catholic outlook that is well rounded and broadly balanced. Robert notes: "Members are drawn from across the United Kingdom and from all walks of life - in that sense a truly Catholic body." He adds: "As Catholics we have the right to live out our faith, together with the responsibility to assert it in our daily lives."

In recent months, the Catholic Union has sought to re-engage more fully with the wider Catholic population; communication and a clear message have been key drivers in this process. The new website

[www.catholicunion.org.uk](http://www.catholicunion.org.uk) gives a fuller idea of the issues facing Catholics in public life today, as well as suggestions for remedies.

In addition, Robert is a Councillor in Westminster representing Regent's Park Ward since 2010 and is a regular visitor to Ampleforth, still competing competitively for the OAXC against the school together with the Alumni race in December when the OAXC take on other public schools, a race the OAXC won in 2011 beating the likes of Sedbergh and Winchester in 2011.

Robert Rigby is pictured above with his wife Emiko and Archbishop Vincent Nichols.