

Catholic Union of Great Britain Election Statement

The General Election is fast approaching. As Catholics, we are called to inform our consciences so that we can make the best possible decision at the ballot box - not just for ourselves but for our neighbour as well.

We have looked at the manifestos and created a [table](#) comparing some of the commitments of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties in five areas. We hope to cover the other main parties shortly. We have tried to be objective and have used actual quotations as much as possible. Members may disagree with the choices or the order in which things are presented. Members will also be aware of other Catholic and Christian organisations which deal with particular issues and may want to look at their websites for more detailed analysis. We encourage all members to read the manifestos themselves as well as the Statements from the Bishops Conferences of England and Wales and of Scotland, all of which are set out below.

In addition to the religious freedom questions that we drafted and circulated earlier (click [here](#), the issue that we would encourage members to consider is the current state of our political debate.

A central, and often forgotten, tenet of our faith is the importance of reason.

One can think of the advertisement for Richard Dawkins' latest book which peddles the ignorant statement that reason and religion are opposed and contrast that with the tradition that runs from at least Augustine and Aquinas, through Dante and Thomas More to John Henry Newman and Pope Benedict XVI.

This is obvious. Commitment to political policies can only be justified if the policies support the common good. A decision as to whether a particular policy supports the common good can only be arrived at by the use of reason.

Reason requires a commitment to both truth and to making sure that one has access to all relevant information. Without a commitment to both those things, reason cannot hope to reach a proper decision.

There can be no doubt that respect for the truth and for fully informed debate is very low at the moment. This has led to a deep disillusionment with politics and serious questions being raised about whether public policies are in fact serving all parts of society.

This is not going to change unless the electorate punishes those politicians who undermine truth and informed public decision making. We encourage members to consider these issues when casting their vote.

You can find the candidates standing in your area using the Electoral Commission search: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information>

Conference of English and Welsh Bishops: [General Election Statement](#)

Conference of Scottish Bishops: [Election Pastoral Letter](#)

Conservative Party [Manifesto](#)

Labour Party [Manifesto](#)

Liberal Democrat Party [Manifesto](#)