



The Catholic Union

For more than 150 years, the Catholic Union has been working to ensure Catholics are better informed about the great issues of their time. We're proud of our history but equally determined to help Catholics today to contribute to public debate now – and understand key issues through the prism of Church teaching. We work with Parliamentarians too so that they are well informed about pressing issues, whether assisted dying, child poverty, or artificial intelligence. The Catholic Union means awareness, education, information, oversight, and usefulness.

We seek to share the teachings of the Faith among our lay brothers and sisters, and in wider society; we work to engage at local and national level with a multitude of groups, individuals and institutions, to support the work of the Bishops of England & Wales and Scotland; and, perhaps most importantly, the Union seeks to motivate our vast national lay community to get involved in the Public Square for the Common Good.

We engage with Parliamentarians from all parties and focus on the values of Catholic Social Teaching. For example, as assisted suicide bills judder through Westminster, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man and Jersey, the Catholic Union has used all channels available to help educate and persuade. We have had letters published in the national press, attended hundreds of hours of meetings with a range of other groups, we have worked closely with the Bishops' Conference and other church agencies, specialist papers have been published by members of the Catholic Union family. Parliamentarians have been briefed and encouraged individually and collectively. Thank you if you were one of the many hundreds of our members to have written to your elected representative.

The Catholic Union holds a number of events up and down the country. Our events are free of charge and anyone may attend. Yes, the Catholic Union exists to encourage Catholics to get involved but it is equally important for us to look outward and engage with others. Our ever-popular pub talks and our annual Craigmyle Lectures have been delivered by a range of household names including: Lord Glasman, Dame Rachel de Souza, John Studzinski, Stephen Pound, Lord Lemos, Professor Tom Shakespeare, Baroness Hollins, Margaret and Barry Mizen, Lord Bird, Sir James MacMillan, Field Marshal Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank, Ann Widdecombe and Sir Rocco Forte.

The Catholic Union recognises the importance of championing Catholic education and is proud to have built relationships with all four Catholic universities in England: St Mary's Twickenham,

Liverpool Hope, Leeds Trinity and Birmingham Newman. Moreover, we take great delight in showcasing a different school in our widely read Weekly Briefing, we encourage any teachers present to get in touch with the Catholic Union to see how their school can feature.

The Catholic Union's Weekly Briefing and Bidding Prayers are without question the main media through which the Catholic Union reaches the greatest number. The Union hopes to make the Weekly Briefing, which is essential reading for any of us, available to every Catholic in England, Scotland and Wales who wishes to receive it. It is free of charge. Please do subscribe if you would like to, details are on the Catholic Union postcards, or you can head to our website. Similarly, a set of topical Bidding Prayers is available to every parish and school in Great Britain on a weekly basis.

At the heart of the Catholic Union is a drive to encourage the laity to participate. To be active and not passive. We can each play our part, at parish level or public level, this might be in educating or campaigning, this might be in giving, this might be in writing or speaking, this might be by voting.

I would encourage you to sign up to the Catholic Union's Weekly Briefing and be part of our efforts to support the Catholic Church and every one of its people.

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