

## Palliative Care first, say No to Euthanasia

A message from the Parish Pastoral Council – 18 July 2021

The Parish Pastoral Council has considered thoughtfully and prayerfully the information provided by the Archdiocese of Brisbane around this topic.

The VAD (Voluntary assisted dying) Bill to legalise Euthanasia was introduced to the Qld Parliament on 25th May this year.

The Premier, Deputy Premier, Minister for health and the Attorney General all released statements at this time. There is a 12 week consultation period (taking us to around 17th August) before the laws are debated and voted on by our elected representatives in the September sitting of State parliament.

This will be a conscience vote by our State members but that vote will ultimately be determined by the thoughts and opinions of their constituents – US.

### ***Do you want to have your say and be heard?***

Over the past 18 months the Archdiocese of Brisbane has provided a number of printed and [online information pieces to Parishes which have been shared with you during this time](#). Over the coming weeks we will share these documents with you again as well as some further releases.

The emphasis from the Archdiocese is that proper and adequate Palliative Care can provide the relief and support that people and families need during what can be a difficult time. We need to be able to talk and understand what that support looks like before we get caught up in the emotion of 'end of life' decisions. Well-funded Palliative Care can provide this. Unfortunately, Palliative Care at the present time is not funded adequately or even available to all people throughout the State.

***If you want to have your say and be heard, we have provided the link /attachment here [Call to Action flyer](#) to help you take action*** by praying, meeting with or emailing your local parliamentarian.

Fr Gerry's homily (dated 11 October 2020) was titled '[Accompanying Others](#)' and here Fr Gerry touched on Life and Death and in particular accompanying people in need, namely in Palliative care. You are invited to read Fr Gerry's homily in full [here](#).

Here is an excerpt:

### ***LIFE AND DEATH***

*We care for the gift of life that God has given us. We support dignity of life and palliative care, and we oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide, as some are suggesting in Queensland at present. However, in society, there are some who think that they know our Catholic beliefs, but don't really know.*

Parish Pastoral Council,  
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[Archdiocese of Brisbane website 'Dying Peacefully' documents – see under Resources](#)