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Defending what is good

In Isaiah 5:20, we read there are those who call good evil and evil good. There are also many who ignore God's moral law and feel empowered to do "what was right in their own eyes" (Judges 17:6).

Sadly then, it is no surprise to see another attempt at liberalising Ireland's abortion law. We praise God that it was roundly defeated. We must pray that any further

attempts are also rejected.

God's design for marriage continues to be undermined, with the Government pledging enormous grants to groups which promote 'LGBTIQ+ inclusivity'.

There are also proposals to decriminalise illegal drugs, putting even more people's health at risk.

Pray for transformation in people's hearts, and in society.

Thousands of lives may be saved as extreme abortion Bill rejected

Radical proposals to further liberalise Ireland's abortion law have been voted down.

TDs had a free vote on Holly Cairns' Reproductive Rights (Amendment) Bill 2026, and rejected it by 85 votes to 30, with 36 abstentions.

Institute Director Ciarán Kelly thanked supporters for their vital interventions.

"Around ten thousand babies are aborted every year in Ireland, so it is disturbing to see attempts to remove even the modest protections for the unborn.

"This margin of victory is significant. I want to thank everyone who contacted their TDs. You have made a

real difference for the unborn."

Aontú leader Peadar Tóibín also welcomed the result: "The lives of thousands of children will be saved as a result of this Bill being defeated today."

The proposals would have removed the mandatory three-day waiting period and allowed abortions for all babies deemed

to have a "fatal condition". Presently, it must be certain that they would die within 28 days of birth.

However, some Deputies are believed to have voted against the Bill in order to progress Sinn Féin's pro-abortion Bill, which is expected to be debated later in the year.

Abortion is currently available on

demand up to twelve weeks, while women under ten weeks can take pills to abort their child at home.

One man was recently sentenced to eleven years for procuring pills and forcing his pregnant girlfriend to take them against her will, resulting in the death of their nine-week-old baby.



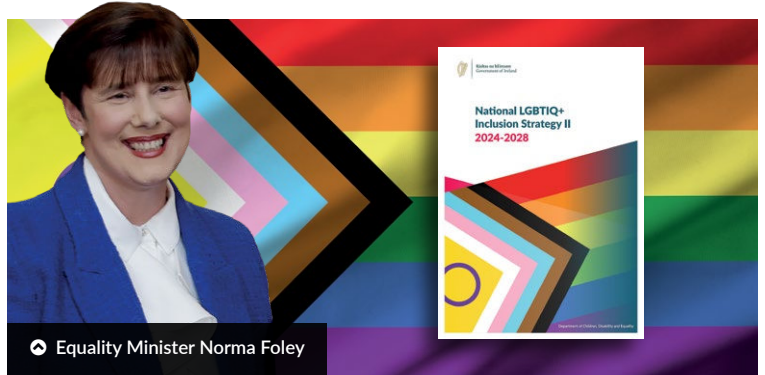
▶ Deputy Holly Cairns' Reproductive Rights (Amendment) Bill 2026 was rejected

Govt pledges €1.5m to further controversial 'LGBTIQ+ strategy'

Equality Minister Norma Foley has pledged €1.5m in pursuit of the Government's latest National LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy.

Under the grant scheme, organisations already receiving taxpayers' money for work with the "LGBTIQ+ community" may apply for funding for new initiatives "and to maintain and enhance existing services". New applicants may secure funding to promote LGBT "visibility and inclusion".

Senator Sarah O'Reilly criticised the Department of Education for providing almost €500,000 to the LGBT organisation 'Belong To'. O'Reilly noted



that the group has advised children "not to tell their parents if they use a chest binder", and instead speak with a 'trusted adult'. "These trusted adults are, of course, only those who are affirmative of their gender transition", she said.

Elsewhere, a group of women in senior positions at the Electricity Supply Board have raised concerns at the company's policy allowing men who identify as women to use women's changing rooms.

One explained that at the head office, women are required to walk through "three

locked doors and long corridors to get in there. So you're in a locked room, through three swiped doors in the basement with your clothes off.

"There are women that have been in all sorts of traumatic situations being put in that position and they're just not using facilities."

Govt 'health-led' drugs plan will downgrade Garda enforcement



The Government has consulted on plans to decriminalise drugs for personal use.

Under the Department of Health's draft drugs strategy, the Government has committed to what it calls "a health-led approach to drug use", which it says is designed to prioritise "health supports over criminal sanctions".

It comes as new figures revealed the number of people charged for possession of illegal drugs hit a five-year high in 2025.

In response to Gary Gannon TD's request for data, Justice Minister Jim O'Callaghan revealed that there were 8,287 offences for drug possession in 2025, a rise of more than eleven per cent on 2024.



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John 3:16 pastor appeals 'buffer zone' conviction

Pastor Clive Johnston is appealing his conviction for preaching on John 3:16 within one of Northern Ireland's abortion censorship zones.

He is being supported by The Christian Institute.

The grandfather of seven held an open-air service on the fringes of the buffer zone around Coleraine's Causeway Hospital.

His actions – preaching "For God so loved the world" while standing near a large cross inside the zone – were deemed "reckless" as to whether they would 'influence' someone accessing the hospital's abortion services. He did not mention abortion, nor were

there banners or placards.

Pastor Clive said: "This ruling sets a deeply troubling precedent. I was not protesting abortion. I was peacefully preaching the Gospel, reading from the Bible, and pointing people to the hope found in Jesus Christ.

"If this conviction is allowed to stand, it will signal that basic Christian witness and public expressions of faith can be criminalised simply because they take place in the 'wrong' location.

"That should concern every person who values freedom of religion and freedom of expression, regardless of their views on abortion."



Clive Johnston speaking outside Coleraine Magistrates' Court

the.ci/clivejohnston

McGuinness appointed to EU role promoting religious belief

Mairead McGuinness has been named as the European Union's new Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion

or Belief outside the EU.

Among other tasks, the Special Envoy is mandated to establish "a dialogue with national authorities and other stakeholders" where violations of freedom of religion and belief occur.



McGuinness was a Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2020.

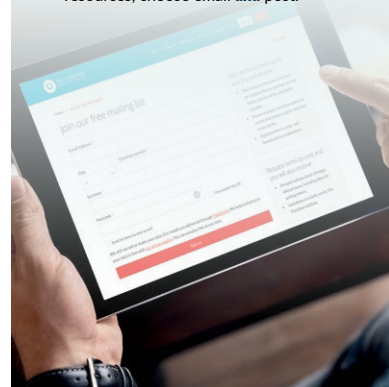
She publicly supported the campaign to repeal the 8th Amendment, which had outlawed abortion, and also the introduction of same-sex marriage.

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Matthew Brennan
Church Liaison
Officer



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Pray continually

1 Thessalonians 5:17

SUNDAY

PRAY For church leaders as they clearly and boldly preach the Gospel.

MONDAY

PRAY For all those in the Oireachtas, that they would promote good and restrain evil.

TUESDAY

PRAY Giving thanks that extreme abortion plans have been rejected.

WEDNESDAY

PRAY That Christians would be at work in society to help their neighbours.

THURSDAY

PRAY That drug users would be properly supported to leave dangerous addictions behind.

FRIDAY

PRAY That any attempt to introduce assisted suicide will be decisively rejected.

SATURDAY

PRAY For the Church in Ireland, that believers would faithfully stand for Christ.

'Don't legalise assisted suicide', says Mullen in warning to Seanad



Senator Rónán Mullen has urged members of the Seanad not to countenance legalising assisted suicide.

Pointing to the defeat of the assisted suicide Bill in the Scottish Parliament, Mullen warned that such laws are “unsafe” and “put vulnerable

people at risk”.

He called for strong political leadership on the issue, noting that Scotland's First Minister John Swinney and the leaders of both Scottish Labour and the Scottish Conservatives all voted against MSP Liam McArthur's proposal.

such laws are “unsafe” and “put vulnerable people at risk”

Senator Mullen also pointed to the need for countries “to provide proper assistance” to those at the end of their lives.

He highlighted the need for high-quality palliative care, alongside broader support, “so that people do not feel pressured into thinking that their lives do not matter or matter less”.

In April, an attempt to introduce assisted suicide in England and Wales ran out of time. Members of Westminster's upper house were unable to complete their scrutiny of more than a thousand amendments tabled to counter the legislation's numerous fundamental flaws.

Thousands gather at March for Life

Thousands of people called on Ireland to ‘change course’ on abortion at the March for Life in Dublin.

Independent TD Ken O'Flynn told the crowds marching from St Stephen's Green to Molesworth Street that the debate on abortion “is not over and we will not be silenced”.

Mr O'Flynn explained how, instead of practical support being given to pregnant women in crisis, there is a push to

remove safeguards and expand abortion access. He told the crowds that we “need to change

the course that we're on”.

In 2024, there were 10,850 abortions, the highest on record.



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