



17 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As many of you would be aware that currently before the NSW Parliament is the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill. As we consider the implication of such legislation I invite you to reflect upon the words of Pope Francis:

“After having done everything that is humanly possible to cure the sick, it is immoral to engage in futile treatment,” Pope Francis said. He praised efforts of palliative care to help the dying be more comfortable, but also cautioned that “we must be careful not to confuse this help with unacceptable drifts towards killing.” (World Day of the Sick, 11 February, 2022)

We have an opportunity to oppose such an unacceptable drift by signing an ePetition against the passage of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 through the Legislative Council. It reads:

“To the President and Members of the Legislative Council, the petitioners of New South Wales state that that they are completely opposed to the passage of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021, in any form, which provides for state sanctioned/funded assisted suicide/euthanasia. A cornerstone of our legal system is that ALL human life has inherent value and must be treated with dignity and respect. The petitioners request that the House unanimously oppose the bill, in any form, and reject it.”

The link <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/pages/epetitions-list.aspx> takes you to the Legislative Council’s ePetitions webpage where you can directly access the ePetition. It only takes two or three minutes to sign. The ePetition closes on 25th April 2022 and will then be presented to the Legislative Council.

I invite you to reflect upon the words of Pope Francis and consider the implications of this legislation and consider signing this important ePetition which closes on 25th April.

If you are after further information to help inform your participation in the e-Petition please find additional information and link to the e-petition on the diocesan website.

<https://wagga.catholic.org.au/news/epetition-opposing-voluntary-assisted-dying/>

Yours in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI, Bishop of Wagga Wagga

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