

Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office

“Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2270)

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you” (Jeremiah 1:5)



What is Pro-Life?

In our Archdiocese “Pro-Life” covers issues at the beginning and end of life: the unborn, their mothers, the disabled, the aged & dying. The Pro-Life Office is part of the Archdiocesan Commission for Marriage and Family

Why Pro-Life?

Pro-Life issues are the most important social concern for the Church today. There are over [4,000 abortions](#) per year in the Archdiocesan area. Women in the most deprived areas have abortion rates double those in the least deprived areas. In the last 10 years, abortion rates in poor areas have increased by 25% while those for wealthier areas have fallen by 1%. This situation is more pronounced in East of Scotland NHS Boards which are part of this Archdiocese.

The Scottish Bishops highlight Pro-Life as “the fundamental issue”¹, Pope Francis speaks strongly on the issue² and Christifideles Laici, on the role of the laity, highlights pro-life as the most important human rights work³ requiring “maximum determination.”

Through the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office the Church responds to this situation by building a culture of life among clergy and laity, making pro-life a natural part of parish life. The approach is positive, based on the intrinsic value of life at all stages and the Church’s solidarity with those in need.

What does the Pro-Life Office do?

Prayer

Including appropriate bidding prayers linked to the readings each Sunday ([contact our Pro-Life Office](#) for copies). We organise an online Advent Rosary for Life and, during Lent, pro-life Stations of The Cross

Practical pastoral care

Providing information and sign-posting to pro-life support organisations including [Stanton Healthcare \(East of Scotland\)](#) and, for post-Abortion support [Rachel’s Vineyard](#) and the [Abortion Recovery Care Helpline](#)

Speaking & Information

Pro-Life speakers can speak to your parish after Mass or speak to parish groups. Regular Zoom sessions are organised on different pro-life subjects - see our Archdiocesan YouTube channel below

Responding

Encouraging Catholics to actively respond to local or national events using letters to MPs / MSPs or social media as appropriate.

How can I contact the Pro-Life Office?



Email prolife@staned.org.uk



Call 0131 623 8917

More information



Watch the Archdiocesan [YouTube Pro-Life Playlist](#)



Register for [Pro-Life Events](#)

¹ Scottish Bishops' Election Guidance – 2019: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/38334> 2017: <https://scmo.org/news-releases/perma/1494856740/article/scotlands-catholic-bishops-pre-election-letter.html> 2015: <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/04/10/sanctity-of-life-is-top-issue-facing-voters-say-scottish-bishops/>

² For example: "Pope Francis compares having an abortion to 'hiring a contract killer'" – Daily Telegraph 10 October 2018 and Papal General Audience on April 12, 2017 - <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/pope-francis-praises-pro-life-cause-there-is-no-more-important-work>

³ Christifideles Laici, John Paul II: On the vocation and the mission of the lay faithful in the church and in the world. N 38. http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_30121988_christifideles-laici.html