



**CHRIST THE KING & OUR LADY OF LOURDES  
with ST AUGUSTINE'S, COVENTRY**

Christ the King Presbytery, 14 Westhill Road, Coundon, Coventry CV6 2AA  
*Parish Priest: Canon Tom Farrell*  
*Telephone: 024 76591618 / Email: [father-tom@ctk-cov.org.uk](mailto:father-tom@ctk-cov.org.uk)*

**28<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**Dear Mr Robinson,**

**I write on behalf of the Parish of Christ the King to express our concerns to you about the Government's support of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill and your own voting against all of the amendments proposed.**

**There is also concern that the Labour Party has enjoyed the support of many of our parishioners but takes little account of our views and indeed at a national level seems to disregard Catholic opinion.**

**Our specific concerns about the Bill mentioned are as follows.**

**The refusal to even consider a lowering of the limit on abortion when there have been so many medical advances in the last forty years. Survival rates are much higher in premature infants and this rate increases even more when children are treated at specialist units. On the one hand the Bill seems to support medical advances and yet at the same time not recognise them in other areas.**

**The debate over stem cell research is more complicated but I enclose a letter to the "The Times" of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2008 signed by eminent scientists expressing concerns.**

**The use of "hybrids" is of great concern to many beyond the church.**

**The amendment on the need for a father tried to support a very important aspect of social cohesion which the government claim to be supporting in other areas.**

**"Saviour siblings" raise concerns about a utilitarian view of human life. You know that we defend the sanctity of life from conception to death**

**I would like to ask how you arrived at your voting decisions. Were you simply voting with the Labour Party? Did you take account of or try to ascertain the views of your constituents? Were you voting based on personal convictions alone? The Government did give you the freedom to vote according to your conscience.**

**Our parishioners would appreciate an answer to these three points.**

**Generally as a Catholic community we are concerned about the Labour Party's respect for the convictions of the Catholic Church. In recent times the validity of Faith Schools has been questioned. The Labour MEP, Mary Honeyball, has questioned the right of Catholics to hold public office. Catholic adoption agencies have been subject to discrimination.**

**We have 3000 regular members at Christ the King and a weekly attendance of 1700 people. I know that you know our parish well. I could have asked them to write to you as individuals but have asked them to read this letter and give agreement to it as a communal letter to you. I received this mandate from them at the parish masses on the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. I ask on their behalf that you consider these concerns and let us know how you will endeavour to represent your constituents in the future.**

**Clearly some of your constituents will have different views to our own, which we understand. Our concern is how you, our MP, assess the feelings of your constituents. We feel none of our concerns**

**on the above matters have been acknowledged and we know other Catholic parishes in your constituency and indeed other faith communities share our concerns as well of people of no religious affiliation.**

**As a Catholic community we respect the different views of others and do not consider ourselves prejudiced or bigoted. We are in the main a hardworking group of people,doing our best to live family life in its different forms,trying to bring up children in accordance with our beliefs and in ways that will allow them to flourish and be good citizens.**

**We feel that we need some support from Government policies as we try to live by our convictions.**

**We look forward to your response**

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr Tom". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

**Thomas Farrell**

**Parish Priest**