LIFE AND DEATH

Source of Wisdom

Christians believe that at death life is 'CHANGED not ended'



"I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: we will not sleep, but we will be changed." – 1 Corinthians 15: 50-51

CATHOLICS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DYING WELL

themselves to die well

This may include: Spending time with family

PREPARE

- Updating their will to reduce worry about
- money and inheritance · Discussing what they'd
- like their funeral to be
- Making peace with family members and friends
- · For those in significant pain 'preparing for death' will include palliative care* to reduce pain

For Catholics, it is important to help those who are facing death to...

RESPECT the VALUE of their lives

The Catholic Church rejects euthanasia and assisted suicide as ways of ending a life.

Live is God given and therefore only God can take it (death must

be natural).

The Catholic Church promote ospices (a place where people with terminal illness can go for control of the symptoms and pain) and other organisations that provide palliative care when treated to cure a medical condition is no longer possible

Provide RITUALS to SUPPORT the GRIEVING

- This means that the neral rite includes symbols that reflect belief and hope in
- Prayers are said for those who have died. Belief in eternal life is explored through



Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide

These are both ways of ending someone's life BEFORE its 'natural end'

Euthanasia

This term means a 'good' or 'gentle' death.

Euthanasia is the term used to refer to a procedure where a **MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL gives** medication to end the life of a

person who is suffering **UNBEARABLE PAIN from a**

prolonged INCURABLE condition. Voluntary Euthanasia is done on

the request of the individual whose life will be ended. Such voluntary euthanasia is legal in the Netherlands.

Both euthanasia and assisted suicide are currently ILLEGAL in the UK. The Catholic Church teaches that these **DELIBERATE**

ACTIONS to end a life before natural death are WRONG in

Assisted Suicide

Seeking help to end one's own life

Assisted suicide is the term used when an individual SEEKS HELP to **END THEIR OWN LIFE in a** PAIN FREE/reduced process.

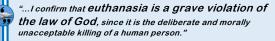
Some countries have changed their laws to permit (allow) assisted suicide.

KEY DOCUMENT FOR THIS TOPIC:

EVANGELIUM VITAE (Good News of Life).

Written by St Pope John Paul II

St Pone John Paul II Evangelium Vitae (Good News of Life) -





- This teaching comes from the belief that all human life is sacred or holy. Belief in the sanctity of life comes from an understanding that life itself is a gift from God and is therefore precious and should be respected from conception to natural death
- Deliberate killing, such as euthanasia and assisted suicide, are seen as going against the instruction in the Ten Commandments: 'Do not murder'. There are suitable alternatives to euthanasia available through palliative care.
- Also, the Catholic tradition teaches that suffering does have a purpose in helping us to learn about ourselves and others and to understand the human condition.
- The Church also acknowledges that some people are able to identify with the suffering of Jesus at the
- It is reasonable to seek palliative care to reduce pain and maintain dignity. Evangelium Vitae points out that 'such heroic behaviour [Jesus' death on the cross] cannot be considered the duty for everyone.



PALLIATIVE CARE Controlling Pain



WHO NEEDS IT?

For some people the time leading up to death can be long. For those who have a significant illness (such as cancer) or degenerative condition (such as Motor Neurone Disease) there may be long periods of pain

Palliative care aims to control pain

MEDICATION TO **RELIEVE** THE **PAIN**

Medication is provided to reduce pain and to enable the individual to retain as much dignity and quality of life as possible.

Hospices and other organisations that offer similar care, have doctors to provide pain relieving medication, nursing care, supervision and practical help until natural death occurs.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ON **PALLIATIVE** CARE

The Catholic Church supports those who provide care because it respects the value of every person until their natural death. The source of wisdom you would use here is Pope St John Paul II's document: Evangelium Vitae (Good News of Life).



known as ALS, occurs when specialist nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord called motor neurones stop working properly.





Create a detailed mindmap (try to make this

of relieving pain?

visual)

Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)

CHALLENGE Turn over the mat and try to

complete your task without looking at the information

Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have

Create a poster/leaflet

Exam Question

b) Describe Catholic teachings on Palliative Care [5]

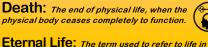


Life) - 1995

St Pope John Paul II clearly stated in this document that palliative care is an appropriate way of relieving pain for two reasons:

- 1. It allows people to reject any treatment that is too painful or difficult.
- 2. It allows people to maintain their dignity and some quality of life.

Some pain relieving drugs are very strong and in some cases can make death happen sooner. Some people object to the use of these drugs.



heaven after death. Also, the phrase Jesus uses to describe a state of living as God intends, which

Jesus' death and resurrection

allows us to spend eternity with God

Catholic teaching on death can only be understood in a

context in a belief in Eternal life. Eternal life is the belief

that when Jesus died on the cross, he paid for our sins

Knowledge Check 🥼

Which quote supports the Christian belief that after

and when he rose from the dead, he defeated death.

Catholics therefore believe that because

go to heaven after death and spend eternity

Define the key concept death

What is euthanasia?

What is assisted suicide?

death life is 'changed not ended?

euthanasia and assisted suicide?

euthanasia in Evangelium Vitae?

What three things do Catholics believe are

What does the Catholic Church teach about

What does St Pope John Paul II say about

What two reasons does St Pope John Paul II give to

support palliative care as an appropriate method

Choose a Task

important to help those who are facing death?

of these things, Christians can hope to

with God.

leads to a life in heaven.

