



Sunday 13 May 2018

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE UPCOMING REFERENDUM

The Present Situation

Laws are made by the Oireachtas. The Oireachtas consists of the Dáil, the Seanad and the President. Laws made by the Oireachtas must comply with the Constitution. The Constitution sets out the basic law of the State. Laws, if challenged, may be reviewed by the courts. The courts may declare a law invalid if it conflicts with the Constitution. The Constitution can be altered only by the people in a referendum. The present legal position in Ireland in relation to the termination of pregnancy results from provisions in the Constitution, court decisions interpreting those provisions, and laws passed by the Oireachtas.

Article 40.3.3

Was inserted into the Constitution as a result of a referendum in 1983. The Article says that the unborn has a right to life and that the mother has an equal right to life. The Supreme Court has recently held that this is the only constitutional right of the unborn.

In 1992

The Article was interpreted by the Supreme Court in a case known as “the X case”. The Court found that the Article means that termination of pregnancy is permitted only when there is a real and substantial risk to the life of the mother, including a risk of suicide.

In 1992

Two additions to Article 40.3.3 were made by referendums. These made clear that the Article does not limit freedom to travel and does not limit the freedom to obtain or make available information about services that are lawfully available in other States, subject to conditions as may be laid down by law.

In 1995

The Oireachtas passed a law which regulates the provision of information about termination of pregnancy outside the State.

In 2013

The Oireachtas passed the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act. It regulates termination of pregnancy where there is a real and substantial risk to the life of the woman.

In Summary

The present legal position is therefore that it is lawful for a pregnancy to be terminated only where it poses a real and substantial risk to the life of the mother, including a risk of suicide. This is determined in accordance with the 2013 Act. Otherwise, it is a criminal offence to intentionally destroy unborn human life.

Proposed Change

On 25th May 2018 you are being asked whether or not to delete the present Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution and replace it with a new Article.

The Present Article 40.3.3

The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right. This subsection shall not limit freedom to travel between the State and another state. This subsection shall not limit freedom to obtain or make available, in the State, subject to such conditions as may be laid down by law, information relating to services lawfully available in another state.

The Proposed Article 40.3.3

Provision may be made by law for the regulation of termination of pregnancy.

The legal effect of a YES vote

If a majority votes Yes, this will allow the Oireachtas to pass laws regulating the termination of pregnancy. These laws need not limit the availability of termination to circumstances where there is a real and substantial risk to the life of the mother. Any law may be changed by the Oireachtas. If challenged, any law may be declared invalid by the courts if it conflicts with the Constitution.

If a majority votes Yes, the current law, including the law on travel and information, will remain in place unless and until it is changed by new law or is declared invalid by the courts.

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 06 May 2018

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p200

2nd Collection: p225

Share: p45

Family Offering: p546



Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Elizabeth (Betty) Farrell
Months Mind, Ellen Roach Months
Mind, Jimmy O'Brien 3rd Ann

Sun 11.30am: Denis & Julie
Hyland, Mary & Richard Finn,
Terry Walker, Annie & Eddie
Edmonds, Tom Devey 100th
Birthday Remembrance, John Mc
Donnell Birthday Remembrance,



St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection for the local St. Vincent de Paul Society takes place this weekend. Please be as generous as you can.

The legal effect of a NO vote

If a majority votes No, then the present Article 40.3.3 will remain in place unchanged. Laws may be passed to provide for the termination of pregnancy only where there is a real and substantial risk to the life of the mother including the risk of suicide. Any law may be changed by the Oireachtas. If challenged, any law may be declared invalid by the courts if it conflicts with the Constitution. The constitutional provisions on freedom to travel and information will remain as they are now.

More info on

www.refcom2018.refcom.ie



Revamp at Christ Church

Here's a first look at the planned new design for the main ground of



Christ Church Cathedral. Site works have just started on the project and are likely to take 6 months. The project entails reopening the former carriage gates to the cathedral and creating a new viewing point overlooking a formal square. The new landscaping will help the cathedral deal with the near 300,000 visitors it receives each year, as well as the many worshippers to attend service each day.



FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, *Theophilus*, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and I taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Psalm 46

Alleluia

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. R/

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. R/

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. R/

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia
Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.
Alleluia

A reading from the Gospel of Mark

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.' And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Much advance publicity was made for the address the Master would deliver on "The Destruction of the World" and a large crowd gathered at the monastery grounds to hear him. The address was over in less than a minute. All he said was: "these things will destroy the human race: politics without principle, progress without compassion, wealth without work, learning without silence, religion without fearlessness and worship without awareness."

'One Minute Wisdom' by Anthony de Mello