



## **Choosing Life: the Challenge of Assisted Suicide**

Pusey House, Oxford

*Wednesday, 4th December 2024*

This is a one-day conference meeting to consider Christian theological and moral philosophical responses to assisted suicide, bringing together theological academics, clergy, lawyers, and policymakers from a variety of Christian and philosophical traditions, and from across the political spectrum. The conference will be chaired and shaped by Pusey House's Distinguished Scholar in Residence, the Rev'd Professor Nigel Biggar.

Several Western democracies have legalised assisted suicide. Those advocating similar changes in the United Kingdom ground their arguments in compassion for the sick and suffering, a desire to minimise pain, and the claim that facilitating such choices around death is consonant with human dignity. Opponents hold that assisted suicide is a violation of the dignity of human beings created in the image of God, and warn that legalisation will lead to immense moral and economic pressure being brought to bear upon the dying, the sick, the disabled, the elderly, and the poor. How should Christians, and Christian intellectuals, respond to these claims? What does the Church teach? How can Christians engage in the political process on this issue?

Please email [pusey.conference@stx.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pusey.conference@stx.ox.ac.uk) with any queries.

4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Morning Divine Service (*optional; all welcome*):**

7:40–8:00. Morning Prayer.

8:00. Mass.

*A light breakfast will be provided in the Hood Room to those who attend Morning Prayer or Mass.*

**Conference Schedule**

10:00–10:30. *Welcome coffee.*

**Session 1: Parameters.**

10:30–11:30.

Prof Nigel Biggar.

Bishop Michael Langrish (former bishop of Exeter).

11:30–12:00. *Coffee break.*

**Session 2: Theology and Christian Ethics.**

12:00–1:00.

Willem, Cardinal Eijk (Archbishop of Utrecht).

1:00–2:00. *Lunch break.*

**Session 3: Theology and Christian Ethics.**

2:00–3:00.

The Rev'd Vaughan Roberts (Rector of St Ebbe's Church, Oxford).

Prof David Jones (St Mary's University, Twickenham).

3:00–3:30. *Tea and Coffee.*

**Session 4: Law, Policy, and the Church's Public Voice.**

3:30–5:30.

Yuan Yi Zhu (University of Leiden).

Dr Calum Miller.

[TBC]

Lois Miller (Lawyer, ADF International).

5:30–45. Closing remarks from Prof Biggar.

**Evening Divine Service (*optional; all welcome*):**

6:00–6:45. Evensong.

Preacher: Professor Charles Foster (Exeter College, Oxford).