



The Catholic Parish of St David and St Patrick
Haverfordwest



9, Fountain Row, Barn Street, Haverfordwest. Pems. SA61 1SX
01437 762284

www.stdavidandstpatrick.org



St James's Palace,
Marlborough Road,
London.
SW1A 1BS

26th May 2016

Your Royal Highness The Princess Royal,

It is from a position of pride and admiration that I write this letter. Ma'am, your duty of service to our Nation and Commonwealth and been unfaltering. Indeed, your commitment to furthering the rights, advantages and opportunities for all in our world today can only have brought development to places previously bereft of hope, innovation and encouragement.

I know that, as patron of many groups and societies, none has a more special place in your heart than Save the Children UK, a charity which does great work in helping Children reach their full potential. I note from the Save the Children Website that the opening home page states, in big letters: *Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. In the UK and around the world, we give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm.* This sentiment is one that members of my parish and I would want to associate ourselves with.

A 'healthy start in life' is a principle to which midwives too would sign-up. As such, it has come as a shock to many dedicated and caring midwives that the Royal College of Midwives' (RCM) Chief Executive, Professor Cathy Warwick has, without consultation of her members, decided that the RCM should support the work of the UK's biggest abortion provider so that abortion of children should be allowed up to the point of birth. I note that Prof. Warwick sits as a trustee of that provider, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service.

The RCM explained their new position stating "the continued criminalisation of abortion in the UK may drive women to access abortion services which are neither safe nor legal, and which may prove harmful or even fatal". Ma'am, it will be obvious to you that abortion services are always fatal to at least one party concerned and that it is a supreme irony that the RCM want to make killing safer. Would Your Royal Highness not want to make pregnancy and childcare safer for all concerned, by investing in more measures to help women feel supported and cared for during pregnancy?

I have met with women who have been faced with intolerable pressures to make decisions which effect the course of their whole lives. I have counseled women (and their partners) who, many years after an abortion, are still feeling the emotional scars of decisions they were not emotionally nor practically equipped to make. In view of this, I cannot understand why Prof. Warwick has taken the stance she has, a view which has cofounded many of her own College.

Along with Her Majesty the Queen, you are patron of that College. I know that you support the RCM in all the many good things it does, and I would wish to encourage you in that role, however, I feel conflicted that the College has made the decision it has – a decision which I would think is at odds with the general principles of Midwifery. My parishioners and I would understand that, as Patron of the RCM, you would want to support your College in its continuing development and therefore presumably support the direction the college is now taking. To help me understand the position of the RCM, may I be bold enough to ask; do you give your continuing, full support to Prof. Warwick and the College's view that abortion should be provided up to the point of birth?

As a priest in a parish, as a hospital and police chaplain, I know that your reply will be digested with much interest and I would like to share it on the parish's social media. It is my hope that people of influence will continue to strive to support those who are the most vulnerable in society. It is my hope that your support of the RCM will not be at conflict with the ideal to give children a healthy start in life and that you continue for many years to give hope, innovation and encouragement so that all may be given opportunities and access to development. It is my hope that you do not support Prof. Warwick and the direction the RCM has taken.

Your Royal Highness, be assured of my prayers for your continuing service to our great nation,
I am, yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Bradley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Father Liam Bradley.