

ANYONE WHO IS NOT AGAINST US IS FOR US

*Anyone who is not against us is for us.* On behalf of the whole Church in England and Wales, I thank you for your love for Jesus, for being His missionary-disciples, for your faith in Him and for your witness to Him. I thank you too for the powerful pro-life witness you all give, each in your own way upholding the dignity of life from conception to natural death. Thank you for this, and thank God. In Britain, we have much to thank God for: our democracy, the rule of law, a caring society, great achievements in science, medicine, sports, the arts, a general affluence despite hardship. Yet in this early 21C we also know the culture of death is growing. We see it in a hard-core form of secularism that wants to ring-fence religion and drive it out of the public domain, strangling our freedom of speech and expression. We also see the culture of death, as Pope Francis noted in *Laudato Si*, in an unregulated consumerism that corrodes society and damages the environment. And we see it too in scientism, the exaggerated belief that science alone is truthful, religion mere opinion. Scientism is now rife among the young, even in Catholic schools, sundering knowledge and undermining ethics. But there's another toxic ideology in our land that more than any other gives oxygen to a rising culture of death.

Relativism - the lie that the Truth is relative, that what's true for me may not be true for you, that what matters is what *I* think, that what I want trumps the common good. Britain is now adrift on a turbulent sea of relativism. It's this that makes it legal to kill an unborn child. It's this that threatens to offer the weak, the elderly, the dying, not love, palliative care and a happy death, but assisted suicide. It's this that seeks to sanction euthanasia, with eugenics and modified babies in the offing. And it's relativism that affront the migrant-refugee crisis makes us turn aside, protective of our own interests, responding with a seemingly meagre generosity and weak compassion. No-one denies the migrant crisis is fraught and complex, but is our British response adequate? What about our Christian heritage? Where are our traditional Christian values? Is everyone, not least our politicians and policy-makers, now so religiously illiterate they've lost their moral compass?

*Anyone who is not against us is for us.* It's wonderful to come to Walsingham, England's Nazareth, to be with Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and to have with us

too the icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe, calling us to pray for expectant mothers and for the unborn child. We are here today to be with Jesus and to witness to life. We are here to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Light and Saviour of the World. Jesus Christ is God the Son made man, the Truth about God and about being human. Jesus Christ is the only way for any human being to reach that TGLHH&F for which they long. This is why we are here today for this Day of Prayer and Reparation, to uphold the Sanctity of Human Life. In this we take to heart the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: *Anyone who is not against us is for us*. Indeed, as we gather at this shrine, let's confidently ask the Blessed Virgin to look down in mercy upon England her Dowry. It's Britain's crisis of faith that fuels the culture of death. It's a crisis of faith that undermines in our society the dignity and value of life. It's a crisis of faith that weakens our compassion and help for those in need. So let's renew our faith. Let's profess our faith. Let's pray for the gift of faith. Let's beg the Holy Spirit to pour out faith, hope and love across this land. Let's ask Him through Mary to help everyone find their way to Jesus, to the Truth of Christ, to the Gospel that sets us free. In this Mass, as Jesus lays down His life for us on the altar, let's ask Him to renew our own faith. Let's ask Him for the grace to persevere in the practice of our Catholic faith all the days of our life, that may we be found worthy one day to be with Jesus, Mary and Joseph in that true Nazareth, our heavenly home.