

Statement of Commitment to Compassionate Dying

I have come that you may have life, and life to the full. (John 10:10)

Voluntary Assisted Dying

The Catholic faith does not support active involvement in any process leading to voluntary assisted dying.

Why? Because we are a Compassionate Community

The Church has and always will proclaim that human life is sacred. Beginning with the dignity of the human person, the Church promotes the good of all people and stands in solidarity with the suffering and vulnerable. Compassion is from the Latin, to suffer with. We are called to love our neighbour and so as Christians we have an obligation to make ourselves the neighbour of every person and respond with compassion as we journey with them.

As we age and decline physically, mentally, and emotionally, we can gradually lose control over our lives. We all like to have control over our destiny, but our human condition precludes our control over nature. Regardless of religious belief, this is a sacred time to prepare for the next journey. Dying, like human life itself, is never without discomfort and can never be fully controlled.

Palliative Care

Death, like birth, is a natural part of life. It should be cherished, celebrated, remembered with joy, and come in time with the element of mystery. The time of dying is a necessary process that prepares us to leave this human world. Palliative Care supports the period of time prior to death and optimises the quality of life. While medicines can alleviate physical suffering, it is compassionate and patient physical presence which alleviates the mental, spiritual and emotional pain.

Since all humans are interconnected, dying can be a communal process. Compassionate dying calls us to suffer with a person through to death, to share their struggle and affirm their place in community. It supports the family and loved ones after the death has occurred. St Agnes' Catholic Parish services within the Lismore Diocese champion best practice palliative care and end of life care, supporting a full life even to natural death.

As we always have and will, we care for, and respect the choices of, those we serve in our community.

***Every person in our care is sacred
Every staff member is a guardian angel***