

**УКРАЇНЬКА
КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЄПАРХІЯ
ПРЕСВЯТОЇ РОДИНИ
В ЛОНДОНІ**



**UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC EPARCHY
OF THE HOLY FAMILY
OF LONDON**

To the Reverend Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful
of the Eparchy of the Holy Family of London

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On 11 December 2020, I issued a pastoral letter concerning the COVID-19 vaccination. In that letter I provided you with my thoughts on the vaccination campaign that would be taking place here in the United Kingdom. Today, we know that more than 16 million people have received their "jab". I also provided you with the position of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) as well as a statement from the Vatican regarding vaccination. It is worthwhile reminding one another of these messages.

Bishop Richard Moth, Chair of the CBCEW Department of Social Justice, in a statement released on 3rd December 2020, stated: *"The development of a vaccine against COVID-19 presents an important breakthrough in protecting others as well as oneself from the virus; a virus which has not only caused a global pandemic and led to a huge loss of life but has also placed a great burden on healthcare workers and systems."*

The statement goes on to say: *"Each of us has a duty to protect others from infection with its danger of serious illness and for some, death. A vaccine is the most effective way to achieve this unless one decides to self-isolate."*

There are several matters that need consideration when making your decision regarding receiving the vaccination. One of these deciding factors has its roots in a moral discussion. Here again we, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, have addressed this question with the following response: *"At present, debate concerns the use of the vaccines developed by Pfizer & BioNTech, Moderna, and AstraZeneca."*

Some have questioned the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine since it has been developed from cell-lines originating from the cells of an aborted foetus in 1983. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy of Life have expressed the view that one may in good conscience and for a grave reason receive a vaccine sourced in this way, provided that there is a sufficient moral distance between the present administration of the vaccine and the original wrongful action. In the COVID-19 pandemic, we judge that this grave reason exists and that one does not sin by receiving the vaccine.

Both the Pfizer & BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have a different source since they are mRNA-based vaccines."

On 2 December 2020, the Pfizer & BioNTech vaccine was approved for use in the UK. *"Each Catholic must educate his or her conscience on this matter and decide what to do, also bearing in*

mind that a vaccine must be safe, effective, and universally available, especially to the poor of the world. Catholics may in good conscience receive any of these vaccines for the good of others and themselves.”

In my letter of 11 December 2020, I made the statement that, “As soon as the vaccine becomes available for me, I will, without hesitation, take part in the immunisation program against COVID-19.” I would like to let you know by way of follow-up, that two days ago I received an invitation to register for the COVID-19 vaccination and I accepted it. Today, 17 February I can confirm that I have received my first of two vaccinations.

Of course, when you are invited to receive this vaccination you may decide to refuse a particular vaccine for one reason or another. However, I wish to remind you of our obligation to protect one another from infection. The most effective way to do this currently is by participating in the mass vaccination programs throughout the world. To this end, I encourage all our faithful to partake in this COVID-19 related initiative. Naturally, please consult your own health-care provider should you have any concerns regarding your own eligibility for vaccination.

I continue to place each of you under the protection of the Holy Family, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Most Holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, and the holy and righteous St. Joseph the Betrothed.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+ *Kenneth*

+Kenneth
Eparchial Bishop

Given on the 17th Day of February in the Year of Our Lord 2021
At the Cathedral-Sobor of the Holy Family,
In the God-blessed city of Westminster, London