

“We are proud that the Eighth Amendment represented by Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution creates a truly equal society, recognising both the rights of the mother and the unborn.”

*James and Ann-Marie Mahon  
from Tullamore, Co. Offaly >*



**James and Ann-Marie's Story** “As a couple, some of the most precious moments shared together include meeting our two children for the first time. We have great memories of marvelling at their growth and development during pregnancy.

“Realising that their hearts were beating from three weeks was astonishing. Watching them move in the womb was a beautiful, emotional experience for both of us.

“From personal experience, during both pregnancies, it was a great consolation for us to know that both lives were protected by the Eighth Amendment; the life of the mother, and the life of baby.

“We are pro-woman and pro-baby. We are pro-life. We value each human life at every stage of development. Protecting the right of the unborn child is the greatest human rights issue of our time.

“Without the right to life, all other human rights are meaningless. The right to life is the keystone human right upon which all other rights are built upon.

“We are proud that the Eighth Amendment represented by Article 40.3.3 of the Irish Constitution creates a truly equal society, recognising both the rights of the mother and the unborn.

“We aim as a society to be just, equitable and humane to everyone, especially the most vulnerable. We have a duty to stand up and protect the most defenceless, the most silent, the unborn.

“Article 40.3.3 recognises the equality of life of both the mother and the child in the womb. It recognises the unborn as a human being.

“To repeal the Eighth Amendment is to abolish the right to existence of another human being. Did we all not start our journey in the womb?”

## What can I do?

A national pro-life rally to save the Eighth Amendment takes place in Dublin on Saturday, 10 March. Why not consider attending with your family?

## Your Questions

### What is the Eighth Amendment?

The wording of the Eighth Amendment reads as follows:  
*“The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right”.*  
This is a declaration to respect, defend and vindicate the equal right to life of a mother and her unborn child. It enshrines in Irish law a deep conviction that every human life is precious, equal and worth cherishing.

### What will happen if the Eighth Amendment is repealed?

If the Eighth Amendment is repealed the right to life for unborn children in Ireland will be without legal constitutional protection. This would radically change the principle, for all unborn children and indeed for all of us, that the right to life is a fundamental human right.

# Week 7

Hi Mammy!

I've doubled in size since last week! I'm now the size of a prune and every part of my body is developing. My fingers and toes are webbed but they will soon separate. Most people don't know that I already have eyelids. My skin is so thin they appear to be transparent. You can't feel it yet but this week I started moving around! I've been waving my arms, kicking my feet, and even rolling over. It won't be long until I get your attention!



Over the coming weeks we will be following the development of Baby Bump based on pregnancy milestones up to 12 weeks.

## Church teaching

### Life is sacred, *Catechism of the Catholic Church n.2258*

"Human life is sacred because, from its beginning, it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end. No one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."

### Reasons to retain the Eighth Amendment

#### Lives saved by the Eighth Amendment

It's easy to overlook the positive effect of the Eighth Amendment.

An independent report in 2016, *The 8th Amendment: Ireland's Life-Saving Provision* by actuary Brendan Lynch, estimates that at least 100,000 people are alive in Ireland today thanks to this constitutional provision. It gives people time to think the decision through and choose life for their daughter or son.

#### Ireland's safety record for pregnant women

A report published by World Health Organisation, *Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2015*, ranks Ireland as a world leader when it comes to safety for pregnant women. Globally, we have one of the lowest maternal mortality rates. Ireland's culture of life has served us well and is an inspiration to many other countries.

We have shown it is possible to uphold the equal right to life of pregnant women and unborn babies and still be a world leader in maternal healthcare.

"I APPRECIATE THAT ENGAGING IN any conversation around the upcoming referendum is not easy for people. While I too find it difficult to talk about, the Gospel and my conscience convince me that I am obliged to speak. It really is important for us to affirm that what is in the womb are babies that are just not born yet. They are not potential persons but persons with potential. They are developing humans. I invite you to be missionaries for the cause of life. It is a noble cause to uphold the sacredness of human life."



*Excerpt from the Pastoral Message of Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick*

## Family Prayer

*Guide the work of doctors, nurses and midwives.*

*May the life of a mother and her baby in the womb be equally cherished and respected.*

*Help those who make our laws to uphold the uniqueness of every human life from conception to natural death. Amen.*

*Choose Life: Prayer for the Child in the Womb, Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference*



*"I was worried Cura would judge me and not understand my point of view because I'm a man but the counsellor was great. I would say get in contact. It makes sense to talk about stuff that's stressing you out. It definitely helped me" Jack, 26.*

Cura is an agency of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference which supports women experiencing unplanned pregnancies. If you need Cura's help call **1850 622 626** or visit **Cura.ie**

To access videos, testimonies and frequently asked questions visit [www.chooselife2018.ie](http://www.chooselife2018.ie)