

<< **PRESS RELEASE** >>

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, PORTSMOUTH

RELEASE IMMEDIATE

Date of release: 14 February 2008

HFE Bill information evening at St Johns Catholic Cathedral in Portsmouth. Thursday 21 February. Refreshments from 1915. Free and open to all. Car parking on site. Press facility.

STARTS

HUMAN-ANIMAL HYBRID DEBATE HITS PORTSMOUTH

Human Animal hybrid embryos – necessary science or a step too far? This major ethical issue is being debated in Parliament at present through the Human Fertilisation Embryology and Fertilisation Bill. This Bill, which will allow stem cell research on spare embryos from test tube baby treatment and the creation of hybrid embryos using human and animal cells for up to 14 days, has been vigorously challenged on ethical grounds.

One of the Bills key opponents, **Lord (David) Alton of Liverpool**, will be the lead speaker at an Information Evening on the Bill to be held in St John's Cathedral from 1915 to 2100 on Thursday 21 February. Lord Alton will be joined by other representatives from the Catholic Church and the Charity LIFE to explore the issues raised by the Bill. This raises major ethical issues and the debate is sure to be as lively here as it has been all around the UK on the **Passion for Life Tour** which Lord Alton and **Anne Widdicombe MP** have been leading.

Lord Alton said, 'it is crucially important that in every part of the UK people wake up to the realities of a new law which will allow the creation of animal-human hybrid embryos, the creation of "saviour siblings" and the removal of fathers from the lives of their children. That and the further extension of abortion laws that have led to 7 million abortions is not something about which people should remain indifferent. I hope that many people will attend the meeting on 21 February to find out more'. The event is being held at St John's Cathedral in Edinburgh Road where there is ample car parking. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. For further information contact Event Chairman Neil Galbraith on 07958 083765

ENDS

Notes to Editors

The HFE Bill information evening is taking place in St Johns Catholic Cathedral Portsmouth on Thursday 21 February. Refreshments will be served from 1915. The event is free and open to all. Car parking is available on site. A press facility will be available – for details contact Bruce Finch on 07751351903.

For photo opportunities contact: Canon David Hopgood, St John's Cathedral, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth PO1 3HG
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