

## **Letter to Parishioners from the Parish Priest 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Dear Parishioners,

I have had some queries from worried parishioners about the both the risk and the morality of taking the vaccine for COVID 19 and so would like to offer some clarification in this regard.

Firstly, there is a good and sound consensus of research that the risk to an individual of taking the vaccine is far outweighed by the risks of catching the covid virus in any of its mutations. There is also growing, consistent evidence that the more people vaccinated the better for managing the effects of the virus and its variants.

Secondly, the Church has made it quite clear at many levels, right up to Pope Francis, that it is morally acceptable in these times to take any of the vaccines offered even though some of the vaccines have been developed from original matter that came from the cells of aborted babies. It is a question of remoteness and I have given you below the link for the authoritative statement from the Congregation of Doctrine and Faith. To back this up I have also given the link of a helpful further explanation of this from the NZ Bishops Nathaniel Centre.

The Congregation for Doctrine and Faith in its statement makes it clear that at no stage does the Church condone abortion and the use of aborted children for research. The Congregation also says we must make this clear. In normal circumstances where there is time and an option, we should choose a vaccine that has not, even in its origins used the matter of aborted children. But there is no moral culpability in us using the vaccine available to us in NZ. The Congregation makes it clear too that with this knowledge, it is an act of charity and good will to take the vaccine, not just for ourselves but for others. And even though the taking of the vaccine should be voluntary, as it is in our country to date, Catholics should carefully reflect about the common good of all in our country before they refuse.

Let us keep each other in our prayers in these difficult times and ask the Good God to inspire and lead us.

CDF

[https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20201221\\_nota-vaccini-anticovid\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html)

Nathaniel Centre

<http://www.nathaniel.org.nz/2-uncategorised/502-covid-19-vaccine-should-catholics-vaccinate-using-an-ethically-compromised-vaccine>