

## THE FIRST WEEKS OF LIFE

Day 1: Conception - sperm and egg meet in fertilisation. Genetic make-up complete.  
A new life has begun.

Day 6-12: The new, unique human being implants in the lining of the mother's womb.

Day 17-20: Blood vessels have begun to grow and the baby's own blood cells start forming.

Day 20: Foundation of the central nervous system is established.

Week 3: A heartbeat can be detected.

Weeks 4-5: Ears and nose start to develop. Brain is rapidly expanding.

Weeks 6-7: Skeleton and reflexes present. Liver, kidneys and lungs are forming.

Week 8: All the main organs present. Electrical brainwave patterns can be recorded.

Week 9-10: The baby can make a fist and will grasp an object stroking his palm.  
The baby can make co-ordinated movements in the womb.

Week 16: The baby is half birth length. The heart pumps 30 litres of blood daily.

Week 20: Hair appears on the head. Weight - 450g; height - 30cm.

Week 28: Eyes open. The baby can hear the mother's voice as well as sounds outside her body.

Month 9: Birth - just another stage in an already well-advanced process.

PLEASE PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT BY FILLING IN THE FORM BELOW WITH YOUR DETAILS AND RETURN TO  
EUROPEAN LIFE NETWORK AT GLENRUE, BALLINCLEA ROAD, KILLINEY, CO. DUBLIN  
E-MAIL: patrickgbuckley44@gmail.com TEL: 0872578250

Title: ..... Name: .....

Postal Address: .....

Email Address: .....

Tel (please complete if you are happy to be contacted this way): .....

I will take part in the Lenten spiritual crusade and implore God and His Blessed Mother to protect Ireland from abortion.

Please tick:

- I will commit to saying a daily rosary for this intention each day during Lent.
- I will fast and/or abstain during all or part of Lent (see disclaimer overleaf).
- I will offer other prayers/penances for this intention.
- I will have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered for the protection of the Eighth Amendment.
- I would like to order ..... copies of this leaflet for distribution.

LENT 2018  
14 February - 1 April

# SPIRITUAL CRUSADE *for the defence of* THE EIGHTH AMENDMENT

Please join us in a Lenten crusade of prayer, penance and fasting to implore God and His Blessed Mother to protect Ireland from abortion and to give bishops the grace to preach the gospel fearlessly and to defend unborn children.

PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT BY FILLING IN THE FORM AT THE BACK

European Life Network, in conjunction with Catholic Voice and Human Life International Ireland, is organising a Lenten crusade of prayer, penance and fasting in Ireland and throughout the world to implore God's help in the forthcoming referendum in Ireland. We encourage our supporters to observe the Church's traditional Lenten fast, according to their ability and personal circumstances.\*

## ANTHONY MURPHY

EDITOR OF CATHOLIC VOICE

"If Ireland removes constitutional protection for unborn children, we will be responsible for the slaughter of innocent children not only in Ireland but throughout the world.

"If in 2018 Ireland defies God's law 'Thou shalt not kill' and votes to allow the killing of unborn children, I have little doubt that the dam will burst in country after country the world over."

## PATRICK MCCRYSTAL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN LIFE INTERNATIONAL IRELAND

"Please support me and my pro-life friends and colleagues in Ireland and overseas as we implore God and His Blessed Mother to protect Ireland from abortion and to give Bishops the grace to preach the whole Gospel and to defend unborn children."

## PATRICK BUCKLEY

DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN LIFE NETWORK

"For over two decades I have been fighting abortion at the United Nations in New York and in Geneva. Thank God, universal human rights agreements continue to uphold the right to life. Despite constant and almost overwhelming pressure, no internationally negotiated treaty recognises a right to abortion.

"There is no doubt that Ireland's historic opposition to the killing of unborn children, enshrined in the Eighth Amendment, has had an enormously positive impact, not just in Ireland but as a witness to the entire world, strengthening the consciences of people and nations across the globe."

Now therefore saith the Lord: Be converted to me with all your heart, in fasting, and in weeping, and in mourning. And rend your hearts, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, patient and rich in mercy, and ready to repent of the evil. (Joel 2:12-13)

\*The Church's most longstanding fasting tradition is to eat only one meal a day, except on Sundays and major feasts. Abstinence from meat, eggs and dairy has traditionally been observed throughout Lent.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: There are potential health risks associated with fasting. Appropriate medical advice should always be sought before undertaking a fast. The organisers of this spiritual crusade cannot be held responsible for adverse health consequences if you choose to fast. Please be prudent in your choice of penance.

## KEY FACTS

1. The Eighth Amendment, which provides equal legal protection to mothers and babies, has saved the lives of over 100,000 Irish children since 1983.<sup>1</sup>

2. In Britain nearly 9 million babies have been killed by abortion since 1967. And nearly 60 million have been killed in the United States since 1973.<sup>2</sup>

3. The repeal of the Eighth Amendment will soon lead to the mass killing of Irish babies. Recent history shows that even so-called restrictive laws, like those in the UK, can quickly become abortion-on-demand in practice.

4. Every abortion kills a baby and wounds a mother. Documented physical health risks of abortion for women include infection, perforation of the uterus, haemorrhage, pelvic inflammatory disease, retained foetal or placental tissue and, occasionally, death.<sup>3</sup>

5. Women who undergo abortions also have increased risk of infertility and of miscarriage or preterm birth in future pregnancies.

6. Studies show that women who have had abortion are more at risk of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety disorders, substance abuse, self-harm and suicide.

1. Pro Life Campaign, *The 8th Amendment: Ireland's Life-Saving Provision*, 7 September 2016.

2. British abortion statistics are based on United Kingdom Department of Health figures. US statistics are taken from National Right to Life Committee, *The State of Abortion in the United States*, January 2017.

3. *Physical and psychological effects of abortion on a woman's health*, Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, March 2017.

# THE EIGHTH AMENDMENT PROTECTS MOTHERS AND BABIES.

## IT MUST NOT BE REPEALED.