

ARCHDIOCESE OF GLASGOW



HUMAN CLONING CONTRIBUTION FROM CARDINAL T.J. WINNING TO DIABETES U.K.

I am second to none in supporting genuine scientific progress. As a priest who has sat countless times at the bedside of people suffering from a range of illnesses, I know how vital it is that research is carried out to offer a hope of cure.

However human cloning – the cloning of embryos – is not the way forward. Such activities represent a new and serious assault on the sanctity of life. The recent vote in the House of Commons legalises the use, abuse and destruction of tiny human beings as a means to an end. Even though the end may be good, it does not justify such means.

I fear that Parliament may have inadvertently crossed a moral rubicon, the consequences of which are hard to predict.

The United Kingdom has defied the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and massive swathes of world opinion by opening the door to human cloning.

The tragedy is that science does not **need** to follow this route. Adult stem cells, and cells from umbilical cord can be used for the same advances as cloned embryos, and involve **no** ethical problems.

Despite this, Parliament has chosen to authorise the creation and destruction of thousands of lives – to effect progress; a progress which could well be achieved without a single act of killing.

My hope and prayer is that through legitimate and moral means, scientists will soon come to understand diseases like diabetes which continue to blight lives, and through such understanding find cures which will offer new hope to all those affected.