



SCENARIO

You are the local Anglican Parish Priest in your local community. One weekday, a couple turn up at your church during office hours requesting to speak to "the Priest" as their son has just died.

You are present and agree to speak with them immediately. You have seen them at church on Sunday morning once or twice in the last few months but haven't really met them or know much about their story.

The couple tell you that their son, although only young (28 years old), had cancer for a number of years and had decided earlier in the year that he would choose to die by Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD). This has just happened in the past day and now his parents (as the son was not married) have come to ask for a funeral for him, at your church. It appears they don't really know anyone that well in the church and certainly no one there would know how he died.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What response could you give in this situation?
- What might help the situation?
- What may cause problems?
- How will you hold all this?
- How would you move forward?



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A patient has just been admitted to your hospital and asked to see you as the Pastoral Carer.

When you go to visit, after introducing yourself and asking how you might help, the patient discloses to you that they have entered the hospital to die by Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD), doctor assisted. You are assured that all this is in order and organised and that the patient has been brought into the hospital under the Palliative Care Doctors care. The patient would like to be supported (by the Pastoral Care Team) while in the hospital before and at their time of death.



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You are doing your regular patient visiting in the hospital and you meet a new patient who is clearly distressed and tells you very readily that only yesterday they been given the news that they have a terminal illness and that they may only have less than 12 months to live. They also share with you that only five years ago they had watched their mother suffer with the same disease. Very early in the conversation the patient asks you if you think Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) is an option for them.

(Note: this conversation takes place after 1 January 2023).



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What response could you give in this situation?
- What might help the situation?
- What may cause problems?
- How will you hold all this?
- How would you move forward?



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You have been called in as the Anglican Pastoral Care visitor to a local hospital as there is a patient who has requested a pastoral care visit. During the visit the patient discloses to you that they have made the decision to explore the option of Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) since being given a diagnosis of a terminal illness within the past six months. They are concerned as they have family members who do not agree and are now worried about who will support them.



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You receive a call from a parishioner who asks for a pastoral visit. You are well aware of this parishioner's long journey with motor neurone disease. You arrive at the parishioner's home and are greeted by both the parishioner and their partner. The parishioner shares with you that they have been considering the option of Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD). The parishioner further shares that their partner has told them that VAD is a sin. The parishioner then says that they need your help and asks, "Is VAD a sin?".



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You have just completed the Sunday service and are greeting various members at the front door. One person, whom you haven't seen for several months, approaches and you say, "Good to see you with us today; how have you been?". The person asks if they can have a quick talk to you before they leave. You leave your position at the door and take them to a quiet space to speak with them, as requested.

They explain that their sister has just been diagnosed with terminal cancer and has been talking about Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD). The person then asks, "Can you explain VAD to me?".



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You are visiting with a patient who has been undergoing testing for various health issues for some time and it appears that things are getting quite serious. The patient mentions to you that they have been considering their options and have started thinking about the possibility of Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD), but they want to talk to you before given it further thought. Their question to you is, "If I choose VAD, will I go to Hell?".



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