

Student 3: Low Merit

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The Catholic Church does not agree with abortion as it is seen to be breaking the Law of God in which all life is seen as sacred and created by God as explained by the ethical principle of dignity of the human person. This means that only God can take life away. Abortion is the taking of life by one human being of another, this means it is murder. Abortion is a moral problem and has ethical issues which go with it. The law in New Zealand allows for women to have abortions but there are certain circumstances that have to be met. The Catholic Church considers because we have so many abortions in New Zealand over 180 thousands that the circumstances need to be looked at again, because this is following what St John Paul II called a 'culture of death'.

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An abortion is performed by a doctor and can happen if the woman feels psychologically unable to have the baby. By calling the baby a foetus some people think that it is not really a baby and just a clump of cells and so it makes it easier for a woman to make the decision. Abortion needs two doctors to agree it should happen which is good because it spreads the load of the guilt they may feel. There is no upper time limit in New Zealand law for Abortion. The Catholic Church says this is wrong because you are a person from the moment of conception and not just after 20 weeks or later. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops statement 'What's wrong with Abortion' says this. Scripture also says it is wrong when in the 5th Commandment it says, "You shall not kill" (Exodus 20). Abortion is killing and so breaks this commandment and making it lawful in a country does not make it right.

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Another ethical principle that is linked to abortion is the common good. When this principle is followed then individual rights are always experienced within the context of the promotion of the common good. The common good would relate to the rights of the baby and its potential in society.

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This means that all 'conditions of social living must make it possible for women and men to really and fully achieve the perfection of humanity' (NCRS 12B Justice and Peace). If a person is abort then they do not have the possibility of achieving their full potential.

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