Press Statement – 15 August 2017

Appointments to the Pontifical Academy for Life

In recent weeks, the Pontifical Academy for Life has announced its new composition. Staff and governors of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre are delighted to learn that the director of the Centre, Prof David Albert Jones and the chair of governors, Prof Neil Scolding, have both been appointed as corresponding members of the Academy.

Current members of the Pontifical Academy also include: two former Anscombe memorial lecturers; two former visiting research fellows of the Centre (one also a former vice-chair); two former members of the academic advisory panel for the Centre; an associate research fellow of the Centre; and at least three other academics who have spoken at Centre conferences or symposia.

The Pontifical Academy have also asked the senior research fellow of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre, Dr Helen Watt, to address assembled members of the Academy at their conference in October 2017.

The presence of so many friends and associates of the Centre among the current members of the Academy, no less than among the former members, is a testimony to the international profile of the Centre. Countries may differ in how they promote or prohibit, regulate or restrict, different biomedical practices, but seldom is the scope of bioethics restricted to a particular nation or region. Hence, while the immediate focus of the work of the Anscombe Centre is on the situation in Great Britain and Ireland, the Centre’s work is of interest to scholars and clinicians throughout the world, and vice-versa. For the challenges we face are common.

This year’s Anscombe Memorial Lecture will be given by Prof Luke Gormally, who was a member of the Pontifical Academy for fifteen years and was director of the Centre, then known as the Linacre Centre, for over twenty years. The lecture, which will be given at Blackfriars, Oxford on 16 October 2017, will be entitled, “Human Dignity and the Common Good”.

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