

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY TO THE UNIVERSITY

Wednesday Lunchtime in the Chaplain's Office from 1 pm
(Portland Building, West End, Top Floor)

JODIE AND MARY ARE SISTERS

The fate of the Siamese Twins has caught the attention of the whole country, and the case is watched with huge interest from abroad. But this is no merely academic interest. This decision touches the most fundamental questions about human rights. It affects us *all*.

The twins' parents think that they should be left to die in peace, with no medical intervention. This decision has been overruled by the courts.

When the operation ordered by the courts takes place, Mary will die in the theatre. The court has acknowledged that this will be "a positive act of killing", and that the doctors "will be held to have the intention of killing Mary, however little they desire that outcome". For the first time, a completely innocent person's life has been judged to be forfeit in the interest of someone else's life.

- How far should one individual's life be allowed to impinge on the community?
- How far has the community the absolute right over an individual's life?
- The Human Rights Act (1998) came into force on 2nd October this year. §13 demands that courts pay particular attention to freedom of religion. Can the express wishes of the parents be overruled by the courts in this case?

Come and discuss the rights and wrongs of this important case. Bring a sandwich – drinks provided.

