

PALLIATIVE CARE & EUTHANASIA 2021!

Only recently I listened to what I thought was an excellent ZOOM broadcast on the above 2 topics that featured input from three experienced palliative care specialists. Below are some of the insights that I gained.

**Palliative care involves a multi-disciplinary form of care involving people who are medical doctors, nurses, ancillary medical staff, and chaplains. Each of these disciplines are distinctive and they complement the others, these people often meet to best serve the people in their care.*

**On average about 50% of palliative care resources is given to the welfare of the people who are closest to the person who is preparing to die.*

**At times palliative care can be given by way of pain relief that can accelerate the dying process, but it is never given with the intention to terminate the life of anyone. The aim of the treatment is to relieve as much as possible painful symptoms.*

**Euthanasia is the intentional treatment of someone by way of drugs or the deprivation of life's essential needs with the deliberate intention to kill them. Most medical and nursing professionals find this practice abhorrent; it contradicts what many of these people have dedicated their life to do. Overseas evidence shows that this practice is soon abused where people are dying without their full consent.*

What I have stated is definitely not just a *religious* point of view it is a view that seeks to uphold human rights and personal dignity. *Fr Martin R Maunsell*