

# THE CATHOLIC UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN



**Catholic Union Deputy Director, James Somerville-Meikle, writes:**

It can sometimes be difficult for politicians and others in public office to accept the limit of their powers. This was not a problem however for our Craigmyle Lecturer this year, Dame Rachel de Souza, who readily acknowledged that there are some things best done by the family. Dame Rachel, who is Children's Commissioner for England, said that "strong families are the fabric of any healthy society..." but that "the government tends to see families for the collection of challenges they face, rather than the innate power they hold." In evidence her office had gathered, a staggering 78 percent of young people said they would turn to family first with a problem. The Catholic Union, along with other groups, has been making the case that stronger families are at the heart of tackling many of the challenges we face. But it is rare to hear this acknowledged by senior public figures these days. Dame Rachel's Catholic faith has clearly helped to shape her view on what is needed to create a society where children can flourish. This is an area where Catholic Social Teaching has much to offer. Our job is to help share this with others. A full write up of the talk can be found [here](#).

**Parliament:** The Catholic Union has written to Sarah Owen MP, Shadow Minister for Faith and Communities sitting within Labour's Levelling Up team, calling for a meeting with a focus on securing a Government response to the Independent Faith Engagement Review.

**Media:** Comments from our Craigmyle Lecturer, Dame Rachel de Souza, about the need for transgender guidance for schools feature in many of the papers this week including the [Times](#), [Telegraph](#), [Daily Mail](#), and [Independent](#).

**Events:** The Catholic Union has two exciting events coming up in October.

**Pub Talk:** On Wednesday 11 October our "Pub Talks" series returns with a talk from Professor Stephen Bullivant on whether Britain is a Christian country. The talk is being held in the Windsor Castle pub behind Westminster Cathedral. More information and sign up can be found [here](#).

**Webinars:** On Tuesday 17 October, Raymond Friel OBE will talk to us about his book on Catholic Social Teaching. The talk will be held on Zoom. More information and sign up can be found [here](#).

Details of all Catholic Union events can be found on our [Events Calendar](#).

**ACTION:** Please encourage parishioners to sign up to our [Weekly Briefing](#). This is a weekly email newsletter that comes out every Saturday with a roundup of Catholic news and commentary from Westminster and beyond. You can use the QR code below to sign up for free, and please pass this on to anyone else who may be interested.



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Parish Briefings are compiled by **James Somerville-Meikle**. Edited by **Nigel Parker**. For a longer briefing, please subscribe to our [Weekly Briefing](#).