

ALFIE'S FINAL HOURS: DISTURBING NEW DETAILS

by Christine Niles, M.St. (Oxon.), J.D. • ChurchMilitant.com • May 1, 2018

Source: Within two hours of being administered a cocktail of unknown drugs, the toddler was dead

LIVERPOOL, England (ChurchMilitant.com) - Troubling revelations are emerging about the last hours of Alfie Evans, the U.K. toddler who died after a protracted legal battle with Alder Hey Hospital.

According to Benedetta Frigerio, writing in Italian journal *La Nuova Bussola Quotidiana*, Alfie — suffering from an undiagnosed brain condition — was showing promising vital signs only two hours before death, but took a downturn after a cocktail of unknown drugs was administered by a hospital nurse.

Two hours before dying, the oxygen saturation was about 98 and Alfie's [heart]beats were about 160, so much so that Thomas was convinced that they would let him go home soon (as the hospital administration told him on Friday afternoon). Before dying, while Thomas had gone out for a moment, leaving Kate half-awake and another family member in the room, a nurse entered and explained that he would give the baby four drugs (no one knows what) to treat him. After about 30 minutes the saturation dropped to 15. Two hours later Alfie was dead.

Although some have [contradicted](#) the account, Frigerio insists the account is accurate. She also claims the ventilator, on which Alfie had been relying for many months, was abruptly removed, causing major stress to his body.

"Being that his lungs were used to being dilated mechanically, the doctors would have to 'wean him' so as not to provoke his immediate death," Frigerio wrote, "which, however, did not happen"

She reports that he immediately contracted "a lung infection" after the breathing tubes were removed, prompting his father Thomas to plead for antibiotics — denied by Alder Hey.

The account details the father's frantic attempts to get oxygen and water to his child, repeatedly denied by the hospital until Thomas pointed out that the end-of-life plan approved by the courts nowhere included an order to deprive Alfie of oxygen or nutrition. Alfie went without oxygen or water for nine hours before the hospital relented, and for a full 36 hours before being given milk — an exceptionally long time for a 23-month-old, whose bodily needs require food every 3–4 hours.



"Yes, Alfie was left without food for 36 hours, a very long time for such a small child, whose heart had already sustained a huge effort after the violent removal of ventilation without weaning," Frigerio wrote.

Bruno Dalla Dallapiccola, scientific director of the Vatican-run Bambino Gesù Hospital, which was working to get Alfie transferred to their care, commented at the time that "little Alfie will not be able to last long without the supply of nutritional substances through a drip. Without the nutritional intake, in fact, survival can vary from a few hours to a few days."

And Italian geneticist Angelo Selicorni remarked two days after Alfie's breathing tubes were removed, "Detached from the machines the child has [resisted] for hours with no intention of dying," which "raises some doubts about the 'terminality' of his state."

Other reports reveal Alfie's undiagnosed brain condition did not appear until after he was admitted to Alder Hey Hospital. David Catron [writes in *The American Spectator*](#) that the toddler's "initial diagnosis involved a fairly common condition: 'viral bronchiolitis and a possible prolonged febrile convulsion.' The still-undiagnosed brain disease that allegedly killed Alfie didn't appear until *after* he entered this dangerous hospital."

[Viral bronchiolitis](#) is a common ailment among babies and toddlers, and involves cold-like symptoms, including stuffy nose and congestion, coughing and a fever. With basic care most children recover quickly.

Frigerio also notes Alder Hey failed to change Alfie's breathing tubes frequently, leading to development of mold inside the tubes bringing oxygen to the child's lungs. She ends with a final lament:

This is what Alfie's martyrdom did, as well as converting many hearts: It forced us to unite against a monster, to look at the brutality of a eugenics system disguised as democracy. A system with unlimited power over the person and considered a civil religion by English politics and justice. A power that crushes so many other fragile lives and spreads a utilitarian mentality that one must begin to fight if one does not want to do the same end.

IT'S EUTHANASIA BY STEALTH, WHATEVER CDL. NICHOLS CALLS IT

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Refusing nutrition, hydration and ventilation to a small child is not an act of mercy

Neo-Marxist Rudi Dutschke's "long march through the institutions of power" has reached the Roman Catholic College of Cardinals.

[Cardinal Joseph Tobin](#) welcomes openly gay Catholics to Holy Mass in his cathedral. [Cardinal Walter Kasper](#) supports giving Holy Communion to couples living in adultery. [Cardinal Reinhard Marx](#) protests against the crucifix being displayed in government buildings and [endorses blessings](#) for same-sex couples. [Cardinal Jozef de Kesel](#) declares that gay sexual experience should be a possibility in the Church. [Cardinal Blase Cupich](#) promotes a "New Paradigm" for Catholic morality and argues that active gays can receive Holy Communion if their conscience permits.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols is the latest recruit to the ranks of the men in red. The Archbishop of Westminster believes that the nanny state can usurp the rights of parents. He insists that [suffocating](#) a terminally ill child by yanking it off the ventilator is "an act of mercy." He reveals that his interpretative framework for Catholic doctrine is "society's common good." He defends a children's hospital notorious for [harvesting organs](#) from dead babies and [failing to meet](#) four out of five safety standards.

Most lamentably, Cdl. Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, distorts Catholic teaching on palliative care in relation to the case of Alfie Evans. Nichols is right when he claims that "palliative care, which isn't a denial of help, can be an [act of mercy](#)." However, he is in serious danger of confusing palliative care with euthanasia by stealth.

The World Health Organization defines palliative care as "an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual."

The definition is unambiguously pro-life and in no way confuses palliative care with stealth euthanasia. Palliative care offers care when medicine cannot cure. Withdrawing life support and ventilation from Alfie Evans following a court order is emphatically not palliative care. It is, rather, a [flagrant violation](#) of magisterial teaching as laid down in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Even "an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a [murder](#)," states the Catechism. It warns that the "error of judgment into which one can fall in good faith does not change the nature of this murderous act, which must always be forbidden and excluded."

Cardinal Nichols is right when he cites Church teaching stating that "we do not have a moral obligation to continue a severe therapy when it's having no effect." The Catechism permits the discontinuation of "over-zealous" treatment that is "burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome." But it clarifies that the "ordinary care," such as food and water, owed to a sick person cannot be legitimately interrupted "even if death is imminent."

Alder Hey Children's Hospital refused oxygen and water to Alfie for the first nine hours after his ventilator was removed, and starved him of food for 36 hours, greatly worsening his condition. Refusing nutrition, hydration and ventilation to a small child is not an act of

mercy: It is a cruel and barbaric form of execution. Is Cdl. Nichols arguing that such an act, in effect euthanasia by stealth, is a form of palliative care?

The Catechism also specifies who is to make the decisions to discontinue treatment. If the patient is unable to make the decision, such decisions should be made by those who are "legally entitled to act for the patient" — in this case, Alfie's parents — and their "reasonable will and legitimate interests must always be respected." By what sleight of hand can Cdl. Nichols interpret this to

mean that "a court must decide what's best not for the parents, but for the child"?

The Catechism recognizes the significance of intention in bringing about a person's death. Even if done "indirectly," this violates the Fifth Commandment: "Thou shall not kill." By withdrawing food and water, the medical staff intended for him to die, even though they knew he wasn't going to live.

United States Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch in his book *The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia* raises the question of "why omissions of care cannot sometimes, at least where an intention to kill is present, also qualify as acts of murder." Hence, an *omission* of care undertaken with the intention of ending life crosses the fine line and may become a deliberate *act* intended to end life.

Three judges of the Second Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, striking down parts of New York's law against [assisted suicide](#), ruled:

The withdrawal of nutrition brings on death by starvation, the withdrawal of hydration brings on death by dehydration, and the withdrawal of ventilation brings on respiratory failure. By ordering the discontinuance of these artificial life-sustaining processes or refusing to accept them in the first place, a patient hastens his death by means that are not natural in any sense. It certainly cannot be said that the death that immediately ensues is the natural result of the progression of the disease.

The conclusion is clear. When doctors and courts decide to withdraw basic care such as food and water, it is hard to claim "human choice doesn't play *any* causal role in their deaths," Gorsuch contends.

The U.S. Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act provides guidelines for when treatment may be withheld, for example, when "the infant is chronically and irreversibly comatose" or when "the provision of such treatment would merely prolong dying" or would "be virtually futile in terms of the survival of the infant." Even in these circumstances, the physician is always required to provide nutrition and hydration, observes Gorsuch.

The cardinals wear red as a sign that they are willing to give themselves totally to the Church, even to the point of shedding their own blood for Her. With the neo-Marxist takeover of the Church, it seems that the cardinals' vestments are a sign of their loyalty to the new "Red Army."



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UK CARDINAL HITS BACK AT CRITICS OVER ALFIE EVANS

by [Alexander Slavsky](#) • ChurchMilitant.com • May 1, 2018 [45 Comments](#)

Cdl. Vincent Nichols: 'a court must decide what's best, not for the parents but for the child'

LONDON ([ChurchMilitant.com](#)) - A leading British prelate is justifying the death of Alfie Evans, citing Catholic teaching.

Following international outrage and disappointment from thousands of supporters, Cdl. Vincent Nichols of Westminster [slammed](#), in a visit to Poland on Sunday, those who "sought political capital" from the sick British toddler's death "without knowing the facts."

"It's important to remember Alder Hey Hospital cared for Alfie, not for two weeks or two months but for 18 months, consulting with the world's top specialists — so its doctors' position that no further medical help could be given was very important," Nichols insisted. "The Church says very clearly we do not have a moral obligation to continue a severe therapy when it's having no effect, while the Church's catechism also teaches that palliative care, which isn't a denial of help, can be an act of mercy."

But this palliative care offered to Alfie led to the removal of his basic care, including food and water. He suffered for hours without hydration and 36 hours without nutrition before receiving a little milk prior to his death.

Pope St. John Paul II taught that food and water ought to be provided even if it's artificially administered. "The sick person in a vegetative state, awaiting recovery or a natural end still has the right to basic health care (nutrition, hydration, cleanliness, warmth, etc.)," [affirmed](#) the late Holy Father.

And Abp. Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool — also highly criticized for his handling of Alfie's case — [offered condolences](#) to the parents while again praising the "staff at Alder Hey for their professional care of Alfie." His statement was issued on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

McMahon, who would not travel four miles to anoint the sick infant, undertook the effort to travel all the way to Rome Wednesday to complain about Fr. Gabriele Brusco, Alfie's chaplain, questioning his presence at the hospital. Brusco was [expelled](#) from Alder Hey following McMahon's Rome visit.

An internal [memo](#) from the archdiocese of Liverpool was leaked on April 16, in which an auxiliary bishop offered support "to doctors and staff" of Alder Hey even though the bishops had "not met with the parents who, it is understood, are not Roman Catholic."

But Tom Evans, Alfie's father, affirmed in a [letter](#) to McMahon on April 15 that he and Alfie were "baptized and confirmed, and I'm looking to you as my shepherd and to the Holy Father as the Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth."

The memo also said the hospital is acting "in the best interests of Alfie" and describes Alder Hey as "a center of excellence" while including statements from the hospital and Liverpool police concerning past peaceful protests outside the hospital.

Nichols told the Polish Church's news agency, KAI, Sunday that most of the doctors and nurses at Alder Hey were Catholics who were "deeply hurt" by the protests, and expressed satisfaction that Tom Evans and Kate James, Alfie's parents, reached "agreement and harmony" with the hospital.

He [continued](#):

It's very hard to act in a child's best interest when this isn't always as the parents would wish — and this is why a court must decide what's best not for the parents but for the child. Wisdom enables us to make decisions based on full information, and many people have taken a stand on Alfie's case in recent weeks who didn't have such information and didn't serve the good of this child.

But this is contrary to the support received internationally from [Pope Francis](#), who helped, alongside the Italian government, in securing medical air transportation from Alder Hey to Bambino Gesù hospital in Rome and granting the sick toddler Italian citizenship. Others expressing concern were [American](#) and [Brazilian bishops](#), Polish president [Andrzej Duda](#), Polish deputy prime minister [Beata Szydło](#) and [Antonio Tajani](#), president of the European Parliament.

The most senior Catholic cleric in England and Wales further justified Alfie's death, citing the difference in the socio-political climate in the United Kingdom as opposed to Poland, saying, "Our task here [in England] is to find ways of reaching out to society, so the Church's voice can be heard in a multi-faith setting, where many people do not adhere to any faith. When we discuss the Church's doctrine here, we must often construct a dialogue on arguments about society's common good."

Poland, on the other hand, has a "great yearning" to "propagate and reveal the Christian identity," affirmed Nichols.

