How would you characterise your views on the Bill in general?

In opposition

How would you characterise your views on the introduction of same sex marriage, so that same sex couples can marry each other?

In opposition

How would you characterise your views on putting belief celebrants on the same footing as religious celebrants?

In opposition

Religious celebrants are highly qualified specialists in this field, unlike many belief celebrants who have little or no professional qualifications. Moreover, religious celebrants undertake serious and professional pre-marriage preparation with couples, ensuring they are fully aware of the implications of marriage. This is markedly absent in marriages solemnised by belief celebrants. This lack of preparation is bound to effect a couple's understanding of the bond of marriage, rendering it a less permanent union. The deficiency of professional standards is already visible where funerals are conducted humanist celebrants. Pre and post care is lacking, as well as professional qualifications of celebrants dealing with emotionally charges human experiences.

How would you characterise your views on the arrangements for authorising celebrants to solemnise opposite sex and same sex marriage (including the opt-in procedures)?

In opposition

I am wholly in opposition to the theory and practice of same-sex marriage.

How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriages?

In opposition

The most important legal rights are already conferred upon same-sex couples who have entered a civil marriage, thus rendering the 'rights' argument for marriage meaningless.

How would you characterise your views on allowing civil marriage ceremonies to take place anywhere, other than religious premises, agreed between the couple and registrar?

In opposition
It will lessen the solemnity and formality of marriage if this were to happen, and thus lessen the actual bond of marriages conducted in these irregular locations, at least in the mind of spouses.

**How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?**

**In opposition**

Civil partnerships may be registered through belief registration. However, the main religions of Scotland have already stated strong opposition to the very principle of same-sex marriage. This looks like an attempt to 'mimic' marriage through some new 're

**How would you characterise your views on allowing transgender persons to stay married when obtaining a full Gender Recognition Certificate, which provides legal recognition in the acquired gender?**

**In opposition**

**Would you like to comment on the wider issue of protections for those in society who may have concerns about same sex marriage?**

It seems to me that the State is meddling in religious affairs. The main religious groups in Scotland vehemently oppose this Bill. Yet, included in this consultation are questions which undermine that consistent body of opposition. Right thinking people see that the legal rights which should be offered same-sex couples are already given in civil partnerships, and yet the Scottish Government is openly lobbying for this Bill through a rights-based framework. In truth, this Bill seeks to appease a small group within society who seek to achieve not more than social standing as a result of being included in marriage. This, to my mind, provides insufficient reasoning to amend the law in favour of a redefinition, particularly since is confers few new rights. The Government is needlessly incensing a huge group of society, and entire faith communities, which are normally politically and socially stable.

**Would you like to comment on the wider issue of freedom of speech?**

I am concerned that should this Bill go through parliament Catholic school teachers will be forced into endorsing same-sex marriage in the classroom, something which Catholic social teaching expressly forbids them from doing. I also fear that, in time, suits will be brought against religious ministers who either preach against homosexuality in general or who refuse to solemnise same-sex unions.

**Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?**

**Are you responding as...**

Michael John Kane
St. Augustine's Church
18 August 2013