

Church buoyed by 25,000 at pro-life rally

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Catholic leaders have praised the large turnout at the weekend Rally for Life, saying that it should give the Government and civic leaders reason to pause before any attempt to relax Irish abortion laws.

Archbishop Eamon Martin said there is a need to recognise the "huge gesture of solidarity by the people of Ireland with human life at all stages".

The primate of All Ireland told the Irish Independent that people want "to preserve the beauty and sanctity of human life, particularly the most vulnerable of human lives".

As many as 25,000 pro-life campaigners marched through the centre of Dublin on Saturday. At one stage, there was a face-off with a few hundred pro-choice supporters assembled on O'Connell Street but gardaí ensured that it didn't escalate beyond verbal abuse being hurled between the two camps.

In a homily ahead of the rally, Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin reminded over 1,000 people gathered in St Saviour's Church in Dorset Street that Pope Francis had characterised abortion as a product of the 'throwaway culture' and a mentality which "calls for the elimination of human beings, above all if they are physically or socially weaker".