



Some of the Committee in the Café at St Luke's

How to contact us:

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**FACEBOOK:** Join us on **Facebook** at:  
[www.facebook.com/  
Save St Lukes Cancer Hospital](http://www.facebook.com/SaveStLukesCancerHospital)

**TWITTER:** Follow us on **TWITTER**  
Username is @SaveStLukesHosp

**COMMITTEE:** Contact: **Joe Guilfoyle** Chairman  
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who will put you in touch with  
members local to you

The Committee is mainly composed of patients, past  
and present, and their families and come from all over  
Ireland, spanning Waterford to Donegal.

**This campaign is not affiliated to any political party.**

Donations to help ongoing campaign expenses are  
welcome.

Our Bank account is with the:

Ulster Bank  
Ranelagh  
Dublin 6

A/C No: 00236712  
Sortcode: 98-50-50

or send a donation to:

Joe Guilfoyle  
Roncalli  
Luke Wadding Street  
Waterford

Cheques payable to **SAVE ST LUKE'S HOSPITAL**



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# SAVE SAINT LUKE'S CANCER HOSPITAL CAMPAIGN



## Mission Statement

“ To retain the proven centre of cancer excellence  
that is St. Luke's Hospital, at the Rathgar site as  
a satellite of the new cancer units at St. James'  
and Beaumont Hospitals to complement their  
work, and to ensure that the needs of public  
cancer patients and their families throughout  
Ireland remain paramount. ”

“ To emphasise what makes St. Luke's special –  
the caring staff, holistic care, the peace and  
tranquillity of the unique environment, the  
feeling of spirituality and security – all of which  
contribute to the healing of cancer patients. ”

## Background

In 2003 the Hollywood Committee recommended that the government adopt the concept of cancer centres of excellence. Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, then commissioned six experts to advise her which hospitals should be chosen as the south and north side centres. St Luke's made a submission which was badly marked by the experts under all the headings which included quality of existing service and suitability of site.

Minister Harney accepted the experts' recommendation and announced in 2005 that St James' Hospital would be the southside centre of excellence with the consequence that down the line St Luke's would close.

This decision shocked St Luke's patients and their families as St Luke's, with its 50 year track record, was a proven centre of excellence. In 2006, St Luke's patient Joe Guilfoyle started a national campaign to save St Luke's which quickly gathered members all over Ireland.

As new cancer statistics predicted big increases in new cases, campaigners thought St Luke's would have to be maintained. However, in May 2010 Minister Harney introduced the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2010 into the Dail which included a section to abolish the Board of St Luke's and to hand over its land and assets to the HSE which would wind down St Luke's and close it in 2014.

Despite intensive lobbying, positive media coverage and the handing in of a petition to save St Luke's with 150,000 signatures, the Bill was passed by 4 votes in the Dail and Seanad, and signed into law on July 9th after the Minister used article 25.2.2 of the constitution to fast track the President's signature.



## Future Plans

The passing of the Bill does not mean the end of the battle. The real experts – the patients and their families - were not consulted in the initial decision and were then ignored by the Minister and government politicians in the Dail debate.

The committee is investigating why an independent report favourable to St Luke's and commissioned by the Board of St Luke's and the Friends of St Luke's and received early this year was never given to the Minister for Health or publicised in any way, especially at a time when the Minister was moving the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2010 through the Dail.

Supporters are being encouraged to make an appointment to meet their local FF or Green TD to discuss the issue. Government TDs know their seats are vulnerable whenever the general election comes. The Campaign can brief supporters before their meeting with TDs.

The Campaign is organising a motion supporting the retention of St Luke's Hospital for cancer services to be debated (and hopefully passed) by all city and county councils. Cavan county council and Tipperary county council have already passed such a motion.

The Campaign has asked for commitments from the opposition parties that they will save St Luke's Hospital. The party leaders' replies are in the Appendix of our Book **CANCER IN A COLD CLIMATE**.

## Book

Enid O'Dowd's book "**CANCER IN A COLD CLIMATE – the Shafting of St Luke's Hospital**" was launched by Senator David Norris on 2 November 2010. This book gives the background to the decision to close the Hospital and highlights the struggle to save it. The book exposes how St Luke's was "shafted" and the unaccountably low marks given by the 'experts' to the leafy 18 acre site in Rathgar. The book's message is clear – the decision to close St Luke's must be reversed. With *your* help St Luke's *can* still be saved.

The book can be bought online by logging onto [www.originalwriting.ie](http://www.originalwriting.ie) or by contacting **Enid** directly on **087 2319056**. **Dubray Books**, Swan Centre, Rathmines and **Easons** are also stocking it.

