

Dear Friends

Welcome to the August issue of *Life and Family Issues*, a collaboration between the [Queensland Bioethics Centre](#) and [JPPII Centre for Family and Life](#), agencies of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Articles are selected from information we receive and which we hope are of interest to you. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Queensland Bioethics Centre or the JPPII Centre.

Actor Robin Williams' death reignites questions about suicide

Tom Tracy: After 35 years of providing counseling and a Catholic outreach to families with a loved one who died by suicide, Father Charles Rubey has consulted on more than his share of the resulting funerals or wakes. (Catholic News Service)

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Whose baby is it?

Philippa Taylor: An Italian woman is shortly to give birth to twins from embryos that were implanted at a fertility clinic during IVF treatment, but, as a result of a mistake, she was implanted with *another couple's embryos*. The pregnant woman has - not surprisingly - said she will fight to keep the babies, despite a legal challenge to hand them over. (Mercatornet).

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Pope urges Ban Ki-moon to take action to end humanitarian tragedy in Iraq

Francis has written a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, voicing Christian and other religious minorities' desperation and cries for help. European bishops have sent an appeal to the Security Council. (Vatican Insider).

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The power of cuteness

Nicholas Tonti-Filippini: There has been extensive recent discussion of the circumstances of baby Gammy, suffering from Down's syndrome and heart problems, and apparently left behind with the birth mother in Thailand by the Australian commissioning couple, though they took his well sister home. Australians have responded generously with support for this photogenic little boy so that he can receive appropriate medical treatment. (Mercatornet)

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Spreading love too thin

Peter Holmes: Today I was chatting with a friend who has a largish family. When I say "largish", I mean five or more children. We don't have to go back very far in history to see that families of 10 or more children were much more common than today but, in the context of a modern Western society, where a single child and two large cats counts as "having your hands full", let us assume five is "largish". (The Catholic Leader)

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Pope Francis: families are called to stability and fruitfulness

In a message to the First Latin American Congress on the Pastoral Care of the Family, which is taking place in Panama from August 4-9, Pope Francis emphasized that the family is called to stability and fruitfulness. (Catholic Culture.org)

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Warsaw hospital head sacked for refusing to refer for abortion

Michael Cook: The director of a hospital in Warsaw has been dismissed because he refused to refer a woman for an abortion. The case has become a cause celebre in Poland, leading to protests from the Catholic clergy and internet petitions. (BioEdge)

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Date Claimers

Aria Angels

Music, art, hospitality and prayer! These 90 minute sessions are an excellent opportunity to develop the social, emotional, spiritual, physical and intellectual domains of children through music, art, hospitality and prayer. For children birth - 5 years with parents, grandparents, caregivers and friends. Cost: \$5.00 per family each week, see dates and locations below. **Please phone to enrol:**

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish: 9.30-11.00am Wednesdays during school term

121 Mains Road, Sunnybank. Contact: Parish Office: 3345 3766

St Matthew's Parish: 9.00-10.30am Thursdays during school term

180 Bryants Road, Loganholme. Contact: Parish Office: 38011 626

St Rita's Parish: 9.00-10.30am Wednesdays during school term

37 Benfer Road, Victoria Point. Contact: Parish Office: 3207 9177 or email

pa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

Mothers Prayers

Wednesdays at 9.00am and Thursdays 9.30am

Mothers, grandmothers and spiritual mothers are invited to Mothers Prayers at St Rita's Parish, 37 Benfer Road, Victoria Point. Contact: Parish Office 07 32079177 or email

pa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au

Pro Life Procession

Third Saturday of each month.

The Pro Life Procession incorporates prayer and action to end abortion. Prayer for the unborn, their parents and abortuary workers begins with mass at 6.30am at St Brigid's, 78 Musgrave Road, Red Hill, then gathering at Roma Street Parkland for procession. Further information:

www.prolifeprocession.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter:

A weekend away for married couples in peaceful, picturesque surroundings - away from the distractions of everyday living. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Weekend date: 31st Oct - 2nd Nov 2014

Venue: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston QLD (on Brisbane's bayside)

For bookings/details contact: Tamara and Scott Menteith, ph (07) 4634 3559,

stjmen@aapt.net.au Information website: www.wwme.org.au

Children First Program 2014

The Children First programme is an educative, peer support programme offered by Centacare Catholic Family and Relationship Services for children who are experiencing the separation or divorce of their parents. The programme is designed to assist children adjust to the change in their family situation, to understand that they are not alone in this experience, to clarify and manage their feelings in relation to the changes that have occurred, to strengthen their self-esteem and to gain a realistic picture of their new family situation. Through practical and sensitive activities, children are helped through this often painful transition with support, care and encouragement. The programme caters for young people aged between 5 - 13 years. Children are grouped in small, age appropriate groups where they work with an experienced facilitator.

The next Centacare FRS Children First programme is a school holiday programme and runs from Monday September 29th to Friday October 3rd 2014 from 10am- 12midday. For more information

please call Centacare FRS on 07 3252 4371 or email

cfrs.fvadmin@bne.centacare.net.au

Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Saturday 4th October 2014

Couples celebrating 50 years or more of marriage together with family and friends are invited to attend. Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre.

RSVP: Cathedral of St Stephen - cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au by Wednesday 1 October 2014.



The Queensland Bioethics Centre is now on Facebook! [Click here to visit our page](#), and remember to 'like' the page to keep updated on current news, articles and events to do with bioethics in Brisbane, Australia and around the world.

