

Life and Family Issues

Queensland Bioethics Centre and JPPII Centre for Family and Life

[Archdiocese of Brisbane](#)

3 February 2015

Dear Friends

Welcome to the February 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.

Communicating the family, for the sake of a better future

Carolyn Moynihan: Everybody, it seems, is arguing about the family: academics and lawyers, judges and politicians, gays and straights; even the bishops of the Catholic Church could not entirely agree on the subject last October when they met at the Vatican to prepare for the coming Synod on the Family in October this year. Debate rages, but who is communicating the living reality of family life at its best, so that we may see what is at stake in the various trends sweeping through society? Pope Francis is. In his message for World Communications Day - [Communicating the Family: A Privileged Place of Encounter With the Gift of Love](#) - he takes hold of the overworked and often platitudinous subject of communication and uses it to turn our gaze from the family as "a problem" to the family as a "rich human resource" for the individual and society. (Mercatornet)

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UK scientists call for debate on designer babies

Michael Cook: Novel techniques of editing the genome have inspired some British scientists to call for a public debate on designer babies. Dr Tony Perry, of the University of Bath, recently announced that his team had successfully edited mouse DNA at the moment of conception. Using "Crispr" technology, it will be possible to delete and insert DNA in human embryos. "There's much speculation here, but it's not completely fanciful, this is not HG Wells, you can imagine people doing this soon [in animals]," he told the BBC. "At that time the HFEA [the UK's fertility regulator] will need to be prepared because they're going to have to deal with this issue." (BioEdge)

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Physician assisted death versus palliative care

Xavier Symons : Arguments against physician assisted suicide and euthanasia often turn on a claim about the need to prioritize the development of adequate palliative care. A new article in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* provides a sophisticated critique of this archetypal argument. (BioEdge)

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When do we become autonomous?

Michael Cook: I am used to controversy, but sometimes you do get surprises. The hot button issues of bioethics - abortion, euthanasia, stem cell research, GMO foods - always generate passionate controversy. But I never imagined that chemotherapy for a 17-year-old girl would interest anyone. (Mercatornet)

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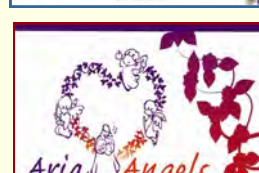
The mission creep of dignity

Mark Regnerus: When it comes to the "culture wars," the sparring sides often evaluate their words or phrases less for accuracy than for emotional punch. For that reason some words, like life or choice, stick. They resonate. Others feel clunky—true but unhelpful. Take conjugal, for example; it may be an accurate description of real marriage, but that dog won't hunt. (Mercatornet)

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All your kids wanted for Christmas was....Video

This is really cute. Ikea came out with this ad for the holidays, and what a result they got. It's heartwarming, but it also makes you think - I think it's a great one for parents to watch. (Family Edge) [You tube](#)



Walking with Love
alternatives and responses to abortion



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

MenAlive in the City

Thursday 26th February 5:45pm - 7:30pm

Francis Rush Centre, Elizabeth St Brisbane CBD. MenALIVE is a National Catholic Ministry to Men which was founded out of a response to a great need in the hearts and lives of men, and a great need in the life of the Catholic Church. For more information visit www.menalive.org.au

World Marriage Day Mass Sunday 8 February, 2015 - For Gold Coast and Tweed Parishes, St Benedict's, Wallaby Drive Mudgeeraba, 11am - all welcome. Contact: 07 55224880.

40 Days for Life

18 February to 29 March

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil to end abortion.

For more information: www.40daysforlife.com/brisbane/

Rally for Life 2015

Saturday 21 February at 2pm in the usual venue of Queen's Park, cnr Elizabeth & George Sts, Brisbane city. Please mark the date and come along with family and friends to support the protection of our pre-born baby Queenslanders.

For more information about the event go to: <http://www.rallyforlife.com.au/>

Parish Pastoral Council Development Day

Saturday 14th March 2015 9.00am—3.00pm with Archbishop Mark Coleridge

Email: cullenm@bne.catholic.net.au Phone: 3324 3443

SmartLoving Marriage Seminar

Brisbane 2015 - Saturday 14 March - Sunday 15 March

A two day seminar to enrich and empower married couples, to be held at 30 Eldorado Street Broken Ridge, QLD 4017. Contact Phone: 07 3349-5432

For more information go to:- <http://smartloving.org/marriage/>

Marriage Encounter Weekend Friday 15 May - Sunday 17 May

For more details contact Maria and David Murphy, email: dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au or Ph 07 3342 1456.

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.



This email is sent by the Queensland Bioethics Centre and JPPII Centre for Family and Life. You have been subscribed as [EMAIL]

If you have any queries please phone 07 3366 2111 or email bioethics@bne.catholic.net.au

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