

# Life and Family Issues

Queensland Bioethics Centre and JPPII Centre for Family and Life

[Archdiocese of Brisbane](#)

17 March 2015

Dear Friends

Welcome to the March 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.

## Whom Do You Follow?

Jeffrey J. Maciejewski: Christians today are surrounded by the trappings of commercial culture and the constant allure of digital living. These can sometimes be terribly distracting, causing us to give more attention to our cultural life than our spiritual life. Yet Jesus tells us: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" (Mt 6:25). (America)

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## 'Three-parent' IVF: cure or myth?

Caroline Simons: The British House of Lords is expected to approve regulations today to permit IVF techniques which may prevent the transmission of some mitochondrial diseases from mother to child. Every cell in children produced by these techniques will have DNA from three individuals - hence the "three-parent" description. These genetic changes will be inherited by future generations. (Mercatornet)

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## The bioethics of precision medicine

Xavier Symons: The idea of 'precision medicine' has become the subject of much discussion, following US President Barack Obama's 2015 State of the Union address. In his speech, President Obama promised to invest \$215 million in a ground-breaking 'precision medicine' initiative, with the short-term aim of running drug trials for targeted cancer treatments. (BioEdge)

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## Life sustaining treatment 1: withdrawal

Xavier Symons: Withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment is a common and more or less accepted procedure in end of life care. There is, however, significant disagreement about the underlying moral framework used to justify it. A recent article in the journal *Bioethics* attempts to address one key question involved - whether withdrawal of life sustaining treatment is an act of killing. (BioEdge)

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## Life sustaining treatment 2: A family perspective

Xavier Symons: We have examined the underlying philosophy behind withdrawal of care, but some would argue that one misses the existential realities of families grappling with the decision of whether to withdraw care. A new study published in the latest edition of the *Journal of Medical Ethics* tries to capture just this. (BioEdge)

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## Reappraising Just War theory

Peter Kirkwood: With the arrest last week of two young Muslim men in Sydney's south-western suburb of Fairfield, Australians were reminded yet again that terror threats and the global war on terror have very local manifestations. (Eureka Street)

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## Happier kids in eight steps

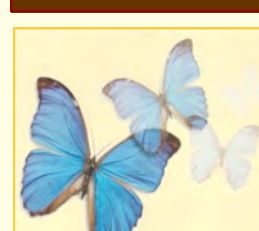
Tamara Rajakariar: So we hear a lot about raising smart kids and raising successful kids. But what's more important than that? Happy kids! Which is why I loved yesterday's article from *Time* which listed 10 science-backed ways to teach your kids happiness. Here are my favourites, and my take on them - (Family Edge)

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**Walking with Love**

alternatives and responses to abortion



A Post Abortion Healing Project

## 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](mailto:pa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

### 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/](http://www.40daysforlife.com/brisbane/)

### Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

**Friday April 10, 2015 - Saturday April 11, 2015**

Friday 6.30 pm to 8.45 pm. Saturday 9.00 am to 4.15 pm

Programme to be held at Centacare CFRS Fortitude Valley, 58 Morgan Street, Fortitude Valley, Qld.

Centacare Family and Relationship Service provides group courses in Pre-Marriage Education which are facilitated by trained relationship educators. The program provides couples with an opportunity to explore their relationship and plan for their future.

For information contact Ph: (07) 3252 4371 Email: [cfrs.fvadmin@bne.centacare.net.au](mailto:cfrs.fvadmin@bne.centacare.net.au)

[Pre-Marriage Education Dates](#) and [centacarebrisbane.net.au](http://centacarebrisbane.net.au)

### 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: 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015

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

For bookings/details contact: Maria and David Murphy, ph (07) 3342 1456,

[dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au) Information website: [www.wmme.org.au](http://www.wmme.org.au)

### Truth & Charity Formation in the Christian Faith

**2015 Series Two Acting Justly: Living the Mercy of Jesus**

**Topic 2: "Mercy and Life Issues" Tuesday 26 May 2015**

This talk to be presented by Dr Ray Campbell, Director Queensland Bioethics Centre/JPPII Centre for Family & Life. Presentation to be held at Francis Rush Centre, Elizabeth Street Brisbane at 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm. For enquiries about series lectures contact Email: [pblom@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pblom@bne.catholic.edu.au) or go to

[www.facebook.com/TruthCharity](http://www.facebook.com/TruthCharity)

### MenAlive in the City

**Thursday 28th May 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](http://www.menalive.org.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](mailto:pa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

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