

Dear Friends

Welcome to the June issue of *Life and Family Issues*, a collaboration between the *Queensland Bioethics Centre* and *JPPI 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 JPPI Centre.

Top Ten Takeaways from 'Laudato Si'

James Martin, S.J.: Pope Francis' revolutionary new encyclical calls for a "broad cultural revolution" to confront the environmental crisis. "Laudato Si" is also quite lengthy. Can it be summarized? In other words, what are the main messages, or "takeaways" of this encyclical? (America)

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Cool logic of mercy needed on hot button of euthanasia

Ray Campbell: Euthanasia is sometimes referred to as a "hot button" issue. This refers to the fact that it is an issue that arouses strong feelings and intense argument. (News Weekly)

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Parents transmit church teaching on marriage by example, pope says

Cindy Wooden: Children need to see their parents kiss each other, complement each other and resolve arguments peacefully, Pope Francis said. (CNS)

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Why Moms and Dads Both Matter in Marriage

Jenet Erickson: Mothers and fathers are not interchangeable—they both add distinct benefits to the development of children. Courts and legislatures can change legal definitions, but they cannot alter biology or psychology. (The Public Discourse)

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Is 'same-sex marriage' a square peg in a round hole?

Kevin Donnelly: The idea of marriage between a man and a woman has been weakened in the past 50 years, giving rise to many problems. (News Weekly)

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Are you ready for marriage?

Tamara Rajakariar: So you think you're ready for marriage? How do you know?

Like any commitment, it's something you choose, make the leap for, and stick to - plus, admittedly, learn the ropes as you go along. But if a readiness factor could be measured, I can think of a few pre-requisites that are non-negotiable in my books, inspired by a few articles (such as this one) that I've come across recently. (Mercatornet)

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Transgenderism: A Pathogenic Meme

Paul McHugh: The idea that one's sex is a feeling, not a fact, has permeated our culture and is leaving casualties in its wake. Gender dysphoria should be treated with psychotherapy, not surgery. (The Public Discourse)

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Not nature OR nurture but nature AND nurture

Michael Cook: One of the enduring questions of biology - whether our health is governed by nature or nurture - has been settled, say researchers from Australia and the Netherlands. (BioEdge)

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White House backs review of gene-editing technology

Michael Cook: The Obama Administration has backed calls for an in-depth ethical review of gene-editing technology. This move came swiftly after Chinese scientists announced that they had altered the genome of non-viable human embryos earlier in May. (BioEdge)

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Will Sweetening the Pill, the movie, change the world?

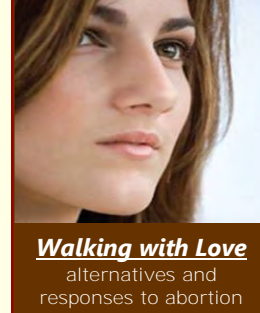
Gerard Migeon: When I think of a movie that changed the world, *Man of Marble* by Andrei Wajda comes to mind. I was about 15 when I saw it in the youth community theater of my small French town. This 1977 Polish film tells the story of a young female film maker who investigates the life of Birkut, a super-productive bricklayer of the 1950's. Once a hero hailed by the local government, Birkut mysteriously disappears along with any public records of his life, and the young woman is left facing a wall of resistance from the administration in her research efforts. (Mercatornet)

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Video: Preschool meets nursing homes

Tamara Rajakariar: Here's a bit of beautiful for your Wednesday: at a nursing home in Seattle, preschool children come on the weekdays to have their classes and spend time with the elderly patients. It's a similar idea to the Netherlands nursing home that offers rent-free accommodation to university students, provided they spend at least 30 hours a week being "good neighbours" to the elderly residents. (Mercatornet)

[Watch](#)



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

COSSAG Annual Art Exhibition - Friday 3 July to Monday 6 July The Cathedral of St Stephen Art Group (COSSAG) will present its free annual Art Exhibition at the Francis Rush Centre Elizabeth Street. *Let There Be Light* is this year's theme and you are warmly invited to enjoy 100 works that are original and affordable from emerging amateur and professional artists. PH 33433289. Daily 9 till 5 for your diary. Opening night Thursday 2 July at 6 pm. For more details go to [COSSAG](#)

Centacare CFRS Children First Program (5 Sessions over 5 days)

Monday 6 July to Friday 10 July

Children First is an educative peer support program for children aged five to 15 years who are adjusting to family life after the separation or divorce of their parents.

Venue: Centacare CFRS Fortitude Valley, 58 Morgan Street, Fortitude Valley. Time: 8.30 am.

Bookings: 3252 4371

Truth & Charity Formation in the Christian Faith 2015 Series 2

Acting Justly: Living the Mercy of Jesus, Lecture 4 Thursday 9 July, 2015 at 6.30 pm -9.00 pm

"Justice, Unity and the Hidden Christ" Presenter Dr Matthew Tan - Campion College, Sydney. Plus Book launch by Most Rev Archbishop Mark Coleridge Centre. Venue: Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street Brisbane. For enquiries about series lectures contact Email:

pblom@bne.catholic.edu.au or go to www.facebook.com/TruthCharity or [Download flyer](#)

Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

Friday 10 July - Saturday 11 July or Friday 24 July - Saturday 25 July

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

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

Spirit in the City Conference 2015 - Saturday 11 July 8:30am to 7:00pm

To be held at QUT Gardens Point, Brisbane is being organised by [QUT Chaplaincy](#) concerning the challenges of understanding and applying the Catholic and Christian faith in the highly secularized cultural, political and other influential settings of contemporary Australian society.

The conference will feature talks addressing the big questions on faith in modern, secular settings. and is targeted at all Catholics and Christians but especially younger Catholics. It aims to engage them in the cuttings edges of public debate related to medical advances and bioethics, and human rights, assisted reproduction, the Internet and pervasive technology, and others - all confounding the right ways for Catholics and Christians to understand, judge and act.

The conference will feature a sacred music concert at St Stephen's Cathedral, organised by Stephen Phillips, featuring Vigor Mass celebrated by His Grace and a BBQ.

For more details go to [Spirit in the City QUT](#) [Download the brochure](#)

Contact: Fr Bavin Clarke (07)3138 2700 or Deacon Russ Nelson 0427 743 534.

menALIVE MAX15 Friday 17 July - Sunday 19 July

menALIVE for Christ 11th Annual National Catholic Men's Weekend.

St Leo's Catholic College, University of Queensland Campus, St Lucia in Brisbane.

For more information see the [menALIVE MAX15](#)

[menALive in the City](#)

Thursday 30th July 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

Truth & Charity Formation in the Christian Faith 2015 Series 2

Acting Justly: Living the Mercy of Jesus, Lecture 5 Mercy in Creation

Tuesday 28 July from 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm

Presenter, Dr Ian Elmer—ACU, Brisbane. Venue: Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street Brisbane.

For enquiries about series lectures contact Email: pblom@bne.catholic.edu.au or go to

www.facebook.com/TruthCharity or [Download flyer](#)

Women of the Way Annual Retreat

Friday 28 August - Sunday 30 August 2015

Theme: Blessed by the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for battle, my fingers for war (Ps 144:1)

Presenters: Jan Heath & Katherine Ruonala

Venue: Watson Park, Old Gympie Rd Dakabin

Contact: Julie Smith (Mob 0402 316 288/Ph 07 3482 3250) or email wowqld@gmail.com

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Friday 4 September - Sunday 6 September 2015

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!

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

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

dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au and Information website: www.wwme.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

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.

