

Dear Friends

Welcome to the July 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.

Marriage and the Constitution: What the Court Said and Why It Got It Wrong

Ryan T. Anderson: The Supreme Court's ruling is a significant setback for all Americans who believe in the Constitution, the rule of law, democratic self-government, and marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Will the right of Americans to speak and act in accord with the truth of marriage be tolerated? (The Public Discourse)

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Euthanasia a dangerous, radical shift in society's foundational values - Aussie expert

Debra Vermeer: Euthanasia is not an incremental change to current end-of-life practises, but a radical and massive shift in our society's and civilisation's foundational values, says internationally renowned Australian ethicist, Margaret Somerville. (Cam.org.au)

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Giving correction to 10 falsehoods

Archbishop Mark Coleridge: Australian-born Margaret Somerville is Professor of Law at McGill University in Canada and a world-renowned ethicist. In Sydney recently she said "euthanasia is not an incremental change to current end-of-life practices but a radical and massive shift in our society's and civilisation's foundational values". Her words could be adapted to same-sex marriage, which is not "an incremental change" or natural evolution of the institution of marriage but "a radical and massive shift" in the values upon which marriage has been founded and which it has sought to embody. (The Catholic Leader)

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Better off dad: the biological changes of fatherhood

Ben Kaplan: With no kids, he has existed until now in his own orbit and paid little attention to the offspring of others. He notices a woman with a baby and the moment causes him some consternation – he feels very little for the child and worries that perhaps he lacks the empathy to be a dad. Are certain men, he wonders, hardwired to respond better to infants than others? (CERC)

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Courtship in the age of the pill

George Sim Johnston: There is much discussion these days about the crisis of marriage. Divorce rates are high, too many children live in single-parent homes, people often end up isolated and lonely in middle age. But there is little discussion about courtship. How does one enter marriage? How should a 25 year-old negotiate what is still quaintly called the dating scene? (The Catholic Thing)

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Marriage is forever

Tamara Rajakariar: I just read an article on the Huffington Post titled "Five Reasons My Divorce Was the Best Thing That Happened To Me," filled with the expected reasons of re-self-discovery and regaining self-respect. And while I empathise for the evident pain that comes with relationship breakdown, I'm even more frustrated by society's almost "drive-thru" attitude towards marriage. (Family Edge)

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Gender Identity

Christopher O. Tollefsen: Gender is a way of communicating truths or falsehoods about one's sex and its corresponding social and cultural roles. An age of gender confusion and rejection calls for reflection on important issues that, in an upright age, would hardly arise. The second in a two-part series. (The Public Discourse)

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The ART of deception - IVF success rates are not what you think

Loretta Houlahan: From "Joyful new mum Sonia Kruger" to the "back-to-front love story" of sperm donor romance, IVF patients across the country are being told their fairy tale ending is just an embryo transfer away. But for every artificially conceived bundle of joy to make the headlines, there are many everyday Australians who have not been so lucky. (The Conversation)

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The more you connect, the less you connect

Tamara Rajakariar: So we often talk about kids and young people are addicted to their smartphones. But what about you, parents? Have you ever stopped to think about your phone usage and how it could be affecting your children? (Family Edge)

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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

Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

Friday 7 August - Saturday 8 August or Friday 21 August - Saturday 22 August

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

COSSAG Public Lecture - Sasha Grishin

Thursday 13 August at 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Lecture to be held at Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, QLD (enter via Charlotte St). The Cathedral of St Stephen Art Group (COSSAG) continue to bring artists and the community together, all within the environs of the Cathedral precinct, through the presentation of a free public lecture by Professor Sasha Grishin on "The Spirituality of the Russian Icon". The Cathedral car park will be available from 5.30pm. Enquiries: cossag@bigpond.com.au

St John's Wood The Gap Multicultural Mass

Sunday 23 August 10:00 am

St Peter Chanel Church, 41 Chaprowe Road, The Gap, QLD. Mass followed by multicultural lunch,

for more information contact [St John's Wood Parish](#).

Truth & Charity Formation in the Christian Faith 2015 Series 2

Lecture 6 Mercy and Reconciliation Tuesday 25 August 7 pm - 9 pm

The sixth lecture of a seven part series - "Mercy and Reconciliation" panel discussion led by Natalie Lindner L'Huillier - Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College, Dublin.

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

Multicultural Mass Sunday 30 August 2.30 pm

Cathedral of St Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, QLD

Multicultural Mass at the Cathedral of St Stephen followed by food and cultural presentations on

Cathedral grounds. For more information contact the [Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care](#).

menALIVE Catholic Man Breakfast Series

Thursday 3 September 7.00 am

Breakfast at Tattersalls Club, 215 Queen Street, Brisbane. The menALIVE Catholic Man Breakfast is an opportunity for men to gather and be encouraged and inspired in their faith. The breakfasts feature dynamic speakers and an opportunity to discuss important issues with other men who are seeking to make a difference to their lives and in our world today. For more info [Catholic Man Breakfast Series](#)

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!

Watch our new video - YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5Hd12ZDxZXc>

Venue: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston 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.wvme.org.au

Ignite Conference

Thursday 24 September - Sunday 27 September 2015

Mueller Performing Arts Centre, 75 Morris Rd, Rothwell, QLD

Ignite is a dynamic & contemporary Catholic conference for young people. Every year it draws over

1000 adults, teenagers, children, youth ministers, teachers, priests and religious.

It's about gathering young people from across this corner of the world, connecting them with Jesus Christ and the Church, forming them for living the Christian life and empowering them to impact the Church and the world. [Ignite Conference](#)

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.

