

Dear Friends

Welcome to the September 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.

Brisbane parishes primed to welcome Syrian refugees

The minute former Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced Australia would accept extra refugees from Syria, Catholic bishops, priests, parishes and individuals started raising their hands to say "We'll help" (The Catholic Leader)
[Read on>>](#)

Australia to ponder sex selection

Michael Cook: Sex selection is on the agenda in Australia. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has called for public comment on new guidelines for IVF clinics. The most contentious change involves removing a ban on destroying embryos because they are not of the desired gender. (BioEdge)
[Read on>>](#)

New criteria for Australian heart transplants could be illegal

Xavier Symons: Two Australian researchers say a new form of heart transplantation is illegal under Australian law and that legislators should modify the definition of death to allow for the procedure. (BioEdge)
[Read on>>](#)

Raising children of character in a toxic culture

Thomas Lickona: In theory, the character education movement has always recognized what Principle 10 of the 11 Principles of Effective Character Education affirms: Parents are the first and most important character educators of their children. (Family Edge)
[Read on>>](#)

The risks of freezing

Xavier Symons: The treasurer of a peak international fertility body has warned women not to rely on egg freezing to have children. Dr Edgar Mocanu of the International Federation of Fertility Societies stated that current science does not support the supposition that egg freezing will allow women to circumvent infertility. (BioEdge)
[Read on>>](#)

Pope: Families Are the Answer for the Future

Kathleen Naab: Pope Francis left Cuba today after telling families that they are needed for the future, to save societies from people who haven't learned how to be human. (Zenit.org)
[Read on>>](#)

Serve, care for each other, pope tells families at closing Mass

Dennis Sadowski: Pope Francis urged the hundreds of thousands of people gathered for the closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families to serve and care for each other as freely as God loves the human family. (CNS)
[Read on>>](#)

Pope simplifies annulment process, asks that it be free of charge

Cindy Wooden: While a juridical process is necessary for making accurate judgments, the Catholic Church's marriage annulment process must be quicker, cheaper and much more of a pastoral ministry, Pope Francis said. (CNS Vatican City)
[Read on>>](#)

The eternal return of the embryo debate

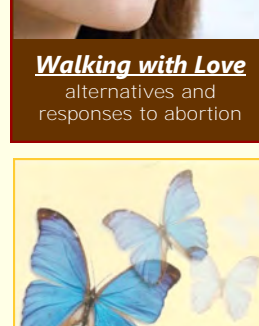
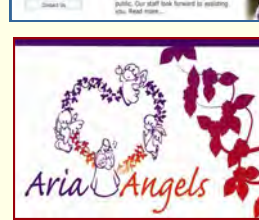
Xavier Symons: Leading UK gene-editing research funders have issued a position statement tacitly supporting research using human embryos. (Mercatornet)
[Read on>>](#)

On the having of the cake and the eating of it too

Dr Augusto Zimmermann: The recent ruling in *Obergefell v Hodges* (the same-sex marriage case) is undoubtedly one of the worst decisions the U.S. Supreme Court has made in all its history. It has no basis in principle or tradition. (News Weekly)
[Read on>>](#)

Devices in schools and at home means too much screen time for kids

Margaret Kristin Merga: It is likely that school-provided or self-provided device programs greatly increase students' screen time both at school and at home. This is problematic. At the same time, parents are urged to monitor their adolescents' screen use in line with Department of Health guidelines due to the potential health risks that can result from heavy usage. (The Conversation)
[Read on>>](#)



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

Truth & Charity Formation in the Christian Faith 2015 Series 2

Lecture 7 "Mercy: Part of God's Plan" Tuesday 29 September 7 pm - 9 pm

The final lecture of a seven part series - The presenter for this lecture is Dr Joel Hodge from ACU, Melbourne. 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](#)

Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Saturday October 3, 2015 10.00 am

Cathedral of St Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, QLD. Couples celebrating 50 years or more of marriage together with family and friends are invited to attend. RSVP cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au or 3324 3030.

Parish Workshops for Parish Clergy, Pastoral Council members, Lay Pastoral ministers & other Leadership group members

Wednesday 7 October - Burleigh Heads, Tuesday 13 October - Upper Mt Gravatt

Wednesday 21 October - Grovely and Tuesday 27 October - Caloundra

Evangelisation Brisbane is offering 4 gatherings in October 2015 at different parishes in the Archdiocese following on from the Pastoral Council Development Day held in March this year. There will be three workshops at each venue which will explore Strategies for Mission. A light supper will be provided at each venue. These gatherings are free of charge. For more information about PPC Workshops go to [Evangelisation Brisbane](#) or phone or email Mary-Anne Cullen on 3324 3443 Email: cullenm@bne.catholic.net.au

Cherish Life Annual Dinner - Thursday 8th October 2015

Guest Speaker: Hannah Boland is a wife, mother and comedian who utilizes her skills in performing and comedy to bring joy into people's lives. Hannah is also the author of the book *47 Hours with a Prince*.

Fairways Room Indooroopilly Golf Club, 293 Meiers Road, Indooroopilly Qld.

6:45pm arrival for complimentary drink sit down 7:15 pm.

Contact: [Cherish Life Queensland Head Office](#) or Email info@cherishlife.org.au or Ph 3871 2445

Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

Friday 9 October - Saturday 10 October or Friday 23 October - Saturday 24 October

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

menALIVE Men's Breakfast - The Fathers that matter

Saturday 10 October 2015 7.30 am to 9.00 am

Come and Journey with Robert Falzon (The Father Factor) as he provides the Road Map and Tools to discovering the Fatherhood that is our inheritance .

St Augustine Conference room, Augustine Heights Qld.

For more information go to [menALIVE](#)

Respect Life Sunday 11 October 2015

The Archdiocese observes "Respect Life Sunday" on this day. It is a day on which we are invited to remember the preciousness of all human life and to reflect upon what we can do to protect the lives of others. We invite you to focus upon the theme of reverence for human life and to pray that we might all "*rediscover the ability to revere and honour every person*" (Pope John Paul II).

Centacare CFRS Children First Program

Thursday 15 October 6.30 pm (Session 1) Thursday 22 October 6.30 pm (Session 2)

Thursday 29 October 6.30 pm (Session 3) Thursday 5 November 6.30 pm (Session 4)

Centacare CFRS Fortitude Valley, 58 Morgan Street, Fortitude Valley, QLD

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.

Bookings: 3252 4371.

Hands of the World Artisans Market

Saturday October 31 2015 - Monday November 2 2015 from 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

The Cathedral of St Stephen Art Group invites you to their annual artisans market featuring fair trade and eco friendly products in The Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth St, Brisbane. Preview opening from 3pm to 7pm on the 30th of October.

menALIVE in the City

Thursday 26 November

Held between 5.45pm and 7.30pm at Francis Rush Centre, (Beside the Cathedral of St Stephen). Mass available in the Cathedral at 5.10pm. 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.

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 3207 9177 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.

