

Dear Friends

Welcome to the October 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.

Curing the wounds of the family

Jose H. Gomez: As the Synod on the Family nears its end in Rome, one of the bishops participating, José H Gómez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, has contributed a commentary to the series Letters from the Synod, edited by Xavier Rynne II. In the following excerpt Archbishop Gomez argues that Catholics need to respond to what is a real crisis of the family with “positive ways to proclaim God as Creator and to show the beauty of his plan for the human person and the family.” (Family Edge)

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Should Bakers be Required to Bake Gay Wedding Cakes? Democracy and Religious Liberty in Australia

The Most Rev. Anthony Fisher, O.P., Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, delivered the Acton Lecture on Religion and Freedom at the Centre for Independent Studies, 14 October 2015. (ABC Religion and Ethics)

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HOPE calls for a national inquiry into Exit

The Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency, the Medical Board, moved today (26th Oct) to curtail the suicide advocacy of Dr Philip Nitschke in creating an unprecedented 25 restrictions upon his licence to practice medicine. (Hope Australia)

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Ordinary Things, with Extraordinary Love: Mental Health and Congregational Care

John Swinton: Amid the high-tech, neurological, genetic and pharmaceutical landscape, it is easy for religious communities to feel nervous and disempowered. What could we possibly have to offer that might bring healing in the midst of such prohibitively high-tech approaches to mental health care? (ABC Religion and Ethics)

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UN panel calls for moratorium on editing human genome

Michael Cook: Warning that rapid advances in genetics make “designer babies” an increasing possibility, a United Nations panel today called for a moratorium on “editing” the human genome, pending wider public debate lest changes in DNA be transmitted to future generations or foster eugenics. (BioEdge)

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Ultrasounds and Ultimate Moral Choices

By pointing out the ways in which prenatal ultrasound alters our fundamental familial relationships, philosopher Peter-Paul Verbeek makes us more aware of its moral effects. (The Public Discourse)

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Creating Lexie’s Village

Michael Cook: IVF for single women who never found Mr Right is becoming more popular, even if it is still regarded with some misgivings. A documentary on Australian Story profiles a former Facebook executive, 46-year-old Natalie Lovett, who decided on single motherhood and a designer baby after several failed relationships. (BioEdge)

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The burden of free speech

Zac Alstin: A transgender Australian Greens party candidate has complained to Tasmania’s anti-discrimination commissioner over a publication released by the Australian Catholic Bishop’s Conference opposing same-sex marriage. (Mercatornet)

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Researchers grow organ in petri dish

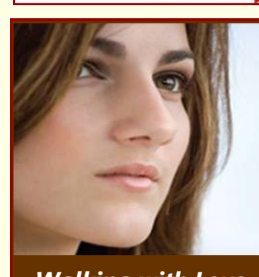
Xavier Symons: Australian Researchers have managed to grow a mini-kidney in a laboratory, opening the possibility for powerful non-human clinical drug and therapy trials. (BioEdge)

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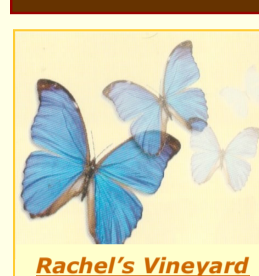
The fragile case for new brittle bone treatment

Philippa Taylor: Researchers are planning to use stem cells extracted from aborted fetuses to try to treat unborn babies with brittle bone disease, osteogenesis imperfecta (OI). (Mercatornet)

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Walking with Love
alternatives and responses to abortion



Rachel's Vineyard
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: 3801 1626

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

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.

Centacare CFRS Children First Program

Thursday 5 November 2015 6.30 pm (Session 4)

Thursday 12 November 2015 6.30 pm (Session 1)

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. Phone: (07) 3252 4371.

Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

Friday 13 November - Saturday 14 November 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 Phone: (07) 3252 4371 Email: cfrs.fvadmin@bne.centacare.net.au

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

Vocation Brisbane: Our Shout

Thursday 19 November 2015, from 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm

Port Office Hotel, 40 Edward Street, Brisbane.

Our Shout is a monthly networking initiative that seeks to create a space for young adults, university students, and young professionals to connect with each other in a relaxed setting.

For more information go to [Vocation Brisbane](#)

menALIVE in the City

International Men's Day Event Thursday 19 November 2015

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.

INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY Discussing domestic violence

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 contact Ph 07 33671402 or mail@menalive.org.au

Cathedral of St Stephen Advent Fair

Sunday 29 November 2015 8.00 am to 1.00 pm

St Stephen's Cathedral Choir's major fund raising event at 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane.

Come in the spirit of Advent, enjoy live festive music provided by the Choir and their families, and help support the growth and development of the Choir.

Praised Be You - The Francis Effect II Colloquium 2015

Thursday 3 December 8.30 am - 4.00 pm

The Francis Effect II “I urgently appeal...for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.” Laudato Si’ 14. Pope Francis

Catholic Mission invites you to be part of a dialogue on how to incorporate Pope Francis’ vision and challenge into our everyday life. This colloquium will assist participants to explore this vision, offering inspiration and practical ideas for caring for our Common Home - in our lives at work in our communities. Keynote address from Fr Denis Edwards; Venue: Mt Alvernia College, 82 Cremorne Road Kedron Qld 4031. For information and registration contact David McGovern, Diocesan Director Kedron: mcgovern@bne.catholic.net.au Phone: 07 3397 9265 and/or go to

[The Francis Effect II Colloquium 2015](#)

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.

