

Dear Friends

Welcome to the November 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.

If there is to be war it must be a just war

The scale of the coordinated terrorist attacks in Paris last weekend has generated a level of shock, grief and anger around the world that has not been seen since the destruction of the twin towers in New York. There is something uniquely horrifying and frightening about the deliberate and carefully planned infliction of suffering, terror and death on innocent people going about their daily lives. (The Tablet)

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To Dehumanise another is to Dehumanise oneself

Clare Condon: How can this cruelty, hatred and violence be stopped? How can human dignity be restored across the globe? What can each of us do to build societies of respect, tolerance, understanding and peace, asks Good Samaritan Sister Clare Condon. (The Good Oil)

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Families must forgive and not 'end the day in war,' pope says

Junno Arocho Esteves: The secret to healing wounds among family members is to "not end the day in war" and to forgive one another, Pope Francis said. (Catholic News Service)

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Witness to Love: Answer to a Synod's Prayer for Marriage Formation?

Peter Jesserer Smith: Louisiana, US. A new methodology in forming couples for marriage dovetails with synod fathers' call for a 'marriage catechumenate' with ongoing formation for couples. (National Catholic Register)

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Strong Families, Strong Society

Father John Flynn: That healthy family life plays a vital role in the well-being of society is well established. A recent study provides ample detail regarding the economic impact of families. (Zenit)

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Millennials being "priced out of parenthood"

Tamara El-Rahi: I just read an article in The Guardian about how millennials have become "priced out of parenthood." How, in the struggle to earn enough to pay off their tertiary education and buy a house, they have nothing left over with which to raise a child. It makes me wonder: what's our obsession with being SO financially secure? (Mercatornet)

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Best marriage research backs Church's teaching

Jonathan Abbamonte: From individuals, to families, to the general population at large, marriage is essential to society. A committed marriage provides the best arrangement for the wellbeing of both spouses and children. Marriage provides a more stable environment for personal growth and development than any other living arrangement. (NewsWeekly)

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Euthanasia isn't a substitute for palliative care at the end of life

Richard Chye: ...Advocates of euthanasia are concerned about Australians dying in unbearable pain. On this issue, I can relate to them. Absolutely, I am concerned too. I can also tell you that complex pain can be temporary and treated. Treated pain does not mean free of pain; it means that patients and families can still function and enjoy their limited time. Palliative care can help overcome it and, when it does, people come through the other side grateful for the days or weeks they have to patch up relationships with siblings, parents or friends, or to spend valuable minutes with their grandchildren. (Sydney Morning Herald)

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Voluntary Euthanasia: It Can Only be a Way Station to the Non-Voluntary

Bernadette Tobin: Recently Q&A devoted an entire program to the question of whether euthanasia should be legalized. Due to the composition of the panel, the discussion sometimes lacked precision. In my view, it is a good idea to begin by being precise about what it is that is illegal before we consider whether a change in the law would be, all things considered, desirable. So, what is it that is currently illegal and which some people want to be legalized? (ABC Religion and Ethics)

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A new identity will not make you happy

Zac Alstin: Earlier this month a North Carolina woman made the news by revealing she had intentionally put drain cleaner in her eyes to fulfil her lifelong dream of being blind: "I really feel this is the way I was supposed to be born, that I should have been blind from birth" A more in-depth Snopes report brought to light an online discussion group of people who "wannabe blind", where the woman in question seemingly found support and encouragement in her efforts. (Mercatornet)

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Porn is harmless? Think again

L. David Perry: Pornography may be defined as "the depiction of erotic behavior (sexual display in pictures or writing) that is intended to cause sexual excitement" in the viewer. (1) Over the past decade there has been a large increase in the pornographic material that is available to both adults and children. (Mercatornet)

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This little piggy went to market

Michael Cook: The invention of a powerful gene-editing technique called CRISPR is a game-changer for genetic engineering. It makes removing or inserting DNA sequences quick, easy and inexpensive. The key paper outlining how it works was published only a couple of years ago, in 2012, but already scientists are exploiting its therapeutic and commercial potential, from modifying yeast cells to human embryos. (Mercatornet)

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Not with a bang but a whimper

Michael Cook: It's time for scientists and bioethicists to establish a Embryonic Stem Cell Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It all seems so long ago now. But from 2002 to 2008 they barnstormed, fibbed, exaggerated, hyped, and caricatured to get government funding so that they could play God with human embryos. It was a brutal battle in which truth came second. "People need a fairy tale," said Ronald D.G. McKay, a leading stem cell scientist, in 2004. (Mercatornet)

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It's not about battery life it's about real life [YouTube](#)

Sometimes you need to disconnect to make a connection. (Deseret News)

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

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 Email: mcgovern@bne.catholic.net.au Phone: 07 3397 9265 and/or go to

[The Francis Effect II Colloquium 2015](#)

Jubilee Year of Mercy

On December 8 (2015) I will open the Holy Door which will thereby become a Door of Mercy. Anyone who passes through this door will experience God's mercy. (Pope Francis: The Face of Mercy The Papal Bull announcing the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy) I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its centre the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (cf. Lk 6:36). And this especially applies to confessors! So much mercy!

The Jubilee of Mercy will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on 8 December 2015 (the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council) and concludes when he closes that same door on 20 November 2016.

On Sunday 13 December, the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Catholic parishes around the globe will open a Jubilee Door of Mercy. Archbishop Coleridge will open the Jubilee Door of Mercy for the Archdiocese of Brisbane at the Cathedral of St Stephen. The event will commence at 9.45am on the southern side of the Cathedral followed by the Solemn Mass in the Cathedral @ 10.00am.

Christmas Dance for Cherish Life

Saturday 12 December 2015 6.00 pm

Come along and enjoy some great family fun at a **Christmas Dance** and be entertained by the fantastic 11-piece band 'The Soul Men' (all proceeds go to Cherish Life). Dinner is included in the ticket price. All proceeds go to Cherish Life Queensland.

Must pre-pay - no ability to purchase tickets on the night: [Buy Tickets Here](#) PLEASE NOTE: Early Bird ticket prices end 30th November.

Winter Wonderland is the theme, blue, silver and white and the venue is at Mary Immaculate Hall, 616 Ipswich Road, Annerley, Qld.

Cathedral of St Stephen Advent Fair

Sunday 13 December 2015 9.00 am - 2.00 pm

Cathedral of St Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane.

The St Stephen's Cathedral Choir is holding their annual fundraising event on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, coinciding with the Jubilee Year's Opening of the Door of Mercy which is at 9.45 am. There will be stalls of multicultural cuisine, fresh homemade Christmas Cakes, sweets, savouries and handmade crafts. The Parish Council is providing FREE Tea and Coffee throughout the event. Pancakes for breakfast and a good Aussie Sausage Sizzle will be available in the duration of the Fair. Come in the spirit of Advent and enjoy festive music.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 16 December 2015 7.00 pm - 9.15 pm

St. Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane is pleased to announce A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, the traditional carol service containing your favourite carols to sing as well as Advent and Christmas music.

The event will be led the choirs of the Cathedral - the Cathedral Choir, the Schola, and the Chorale. The Conductor is James Goldrick and the organist is Andrej Kouznetsov.

Join the choirs in the singing of such traditional favourites and listen to some attractive and stunning music by the choir. Bring your friends. Admission is free.

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. The purpose of menAlive is to bring men together, to renew their faith in God and to encourage them become an active force of renewal in the Church.

For more information go to [menALIVE](#) Ph: 07 3367 1402 Email: mail@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 3207 9177 or email

pa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au



Wishing you the Lord's blessings for the Christmas season from Queensland Bioethics Centre and John Paul II Centre for Family and Life



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.

