

Dear Friends

Welcome to the January 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.

Freezing your eggs isn't taking control

Tamara El-Rahi: I just read a recent Huffington Post article titled "I Took Control Of My Biological Clock At Age 30" - and let's just say that the title alone told me that I was going to take issue with the line of thought. (Mercatornet)

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A Catholic dilemma: Should IVF embryos be adopted?

Michael O'Loughlin: As more Americans than ever before turn to in vitro fertilization to create families, a surprising ethical question - what to do with thousands of embryos stuck in a sort of frozen limbo - is dividing US Catholics who call themselves pro-life, with some calling for the embryos to be adopted, while others say: Not so fast. (The Crux)

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Judge's ruling frozen embryos must be destroyed called 'tragic case'

Liz O'Connor: A California state judge's ruling that a now-divorced couple's five frozen embryos must be destroyed is an example of doing something that technology allows without considering all its aspects, according to medical ethicists. (Catholic News Service)

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News in Context: Therapeutics or Eugenics? Next Steps for Human Gene Editing

A landmark international meeting took place in Washington on December 1 - 3 in which scientists, ethicists, policymakers, and others discussed the promises and risks of using powerful new tools to edit human genes. While these tools, particularly CRISPR-Cas9, raise hopes of curing genetic diseases, they also pose ethical concerns, including the prospect of eugenics. The International Summit on Human Gene Editing reached three conclusions on how use of gene editing should proceed for now. (The Hastings Center)

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Designing our descendants

Margaret Sommerville: Assisted human reproduction technology is growing ever more controversial. "Editing" the human germline - the genes passed on from generation to generation that have evolved naturally over millions of years to create each unique one of us - has gone from science fiction to science fact. We can now design our descendants. (Mercatornet)

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Take an online DNA test and you could be revealing far more than you realise

Andelka Phillips: Getting your DNA sequenced is now so cheap and easy that you don't need to see a medical professional. A variety of online companies are offering direct-to-consumer (DTC) genetic tests for health or recreational purposes. These tests claim to detect a wide range of characteristics, from the risk of diseases such as breast cancer or Alzheimer's or other conditions such as baldness, to specific talents or even romantic compatibility. But when you purchase one of these tests there's a good chance you don't know everything you've agreed to. (The Conversation)

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Create in Me a Clean Heart - Free From Pornography

Caitlin Bootsma: In their recent Fall meeting, the U.S. Bishops brought renewed attention to a wound many individuals and families are facing: pornography. In their letter, *Create in Me a Clean Heart*, the bishops call for greater pastoral care regarding this issue, on a local and national level. (Zenit)

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Behind Australia's safe schools campaign

Michael Cook: How will same-sex marriage affect your marriage? Probably not at all. But that's the wrong question. Ask: how will it affect your kids? (Mercatornet)

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Global ethics challenges for 2016

Michael Cook: Migration, same-sex marriage, euthanasia and conscientious objection will all be in the headlines. (Mercatornet)

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A Tragic Case of Modern Bioethics: Denying Life-Sustaining Treatment to a Patient Who Wanted to Live

Philip Hawley Jr: In deciding to withdraw life-sustaining treatment from an alert and cognizant patient who was pleading for his life, a Texas hospital's ethics committee stole from him the two most fundamental rights enumerated in our Constitution: life and liberty. (The Public Discourse)

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The Rights of Refugees

David Hollenbach: Migration has been occurring throughout human history, since early humans left eastern Africa for Arabia and the rest of the world about 60,000 years ago. People have always been seeking to improve their lives or to escape war, oppression, famine and other threats to their well-being by moving. In recent decades, however, migration has been dramatically increasing. In 2013, the number of international migrants worldwide reached 232 million, up from 154 million in 1990 and from 76 million in 1960. (America)

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ANALYSIS: Death Penalty Under Pressure

John Flynn: The recent execution of 47 prisoners in Saudi Arabia brought the death penalty once more to public attention. According to reports only four of those executed were guilty of crimes in the most severe category.... "The death penalty is supposed to be reserved for the worst of the worst crimes and the worst of the worst offenders. However, ... two-thirds of the 28 people executed in 2015 exhibited symptoms of severe mental illness, intellectual disability, the debilitating effects of extreme trauma and abuse, or some combination of the three," the report said. (Zenit)

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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

Year of Mercy Pilgrim Days at Santa Teresa in 2016

You are invited to come and spend a day as a pilgrim at the beautiful Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston. All members of the Archdiocese are welcome as an individual pilgrim or as a pilgrim group, bookings are essential. For more information see flyer [Pilgrim Days at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre](#)



Beats by the Beach

Saturday 6 February 2016 11.00 am - 3.00pm

Beats by the Beach is an annual event coordinated by the Veniré Youth Leaders. This social day is filled with live music, games, BBQ, expo lane and stalls!

For more information go to website [Venire Youth](#) and Facebook [Beats by the Beach](#)

Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

Friday 29 January - Saturday 30 January 2016

Friday 5 February - Saturday 6 February 2016

Friday 12 February - Saturday 13 February 2016

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

40 Days for Life

10 February to 20 March 2016

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil to end abortion. For more information [40 days for Life Brisbane](#)

menALIVE Men's Breakfast

Saturday 20 February 2016 at The Gap

For more information go to [menALIVE](#) Ph: 07 3367 1402 Email: mail@menalive.org.au

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.

Ignite Live

Sunday 21 February 2016 5.00 pm - 9.00 pm

The Hanrahan Theatre Villanova College 24 Sixth Avenue Coorparoo Qld

Ignite Youth event consists of Ignite Live Mass, Festival - Dinner & Drinks on sale, Praise & Worship, Reconciliation and Prayer Teams and Fellowship.

[For more information](#)

Parish Leadership Development Day focussing on 'Jubilee of Mercy'

Saturday 27 February 2016

For Members of Parish/Deanery Pastoral Councils, Clergy, Lay Pastoral Ministers and anyone in a leadership role in the parish

The leadership day is to be held at Dominic Centre, 100 Mayfield Street, Carina

Hosted by Evangelisation Brisbane—Archdiocese of Brisbane, for more information contact Mary-Anne Cullen Email: mailto:ebadmin@bne.catholic.net.au Ph: 3324 3443.

March for Life Brisbane

Saturday 5 March 2016

The Rally for Life has now grown into the "March for Life Brisbane" and will take place in the afternoon from King George Square to Speakers' Corner outside old Parliament House. If you are able to be a marshal (to help keep everyone in an orderly and moving group) as we process through the streets, please contact Cherish Life Queensland on Phone: 07 3871 2445 or Email: info@cherishlife.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

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.

