

Dear Friends

Welcome to the February 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.

## IVF audit in Australia

Xavier Symons: An Australian consumer watchdog is conducting a wide-ranging investigation into the country's 34 IVF clinics. Several complaints have been made to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) about the lack of transparency of IVF success rates, and the practice of making vague statements about a clinic's own success rates. (BioEdge)

[Read on>>](#)

## Bioethics centre says Britain moving toward genetically modified babies

Simon Caldwell: The Anscombe Bioethics Centre denounced "yet more destructive experimentation on human embryos" (Catholic Herald)

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## Will gene editing help infertile couples?

Peter Saunders: Claims that it will lack any evidence base. A scientist made her case last week to be the first in the UK to be allowed to genetically modify human embryos. (Mercatornet)

[Read on>>](#)

## London sperm bank allegedly promoting eugenics

Michael Cook: The largest sperm bank in the UK is being investigated by the national fertility regulator for promoting eugenic practices. Following complaints about the London Sperm Bank, the Human Fertility and Embryology Authority has asked why donors with a long list of medical conditions are being excluded. (BioEdge)

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## We need to talk about egg freezing

Eva Wiseman: ... The first "ice baby" from an egg frozen through vitrification was born in December 2010. In 2012 the label of "experimental" was removed, but with a disclaimer: "There are not yet sufficient data to recommend [egg freezing] for the sole purpose of circumventing reproductive ageing in healthy women," said the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, "because there are no data to support the safety, efficacy, ethics, emotional risks and cost-effectiveness of oocyte cryopreservation for this indication." It was the equivalent of them raising their eyebrows as you reach for a tree branch, and saying: "But don't come running to me..." They knew you were going to climb anyway. (The Guardian)

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## The Most Important Question About Abortion

Dennis Prager: Let's talk about one of the most emotionally charged subjects there is – abortion – but in an unemotional way. Also, let's not touch on the question that most preoccupies discussion of the subject – whether abortion should be legal or illegal. The only question here is the moral one: Is ending the life of a human fetus – moral? (Catholic Education Resource Center)

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## Transgenderism has no basis in science or law

Margaret A. Hagen: In a domain in which the proposed "therapies" are so drastic, it is not too much to ask for a solid, evidence-based statement of who is being treated, for what, and why, before writing a prescription or passing a law. (The Public Discourse)

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## If You Want Life Insurance, Think Twice Before Getting A Genetic Test

Christina Farr, Fast Company): As genetic testing explodes, health insurers are banned from denying coverage based on results. The same doesn't apply for life insurance. (Center for Genetics and Society)

[Read on>>](#)

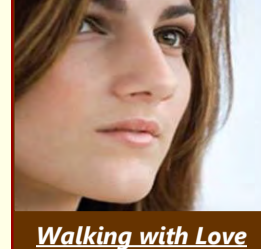
## A Monkey Circles in a Cage

Elliot Hosman: Monkeys with Autism? "...first ever nonhuman primates to show autism-like symptoms in the lab." (Biopolitical Times)

[Read on>>](#)

## Who would you most like to have dinner with?

A video from MasterFoodsAustralia [YouTube](#)



**Walking with Love**  
alternatives and responses to abortion



## 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](mailto:pa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.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](#)

### 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](#)



### Centacare CFRS FOCCUS Individuals Couples Programme

**Thursday 3 March, Thursday 10 March and Thursday 17 March 2016 or**

**Tuesday 8 March, Tuesday 15 March and Tuesday 22 March 2016**

5.15 pm - 7.30 pm Three sessions over consecutive weeks. 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. These sessions can start from either 5.15pm or 6.30pm depending on availability. Please phone Centacare CFRS on (07) 3252 4371 for bookings.

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](mailto:cfrs.fvadmin@bne.centacare.net.au)

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

### Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

**Friday 4 March - Saturday 5 March 2016**

**Friday 6.30 pm to 8.45 pm. Saturday 9.00 am to 4.15 pm**

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](mailto:cfrs.fvadmin@bne.centacare.net.au)

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

### 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](mailto:info@cherishlife.org.au)

### menALIVE Men's Half Day Retreat

**7.00 am to 1.00 pm Saturday 12 March 2016**

Our Lady of the Southern Cross Catholic Parish, Augustine Conference Room, St Augustine's Drive, Augustine Heights 4300. Cost \$15.00 includes brunch. [For more information](#) on this event. 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](http://menALIVE) Ph: 07 3367 1402 Email: [mail@menalive.org.au](mailto:mail@menalive.org.au)

### Chrism Mass

**Wednesday 16 March 2016 at 7.00 pm**

Cathedral of St Stephen, 249 Elizabeth St, Brisbane.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge invites you to the annual Chrism Mass. A celebration for the entire Archdiocese, all welcome.

### World Youth Day Pilgrimage Formation

**Wednesday 16 March 2016 7.30 pm-9.00 pm**

La Valla Centre 58 Fernberg Road Rosalie. A formation session for any pilgrims travelling to WYD. Contact [wvd2016@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:wvd2016@bne.catholic.net.au) for more information.

### Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

**Friday 18 March - Saturday 19 March 2016**

Friday 6.30 pm to 8.45 pm. Saturday 9.00 am to 4.15 pm

Aspinall Centre 4 Klumpp Road Upper Mt Gravatt, 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](mailto:cfrs.fvadmin@bne.centacare.net.au)

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

### Ignite Live

**Sunday 20 March 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](#)

### Theology in the City Lecture Series 2016

**Theme: "Transforming Power: The Church in Culture"**

Topic Two - *Esslesia ad extra*: The mission of the Church to the culture at large post Vatican II Tuesday 26 April. Rev Dr Anthony Gooley - Lecturer in Theology, Broken Bay Institute, NSW. Lecture to be held in Hanley Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth St Brisbane 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm for more info go to facebook page [Theology in the City](#)

### 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](mailto: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.*

