

Dear Friends

Welcome to the March 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.

Legitimate denial of choice at end of life (Part I of two)

Paul Russell: It is a common that immediately a suggestion is raised that someone is being "denied" something, we will feel a mild sense of outrage growing inside us. "How dare they!" (News Weekly)

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Legitimate denial of choice at end of life (Part II of two)

Paul Russell: We set dangerous precedents when we allow one person to discriminate against another on the basis of a perception of the relative value of a life. None of us needs to look too far back in history and even in our current world to find the effects of such discrimination writ large. (News Weekly)

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Gender ideology harms children

Michelle A. Cretella, Quentin Van Meter and Paul McHugh: Conditioning children into impersonating the opposite sex is child abuse. Now that homosexuality is being treated as socially acceptable and psychologically normal, especially after the decision of the US Supreme Court in Obergefell v Hodges, the next front in the war on real marriage is transgender issues. The American College of Pediatricians has just issued a concise, common-sense summary of the dangers of allowing children and teenagers to change their gender. (Mercatornet)

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Creative accounting and Australia's same-sex marriage plebiscite

Michael Cook: With Australia the only major English-speaking country which has not legalized same-sex marriage, supporters are clamoring for change. (Mercatornet)

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Growing Up in Pornland: Girls Have Had It with Porn Conditioned Boys

Melinda Tankard-Reist: "[I want] better education regarding sex for both boys and girls [and] information about pornography, and the way it influences harmful sexual practices."

These are the words of Lucy, aged 15, one of 600 young Australian women and girls who took part in a just-released survey commissioned by Plan Australia and Our Watch. The survey, conducted by Ipsos, gathered responses from the girls and young women aged 15-19 in all states and territories. (ABC Religion and Ethics)

[Read on>>](#)

British Govt Encouraging Women to Give Birth to Disabled Babies to Harvest Their Organs

Micaiah Bilger: British government officials are considering a new program to encourage women to consider giving birth to babies diagnosed with fatal illnesses, rather than have an abortion, so that the babies' organs can be harvested after they die. (LifeNews)

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The perils of human gene editing for reproduction

Marcy Darnovsky: A new generation of genetic engineering techniques, collectively known as "gene editing," is being hailed as a game-changer in the life sciences. The highest-profile of the new methods, CRISPR, was developed just a few years ago and has already attracted hundreds of millions of dollars in biotech investments, sparked a round of patent wars and prompted predictions about a Nobel Prize. (Washington Examiner)

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When did we confuse freedom of speech with the freedom to be rude?

Joan Chittister: I've written or spoken a good many times about the incivility that unmonitored social media sites have generated in this country. Someplace along the line we have managed to confuse freedom of speech with the freedom to be rude, crude, mean, hurtful or brutal — anonymously. Secretly. Behind some silly moniker like "Darth Vader 2." Or worse. (National Catholic Reporter)

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Opposing euthanasia does not mean supporting medical intervention at all costs

Fr Alexander Lucie-Smith: It is perfectly legitimate for doctors and nurses to let nature take its course, and let people die in peace. (Catholic Herald)

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Canada is making suicide a public service. Have we lost our way as a society?

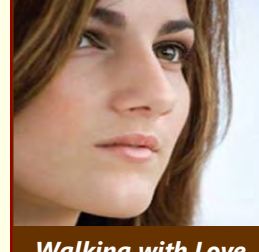
Andrew Coyne: When the Supreme Court, overturning Section 241(b) of the Criminal Code, several votes of the House of Commons and its own previous ruling, legalized assisted suicide last year, it did so on a particular understanding of to whom and under what circumstances the new regime would apply. (National Post)

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Natural Love Stories: The Film

Tamara El-Rahi: Wondering if hormonal contraceptives are having negative side-effects? Trying to conceive or avoid a pregnancy? (Mercatornet)

[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

The Catholic Man Breakfast Series

Thursday 14 April 2016 7.00am - 9.00 am

This event will be hosted by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane. Hear guest speaker Denis Wagner tell his story, Being Concretely Catholic.

The Catholic Man Breakfast Series is an opportunity for men to gather and be encouraged and inspired in their faith. Email for [RSVP by 11 April](#) or [more info](#) or go to [MenALIVE website](#)

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.

Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

Friday 15 April - Saturday 16 April or Friday 29 April - Saturday 30 April 2016

Friday 6.30 pm to 8.45 pm and 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

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

SMARTLoving Marriage

Saturday 16 April 9.00 am to 9.00 pm - Sunday 17 April 2016 9.00 am - 4.00 pm

You want your marriage to be the best! If you long for deep, passionate and meaningful intimacy with your spouse, this seminar is for you!

Bruce & Louise Collins have been married for over 25 years and have two adult sons. They have been a part of the SMARTLoving team in Queensland for seven years and have helped numerous couples rediscover the joy of being in love. They are joined on the team by Marg and Tim Clarke, Patrick & Kath Gilmore and Andrew & Liz Buchanan. The course be held at 30 Eldorado St, Bracken Ridge Qld, for more information and registration go to [SMARTLoving website](#)

Ignite Live

Sunday 17 April 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](#)

Centacare CFRS FOCCUS Individuals Couples Programme

Tuesday 19 April, Tuesday 26 April and Tuesday 3 May 2016 or

Thursday 21 April, Thursday 28 April and Thursday 5 May 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.

Chocolate Letters High Tea, Hosted by Cherish Life Queensland

Tuesday 19 April 2016 10-15 am to 12.15 pm

Come along to enjoy this wonderful morning with our three letter writers/readers, Joann Giraud, Dr Belinda Goodwin and Angela Harris. A delicious high tea will be served - including delicious chocolates - at this light-hearted event at the very relaxing Bundaleer Rainforest Gardens, Brookfield Qld.

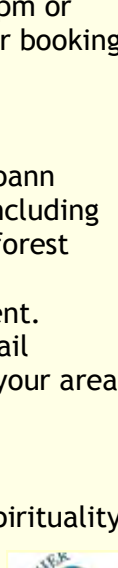
LIMITED SEATING - only 50 tickets available. Book and pay now to avoid disappointment.

If you would like to come but may not have transport, contact us - ph 3871 2445, email info@cherishlife.org.au - and we may be able to put you in contact with someone in your area who is also attending.

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](#)



Year of Mercy Parish Seminar 'Mission and Mercy'

Saturday 30 April 2016 9.00 am - 1.00pm

Seminar with noted Missiologist Fr Stephen Bevans SVD

Aspinall Centre - St Bernard's Parish Hall, 4 Klumpp Rd Upper Mt. Gravatt.

No cost, morning tea provided. RSVP: mailto:ebadmin@bne.catholic.net.au by Tuesday 26 April. Hosted by Evangelisation Brisbane.

Theology in the City Lecture Series 2016

Theme: "Transforming Power: The Church in Culture" - Tuesday 26 April

Rev Dr - Esslesia ad extra: The mission of the Church to the culture at large post Vatican II . 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](#)

Ignite Launch

Saturday 30 April 2016 all day event

Movie World, Pacific Motorway, Oxenford, Queensland.

Ignite Launch is a whole day riding the roller coasters at Movie World, followed with a massive dance party and live concert - right in the middle of the theme park, after it closes! Ignite Launch is all about getting your best mates together, making a stack of new friends and having a day you won't forget about anytime soon. This is a drug and alcohol free event for high schoolers to 20-somethings!

For more details head to www.igniteyouth.com/launch

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.

