

Dear Friends

Welcome to the April 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.

Pope Francis on marriage and family life

The Vatican has released Pope Francis' document *Amoris Laetitia*, "*The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family*".

Archbishop Mark Coleridge was one of two Australian-based bishops to attend the Synod on the Family in Rome last October.

Archbishop Coleridge provides a brief summary of the document in the attached video. (Archdiocese of Brisbane)

[Read on>>](#)

Growing euthanasia statistics should be a warning

Peter A. Comensoli: There's nothing compassionate or safe about killing our fellow travellers along the journey of life. Accepting euthanasia means agreeing some people are beyond any help, for whom taking their life is the only option. I reject that pessimism. I reject the idea that euthanising someone is any sort of solution to the deeply human reality of facing our own mortality. That is a most callous and irresponsible choice. Doctors should instead help people to live their lives well as they make their final journey towards death. (The Sydney Morning Herald)

[Read on>>](#)

Health Minister does not support euthanasia

Paul Russell: On 31st March, Australia's Federal Health Minister, Sussan Ley MP confirmed that she does not support euthanasia. Ms Ley was speaking at an event in Brisbane Australia organised by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA). (Hope: Preventing Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide)

[Read on>>](#)

Doing the right thing by transgender kids is not easy

Michael Cook: A US\$5.7 million study of the long-term outcomes of medical treatment for transgender youth begins recruiting in May. But knotty ethical questions remain unanswered. (Mercatornet)

[Read on>>](#)

The scientific objectivity of gender difference

Glenn T. Stanton: Even the most aloof spectator of current culture cannot miss that the nature of gender and sex difference are white-hot issues today. They have been for quite some while actually, starting with the super hip and nouveau 1970s parental conviction that so-called "gender neutral" toys would create more sensitive, compassionate, non-judgmental children. (MercatorNet)

[Read on>>](#)

Euthanasia by Organ Harvesting

Wesley Smith: The ethics of medicine aren't what they used to be. Sanctity of life? That's so passé. The Hippocratic Oath? Fuggettaboutit! The modern healthcare system is expected to embrace properly utilitarian perspectives. (First Things)

[Read on>>](#)

Just War Theory Isn't Obsolete

Gregory Brown: Modern warfare may have vastly increased the scale, but the traditional criteria for just war remain sound, especially in helping leaders avoid the false extremes of cynical realism and idealistic pacifism. (The Public Discourse)

[Read on>>](#)

The rise and rise of natural family planning

Shannon Roberts: It could change family planning aid in developing countries. All the way back in 2010 Laura Wershler, executive director of Sexual Health Access Alberta (formerly known as Planned Parenthood Alberta), lamented the lack of knowledge in her field regarding natural family planning and cited the trend toward natural products, better health and environmentalism as women looked for alternatives to hormonal contraception. Since that time women have continued to worry about the effect of contraceptive hormones on their bodies and on the environment, and interest in natural family planning methods has continued to grow. (Mercatornet)

[Read on>>](#)

Porn and the curse of total sexual freedom

Bishop Robert Barron: The most recent issue of *Time Magazine* features a fascinating and deeply troubling article on the prevalence of pornography in our culture. The focus of the piece is on the generation of young men now coming of age, the first generation who grew up with unlimited access to hardcore pornography on the Internet. The statistics on this score are absolutely startling. (CERC)

[Read on>>](#)

The Surrogacy Cycle

Abby Rabinowitz: Promising an escape from poverty, transnational surrogacy has left many Indian women with little to show for their efforts. What went wrong? (VQR)

[Read on>>](#)

Why should we respect conscientious objectors?

Michael Cook: A powerful debate over conscientious objection is brewing in Canada. The Canadian parliament is drafting a law to implement a Supreme Court order to allow assisted suicide and euthanasia. Some doctors fear that they will be forced to perform the procedures or refer patients to more compliant doctors. (BioEdge)

[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

Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

Friday 6 May - Saturday 7 May or Friday 20 May - Saturday 21 May 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

Centacare CFRS FOCCUS Individuals Couples Programme

Tuesday 10 May, Tuesday 17 May and Tuesday 24 May 2016 or

Thursday 12 May, Thursday 19 May and Thursday 26 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.

The Cathedral of St Stephen Art Group (COSSAG) "Women in conversation" series.

Wednesday 11 May 2016 "Impressions of Mary" a luncheon, talk and exhibition.

A select number of artists have been invited to create their own contemporary impression of Mary. These will be on display during the event. We will also have temporary attending.

Dr Barbara Reynolds-Hutchinson will be giving a talk and leading the discussions concerning Mary and her representations throughout the ages and up to the present.

The Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane.

Tickets are \$30 each and include a buffet lunch, wine, tea and coffee.

For group bookings over 4 there is a 10% discount.

RSVP is by 6/5/2016 Email cossagart@gmail.com or Ph mobile 0408 749 238

Ignite Live

Sunday 15 May 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](#)

Annual Mass Townsville St Patricks College Past Pupils Association Brisbane Branch

Saturday 21 May 2016

St Stephen's Cathedral at 11.30am followed by High Tea.

For more information contact Janice Ph 3379 6340 or Barbara Ph 3396 6641 or go to Web site

www.spcpp.net All past pupils and staff welcome.

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](#)



Parish Pastoral Council Commissioning Mass

Sunday 22 May 2016 at 2.30pm

Annual Commissioning Mass for Pastoral Councils at St Stephen's Cathedral

249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane. For more information contact the [Office for Pastoral Councils](#)

World Youth Day Pilgrim Formation

Sunday 22 May 10.00 am - 12.30 pm

Bowen Hills Parish, 1 Roche Avenue, Bowen Hills. A formation session for any pilgrims travelling to WYD. Contact wyd2016@bne.catholic.net.au for more information.

Theology in the City Lecture Series 2016

Tuesday 31 May - Theme: "Transforming Power: The Church in Culture"

Topic Three - "A Holy God: Natural Theology, Culture and the Church", presented by

Professor Neil Ormerod - Professor of Theology at ACU.

Lecture to be held in Hanley Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth St Brisbane. for more info go to facebook page [Theology in the City](#)

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Weekend date: 3 - 5 June 2016

A weekend away for married couples in peaceful, picturesque surroundings - away from the distractions of everyday living. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Watch our new video - YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5Hdl2ZDxZXc>

Santa Teresa's Spirituality Centre, Ormiston QLD (on Brisbane's bayside)

For bookings/details contact Maria and David Murphy ph 3342 1456 or Email

dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au and for more information go to website www.wvme.org.au

menALIVE to the MAX 16 WHAT IF....

Friday 15 July 8.00 pm - Sunday 17 July 2.00 pm

Over the past 14 years men have gathered from all over Australia and New Zealand to attend the MAX - an Annual Catholic Men's Weekend hosted and facilitated by menALIVE a National Catholic Ministry to men. Since the foundation of menALIVE in 2003 the team have run 300 events in 26 diocese for more than 18,000 men. This event to be held at St Leos Catholic College University of Queensland Brisbane, College Rd, St Lucia, Qld. For more information go to [menALIVE MAX 16 WHAT IF...](#) or Email MAX@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. [MenALIVE website](#)

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.

