

Dear Friends

Welcome to the May issue of *Life and Family Issues*, a collaboration between the [Queensland Bioethics Centre](#) and [JPII 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 JPII Centre.

Abortion Law 'Reform': Twenty Questions that Deserve Answers

Rachael Wong: Independent MP Rob Pyne has introduced a private member's bill to amend Queensland's abortion laws, which may allow women to undergo abortions through all nine months of pregnancy - up until birth. (ABC Religion and Ethics)

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The transgender agenda: forcing us to lie

Dale O'Leary: The 'bathroom wars' are about more than who uses the ladies'. The USA is in the midst of what has been called the "bathroom wars"; however, access to bathrooms and locker rooms of the opposite sex for the so-called transgendered is only a means to an end. The real objective can be discerned from ACLU's press release supporting U.S. Department of Education's demand that the Palatine High School in Illinois (and by extension all schools receiving federal funds) allow a boy, who wants to be accepted as a girl, unrestricted access to the girls' locker room. (Mercatornet)

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Belgium warns Canada: Medical Assistance in Dying - Don't Go There!

Testimonies from the upcoming film *Vulnerable - The Euthanasia Deception* As Canadians debate the controversial Bill C-14 in light of the June 6 Supreme Court imposed legislation deadline, the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition is releasing four short videos entitled: "Belgium's Advice to Canada" from selected clips from our upcoming documentary film, *Vulnerable - The Euthanasia Deception*. (Euthanasia Prevention Coalition)

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Infertility and ignorance

Tamara El-Rahi: In a society that's so keen to suppress fertility, how many women really understand their bodies? I've never used any form of contraception, and as a by-product of that, it turns out that I've learnt a lot about my body. Because until recently, I didn't realise that so many young women were so ignorant - to the fact that an irregular monthly cycle might indicate something about their reproductive health; that years of hormonal contraceptives can have a huge negative impact on their bodies; that processes like IVF or egg-freezing don't work as easy fixes (if they even end up working at all). (Family Edge)

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Let's listen to the real experts about Down syndrome

Philippa Taylor: "Down syndrome isn't a disease, it's a type of person." It is not only striking junior doctors in the UK who are trying to get their voices heard by Health Minister Jeremy Hunt. (MercatorNet)

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A pro-life case for altering the genome

Michael Cook: Although many obstacles remain, genetic engineering is much closer to becoming a reality with the rapid development of CRISPR. On the horizon are both human enhancement and cures for genetic diseases. But one significant political obstacle is fear of altering the human genome. It is not just pro-life activists who object; a number of scientists also fret about the commercialisation of human life. (BioEdge)

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The Gospel of Happiness

Christopher O. Tollefsen: "What is real happiness? How can I experience it? How can I live it?" As Christopher Kaczor notes in the Introduction to *The Gospel of Happiness*, these are questions that every thoughtful person asks. Where, however, might a thoughtful person go for help in answering these questions? (The Public Discourse)

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Theology and Philosophy: Can They Survive in the Modern University?

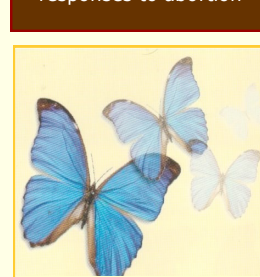
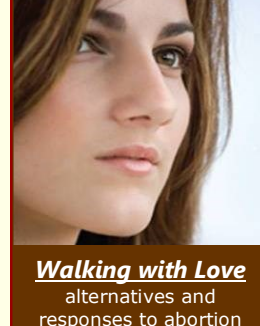
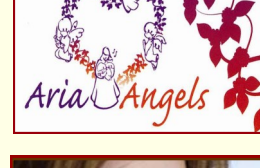
John Haldane: There is a general sense that it is not only intellectually rewarding but culturally enriching and socially valuable to engage in public discussion of fundamental questions of natural science, philosophy and theology. (ABC Religion and Ethics)

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How spirituality can help us cope with the trials of ageing

John Wattis and Stephen Curran: Old age is a time of many challenges. Retirement brings opportunities, but for many people it also results in loss of role and income. Loved ones may die, leading to the need to grieve and reconstruct life, sometimes without a partner of many years. In advanced old age, physical and mental frailty may lead to further loss of role and greater dependence on others. (The Conversation)

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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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Weekend date: 3 - 5 June 2016

A week-end 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/5HdI2ZDxZxc>

Santa Teresa 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.wwme.org.au

Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

Friday 3 June - Saturday 4 June or Friday 17 June - Saturday 18 June 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

Thursday 2 June, Thursday 9 June and Thursday 16 June 2016 or

Tuesday 21 June, Tuesday 28 June and Tuesday 5 July 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.

Ignite Live

Sunday 19 June 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](#)

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](#)



COSSAG Annual Art Exhibition Opening Night - "The Good Samaritan"

Friday 24 June 2016 6.00 pm - 9.30 pm

'The Good Samaritan' is this year's annual Cathedral of St Stephen Art Group's exhibition which awards local artists with a range of Art prizes announced on the opening night. With around 60 artists exhibiting with artwork available for purchase the Cathedral is opening its door to this free exhibition.

According to Cathedral of St Stephen Art Group Chairperson and contemporary painter Ms Michelle Bowden the entries this year are breath taking.

"The theme of the Good Samaritan has inspired artists from many different places in many different ways. We have been overwhelmed by the quality of artworks entered."

"Our main aim is to support emerging and established local artists with the opportunity to exhibit. It is a great opportunity to view this excellent quality art in the CBD.

The exhibition to be held in Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, QLD (enter via Charlotte St)

[Facebook icon](#)

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 founding 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](#)

Sacred Ground - Celebration of Arts & Spirituality

Saturday 16 July 2016 9.00am - 3.00pm

You are invited to 'come away to a quiet place' for three sessions of art and storytelling at the beautiful Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre. Using 3 of the deeply spiritual paintings of Redlands artist, Peter Hunter, (who holds a Master's degree in Theology) and the storytelling skills of Biblical storyteller, Carole Danby, participants will be invited to contemplate art, listen to stories, walk the labyrinth and take time for meditation. The theme of Mother ... Curator & Creator, Forgiveness and Wisdom forged around three paintings will provide the focus for these sessions.

To be held at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, 267 Wellington Street, Ormiston. RSVP & payment by Friday 1st July 2016 Email: ebadmin@bne.catholic.net.au or phone 3324 3445 for more information. [Sacred Ground- Celebration of Arts & Spirituality flyer](#)

Theology in the City Lecture Series 2016

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

Topic Four - "Mixed Messages: the Church's public debates in the media", presented by Scott Stephens - Editor of the ABC's Religion & Ethics website, specialist commentator on religion and ethics for the ABC (radio/television).

Lecture to be held in Hanley Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth St Brisbane. For more info go to

[Facebook icon](#)

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.

