

Dear Friends

Welcome to the June 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.

## How to vote: let Christ be your guide

Archbishop Anthony Fisher: It's election time. With the federal election just around the corner, we all have to decide whom to vote for. This is not always an easy decision, but it is a very important responsibility, for Catholics as for others. We all must decide who deserves our vote. (The Catholic Weekly)

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## Death on the cusp of life: A litany of concerns with late-term abortions

Emilie Ng: Queensland politicians were in the middle of debating changes to the state's abortion laws when figures on the rate of live-birth abortions surfaced. Health Minister Cameron Dick released figures recently on the number of late-term abortions where babies survived, but were not given care. (The Catholic Leader)

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## Building a functional enough family

Tim Kirk: Even the best families, full of love, affection and warmth, have their share of arguing, tension and strife. If you put the theoretical perfect family on one side and the hopelessly dysfunctional on the other, most of us fall somewhere in the middle. As far as doing family is concerned, we are all a work in progress. (The Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn)

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## Australian IVF under fire for conflict of interest and misleading advertising

Xavier Symons: IVF companies in Australia have come under fire following a Four Corners investigation. The report, aired on ABC TV on Monday, contained interviews with several couples who had undergone unsuccessful - and at times, exceedingly painful and distressing - IVF treatments. The report also explored conflicts of interest and alleged widespread deceptive practices in the IVF industry. (BioEdge)

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## Homosexuality, Marriage and Society

Andrew Mullins: Twenty years ago Australia had a Year of Tolerance, courtesy of a quasi-governmental educational body. Among the materials sent to schools were glossy leaflets promoting a homosexual lifestyle. As a principal at the time I returned them with a note explaining that the parents in my school would not accept promotion of homosexuality to their children and so I would not be using them. (MercatorNet)

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## Even criminals have the right to life' – Pope Francis

"The inviolable and God-given right to life also belongs to the criminal," Pope Francis said today in a video message to the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty meeting in Oslo, Norway. (Catholic Voices)

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## Too many couples do not understand marriage is for life, pope says

Cindy Wooden: Because most people today do not understand that sacramental marriage really is a bond that binds them to each other for life, many marriages today can be considered invalid, Pope Francis said. (Catholic News Service)

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## It didn't happen overnight

Margaret Somerville: The cultural and social changes of the past 50 years laid the groundwork for transgenderism. Before the year 2000, no US state recognized same-sex marriage. By 2015, it was legal throughout the US and most of Western Europe. Before 2015 most Americans knew nothing about transgender issues. Within a year transgender issues are on the front pages of newspapers every day and schools may be forced to provide special bathrooms for trans students. The pace of change in the sexual revolution is not just rapid. It's accelerating around the world. Why? (MercatorNet)

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## Analysis: Parenthood in an Age of Surrogacy

Fr John Flynn: The ever-widening use of IVF and surrogate mothers is continuing to create legal disputes and to expand the definition of parenthood. (Zenit.org)

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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](mailto:pa.victoriapoint@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage and Commissioning Mass

**Saturday 9 July 2016**

Archbishop Mark Coleridge invites all members of Parish, Deanery & Community Pastoral Councils and their families, Parish clergy and Lay Pastoral Ministers to A Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage and Commissioning Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane. The day begins with Morning Tea at 10.00 am, the Pastoral Council Commissioning will take place during the 11.30 am Mass. RSVP [ebadmin@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:ebadmin@bne.catholic.net.au) or phone 07 3324 3440. For more information see flyer [Invitation to Pilgrimage & Commissioning Mass](#)

### World Youth Day Commissioning Mass

**Sunday 10 July 2016 12.00 pm - 1.15 pm**

Mass to be held at Cathedral of St Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, Qld.

A commissioning mass for any pilgrims from Brisbane travelling to WYD 2016. Contact [wyd2016@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:wyd2016@bne.catholic.net.au) for more information.

### Centacare CFRS FOCCUS Individuals Couples Programme

**Tuesday 12 July - 26 July 2016 or Thursday 14 July - Thursday 28 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.

### 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...](mailto:menALIVE_MAX_16_WHAT_IF...) or email [MAX@menalive.org.au](mailto: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](#)

### Centacare CFRS Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

**Friday 15 July - Saturday 16 July or Friday 29 July - Saturday 30 July 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](mailto:cfrs.fvadmin@bne.centacare.net.au)

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

### 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.catholicnet.au](mailto:ebadmin@bne.catholicnet.au) or phone 3324 3445 for more information. [Sacred Ground- Celebration of Arts & Spirituality flyer](#)

### Ignite Live

**Sunday 17 July 2016 5.00 pm - 9.00 pm**

Australian Catholic University, 1100 Nudgee Road, Banyo 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](#)

### Conversations About Catholics

**Tuesday 19 July 7.00 pm-8.30 pm Cathedral Precinct**

**Wednesday 20 July 9.30 am-11.30 am Our Lady of Help of Christians Parish, Hendra**

**Wednesday 20 July 7.00 pm-8.30 pm Our Lady of Graces Parish, Carina**

Programme Anne McLean and Sr Artwork Sullivan rsj, Artwork and Publisher Anne Flynn.

This four week programme has been designed to assist parents with their own questions and uncertainties about Church, and in turn encourage and empower them in the Faith Formation of their children. For more information contact Sr Kari Hatherell on 3324 3449 or Email [hatherellk@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:hatherellk@bne.catholic.net.au) Flyer [Conversations About Catholics](#)

### 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 [f](#)

### 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)

