

Dear Friends

Welcome to the August 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.

Women Deserve Better than the Proposed Abortion Law Reform

Rachael Wong: Concerted efforts are currently underway to remove limits on abortion in both Queensland and New South Wales. Apparently both states' abortion laws are "archaic" and "regressive." But on the contrary: surely, in the twenty-first century, we can do better for women than more abortion. (ABC Religion and Ethics)

[Read on>>](#)

Do your children know how much you think of each other?

Andrew Mullins: Unity builds love. Parental unity gives consistency in the key messages you give your children. Above all, it means you show your children how to love: by the way you back each other up, by the way you live for your spouse and make service to others the lynchpin of your family life. Try to give constant example of this. Give a living example of round-the-clock-love, love that never gets fed up or runs out of patience. Be on the same page. Share this as a major parenting priority. So much depends on it. (MercatorNet)

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New euthanasia lobby group launched in Australia

Xavier Symons: Influential Australian journalist Andrew Denton has launched a new campaign for assisted dying in Australia, and called on the Catholic Church to "stay out" of the euthanasia debate. (BioEdge)

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'Inspirational' transgender lives: what ever happened to healthy scepticism?

Michael Cook: The Australian media ought to be asking hardball questions about happy trans teens. Transgender teenagers have been getting very positive press in Australia this year. The latest episode of the ABC's *Australian Story* features Georgie Stone, a 16-year-old boy who wants to fully transition to becoming a woman. (MercatorNet)

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Australia urges Cambodia to crack down on surrogacy services

Lindsay Murdoch: Cambodia has told Australia that commercial surrogacy is prohibited in the country as an increasing number of Australian couples seek surrogacy services in the capital Phnom Penh. The edict leaves several dozen Australian couples who have gone to Cambodia seeking to become the biological parents to babies born to surrogate mothers open to possible imprisonment and fines for human trafficking. (Sydney Morning Herald)

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'No test can tell you just how much joy your child will give': Families tell of fears 99% accurate Down's test could spark rise in abortions

Sam Greenhill and Ben Spencer: Families fear a new test for Down's syndrome will spark an increase in abortions. Set to become available on the NHS, the technique is 99 per cent accurate at telling pregnant woman how likely their baby is to have the condition. But scores of parents of Down's children have demanded a halt to the program. (Daily Mail)

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The Historic Christian Teaching Against Contraception: A Defense

Sherif Girgis: The Catholic Church's teaching on contraception, common to all Christian denominations for 1900 years, is not arbitrary. It reflects a moral truth. And the Catholic Church can never revise it. Part one of two. (The Public Discourse)

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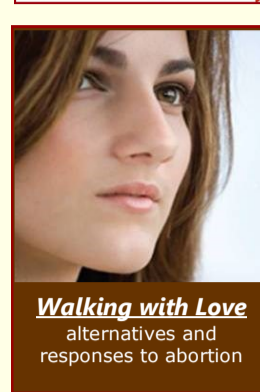
Mutilating femininity isn't just a Third World issue

Michael Cook: On no cause on the face of the planet are nations so united as the wickedness of female genital mutilation. Young girls on the cusp of puberty in the Middle East and Africa submit to the partial or total removal of their external genitalia. It is universally denounced as barbaric and anti-woman. The fact that many of the young women undergo the primitive and painful operation voluntarily or even insist upon it is dismissed as irrelevant. Mutilating a girl's body is wrong, period. Even if it's hygienic. Even if it's painless. Even if she wants it. It's always wrong. Except if the girl wants to become a boy. Then it's OK. Not really a big deal. (MercatorNet)

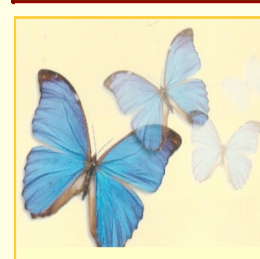
[Read on>>](#)

Things People With Down's Syndrome Are Tired of Hearing

Video on YouTube from BBC [watch video](#)



Walking with Love
alternatives and responses to abortion



Rachel's Vineyard
A Post Abortion Healing Project

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 FOCCUS Individuals Couples Programme

Tuesday 13 September - 27 September 2016 or Thursday 15 September - Thursday 29 September 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 Pre-Marriage Education Group Programme

Friday 9 September - Saturday 10 September or Friday 23 September - Saturday 24 September

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

Ignite Conference 2016

Thursday 22 September - Sunday 25 September All day

Mueller Performing Arts Centre, 75 Morris Rd, Rothwell, Qld.

Ignite is a dynamic & contemporary Catholic conference for young people. Every year it draws over 1000 adults, teenagers, children, youth ministers, teachers, priests and religious from around the country. It's about gathering young people from across this corner of the world, connecting them with Jesus Christ and the Church, forming them for living the Christian life and empowering them to impact the Church and the world. [Ignite Conference](#)

John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family, Melbourne hosting

Theology of the Body Intensive Unit in Brisbane

Monday 26 September - Saturday 1 October 2016

Theology of the Body, a post-graduate unit for credit or audit conducted by Dr Adam Cooper and Dr Conor Seeney.

This subject studies St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body through a reading of the text and a discussion of his use of scripture, theology, and philosophy. It shows how the interpersonal communion of man and woman, precisely in the body, images divine Trinitarian Communion. It also discusses the relevance of the Theology of the Body for those called to the vocation of celibacy. Finally, it will provide the student with vital content to engage in the mission of the new evangelisation.

The course in Brisbane will be conducted at The Lavalla Centre, 58 Fernberg Rd, Paddington Qld. For more information: [John Paul II Institute](#) or Email info@jp2institute.org

Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Saturday 1 October 2016 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Cathedral of St Stephen, Elizabeth Street, Brisbane.

Couples celebrating 50 years or more of marriage come together with family and friends to rejoice in their milestone and renew their wedding vows within the liturgy of a special Mass. Afterwards a morning tea is served on the lawns of the Cathedral Precinct.

Couples who wish to attend should contact their local parish and ask them to put forward their names to the Cathedral Office.

Spirit in the City Annual Conference

Saturday 8 October 2016

QUT Gardens Point Campus, 2 George Street, Brisbane, organised by QUT Chaplaincy.

Conferece Speakers include: Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Tony Abbott MP, Orange Sky Laundry, Catholic Mission - Brisbane, Fr James Grant, Sr Moira Debono, Dr Ryan Messmore.

For [Booking](#) or for more information go to [Spirit in the City](#)

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Friday 14 October to Sunday 16 October 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 video - [YouTube](#)

Venue: Santa Teresa Validity Centre, Ormiston QLD (on Brisbane's bayside)

For bookings/details contact: Maria and David Murphy, ph (07) 3342 1456,

dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au Information website: www.wvme.org.au

The Renaissance of Marriage 2016 National Marriage Conference

Friday October 21, 10.00 am - Saturday October 22, 6.00 pm, Sydney

Hosted by the Marriage Resource Centre.

For the first time in 5 years comes an opportunity for you to be part of reviving and strengthening the marriage culture in Australia. Get inspired, be energised and connect with others over 2 days of amazing international and home-grown speakers. International and National Speakers including Christopher West.

For more information go to website [Marriage Resource Centre](#)

Theology in the City Lecture Series #3

Tuesday 25 October 2016

Topic 6: In Conversation with Archbishop Mark Coleridge DD "Church of Mercy: Beyond the Jubilee Year"

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

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.

