

Dear Friends

Welcome to the September 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.

'Don't trivialise mental health issues': Archbishop Fisher on plebiscite
Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP: The causes of mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and suicide are complex and require serious study and compassionate treatment. These are highly sensitive topics: we should not play politics with mental health. (The Catholic Weekly)

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Aussie bishops get ahead of the curve on the 'Grayby Boom'

John L Allen Jr: As the elderly population in many societies around the world explodes, a trend demographers sometimes call the 'Grayby Boom,' the Catholic bishops of Australia are insisting that the challenges aren't merely economic and related to production, but are ultimately about the human dignity of aging persons. (The Crux)

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Palliative Care in Australia - myths and realities

Dr Mary Brooksbank: I've spent about 40 years looking after people who were dying. I was a burns surgeon for the first half of my career and I have since worked for 20 years in specialist palliative care. I've watched many people die peaceful deaths which could easily have been traumatic and painful, including my father. So I'm interested in the euthanasia debate which has recently sparked again. (Hope Preventing Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide)

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Evicting religious voices from the public square is anti-democratic and discriminatory

Margaret Somerville: Australia's popular radio and TV personality Andrew Denton has embarked upon a crusade to legalise euthanasia. He recently lashed out at a "subterranean Catholic force" of politicians and businessmen who are trying to frustrate popular demand for a peaceful death. "On the questions that are most fundamental to how we live, love and die, religious belief trumps everything," he told the National Press Club in Canberra. "This is the theocracy hidden inside our democracy." (MercatorNet)

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Valuing the lives of people with disability

Joan Hume: Public debates on our worth not only dismiss the validity of our lived experience but have profound implications for political and social responses. Even though we live in supposedly more enlightened times, it is a perpetual struggle to have our voices heard and taken seriously. Many people think we can't do anything much at all. (Eureka Street)

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Abortion linked to mental health problems down the road, study finds

Abortion during the late teen and early adult years raises a woman's risk of mental health problems and may be linked to almost one in ten cases of these women's mental disorders, a new study says. (Catholic News Agency)

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Acts, omissions, and euthanasia for organ donation

Xavier Symons: With the push to legalise assisted dying in several Western countries, bioethicists are starting to consider the possibility of "organ donation euthanasia". In a new article in the Journal of Medical Ethics, Warwick University bioethicist Zoe B. Fritz suggests that it is permissible to actively end the life of a terminally ill patient --either conscious and consenting or unconscious and not consenting -- for the sake of harvesting their organs. Indeed, this would allow clinicians to avoid the problem of premature organ desiccation. (BioEdge)

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Will IVF change human history?

Michael Cook: Evolution works because of the differential reproduction of individuals with certain features. If an organism has a harmful gene, it will not survive to reproduce and will perish before it produces offspring. To some extent this is true for human beings as well, although we usually see it as a personal tragedy rather than as a force of nature. (MercatorNet)

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Bioethicists challenge right to conscientious objection

Xavier Symons: The debate surrounding conscientious objection in healthcare has intensified in recent months, with a number of influential bioethicists campaigning for tight restrictions on doctors' right to object to participation in controversial procedures. (BioEdge)

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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

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.

Centacare CFRS FOCCUS Individuals Couples Programme

Thursday 6 October - Thursday 20 October 2016 or Tuesday 25 October - 8 November 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 7 October - Saturday 8 October or Friday 21 October - Saturday 22 October

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

Spirit in the City Annual Conference

Saturday 8 October 2016

QUT Gardens Point Campus, 2 George Street, Brisbane.

The conference, organised by QUT Chaplaincy, concerns faith, culture and public affairs, and the challenges of bringing to bear, Christian thinking and influence in the highly secularised settings of contemporary Australian society.

Conference 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 peace, 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 Family 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

Cherish Life Annual Dinner - Thursday 20 October 2016

Keynote Speaker: Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins, MLC, DLP member of the Victorian Legislative Council. Plus Kay Painter, Author of 'From Sin and Sorrow to Service'.

Fairways Room Indooroopilly Golf Club, 293 Meiers Road, Indooroopilly Qld.

6:45pm arrival for complimentary drink sit down 7:15 pm.

Contact: [Cherish Life Queensland Head Office](#) or Email info@cherishlife.org.au

or Ph 3871 2445 For [Bookings](#)

The Renaissance of Marriage 2016 National Marriage Conference Sydney

Friday 21 October 10.00 am - 10:00 pm - Saturday 22 October 9:00 am - 6.00 pm

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



Hands of the World Fair Trade Artisans Market

Friday 28 October 2016 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Preview Event.

Hanley Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane.

Come, browse and shop ethically for unique gift and Christmas items knowing that all products and their creators have been equitably produced and dealt with in the process of being brought to market.

Seminar with Father James Mallon

Saturday 19 November 2016 9.00 am - 4.00 pm

Evangelisation Brisbane is hosting the visit of Fr James Mallon to the Archdiocese of Brisbane on Saturday 19 November, 9am-4pm at San Sisto College, Carina.

Fr James is a dynamic speaker, engaging writer and parish priest from Halifax, Canada. He is deeply committed to transform parishioners into, as described by Pope Francis, 'missionary disciples'. His book *Divine Renovation* is full of stories and practical examples of how he set about turning a parish into a community focused on the Good News of Jesus Christ and a people who live out that Good News day to day.

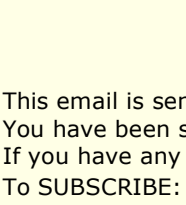
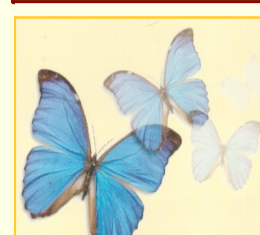
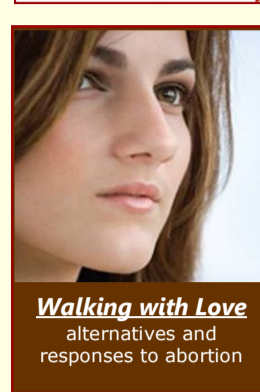
This is a unique opportunity for clergy, parish pastoral leaders, pastoral council members and all involved in parish ministry. [brochure](#)

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.

