

Dear Friends

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

Here is Archbishop Coleridge's response to the latest Abortion Bill introduced into Queensland Parliament

Mark Bowling: ABORTION would be treated as a trivial procedure despite the surgical risks and great personal significance, Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge has written in response to the latest Abortion Reform Bill introduced into the Queensland Parliament. (The Catholic Leader)

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'Marriage Equality' or 'Same-Sex Marriage'? Why Words Matter

Margaret Somerville: In a recent press conference, it was striking how often Opposition Leader Bill Shorten used the term "marriage equality" and, equally striking, that not even once did he refer to "same-sex marriage" in criticizing the Government for not allowing a vote on this issue in Parliament, but insisting on a plebiscite. (ABC Religion and Ethics)

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Palliative care is the more respectful choice

"If we make euthanasia legal, we will change how we relate to 'unwanted' people. A compassionate society can find more respectful ways of dealing with suffering at the end of life than killing the suffering person," writes Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP (CathNews)

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Leading Australian journalist decries push for euthanasia

Paul Russell: One of Australia's most respected journalists, Paul Kelly, has kicked back against what some of his journalistic colleagues have been treating as a rising tide in favour of euthanasia. Kelly is a former editor of *The Australian*, a television pundit and the author of eight books on Australian politics. Politicians will listen carefully to what he says. (MercatorNet)

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The Ethics of Conscientious Objection in Healthcare

Xavier Symons: Conscientious objection has been a contentious issue in public policy for decades.

While controversy was originally focused on objection to participation in the military and foreign conflict, debate in recent years has shifted to issues in healthcare and the public service. (ABC Religion and Ethics)

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Eugenics: could screening for Down Syndrome bring us full-circle?

Peter Saunders: Cost-benefit analysis of the lives of disabled people could lead to a dark future. Is it wrong to kill disabled people if caring for them costs more than identifying and destroying them. The Nazis believed killing in these circumstances was not only right but a public duty and the German public was softened up to accept it through a skilful propaganda campaign which began in the classroom. (MercatorNet)

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UN Event Shows How Sexual Agenda Tramples Children's Rights

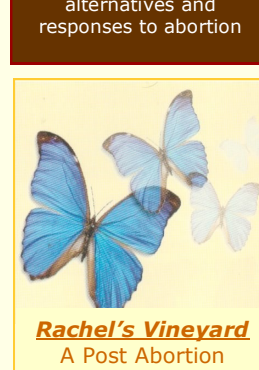
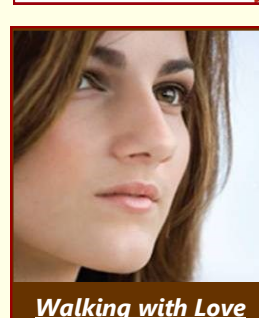
Rebecca Oas, Ph.D: NEW YORK, October 14 (C-Fam) That all children have a mother and a father is a biological fact. That they have a right to know and be raised by their parents, where possible, is enshrined in the UN's most widely ratified human rights treaty. A UN event last week highlighted how those rights are undermined by efforts to redefine the family in law and normalize reproductive technologies in policy. (C-fam)

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We will help you die of boredom: Dutch govt

Michael Cook: 'Completed life' euthanasia will soon be legalised in the Netherlands. The Dutch government is planning to create a new end-of-life law for elderly people who are tired of living. Health Minister Edith Schippers told Parliament that a new kind of assisted suicide is needed for people who are not terminally ill or suffering, but who want to die (link to letter to Parliament, in Dutch). (MercatorNet)

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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

Caring for Creation - Shaping the Future of Our Planet

Thursday 3 November 2016

Irish Columban Fr Sean McDonagh is known around the world as an eco-theologian who works to raise awareness on the connections between justice and peace issues, environmental sustainability and faith.

He is an outspoken critic of policies that allow for the systematic degradation of the environment, linking them to global poverty and the increased suffering of the poor.

Thursday 3 November from 6.30pm until 8.30pm (6.00pm Nibbles)

Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth St, Brisbane. [Flyer](#)

Hosted by Evangelisation Brisbane, enquiries: Mike at email humphrysm@bne.catholic.net.au

Centacare CFRS FOCCUS Individuals Couples Programme

Tuesday 15 November - Tuesday 29 November or Thursday 17 November - Thursday 1

December 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 11 November - Saturday 12 November

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

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](#)

Ignite Live Sunday 20 November 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](#)

Cathedral of St Stephen Advent Fair 2016 Sunday 27 November 8.00 am to 1.00 pm

St Stephen's Cathedral Choir's major fund raising event at 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane.

Come in the spirit of Advent, enjoy live festive music provided by the Choir and their families, and help support the growth and development of the Choir.

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.

