



JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE

BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

ΑΓΙΟΣ
ΩΣΗΦ

Issue #28 - February 2021

Year of St Joseph 8 Dec '20 - 8 Dec '21

To commemorate the
150th anniversary of the
declaration of Saint Joseph
as Patron of the Universal Church

Because of his role at "the crossroads between the Old and New Testament," St Joseph "has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people" (PC, 1). In him, "Jesus saw the tender love of God," the one that helps us accept our weakness, because "it is through" and despite "our fears, our frailties, and our weakness" that most divine designs are realized.

Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. "How many (people) are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all!"[6] Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence - an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.

- Excerpt from Vatican News article on Patris Corde: With a Father's Heart (Apostolic Letter from Pope Francis)



St Joseph's spiritual path "is not one that *explains*, but *accepts*" - which does not mean that he is "resigned." Instead, he is "courageously and firmly proactive," because with "Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude," and full of hope, he is able "to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments." In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: "Do not be afraid!" because "faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad," and makes us aware that "God can make flowers spring up from stony ground." Joseph "did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it." For this reason, "he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak" (4).

Prayers to St Joseph

"My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power."

At the conclusion of his Letter, Pope Francis adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

A Word from the Director

Dear Friend of the John Paul II Centre for Life

We live in sobering times, where attacks against life, marriage, family and faith are unfolding daily. Together with St Joseph, we are called to be the guardians of all that God has given us.

In the words of Pope Francis, we shall not be afraid, or resigned to things as they are, but be "courageously and firmly proactive". Ours is the call to pray, to fast, and to stand, vigilant and discerning.

This year we intend to hold more Vigils for Life in the parishes. These will be opportunities to gather together in fervent prayer. Only God can soften hardened hearts to bring forth new life. We hope to see you there. We are also appealing for more people to join our prayer network. Our prayer warriors are alerted (but not inundated) by email

to pray for urgent needs. This prayer network has been the power behind many miracles.

At the Centre, we are continuing with your help, to do what is practically needed to help women who are uncertain about continuing with their pregnancy. In all of this we rely on your wonderful generosity. Our Annual Appeal is with this newsletter - the first Appeal since December 2019. Please consider what your gift might be, to help us forge ahead with this vital work.

We ask God's blessing upon all of you, as you witness to those around you.

Gratefully yours,

Maria
John Paul II Centre for Life Director

Praying Like St Joseph

"God can make flowers spring up from stony ground" - Patris Corde

Fervent prayer touches the Heart of our Heavenly Father and demolishes obstacles! One of our Beautiful Mothers, Alison, has already shared details of her story in our previous newsletters. She recently phoned to tell us the latest miraculous outworking of your prayer in her life. Since the birth of her precious

daughter following a tumultuous pregnancy, a number of seemingly impossible barriers have been shattered, allowing her to parent this child and also recover care of her three older children who have not been living with her. We ask for your ongoing prayer for the reintegration of this family.

A Prayer Warrior Shares Her passion for being a part of our Urgent Prayer Network

I have long carried the desire to help and support mothers who are pregnant and facing difficulty with continuing with their pregnancy. I know personally the pain and true suffering this causes the mother and her need to have someone to walk beside her in her darkest time.

Because I work full time and also have family commitments outside of my work, I don't have a lot of spare time to offer to the John Paul II Centre for Life, so by my offer to be a Prayer Warrior I am able to contribute in a small way to the wonderful work

you are doing through the Pregnancy Centre. The time this takes isn't much, in fact just a few minutes each day, but I am certain that God our loving Father hears and responds in ways I can't even fathom.

To know that I am part of a small but effective team working with God to surround the mothers and babies with love and support at their time of greatest need is reward enough, and I look forward to being part of this team for many years to come.

Jane Dick

The Power Behind our Miracles

To all our wonderful Prayer Warriors: thanks so much for joining with us in these works of corporal and spiritual mercy.

If you are not already part of our network of intercessors, please consider calling 351 3225 or emailing info@jp2.org.nz to sign up.

Pregnancy Centre Update



Vanessa, Cameron and baby Joshua grateful recipients of practical help

Greetings to all our wonderful Supporters.

We have experienced a busy start to the new year. Mothers' Groups are in full swing, filling a need for young mums to meet others, make new friendships and a safe space to talk about the challenges that new mothers face. As they were camera-shy, there are no 'sneak peeks' to share with you.

We are seeking an additional volunteer who has energy and can commit to helping once or twice a month with hospitality at the Mothers' Groups,

discreetly helping mums to feel at ease, and keeping an eye on the children while Mums chat. Is this you?

We are also planning another Fill-a-Bag free event for the month of April, in Bryndwr. If you have good quality toys or spotless baby clothing to donate, please contact us.

Thank you from the Pregnancy Centre Team: Lara, Lisa, Jay and Aiber

The Gifts that Truly Kept on Giving

Fundraising is a fact of life for charities. Beyond the updating of the balance sheet, the promotion and the photos of prize winners, there is not usually much more to report. But last October's Jumbo and Pamper Hamper Raffles were something truly wondrous! Here's why. Winner after winner, when notified of their windfall, offered their prize back to us, for the sake of families for whom Christmas is a struggle. We were blown away by the generosity shown to our Beautiful Mothers.

With the regifted 1st prize we were able to purchase PaknSave and Kmart vouchers which we passed on, together with regifted New World vouchers, to families where we knew there was high need.

Here's what these Beautiful Mothers told us (after they had dried their tears):



This is a hard time of year for us with seven children. We have two major birthdays coming up. My children don't ask for anything because they know we have to stretch the budget across so many of us. I have always taught my children that it's important to be there for others but sometimes we have to reach out for help ourselves when we can't quite make ends meet. This year we really have to stretch out our money, so this voucher is such a big help to us. We are really grateful.
- Roneaye (7 children)

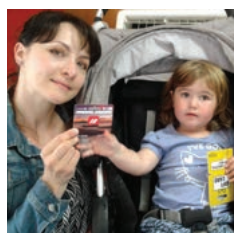
"Thank you so much for nominating my children and I for these vouchers. It's so thoughtful and really means a lot to my wee family. It will be a huge help this Christmas to give the kids the Christmas they deserve. Thank you so much from Amanda and all my children. - Amanda (2 children)

My family is very grateful to receive a wonderful gift of vouchers. We are struggling on a benefit with six children and there is only one pay day to go till Christmas. Thanks to the people who donated their gift back to the Centre.
- Nicole (6 children)

I am so very grateful for this amazing generous gift. It has taken some weight off my shoulders. I can't wait to purchase some gifts and watch my 'babies' smile on Christmas morning. God bless and Merry Christmas. - Christina (2 children)

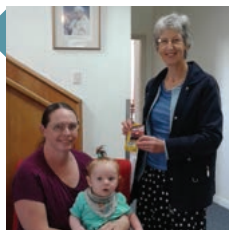
This is really cool, getting these vouchers. Thanks so much. It will really help our family. - Daphne (2 children)

Thank you for your kindness towards my family always. It hasn't been easy this year, especially as my husband's work hours have been significantly decreased lately and this is especially hard as we approach the holidays and Christmas. This voucher is such a blessing for us. We really appreciate it. - Urwashi (3 children, one very sick)



Thank you - you have made our Christmas! One of my children said a while back; "Christmas is going to be horrible this year." And that, on top of an already hard year. The children's dad has not been visiting and they feel deeply let down. I had to have major surgery and had to just keep going. My two older children aged 13 and 16 had to share the responsibility.

Thank you! There are four children who will have joy this Christmas because of your generosity. - Melissa (4 children)



Thank you Notes from our Beautiful Mothers

We are delighted to share with you some spontaneous, appreciative feedback from mothers we have helped.

Hi Lisa,

Happy new year to you! I hope all is well. I wanted to touch base and thank you for all your support throughout my pregnancy rollercoaster. I am so happy to let you know I am doing better than I ever thought I would be.

Millie has been life changing in such a magical way. She has brought me great happiness and many new friends into my life. I wouldn't change it for a second.

Cheers, Tammy

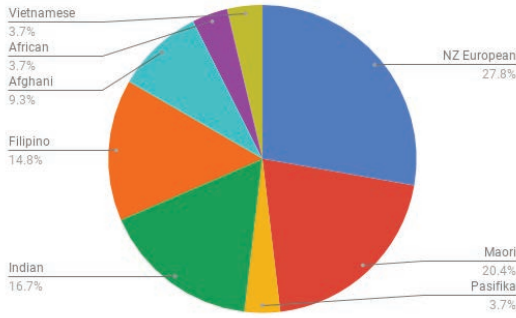
Hi Lara, Maria and Lisa.

Thanks to you all for supporting me to continue with my pregnancy. Although it is very tough to be a single Mum, I really love her so much.

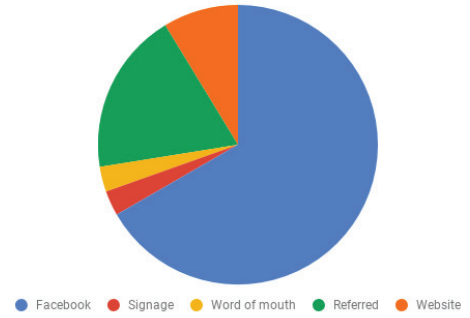
Ebony (NB Ebony has featured in our Beautiful Mother's Appeal and in previous newsletters and emails to our Prayer Warriors)

**A Snapshot of the Action:
October to December 2020**

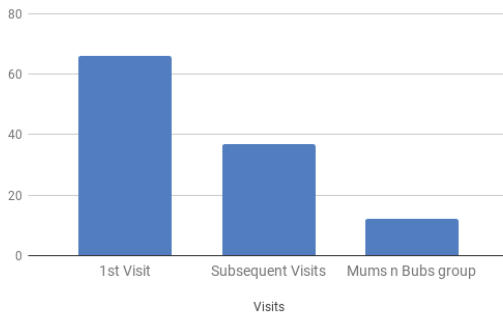
Oct-Dec 2020 Ethnicity



Oct-Dec 2020 How did they hear about us?



Oct-Dec 2020 Visits to Pregnancy Centre



Oct-Dec 2020 Services Provided

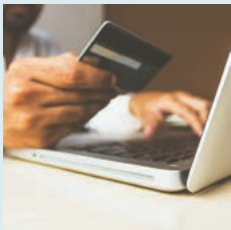


John Paul II Centre

We are a Charitable Trust with a small team of part time staff, a volunteer Trust Board AND A BIG MISSION.

DEFEND LIFE WITH US

For ways to donate see our website: www.jp2.org.nz



Donate Online Today

Your gift will be a lifeline to vulnerable mothers and babies



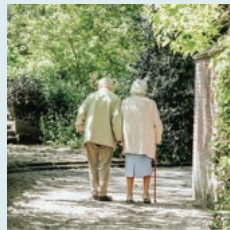
Donate Monthly

A simple and powerful way to uphold life, marriage and family



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Leave a lasting legacy to build the culture of life



Give in Memory

Make a life-giving gift to commemorate your loved one



Give in Celebration

Mark your special day with a celebraton donation



Join our Coffee Club

Support us weekly for the cost of a latte

Internet banking

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Amount Receipt via post email Frequency of donation

Please send completed form to: JP2 Centre for Life, 88 Idris Road, Bryndur, Christchurch 8052.

Thank you for your support!!

Charities Registration No CC47334