



Update

JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE

ISSUE #34 / AUGUST 2023

Baby Shower

The John Paul II Centre of Life recently hosted a Baby Shower for Melissa and her precious baby Noah. Melissa is one of the courageous mothers who the John Paul II Centre supports through their pre-natal diagnosis support service. The baby shower was a special occasion for the John Paul II Centre to celebrate with Melissa and her friends the life of her little Noah. Members of the Canterbury University Pro-Life club also attended the baby shower, and they organised some fun games and activities. Some



of the activities included a baby food sampling spread where you had to guess the flavour of the baby food. Another activity included icing your own cupcake, which was a special favourite for Melissa, who makes fabulous cakes as a hobby. After the Baby Shower, the John Paul II Centre had organised for Melissa to have a pregnancy photoshoot in the Ilam Gardens. It was such a wonderful day and a real joy to celebrate with Melissa. The John Paul II Centre is currently working with five families including Melissa who are all struggling with a prenatal diagnosis. Our aim is to support these brave families and to help them make the most of their precious time that they have with their little ones.



“ I had a lot of anxiety before the day, but once I met everyone the anxiety was gone, it was a very special day made better by all those who took part. Knowing that other people wanted to celebrate Noah made me happy, because it showed me that it wasn't just me that saw that his life has value. Even though his life will be short it's amazing to know that there are people who believe what I believe; that all life matters, regardless of how short or long it will be. ” - Melissa



Marriage Enrichment

One of the areas in which the John Paul II Centre is expanding is by providing more events that are specifically catered to married couples. Having noticed the lack of formation and support given to couples after they finish their marriage prep program, the John Paul II Centre wanted to step into this gap. Marriage is a lifelong vocation and needs constant work to thrive. The John Paul II Centre offers several events throughout the year that offer support.



Activ8

Fill Your House with Goodness, Truth and Beauty

This was the mantra woven through a five-day conference that presented, explored and engaged participants in conversations on issues of life and death. Brendan Malone runs Lifenet Charitable Trust, dedicated to planting and nurturing the seeds of leadership, virtue, and ethical concern through goodness, truth and beauty. [LifeNET.org.nz] Twice a year, Brendan gathers a team and launches Activ8 which studies pro-life issues that affect the family, whatever shape one's family may be.

Participants are immersed in knowledge, from effective leadership skills to pro-life history, to post abortion care, to harmful myths of 'my body, my choice', to euthanasia and eugenics. Such leadership is built by persistent charitable actions. For us as Christians, this is self-giving love. How do I love more authentically, more faithfully? Mother Teresa said: "Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you." Each of us can respond to that call.

As we face greater challenges in our own families, our parishes, our society, we can see more clearly how the loss of community feeds a culture of death and destroys life. Activ8 upsills people who desire



to find solutions through goodness, truth and beauty. Whether one experiences an unexpected or a crisis pregnancy, or is faced with pressures toward euthanasia or eugenics, being connected to communities who embody choices of life and are committed to supporting those choices is foundational.

Members of the John Paul II Centre for Life are among the participants of Activ8 and welcome opportunities to build a culture of life, marriage and family. Visit jp2.org.nz or [facebook.com/jp2centre](https://www.facebook.com/jp2centre) to find out more.

- Marianne Daly

Dio Date Night

On the 15th of July, the John Paul II Centre ran their annual Dio Date Night event. This year the Dio Date Night was held at the Commodore Hotel with Simon and Angela Archer as the guest speakers. The Archers shared their story about how they met, and how they grew in the Catholic faith. They



then went on to relate some of their experiences of raising a family of 11 children.

“ My husband and I went to the Dio date night and absolutely loved it! From the fabulous buffet food (which was delicious), to meeting new couples and socializing and everything in between. Simon and Angela (our guest speakers) were really entertaining and informative; it was super helpful to be able to hear about their faith journey with their 11 kids, and ask for their tips for new families like ourselves, who are just starting out. I could not recommend it enough! We definitely would love to go again! ”

- Madalyn

Meet the team



My name is Megan and I feel greatly blessed to be joining the team as a Pastoral Support Worker for the John Paul II Centre for Life. More recently, I have been on the Board for the John Paul II Centre for Life Trust, so I have been aware of this special mission within the Church and the great work that is undertaken by the members of the trust.

I have a large family of children and grandchildren, extended family and friends, all holding a special place in my heart.

Am also privileged to be part of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites here in Christchurch, which provides a strong foundation of prayer and friendship. Our Carmel Sisters support us in prayer. St Teresa's is my parish church, which also nurtures my spiritual life and where friendships have been built.

My most recent role was as Catholic Chaplain at Burwood Hospital, which was a wonderful ministry and I hope to bring this experience to my new position here at JPIL.

I pray that St John Paul II and Mother Mary will surround me and our team with all the graces and wisdom we need. Let us entrust the Visitation Mystery of the Rosary to this ministry...

**“Draw us after you, Virgin Mary;
we shall follow in your footsteps”**

(antiphon from Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel)

God Bless.

JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE
SUPPORTING LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Annual Fundraiser

Race Night

FRIDAY **SEPT 01** 5.45 PM

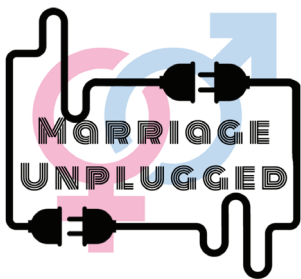
Race Night is our annual fundraiser and a guaranteed fun night out.

Held at the Addington Raceway, the evening consists of 10 races, a two-course meal, and great company.

Tickets can be purchased on our website and at our office.

Register at:
jp2.org.nz/community-events/

Scan me



Marriage Unplugged

Is life getting busy? Are you finding it harder to connect with your spouse? Take the time to invest in your marriage and attend this marriage workshop together.

For couples of all ages and stages of marriage to help strengthen their love and commitment to one another.

Saturday 16th September - Cathedral Parish Register at: www.jp2.org.nz/marriage-enrichment/



Mass for Life

Friday 15 September @ 7.00pm, St Teresa's Church, Riccarton

Followed by all night adoration. The eve of...

Christchurch March for Life

Saturday 16 September @ 1.00pm, Victoria Square Christchurch

JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE

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

Visit our website to donate: jp2.org.nz/support-us



Donate Online Today

Your gift will enable us to spread the message of family and life



Donate Monthly

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



Leave a Gift in Your Will

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 celebration donation



Join our Coffee Club

Support us weekly for the cost of a latte

Internet banking

ANZ Merivale, John Paul II Centre for Life Trust, 01 1188 0120948 00 (Please include your surname and initial as reference)

First Name Surname

Business Name

Address

Home phone Cell Phone Email

Amount Receipt via post email Frequency of donation

Please send completed form to:

JPII Centre for Life, 21 Thames St, Mairehau, Christchurch 8013

Thank you for your support

Charities Registration Number: CC47334

SAVE the DATE

1 September

JPII Race Night Fundraiser

14 September

Annual Mass of Remembrance

16 September

Marriage Unplugged

14 Sep - 12 Oct

Theology of the Body for Young Adults

October

Mass for Life (date to be confirmed)