



# JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE

BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY



2023

# YEAR PLAN

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Proclaiming the Gospel of Life to help build a culture which affirms life, marriage and family in the Christchurch Diocese

# VISION

We hold a vision for an authentic civilization of truth and love wherein the dignity of human life and each person's right to life is protected from conception until natural death. Our vision is that the Gospel of Life<sup>1</sup> is proclaimed to the heart of every man and woman and child to make it penetrate every part of society. This ensues a society which safeguards and promotes marriage between one man and one woman, and upholds the natural family as the basic cell of society.

# MISSION

The Christchurch John Paul II Centre for Life Charitable Trust is a Catholic organization dedicated to building an authentic civilization of truth and love through prayer, education and service.

# HOW WE CARRY OUT OUR MISSION

In order to promote and build a Culture of Life, we must first start with prayer.

Prayer is the foundation for everything which we do. Whether publicly advertised through organised prayer vigils or quietly whispered in our own homes, prayer is our first appeal to change our culture.

In order to encourage behaviours that form a Culture of Life – education and the understanding of the “why” must first be taught. Therefore, emphasis is given to our second principle: education. All life issues (including abortion, contraception, sexuality, chastity, marriage, pornography and euthanasia) are addressed and explained with fidelity to the social and moral teaching of the Catholic Church. In addition, we place special emphasis on the teaching of John Paul II’s Theology of the Body. Theology of the Body enables everyone to rediscover not only the meaning of our creation as male and female, but through that, “the meaning of the whole of existence, the meaning of life” (TOB 46:6).

Finally, we are called to put our words into action and offer loving assistance to all those in need, regardless of their beliefs. The John Paul II Centre’s services offer practical support to those suffering from the loss of a baby through abortion or miscarriage, those who are struggling with pornography addictions and those who need support when faced with the issue of Euthanasia

The John Paul II Centre is a charitable trust under the patronage of the Bishop of Christchurch. Our funding comes from grants, donations, fundraising and bequests.

# 1 – PRAYER

*"it is from the blood of Christ that all draw the strength to commit themselves to promoting life"<sub>2</sub>*

- Promoting prayer for the cause of Life in the Diocese of Christchurch
- Crisis /Urgent Prayer Network
- Mass of Remembrance for those who have lost a child.
- Helping promote and resource 'Support Life' Sunday
- Remembrance garden
- Prayer life vigils
- Eucharistic procession for Life
- Annual Mass for Life

# 2 – EDUCATION

*"To be truly a people at the service of life we must propose these truths constantly and courageously"<sub>3</sub>*

- Annual Bishop John Cunneen Gospel of Life Lecture
- Informative articles in newsletters, website and social media
- Visiting Speakers
- Parish Missions
- JP2 Library
- Inform priests and pastoral workers of what JP2 offers.

# **3 - PROGRAMS, SERVICES & EVENTS**

## **3.1 - THEOLOGY OF THE BODY**

- Joy-filled marriage preparation for engaged couples
- Parish Formation
- Freedom to Love Theology of the Body for Young Adults
- YOU Theology of the Body for Teens (Year 9-13)
- Theology of the Body for Middle School (Year 7-9)

## **3.2 - FORMING & SUPPORTING MARRIAGE & LIFE**

- Marriage Retreats (Tim and Jenn Goulding)
- Dio Date Night
- Parent support night
- Natural Fertility Awareness (Billings Ovulation method) promotion and support
- Help form a working group to better support marriage preparation and formation throughout the diocese.

## 3.3 – SEEDS OF HOPE

- Supporting those affected by abortion and pregnancy loss through individual counsel and small group meetings
- Rosebud parish outreach – gives parishioners a place to write their prayer intentions and for parishioners to pray for these intentions.
- Living in Colour – A post-abortion outreach program
- Book of Life – A book where people can write the names of children lost to miscarriage, still birth or abortion
- Garden of Remembrance – A memorial garden for all babies lost to abortion or through miscarriages
- Red Bird Ministry - A Catholic grief support ministry for parents who have lost a child during pregnancy through to adulthood.
- Project Rachel – Providing resources to priests on how to support post abortive women
- Precious Moments/Seeds of Hope - A program which supports families who's unborn child is diagnosed with a genetic disorder, disability or life-limiting condition

## 3.4 - EUTHENASIA

*"And when earthly existence draws to a close, it is again charity which finds the most appropriate means for enabling the elderly, especially those who can no longer look after themselves, and the terminally ill to enjoy genuinely humane assistance and to receive an adequate response to their needs, in particular their anxiety and their loneliness."*<sup>4</sup>

- Form a group to help provide support and guidance for priests and pastoral workers

## 3.5 - PORNOGRAPHY OUTREACH

*"Pornography use is the greatest impediment to evangelisation that the Church faces today"*<sup>5</sup>

- Supporting individuals and couples with counseling
- Support priests, pastoral workers, families and individuals with relevant resources.

# 4 - NETWORKING WITH OTHERS WHO SHARE OUR VISION

- Resourcing and supporting 40 Days for Life locally
- Collaborating with other groups and individuals who share our vision – Loving for Life, Womb NZ, Right to Life, Voices for Life, etc
- Supporting the national march for life

# 2023 CALENDAR

1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Joy Filled Marriage Preparation
16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	First Newsletter
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Board Meeting
3-7 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Activ8 South Pro-Life Training
15 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Dio Date Night (near feast of St Louis + Zelig)
19 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Board meeting
30 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Second Newsletter
1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	Race Night
15 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Mass for Life + All-night vigil
16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Eucharistic Procession + March for Life
21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	Bishop John Cunneen Lecture + AGM
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Mass of Remembrance
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Joy Filled Marriage Preparation
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Support Life Sunday
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Third Newsletter
18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Board Meeting
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	JP2 Feast Day Celebration
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	National March for Life
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Staff and Board Breakup
13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fourth Newsletter
TBC	Parent Support Night x4
TBC	Parish Mission x1
TBC	Theology of the Body - YOU
TBC	Theology of the Body – Freedom to Love
TBC	Theology of the Body – Middle School
TBC	Billings Training Weekend
TBC	Priest Pornography Training
TBC	Pornography Exit Support Group
TBC	Marriage Retreats x4