



# Update

JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE

ISSUE #36 / APRIL 2024

## Opening of the Unborn Memorial Garden

On Saturday 11th of May we will be celebrating the opening of the Unborn Memorial Garden.

The Community of the Beatitudes have taken on the initiative of building a memorial garden to the Unborn. Work has been underway on this project for the last several months and the community would now like to open it up to the public with an opening ceremony and blessing of the garden.

With walkways, beautiful statues, and reflection points, the garden surrounds the infant cemetery where babies who have died due to miscarriage, stillbirth or other infant deaths are buried. This memorial garden has been beautifully set up to allow family members the space where they can remember and grieve the loss of their little one, and find peace. The John Paul II Centre has donated their Oamaru limestone statue of a small baby sleeping on a koru fern frond to decorate the garden. The Beatitudes Community have

also commissioned a beautiful carving of Our Lady of Guadalupe sitting down and holding three small children in her arms. These statues provide a wonderful setting for family members to remember their loved ones are held in the arms of Mary.

If families wish to bury their unborn child or have a memorial plaque placed in the garden they can contact Thomas at [thomas@beatitudes.nz](mailto:thomas@beatitudes.nz).

The opening ceremony will begin at 10am on Saturday 11th of May with a talk by Michael Loretz on The Pro-Life battle - a struggle for compassionate unity. We will then head over to the garden at 11am for the blessing of the memorial and a time of prayer in the garden or chapel.

The opening Mass will begin at 12pm followed by a potluck lunch.

Please join us as we celebrate the opening of the memorial garden and support those who have lost children to miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion.



“ This memorial garden has been beautifully set up to allow family members the space where they can remember and grieve the loss of their little one, and find peace. ”



# 7 Sorrows Prayer Group

Our John Paul II Centre serves everyday people who have been given a tremendous cross to carry. Let us support you through the complexity and trauma that happens with the loss of a loved one, from pregnancy through to adulthood.

Many people bury their grief deep within and sometimes we are looking for a way to embrace this grief with courage and hope, close to the Heart of Jesus. We can help you navigate your way through the different stages of grief and how to take practical measures to begin the healing process.

With this in mind, we started a Seven Sorrows Rosary and Holy Hour of Adoration on Monday February 26th February at St Teresa's church in Puriri St. We are grateful for the support of our parish priest Fr Michael Therese CSJ who has encouraged us in this spiritual ministry. There is a 7am Mass before the Rosary and we will meet on the 4th Monday of each month. We are also grateful to the Carmelite Monastery who have provided some Rosary beads and to some friends who have donated them.



For those who are not familiar with the Seven Sorrows Rosary, it was a Rosary originally revealed to St Bridget of Sweden in the 14th century and regained popularity due to the apparition of Our Lady of Kibeho in Rwanda (1980's) where Mary urged people to pray the Rosary.

Mary's Seven Swords of Sorrow are based on Scripture and help us to meditate on the suffering she endured as the Mother of Jesus.

- 1: The Prophecy of Simeon
- 2: The Flight into Egypt
- 3: The Loss of Jesus in the Temple
- 4: Mary meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary
- 5: Mary Stands at the Foot of the Cross
- 6: Mary Receives the Dead Body of Jesus in Her Arms
- 7: The Body of Jesus is Placed in the Tomb.

In meditating on the Sorrows of Our Lady and the purity of her suffering, we learn how, as she embraced her suffering, it became an eternal exchange of love between her and the Father.

Pope Saint John Paul II puts it so beautifully when he said:

*“ She who is the Mother of Sorrows and also the Mother of Consolation, can understand you completely and help you ”*

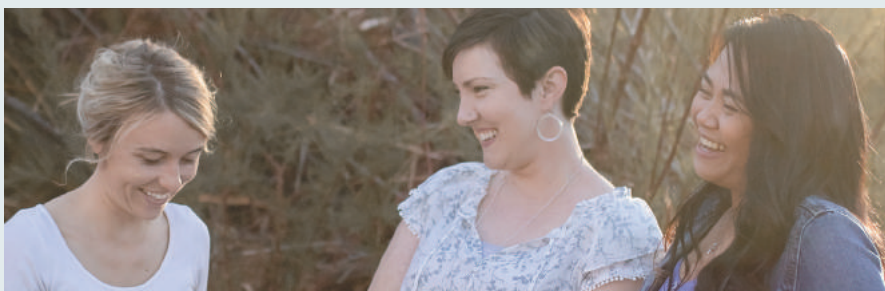
You are most welcome to join us in praying for your loved ones, and we also surround in prayer, all loved ones who are in need of our prayers. We will provide a prayer leaflet for you to use at Adoration, which you may keep for your personal use as well. The prayer card allows you to follow the Seven Sorrows Rosary without having the actual beads. You may wish to have the Rosary beads, so you are welcome to ask us at the JP2 Centre or approach me personally.

Thank you to those who joined our first session on February 26th, we certainly felt it was a time of tremendous grace and gift. I encourage you to invite someone who will benefit from being surrounded and embraced by our prayers.

May the Holy Family surround our loved ones who have died and those who grieve their loss.

Blessings

**Megan**  
Support Worker at JP2



## INFERTILITY IS A HEAVY BURDEN THAT NOT EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO CARRY IT ALONE!

Infertility can be an isolating experience, impacting our marriage and other relationships, and testing our faith. This small group is a place to acknowledge the pain and complex emotions associated with infertility and loss by encountering others who are on the same path. We invite you to join us as we overcome isolation through prayer, sharing, community, and reclaiming our identities as beloved daughters of God.

**OUR WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP IS A TIME OF PRAYER, HEALING, AND FRIENDSHIP.**

- St Teresa's Church Hall, 8 Puriri Street, Riccarton
- Second Monday of the month, 7:30pm
- CONTACT 02108148834 for more info



[JP2.ORG.NZ/INFERTILITY](http://JP2.ORG.NZ/INFERTILITY)



# Billings Fertility Educators Needed to Meet Demand

Growing demand for the Billings Ovulation Method™, a natural fertility awareness method for avoiding or achieving pregnancy, means Billings LIFE NZ needs people to train as fertility educators.

Billings LIFE NZ teaches women and couples and trains Educators in the Billings Method™.

The growing demand in New Zealand is part of the increasing trend towards sustainability in all aspects of our lives, from transport options to how and where our food is produced, says Alicia Reeve, Registered Nurse and National Coordinator/Educator for Billings LIFE NZ.

“People are becoming aware of the harmful impact artificial hormones can have on a woman’s well-being and the natural environment,” she says. “Women and couples are becoming dissatisfied with hormonal contraception and are seeking an effective natural alternative that enables them to tune into their body’s natural cycles of fertility, something they can do with the Billings Method.”

The method offers a natural lifestyle choice. Couples learn to understand their joint fertility and use this knowledge to postpone or achieve pregnancy and to monitor reproductive and general well-being without relying on devices, monitors, or thermometers.

“The Billings Method™ is highly effective if used correctly,” says Alicia Reeve. “It is validated by eminent international scientists and

successfully trialed by the World Health Organisation, showing it to have greater than 99 per cent reliability for avoiding pregnancy.”

It is also used to monitor fertility, helping many sub-fertile couples achieve pregnancy, including those who have been trying to conceive for more than two years or who have failed IVF attempts.

If you have an interest in women’s Health and Natural fertility, make contact to discuss the pathway to accreditation as a Fertility Educator of the Billings Method™. A history in health education is helpful but not essential.

A two-day seminar will be held in Christchurch on the weekend of 27 and 28 April 2024. The Seminar offers an in-depth introduction to the Billings Method™. It is suitable for those using the method or wanting to know more about it, health care professionals, and those considering training as a Billings Educator. The Seminar is endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) for Continuing Professional Development purposes.

To learn more about the Method™, the Teaching or Training programs, visit the website [www.billingslife.org.nz](http://www.billingslife.org.nz), call the Billings LIFE NZ Office on 0800 693 378 or email [info@billingslife.org.nz](mailto:info@billingslife.org.nz).



## Billings Ovulation Method™, Fertility Awareness Seminar Christchurch, 27th & 28th April 2024

Billings Ovulation Method™ is a Fertility Awareness Method used by couples to prevent or achieve pregnancy and monitor general & reproductive health.

It does not depend on regular cycles, thermometers, kits or devices, It is highly effective if used correctly.

This seminar will benefit health professionals, Natural Health practitioners, those interested in women’s health and fertility, those wishing to become accredited Billings Teachers, & those using or considering using the Billings Method.

The “Billings Ovulation Method™ Natural Fertility Training Seminar” activity has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved for up to **11.15 CME credits** for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) purposes.



To register or for further details, phone 0800 693 378  
Email: [info@billingslife.org.nz](mailto:info@billingslife.org.nz)  
[www.billingslife.org.nz](http://www.billingslife.org.nz)



MONTHLY  
**2ND**  
MONDAY

Arise : Infertility  
Support Group



MAY  
**11**

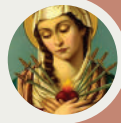
Opening of the  
Unborn Memorial Garden



# UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY  
**4TH**  
MONDAY

7 Sorrows  
Rosary Group



MAY  
**18**

Marriage Preparation  
Course



JUNE  
**22**

Dio  
Date Night



APRIL  
**27-28**

Billings Ovulation Method:  
Fertility Awareness Seminar



MAY  
**25**

Marriage Unplugged  
Ashburton



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

## 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/donate](http://jp2.org.nz/donate)



### Donate Online Today

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



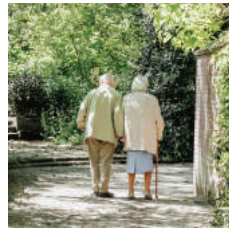
### Donate Monthly

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: JP II Centre for Life, 21 Thames St, Mairehau, Christchurch 8013.

*Thank you for your support*

Charities Registration Number: CC47334