



# Update

JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE

## Miscarriage Boxes - Service Project

When someone suffers miscarriage it can often be hard to know what to say or do. Beyond prayer, there's often not a lot we can do to help the person who is grieving. At the John Paul II Centre we have on hand what we call "Miscarriage Boxes", a shoe box size care package that shows the grieving person that they are being thought about and someone else acknowledges and cares about their loss.

My children and I are part of a weekly Christian Homeschooling Co-op and every term we try to do a service project or help those in need somehow. This term we decided to help the John Paul II Centre out by creating some miscarriage care package boxes for them. All the families bought different items for the boxes and at lunchtime the children all pitched in to help assemble the boxes. There were many willing volunteers. Some of the things included in the boxes are: candles, lip balm, herbal teas, pen, soap, nice tissues, cosy socks and flower seeds.

Assembling these miscarriage boxes was a fantastic service project for our co-op group as the kids had lots of fun putting the boxes together and many of the parents appreciated knowing that there was something practical they could do to help those whom they knew who had experienced a miscarriage.

The John Paul II Centre has these miscarriage care package boxes on hand at their office, if you know if someone who has recently experienced a miscarriage who may appreciate a care package, contact the John Paul II Centre on 022 503 9249.

**Debra McTague**



## Maternity Leave & new acting director

Having taken over the role of Director of the John Paul II Centre for Life in 2022, Theresa Mischewski has since married and is now expecting her first child. Because of this Theresa will be away on maternity leave for the remainder of 2024. Fortunately however, a familiar face will be taking over as acting director in her absence. Maria Schmetzer, former director of the centre, will be coming back as acting director for the John Paul II Centre for Life.

Please keep Theresa in your prayers as she prepares to have her baby (due in July) and also keep up your prayers for the John Paul II Centre so we can continue to share the Gospel of Life and serve those in our community.



# Mass of Remembrance

On Tuesday 11th of June we celebrated our annual Mass of Remembrance at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. The Mass of Remembrance is a special mass offered for all children who have died at or before birth. It was a beautiful time, where parents, extended family members and friends could gather united in prayer to remember the precious infants they have lost. Bishop Michael celebrated a Votive Mass of Mary at the Foot of the Cross. As a loss is sometimes very private, this Mass is a gentle way of including parents and babies in a very Eucharistic time of Thanksgiving.

With around 70 people attending, the Mass of Remembrance was truly a beautiful time of prayer and reflection for all. At the end of the mass, people had the opportunity to

come forward and write the name of their infant in the Book of Life as well as light a votive candle as an expression of heartfelt love. The Book of Life is a memorial book where family and friends can write the names of babies who they know who have been lost to miscarriage, still birth or abortion. The Book of Life is kept at the St Gregory's Perpetual Adoration Chapel, Cotswold Ave, where anyone is welcome to record a child's name at any time. These precious children are under the gaze of Jesus and the prayers of those who visit the Chapel.

Our grateful thanks to all who joined us in prayer, it was truly a time of consolation and remembrance.



*“Turn your eyes incessantly to the Blessed Virgin; she, who is the Mother of Sorrows and also the Mother of Consolation, can understand you completely and help you.”*

**Megan Emery**



## Opening of the Unborn Memorial Garden

On the 11th of May the Beatitudes community welcomed around 70 people to celebrate the opening of the Memorial Garden to the Unborn. Michael Loretz began by giving a talk on 'The Pro-Life battle - a struggle for compassionate unity'. Following this, the beatitudes community lead a procession down to the memorial garden praying the rosary all together along the way. Fr Pierre-Marie then said a special prayer and blessed the garden and cemetery area. The procession continued through the garden stopping to pray in front of the Beautiful statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe holding three small children, as well as praying in front of the mini calvary which included a beautiful crucifix placed on top of a small hill. After the blessing of the memorial, mass was celebrated in the chapel. To finish off the celebrations, a potluck lunch was shared after the mass. The Unborn Memorial garden is a beautiful place to pray and reflect. It is also a certified cemetery, where infants who have died by miscarriage or stillbirth can be buried. There is also the option of placing a memorial plaque if there are no remains to bury. Contact Sr Clare at the Beatitudes community for more information about this - [sr.clare@beatitudes.nz](mailto:sr.clare@beatitudes.nz).





## John Paul II Centre for Life Race Night

Our annual race night will be held on Friday September 6th in the Silks Room at the Addington Raceway. This is our major fundraising event of the year. Join with over 200 others for an evening of fun, friendship and racing. Tickets will be \$60 per person which includes entry and a two-course meal with cash bar available. Tickets will be available from mid-July and you can book your ticket at [www.jp2.org.nz](http://www.jp2.org.nz). We are still looking for table sponsors if that is something that interests you. For more information contact our chairperson Matt O'Connell on [chair@jp2.org.nz](mailto:chair@jp2.org.nz) or 027 536 9407.



## Dio Date Night

On Saturday 22nd of June the John Paul II Centre for Life ran their annual Diocesan Date Night event at the Commodore Hotel. The Dio Date Night is for Catholic couples from across the Christchurch Diocese. Sponsored by the Catholic Development Fund the evening consisted of a delicious three course meal which was followed by an inspiring testimony from guest speakers, Mike and Kate Baird. The Baird's shared their story about some of the ups and downs and challenges they faced in their marriage as well as the key steps that took place which turned their marriage from "dirty dish water into fine wine". The evening was a wonderful opportunity for married couples to have a night out, connect with their spouse and also meet other Catholic couples from the Christchurch Diocese.

*“It was great to have a night out with incredible food and fellowship with other Catholic couples. The speakers were dynamic and full of joy for their vocation.”*

- April

*“The company at my table was great, the food was “fine dining” quality, and the talk was full of tips, whilst offering food-for-thought for all married couples. I look forward to the next Dio Date Night.”*

- Emma



Te Tikanga Kano Tere a Billings  
A SERVICE OF WOOMB NZ



## Woomb NZ Natural Fertility Seminar in Christchurch - April 24

WOOMB NZ is a national charitable organisation which teaches a natural method of fertility awareness called the Billings Method. A two day seminar teaching the method is run annually in different centres in New Zealand. In April this year it was held at the Mary Potter Centre in Christchurch. 10 people enrolled including a doctor, a nurse, couples practising the method and wanting to learn more and four new trainees. The seminar is endorsed by the RNZCGP for the purposes of Continuing Medical Education.

The Billings Ovulation Method is a Fertility Awareness Method used by couples to prevent or achieve pregnancy and monitor general and reproductive health. It does not depend on regular cycles, thermometers, kits or devices. It can be used by women

with irregular cycles including those who are breast feeders or perimenopausal. It is highly effective if used correctly.

The two day seminar benefits health professionals, natural health practitioners, those interested in women's health and fertility, others wishing to become accredited Billings Teachers, and couples considering using the Billings Method for achieving or postponing pregnancy.

Contact Alicia Reeve [info@billingslife.org.nz](mailto:info@billingslife.org.nz) or phone 0800 693 378. She is a registered nurse and National Co Ordinator and Educator for WOOMB NZ or visit [www.billingslife.org.nz](http://www.billingslife.org.nz) for further information.

**Cathy Black**

# Proclaiming the Gospel of Life in a Post-Christian Culture

Saint John Paul II declared in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* that we are all called to love, protect, defend, and serve life from conception through natural death. Many wonder how this can be achieved effectively in a post-Christian culture where the landscape is constantly changing, and the culture of death has taken hold.

This August, you have an opportunity to learn (and be reminded of) foundational principles alongside practical ways to effectively proclaim the Gospel of Life today, right where God has placed you.

Join Father Shenan J Boquet, president of Human Life International, for an informative and inspiring evening discussing the life and family issues of grave concern in today's culture. Father Boquet's extensive travels worldwide proclaiming the Gospel of Life and equipping priests, seminarians, and lay pro-life and pro-family advocates with the tools needed to compassionately answer questions regarding life, family, and bioethical issues have had a significant impact. Don't miss this opportunity.

## Proclaiming the Gospel of Life in a Post-Christian Culture

**Speaker:** Father Shenan J Boquet  
president of Human Life Int.

**Date:** Wednesday 28 August  
7.00pm – 9.00pm

**Venue:** Lamb of God Centre  
21 Thames St, Mairehau

Organised by Family Life International NZ,  
JP2 Centre for Life and Right to Life NZ.

A collection will be taken to help defray expenses.

MONTHLY  
**2ND**  
MONDAY

Arise: Infertility Support Group



AUG  
**28**

Proclaiming the Gospel of Life in a Post-Christian Culture



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

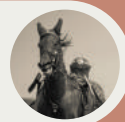
MONTHLY  
**4TH**  
MONDAY

7 Sorrows Rosary Group



SEPT  
**06**

Race Night JP2 Annual Fundraiser



AUG  
**10**

Marriage Preparation



SEPT  
**21**

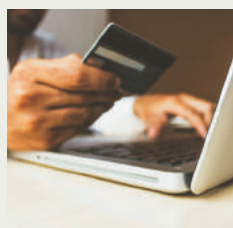
Marriage Unplugged  
*Enrich & refresh your marriage*



## JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE

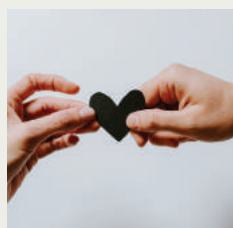
We are a Charitable Trust with a small team of part time staff, a volunteer Trust Board AND A BIG MISSION.

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



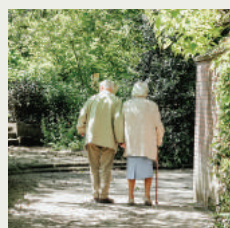
### Donate Monthly

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



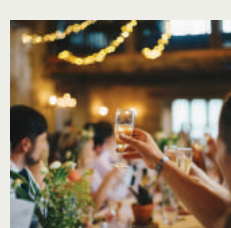
### Leave a Gift in Your Will

Leave a lasting legacy to build the culture of life



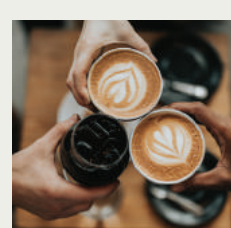
### Give in Memory

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

*Thank you for your support*