



# Update

JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE

## Meet Brigid, our new director

Kia ora! I'm Brigid Conroy, and I'm grateful to be leading the team at the John Paul II Centre for Life. My husband and I have recently moved to Christchurch from Hamilton, where I worked in communications and spent time at the Hamilton Diocese pastoral office.

Saint John Paul II's vision that each person is unique, chosen, and irreplaceable is something that really guides my approach as I begin this role. Through previous roles, including as a marriage educator, I've learnt that I love helping couples to strengthen their relationships and create homes where everyone can grow in love.

I'm looking forward to building on the wonderful work that's been done here over the past 20 years, and to meeting the people who have been part of this journey. There's already so much good work happening here, and I'm excited to be part of supporting families through all of life's seasons.



## Dio Date Night

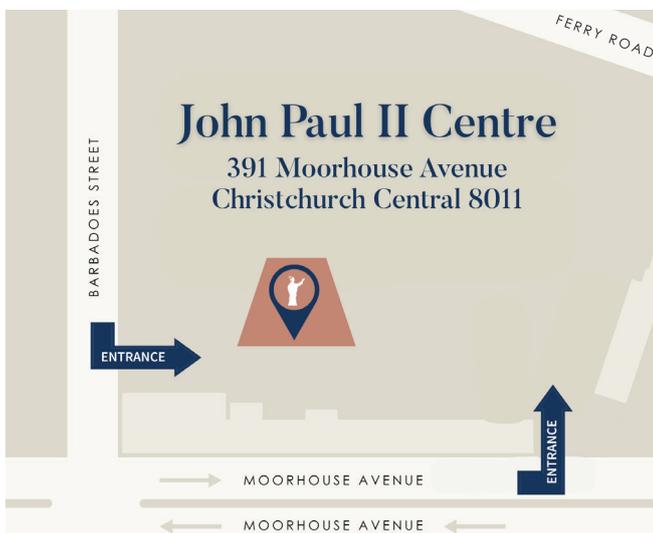
As this newsletter goes out to print, preparations are almost complete for our much-anticipated Dio Date night, with around 50 people registered to attend. We're grateful to our guest speakers, Dean and Julie Mischewski, who will be sharing on the theme 'Embracing Your Family Mission' - a powerful message for married couples seeking to strengthen their relationship with God and each other. The evening includes a two-course meal, drinks, professional photography and the joy of connecting with others. Thank you to everyone who has made this event possible!

## We've moved - we'd love you to visit!

You'll now find us at the Christchurch Diocesan Offices on the corner of Barbadoes and Moorhouse Avenue. Being here means we're more central and enables us to work alongside other diocesan services.

We're still settling in, so no regular drop-in hours yet, but we'd love you to visit! Come say hello, browse our library of marriage and family life books (we've got some great titles for sale too), and have a chat about how we can support you.

To arrange a visit: Email [info@jp2.org.nz](mailto:info@jp2.org.nz) or call us on our new number: 021 243 4820. **Please note: We have a new phone number - please update your contacts!**



## Joy-Filled Marriage Preparation Course

We were grateful to have April Holden from Loving for Life present the Catholic vision for marriage with such skill and pastoral care at our July course. All 12 participants - both Catholic and non-Catholic - said the program helped them better understand the Church's teaching on marriage, and they would all recommend it to others. Participants particularly valued learning about Fertility Awareness Based (FAM) methods and discussions around sexual honesty before and after marriage.

Testimonial: *"The course helped us understand what marriage really is. The sessions on sexual honesty really opened us up to having discussions that we wouldn't normally have outside of church - it helped me understand what I'm actually saying 'I do' to."*

- Course participant



# Life Matters

## - Christian Parenting in a Digital Age

In May, we welcomed clinical psychologist and counsellor, Sharon Gardner, for an insightful workshop on navigating device use with children aged 8-13 years. She shared practical strategies for setting boundaries around phones, social media, and school-based tech use, while also guiding parents on how to respond calmly and effectively when rules are broken. A big thank you to Sharon for equipping our community with tools to keep our children safe in the digital world.



JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Aug 29

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

For information and to book tickets, check our website:  
<https://jp2.org.nz/race-night-2025/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG 29 Annual Race Night

NOV 12 JP2 Centre 20th Anniversary Mass

## RECURRING EVENTS AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH

2ND MON EACH MONTH 7 Sorrows Grief Support Rosary

4TH MON EACH MONTH ARISE Infertility Group

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



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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



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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

## If you want your donation to go further...

Please consider donating via bank transfer – either make a one-off donation or set up an automatic payment for the frequency and amount of your choice. This saves on credit card processing fees.

Please use your name and phone number as one of the references.

Bank: ANZ

Account Name: John Paul II Centre for Life Trust

Account: 01 1188 0120948 00

*Thank you for your support*

Charities Registration Number: CC47334