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From the Director

Dear Supporters and Readers

We greet you with good news. Our new Pregnancy Centre outreach at the Vinnies Centre, 265 Stanmore Rd, is now open. Thanks to all of you who have helped to establish this exciting venture through your prayer and offerings. We could not have done it without you!

There are so many ways for each of us to build up a Culture of Life. Inside this edition, two of our wonderful volunteers share their reflections. We are grateful to those who help out at the Centre each week, and are encouraged by their cheerful presence and willingness to help. If you, or someone you know is considering any Volunteer work, please do call us. Full training is given for Pregnancy Centre helpers. We are also in urgent need of someone to help with gardening.

There is one call to witness which we all share. Through our baptism we are anointed to defend the sanctity of life. *"In a world in which the most vulnerable are so often overlooked and disregarded, Christ calls us to embrace and uphold the unconditional dignity of every human life. In doing so, we help to build a new culture of life, the fruit of the culture of truth and of love."* Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae 75. The Pope further reminded us of our Christian duty, saying that *"It is... a service of love to which we are all committed, to ensure to our neighbour, that his or her life may be always defended and promoted, especially when it is weak or threatened."* (EV 77).

Public witness and prayer are powerful forces for saving lives. Since 2007 the **40 Days for Life** worldwide campaign of



Our new Pregnancy Centre outreach at the Vinnies Centre, 265 Stanmore Rd.

prayer and fasting has saved 15,256 unborn babies scheduled for abortion, led to the closure of clinics and the conversion of many hearts. This year's campaign will begin on Ash Wednesday, 6th March, and run until Palm Sunday, 14th April. Please would you consider praying for one hour each week at a designated place in Hagley Park, opposite Christchurch Hospital? If you are housebound, we invite you to join the ranks of the "hidden prayer warriors". See inside for more information.

Wishing you every blessing for 2019.

Maria Schmetzer
Director



POPE JOHN PAUL II'S *Prayer for Life*

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life: Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. (Evangelium Vitae, 105)



"The Miraculous Journey" - a striking witness to life - sculpture by Damien Hirst outside the Sidra Medicine Hospital in Qatar.

Volunteering at the John Paul II Centre for Life

Meet our wonderful Volunteers



Mary

I had been looking to do some volunteer work but didn't know where to start. The first email from the John Paul II Centre went in my trash bin. A few weeks later I received another, with a list of different ways people might help, including "general volunteer". I considered this and felt God was asking me to tick that box. This time, I did not press the delete button. He had a job for me to do. The hours that I spend each week at the Centre give me a sense of satisfaction, knowing that I am helping those in need and contributing to the running of the Centre.



Sandra

I volunteer weekly at the John Paul II Centre on a Friday, helping out where I can. This involves answering phones, receiving people at the door, sorting donated baby and maternity clothing, collecting or delivering goods and generally helping as required. I got the idea of volunteering through hearing about the Centre at my parish. I wanted to use my free time to do something that would benefit other people. The caring, kind and professional help offered by the staff at the Centre to people requiring practical help or guidance is an inspiration. It is a pleasure for me and I find it rewarding to work in this environment.

Are you caring and compassionate?

Do you love life?

Please consider volunteering at the Pregnancy Centre.

We have many ways you can defend, protect and serve life.

We can train you to take calls, sort donations, do needs assessments, and carry out pregnancy tests.

To register for our next Volunteer Training on Tuesday 26 March from 10:00am-2:30pm please contact Carly 03 351 3227 or pregcentrechch@gmail.com



March for Life

The John Paul II Centre for Life was one of the organisations that endorsed the 2018 March for Life held on Saturday 8th December in Wellington. Carly and her family went up to Wellington to march from Civic Square to Parliament alongside close to 1,200 other pro-lifers from all over the country of every age and ethnicity. It was an extremely positive and powerful day standing for LIFE, and wonderful to have so many organisations representing a unified voice.



Volunteer Training

Tuesday 25 March 2019
10:00am - 2:30pm

Pregnancy Centre
88 Idris Road, Bryndwr

RSVP Carly Mulqueen
03 351 3227
pregcentrechch@gmail.com

Lunch provided





40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion.

It aims to bring together the body of Christ (Christians from all denominations) in a spirit of unity during a focused 40-day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful outreach with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favour to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion.

The 40-day campaign tracks Biblical history, where God used 40-day periods to transform individuals, communities ... and the entire world. From Noah in the flood to Moses on the mountain to the disciples after Christ's resurrection, it is clear that God sees the transformative value of His people accepting and meeting a 40-day challenge.

Join This Mighty Effort to End Abortion

It is time to increase our efforts in the spiritual battle to end abortion. We invite - we need you - to stand with us in love and prayer during the 40 Days for Life Campaign. Please invite others too.

We Christians must keep this lighthouse of prayer and witness burning steadily and brightly, so that our nation will not lose its way and founder in the deathly darkness of a world that does not cherish life.

We propose two frontline prayer ranks in our autumn campaign. We invite those who are able, to offer their physical presence, witnessing and praying opposite Christchurch hospital. Call us today (ph 351 3225) or visit <https://40daysforlife.com/> to sign up for your weekly, public hour of prayer during Lent (6th March through 14th April).

Alternatively, those who are constrained by health or home duties are invited to join the hidden frontline assault, praying wherever they are. Additional offerings of Holy Mass, visits to the Blessed Sacrament and of their suffering are also welcomed for the conversion of our nation and that every life may be cherished. For those familiar with spiritual bouquets, please consider filling out a commitment to one or more

of the Gifts for Life below and sending it to us. These will be placed within the chapel at the John Paul II Centre for Life.

Prayer is at the centre of 40 Days for Life. During this campaign, people of faith across the nation and around the world will come before the Lord, asking Him to hear our plea and heal our land.

Pray outside Christchurch Hospital with us. Pray at church. Pray at work. Pray in the car. Pray at home with your family. We pray for women who are at risk of having an abortion, for the children at risk of termination, for men and women who carry the pain of a past abortion experience, for abortion workers, for those who make the policies and laws governing abortion, for repentance and healing throughout our nation.

Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help.

Gifts for Life

Name: _____

The following prayers and sacrifices will be offered up for the legal protection of the unborn and the care of those in crisis pregnancies.

- _____ Holy Masses
- _____ Decades of the Rosary
- _____ Visits to the Blessed Sacrament
- _____ Holy hours in adoration
- _____ Divine Mercy Chaplets
- _____ Stations of the Cross
- _____ Remembrance at Holy Mass
- _____ Acts of Penance
- _____ Novenas
- _____ Litanies
- _____ Spiritual Communions
- _____ Other: _____

My Experience of Praying in the 40 Days for Life Campaign

"In Lent 2017 Mum and I went to Hagley Park, opposite Christchurch Hospital, to pray for life as part of the 40 Days Campaign. Sometimes there were just two of us, at other times a small crowd. We prayed for woman - for the dignity and respect of every woman, made by God, in the image of the Blessed Trinity. And we prayed for man, also made in God's image, that he might truly love and respect woman. We prayed for children. We prayed especially for those who had chosen to end the lives of their children prematurely. We prayed for an outpouring of mercy and love upon all God's children, especially upon those who do not know the truth of God's love for them.

I was just one of hundreds who prayed in the park that Lent by the hospital, asking God to turn hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. I always came away feeling overjoyed with love and hope. I was so grateful for this opportunity to stand for life, peacefully, lovingly, prayerfully. God knows, prayer is the answer to defeating the culture of death. Come Lord Jesus, come, and give life to all who call on you." - David

Abortion Law Reform in NZ

Abortion law reform is on the Government's agenda. The proposal drafted by the Law Commission at the request of the Prime Minister seeks to frame abortion as a health issue and legalise abortion even in the last trimester of pregnancy.

Abortion is a difficult thing to talk about – so complex, so private, so messy. But if the law is going to change, now is the time to start talking about abortion in a broader, more in-depth, more informed, and better way.

We recommend the following as a gentle starting place. We Deserve Better www.wedeservebetter.org.nz/ is a new and unique campaign hosted by Voice for Life. It is a space designed for you to engage with the latest information on the issue of abortion in New Zealand, and to hear stories from those at the coalface: women working on the ground with pregnant women and women who have had abortions.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US

MAKE A

DIFFERENCE

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

We need to raise more funds to cover our operational costs and we are hoping that you will partner with us. By making a donation, or by taking on annual sponsorship you will help this work to continue.

Annual Sponsorship:

- Platinum Sponsor \$5,000
- Gold Sponsor..... \$1,000
- Silver Sponsor..... \$500
- Bronze Sponsor \$250

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

Please send completed form to: JP2 Centre for Life, 88 Idris Road, Bryndwr, Christchurch 8052.

Thank you for your support!!

Charities Registration
No CC47334

Become a monthly donor:

Join our Coffee Club

For the price of a cup of coffee a week, you can make a welcome contribution to our Mission:

- \$20
- \$30
- \$50

