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ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE  
 Queensland Law Reform Commission - Review of Termination of Pregnancy Laws



## BOTH LIVES MATTER

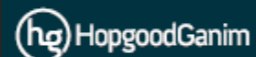
For the second time in two years, the Queensland Parliament will debate whether to make abortion legal. The draft bill will allow abortion until the day that a baby is born – late-term abortions will be legal in Queensland as long as two doctors agree that it “in all the circumstances, the termination should be performed”. This will mean that social reasons will be enough for a legal abortion of a full-term baby. The Archdiocese wants to ensure that Queenslanders understand this new bill and have time to consider it. We believe both lives matter and the bill should not go ahead. Please visit our website to learn more: <https://community.actonit.com.au/aob/>

For your information, here is a video that the Archbishop has made on the abortion laws: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6E7wAwtXv8>

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**The Plenary Council 2020**  
 is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future. Your voice is important. All people are invited to contribute to the Plenary Council agenda by sharing your experience of faith and of the Church.

See [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au) for more information.

You are invited to host or join a small group for Plenary Council Listening and Dialogue Encounters. Register your interest with the parish office on 3844 2744. We are gathering to pray, talk and listen to one another about our experiences of faith, and the Church.


The Holy Spirit is leading us and the stillness of prayer opens our hearts to hear God's voice. You can find the Plenary Council prayer at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)



**Awaken Together In Christ**  
 Every Tuesday at 7pm  
 St Francis' Hall, 47 Dornoch Tce West End.  
 A ministry bringing hope and the tangible presence of Christ to the lost and a deeper connection for those who know Him.

The Awaken Ministry has been blessed with an amazing gift of healing, powerfully led by the Holy Spirit, people have been receiving many miracles and lives have been changed.

We invite you to come along and enter into God's presence, watch Him move in your circumstances today. Everyone welcome! Website: [awaken.org.au](http://awaken.org.au)  
 Hosted by St Mary's & Dutton Park Parishes




EMBRACING THE COMMUNITIES OF:  
 St Mary's - South Brisbane;  
 St Ita's - Dutton Park;  
 St Francis of Assisi - West End &  
 Our Lady of Perpetual Succour - Fairfield.  
 Under the care of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars



## 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) 19th August 2018

Dear Parishioners,  
 For the last five Sundays we have been listening to Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John on the discourse of the Bread of Life. Following the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus invites the people to go from the physical bread that they ate to their hearts' content, to the encounter with the Bread of Life! Jesus invites them to eat His flesh and drink His blood for them to enter into eternal life.

The people find the invitation to eat His flesh and drink His blood to be a form of cannibalism. Remembering God prohibited them from drinking blood (See Genesis 9:4), the people refuse to accept Jesus' offering and could not understand what Jesus was telling them.

Jesus is actually pointing to the mystery of the Eucharist. His life would be a sacrificial offering on the altar of the cross. As a sacrificial victim, anyone who partakes in the communion of His body and blood will be closely united with Him. They will become recipients of His redemptive actions and gain forgiveness of sins. They will receive the fullness of life and will merit His promise of eternal life.

This makes sense since God gives food to plants and animals, should He not give food to us whom He loves so much? Since God grants life to plants and animals, should He not grant more life to us who are very dear to Him? Since God in the natural order of things gives food to these plants and animals, why should He not in the supernatural order of things provide us with more than food?

Yes, God gives us the best sustenance. God grants us food that will last. He gives us food that will lead us to everlasting life. Thus, God gives us Jesus. He is the Bread of Life. Jesus publicly declares, "For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink". St Augustine says, "God is everything for all. If a person is hungry, God is bread; if one is thirsty, God is water; if in darkness, God is light; if naked, God is a robe on immortality."

The Eucharist offers us the best means of nourishing our souls. When we receive the Eucharist, God in Christ becomes part of us, and we become part of Him. There is that holy exchange. We become aware that we are in the image of God (Gen 1:27). The thirst of our souls to go beyond the here and now is satisfied. We commune with God.

And yet, the challenge remains: we tend to celebrate the Eucharist and receive the Eucharist as a matter of routine. We become a victim of habituation. Our spiritual senses become numb to the working of the Spirit within us.

Today, being challenged by the Word of God, let us respond to the invitation of the Spirit to consciously receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. When the communion minister reminds us, "The Body of Christ" or "The Blood of Christ", and as we respond with the 'Amen', let us renew our faith in the presence of Christ in that bread. And may the Eucharist become the food for our soul. May the promise of Jesus become real to us: "Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever" (Jn 6:58).

Pax et bonum  
 Fr Lam Vu OFM Cap

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**MASS TIMES**

**St Mary's Church** (20 Merivale St. South Brisbane)  
 Mon-Fri 7am; Sat 8am (Rosary after Mass)  
 Sunday 9am and 5pm

**St Francis' Church** (47 Dornoch Tce., West End)  
 Mon-Fri 10am (Anointing: 1st Friday); Sunday: 9am

**St Ita's Church** (Pope St., Dutton Park)  
 Saturday (Vigil) 5pm; Sunday 8.00am

**Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour**  
 (Victoria St., Fairfield)  
 Sunday 7am (Anointing: 1st Sunday)

**Confession**

**St Mary's Church:** Sat 8.30-9.30am; Sun 4-4.45pm  
**St Ita's Church:** Sat 4-4.50pm

**PARISH OFFICE**  
 47 Dornoch Terrace, WEST END Qld 4101

**Postal:** PO Box 3857, WEST END Qld 4101  
**Emails:** southbrisbane@bne.catholic.net.au  
 stitasp@bne.catholic.net.au

**Office Hours:** 9am - 2pm, Mon-Fri  
**Telephone:** (07) 3844 2744  
**Websites:** www.southbrisbanestmarys.org.au  
 www.duttonparkcatholic.org.au

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Lam Vu OFM Cap  
**Ass. Parish Priest:** Fr. Bollar Barreto OFM Cap  
**Parish Pastoral Co-Ordinator:** Sr Salvacion Bunao SFI  
**Parish Secretary:** Bernadette Maguire  
**Sacramental Administrator:** Kate Dart  
**Safeguarding Officers:** Sarah Grealley (0434 889 110)  
 Chris Bolger (0407 480 205)

**ST ITA'S SCHOOL**  
**Phone:** (07)3838 8400  
**Email:** pduttonpark@bne.catholic.edu.au  
**Web:** www.stitaduttonpark.qld.edu.au

