



## 40 Days for Life 2015

*Bringing out the Best in People*

40 Days for Life has now concluded for 2015 and what a wonderful event it was all throughout Australia and the World. 40 Days ran in many cities in Australia including Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Newcastle.

In Sydney many new people attended the daily vigil for the first time and their feedback was that it was a special time of prayer with other like-minded Catholics. That is what 40 Days is about - a prayerful experience that enables Catholics to engage with God and each other in an effort to put an end to abortion across the world. Some parishes chose a vigil timeslot that many parishioners then attended, such as St Felix in Bankstown. There were also other parish groups such as the Knights of the Immaculata and SBAYA (St. Benedict's Association of Young Adults).

There was a counter protest against the *40 Days for Life* campaign. The protesters attended almost every day for about 2 hours per day holding signs against us and chatting with each other. This was in stark contrast to the 40 days for Life vigilers who attended 14 hours a day plus time in front of the Blessed Sacrament. While we were praying and acting in a peaceful manner, the counter protest came with derogatory and spiteful signs. They claim to be all about "Love" and "Understanding" and "For Women", yet when they have a chance to be all these things they pay little attention to the poor women going into the abortuary. Instead they relish in the fight and use anger and hate against anyone that disagrees with them.

They used Friday the 13th as an opportunity to dress as witches and other ghoulish creatures revealing far more than they intended. This public display of their support for the forces inimical to true love, understanding and family life was a refreshing display of honesty. Vigilers understand the true battle which is being fought, which is why we pray directly at the site of Calvary where innocence is crucified.



Globally during the 40 Days For Life campaign this year **402 babies have been saved from abortion...** that we know of! Here in Sydney we know of two babies saved.

The 40 Days launch event on Shrove Tuesday had almost 300 people in attendance - a great turn out for life. The *Day of the Unborn Child* event at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney was attended by over 2,500 people, benefiting greatly from the promotion in parishes across Sydney. The procession and Mass was led by the Archbishop of Sydney, Archbishop Anthony Fisher. It was the first time that an Archbishop of Sydney has led this procession. For the closing procession on Palm Sunday we had about 350 people in attendance led by Bishop Terry Brady. All these events enable us to give witness to life and to show the world that Catholics will not stand idly by and watch innocence be destroyed.

Another sign of hope is the reduced days on which abortions are performed at Preterm since we started vigils. Halved from four days to two resulting in a lot less abortions happening per year at this clinic. Prayers are effective, especially when they are regular.

But the work and the fight continues the rest of the year. Participating in a vigil regularly throughout the year is an incalculable boost to our understanding of the combination of prayer and works.

## From the Street

The majority of the time we spend in praying at vigils we get no knowledge of our impact. We go regularly and say our prayers, trusting in God to do His part. Sometimes we are blessed to get some news of the good that we do.

Last week while praying at the abortion mill, I needed to move my car. Upon reaching my car a man came up to me and asked, "Are you with those people praying?" Initially I thought this man was going to have a go at me, but waiting for a strident response, I replied, "Yes I am."

He then thanked us from the bottom of his heart for having a presence there on the street. He told me that two weeks previously he arrived there with his girlfriend for an abortion. It was pouring rain that particular day and they had come with heavy hearts. When they saw about ten people praying outside the clinic offering help to these poor mothers they had a change of heart and decided to keep their precious baby. We had not spoken to them that day. All they saw was a witness to life being held outside this place of death and that was enough to change their hearts towards life and love.

## About FLI News

FLI News is the monthly (or so) newsletter with current information on the Pro Family and Pro Life scene in Australia. This is produced by Family Life International (Aust) Limited, PO Box 205, Broadway, NSW, 2007. You can contact us about any matters raised in this newsletter or other pro family and pro life news at [mail@fli.org.au](mailto:mail@fli.org.au) or 02 9519 9111

## Pro Life Apologetics

### Keep Your Rosaries Off My Ovaries

The phrase *Keep your Rosaries off my Ovaries*, is one that has been consistently used by pro-abortionists for over 50 years. But what does it actually mean?

Nothing really.

It is an attempt to restrict - and thereby disqualify - the pro-life message to a merely Catholic religious argument.

Yet the scientific facts as to the nature of a baby from the moment of conception, the well researched evidence of Post Abortion Stress Syndrome and the damage to babies, mothers and families are all non religious problems causing any honest inquirer to oppose abortion.

Also, the ovaries are not the target of pro life actions. Rosaries - and all the prayers we offer - are for the child and his mother and father. We look at the full picture, the blessing of the gift of human life and prayer for families to embrace life.



## Vigils

*Join us in person, or by prayer as the Helpers of God's Precious Infants step up to the front lines in the battle for Life.*

### Sydney:

Thursday 8:00am - 10:30am, Friday 8:00am - 10:30am, Saturday 8:00am - 10:00am.  
Cnr Randle St & Elizabeth St, Surry Hills.

### Albury:

Thursday 9:00am - 5:00pm.  
586 Englehardt St, Albury.  
More at Melbourne, Townsville, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane. Full details are at [fli.org.au](http://fli.org.au).

## Events

*Pro Family and Pro Life related events in the coming months*

Mary Help of Christians Coastal Pilgrimage for Life 22nd May - 23rd May. WALK FOR LIFE, praying for the unborn and suicide victims. In Honour of Mary Help of Christians.  
Kiama to Gerringong (12km) Friday 22 May 2015

Procession in Honour of Our Lady Help of Christians, Saturday 23rd May. 11am start at Lang Park then process to St Mary's Cathedral for 12pm Mass

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