



## *A Need For Public Prayer*

In recent years there has been much controversy over exclusion (“bubble”) zone laws which have been legislated in both Tasmania, the ACT and now Victoria. Why has caused this to come about? In 2013 the Tasmanian government passed the *Reproductive Health (Access to Terminations) Act* which provided 150 metre exclusion zones around abortion clinics. Meaning that if you were to pray or offer help outside an abortion clinic in Tasmania you would be arrested and face fines or imprisonment. There has not been a regular presence of people praying outside abortion clinics in Tasmania. Why then did they bring in these laws in Tasmania of all states? Tasmania was the test case, as they knew there would be no public resistance.

If Catholics down in Tasmania were a public voice and witness then these kind of laws through the power of God would have had more difficulty getting through. Without bringing God into this spiritual battle we cannot win against Satan. Being there at the site where innocence is murdered is so vitally important not just for the babies being killed (although this is of great importance), but also to be there physically and spiritually for the mothers, fathers and for the whole of society who accept abortion as merely a matter of choice, either through ignorance or malice in how they think and act. Hearts and minds are changed through prayer, and public prayer is such a powerful force that it has to have an effect on people in their day to day lives. It is only through prayer that these kinds of laws are resisted in the first place.

Prayer is what changes hearts and minds. It only follows then that if Tasmania had had a group of people engaging in public prayer to have an impact on the people then these kinds of laws would not see the light of day. Public prayer is key to ending the evil of abortion.



Victoria also now has these same evil laws in place to stop the prayerful and peaceful vigils being held outside the abortion clinics. The Helpers of God’s Precious Infants have a strong presence down in Melbourne, they are there every day offering their support to worried, pregnant mothers. After seeing that the test legislation in Tasmania faced no real opposition, it was introduced to Victoria which was always the intended target.

Mr Paul Hanrahan (Executive Director of FLI and Sydney Co-Ordinator of the Helpers) and the Helpers in Melbourne are putting together a plan. The strategy is to put a case before the High Court based on the constitutional grounds of freedom of political expression. We have lawyers willing to take up this fight. This is not just a fight for religious freedom it is a fight for the unborn and the immortal souls of the mothers and fathers of the children who are on their way to be unmercifully slaughtered in the very wombs where they should be most safe.

Now is the time to get out to these vigils which are held throughout Australia including: Sydney, Melbourne, Albury, Adelaide, Perth and others. It is time for Catholics to show the rest of Australia that our voice will not be silenced and that we will fight for the right to life. The persecution is coming to Australia whether we like it or not and we have to be prepared. The best way to prepare oneself is of course to pray to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother, Our Mother. Public prayer is the witness this country needs to change its ways. Politicians are in need of converting, but we must convert the majority of people who will influence the legislators making these laws. Let our prayers and voices be heard. Without God we are nothing, he needs to be implored by each and every Catholic so that we are able to grow as a society and put an end to these evil laws. God Bless.

## Fight for Marriage

Recently there has been a huge push by the leftist liberal movement in Australia to make so called 'same-sex marriage' legal. This is just another step in the final plan to destroy the family and all the principles of the Christian faith on which Australia has been founded.

What are we doing to combat this? Crikey, a liberal media outlet recently put together an article naming organisations that are involved in the fight for marriage ([click here for article](#)). As can be seen by the article we seem to be held in high esteem. The Australian Christian Lobby, Marriage Alliance and others, as well as Family Life International are putting together a plan to defend marriage. The push to have a parliamentary vote is one we need to fight, because if this is how it is to be voted on, it will most definitely become 'legal' here in Australia.

At FLI we believe the best course of action is via a referendum. Unfortunately it does not look like we will be able to achieve this. A plebiscite is the next best option as it will, at least give us time if we were to win and also another avenue if we were to lose the vote, to one day change the law in the future. Malcolm Turnbull has stated that he plans to have a plebiscite on this issue and will uphold whatever the outcome. Now we have to accept this at face value and believe that he will, which is why need Catholics and anyone of good will, to vote for natural marriage to be upheld. Marriage is the foundation of the family, which in turn is the foundation of society. It is what keeps our nation Australia together as a society and is not something to be meddled with.

## Day of the Unborn Child

The Day of Unborn Child was held on the 3rd April 2016, Divine Mercy Sunday. Usually the Day of the Unborn Child would be held on the Sunday closest to the 25th of March, the feast of the Annunciation. But this year the 25th fell on Good Friday causing this feast day to be moved until after Easter, so we also had to move the Day of the Unborn Child. The Annunciation is the internationally recognised Day of the Unborn Child, hence why we had the procession on Divine Mercy Sunday, as it was the closest Sunday.

The day started with Holy Mass at St Mary's Cathedral celebrated by Fr Don Richardson, Dean of the Cathedral. After Mass everyone gathered at the front of the Cathedral to be led by Bishop Antoine Charbel Tarabay of the Maronite Eparchy of Australia. There were about 1,500 people in attendance (considering it was Divine Mercy this was a good turnout though less than usual) being a voice and a witness to the unborn who have no voice and have no one to pray for them. The bishop gave a wonderful address outside Parliament House on the importance of the sacredness of human life. After the address and the singing of the national anthem the procession continued back towards the Cathedral concluding at 1:30pm for Benediction. The Day of the Unborn Child is a powerful witness to our Faith. There were many passersby who observed what it means to be authentically Catholic and Pro Life. Who knows what kind of impact this will have on their lives in the future. Also for the innocent babies who are murdered every day in the womb, we became their voice! A truly great and honourable thing that is!

### 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:**

Tuesday 8:00am - 10:00am, Friday 8:00am - 10:00am, Saturday 8:00am - 10:00am.  
120 Devonshire Street, 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).

### Conference Dvds

The Life & Family National Conference DVD will be made available to purchase soon. Do not miss out on this incredible wealth of knowledge and resource with all matters regarding life and family. International speakers such Dr Vice Batarello, Mr Steve Mosher and Dr Angela Lanfranchi as well some well qualified local speakers and 2 holy bishops, Archbishop Julian Porteous and Bishop Cesare Bonivento from PNG, this conference pack would make a great investment for any pro-life home. They will be made available for \$100 each. Call us now for any enquires. 02 9519 9111

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