



40 Days For Life 2017

2017 Recap!

This year's 40 days for Life was a great campaign of love and prayer. A lot goes into organising a 40 days for life campaign, a lot of hardship is involved!

Starting with the Opening Mass and Rosary procession on Shrove Tuesday 28th February which was led by Bishop Tony Randazzo, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney. The Bishop gave a beautiful homily on the importance of being vigilant in the defence of life and afterwards led the procession which took place after Mass.

We processed down Devonshire St. towards the Private Clinic. As we processed down the street you got a strong feeling of being a voice for the voiceless. Amongst the evil that seems to surround Surry Hills we are witnesses for Christ and his glory. We are there flying the Catholic banner! We had about 150 people in attendance praying the rosary, singing hymns all for the glory of God and for the most defenceless in our society, the Unborn Child.

After the procession there was a bbq and pancakes back at St. Peters as it was Shrove Tuesday. Well known Catholic apologist, Raymond De Souza gave an inspiring 15 minute talk on Catholics taking action in the public sphere!

During the next 40 Days we maintained a peaceful, prayerful presence outside the Private Clinic from 7am-7pm with all night adoration Friday and Saturday. This has an immense impact on everyone involved. It is a deeply spiritual undertaking, especially during the season of lent. God works through our prayer and sacrifice. For without God we can do nothing. It is through Him that good will prevail in this fallen world. We are merely his instruments and must not forget that we are fighting a spiritual battle, as St. Paul tells the Ephesians, "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the

authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

At the closing ceremony on the 9th April, Palm Sunday we were met with a massive storm and heavy rain which made processing down a dark street a bit too dangerous especially for some of our older pro-lifers. So we gathered as a pro-life community, led by Bishop Terry Brady, in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Fr Hugh Thomas CSSR, led the reflections in between the decades of the rosary.

As unfortunate as it was to not be able to process to the clinic of death, that hour of prayer in the Church was truly something special and one could feel an inner peace as one prayed. God was there amongst us present in the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar as we prayed. We had about 80 people in attendance due the bad weather which we know affected our numbers.



The Day of the Unborn Child on March 26th was a very successful day. Archbishop Anthony Fisher said the Mass at St Mary's Cathedral then led his flock out into the public streets of Sydney. About 3000 people were in attendance as a great witness to life and love along with a rowdy band of feminist, pro- death protestors, who were making a lot of noise and hoopla, but the strong police presence kept them well away from our peaceful procession. The Unborn who have been killed in the womb would have felt a love that day, a love that they should have been given from their conception but never did.

All in all it was a successful campaign undertaken with love and prayer! Thank you to all! The battle is not over, we must continue to fight for life and in the meantime strengthen ourselves spiritually.

Appeal to keep FLI Running

Family Life International is in the front line every week with the Helpers of God's Precious Infants, working and praying outside those demonic places where innocent blood is being shed. We know, perhaps better than most, how much we need the help of Our Blessed Mother and her Angels! Our fight is not, as St Paul said, against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers.

Thanks to prayer and our presence at these places, many young women have chosen life for their unborn babies. But as happy as each turnaround is, the story doesn't always end there. Often, these young mothers need help to carry their babies to birth and beyond. If they have no family support - especially if they have been accompanied to the abortion mill by a family member or the father of the baby - they feel trapped and extremely vulnerable.

Who will provide her with somewhere to live, or financial support when she is no longer able to work? Who will pay her student fees or help her to defer her studies if she is an overseas student?

We will - ALL OF HER PRO-LIFE FAMILY!

BUT, and it's a very big BUT.

Today, in various parts of the country, the Helpers are fighting to stay on the streets. There are many, in powerful places, who would drive us back off the streets, out of the public square and silence us within the walls of our homes and churches. They would make religion a purely personal thing. They

say this is a secular, multicultural country and religion has no part to play in public affairs!

They do not understand that Western civilisation, with all the freedom and security we enjoy today, was built upon God's laws. They do not understand that if we drive God out of the public square, ignore His laws, and defy Him, He will allow us to return to barbarism with all its cruelty and slavery until we bend our stubborn wills and repent.

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Deo Gratias!!!

On Thursday 11th May the NSW Legislative Council debated Greens MLC Mehreen Faruqi's extreme Bill to decriminalise abortion, allowing it up until birth, removing conscientious objection rights for doctors and nurses and implementing "Safe access" zones of 150 metres around abortion mills. In fantastic news the bill was defeated 25-14! This is a great victory for the Pro-Life movement in NSW and it should give hope to all of Australia. There were over 56,000 signatures to a petition tabled before parliament after prayers and Masses were offered for this very intention. It shows the collective power that we have as Christians; if we are active then significant achievements can be made! This is not by any means a total victory in the war against the culture of death but it is a victory in a key battle front! Let us not forget that without God we can do nothing of note. God must be always thanked and given glory. Let us continue the fight! Come to the modern day calvary and be a witness!!

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.

FLI Online Shop

FLI now have an online shop available for you to purchase, Dvds, Books, Cds. If you are looking for Christmas gift ideas then look no further than our online shop. The resources we have available are suited for anybody wishing to learn more about their faith and the pro-life movement and how to get involved actively. We can think of know better Christmas gift. So head over to <https://www.fli.org.au/shop/> and check out our range of products, and buy a gift that will keep on giving for a loved one. Alternatively give us a call on 02 9519 9111 and we'll help you out.

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