

NEWS

RELIGIOUS CALL FOR AUSTRALIA TO SUPPORT NUCLEAR WEAPONS BAN

CRA has signed an interfaith open letter to the prime minister and leader of the opposition, urging the government to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. ICAN, which began in Melbourne and is now a global movement, is urging all nations, including Australia, to sign and ratify the agreement, which will enter into force after the 50th ratification. To read more about ICAN's campaign to ban nuclear weapons, [click here](#) and to read [the letter click here](#).

ACRATH

Anniversary of the Collapse of Factory in Bangladesh - 24 April 2013

The eight-storey Rana Plaza factory building near Dhaka collapsed in 2013, claiming 1,134 lives. This tragedy triggered international outrage and put pressure on clothing brands to improve pay and conditions at the factories that supply them. At the time, Pope Francis denounced as "slave labour" the conditions of the workers caught in this deadly collapse.

[Threads of Hope](#) is a reflection to help remember the workers at Rana Plaza, to become ever more aware of complicities of injustice in many global supply chains, and to give us courage to speak out and act ([PDF](#)).

Publications Released by UNANIMA

[UNANIMA International](#) is a coalition of women religious advocating at the UN on behalf of women and children (particularly those living in poverty), migrants and refugees, the homeless and displaced, and the environment. They have released two publications based on their latest research:

- [Family Homelessness Through the Lens of the 2030 Agenda](#) ([PDF](#))
- [Hidden Faces of Homelessness - International Research on Families](#) ([PDF](#))

ACU SEEKING LOW-COST ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS DISPLACED DUE TO COVID-19

Thank you to those of you who have already responded to the request to provide accommodation to support ACU in their effort to house both domestic and international students who are particularly vulnerable during this pandemic. Please [read ACU's proposal here](#).

If you are able to assist, ACU would work with each religious institute individually to ensure that the members of the religious institutes are safe and comfortable with all arrangements, offering religious institutes a tailored approach to any needs they have if they are able to provide any accommodation relief. If you wish to discuss this further, please contact Paul McJannett paul.mcjannett@acu.edu.au

BOOKS

[All the Beautiful Things: Finding truth, beauty and goodness in a fractured church](#), by Beth Doherty, looks at the various reasons why staying involved in the Catholic Church, and being part of its renewal makes sense. There is a virtual launch at 3pm on 30 April, go to [ATF Press website](#); the book will then be available at a discounted rate for a week afterwards.

CONFERENCES

The Women as Church Conference which was to be held at the end of April has been rescheduled by BBI-TAITE to 27 to 29 October 2020. Please see the [Women as Church Conference brochure here](#).

RESOURCES

2020 EARTH DAY PRAYER: 22 APRIL

The 2020 Earth Day Prayer "[Defending the Beauty of Life](#)" is a reflection you may use on 22 April, to open your hearts to the dangerous destruction of life in the Amazon due to human exploitation. Through his apostolic exhortation [Querida Amazonia](#), Pope Francis challenges us to actively confront these realities, champion beauty and life, and embrace not only Amazonia, but the entirety of our common home.

FREE ONLINE CONCERT FOR PROJECT COMPASSION

Gary Pinto, an Aria-award-winning artist, will be hosting a free online concert for Project Compassion (Caritas Australia), bringing Australian and international music stars directly from their lounge room, to yours. [Walk with Me: Lounge room Sessions](#)

- When: Saturday May 9, 2020
- Where: Online - link to come

CRA RESOURCES WEBPAGE

Please visit the following:

- [Spiritual Resources for COVID-19](#) (video)
- [‘The Big Question of Life,’ Richard Leonard SJ](#) (video)
- [Spiritual Comfort for Troubled Times](#) (video)
- [CRA Gospel Reflections webpage](#).