

NEWS

GRANT APPLICATION OPENED FOR ONGOING BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Catholic Emergency Relief Australia has opened the first round of applications for grants to support the ongoing recovery from the devastating bushfires of the summer of 2019/2020. The funds are geared especially towards trauma and grief counselling, as well as other mental and emotional support, along with community-building initiatives. Read the [media release](#).

Applications are open until June 5 2020, with the successful applicants to be announced on June 15. At least \$100,000 will be available for community organisations. Click here for the [Grant Application Form](#).

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE MOST REV TIMOTHY COSTELLOE SDB

In November 2019 the WA Government introduced the *Children and Community Services Amendment Bill (2019)*. Under the proposed legislation changes, Catholic priests would be required to report child sexual abuse that was disclosed to them during the Sacrament of Penance, breaking the Seal of Confession.

Simone McGurk, Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services in WA made a direct "call" to the Archbishop of Perth, Timothy Costelloe SDB to support the legislation. Read the [letter to Minister McGurk from Archbishop Costelloe SDB](#), which sets out the position of the Church, and the Archbishop's position on this issue.

CAPSA TOOLKIT FOR REFUGEE ACTION

Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) tells us that people seeking asylum on bridging visas and other temporary visa holders still do not have access to a safety net while navigating through the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Take a look at the [CAPSA Toolkit for Refugee Action](#).

NEW REPORT ON NUCLEAR SPENDING FROM ICAN

According to International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN), nine nuclear armed states spent roughly \$73 billion on their nuclear arsenals last year – that is \$138,699 per minute. This estimate includes costs to maintain current nuclear warheads and nuclear delivery systems, and to develop and build new ones. Read the report, [Enough is Enough: Global Nuclear Weapons Spending in 2020](#).

REVIEW OF CHURCH GOVERNANCE

A 200-page review of Church governance containing 86 recommendations was tabled at the bishops' plenary meeting last week. The review was commissioned by the ACBC and prepared by the Governance Review Project Team. The bishops will consider the report and the recommendations in the coming months, with a view to publishing the report and their response later this year. Read the [media release](#).

The report identifies key principles of good ecclesial governance, such as subsidiarity, stewardship, synodality, dialogue, discernment, and leadership. It may contribute to the formation of proposals to be considered during the Plenary Council.

16-24 MAY – LAUDATO SI' WEEK

[Laudato Si' week](#) is an invitation to reflect and prepare through online training from 16 to 23 May and then to participate in a worldwide day of prayer to mark the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'* on 24 May.

NATSICC'S FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2020

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) is the peak advisory body to the Australian Catholic Bishops on issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. There are over 130,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics in Australia and it is the youngest and fastest demographic. [NATSICC's first newsletter for the year](#) is available here and includes COVID advice for communities; a tribute to Aunty Joan Hendriks; the young voice of NATSICC; 2019 Australian Catholic Youth Festival; and the St Vinnies SA RAP Journey.

COURSES/EVENTS

Course: Safeguarding Children in Overseas Ministries is a 2-hour online classroom training that helps build the capacity of religious organisations to effectively safeguard children in overseas ministries.

Date: 21 May, 9.30am – 11.30am (AEST)

Registration: [Learn more and register via the registration page](#)

Fee: \$121 (less the 10% discount if booked by 20 May) **Promocode:** 10%OFF

SPEAKERS

Dr Christine Cameron, author of several books on the leadership of women throughout the history of the Church is also a speaker, to view more about her speaking topics, [click here](#).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Catholic Healthcare provides social support to elderly clients via volunteer phone calls and they are seeking volunteers who have interest and skills in providing pastoral care.

Pastoral Care Volunteers (PCVs) are matched to one client, whom they phone weekly or fortnightly on a day and time which is mutually convenient. The nature of the phone calls is primarily social, though PCVs can provide discussion on church/religious matters and provide prayers depending on client interest. While attendance at church services remains limited, many clients will value the opportunity to join with someone in prayer – even if just on the phone. This is particularly important during COVID-19 restrictions. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Chris Geraghty on 0423 755 001 or email cgeraghty@chcs.com.au

BOOKS

LCWR OCCASIONAL PAPERS 2020: Our Journey to the Borders and Beyond, featuring an interview with the poet, David Whyte are available for \$20 each, including postage and handling until 22 May 2020. Download the CRA Order Form and return to events@catholicreligious.org.au or contact Carmel Warnock with queries: cpc@catholicreligious.org.au.