

## NEWS

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### **NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK, 27 MAY – 3 JUNE 2020**

In 2020, Reconciliation Australia marks twenty years of working towards a more just, equitable and reconciled nation, including greater acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to land and sea; understanding of the impact of government policies and frontier conflicts; and an embracing of stories of Indigenous success and contribution. Click here to find out [how to participate](#) in National Reconciliation Week.

### **DISCERNMENT PAPERS HELP SHARPEN FOCUS FOR PLENARY COUNCIL**

Six discernment papers have been prepared and published on the feast of Pentecost, as the Church in Australia journeys towards the Plenary Council of Australia. Each paper provides a reflection on some elements of the relevant pastoral reality, articulates a theological vision, outlines a number of challenges to be overcome, suggests prioritised questions to be answered and develops some proposals for change. Read the [media release](#) and [access the papers online](#).

### **AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED - HELPING POOR RELIGIOUS SISTERS AROUND THE WORLD**

The 17 October 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Australia's first Saint, Mary of the Cross MacKillop. In celebration, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has commissioned a commemorative set of Rosary Beads. All proceeds from the sale of these beads will directly support needy religious sisters around the world who continue to take care of all people in so many ways. Click on the [ACN Order Form](#).

### **ANTI-POVERTY WEEK, 11 – 17 OCTOBER 2020**

From 11-17 October, Anti-Poverty Week organisers will be encouraging a range of activities in regions, towns and cities from individuals and organisations focusing on the issues surrounding poverty. Bookmark this [website](#) for future reference.

### **NEW CHURCH PROTOCOLS, SAFEGUARDING STRUCTURE**

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference issued a statement on the implementation of a national system for handling complaints of sexual abuse and the establishment of a national office to oversee safeguarding within the Church, which were discussed at its recent plenary meeting. Read the [media statement](#) here. The Conference also discussed the IAG's Governance Report, which the bishops determined would be published at a later date.

### **BISHOP MARK EDWARDS OMI TO BECOME BISHOP OF WAGGA WAGGA**

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI, currently an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, has been appointed the sixth Bishop of Wagga Wagga. Read the [media release](#).

## INFORMATION FROM APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE AUSTRALIA

The Apostolic Nuncio in Australia advises Religious Institute Leaders that a person by the name of Cristian Eduardo Tietze, who presents himself as President of the Foundation "Peace for Life" and declares that he is very close to the Holy Father and to the Holy See, is unknown to the Secretariat of State.

## PETITION TO GRANT PLACES OF WORSHIP EQUAL STATUS TO PUBLIC SPACES

A petition has been launched by the Archdiocese of Sydney, calling on Catholics to ask the NSW Premier to grant places of worship equal treatment to other public spaces under eased COVID-19 restrictions introduced on 1 June. Click on the [media release to access the petition link](#).

## BOOKS

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### A THEOLOGY OF THE LAND: TERRA AUSTRALIS FROM CHRISTIAN-ABORIGINAL PERSPECTIVES

Christopher Sexton, a Christian lawyer who drew on his deep Catholic beliefs and intense dialogues with Aboriginal elders, found more in common between our distinct spiritualities than might be expected. The creation stories of each lay emphasis on humanity's stewardship for the earth and its mystical riches. Watch the [Australian Theological Press virtual book launch](#) by Emeritus Professor Terry Lovat.

## WEBINAR

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### COVID-19 AND INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE LAW WEBINAR

Date: Thursday 4 June 2020


Time: 5pm - 6pm (AEST)

Speakers: Scientia Professor Jane McAdam, Director of UNSW's Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law; and  
Assistant Secretary-General Gillian Triggs, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection

Format: 10-15 minutes lecture, followed by Q&A received via the online chat function.

Topics: What is changing in the so-called 'new normal', what does it mean for the legal landscape facing refugees, people seeking asylum and other forced migrants? How are human-rights-based laws designed to protect people enduring a global public health crisis?

Registration: [For more details and to register click here](#)



“Act as if what you do makes a difference.  
IT DOES.”

*William James*