

NEWS

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Pope Francis' Homily for the 2024 celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life can be downloaded [here](#), and at the CRA resource [webpage](#) for WDCL.

CRA SECRETARIAT – NEW STAFF MEMBER

CRA welcomes Yvonne Diab as CRA's new Director of Communications and Engagement.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS FAREWELL PETER CLINCH CFC

The Christian Brothers share the sad news of the death of Peter Clinch CFC the seventeenth Congregation Leader, who was a member of the Oceania Province, belonging to the Rome community, who passed away on 28 January 2024 in Rome.

MARISTS MARK THE PASSING OF KEVIN BATES SM

Marists and many others throughout the world mourn the death on 31 January of their confrere, spiritual guide and friend, Fr Kevin Bates SM, widely known for his musical and pastoral gifts.

MERCY SISTER – 2024 SA SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Sister of Mercy Meredith Evans RSM has received the award of 2024 South Australia Senior Australian of the Year for her life of outreach to refugees, young people, women experiencing homelessness, women exiting violent relationships and women leaving prison. [Continue reading](#) here.

MEETING HELD IN PREPARATION FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

From 1 to 4 February 2024, more than 300 representatives of the different forms of consecrated life from over 60 countries met in Rome to prepare for the Jubilee 2025, including CRA representatives. Continue reading the [DICALSAL media release](#).

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING – 8 FEB

Pope Francis has designated 8 February, the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, as the [International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking](#) following a request from Talitha Kum, of the worldwide Network of Consecrated Life Against Human Trafficking. For information, visit the [ACRATH webpage](#).

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The Mercy Foundation's [Highways and Byways](#) Small Grants Program is open for applications. Each year it offers small grants to community organisations to address disadvantage and inequality, especially in

rural, regional and remote areas of Australia. The 2024 theme is 'Valuing Community Connections in an Ancient Land'. Find more information [here](#) or phone 02 9911 7390. Applications close 11 March 2024.

AUSTRALIAN VISIT OF JESUIT FATHER GENERAL

Jesuit Mission Australia shares this [media release](#) "Jesuit Father General thanks Australians for giving their hearts to the marginalised".

NSW VOCATIONS MINISTRY NETWORK

The NSW Vocations Ministry Network is inviting interested vocations personnel to come together to participate in a freshly formed [virtual network for vocation ministry](#), to discuss ideas and share resources. The first proposed meeting is: Sunday 10 March at 6.00 pm online. Enquiries: josephbufalo@gmail.com

CHRISTIANS TARGETED IN NICARAGUA AND NIGERIA

[The Conversation](#) features a discussion of the repression of the Church in Nicaragua, in the wake of the recent release of Bishop Rolando Álvarez and other clergy and laity unjustly imprisoned.

We also hold in our prayers those church communities devastated by extremist terror in Nigeria over the recent Christmas period. See [Crux](#) coverage of this massacre.

VATICAN ISSUES NEW DOCUMENT TO CURB LITURGICAL ABUSES

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has released a doctrinal Note concerning the words and elements in the essential rite of each Sacrament. [Continue reading](#) at *La Croix* and at [Vatican News](#).

CRA REQUEST FOR PHOTOS OF RELIGIOUS

The CRA Secretariat welcomes photographs depicting the life and mission of Catholic Religious in Australia over the past year, suitable for use in the forthcoming CRA Annual Report. Photos might show Religious in ministerial, liturgical or social contexts, individual or group shots, special events or everyday life, recipients of awards, etc. Please send (JPG, 500 KB or larger preferred) to: ppo@catholicreligious.org.au

EVENTS/WEBINARS

2024 CRA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – DATE CLAIMER

Registrations and accommodation bookings will open shortly:

Dates: Monday 26 August to Wednesday 28 August 2024

Venue: Royal on the Park, 152 Alice St, Brisbane

2024 CRA HEALTH AND WELLBEING SEMINAR

The CRA Health and Wellbeing Committee have engaged diabetes educators and a dietician to present a one-day seminar in April. Please mark your diary and share this information with interested people.

Title: Understanding Diabetes

Date & Time: Wednesday 17 April 2024, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Venue: Peter Cosgrove Centre, ACU, 8 Napier Street, North Sydney

Registration: [Download flyer](#) for details. [Register](#) at Humanitix

Enquiries: Stephen Middleton: phone 0401 050 595 or email cpc@catholicreligious.org.au

CRA ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES - MARY PAT GARVIN RSM

The CRA Initial Formation Committee have invited Mary Pat Garvin RSM to prepare an online seminar series for 2024 for formators and formation team members.

Title: Words of Wisdom, Words of Grace

Dates: **Tuesday 18 June 2024** - optional introductory session; then 4 monthly sessions:

Tuesday 25 June

Home Is Where We Start From: Family Dynamics & the Formative Process I

Wednesday 17 July

Home Is Where We Start From: Family Dynamics & the Formative Process II

Tuesday 13 August – Intergenerational Living: From Generation to Generation

Tuesday 17 September – Strengthening Skills for Accompaniment

Time: 9.30 am QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS | 9.00 am SA | 7:30 am WA

Mode: Online via Zoom | 2.5 hours for each Seminar

Audience: Formators and those involved in formation of religious (not those being formed)

Registration: Will open soon, brochure to follow

Enquiries: Stephen Middleton | P: 0401 050 595 | E: cpc@catholicreligious.org.au

ACI WEBINAR - LAY PEOPLE: MISSION AND VOCATION

This year is the 40th anniversary of the Vatican II document, *Lumen Gentium*, which presented the Church as the “People of God” and includes the pathbreaking Chapter 4 on The Laity. To mark this important milestone, the Australian Cardijn Institute (ACI) is launching a series of webinars that will address the role and mission of lay people in the world and the Church. See the [flyer](#) for the first webinar.

Title: Lay People: Their Vocation and Mission

Date: Wednesday 7 February 2024, 7.30 pm AEDT

Speaker: Bishop Eugene Hurley, emeritus bishop of Darwin and YCW chaplain

Registration: [Register](#) free at the ACI website: australiancardijninstitute.org

A CONVERSATION WITH TOMÁŠ HALÍK

Bishop Vincent Long is hosting this conversation with renowned philosopher, sociologist, priest, Tomáš Halík, known as a leading voice against Soviet communism in the 1980s. Frank Brennan SJ will MC this event, presented at two venues (Sydney and Melbourne), with livestream options. Download the [flyer](#).

Title: Help my unbelief! Searching for God in a secular age

Date & Venue: Monday 12 February 2024, 6.00 – 8.00 pm at St Patrick’s Cathedral Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW

Date & Venue: Thursday 15 February, 5.00 – 6.30 pm, Newman College, Parkville VIC

Registration: Free registration at parracatholic.org. For livestream options, [click here](#).

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES NATIONAL CONFERENCE - MELBOURNE

A [media release](#) from Catholic Social Services Australia and Catholic Social Services Victoria highlights keynote speaker Bishop Vincent Long van Nguyen OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, who will be presenting at the Catholic Social Services National Conference later this month.

Title: Commons, Commonality, Common Good
Dates: 21-23 February 2024
Speakers: Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv; Prof. Mark Considine AM; Dr Julie Edwards, OAM; Ms Claire Victory
Venue: Melbourne
Registration: Visit the [CSS website](#) to register.
Further enquiries: Kate Stilwell Tel: (03) 9287 5566 or [email: office@css.org.au](mailto:office@css.org.au)

CATALYST FOR RENEWAL FORUM: REFLECTION MORNINGS

Here is the first in a series of monthly Reflection Mornings hosted by Catalyst For Renewal.

Title: Graced emergence versus stoic achievement
Speaker: Fr Michael Whelan SM
Date: 2 March 2024, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue: Holy Name of Mary Parish Hall, 3 Mary Street, Hunters Hill NSW
Registration: Entry by donation.
Enquiries: Refer to [flyer](#) for details or email catalyst-for-renewal@outlook.com

CATALYST FOR RENEWAL FORUM: SYNODALITY – BISHOP LONG

Catalyst for Renewal is hosting a luncheon, “Food for Thought”, with Geraldine Doogue AO facilitating a conversation on “Synodality” with Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv.

Title: Synodality
Date: Saturday 9 March 2024, Light lunch at 12.30 pm, concludes 2.30 pm
Venue: Cnr Mary Street and Gladesville Road, Hunters Hill NSW
Registration: All Welcome. Bookings are necessary. \$35 entry
Enquiries: Refer to [flyer](#) for further details or email catalyst-for-renewal@outlook.com

CATALYST FOR RENEWAL FORUM: “WOMEN DEACONS: WHY NOT NOW?”

Catalyst for Renewal is hosting a forum with Geraldine Doogue AO facilitating a conversation on “Women Deacons” with Elizabeth Young RSM and Gail Gill. See flyer for information about the presenters.

Title: Women Deacons: Why not now?
Date: Wednesday 13 March 2024, 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm
Venue: The Crypt, St Patrick’s Church, Grosvenor St, The Rocks, Sydney
Registration: All Welcome. No Booking required. Entry by Donation
Enquiries: Refer to [flyer](#) for further details or email catalyst-for-renewal@outlook.com

PUBLIC TALK BY GREG SHERIDAN | CANBERRA

The St Thomas More Forum invites us to a presentation by Greg Sheridan, Foreign Editor, *The Australian* Newspaper and Author. [Download the flyer.](#)

Title: How Christianity Triumphs in a Newly Pagan Society
Date: Wednesday 20 March 2024 | 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm
Venue: St Thomas More Catholic Church, 30 White Crescent, Campbell ACT
Registration: \$10 - \$20 entry. [Register at Eventbrite](#)
RSVP by 11am, 15 March 2024: forum@stthomasmore.org.au | 0416 823 447

2024 EASTER GUIDED RETREAT – DOUGLAS PARK

St Marys Towers Retreat Centre Douglas Park (NSW) is hosting a retreat during Holy Week 2024. [Click here to download A4 Flyer](#) and [here to download an Application Form](#). Register now, places are limited.

Title: Easter Retreat
Dates: 6.00 pm Tuesday 26 March to Easter Sunday 31 March 2024
Venue: St Marys Towers, Douglas Park (Picton) NSW
Registration: \$850 all inclusive.

WOMEN IN THE GOSPELS - SANTA CASA RETREAT VICTORIA

This retreat, led by Elizabeth Dowling RSM, explores a selection of stories from across the gospels, focussing on the characterisation of women in these stories. [Download the flyer.](#)

Title: Women in the Gospels
Date: 3 – 10 May 2024
Venue: Santa Casa Retreat Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria
Registration: Cost: \$750. Register by 5 April 2024 at spirituality@goodsams.org.au

RESOURCES

POPE FRANCIS: LENTEN MESSAGE

Pope Francis' 2024 Lenten [message](#): "Through the desert God leads us to freedom".

THE LIGHTER SIDE



The furniture salesman said that the sofa would seat five people with no problems. I don't even know five people with no problems.

