

## NEWS

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### CRA PATHWAYS

The latest issue of CRA [Pathways](#) is now available at the CRA website.

### CRA PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL CONSULTATION TOWARDS SECOND ASSEMBLY OF SYNOD

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is conducting a national consultation as the Second Assembly of the [Synod of Bishops](#) approaches (October 2024). As a participant in this consultation, CRA has invited Member and congregational input into reflections on the key question. Find updates at the [CRA website](#).

### POPE FRANCIS: AI AND PEACE

CRA highlights the message of Pope Francis for the celebration of World Day of Peace (1 January 2024), "[Artificial Intelligence and Peace](#)". Please share this [document](#) with your communities and ministries.

### REST IN PEACE

The [Lasallian Family](#) shares the sad news that Br Gerard Rummery FSC passed away on 10 February 2024. He was known for his deep knowledge and admiration of John Baptist de La Salle, the founder's historical context and his works, and his commitment to the education of young people with Christian values.

### REFLECTIONS FROM MYANMAR

The Development Team of Myanmar Jesuit Region shares this [update](#) of their work, more than three years since the military coup that sparked terrible violence and suffering in Myanmar.

### THRESHOLDS OF TRANSFORMATION

[Thresholds of Transformation](#) (TT) is celebrating its first anniversary. TT is a creative, interactive process of personal, communal, systemic transformation developed for women Religious, their associates, and lay staff. Further information can be sourced at the TT [website](#). CRA will be meeting with TT to discuss an offering through CRA.

### CLOSING THE GAP WAKE-UP CALL

Australian Catholics are being encouraged to reflect upon the implications of last week's Productivity Commission Report on the Closing the Gap agreement. Continue reading the [media release](#) of the ACBC Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

## LOOKING TOWARDS WORLD MISSION DAY 2024

Catholic Mission shares with us the [theme](#) chosen by Pope Francis for this year's World Mission Day, taken from the parable of the wedding banquet: 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet!' (cf. Mt 22:1-14).

## NEW HOMELESSNESS REPORT IS ANOTHER WAKE-UP CALL ON HOUSING CRISIS

The St Vincent de Paul Society National Council draws our attention to the Australian Government's newly released [report](#) on people accessing specialist homelessness services. It paints a disturbing picture of the nation's housing crisis. Read the Vinnies [media release](#).

## MERCY FOUNDATION'S SOCIAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM IS OPEN

The Mercy Foundation is now accepting applications for its Social Justice Small Grants Program. Grants up to \$10,000 are available for initiatives addressing social justice issues in communities across Australia. Applications regarding First Nations Peoples will be prioritised. Applications are due by midnight on 11 March. Find out more [here](#) or visit [mercyfoundation.com.au](http://mercyfoundation.com.au) or call the Mercy Foundation, 02 9911 7390.

## HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The Missionary Sisters of Service [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'. Applications close 5.00 pm AEDT Friday 15 March 2024.

## 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](mailto:ppo@catholicreligious.org.au)

## EVENTS/WEBINARS

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### 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. Topics include: Unravelling the Intricacies of Diabetes Pathology; Navigating the Plate for Diabetes Wellness; Understanding the impact of language in diabetes care; Lived Experience of Diabetes; and Options in Managing Diabetes. Further details are at the [CRA Resources](#) webpage.

Title: Understanding Diabetes

Presenters: Wendy Bryant and Penny Morris, Clinical Nurse Educators, Lara Mathers  
Dietician and Gabrielle Riches; interspersed with table talk and Q&A

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

Venue: Peter Cosgrove Centre, ACU, 8 Napier Street, North Sydney  
Registration: \$160 Member, \$180 non-Member. [Register online](#) Registrations close 5 April  
Enquiries: Gillian Lee | P: 02 9557 2695 | E: [secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au](mailto:secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au)

#### **CRA STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ONLINE SEMINAR – DATE CLAIMER**

Event: The Role of Trustees, their Duties and Responsibilities  
Presenters: Josephine Heesh & Jaimie Rayn, followed by Case Studies and Q&A  
Date: Tuesday 9 April 2024  
Time: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm  
Mode: Zoom  
Audience: Leaders, Leadership Team members and Finance Personnel  
Registration: Registration opens soon  
Enquiries: Stephen Middleton | P: 0401 050 595 | E: [cpc@catholicreligious.org.au](mailto: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 I  
**Wednesday 17 July** - Home Is Where We Start From: Family Dynamics 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](mailto:cpc@catholicreligious.org.au)

#### **WEBINAR: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Sydney Catholic Archdiocese Justice & Peace invites us to hear from an International Women's Day Panel, hosted by Coalition for a Royal Commission into Immigration Detention Working Group.

Title: From Melancholia to Imagination  
Date: 7 March 2024, 6.00 – 7.30 pm AEDT  
Venue: Sydney Catholic Archdiocese Office, 38 Renwick St, Leichhardt NSW  
Registration: Register at [Humanitix](#); further information [here](#)

#### **SACRED STEPS - FIVE-DAY WALKING RETREAT – CAIRNS QLD**

Seville Mercy Centre is holding a 5-day (6 nights) walking retreat in the Far North Queensland rainforests. Sacred Steps offers a unique blend of daily walks, spiritual reflection, and insightful discussions.

Title: Sacred Steps

Dates: 8 – 13 September 2024  
Location: Seville Mercy Centre is nestled into the foothills of Cairns  
Registration: \$2499 per person, incl GST. [Download the flyer](#) for details. Registrations close 31 July 2024. Enquiries: [priscilla@mcauleyministries.org.au](mailto:priscilla@mcauleyministries.org.au)

## RESOURCES

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### LENTEN RESOURCES

‘Through the desert God leads us to freedom.’ In his [Message for Lent](#) 2024, Pope Francis invites the faithful to ‘pause’ for prayer and to assist our brothers and sisters in need.

The latest [Columban e-Bulletin](#) is available, with a lead article by Columban Fr Chris Saenz, the regional director in the USA, reminding us that Lent calls us to ‘wake up’ and take stock of our precious, brief lives.

*America: The Jesuit Review* recently featured a [podcast](#) by New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine ‘The danger of ignoring Jesus’ Jewish identity’ (subscription may be required) – relevant for Lenten preaching.

### FAITH ECOLOGY NETWORK

The [Faith Ecology Network](#), an Australian hub for strengthening an interfaith dialogue between science and religion, shares its February [newsletter](#).

### THE BRIDGE – NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EVANGELISATION

[The Bridge](#) Newsletter of the National Centre for Evangelisation (ACBC) contains information about the commencement of the Young Catholic Women’s Fellowship and ways to prepare for [Jubilee Year 2025](#).

### THE LIGHTER SIDE 😊

Further to last week’s item re the toaster...  
Our thanks to the dedicated CRA Bulletin reader who took the time to send us a photograph of his household’s toaster!

Why doesn’t someone invent a clear toaster so you can see how toasted your toast is while it’s toasting?



*Life is like a camera... (remember those old ones?)*  
Focus on what’s important  
Capture the good times,  
develop from the negatives,  
and if things don’t work out,  
take another shot

Love is caring for each other even when you’re angry ...



There should be a calorie refund for things that didn’t taste as good as you expected.