

NEWS

CALL FOR CALM

Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, Maronite Bishop of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, has today issued a [statement](#) (accessible on Facebook) regarding the attack at the Good Shepherd Church in Wakely, denouncing all violence, calling for calm and extending concern and prayers for those injured in the attack.

BISHOPS OFFER PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES IN WAKE OF BONDI ATTACK

Australia's Catholic Bishops have issued a brief [statement](#) following last Saturday's attack at Bondi.

2024 CRA ANNUAL ASSEMBLY – REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

We are pleased to advise that registrations are now open for the 2024 National Assembly! The theme is *Religious Leadership in 2024: Widening the Circle of the Heart*. Download the [programme](#) for details of sessions and speakers. Secure your place early by [registering](#) at Humanitix.

LEADERS AND BISHOPS GATHERING – RSVP BY TOMORROW, 17 APRIL

A reminder to RSVP by 17 April to attend the gathering of Bishops and Leaders – see *Events* below.

“IT SOFTENS THE ENVIRONMENT OF STEEL BARS”

CRA staff member, Stephen Middleton, who is involved in prison ministry in Parramatta Diocese, draws our attention to this [Catholic Outlook](#) story about the inmates of John Moroney Correctional Centre who participated in the foot washing ceremony on Holy Thursday.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP VIDEO SERIES

From [Evangelise Plus](#): The Women's Leadership Video Series features five female senior leaders who offer their perspectives on key questions about leadership.

2024 CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION AWARDS

Any government agency, not-for-profit organisation or individual person making a significant contribution to a project in Australia can be nominated for the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards. [Learn more](#) here. [Nominations](#) close 5.00 pm, 19 April 2024.

PASSOVER 2024

Jewish communities commence Passover on 22 April 2024.

EVENTS/WEBINARS

ANNUAL GATHERING OF LEADERS AND BISHOPS – Registrations close 17 April

Leaders of religious institutes are encouraged to attend the annual gathering of Leaders and Bishops. Ian Cribb SJ will lead a process looking at the Synod on Synodality with some thoughts on Australia's Plenary Council. It is an important opportunity to pray, talk and spend time together. There is no charge.

Date: Saturday, 4 May 2024, 9.00 am – 12.30 pm
Venue: Mary Mackillop Place, North Sydney
Registration: Register at [Humanitix](#). RSVP Wednesday 17 April
Enquiries: Taylor Coutinho | P: 02 9557 2695 | ea@catholicreligious.org.au

2024 & 2025 CRA NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES

The dates for the 2025 CRA National Assembly are Monday 18 August to Wednesday 20 August 2025.

The dates for the 2024 CRA National Assembly are Monday 26 August to Wednesday 28 August 2024.

Registrations are now open for the 2024 Assembly – details below – [View the program](#) here.

Dates: Monday 26 August to Wednesday 28 August 2024 (no Thursday programme)
Venue: Royal on the Park, 152 Alice St, Brisbane
Registration: Register at [Humanitix](#)

NSW LEADERSHIP DINNER

Leaders and Leadership Team Members of Religious Institutes to come together for a meal and a chat in Sydney. Download the [flyer](#) at the CRA website.

Title: NSW Leadership Dinner
Date & Time: Tuesday, 30 April 2024, 6.00 to 8.00 pm
Venue: Dooleys, Lidcombe Catholic Club, 17 Church St, Lidcombe
Registration: Register at [Humanitix](#). RSVP: **Tuesday 23 April**
Enquiries: Taylor Coutinho | P: 02 9557 2695 | ea@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: Fee \$300 per person for the series. [Register at Humanitix](#) by midnight 16 June
Enquiries: Stephen Middleton | P: 0401 050 595 | E: cpc@catholicreligious.org.au

SEMINAR PRESENTED BY AMY-JILL LEVINE

At this seminar, internationally renowned scripture scholar Professor Amy-Jill Levine will explore Jesus' most popular parables, revealing their hidden depths and exposing their misinterpretations.

Title: Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi
Date & Time: 6 May 2024; 9.00 am – 2.30 pm AEST
Venue: Doltone House, Hyde Park, 181 Elizabeth Street, Sydney
Registration: \$120 including morning tea and lunch; [Register here](#)

More speaking events with Amy-Jill Levine – See [Marist Association website](#) for details.

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE IN OUR DAY

The Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations and the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta are jointly hosting a talk by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald, former President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. This in-person event will also be live-streamed.

Title: Interreligious Dialogue in Our Day: 60 years After *Nostra Aetate*
Date: Wednesday 8 May 2024, 6.00 pm
Venue: Cathedral Cloisters, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW. Also livestreamed
Registration: [Please register](#) to secure your seat, or for the livestream presentation

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

To mark the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the NSW Ecumenical Council invites us to an Evening of Ecumenical Prayer, followed by a gala fundraising dinner. [Download the flyer](#).

Title: Ecumenical Prayer & Dinner
Date: Friday 10 May 2024, Prayers at 5.30 pm, Meal at 6.45 pm
Venue: St Andrew's Theological College, 242 Cleveland St. Redfern NSW
Bookings: Suggested donation \$70; [Click here](#) for bookings

ONLINE INSURANCE PRESENTATION

Increasing insurance premium rates, retrospective levies, exclusions from coverage and refusal to insure historical or risk claims present complexity and cost to risk managers in schools and religious organisations. Alternative risk transfer via closed insurance funds and trust structures can provide more controlled self-insurance options to larger and more complex entities. Join Denton Partners Toby Blyth and Caroline Snow for a legal briefing on the role of such funds in self-insurance in a secure virtual conference, to learn about these alternative structures for insurance.

Title: Exploring alternative risk transfer in a complex insurance market
Date: 4 June 2024, 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm AEST
Mode: Online with Microsoft Teams
Registration: If interested in attending, please RSVP simon@safeguardingservices.com.au by COB Friday 24 May to receive a meeting invite and online link

HARVEST JOURNEYS: PILGRIMAGE – A TIME TO RENEW YOUR SPIRIT

To make a pilgrimage is a reminder of St Mary MacKillop's wise words: "Remember we are but travellers here". Why not take a journey with her through the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit? Set out together on a true Australian pilgrimage through the life and times of Mary MacKillop as we rekindle the story, landscapes and spirit of our nations' first Saint. Receive the warm hospitality of rural communities and be inspired by their faith. Featuring Feast Day Celebrations in Penola.

Title: Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage

Dates: Departs 3 August 2024 with Sr Helen Saunders RSJ and Fr Garry McKeown

Information: [Click here for details](#). For more Harvest Journeys visit www.harvestjourneys.com

EMPLOYMENT

ACRATH POSITION

ACRATH is advertising for a Seasonal Worker support promoter. The job description can be accessed at the [ACRATH website](#). Please share with your networks.

PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER – ST PATRICK'S CHURCH HILL

St Patrick's in Sydney's Rocks area is recruiting a full time Business Manager working from the Parish offices in Grosvenor Street in the Rocks. Details can be found [here](#). Applications close Friday 26 April 2024.

ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

DO YOU KNOW OF A SPARE LECTERN THAT COULD USE A WELL-APPRECIATED HOME?

Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor are seeking a suitable lectern for their Chapel. The Chapel is being upgraded in view of the procedure for the canonisation of Congregational Founder Eileen O'Connor which is currently in process. Can you assist or do you know of someone who can? [See details here](#).

RESOURCES

TOGETHER FOR HUMANITY

Read the [latest news](#) from interfaith-intercultural organisation Together For Humanity.

THE LIGHTER SIDE



- A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize and recite one of the most quoted passages in the Bible -- Psalm 23. Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone in front of the congregation and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd . . . and that's all I need to know!"
- A Sunday School teacher asked her class, "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?" A small girl replied: "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?"