

## NEWS

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### **JUST NOW**

The latest issue of CRA's [Just Now](#) is now available on the topic of "Waste Reduction and the Circular Economy". Download the [media release](#) at the CRA website.

### **CRA WELCOMES GOVERNMENT PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE \$3 BILLION OF STUDENT DEBT**

The Albanese government has [announced](#) that it would cap the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) indexation rate, eliminating about \$3 billion of student debt. CRA welcomes this, having [written to the Prime Minister](#) in 2023 outlining concerns that Australian university graduates were facing lifelong debt.

### **CELEBRATING 70, 75, 80 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE**

Sisters of Saint Joseph from across Australia, in Ireland and in Aotearoa New Zealand recently celebrated their Tanzanite (80 years), Tourmaline (75 years) and Platinum (70 years) [Jubilees of Religious Profession](#).

### **JESUIT RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM**

Greg Boyle SJ, founder of a ministry in the USA dedicated to rehabilitating gang-affiliated youth, has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom ([CNA](#)). Fr Boyle will be on a speaking tour in Australia in October this year organised by [GPBS](#) – see *Events* below.

### **PUBLIC FORUMS ON SYNODALITY WITH AGBONKHIANME E. OROBATOR SJ**

A series of May public forums in Australia with Agbonkhianme E. Orobator SJ on the topic of synodality are being held by the Australian Jesuits in concert with others and advertised here at [Garratt Publishing](#).

### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia is observed 12-19 May 2024. There are resources at the National Council of Churches Australia [website](#).

### **CALL FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE WORLD**

Parliamentarians from across party lines have [called](#) for Australia to join the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.

### **POPE FRANCIS' MAY INTENTION**

Pope Francis has released his [prayer intention for May](#), inviting prayers for the "formation of men and women religious and for seminarians" and describing every vocation as "a diamond in the rough".

## UCA NEWS

In the last 45 years, [UCAN](#) (Union of Catholic Asian News) has emerged as the leading Catholic media service in Asia. [Learn more](#) about UCAN and how the wider Church can support it.

## CRA POSTAL ADDRESS

Please note: CRA's postal address is now our street address. We are no longer using our PO Box to receive mail. Address: Catholic Religious Australia, Office A, Level 1, 9 Mount Street, North Sydney NSW 2060.

## EVENTS/WEBINARS

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### 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

Location: Brisbane

Registration: Register at [Humanitix](#)

### 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

Tuesday 16 July - Home Is Where We Start From: Family Dynamics II (*Please note change of date*)

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](mailto:cpc@catholicreligious.org.au)

### PRESENTATIONS BY AMY-JILL LEVINE

Internationally renowned scripture scholar Professor Amy-Jill Levine is currently speaking at a number of events in Australia:

Sydney 7 May, 6.00 pm: "The Jewishness of Jesus: Why It Matters" (also online)

Brisbane 13 May: "Signs and Wonders: A New Light on the Miracle Stories of Jesus"

Melbourne 14 May: “Women who Walked with Jesus – A Message for all in the Church Today”  
For details of all these events refer to the [Marist Association website](#).

### **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

### **AUSTIN COOPER OMI SYMPOSIUM**

On 10 May 2024, Catholic Theological College will host a symposium in honour of Rev. Professor Austin Cooper OMI AM (1931-2023) founding Master of CTC, historian, formator, and ecumenical friend.

Title: Austin Cooper OMI Symposium  
Date: Friday 10 May 2024, 10.00 am – 4.30 pm  
Venue: Knox Room, Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne  
Registration: Face-to-Face: \$60 (Lunch included). Online: \$30 Bookings close 3 May 5.00pm  
[Register](#) at the CTC website; Download the flyer here.

### **ANNUAL MASS FOR CONSECRATED LIFE – ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY**

Women and men in consecrated life are invited to celebrate this occasion in Sydney Archdiocese.

Title: Annual Mass for Consecrated Life  
Date: Tuesday 21 May 2024, 11.00 am  
Venue: The Crypt, St Mary’s Cathedral, Sydney  
Registration: RSVP 7 May to [elizabeth.delaney@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:elizabeth.delaney@sydneycatholic.org)

### **VINNIES NSW SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM**

The Vinnies NSW 2024 Social Justice Forum is an opportunity to connect with others who share a passion for more just and inclusive communities.

Title: Social Justice Forum 2024  
Date: 1 June 2024, 9.00 am – 4.30 pm  
Venue: Mary MacKillop Place, 7-11 Mount Street North Sydney, NSW 2060  
Registration: Register free at [Eventbrite](#)

### **TATOOS OF THE HEART – GREG BOYLE SJ’S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA**

[Fr Greg Boyle SJ](#) is the founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. He will be in Australia on a speaking tour 3-17 October

2024, in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and Wollongong, sponsored by GPBS resources. For all the event details of dates, venues and topics, please visit the [GPBS website](#).

## RESOURCES

### DELIGHT AND MEANING IN MARY

Drawing on the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, [this prayer resource](#) from Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia allows us to slowly consider the Hail Mary as we deepen our relationship with Mary, mother of Jesus.

### NEW BOOK BY TED DUNN

[Tedd Dunn](#), PhD, who has presented to our Members at a number of CRA seminars in recent years, has published a new book, *Gather the Wisdom, Weave a Dream: A Visioning Guide for Leaders and Planners of Faith Communities Seeking Deep Change and Transformation*. CRA National Executive Director, Anne Walker, has written an endorsement for the book. [Information and purchase details](#) can be found here.

### BOOK ABOUT A SAINTLY ARMY CHAPLAIN

*No Bullet Got Me Yet: The Relentless Faith of Father Kapaun* is a book by John Stansifer which tells the story of the most decorated chaplain in US military history and his path to Sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church. Read the [media release](#) and learn more at [www.frkapaun.org](http://www.frkapaun.org).

### VIDEO RESOURCE: SEE-JUDGE-ACT

The importance of the see-judge-method as a tool of ecclesial discernment is explored in this [videoed address](#) by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, brought to our attention by the Cardijn Institute of Australia.

### THE LIGHTER SIDE 😊

