

## NEWS

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### **2019-2020 CRA ANNUAL REPORT**

The [CRA Annual Report can be downloaded](#) and printed as a booklet, on A3 paper, folded to A4. It contains reports from the CRA President, National Executive Director, committees, states, representatives on external bodies and CRA's strategic collaborations.

### **2019-2020 AMPJP ANNUAL REPORT**

The AMPJP Annual Report can be downloaded from the [media statement here](#).

### **NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

The [Refugee Council of Australia estimates](#) that nearly 19,000 refugees and asylum seekers on temporary visas will lose their jobs in this recession, with unemployment rates projected to double among this group. This magnifies the importance of continuing to advocate for the Federal Government to extend emergency financial support measures, work rights and access to Medicare for all refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia who are currently excluded from the Government's COVID-19 related support. CRA has signed the 'No Child Left Behind' campaign. You can sign [here if you wish](#).

### **REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUPS OPEN THEIR HOMES TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

A coalition of refugee support groups, including the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project, Grandmothers for Refugees, and others, have [launched an initiative](#) to open their homes to refugees and asylum seekers currently held in immigration detention. The [@homesafelywithus](#) initiative comes in response to the risk of COVID-19 in immigration detention and follows the [Government's Christmas Island announcement](#).

### **A JOURNEY OF DISCERNMENT**

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, in his role as President of the Plenary Council, has written a paper entitled, [A Journey of Discernment](#), to help the Church in Australia to better understand the practice of discernment.

The paper examines the genesis of the Plenary Council, retraces the journey so far and offers insights into the period leading up to the assemblies in 2021 and 2022, as well as the implementation phase beyond. It invites people to ponder the Council's integral question "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" Archbishop Costelloe has also recorded a [short video](#) to introduce the paper. The video and paper are accessible on the [Plenary Council website](#) and [CRA Resources page](#).

### **CELEBRATE WORLD MISSION MONTH – OCTOBER**

World Mission Month is a time when Catholics all over the world join to support and celebrate global missionary work. Catholic Mission, as the Australian arm of the Pontifical Mission Societies, plays a vital role in this. Read the [Catholic Mission media release](#). You can help Catholic Mission support [people with disability and their families in Cambodia](#) by clicking here to find out more.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Child Protection Week:** 6 to 12 September – NAPCAN [‘Putting children first’](#)
- **R U OK Day:** Thursday 10 September – [There’s more to say after R U OK](#)
- **National Week of Solidarity:** 6 to 12 September – Refugee Council of Australia [‘No Child Left Behind’](#)
- **International Peace Day (UN):** Monday, 21 September – [Shaping Peace Together](#)
- **Mercy Day – Feast of Our Lady of Mercy:** Thursday, 24 September
- **World Day of Migrants and Refugees:** 27 September 2020 – [‘Forced like Jesus Christ to flee’](#)
- **Anti-Poverty Week:** 11-17 October 2020 – [find out how to participate](#)
- **CRA National Day of Sorrow & Promise:** 25 October 2020 (*save the date, more information to come*)

## WEBINARS/EVENTS

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### MISSION CONFERENCE 1 - 4 September 2021

The biennial Catholic Religious Australia and Catholic Mission conference: **Mission: One Heart Many Voices** will be held in Sydney. *Save the date!*

### CATHOLIC EARTHCARE ‘CONVOCATION: JOURNEY THROUGH THE SEASON OF CREATION’

‘Convocation’ is a Catholic Earthcare event with internationally and nationally renowned expert speakers exploring various themes via diverse sessions designed to appeal to a wide range of audiences:

- Formation – the theological and moral imperative to care for our common home;
- Foundation – explored with specialists in finance, economic, political, and social spheres to help create real change across church and community; and
- Action – exploring transformative ways in which we can realise the need to care for creation.

**Dates:** September 3, 8, 10, 15, 23, 29 and 30

**Brochure:** [Download the Convocation brochure and view the program here](#)

**Registration:** Free of charge; [book into multiple sessions](#)

### NSW OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN’S GUARDIAN OFFERS WEBINARS FOR FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS

#### [Understanding your reporting obligations in faith-based organisations](#)

Date & time: Wednesday 2 September, 10.00am- 11.00am

Registration: Please register via this [link](#)

#### [Putting Children First: A Panel Discussion](#)

Date & time: Tuesday 8 September, 2.30pm-4.00pm

Registration: Please register via this [link](#)

#### [Understanding Risk in Faith Settings](#)

There are two dates scheduled for this webinar:

Date & time: Tuesday 13 Oct, 10am- 11.30am      Registration: Please register via this [link](#)

Date & time: Wednesday 28 Oct, 10.00am- 11.30am      Registration: Please register via this [link](#)

### **ECO-SPIRITUALITY READING CIRCLE: 'SAND TALK'**

Date: Tuesday 29 September,  
Time: 5.00 - 6.30pm  
Venue: Carmelite Centre, Melbourne  
Address: 214 Richardson St, Middle Park  
Registration: \$5 donation, [book here](#).

In 2020, the Eco-Spirituality Reading Circle is progressively reading the book *Sand Talk: How Indigenous Thinking Can Save the World* by Tyson Yunkaporta.

## **RESOURCES**

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### **CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY – 13 SEPTEMBER 2020**

The Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday on 13 September, following Child Protection Week (6-12 September), an initiative of [National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect](#).

A number of resources have been created to help Catholic communities mark the day, including prayers, social media graphics and banners which you can access via [CRA Resources page](#). Also available is a homily from Tom McDonough CP marking the Sunday beginning Child Protection Week and another from Andy Hamilton SJ for Child Protection Sunday, the end of Child Protection Week.

The ACBC has prepared the resources with Catholic Religious Australia, Catholic Professional Standards Ltd, the Professional Standards Unit in the Archdiocese of Melbourne and the National Office for Liturgy.

### **IMPLEMENTING THE CHILD SAFE STANDARDS: A GUIDE FOR FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS**

This guide has been prepared to help faith-based organisations implement the NSW Child Safe Standards. It gives practical tips and provides examples which showcase how different organisations are already implementing the standards and how they have established systems to prevent, detect and respond to child abuse. Download a [copy of the guide here](#).

### **ENGAGING SENSITIVELY WITH SURVIVORS OF ABUSE**

This is a resource developed to help faith-based organisations provide a tailored, trauma-informed response to the needs of survivors of child sexual abuse. You can download your copy [here](#).

### **MADONNA MAGAZINE**

[Madonna](#), published by the Australian Jesuits, has accompanied Australians in their daily prayer and spiritual growth for more than 120 years. Catholic Religious have been a valued group in the subscriber community for many years. Despite a great love for the publication by those who read it, subscriber numbers have been falling for many years as younger people move to digital platforms, meaning that at current numbers, print publication is no longer sustainable. For more about *Madonna*, how to subscribe, purchase a gift subscription or donate a subscription visit [Madonna](#).

If you are a subscriber, we invite you to help keep *Madonna* alive by:

- recommending it to family and friends,
- buying a gift subscription or two or
- donating one to someone on the margins.