

NEWS

HOUSING APPEAL FOR REFUGEE FAMILY

A refugee family, which fled to Australia from Iran because of their Christian faith, was sent to Nauru where they have endured enormous suffering and been in community detention for several years. This month they were granted bridging visas but they are now no longer eligible for financial assistance and have to leave their housing in the Bankstown area of Sydney by 21 September. They are in desperate need of accommodation (and jobs) preferably in Sydney where they now live. Anne Shay PBVM has advised CRA of the situation and asks that, if you are able to help, please contact Sue Kelly by phone: 0439 857 066 or email john.sue.kelly@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC LEADERS THANK IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP (IAG)

In 2018, IAG was established to help monitor Catholic reforms in the areas of safeguarding and child protection, in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission. The IAG recently completed its work. Please find attached the [CRA-ACBC media release](#) thanking the group for its expert service.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL OF PARRAMATTA STATEMENT

The Diocesan Pastoral Council of Parramatta has released a statement lamenting the hurtful social media campaign and petition emerging in the wake of recent media coverage of the trialling of the new draft Religious Education Curriculum in some Parramatta Diocesan Schools. [Read the statement here.](#)

ERC APPLAUDS AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY FOR GIVING VOICE TO PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

The Edmund Rice Centre (ERC), a Catholic human rights organisation, has applauded statements made by Australia's new Ambassador to the Vatican, Chiara Porro, who is supporting calls from Catholic leaders in Oceania for a Synod for the Pacific region. Read [ERC's media release here.](#)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DROUGHT GRANTS STILL AVAILABLE

The Federal Government still has cash grants to give to farmers, farm workers and others who are living with drought or the impact of the worst drought in living memory. Read [St Vincent de Paul Society's media release](#). If you know someone who has been affected by the drought but has not yet received a payment under the Drought Community Services Initiative Round 2 (since November 2019), they can contact Vinnies, which is trying to make the application process as simple possible, with a hotline and [webpage](#).

OPEN LETTER FROM VICE CHANCELLOR OF BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY

Br Peter Bray FSC is a De La Salle Brother, and Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University. Read his [open letter](#) regarding the major financial crisis facing the university, its students and staff, partly due to COVID as well as other factors.

NEWS FROM ACRATH

Read [ACRATH's latest newsletter](#) to find out more about:

- the Australian Federal Police's participation in ACRATH's Forced Marriage Video launch;
- [ETIKO Fairtrade clothing](#) and [JINTA sports equipment](#) is offering ACRATH readers a discount. Work with them to keep workers, hit by COVID, in work; and
- ACRATH's submission to the Senate's Select Committee on Temporary Migration.

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS (ICAN)

- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has 45/50 ratifications needed to bring the treaty into force. [Read more](#). Australia has not signed the treaty. CRA and other Catholic bodies are members of ICAN, supporting the abolition of nuclear weapons.
- An [open letter](#) was just released from former presidents, prime ministers, and ministers of 22 countries, in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Signatories include the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and two former Secretary-Generals of NATO.

NEW REPORT DETAILS THE FULL PICTURE OF PALLIATIVE CARE IN AUSTRALIA

The Catholic sector is a major provider of palliative care in Australia. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has just published a comprehensive report into the activity and characteristics of palliative care services across Australia. Read the report in full [here](#).

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT MARY MACKILLOP'S CANONISATION

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary of the Cross with commemorative prayers, videos, and a global vigil to honour Mary throughout September and October, see the [website](#).

INSTALLATION OF BISHOP-ELECT GREGORY BENNET POSTPONED

As a result of COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria, the planned ordination and installation of Bishop-Elect Gregory Bennet, scheduled for 20 October, has been postponed, read the [media release](#). [A Pathway through the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) may be useful as steps to re-open commence in Victoria.



CRA CONGRATULATES RITA APURA CSFN

We congratulate Rita, a Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, who has recently become an Australian citizen, after 16 years in the Land Down Under. *May you feel truly at home in Australia!*



CRA SECRETARIAT STAFF DEVELOPMENT

On Monday, the Secretariat had its first team building day comprising of a session on the Enneagram, which is a powerful tool for understanding ourselves, the people in our lives and for building a strong and effective team. Through genuine interest, honest conversation and many laughs, we gained insights into each other, built trust and forged an even stronger team spirit. It also gave the team an opportunity to welcome Emma Carolan to the Secretariat.

L to R seated: Anne, Sylvia, Emma Carolan | L to R standing: Evangeline, Carmel, Kaylie

IMPORTANT DATES

- **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’](#)
- **Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi:** October 4 2020 – [Pope plans festivities to mark feast of namesake](#)
- **Anti-Poverty Week:** 11-17 October 2020 – [find out how to participate](#)
- **10th Anniversary of the Canonisation of Saint Mary of the Cross:** 17 October – [Take fresh courage](#)
- **CRA National Day of Sorrow & Promise:** 25 October 2020 (*save the date, more information to come*)

WEBINARS/EVENTS

CRA WEBINAR WITH TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE OP – *save the date!*

Date: Wednesday, 2 June 5.00 to 6.30pm (AEST)
Speaker: Timothy Radcliffe OP (renowned international speaker and author)
Topic: This webinar will be based on Timothy Radcliffe’s recent book, *Alive in God: A Christian Imagination*. Read an [article about his book](#) in America Magazine.

THE END CHILD DETENTION COALITION (ECDC) WEBINAR

Date: Tuesday 29th September at 6.00pm (AEST)
Speaker: Dr Sarah Mares, child and family psychiatrist, and Conjoint Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychiatry at the University of NSW
Flyer: [Download the flyer](#) with more information
Register Click here for [online registration](#)

UNANIMA International's Symposium on Women and Children Experiencing Homelessness

Date: 9 October 2020 10-12 PM -New York time (10 October in Australia) via Zoom
Flyer: [Download the flyer](#) and [Concept note](#)
Registration: [register here](#)

WATAC JOINS THE CALL FOR ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

Topic: Acting now: *Laudato si'*, eco-theologies and advocacy
Date: Wednesday 14 October, 6.00pm AEST
Speakers: Jacqui Remond, co-founder, Global Catholic Climate Movement; and Di Rayson, an eco-theologian and Bonhoeffer scholar
Registration: Free - [click here](#)

RESOURCES

A LITTLE HUMOUR... [Summarising 2020 so far](#) and [COVID Self-test](#)