

## NEWS

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### HELP ABS GIVE HOMELESS PEOPLE A VOICE

CRA has been approached by the division of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) which runs the Homelessness Statistics Work Program, which is used to support government funding for housing and homelessness. The ABS is seeking information from and assistance in communicating to faith-based agencies that provide homelessness accommodation such as shelters. The purpose is to have accurate figures of homelessness so that government funding can be allocated to support the homeless. Since the ABS contacted CRA, we have connected ABS with other Catholic peak bodies seeking their participation. If your religious institute has people ministering in these areas, [please consider helping the ABS](#).

### ONGOING ADVOCACY FOR TEMPORARY VISA HOLDERS

[As If We Weren't Humans - The abandonment of temporary migrants in Australia during COVID-19](#) is a report assessing the humanitarian impact of COVID-19 on hundreds of thousands of temporary migrants. A survey of 6,000 temporary visa holders was undertaken to provide current first-hand empirical data to inform government decision-making. Some of the international students interviewed claim to have received food and emergency relief from faith-based organisations. Read [the report](#).

Earlier this year, CRA joined a coalition of 44 Catholic leaders who wrote to the Prime Minister advocating for temporary visa holders to receive access to a financial safety net, Medicare and adequate shelter if they are homeless. You may wish to write to your member of parliament and lobby him/her to provide such support or refer to Refugee Council of Australia's open letter to the PM - [Nobody Left Behind](#).

### VATICAN AND CHINESE TO EXTEND AGREEMENT

Pope Francis is understood to be renewing the 2018 Sino-Vatican agreement for another two-year period, despite international concerns over religious freedom in China and criticism that the deal has abandoned members of the country's "underground" Church to the worst attacks of the Chinese Communist Party. Read the [article on The Tablet](#).

### RELIGIOUS NAMED AMONG TIME MAGAZINE'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF 2020

Norma Pimentel, a member of the Missionaries of Jesus in USA, has been named among TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people for her ongoing work supporting immigrants particularly feeding, clothing and housing more than 125,000 immigrants crossing the Texan border. Read the [article here](#).

## IMPORTANT DATES

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- **Anti-Poverty Week:** 11-17 October 2020 – [find out how to participate](#)
- **10<sup>th</sup> 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*)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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### SEEKING EDUCATION BOARD DIRECTORS

Mary Aikenhead Education Ltd, an education board of The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries are currently recruiting for directors. Read the [advertisement](#).

### SEEKING AN ABORIGINAL PASTORAL WORKER

St Vincent's Health Australia is seeking to recruit an Aboriginal Pastoral Worker. Read the [advertisement](#).

## WEBINARS/EVENTS

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### PAX CHRISTI ZOOM FORUM ON PALESTINE

Topic: *Palestine: a Turning Point?* Download [Forum Flyer](#) and [Invitation Letter](#)

Date: Sunday 18 October 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Register: email [camrita44@gmail.com](mailto:camrita44@gmail.com)

## RESOURCES

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### BOOKS

- [Here's the Story: A Memoir](#) by Mary McAleese, published 24 September 2020. A two-term President of Ireland and feminist icon tells the remarkable stories of her life.
- [Fullness of Life and Justice for All - Dominican Perspectives](#) Is seeking 'fullness of life and justice for all' too ambitious a project considering poverty, inequality, violent conflicts, climate change, migration, racism, etc? In this volume, 20 authors reflect on these issues.
- [Be Not Afraid by Catholic Artists from Home](#) – video clip of Catholic artists performing the hymn.

### LAUGHTER THERAPY

- [Little Pillow Show](#) – video clip of comedienne, Rita Rudner on marriage.

