

NEWS

POPE FRANCIS TO VISIT IRAQ

The Vatican recently announced that Pope Francis will make an apostolic journey to Iraq on 5-8 March 2021, covering four days and four Iraqi provinces, including Baghdad. It is the first apostolic journey in 15 months. Read more on the [Vatican News website](#).

NEW NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING AGENCY LAUNCHED

Catholic Religious Australia, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Association of Ministerial PJP's have launched Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited. Read the [media release](#) in relation to the Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited, which is established to create a more focused and streamlined model for safeguarding at a national level. Please also find [Frequently Asked Questions](#) which are on the CRA website.

PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLY MIXES IN-PERSON, ONLINE FORMAT

Due to ongoing uncertainty around future COVID-19 restrictions regarding travel and public gatherings, a decision has been taken for the first Plenary Council assembly to take place using a combination of online and in-person delivery. [Read the media release](#) about the decision, with some additional details.

RE-ELECTION NOTICE – LORETO SISTERS

The Loreto Sisters are pleased to announce the reappointment of Sr Wendy Hildebrand IBVM as Province Leader for Australia and South East Asia. Read the [full announcement here](#).

NUCLEAR WEAPONS WILL BE ILLEGAL UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW FROM 22 JANUARY 2021

In response to the Australian government's rejection of the upcoming ban of Nuclear Weapons under international law, ICAN has published [For the Record... Addressing the Australian Government's misrepresentation of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#). You can get involved by [emailing your parliamentary representatives](#); join [ICAN's virtual march](#), or tune in to the [10 December webinar](#).

YOURTOWN COUNSELLOR EFFIE BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

21-year-old Effie discusses her role as a Kids Helpline Counsellor. Kids Helpline has been operating since 1991 and is a service provided by yourtown, formally BoysTown, and was founded by the De La Salle Brothers. yourtown is a charity with services young people can access to find jobs, learn skills, become great parents and live safer, happier lives. [Read the article on the Lasallian website](#).

2020 CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

With India at the epicentre of COVID-19, Mary Ward International Australia calls on the support of all Australians who are in a position to give. Read the [media release here](#) and [donate here](#).

KICKING GOALS IN A CRAZY YEAR

Socktober, Catholic Mission's annual schools and community engagement program saw students from more than 380 schools across Australia "sock it to poverty", on behalf of the people of Cambodia. Read [Catholic Mission's media release](#).

8 DECEMBER - FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On the 25 March in 1858, the twelve-year old peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous, felt drawn to the grotto where a 'beautiful lady' had been appearing to her frequently since 11 February that year. Bernadette asked her who she was, and the lady in white said in the local dialect, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Read a [Reflection on the Immaculate Conception](#) from the Margaret Aylward Centre for Faith & Dialogue. Follow the December 8th celebrations online via a live webcam from the Grotto [here](#).

THANKS TO CRA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CRA is deeply grateful for the generous contributions of the following members who have finished their time with various CRA Committees:

- Marg Hinchey RSM, Libby Rogerson IBVM and Jan Barnett RSJ from the Justice Committee;
- Maree Marsh CSB, from the Health and Wellbeing Committee; and,
- Ellen Geraghty and Charlene Robson from the Australian Mission Network Committee.

NEW JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEMBER SUGGESTIONS

Council will consider new members for the CRA Justice Committee. Prospective candidates need to be representative of the diversity of Australia and of the church; female or male, lay or religious, who possess energy and passion for justice as a must. An understanding of current issues and advocacy avenues; an appreciation of Catholic Social Teaching and the workings of government are all desirable skills and attributes. Please email any suggestions to Carmel Warnock (cpc@catholicreligious.org.au).



Pictured L to R: Emma Carolan, CRA Justice Research Officer, Marg Hinchey RSM, Libby Rogerson IBVM, Anne McGuire RSM, Anne Walker CRA National Executive Director, Sharon Price RSM, Jan Barnett RSJ and Kevin Dance CP

JRS AUSTRALIA LAUNCH 'CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR ACTION'

Jesuit Refugee Service Australia has launched 'Christmas Cards for Action,' so that you can send a Christmas message to your local MP and remind them that women, children, and men seeking asylum will not be so lucky this holiday season. Hadiyah and Rabia, both women seeking Australia's protection, are the artists behind the artwork on these cards. [Learn more and donate here.](#)

EVENTS/WEBINARS

ONLINE PRESENTATION FROM CICLSAL

The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL) invites you to an online conference on the document: *The Gift of Fidelity and the Joy of Perseverance* which will be live streamed in several languages.

Topic: The Gift of Fidelity, the Joy of Perseverance

Date: Tuesday, 10 December 2020

Time: 15:00 to 18:00 (Rome-time)

Find out more: [View on YouTube](#); view on [CICLSAL website](#)

JAMBEROO ABBEY ONLINE RETREATS

Date: Sunday, 3 January 2021

Duration: 40-day retreat

Topic: The Leading Strings of Love

Overview: During the retreat, participants will be led through three interconnecting 'movements' by which a soul is drawn into an ever-deepening relationship with Christ.

Flyer: For all information and to register, [click here.](#)

UNANIMA WEBINAR

Topic: Family Homelessness and Peace, Prosperity & Partnership SDGs

Date: Dec 10, 2020

Time: 09:00 AM in [Eastern Time \(US and Canada\)](#)

Flyer: Download the [flyer here](#)

Registration: [online registration](#)

NEW CRA NATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

[CRA 2021 Events Calendar](#), also available on the [CRA Resources page.](#)

RESOURCES

COMPLIMENTARY ONLINE VIDEOS AND MUSIC

Emmaus Productions is offering a complimentary resource of online videos and music:

- [A Light In Darkness - Christmas Resources](#)
- [Restless Hearts, Holy Longing - Video Reflections with Ron Rolheiser OMI](#)

These thought-provoking and soul-searching reflections are presented by theologian and award-winning author, Fr Ron Rolheiser. Click above to view samples of this video series.

ADVENT CALENDAR

The Ignatian Solidarity Network invites ways to live simply as we prepare with hope for the coming of Jesus. Visit the [Advent Simplicity Challenge](#) and sign up to receive emails or texts to check the advent calendar, which will be filled with daily inspiration to live abundantly and joyfully while healing the earth this Advent.

NEW BOOK - CURIOUS OBSESSIONS IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY

This book is a captivating look at the famous and the forgotten who emerged in times of extreme change and social disruption to change science and spirituality forever. During our current COVID-19 pandemic, this collection is highly relevant to a world still seeking novel answers to the human condition and also drawn to old theories long ago debunked. [Click here for more information and to order, on ATF website.](#)

NEW BOOK - TIME WE STARTED LISTENING: THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS PUT TO US BY RECENT INDIGENOUS WRITING

As one of the author's reviewers says, Duncan Reid tackles the task of reimagining ways of seeing in and through the eyes of the other. This is a task First Nations People have become adept at in the intersection between Aboriginality and the European way of seeing. [Click here for more information and to order the book.](#)

LAUGHTER THERAPY

Yesterday my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.

I trained my dog to fetch beer. It may not sound too impressive but he gets them from the neighbor's fridge.

