

NEWS

NSW PREMIER REFUSES TO PROCLAIM THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2018

[Read the email from Greg Donnelly MLC](#), Parliament of New South Wales who states that, “Instead of ensuring the legislation commences on 1st January 2021 as recommended by a parliamentary committee chaired and controlled by government members, the Premier and her Cabinet have decided to refer the matter off to secret negotiations.”

CSSA CALLS FOR URGENT RETHINK ON JOBSEEKER CUTS

Read the [media release from Catholic Social Services Australia](#), urging the Commonwealth Government to reconsider its plans to decrease the rate of JobSeeker payments from January 1, 2021. CEO Ursula Stephens explains that the temporary increase to the payment due to COVID-19 had a positive impact on the wellbeing of recipients but lowering the rate next month will resume a “long-term decline in the adequacy” of the payment. CSSA has also renewed its call for an independent panel to advise on meaningful reform of social security payment levels.

LORETO SISTERS OPENING A HOUSE OF FORMATION IN SYDNEY

In 2021 the Loreto Sisters are opening a house of formation in Sydney. They are interested in any congregation which might have a 5-bedroom house, townhouses or similar accommodation for rent. Please contact Libby Rogerson IBVM by email: libby.rogerson@loreto.org.au or mob: 0439 039 449.

CHARISM & CREATIVITY CONFERENCE – ROME 2021

The Charism & Creativity conference, to be held in Rome, from 30 September - 1 October 2021, is a joint initiative of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and the Pontifical Council for Culture. Its object is the cultural heritage of communities of consecrated life in all their expressions. There is a [call for papers](#); click here to read the [letter from the Vatican](#); download the [poster](#); and you can [register](#) from May 2021 onwards.

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME TO CONTINUE IN 2021

Click on the [media release from the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne](#), confirming that the long-running *Mass for You at Home* will continue to be broadcast in 2021 – correcting the misinformation shared in some media outlets last week.

NEW MISSION PLAN FROM SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has launched a new Mission Plan, *Go Make Disciples*, focused on supporting the renewal of parishes and other Eucharistic communities to revitalise their mission for the 2020s and beyond. Read the [media release here](#).

CRA JUSTICE NEWS

Five new articles from CRA, under Justice News on the CRA website:

[A COVID-19 Vaccine: One for all, or all for one?;](#) [Australia's Immigration Detention and COVID-19;](#)
[Asylum Seekers moved onto Final Departure Bridging Visas;](#) [COVID-19 Forces Border Closures to Those Seeking Refuge;](#)
[As If We Weren't Humans;](#)

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC CONDUCTING SURVEY OF PEOPLE WHO GOVERN CHARITIES

Rosemary Langford of Melbourne University is seeking responses to a short online survey from Catholic organisations. Please see her [explanatory letter](#) and click on the [survey](#) if you can assist.

ACU APPOINTS NEW PROVOST

Australian Catholic University has appointed Professor Belinda Tynan to be its new Provost from February 2021. Read more on the [ACU website](#).

JRS APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR

Jesuit Refugee Service Australia has appointed Tamara Domicelj as incoming Country Director, commencing on 25 January 2021. Read more on the [JRS website](#).

WHY IS DARTH VADER IN THE VATICAN'S NATIVITY SCENE?

The Vatican unveiled its official Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square on 11 December, surprising some with its depiction of an astronaut and another figure wearing a Darth Vader-esque helmet coming to adore the Christ child. The central motivation behind the Vatican's Nativity scene is communicating that Christ came for all people. The problem is, there is much disapproval – [read more on the America Magazine website](#).

EVENTS/WEBINARS

CRA TEMPORARY PROFESSED NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY – BY ZOOM

Date: Saturday 30 January 2021; time: 3.00pm AEDST

CRA FORMATORS NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY – BY ZOOM

Date: Saturday 20 February 2021; time: 3.00pm AEDST

Save the date for both events; details will be released early 2021. For enquiries, contact [Carmel](#) at CRA.

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY IN A TIME OF ENGAGEMENT – 3 DAY ONLINE CONFERENCE

Date: Monday 25 January to Wednesday 27 January 2021

Flyer: [Download the flyer](#) for more information

Registrations: [via Trybooking](#)

RESOURCES

STIPENDS

Please check updated stipends on the [CRA website](#), including stipends for Northern Territory 2021 Calendar Year. Yet to be finalised are QLD and SA for 2021 Calendar year.

NEW BOOK: CATHY GOES TO CANBERRA - DOING POLITICS DIFFERENTLY

Cathy McGowan AO entered federal politics when she was in her 50s in 2013 as an independent female politician; she was determined to 'do politics differently' by community engagement and participation. She was previously a teacher, then a farmer. She retired in 2019. [Click here to order her book](#); to view the [book launch](#); to hear an interview on the ABC program, Conversation Hour [click here](#).

NEW BOOK: LETTERS FROM LOCKDOWN: FRIENDSHIP GOING VIRAL

"Hilarious, poignant, witty and wise ... Elaine Farmer [the author] offers her reader a smorgasbord of insights into love and friendship, family, diplomacy, theology, psychology, hospitality, travel, sickness and death, all suffused with joy and more than a touch of defiance." Hugh Mackay, Psychologist and Social Researcher. Farmer is an Anglican priest based in Canberra. Click on the [ATF Press website](#).

LAUGHTER THERAPY



Q: What kind of motorcycle does Santa ride?

A: A Holly Davidson

Q: Who is Santa's favourite singer?

A: Elf-is Presley!

Q: How will Christmas dinner be different after Brexit?

A: No Brussels!