

## NEWS

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### **CRA ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE**

In early February 2021, CRA and other organisations, urged the government to amend sections of the Fair Work Amendment (Supporting Australia's Jobs and Economic Recovery) Bill 2020 in a submission which would reduce and compromise vulnerable workers' rights. A revised Bill passed the House of Representatives yesterday. Most of our concerns were accepted by government and the Bill amended, which was a very positive result. If you would like any further information, call Anne Walker at CRA.

### **VATICAN SOURCES SUSPECT POPE FRANCIS WAS DISTANCING HIMSELF FROM CDF STATEMENT ON SAME-SEX UNIONS IN ADDRESS**

According to three sources, it was significant that Francis called on Christians and the Church to give witness to Jesus "not with theoretical condemnations but with gestures of love." Read [the article in America, The Jesuit Review](#).

### **MORE CHILDREN WILL SUFFER UNDER 'UNJUST' JOBSEEKER PAYMENT**

Catholic Social Services Australia has condemned the Government's decision to set the JobSeeker payment at just \$44 per day, as hundreds of thousands of people prepare to move from JobKeeper to JobSeeker payments in the coming days. Read the [media release from Catholic Social Services Australia](#).

### **VINNIES SAYS DROP PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHARITY LAW**

The National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia has called on the Federal Government to drop proposed changes to governance standards which threaten to undermine the freedoms necessary for registered charities to conduct essential advocacy work. Read the [media release here](#).

### **OFFICIAL BLESSING AND OPENING OF ACU'S ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA CAMPUS IN BLACKTOWN**

On 12 March 2021 ACU's ninth campus, Saint Josephine Bakhita Campus, Blacktown was blessed by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta and officially opened by the Honourable Alan Tudge MP, Federal Minister for Education and Youth. During the ceremony, one of CRA's members, Sr Melissa Dwyer FDCC, Provincial Superior of the Canossian Australia Delegation, gave a speech on behalf of the Canossian community. [Watch the video of the opening](#); Mel commences her speech at 59.35 mins.

### **HONOURING THE GOSPEL WITNESS OF RELIGIOUS SISTERS IN THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH**

CRA President Br Peter Carroll FMS writes in Pathways this month about the contribution of Religious to the Australian Church and describes the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion as emblematic of this contribution.

[Read the article from Pathways on the CRA website.](#)

### **ONLINE ROUNDTABLE TO CONSIDER CATHOLIC POLICY RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

The Bishops Conference and ACU's public policy think tank, the PM Glynn Institute, hosted an online roundtable this week to consider the Catholic policy response to COVID-19. Read the [media release here](#).

### **PRESENTATION SISTERS GIVEN DISTINGUISHED TASMANIAN HONOUR**

The legacy of the Presentation Sisters in Tasmania over the past 155 years was recognised in Launceston last week when they were inducted onto the 2021 Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women. [Read more here](#).

### **ACU CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN PRESTIGIOUS GLOBAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM**

ACU has been chosen as one of 20 international institutions to participate in Uniservitate, a global program for the development and promotion of "service-learning" in Catholic higher education institutions. Read the [media release here](#).

## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

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### **CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA SEEKS PARISH LEADER**

The Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba is seeking to recruit a Parish Leader by 1 July 2021. Please read the [position description](#). Enquiries should be directed to Tom Jolley by phone: 07 4632 7589 or by email [tjolley@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:tjolley@twb.catholic.org.au).

## **EVENTS/WEBINARS**

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### **BUILDING BRIDGES OF HOPE: A SYMPOSIUM WITH MASSIMO FAGGIOLI**

Catholic Mission, in partnership with CRA, is holding a series of online Symposia ahead of the Mission: One Heart Many Voices Conference, scheduled for 1-4 September 2021. Professor Massimo Faggioli is a world-renowned theologian; he will reflect on his latest publication, 'The Liminal Papacy of Pope Francis: Moving Toward a Global Catholicity' and will also refer to Pope Francis' latest Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*.

Date: Thursday 22 April 2021

Time: 12.00 pm - 1.30 pm (AEDT)

Cost: \$20.00

Registration: For more information and to register, [click here](#).

### SEEKING THE TRUTH' SEMINAR SERIES

The Loreto Sisters, with BBI-TAITE, are offering a series of interactive seminars about feminist theology and the role and experience of women in the Church in 2021. There are 4 sessions which will run through to November. For more information [click here](#).

Date: Starts Tuesday 23 March 2021

Time: 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Venue: Loreto College, 91-93 Pennant Hills Rd, Normanhurst, in Sydney

### PAX CHRISTI WEBINAR

Title: A Moment to Dream: Pope Francis' Pathway to a Better Future

Date: Sunday 18 April 2021

Time: 2.00 – 3.30 PM (AEST)

Flyer: Click here to [download the flyer](#)

Registration: Contact Harry Kerr: [ahmkerr@hotmail.com](mailto:ahmkerr@hotmail.com) or Rita Camilleri: [camrita44@gmail.com](mailto:camrita44@gmail.com)

Enquiries: Contact Caesar D'Mello: [caesarmdm@gmail.com](mailto:caesarmdm@gmail.com) or ph: 0451 911 941, by email: or Claude Mostowik: [mscjust@smartchat.net.au](mailto:mscjust@smartchat.net.au) or ph: 0411 450 953

### CATHOLIC GOVERNANCE WEBINAR

The webinar will explore how the 7 Pillars of Good Governance can be embedded into Catholic organisations by directors and responsible persons and outline practical tools and approaches, in context of recent Church initiatives and ecclesial considerations.

Title: [7 Pillars of Good Governance](#) (click on the link to learn more)

Date: Wednesday 14 April 2021

Time: 12.00 pm – 1.00 pm AEST

Speakers: Simon Neaverson; Judith Gardiner; Greg Baynie

Registration: [Click here to register](#) (Free of charge)

### ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION WEBINAR SERIES

Jesuit Conference Asia-Pacific and Reconciliation with Creation are offering a series of Ecological Conversion webinars, please [click on the flyer](#) for more information.

Date: Starts Thursday 25 March 2021

Time: 12.00pm Manila time

Registration: [Click here to register](#)

### CRA EVENTS

- [CRA Health & Well-Being Weekend Retreat for Male Leaders of Religious Institutes](#) 16 to 18 July, Mittagong, NSW (download the [flyer](#))
- [CRA 2021 National Assembly](#) Monday 2 to Thursday 5 August, Novotel Parramatta, Sydney NSW
- CRA Interculturality Workshop, Friday 6 August, Novotel Parramatta, Sydney NSW (*More information and registration details to come*)

## RESOURCES

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### FORMATORS – A GOOGLE DRIVE PLATFORM FOR SHARING RESOURCES AND NETWORKING

Following the successful CRA Formators Zoom session (20 February 2021), a Google Drive has been established for Formators to be able to share resources and collaborate. If you are a Formator within a Religious Institute and interested in networking and sharing resources, please contact Carmel Warnock at CRA, by email: [cpc@catholicreligious.org.au](mailto:cpc@catholicreligious.org.au) for instructions on how to access the Google Drive.

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER - VIDEO & MUSIC RESOURCES

Emmaus Productions is pleased to offer complimentary resources of online videos and music downloads for children and adults, to support them during Holy Week and Easter. [Click here.](#)

### TOWARDS MERCY MINISTRY COMPANIONS NEWSLETTER

The Institute of Mercy, Australia and Papua New Guinea would like to share their publication, [Towards Mercy Ministry Companions](#) which follows the work by the Institute in forming a proposed new Ministerial PJP to be called Mercy Ministry Companions.

### THE PLENARY PODCASTS

Gain insights into the journey towards the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. You can access the [podcasts on Anchor](#) or [podcasts on Spotify](#). The Council's two assemblies are being held in 2021 and 2022.

### CONCERT FOR HOPE

Bernadette Farrell, composer of contemporary Catholic liturgical music, such as Christ Be Our Light, God Beyond All Names and O God You Search Me, is directing the Concert for Hope, an online celebration of Syrian musical talent marking 10 years since the Syrian conflict began. [See the flyer](#) or the [website](#).

### LAUGHTER THERAPY

