

NEWS

EASTER JOY AND HOPE OF A CHINESE BISHOP

Kevin O'Neill SSC shares a moving story of Bishop John Baptist in one of China's poorer dioceses. The bishop spent eleven years in detention followed by nine years in prison. "It was hard for me to fathom how an old man who had experienced so much suffering could be so serene. . . The memories were real but forgiveness allowed him to move forward." Read this story at the [Columbans Mission Society website](#).

KIDNAPPING OF CONSECRATED AND LAY PERSONS IN HAITI

Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) calls for prayers for the welfare of seven consecrated Catholic men and women, along with three lay persons, kidnapped by an armed gang in Haiti on 11 April. The kidnappings are part of an ongoing crisis of violence and social disorder in Haiti arising from the political and economic instability of the past ten years. More information available at the [Canadian Religious Conference website](#). CRA has written a letter of support to the Haitian Conference of Religious (CHR) and the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC). The latter has a strong bond with the people of Haiti given that many Canadian religious have worked, and still work, there.

GET VACCINATED FOR THE COMMON GOOD

There has been concern from some members of the community about the ethics of the research practices and production of COVID-19 vaccines. In response, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference follows the guidance of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in urging people to be vaccinated for their own health, and for the health of the wider community. See the Australian Bishops' [media release here](#), and a FAQ sheet [here](#). Or visit the [ACBC website](#).

POPE MEETS WITH UN REFUGEE AGENCY CHIEF

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, was received by Pope Francis last Friday, 16 April, where the two discussed the increasing conflicts and other causes of people fleeing their homelands, including specific areas, such as Central America, Venezuela and Lebanon. Grandi described the Holy Father as "one of the greatest champions of the cause of the most vulnerable" in the world today. Read more and listen to a recording of Grandi's comments at the [Vatican News website](#).

SCHOOLS STEP UP TO WALK WITH THE EXCLUDED

During Lent, Jesuit Refugee Service ran a targeted appeal, called "6 Weeks of Lent – Give 6 Things." Eleven schools, seven primary and four secondary, answered the call and ran the Lenten appeal, providing basmati rice, tuna, cooking oil, canned tomatoes, lentils, and pasta to families and individuals in need. Read this story in the latest [newsletter of Jesuit Refugee Service](#) (JRS).

GROWING NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE GETTING ACTIVE IN VINNIES

This year, during National Youth Week 16-24 April, the National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia celebrates the growing number of younger people who enthusiastically give their time and expertise to help others. According to the media release, 28,500 people under the age of 40 make up more than a third of the volunteer base. Read the St Vincent De Paul Society [media release here](#).

HOLY COMMUNION AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

A recent article in America magazine explores issues relating to the reception of Holy Communion and couples in a same-sex union. “Every Christian denomination is struggling with L.G.B.T. issues. Whether they concern ordained ministry or simply ordinary participation in church life, the issues surrounding L.G.B.T. Christians threaten to sunder the unity of many church communities. The Catholic Church is no exception, as the reaction to the [recent response of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith](#) on the blessing of same-sex unions indicates. The Catholic struggle, however, plays out most intensely at the local level—in our parishes.” Read the article in full at [America: the Jesuit Review](#).

CRA EMPLOYS NEW PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS OFFICER



CRA has added a new team member to assist with the publications and projects of the Secretariat. Teresa Pirola commenced 12 April, working two days a week. Teresa is a thinker, writer and animator with extensive experience in Catholic ecclesial movements, parish and diocesan ministries. Immediately prior to this role, Teresa worked for seven years at the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay in the faith formation of teachers and parents. In addition to her work at CRA, Teresa is the founder and operator of *Light of Torah*, an interfaith ministry. She has a particular interest in Jewish-Christian relations and recently completed a Doctor of Theology (SCD). CRA is happy to have Teresa join the CRA team.

EVENTS/WEBINARS

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON SAFEGUARDING AND CANON LAW

The Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland is holding a Virtual Conference with keynote speaker Fr Hans Zollner SJ, President of the Centre for Child Protection at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. Fr Zollner holds degrees in theology and psychology. He serves as a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors and as a Consultor of the Congregation for Clergy. Download the [flyer here](#).

Title: Safeguarding Observations for the Evaluation and Revision of Canonical Penal Law
Date: 5 May 2021
Time: 11.00am – 1.00pm (UK/Ireland time); 8.00pm to 10.00pm (AEST)
Registration: Contact Kate Dunn: kate.dunn@gallowaydiocese.org.uk
Details for registration will be provided upon application.

2021 CRA EVENTS

Monday, 3 May	CRA Professional Development & Networking Day for Administrators , 'Living Your Best Life'	North Sydney, NSW
Wednesday, 5 May	CRA National Stewardship Seminar , 'How best to maximise yield in a low interest environment'	Zoom event
Wednesday, 26 May	CRA National Justice Seminar Day , 'Now is the Time!'	Melbourne, VIC
Monday 2 to Thursday 5 August	CRA 2021 National Assembly	Parramatta, NSW
Friday 6 August	CRA Interculturality Workshop (flyer and registration available shortly)	Parramatta, NSW

RESOURCES

NO GREATER LOVE. THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE OF GOD (Coventry Press, 2021)

This book, by Brian Gallagher MSC, is a companion book to his earlier work *God's Foolishness*. The author reflects on the lives and teachings of a number of 'prophets'—drawn from the classical saints to twentieth-century theologians—who have encouraged and inspired him in his own life and ministry. In common to all is their experience of God's love in their lives, in joyful times and in painful times. 52 pages, \$18.95. [Purchase from Coventry Press.](#)

ACADEMIC RESEARCH JUST PUBLISHED

Daly, K. and J. Davis (2021). Civil justice and redress scheme outcomes for child sexual abuse by the Catholic Church, *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, DOI: 10.1080/10345329.2021.1895467

A number of Catholic organisations, including the ACBC General Secretariat, assisted Kathy Daly from Griffith University in Brisbane in her research for the above paper. Kathy notes: "It is, as far as we know, the first paper to compare outcomes (% receiving any payment and the average payments) from civil litigation and redress schemes for one offence category (varied as that is) and one organisational defendant (highly devolved as it is). The paper challenges speculation by some legal practitioners on money outcomes of civil justice and redress schemes for child sexual abuse by church personnel." [Read the full article here.](#)

The CRA eBulletin includes opinions and viewpoints from a range of organisations and forums for the information of its membership. The opinions and viewpoints reported do not necessarily reflect those of Catholic Religious Australia.

LAUGHTER THERAPY 😂



WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING TODAY DO IT WITH THE CONFIDENCE OF A 4 YEAR OLD IN A BATMAN T-SHIRT.

