

NEWS

CRA LAUNCHING ONLINE EVENT BASED ON THE LIGHT FROM THE SOUTHERN CROSS

CRA is delivering an online event, *'The Light from the Southern Cross – a Catalyst for Conversation'* on Wednesday, 7 July from 9.00am to 2.00pm (AEST). This is a formation opportunity. More information to be provided shortly - *please save the date*.

LAUDATO SI' WEEK: 16-25 MAY 2021

[Laudato Si' Week](#) brings an announcement from the Vatican about its new *Laudato Si Action Platform and Goals*. Read about this and more at the latest [Columban eBulletin](#).

JULIAN MCDONALD CFC

Many religious would know Julian McDonald CFC, who is now back in Australia after completing his time on the Christian Brothers Congregation Leadership Team and in many other roles. Julian is available to assist Religious leaders, in person or otherwise, to talk through issues, queries or concerns. Julian can be contacted at rjmcdonald@edmundrice.org or through [Anne at nationalexec@catholicreligious.org.au](mailto:Anne@nationalexec@catholicreligious.org.au).

JOHN BRADBURNE'S CANONISATION CAUSE OPENED

Catholics in England and Zimbabwe are celebrating the canonisation cause for John Bradburne (1921-1979), an English lay Franciscan missionary who devoted the latter part of his life to helping forgotten leprosy patients at the Mutemwa Leprosy Settlement in Zimbabwe. Read his story at the [John Bradburne Memorial Society website](#).

CALL FOR YOUNG ARTISTS

Pax Christi International has just launched a campaign for young people on the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty. They are asked to create a video or a digital artwork seeking to convince states that have not joined the treaty to do so. Details can be found at the [Pax Christi International website](#).

RESPONSES TO THE FEDERAL BUDGET

A coalition of some of the country's largest social service providers welcomes important spending measures but says the 2021 Federal Budget fails to address growing inequality in Australia. [Read the joint media release](#) of Anglicare Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, UnitingCare Australia and the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council. See, too, the separate [media release of the National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia](#) on the issue of social housing.

GATHERING OF WOMEN PLENARY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Women members of the Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia were recently hosted by Women and the Australian Church (WATAC) in partnership with ACU and CRA at a gathering which provided them with an opportunity to meet each other for conversation and sharing. Read the [joint media release](#) at the [CRA website](#).

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week commences next week with National Sorry Day on Wednesday 26 May. The theme for 2021 is “More than a word. Reconciliation takes action.” The *Events* section of the [official website](#) provides details for events taking place all over the country.

ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC MINISTRY EMPOWERS STUDENT LEADERS

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of Sr Irene McCormack’s death, Catholic Mission Perth Office invited student leaders from various Catholic schools to share their reflections on her incredible legacy for the production of a prayer video, which has been supported by many organisations, including CRA. Read the [Catholic Mission media release](#) here.

EVENTS/WEBINARS

CRA NATIONAL POST-ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP

Teresa Maya CCVI, Kevin O’Neill SSC and Tim Norton SVD will lead a workshop to process the ideas and challenges from their presentations at the CRA National Assembly to create building blocks for intercultural mission-focussed action. [Download the flyer](#).

Title: What Now? Building Blocks for Intercultural Change. Interculturality and Prophetic Leadership
Date & Time: Friday 6 August 2021, 9.30am – 3.00pm
Venue: Novotel Parramatta, 350 Church St Parramatta NSW
Registration: \$150.00 per head (including lunch and morning tea). RSVP by 19 July
[Register at Trybooking](#)

PUBLIC LECTURE: SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE – REFLECTIONS ON THE PLENARY COUNCIL

Tim Costelloe SDB, Archbishop of Perth and President of the Plenary Council will present reflections on the Plenary Council. Download the flyers for the [Sydney venue](#) and the [Melbourne venue](#).

Title: Joel 3: Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old people shall dream dreams, and your young people see visions
Dates & Times: Monday 28 June, 7.00pm, St Patrick’s Cathedral, Marist Place, Parramatta NSW
Wednesday 30 June, 5.00pm, Newman College, 887 Swanston St, Parkville VIC
Registration: No cost, but bookings essential. RSVP by 28 June: mark.oconnor@marists.org.au (Melbourne session) and mark.oconnor@parracatholic.org (Sydney session)

SEMINAR FOR TEMPORARY PROFESSED RELIGIOUS

The Melbourne Formators Group are presenting a seminar for temporary professed religious in the initial stages of religious life. This group has mutually collaborative links with CRA where areas of focus overlap.

Title: Racism and Attitudes Towards Women
Date & Time: 24 July 2021, 9:30am - 3:00pm (concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist)
Venue: St Francis' Church Pastoral Centre, 326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
Registration: Free registration by emailing: sss.melbourne@gmail.com (include your full name, religious congregation and contact number). RSVP no later than 12 July.

Information on CRA-sponsored resources for formators of religious life can be found at [the CRA website](#).

REFUGEE ADVOCACY ONLINE WEBINAR

[End Child Detention Coalition](#) looks at the refugee advocacy movement and creating positive change for children and families in detention. Najeeba Wazefadost, a refugee and gender equality advocate, will facilitate a discussion with Sandy Sandhya Jackson (PhD, Law) and student animator Sophie Brazenor.

Title: Refugee Advocacy – Realising Positive Outcomes for Children in Detention
Date & Time: 25 May 2021; 6.00pm (AEST)
Registration: [Register online](#) – free of charge

RETREAT AT HARTZER PARK

As winter stillness opens into the new life of spring, you are invited to be in silent communion in this six-day retreat facilitated by Dr Kerrie Hide. Details at the [Hartzer Park website](#).

Title: Enjoying God with Women Mystics
Date: Monday 23rd August (6.00pm) – Monday 30th August 2021
Registration: Cost: \$700 (fully catered). Further details at hartzerpark.org.au
To book, phone 02 4861 3223 or email: hartzprk@bigpond.net.au

2021 ACU/PISAI ROME LECTURE

The [lecture](#) will be delivered by Professor Wilhelmus Valkenberg, Director of the Institute for Interreligious Study and Dialogue, School of Theology and Religious Studies, The Catholic University of America.

Title: Jews and Christians in the Qur'ān: Who has power over God's bounty?
Date & Time: Thursday 20 May 2021, 8.00 – 9.00pm (AEST)
Registration: [Register online at the ACU website – free of charge](#)

RESOURCES

JEWES, CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS: HAND IN HAND

Lest the darkness of the conflict in the middle east eclipse our hope, we can remember the 'people power' on the ground that is consistently dedicated to peacebuilding initiatives. For example: [Hand In Hand](#) is a growing network of bilingual, integrated schools in Arab-Jewish communities in Israel. [EcoPeace](#) has

Israelis and Palestinians lobbying the governments of Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority to better manage scarce water resources. [Project Rozana](#) and [Road to Recovery](#) have Israelis and Palestinians working together for improved health outcomes for Palestinian communities [The Parents Circle](#) brings together Israeli and Palestinian families who have each lost a child, killed by the 'other side'. Their personal stories convey a strong message: if we can reconcile, surely governments can too. Their stories can be shared as a beacon of hope.

'FAN THE FLAME' PRAYER RESOURCES FOR PLENARY COUNCIL

As we celebrate Pentecost, a national campaign will be launched by the Bishops Conference to support a prayerful build-up to the first assembly of the Plenary Council. The "Fan the Flame" campaign is offered as resources for individuals and groups who are providing essential support by praying for the Plenary Council journey. [This Google Drive folder](#) from the ACBC contains the resources. The campaign will be officially launched on Wednesday 19 May.

LAUGHTER THERAPY 😂

