

NEWS

POPE FRANCIS' INVITATION TO SHARE IN THE FORTHCOMING SYNODAL JOURNEY

CICLSAL has addressed a letter to consecrated men and women, containing an invitation from Pope Francis to “set out on an ecclesial journey” with the theme “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission”. This begins in October 2021 and concludes in October 2023 with the next Synod of Bishops. [Download the CICLSAL letter](#) at the CRA website.

145 UNBROKEN YEARS OF A MERCY PRESENCE IN YASS

[Catholic Voice](#) recently carried the story of the last Mercy Sister to leave Yass (in rural NSW) after 145 years of an unbroken presence of the Sisters of Mercy. That legacy included over a century of teaching in Yass’s Catholic primary and secondary schools, ministering to inmates at the local jail, and visiting the poor and sick in homes and at the Yass hospital. A farewell Mass for the Sisters will be held at St Augustine’s in Yass on 18 July.

“A PASSIONATE HEART” FOUNDATION LAUNCHED

[The Southern Cross](#) reports that a foundation supporting projects helping the poor and marginalised in developing countries has been launched by the Passionists Congregation in Adelaide. *A Passionist Heart Foundation* will support two major projects, one assisting children with disabilities in PNG; the other building a women’s hospital ward in Tanzania. Learn more at [A Passionist Heart Foundation website](#).

MARIST FOUNDATION STUDENT REPS TO ADDRESS UNITED NATIONS HR COUNCIL

Two students from Parramatta Marist High School will address the 47th session of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations this week. Their statements, on the treatment of refugees and climate change, will be provided by video link as representatives of the NGO, *Foundation for Marist Solidarity, International* (FMSI). Download the [Marist Foundation press release](#).

BISHOP’S OP-ED: THE FIGHT FOR A FAIR MINIMUM WAGE

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has shared an opinion piece on the fight for a Fair Minimum Wage written by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta and chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service. [Download the Op-Ed here](#).

INDIAN JESUIT PRIEST AND ACTIVIST DIES

Stan Swamy SJ, defender of the rights of the most oppressed and impoverished tribal peoples in India, has died from complications related to COVID-19 while in his ninth month of incarceration in the custody of the Indian government. Read more at the [America Magazine webpage](#).

ICAN SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY TRAINING AVAILABLE

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons ([ICAN](#) Australia) is currently supporting individuals and groups to approach their federal MP or one of their state/territory Senators. Advice is provided on who to meet and what to raise. ICAN is also doing small group MP Advocacy training sessions with any group that is keen to get active. Contact Gem Romuld, gem@icanw.org. CRA will be holding a Zoom session with ICAN in the next few months to explain the history, issues and ways forward in the campaign to abolish nuclear weapons. We will notify members when we have a date.

NATSICC ANNOUNCES 2021 SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AWARDS

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has announced the winners of the 2021 Service to Community Awards, designed to recognise the unheralded and showcase the gifts that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people bring to the Australian Catholic Church. Visit the [NATSICC Awards webpage](#) to read the stories of the winners.

EVENTS/WEBINARS

CRA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – 2 TO 5 AUGUST 2021 – NOVOTEL PARRAMATTA, SYDNEY

A participant vote on whether to keep the National Assembly date on 2 August or postpone it until 22 November is currently being conducted and the result will be advised within the week.

THE LIGHT FROM THE SOUTHERN CROSS – CATALYST FOR CONVERSATION (ONLINE)

Title: Mission and Church
Date & Time: Wednesday, 7 July 2021; 9.00am to 2.00pm (AEST)
Registration: [Register online – for free](#)
Recording: A recording of the keynote presentations will be available after the event

ST JOSEPH'S RETREAT CENTRE BAULKHAM HILLS (NSW)

The latest lockdown in NSW has meant that this week's retreats are to be postponed. The new dates are Sunday 19 – Sunday 26 September 2021. For details about these retreats visit the [St Joseph's website](#).

Also: St Joseph's is offering a Sabbatical retreat – details below. [Download the flyer here](#).

Title: Time of the Sage. A Sabbatical for Religious Living the 80s years.
Date: 1- 30 November 2021
Venue: St Joseph's Retreat Centre Baulkham Hills NSW
Cost: \$5,615.00. Closing date for applications is 30 October.
Registration: E: bookings@stjosephscentre.org.au; Ph: 02 9634 2317

ETHICAL ISSUES AND HUMAN AGEING – CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

This CTC online unit is presented by Dr Laurence McNamara CM. You can enrol in it as a single module— as an audit, as a single unit or towards a postgraduate award.

Title: Ethical Issues and Human Ageing

Dates & Times: Six Saturdays: 31 July; 7 & 28 August; 11 September; 9 & 23 October
10.00am - 12.00; then 2.00 – 4.00pm

Registration: Contact: registrar@ctc.edu.au or phone (03) 9412 3309
[Download the CTC flyer](#) for further details

RESOURCES

CATHOLIC WEEKLY OFFERS DIGITAL EDITION DURING LOCKDOWN

During Church closures in greater Sydney, a new digital edition of *The Catholic Weekly* is being made available for free to all readers. *The Catholic Weekly* also features prayers and podcasts with a focus on helping Catholics continue to live faith-filled lives in difficult times. [Download the press release](#). Subscribe at [The Catholic Weekly website](#).

NAIDOC PARTNERS WITH NETFLIX

NAIDOC has again partnered with Netflix to help highlight Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content across the streaming service during NAIDOC Week 2021 (4-11 July). Inspired by the 2021 NAIDOC theme, *Heal Country!*, programming will feature on NITV, SBS, ABC and 10 until Sunday 11 July. More information available can be found at [TV guides](#) and at the [NAIDOC website](#).

LAUGHTER THERAPY 😂

Sincere apologies for any offence caused by the choice of images in last week's eBulletin. – Eds.

