

NEWS

JESUIT MISSION TURNS 70

Jesuit Mission is celebrating 70 years. Its foundations began in 1951 with the first Australian missionaries sent to serve indigenous communities in India's north-eastern Jharkhand state. [Read Jesuit Mission's media release.](#)

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE HOSTS VACCINATION CLINICS

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia is hosting vaccination clinics for refugee and asylum-seeking communities in Western Sydney. [Read more at the JRS website.](#)

CALLED TO SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Rita Malavisi RSJ explores her call to spiritual direction in this four-minute [promotional video](#) for the 2022 [Siloam Programme](#), Australia's longest-running Spiritual Direction Formation Programme.

MISSIONARY SISTERS OF SERVICE SUPPORT TASMANIAN ECOLOGY PROJECT

The [Missionary Sisters of Service](#) are supporting an ecology project on Tasmania's East Coast, as part of a desire to leave a positive legacy for future generations. Access the story in the [Catholic Standard](#), or [here](#).

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE CATHOLIC EARTHCARE *LAUDATO SI'* FORMATION TEAM

Catholic Earthcare extends an invitation to Religious to join its *Laudato Si'* Formation team, a flexible network that assists people in exploring *Laudato Si'* across Australia. Sue Martin of Catholic Earthcare, and also Co-Chair of the CRA Ecology Alliance Committee, points out that Religious with a passion for ecology and eco-spirituality would greatly enrich this team. For details, contact: sue.martin@sjasl.org.au.

ROLE OF FAMILIES HIGHLIGHTED DURING BICENTENARY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Catholic schools across Australia will celebrate Family Week (8-14 August), recognising the contribution of parents and families to Catholic schools in Australia over the past 200 years. For nearly 75 percent of that period, families, with parishes and religious congregations, built and sustained schools, in large part without government financial support. [See the National Catholic Education Commission's press release.](#)

HOMELESSNESS WEEK: 1-7 AUGUST

In Australia, there are over 116,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night. [Homelessness Week](#) (1-7 August) raises awareness of how this impacts Australian society. See also the [media release of St Vincent de Paul Society](#): "The Face of Homelessness in Australia is Changing".

EVENTS/WEBINARS

CRA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2021 – 22 TO 25 NOVEMBER - SYDNEY

Previous registrations for the August date have been transferred to November. [See here for further details](#). If you cannot attend the new date and require a refund, email: events@catholicreligious.org.au.

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY FOR CRA PLENARY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Commissioning Ceremony for Religious Institute leaders as members of the Plenary Council will take place this week on Wednesday 4 August, in a 30-mins online prayer service. All welcome.

Title: Commissioning Ceremony for Plenary Council Members

Date: Wednesday 4 August 2021, 11.00 am (AEST) | 9.00 am (AWST) | 10.30 am (ACST)

Registration: [Register at Trybooking](#) or at the [CRA website](#). Zoom links are sent to registrants

MISSION: ONE HEART MANY VOICES CONFERENCE - ONLINE

The *Mission: One Heart, Many Voices* conference will offer a unique experience to “reflect and learn” and be more open to the challenge of mission, with a diverse range of speakers. [Read the latest press release](#).

Title: Mission: One Heart Many Voices

Date: 1-3 September and a day of creativity and formation on 4 September 2021

Speakers: Click here to see a full list of international and local [presenters](#)

Registration: [Online registration](#); read the [invitation](#); view the [programme](#).

LIVE ONLINE RETREAT OFFERINGS DURING AUGUST

[St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre \(NSW\)](#) is offering online LIVE retreats during August, using Microsoft Teams. Individual spiritual accompaniment is available for all retreats (using MS Teams, Zoom or phone).

Titles: Titles include: The Journey to Emmaus; Mary MacKillop Prayer Day; Year of Saint Joseph; Praying with Jesus; Writing your Way in God; The Journey of the Woman at the Well; Praying the News; Ignatian Exercises in Daily Life

Dates & Times: Dates and length of retreats vary; [scroll down Retreat brochure](#) for details. All retreats start at 9.00 am on the first date and conclude at 5.00 pm on final date.

Registration: Tariffs negotiable. For information or to register: contact@towersretreat.org.au

INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FORMATION: CTC CHICAGO

The Institute of Religious Formation at Catholic Theological Union (CTC) Chicago is a “train-the-trainer” model for religious formation. This nine-month programme, available in-person or online, trains Religious to prepare new members of their congregations as they begin to live religious life.

Title: Institute for Religious Formation

Date & Time: 7 September 2021 to 26 May 2022; 9:00 am to noon CST (Sessions recorded and available for viewing on your schedule)

Registration: For further details, email Tim Crum tcrum@ctu.edu or visit the [CTC website](#)

GLOBAL ONLINE EVENT: 76TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World will co-host this event commemorating the 76th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Speakers include youth activists from Hiroshima and Nagasaki; atomic bomb survivors; and a young Fukushima evacuee. [View the programme.](#)

Title: Peace gathering: 76th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Date & Time: Thursday 5 August 2021 at 9.00 am Eastern USA (11.00pm AEST; 9.00pm AWST)

Registration: [Register online and find further information here](#)

RESOURCES

CENSUS GUIDE

CRA has produced a Census guide to assist Religious Leaders and Leadership Teams: see Members' Login section of [CRA website](#) (under 'Stewardship'). CRA is also assisting the Australian Bureau of Statistics in its efforts to reach the homeless to ensure they are not invisible on Census Night.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN BY AUSTRALIAN JESUIT BIBLICAL SCHOLAR

In his book *Come to the Light*, Brendan Byrne SJ offers accessible reflections on John's Gospel for preachers, religious, and parish groups, drawing on the insights of his academic commentary on the Fourth Gospel. Published by St Pauls Publications Australia, \$22.95. [Download the flyer.](#)

BOOK REVIEW: PANDEMICS AND SPIRITUAL SEEKERS

Read a [book review by Carmel Moore RSJ](#) for *Pandemics and Spiritual Seekers*, a collection of essays, poems, prayers and reflections by spirituality writer Paul Kraus. Published by [Coventry Press](#), \$24.95.

STUDIORUM: NEWSLETTER OF THE JESUIT COLLEGE OF SPIRITUALITY

Jesuit College of Spirituality has recently concluded its first semester of study units in spirituality, leadership, supervision, and spiritual direction in the Ignatian tradition, in collaboration with Australian Catholic University. [Read its STUDIORUM newsletter.](#)

RESOURCES FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATORS

New video resources are available from the National Catholic Education Commission to assist teachers and school leaders to reflect on their role as Catholic educators. [Read the NCEC media release.](#)

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH RESOURCES

[This month's contribution](#) at the Year of St Joseph webpage (Australian Catholic Bishops Conference) is from Lara Kirk. Lara is married with five children and a leader in Catholic family ministry. These [resources](#) can be freely used with acknowledgement.

REGENERATIVE SONGLINES AUSTRALIA NETWORK

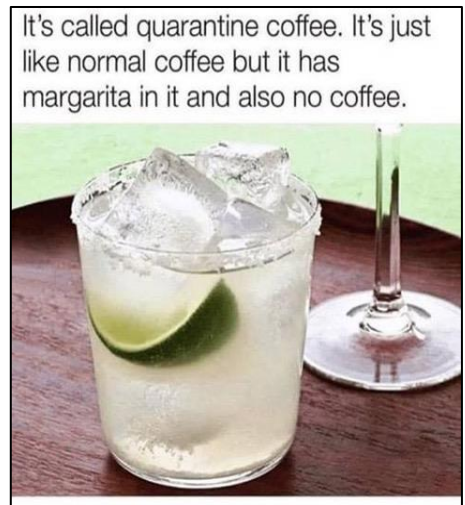
[Watch the recordings](#) from the recent event that launched the Regenerative Songlines Australia network, promoting regeneration and restoration practices within bioregional ecological limits.

EMPLOYMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

The Province of Loreto Australia & South-East Asia is seeking a full-time Community Engagement Coordinator to promote the work of Mary Ward International Australia and supported projects in Australia and overseas. For more information view the [Advertisement](#) and [Position Description](#).

LAUGHTER THERAPY



I asked my Doctor today how long he thinks this COVID thing will last.

He responded:

“How should I know? I’m a doctor, not a politician.”

While the indomitable Aussie spirit finds humour in lockdowns, we remain mindful of the seriousness of the COVID pandemic and the suffering it has wrought in people’s lives. Let’s work and pray for a path through the current crisis. Stay safe, well and connected. – Eds.