

NEWS

IN MEMORIAM: MAUREEN MARTIN FCJ

CRA members in Victoria may well have known Maureen Martin FCJ since her days as Secretary of Catholic Religious Victoria. The Faithful Companions of Jesus Sisters share the sad news that Maureen passed away on the Feast of the Transfiguration. She had those she loved near to her, accompanied by the Little Sisters of the Poor in whose home she was living so contentedly. May she rest in peace.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS COMMISSIONED AHEAD OF PLENARY COUNCIL

Over 120 people gathered on Zoom on 4 August 2021 in a CRA Commissioning Ceremony of the 45 leaders of Religious Institutes who are members of the forthcoming Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. [Read the CRA media release.](#)

THREE BRISBANE VOICES AT THE PLENARY COUNCIL

[The Catholic Leader](#) highlights three Brisbane-based Religious who will bring the voice and experience of their vocation to the Plenary Council's first session in October: all leaders of their Religious Institutes, they are Canossian Sister Melissa Dwyer FDCC, Dominican Anthony Walsh OP and Brisbane Mercy Catherine Reuter RSM.

MERCY SISTER'S STORY OF WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

The recent election of Wendy Flannery RSM as the Australian Vice-President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), is another milestone in her long history of advocating for justice and peace. Read Wendy's story in the [August edition of Just Mercy](#).

CALLING ALL WRITERS!

The Good Oil 2021 Writers' Award is an initiative of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan which aims to support and encourage the development of emerging and published writers. Entrants are asked to write on the theme *Inclusivity*, which is embodied in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Entries close at midnight AEST on August 22. For further information visit [The Good Oil](#).

JUST LAUNCHED: SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021-22: *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, affirms that "we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour". It draws from Scripture, the theological tradition, Catholic Social Teaching, and the wisdom of the world, including insights of the First Nations. The Statement (along with prayer cards and images) can be found at the [Office for Social Justice website](#).

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.

CRA ONLINE PRAYER SERVICE FOR MYANMAR

All are welcome to a CRA online gathering to pray for peace and interethnic, interfaith reconciliation in Myanmar, in the wake of a military coup that began in February 2021 and the worsening pandemic. The service is timed to closely follow the U.N. International Day Commemorating Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief. [Download the flyer](#).

Title: Catholic Religious in Solidarity with the People of Burma/Myanmar:
Prayer for Peace, Justice & Reconciliation

Date: Tuesday 24 August 2021, 11.00 am (AEST) | 9.00 am (AWST) | 10.30 am (ACST)

Registration: Register using the [Trybooking](#) link at the [CRA website](#). A Zoom link will be sent to registered participants prior to the event.

POSTPONEMENT OF CRA CANON LAW COURSE

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the CRA Canon Law Committee has decided to postpone the course that was to be held 20-23 September 2021. A new date will be advised for early 2022 in the coming weeks.

MISSION: ONE HEART MANY VOICES CONFERENCE - ONLINE

The *Mission: One Heart, Many Voices* conference “is designed to give us an opportunity to . . . explore together the challenges of living the gospel and leading mission in Australia and globally,” says CRA President, Peter Carroll FMS, in his [video welcome message](#). Download the latest [MOHMOV media 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](#).

ENGAGING YOUR FAITH: ONLINE SERIES

Engaging Your Faith is a series of online short sessions from Catholic Theological College (CTC), Melbourne, offering an opportunity to explore your faith.

Titles: Session topics include: Meditation and Compassion; Interfaith Relations; The Bible as the Great War Story to End All War Stories; Can a Scientist Believe in God?

Dates & Times: Sessions run between 21st August and 16th September, at various times of day, and are typically 90min to 2-hours in duration. [Download the flyer for details](#).

Registration: \$20 per online session. Register at [Trybooking](#). Further details at [CTC website](#).

THE FUTURE OF CATHOLICISM IN AUSTRALIA: SECOND CONVOCATION

The Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR) is holding the second of a series of online Convocations of Catholics, exploring a fresh vision for our Church with presenters Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann, Dr Jessie Rogers, Ms Debra Zanella, Mr Robert Fitzgerald and Emeritus Professor John Warhurst. Details are provided in this [Invitation](#), [Flyer](#), [Information Sheet](#), and at the [ACCCR website](#).

Title: Convocation 2: Outcomes and actions for the Plenary Council
Date & Time: Thursday 26 August at 7.30pm (AEST) | 5.30pm (AWST) | 7.00pm (ACST)
Registration: [Free online registration](#), RSVP 24 August 2021. (If you registered for the first Convocation you do not have to register again.)

RESOURCES

NEW FEMINIST COMMENTARY ON JOHN'S GOSPEL BY PRESENTATION SISTER MARY COLOE PBVM

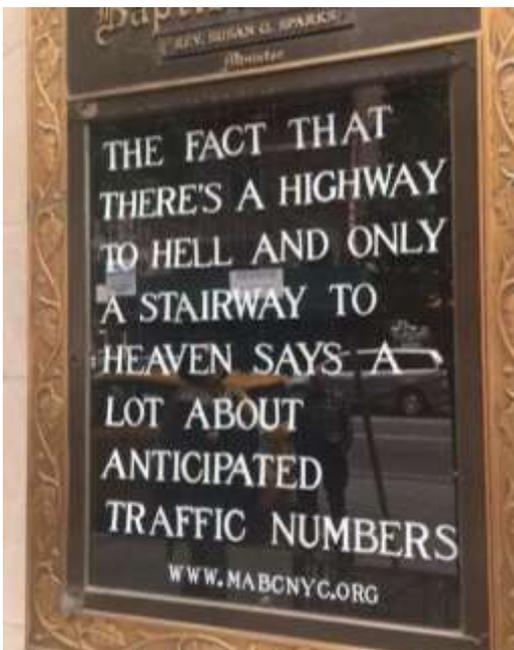
Wisdom Commentary: *John 1-10*. [Now available from Liturgical Press](#). (Vol. 2 available in October.)

While the Gospel explicitly states the *Logos* was enfleshed in Jesus, this is also true of *Sophia*. Coloe makes the case that Jesus's words and deeds embody *Sophia* throughout the narrative. Each chapter provides text from the later wisdom books that resonate with the Gospel passage, drawing *Sophia* out of the shadows.

PODCAST: NSW VOCATIONS NETWORK

The NSW Vocation Network has produced a podcast for National Vocation Awareness Week, which includes the stories and experiences of several Catholic Religious. [Use this link](#) to share the audio with your networks.

LAUGHTER THERAPY



Spotted on a church sign:

Noah was a brave man to sail in a wooden boat with two termites.