

NEWS

CRA PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF BURMA/MYANMAR

Nearly 100 Religious and friends gathered this week to pray for the people of Burma/Myanmar in an online prayer service hosted by CRA, including Burmese Religious and others connected to Myanmar. With the Tatmadaw blocking humanitarian access to many areas of Myanmar, it can be hard to know if your donations are reaching those in need. A number of our Members have ministries in Myanmar and are able to transfer funds to religious on the ground. Donations can be made to:

- [Will Matthews SDB](#), Salesians of Don Bosco Australia-Pacific
- [Catherine Brabender RNDM](#), Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions

You can also sign [this letter](#), drafted by Jamie Parker MP's Office, calling on the Australian Foreign Minister to take an active role in pressuring the Myanmar military to stand down and return democratic rule.

CRA ADDS ITS VOICE TO CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION FOR AFGHANISTAN

CRA is a signatory to the Refugee Council of Australia's Letter 'Seven urgent and practical steps Australia can take to provide safety and leadership on the situation in Afghanistan' sent to all Federal MPs and Senators last week.

CRA also affirms the recent communications by the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA), of which CRA is a member organisation and a member of its advisory group. Read CAPSA's [media release](#) and letters to the [Hon. Karen Andrews MP](#) and the [Hon. Alex Hawke MP](#).

JRS AUSTRALIA URGES ACTION FOR AFGHANISTAN

The latest [newsletter](#) of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia includes an [op-ed](#) by human rights lawyer Arif Hussein and Leadership Coordinator Zaki Haidari, a Hazara community leader who fled Afghanistan at age 17; a [petition](#) by Afghan Australian Advocacy Network (external to JRS); and further updates.

See too the statement of solidarity from [Catholic Social Services Victoria](#).

VALE JOHN MAY SJ AM

John May SJ AM, the long-serving winemaker at Sevenhill Cellars in the Clare Valley, died on 18 August 2021 aged 92. 'Along with his deep faith, it was his engagement with community that was most important to him,' said Jonathan O'Neill, General Manager of Sevenhill Cellars. Continue reading at the [website of the Australian Jesuits](#).

CATHOLIC AGENCIES PROVIDE RELIEF IN HAITI

After the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti on 14 August, followed a few days later by Tropical Storm Grace, Catholic agencies are working to provide relief to over 75,000 affected families. Donations can be made to the Caritas Emergency Response Appeal via the [Caritas website](#) or call 1800 024 413.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PANDEMIC

Parishes and other Catholic communities are encouraged to participate in a [National Day of Prayer](#) in this time of pandemic on Sunday 22 August 2021. It is an initiative of a broad range of Christian communities, including the National Council of Churches Australia (NCCA). The theme is 'Lord have mercy'. Read more about this initiative at the [NCCA website](#).

NEW REPORT CONFIRMS DIGITAL DIVIDE IN AUSTRALIA

The latest [Anti-Poverty Week e-News](#) draws attention to a new report showing that low income and vulnerable people are more likely to be excluded from the digital world, now that lockdowns have pushed everything online. A [media release](#) about the report is available from Good Things Foundation Australia.

TECHNOLOGY IN PLACE FOR FIRST PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

Despite large parts of the country being in lockdown, those planning the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia report that all is in readiness to deliver the first assembly in October wholly online. Read the Plenary Council [press release](#) at the Bishops Conference website.

EVENTS/WEBINARS

CRA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – NOW ONLINE

After careful consideration of the latest pandemic developments, Council has decided to move to an online National Assembly for 2021. We will refund all registrations and accommodation payments to you over the next coming weeks and re-issue registration details for the new online event which will be held during the same week, 22 – 25 November.

CRA NATIONAL WEBINAR: A CONVERSATION WITH JAMES MARTIN SJ

This webinar, with well-known spirituality author James Martin SJ, will explore how the Church in Australia can do more to welcome and respect the dignity of LGBTQIA+ Catholics.

- Title: Building Bridges: Reaching out to our LGBTQIA+ community
- Date & Times: Tuesday 26 October 2021, 10.00 am AEDT in ACT, NSW, TAS, VIC during Daylight Savings | 9.00 am AEST in QLD | 9.30 am ACDT in SA | 8.30 am ACST in NT | 7.00 am AWST in WA
- Registration: Free [online registration](#) at the [CRA website](#); a Zoom link will be sent to registered participants a day prior to the event. RSVP by COB 25 October.

ACRATH ONLINE CONVERSATION: 25 AUGUST

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) invite us to join a Conversation with ACRATH co-founder Louise Cleary CSB and Dr Lisa McDonald, Group Mission Leader with St Vincent's Health Australia. [Further details available at the ACRATH website.](#)

Title: Human Trafficking, how far have we come
Date & Time: Wednesday 25 August 2021
11.15 am – 12.00 noon (AEST) | 9.15 am (AWST) | 10.45 am (ACST)
Format: 15min informal chat, then a half hour presentation
Registration: Free registration – [zoom link available](#) at the ACRATH 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 7.30 pm (AEST) | 5.30 pm (AWST) | 7.00 pm (ACST)
Registration: [Free online registration](#), RSVP 24 August 2021. (If you registered for the first Convocation you do not have to register again.)

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.

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](#).

ONLINE RETREAT AT BENEDICTINE ABBEY JAMBEROO (NSW)

This retreat, on the meaning of biblical hope, is facilitated by Antonia Curtis OSB, and is based on Charles Peguy's Little Girl Hope from the book 'The Portal of the Mystery of Hope'. Visit the Benedictine Nuns of Jamberoo [website](#) for further details.

Title: Meet me in the Middle: The Little Girl Hope
Date & Times: Starts 5 September 2021. There will be 6 conferences with two being published each week. You can do this retreat at your own pace and take as much time as you need to reflect and pray with the material.
Registration: Cost: \$250 (pensioners half-price)
Registration and enquiries: onlineretreat@jamberoobbey.org.au

ROOT AND BRANCH SYNOD

This UK-based lay-led synod seeks to respond to Pope Francis' vision for a synodal church that reflects the true meaning of walking "the way together", listening deeply to one another. Speakers include Mary McAleese, Tina Beattie, Virginia Saldhana, James Alison, Patricia Rumsey, Thomas O'Loughlin, Joanna Moorhead and many more. Visit the Root and Branch [website](#) for further information.

Title: Root and Branch Synod

Dates: 5–12 September 2021. Presentations will be videoed and recordings made available for Australians curtailed by time zone differences. View the [programme](#).

Registration: Click [here](#) for cost and ticket information

FAITH ECOLOGY NETWORK

[Faith Ecology Network](#) invites us to a conversation about the Great Barrier Reef, with the help of scientists who study the reef, and First Nations people involved in actively managing it. [Download the flyer](#)

Title: The Reef: listening, heeding, acting

Dates: 24 September 2021, 5.00 pm (AEST) | 3.00 pm (AWST) | 4.30 pm (ACST)

Registration: Free registration or donation, at this [Trybooking link](#)

HOUSING

EMERGENCY HOUSING SOUGHT IN THE ACT

In response to an approach from the ACT government, CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn is seeking information about any under-utilised buildings, houses or other facilities to provide emergency, temporary housing to people in the ACT during the COVID crisis. If you can assist, please contact Anne Kirwan at CatholicCare: Anne.Kirwan@catholiccare.cg.org.au.

RESOURCES

RESOURCES FOR SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

The Catholic Church in Australia will mark Safeguarding Sunday on 12 September (previously known as Child Protection Sunday). A series of resources has been developed and can be found [in this Google Drive folder](#) and at the [Bishops Conference website](#).

NITV DOCUMENTARY: 'INCARCERATION NATION'

A new feature documentary film airing on National Indigenous Television (NITV) on Sunday 29 August is described as capturing the raw reality for the many First Nations families whose experience of Australia's justice system has led to suffering, loss and intergenerational trauma. Further details at the [NITV website](#).

ACRATH FILM CLIP

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) is promoting a one-minute film clip, [Victims Voices Lead the Way: Let Them Be Heard](#), to highlight the importance of learning from the voices of victim-survivors of human trafficking. Other ACRATH resources at the [ACRATH website](#).

COMMEMORATIVE BOOK: 200 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

From Humble Beginnings: Commemorating 200 years of Catholic education in Australia features a history of the first Catholic school in each existing diocese in Australia. The commemorative book is full colour and includes historical and contemporary images of the schools. It is available in paperback (\$17.50) and hardcover (\$35.00), postage added. [Pre-order copies at this link](#).

LAUGHTER THERAPY 😂

Vintage picture of an old tradition of people eating cake after someone blows air from their mouth onto it

Circa: 2019 B.C. (Before Coronavirus)



WHAT FACE MASKS SAY ABOUT A PERSON:



HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL	SEMI-PROFESSIONAL	THRIFTY
HANDY WITH NEEDLE AND THREAD	PROBABLY A BANK ROBBER	SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED OUT OF THE HOUSE

So in retrospect, in 2015, not a single person got the answer right to "Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?"



Bethany Free Will Baptist Church
www.bethanyfwbc.com
757-853-7300
Sunday School 10 AM
Sunday Worship 11 AM
Night Worship 6 PM
Wednesday 7 PM

**JESUS CLEANS THE HEART
WE DISINFECT THE PEW**