

NEWS

SYNODAL JOURNEY

Thank you to all who have submitted a response to CRA as part of your participation in Pope Francis' [Synodal journey](#) in preparation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops: *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission*. The original date for a response to CRA was 17 January 2022. We have not received a response from CICALSAL, but we believe that the date will be extended for 3 months.

LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

A [new CRA webpage](#) provides information for Congregations seeking to enrol in the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP). The LSAP is an initiative of Pope Francis to mobilise Catholic communities across the globe in actualising the vision of *Laudato Si'* over a seven-year period. The CRA Secretariat will endeavour to stay informed of LSAP developments to assist Congregational enquiries as this initiative continues to unfold. Contact Emma Carolan, CRA Justice Officer, by email: justice@catholicreligious.org.au.

MERCY INTEGRAL ECOLOGY EMERGING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM – Apply by 11 December

As part of a response to the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#), this fully-funded, 12 month (part-time) fellowship programme is intended to empower and equip leaders in the task of raising awareness and animating efforts for Gospel justice to care for and protect our common home. Sponsored by the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG). View the [programme brochure](#) and find further information at the [ISMAPNG website](#). Contact person: sally.neaves@ismapng.org.au. Applications close this Saturday, 11 December 2021.

CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

Gail Reneker SM is the new congregational leader of the Marist Sisters, commencing 8 December 2021.

COMMUNITY REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP AUSTRALIA (CRSA)

Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia ([CRSA](#)) is working to implement a community refugee sponsorship initiative, similar to Canada's. [Listen](#) to CRSA CEO Lisa Button discuss how CRSA can be implemented in Australia. [Read more](#) about how community sponsorship works.

STEP TOWARDS SAINTHOOD FOR DUTCH CARMELITE

The latest Carmelite Communications Newsletter notes that Pope Francis has approved the miracle that will allow Fr Titus Brandsma to be declared a saint. Fr Titus, a Dutch Carmelite, was martyred in Dachau Concentration Camp on 26 July 1942. Read about Titus Brandsma [here](#), and view a 2-minute [video](#) here.

EVENTS/WEBINARS

ONLINE BOOK LAUNCH

Join Dr Phyllis Zagano (New York) in a conversation with Frank Brennan SJ to celebrate the launch of her new book – *Just Catholic: The Future is Now* ([Garratt Publishing](#), 2021).

Title: Book launch of *Just Catholic: The Future is Now*
Dates: Thursday 9 December 2021 at 10.30 am in NSW, VIC, ACT | 7.30 am in WA | 9.30 am in QLD | 10.00 am in SA | 9.00 am NT
Registration: Register (free) [here](#) to receive a zoom link

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION – LET THE CHILDREN BE HEARD

An evening of readings and music conveying Pope Francis' message about modern slavery is being held in Perth this week as part of [Catholic Mission's 2021 Christmas Reflection](#), hosted in partnership with Catholic Education WA. Proceeds will support vulnerable children of Fatima Training Centre in Bangkok.

Title: Let the Children Be Heard: A Christmas Reflection on Modern Slavery
Dates: Friday 10 December 2021, from 6.00 pm Perth time | 9.00 pm start in Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart | 8.00 pm in Brisbane | 8.30 pm in Adelaide
Venue: Chapel of St Michael the Archangel, Catholic Education Centre, Leederville WA
Registration: Cost by donation. Tickets available at [Trybooking](#). The event will be [livestreamed](#) at the Catholic Mission website

WOMEN IN SYNODALITY WEBINAR

Five women from around the world, including Susan Pascoe, member of the Methodology Committee for the Bishops' Synod on Synodality, will present at this Rome-based webinar. [Download the flyer](#).

Title: Women In Synodality
Date & Time: 16 December 2021, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm in Rome | 8.30 pm in NSW, VIC, TAS | 7.30 pm in QLD | 5.30 pm in WA | 7.00 pm in NT
Details: Join the event at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88541258972>

RETREAT OFFERINGS – ST MARY'S TOWERS DOUGLAS PARK

A list of retreats being offered during November-December 2021 and January 2022 can be found at this [brochure](#) from St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park, NSW.

Title: Retreat Offerings
Dates: Various dates November 2021 to January 2022. Refer to brochure.
Venue: Douglas Park (near Picton) NSW
Registration: For tariffs visit St Mary's Towers Retreats [website](#). To make a booking: contact@towersretreat.org.au

SABBATICAL OPPORTUNITY – ST JOSEPH’S BAULKHAM HILLS

Sisters of Saint Joseph are offering this Sabbatical with a focus on transitions, suitable for those who are at the crossroads of life and ministry. [Download the brochure.](#)

Title: Invitation to Wisdom: Mission, Conversion, Transformation
 Dates: 25 February to 8 April 2022
 Venue: St Joseph Centre Baulkham Hills NSW
 Registration: Cost: \$8,550. Apply at bookings@stjosephscentre.org.au Applications close 22 February. Enquiries: Lil Girardi RSJ, lianella.girardi@sosj.org.au, 0418 554 463

RESOURCES

NEW ALBUM BY MONICA BROWN

Into The Deep is a [new album](#) of mantras for personal and communal reflection by well-known Australian composer Monica Brown. Visit the [Emmaus Productions](#) website for information and purchase details.

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH REFLECTION FOR DECEMBER

The December reflection for the Year of St Joseph, ‘St Joseph – a Man of Law’, by Maria Casey RSM, former president of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand, is available from the [ACBC webpage](#).

ETHICAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Find Christmas gifts that give life at the [Catholic Mission](#) and [Caritas](#) websites.

GOOD NEWS!



Download *Lectio Divina* resources for each day of December, courtesy of the [Carmelites](#).
 Enjoy an Advent reflection in song: Francesca Battistelli: ‘Be Born In Me’.
 And one for the Christmas season: Medieval English Carol [Nowell, Tydings Trew](#) (arr. by J. Sorrell; performed by Apollo’s Fire)

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE 😊



The irony for humankind is that a computer program asks a human to prove that they’re not a robot.



This is the final CRA eBulletin for 2021, returning 1 February 2022. Wishing you a Happy Christmas! – Eds.