

## NEWS

---

### FIRST ASSEMBLY OF PLENARY COUNCIL POSTPONED

In response to the dramatic changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the bishops of Australia have postponed the first Assembly of the Plenary Council, scheduled for October 2020. An alternative timeline for the Council's two assemblies will be decided by the bishops' in May 2020. Read the [media release](#).

### GEORGE PELL FREED

The High Court of Australia unanimously overturned George Pell's convictions for child sex offences today. You can read [George Pell's media statement](#) here and the [ACBC media statement](#) here.

### NEWS ABOUT FRANCIS MORRISEY OMI

Read the [communiqué from the Provincial](#) of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate regarding Frank Morrisey OMI, professor of Canon Law at Ottawa's Roman Catholic University of Saint Paul.

### ACRATH

Read about [ACRATH's latest campaigns, a letter from the President](#), and an [Easter prayer](#).

### CATHOLIC CHURCH PLAYING ITS PART IN COVID-19 RESPONSE

In response to COVID-19, the Catholic Church is preparing for the possibility of making available some of its facilities, including halls, accommodation and other buildings, if health officials need them.

If there is a possibility of offering any facility or part of a facility, please [complete the form](#). Read the [Catholic Emergency Relief Australia media statement](#), also available on the [CRA website](#).

### REQUEST TO LOBBY GOVERNMENT: EXTEND SUPPORT TO ASYLUM SEEKERS/REFUGEES - COVID 19

Refugee Council of Australia is asking you to help them lobby the government by [writing to your local MP and asking him/her to extend support to people seeking asylum and refugees](#) in Australia and in offshore detention centres, who are facing extreme need and are incredibly vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus.

### CATHOLIC EARTHCARE

Read [Catholic Earthcare's latest newsletter](#), including news about the Youth Presenter Competition.

## EASTER CELEBRATIONS

---

### CHANNEL 7 TO BROADCAST ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL EASTER SERVICES

Easter services will be broadcast live on national television from St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. In a 7News special, the network will stream on Channel 7 and on Prime 7 in regional areas and live-stream on 7plus:

- The Lord's Passion at 3.00pm on Good Friday; and
- Easter Sunday Mass from 10.30am

Both liturgies will be broadcast commercial-free and in their entirety. Read the [media statement](#).

### Voices of Faith

Find out what Voices of Faith are doing this Easter: [www.voicesoffaith.org/easter](http://www.voicesoffaith.org/easter) and participate in one or two initiatives, as follows:

#### 1. Virtual Liturgy at 6.00pm AEST on Easter Sunday.

- Organised by the Catholic Women's Council via zoom video conference, it will take 1h.
- You must register by email [info@voicesoffaith.org](mailto:info@voicesoffaith.org) and they will email you a program and a link.
- You must download ZOOM software on your computer or via the app on your phone in order to participate.

#### 2. Hang a white scarf or cloth outside your window or balcony on Easter morning as a sign that Christ lives.

- Take a photo and send to Voices of Faith [info@voicesoffaith.org](mailto:info@voicesoffaith.org).
- Photos from around the world will be collated to demonstrate affinity with Mary Magdalene, the first person who encountered Jesus's resurrection.

### ACRATH's slavery-free Easter chocolate

Read the [Sweet and Often Bitter Truth about Easter Chocolate](#) and ensure you buy the right eggs!

## REFLECTIONS ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- A Wish in Time of Tribulation – a reflection from Fr. Saverio Cannistra, Discalced Carmelite Superior General, [read it here](#).
- Humorous interpretation by Dominican Sisters in USA through song, view the [video here](#).
- [Do Re Mi COVID 19 version video](#) – 'Sound of Music' song turned into parody about COVID-19

