

## NEWS

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### 2022 FLOODS

As we hold in our hearts and prayers all the people impacted by the floods, you may appreciate this reflection, 'God and the Floods', from Trevor Trotter SSC writing in the latest [Columban eBulletin](#).

### UNITE WITH POPE FRANCIS IN PRAYER – FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Catholics around the world are being encouraged to join their prayers with those of Pope Francis on March 25 when he consecrates Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. View the [media release](#) from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Also, you can download a [prayer](#) for Ukraine.

### PHYSICIANS AGAINST NUCLEAR WAR – STATEMENT

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) shares a [statement](#) signed by 12 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, calling for an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of Russian military forces, along with calling on Russia and NATO to renounce use of nuclear weapons and to support the TPNW.

### OPINION PIECE – ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CEO

In the wake of three deaths at a Sydney boarding house due to arson, Jack de Groot, CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, has reflected on the need to do better by the people who are most vulnerable in our communities. Read his [opinion piece](#) in the Sydney Morning Herald.

## EVENTS/WEBINARS

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### CRA HEALTH & WELL-BEING WEEKEND RETREAT – FOR MALE LEADERS ONLY

Over two days, psychologist Campbell MacBean will facilitate professional discussion about secondary and vicarious trauma, while Graham Neist FMS will offer reflections on communion/spirituality, with time for relaxation in the beautiful Southern Highlands of NSW. [Download the flyer](#).

Title: 'Come apart and rest for a while' (Mark 6:31)

Dates: Friday, 1 April 2022, 5.00 pm to Sunday, 3 April 2022, 10.00 am

Venue: The Hermitage, 843 Old South Road Mittagong NSW

Registration: \$450 per person (accommodation & meals included). Register at [Trybooking](#).

Enquiries: [events@catholicreligious.org.au](mailto:events@catholicreligious.org.au) or Ph 9557 2695

### **CRA SEMINAR: ECOLOGY AND ECONOMICS**

CRA, through three of its Committees - Ecology Alliance, Stewardship and Justice - identified that ecological and financial decisions must be made together. [Download the flyer](#) and view the [webpage](#) for further information, including the programme and speakers.

Title: Ecology and Economics - Everything is Connected  
Date & venue: Tuesday 24 May 2022, 9.30 am – 3.15 pm | Sydney  
Format: Inaugural CRA hybrid event: in-person and online presenters and participants  
Seminar Fee: \$150.00 per person for in-person and online (same fee to cover technology costs)  
Registration: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=879422&>

### **JOAN CHITTISTER OSB – IN-PERSON SEMINAR**

CRA and the Diocese of Parramatta have prepared an inspirational afternoon with Sr Joan Chittister OSB, which Joan will tailor to religious men and women and to the clergy of Parramatta. Joan will focus her presentation on the responsibility of Religious and Clergy to be the voice that the world needs. The spirituality involved is found in the Eighth Beatitude – Happy are those who are willing to be persecuted for my Name's sake. [Please see the flyer](#) and [webpage](#).

Title: Roots and Wings: the Emergence of a Synodal Church with Joan Chittister OSB  
Date & Time: Wednesday 25 May 2022, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm (Registration at 1.15 pm)  
Venue: Novotel, Parramatta NSW  
Registration: \$55 p/p. Visit the [CRA website](#) for more information or click on the [registration link](#). Registrations close 11 May, *unless tickets are sold out prior*

### **CRA HEALTH AND WELLBEING SEMINAR – SAVE THE DATE**

The CRA Health and Wellbeing Committee is developing a new seminar to follow-up the Dementia Care Seminar held last year in Brisbane. Liam Whitely from Catholic Healthcare has been engaged as one of the presenters. Save the date, with further details to come.

Title: Creating a Culture of Supportive Care  
Date & Time: Wednesday 15 June 2022, 9.00 pm - 3.30 pm  
Venue: Mary MacKillop Place Auditorium, North Sydney  
Registration: Registration details will be available soon

### **CRA CONTINUING EDUCATION E-COURSE FOR VOCATION & FORMATION MINISTERS**

This eCourse, facilitated by Mary Pat Garvin RSM PhD, provides an opportunity for participants to explore topics related to accompanying women and men discerning Religious Life. [Download the flyer](#).

Title: Centred in God, Sent on Mission  
Dates & Times: Thursday, 16 June 2022 - optional introductory session followed by 4 sessions held monthly on Mondays: 27 June; 25 July; 22 August; 12 September 2022; 9.00 am start NSW, QLD, VIC, TAS | 8.30 am SA | 7.00 am WA  
Mode: Online 2½ -hour Zoom presentation  
Registration: \$260.00 AUD for the entire eCourse. [Register online](#). Enquiries: Taylor Coutinho Ph: 02 9557 2695. Email: [secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au](mailto:secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au)

### **CRA NATIONAL JUSTICE SEMINAR – SAVE THE DATE**

CRA is pleased to advise that the Justice Seminar, cancelled last year due to COVID, has been rescheduled for 19 October 2022 at the Treacy Centre, Parkville, Melbourne. Registration details will be available soon.

### **CRA 2022 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY - SAVE THE DATE**

The 2022 CRA National Assembly will be held at the Novotel on Collins in Melbourne from Monday 29 August to Thursday 1 September 2022. Registrations are not yet open but please save the date!

### **ACRATH CONVERSATION – ZOOM**

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) is holding its first conversation for 2022, with a focus on chocolate-free slavery campaigns and advocacy work.

Title: Human Trafficking: a slavery-free Easter is possible

Date & Time: Wednesday 30 March 2022, 11.15am cuppa, 11.30 am – 12.00 noon conversation

Registration: Register free and join via the Zoom link at the [ACRATH website](#)

### **YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION**

Two course offerings from Yarra Theological Union, Melbourne, can be found below.

Title #1: *Virtual Lent Series - Reflections on the Sunday Readings*

Dates & Time: Every Tuesday night 7.00 pm VIC, NSW, TAS | 6.00 pm QLD | 4.00 pm WA

Registration: For [further details](#) and to register, at no cost, go to this [link](#)

Title #2: *Building the Church We Need*

Presenters: Dr Mary McAleese with Geraldine Doogue; Professor Massimo Faggioli with Dr Cecilia Francisco Tan; Emeritus Professor John Warhurst, and more speakers

Dates & Time: Every Monday evening in May, 7.30 – 9.00 pm

Registration: Click here for the [flyer](#), and to register, go to visit the [YTU website](#)

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD**

Originating in Argentina, the International Day of the Unborn Child was established by Pope John Paul II to coincide with the Feast of the Annunciation. He described the day as "a positive option in favour of life and the spread of a culture for life to guarantee respect for human dignity in every situation".

Title: Day of the unborn child

Date & Time: Sunday 27 March 2022, 10.30am Mass, procession and 1.30pm Benediction

Venue: Start and finish at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

Information: Visit Sydney Life & Family Institute for [flyer](#) and [details](#).

### **CELIBACY FORMATION CONFERENCE**

The fourth biennial Conference on Human Formation co-sponsored by Saint Luke Institute and Saint Meinrad Archabbey, Seminary and School of Theology will take place next month. While live virtual participation will not be available, selected workshops will be recorded and offered online later in 2022.

Title: Practical models for celibacy formation

Dates & venue: 4-7 April 2022 | St Meinrad, Indiana USA  
Further information: Visit the Saint Luke Institute [website](#) for further details

### CHARISM AND CREATIVITY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – LIVE & ONLINE

The Charism & Creativity Conference is a joint initiative of CICLSAL and the Pontifical Council for Culture, open to religious institutes, diocesan historical commissions, heritage officers, archivists and others.

Title: Charism and Creativity. Catalogues, management and innovation regarding the cultural heritage of institutes of consecrated life

Dates: 4-5 May 2022, held in-person and online

Registration: Register at this [link](#). Find further details at the PCC [website](#)

### VINNIES SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM 2022

A chance to connect, to learn, and plan together to achieve justice and equality for everyone in our communities. Visit the [website](#) of the St Vincent de Paul Society Social Justice Network for details.

Title: Vinnies Social Justice Forum

Date & Time: Saturday 28 May 2022, 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

Venue: Mary McKillop Place, Mount St, North Sydney

Registration: Register free at [Eventbrite](#). Registrations close 14 May, or when spaces are filled

## RESOURCES

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### CRA NEW LEADERS HANDBOOK – UPDATED

The 2022 New Leaders Handbook has been posted to the CRA [Members' Only](#) website and can be accessed using your login and password.

### THE *LIGHTER* SIDE of ROBUST CONVERSATIONS 😊 😊 😊

