

NEWS

CRA SECRETARIAT WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBER

Lucy O'Connell will soon join the team at the CRA Secretariat as its Team Administration Assistant (part-time). As an Oblate of St Benedict, she is a firm believer in the value of Religious Life in Australia. In other staff changes, Emma Carolan will return from maternity leave to take up her role as Justice Officer two days per week from 17 April. Emma Baker will continue to work two days a week on various projects.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

Celebrating women's achievements and increasing visibility, while calling out inequality, is key to the mission of forging a gender equal world. Learn more about women making a difference today, at the [International Women's Day website](#).

ACRATH CONVERSATIONS

On International Women's Day, 8 March, [ACRATH](#) (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) invites us to celebrate the contributions of women and create conversations within our community to make a difference for women and girls globally. Engage with [ACRATH conversations](#) here.

EIGHT NEW SCHOLARS PARTICIPATE IN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Good Samaritan Study and Mentoring Leadership Program is back for its third year in 2023, with eight women receiving support to undertake studies aimed at promoting women's leadership within the Church, reports [The Good Oil](#).

GLOBAL SURVEY FINDS MANY WOMEN WANT CHURCH REFORM

The findings of an international research project on the views of Catholic women led by two Australian academics will be presented at the Vatican to coincide with International Women's Day. Continue reading at [CathNews](#) and at the University of Newcastle [website](#).

"ENLARGE THE SPACE OF YOUR TENTS" – SYNOD OF BISHOPS SYNTHESIS DOCUMENTS

In the March 2023 issue of the Columban Interfaith [eBulletin](#), Patrick McInerney SSC comments on the minimal [references](#) to interreligious relations to be found in the *Working Document for the Continental Stage of the Synod of Bishops* and in the Australian, New Zealand and Pacific synthesis documents.

HOST A FEAST FOR FREEDOM

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) invites us to "Host a Feast For Freedom" during 20-26 March to raise funds for the ASRC to provide food, shelter and health services for over 7,000 people seeking asylum who need support settling into Australia every year. Details at the [ASRC website](#).

EVENTS/WEBINARS

2023 CRA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY — SAVE THE DATE

The next Assembly will be held from Monday 31 July to Thursday 3 August 2023 at the Novotel Parramatta.

CRA-VIC NETWORK GENERAL MEETING

The first general meeting of the CRA-VIC Network is coming up this month:

Title: CRA-VIC Network General Meeting
Date & Time: Wednesday, 22 March 2023, 9.30 – 12.30 pm
Venue: Manning Hotel, 1 Thompsons Road, Bulleen VIC
Registration: Please RSVP to Jill Harding FCS: jillburma@gmail.com by Tuesday 14 March

CRA NSW LEADERSHIP DINNER

In its first social gathering for the year, CRA invites Leaders and Leadership Team Members of Religious Institutes to come together for a meal and a chat in Sydney. [Download the flyer](#) at the CRA website.

Title: CRA NSW Leadership Dinner
Date & Time: Tuesday, 28 March 2023, from 6.00 pm
Venue: Silverwater Hotel (previously Dooleys Waterview Club), 214 Silverwater Road, Silverwater NSW
Registration: [Register](#) by 24 March. Enquiries 02 9557 2695; ea@catholicreligious.org.au
Note: Looking ahead, the next Dinner will be held 24 October 2023.

SAVE THE DATE - CRA HEALTH AND WELLBEING SEMINAR

The CRA Health and Wellbeing Committee has organised an in-person seminar exploring Loss of Sight and Loss of Hearing, with presentations by Rolf Geerlings of Vision Australia, Elvis Dsouza of Hearing Australia, and Religious who have personal experience with loss of sight and/or hearing. The intended audience is leaders, health and wellbeing leaders, coordinators and related staff, and carers for Religious.

Title: "Choose life then"... Living with loss of sight, loss of hearing
Dates: Wednesday 17 May 2023, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm
Venue: Peter Cosgrove Centre, ACU, Level 18, 8 Napier Street, North Sydney
Registration: Registration details available soon; Enquiries: Taylor Coutinho, 02 9557 2695
ea@catholicreligious.org.au

ACI WEBINAR – THE WOMEN OF VATICAN II

In honour of International Women's Day 2023, American Dominican Sister of Hope, Maureen Sullivan OP will speak at the next Australian Cardijn Institute webinar, sharing her research on the women auditors who attended and contributed to the Second Vatican Council. Download the [brochure](#).

Title: The women of Vatican II
Date & Time: Saturday 11 March 2023, 1.00 pm Sydney | 12.30 pm Adelaide | 10.00 am Perth
Registration: Free [registration](#) via Zoom

SACRED MUSIC EVENT – NORTH SYDNEY

We are invited to [an evening of music](#) weaving through the languages of history & lineage, including Aramaic prayers, ancient Sanskrit prayers, mantras of holy Latin vespers, sounds of the Celtic Isles, the Hebrew Psalms, with Carmella Baynie joined by Maharshi Raval, Konrad Ball and Rabbi George Medacai.

Title: Through the heart of prayer
Date & Time: Sunday, 26 March 2023 from 6.30 to 8.00 pm
Venue: Mary Mackillop Memorial Chapel, 7 Mount St, North Sydney
Registration: Tickets \$75, discounts available; [Register](#) at this link

CULTURAL TRANSITION RETREAT – BAULKHAM HILLS (NSW)

This retreat provides opportunities for participants to reflect on their cross-cultural experiences and the joys and challenges faced when returning to their home culture. Facilitated by Nicole Rotaru RSM and Cathy Solano RSM. Download the [brochure](#) for further details.

Title: Remembering, Re-entering, Re-weaving
Dates: 7 - 16 May 2023
Venue: St Joseph's Centre, 33 Barina Downs Rd, Baulkham Hills NSW
Registration: \$1,050 pp; Maximum number of participants is six. To apply, please contact Cathy Solano RSM at cathy.solano.11@gmail.com or 0437 466 808

2023 CONFERENCE: MISSION - ONE HEART MANY VOICES

Catholic Mission and CRA invite you to save the date for the sixth biennial national Mission Conference. Three days of professional and personal development focused on mission.

Title: *Mission: One Heart Many Voices* (MOHMOV)
Dates: Wednesday 3 May to Friday 5 May 2023
Venue: SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney
Registration: Register now – **early bird closes 14 March**; Visit www.mohmv.com.au for details

CELTIC PILGRIMAGE 2023

Emmaus Productions invites us to a 10-day Celtic Pilgrimage in Ireland, in the footsteps of the Celtic mystics and saints. An [itinerary](#) and further details can be found at the pilgrimage [website](#).

Title: Celtic Spirit
Dates: 21 – 31 August 2023
Venue: Based in Teach Bhride Education and Spirituality Centre, Tullow, Co. Carlow
Registration: Bookings: celticpilgrimage@gmail.com or phone/Whatsapp +353 86 818 5546
Cost from € 2,200.00 (euro); here is the [registration](#) form

RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

For upcoming retreats, sabbaticals and programs of the Sisters of St Joseph Retreat Centres Australia, download their [brochure](#). The Carmelite retreat program for 2023 at Varroville (NSW) can be found [here](#). See also retreats of the Sisters of Mercy [Santa Casa Retreat Centre](#), Victoria, at [this link](#). Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia offers its latest retreat schedule [here](#). Further links to retreat centres can be found at this [CRA webpage](#).

ACCOMMODATION

ROOM VACANCIES

[St Catherine's Aged Care Services](#), a work of the Daughters of Charity and situated in Marsfield (NSW) have available single concessional rooms for respite or permanent care. Enquiries: Stephen Bradley, Resident Liaison, 02 98051655 or 0402076665, sbradley@scacs.org.au

RESOURCES

CRA VIDEO RESOURCE – NATHALIE BECQUART PRESENTATION

Now available is the [video recording](#) of the presentation of Nathalie Becquart, XMCJ, at the CRA event for 2023 World Day for Consecrated Life, held at Mary Mackillop Place North Sydney.

IN HER VOICE

A book offering 28 theological reflections from Australian women, *In Her Voice: Raising Women's Voices in Preaching the Gospel* (Garratt Publishing), has been launched. [Purchase](#) a copy here. The book emerged from the Australian Women Preach [podcast](#), a joint initiative of WATAC and The Grail in Australia.

WALKING WITH PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS

These two interfaith items of interest were published last week in [America](#) - *The Jesuit Review*:

- ["For Catholics, Lent 2023 is a time to act against antisemitism"](#) and
- ["Five Lessons from Pope Francis' Commitment to Muslim-Catholic Dialogue"](#).

THE LIGHTER SIDE

