

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

POPE FRANCIS ON ENTERING HOLY WEEK

On Palm Sunday, Pope Francis called for [prayer for peace](#), remembering Ukraine in particular. “Let us unite ourselves...with our prayer, which will be more intense during the days of Holy Week,” he said.

THE JEWISH PASSOVER FESTIVAL

CRA has sent greetings to the Jewish community in Australia as Passover commences at sundown, 5 April. View a [3 min video](#) with Rabbi Jonathan Sacks sharing a Passover reflection on the “Bread of Affliction”.

THE DATE OF EASTER

Might Catholics and Orthodox once again celebrate Easter on the same date? We revisit an item in [Zenit](#) (16.11.22) on this aspect of the ecumenical journey.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE-BUILDERS IN THE HOLY LAND

Amid the uptick in tensions for Israelis and Palestinians living in the Holy Land, solid partnerships remain committed to the work of peace, such as [Hand In Hand](#), Centre for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel, celebrating its 25th year, and the [Parents Circle](#), supporting bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families. Let us pray for peace and support concrete initiatives of peace-building.

MUSIC - ALL THINGS NEW

In CRA Secretariat’s team meeting this week, Emma Baker brought the video clip, “[All things New](#)”, by Brisbane singer-song writer, Eliza King, to our prayer and we share it.

NEWS

POPE FRANCIS ON DISCERNMENT

Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia draws our attention to a catechesis of Pope Francis on an indispensable ingredient for discernment: [one’s own life story](#).

“TOGETHER” - ECUMENICAL PRAYER VIGIL

On 30 September 2023, an ecumenical prayer vigil will take place in Rome in the presence of Pope Francis and representatives of different Churches. Learn more at [this link](#); view a short [video](#).

OCEANIA BISHOPS FINALISE RESPONSE TO SYNOD WORKING DOCUMENT

The Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania has finalised its response to the Working Document for the Continental Stage of the global consultation. Read the FCBCO [media release](#).

CHANGE OF CHAIR FOR SCHOOL AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

A [media release](#) of the Association of Ministerial PJPs details changes to the Committee of Religious Institute and Ministerial PJP School Authorities Australia Chair and Educationalist member of CORMSAA.

CATHOLIC CHURCH BACKS 7.2% MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

The [Australian Catholic Bishops Conference](#) has told the Fair Work Commission a 7.2 per cent increase in the minimum wage is needed to protect workers at risk of poverty – and analysis shows it is affordable.

WHEN CRITICISM CROSSES THE LINE OF COMMUNION

An opinion piece by Austen Ivereigh, “When criticism crosses the line of communion”, responding to coverage of the tenth anniversary Pope Francis’ election, was recently published in [The Catholic Weekly](#).

RAMADAN IFTAR DINNERS

Religious and CRA staffers have hosted or attended Iftar dinners in solidarity with Muslim communities in this month of Ramadan – e.g., an Iftar Dinner was hosted by Vincent Long OFM, Bishop of Parramatta and Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations on 28 March; and an Iftar dinner was hosted by Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of [Sydney](#), on 29 March.

RETREAT VENUE – BORONIA, VIC

The [Janssen Spirituality Centre](#) (Boronia, Victoria) has at its motto *Karuna*: “A compassionate heart, embracing all”. It is a retreat venue dedicated to interfaith sharing, Christian meditation, adult faith formation and contemplative spirituality. Contact: 03 9762 6625, enquiries@janssencentre.au

EVENTS/WEBINARS

2023 CRA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY — SAVE THE DATE

The next Assembly will be held from Monday 31 July to Thursday 3 August 2023. The Novotel Parramatta has advised that hotel accommodation will be in high demand due to international shows coming to Sydney at that time. Registrations will be open in the next couple of weeks.

CRA HEALTH AND WELLBEING SEMINAR - SAVE THE DATE

Choose life then is an in-person seminar exploring loss of sight and loss of 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
Fee: \$150 p/p (*Registrations will be open soon!*)

CRA ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES FOR VOCATION & FORMATION MINISTERS

The CRA Initial Formation Committee and Mary Pat Garvin RSM have prepared an online seminar series for 2023: Continuing Education eCourse for Vocation & Formation Ministers. Download the [brochure](#).

Title: *Windows on the Divine*
Dates: Thursday, 8 June; then four monthly Tuesday sessions
Time: 9.30 am QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS | 9.00 am SA | 7.30 am WA
Fee: \$300.00 AUD. Participation includes course access to [SLIConnect](#)
Registration: [Register online](#) by 15 May
Enquiries: Taylor Coutinho 02 9557 2695, or ea@catholicreligious.org.au

WEBINAR – AUSTRALIAN CARDIJN INSTITUTE

Australian Cardijn Institute (ACI) secretary, Stefan Gigacz, will present the April ACI webinar marking the 150th anniversary of the birth on 3 April 1873 of Marc Sangnier, founder of the French democratic movement, *Le Sillon*, which had great influence on Cardijn and the YCW. [Learn more](#) at the ACI newsletter.

Title: Marc Sangnier, the Sillon and the YCW
Dates: Tuesday 11 April, 7.30 pm (AEST)
Registration: Free [registration online](#)

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, offering a rich programme with outstanding speakers.

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 extended to 12 April!** Visit www.mohmv.com.au

MAY 2023 ONLINE SESSIONS – ENGAGING YOUR FAITH

Engaging Your Faith is a series of short, online stand-alone presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world, from Catholic Theological College (University of Divinity) Melbourne. [Download the brochure](#).

Title: Engaging your faith
Dates: Eighteen sessions are available in May – see [timetable](#)
Registration: \$25 per session, \$40 for teachers seeking accreditation. More at the [CTC website](#)

EMPLOYMENT

TWO POSITIONS ADVERTISED - PARRAMATTA

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is advertising two positions: a Communications and Digital [Manager](#) and a junior role as Communications [Assistant](#).

RESOURCES

CARMELITE CENTRE MELBOURNE

The [April newsletter](#) from the Carmelite Centre Melbourne is available with a range of spiritual formation resources and programs for this month.

LAZARETTO RESOURCES FOR AGED CARE

Lazaretto provides [workshops](#), ritual and prayer [resources](#) on the spirituality of ageing for aged care and hospital ministry. Please contact Paul Skippen by ph: 0412 850 883 or email: info@lazaretto.com.au.

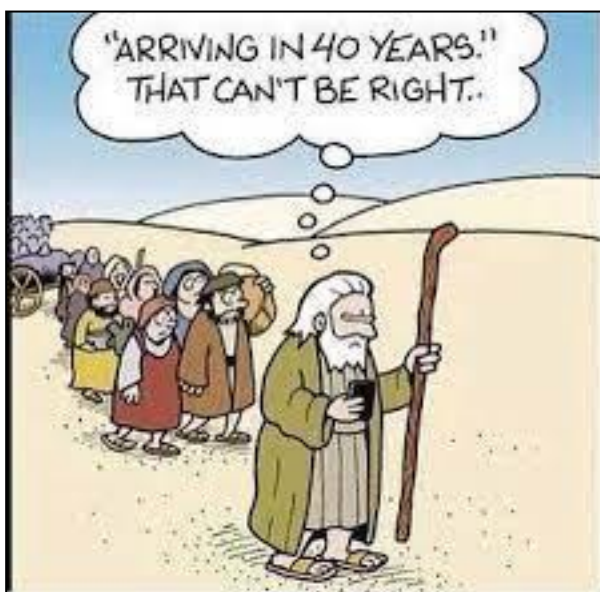
CARITAS CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING CARD SETS

Caritas Australia has launched its first-ever Catholic Social Teaching (CST) [Card Sets](#) in Australia, creating an accessible and portable way to integrate CST principles for schools, parishes and workplaces.

THE LIGHTER SIDE



"Wait! That's the Friday part.
Wait until you hear the Sunday part!"



Blessings for Holy Week and may the joy of the risen Christ be yours at Easter.