

## NEWS

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### EASTER 2023 REFLECTIONS

As the Easter season unfolds, we may like to revisit reflections by [Pope Francis](#) (where is your 'Galilee?') and by [CRA President](#) Peter Jones OSA (key moments at the empty tomb); plus gospel reflections for the Second Sunday of Easter by Gail Gill and Tanya Wittwer at the [Australian Women Preach](#) podcast.

### PRAYING WITH MARY FOR THE SYNOD

The General Secretariat of the Synod Bishops has invited Synods of the Eastern Catholic Churches, Episcopal Conferences and Marian Shrines to join together for prayer on Wednesday 31 May 2023 to entrust to Mary, Mother of the Church, the work of the upcoming Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Find prayer [resources](#) at the Synod website.

### JESUIT MISSION MAYTIME FAIR

The Jesuit Mission [Maytime Fair](#) returns on Saturday 6 May at Xavier College, Kew in Melbourne. All proceeds from the day go directly towards supporting at-risk communities across over 10 countries in Asia and Africa, including Cambodia, Timor-Leste, India, Myanmar, Thailand and Malawi.

### NCEC COMMENT ON ALRC PROPOSED REFORMS

The National Catholic Education (NCEC) executive director Jacinta Collins, commenting on the Australian Law Reform Commission's proposed reforms on religious educational institutions and anti-discrimination law, says Catholic education will continue to make the voices of people of faith heard and respected across the nation in the fight for religious freedom. Continue reading at the [NCEC website](#).

### VATICAN MESSAGE FOR RAMADAN

The Vatican's Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue has released a [message](#) for Islam's holy month of Ramadan and Id al-Fitr, urging both Christians and Muslims worldwide to join in peacebuilding. You may like to share it with Muslim and Christian friends.

### SCHOOLS INVITED TO APPLY FOR ICUP GRANT

The [Intercultural Understanding Partnership](#) (ICUP) is a national initiative created by [Together For Humanity](#) (TFH) and funded by the Australian Government. Successful school applicants receive consultation time with TFH intercultural experts and financial support (up to \$10,000) to address an intercultural and/or interfaith challenge in their school community.

## DOUG THE DOG

Colleen O’Sullivan RSJ shares a heart-warming story about “Doug” the pet dog who came to residents at MacKillop House at Norwest (NSW), and who featured on the TV show *The Dog House*. Continue reading at the Sisters of Saint Joseph [website](#).

## EVENTS/WEBINARS

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### 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.

### DINNER FOR LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES - VICTORIA

The Victoria CRA network extends a dinner invitation to leaders and representatives:

Title: Dinner for Leaders and Representatives  
Date: Thursday 27 April 2023, 6.30 pm  
Venue: Vicky’s Restaurant, 5-7 Strathalbyn St, East Kew  
Cost: Pay for your own meal. Wine provided. Menu available online  
Bookings: Please confirm numbers by 22 April. Email Jill Harding FCS, [jillburma@gmail.com](mailto:jillburma@gmail.com)

### CRA HEALTH AND WELLBEING SEMINAR

*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](#)  
Date: 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 [Download the flyer](#)  
Registration: [Click here to register online](#)

### 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](mailto:ea@catholicreligious.org.au)

### WEBINAR – WATAC IN DIALOGUE

Women and the Australian Church (WATAC) invite us to encounter the Scripture passage of the Woman at the Well through the eyes of Jo Kenderes and then explore what the encounter means to each of us through conversation, meditation or a spiritual exercise. [Download the flyer](#), and [media release](#).

Title: Women as Agents of Hope: The Woman at the Well  
Date: Wednesday 12 April 2023, 7.00 pm NSW, VIC, QLD, TAS | 6.30 pm SA, NT | 5.00 pm WA  
Registration: Free registration at the [WATAC website](#)

### FILM SCREENING – CATHOLIC EARTHCARE

Catholic Earthcare, Caritas Australia, and Being with God In Nature invite us to an online screening of the new film “To The End” directed by Rachel Lears, about four young women who fight for a Green New Deal, and ignite a historic shift in US climate politic. [View the trailer](#).

Title: To the End  
Date: Wednesday 19 April 2023 | 6.00 pm NSW, VIC, QLD, TAS | 5.30 pm SA, NT | 4.00 pm WA  
Registration: Bookings essential at [Trybooking](#)

### WORKSHOP - MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

The Justice & Peace Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Justice, Peace & Ecology Office of the Diocese of Parramatta invite us to a workshop on issues relating to mental health, alcohol and drugs. The focus will be on practical ways to support local lived experience among people in the general community – those with challenges and their carers, as well as pastoral support workers.

Title: Redefining normal  
Date: Thursday, 20 April 2023, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm AEST  
Venue: Providence Place, 5 Alexandra Avenue Croydon NSW  
Registration: Register free at [Eventbrite](#)

For more events and news from the Justice & Peace Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney, [click here](#).

### 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](http://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](#)

## RESOURCES

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### “AN UNUSUAL LIFE”

[Catharine Courtney RSM](#), a Sister of Mercy for seventy years, has published her [reflections](#) on the changes in Australian Religious life, post-Vatican II. This 88-page paperback is available for \$20 plus postage. [See flyer](#) for purchase details or visit the Brisbane Mercy [website](#).

### EASTER TO PENTECOST DISCUSSION

An [Easter to Pentecost](#) 4-week discussion series on the Uluru Statement has been produced by Edmund Rice Centre in collaboration with the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane. It is a prayer/reflection series, not focused on details of the referendum but rather on what the Spirit is saying to us in our Catholic tradition.

### NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EVANGELISATION

[The Bridge Newsletter](#) shares a series on the Church and Sport, and a reflection on the recent Divine Renovation conference that encouraged a more missional model of parish.

### THE LIGHTER SIDE 🤔

