

NEWS

LATEST FROM THE CRA

Registrations are now open for the CRA National Assembly – see below under *Events* for details.

Also, the April edition of CRA [Pathways](#) is out now and can be found at the CRA website.

FRANK BRENNAN SJ: TEN STEPS FOR APPROACHING THE REFERENDUM

Frank Brennan SJ, writing in *The Catholic Weekly*, suggests [ten steps](#) for Catholics inspired by Catholic social teaching when approaching the forthcoming referendum – also in *Pathways*.

RETREAT CONNECTS ABORIGINAL AND BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY

The spiritual similarities of Australia's Aborigines and the early Christian desert fathers were explored in an online retreat launched by the Benedictine Abbey in Jamberoo and Indigenous educator, Gweagal woman, Theresa Ardler, reports [The Catholic Leader](#) – also in *Pathways*.

ANZAC DAY (25 APRIL) - RSJ SISTERS REMEMBERED

On ANZAC Day the Sisters of Saint Joseph remember those who served in the defence forces of Australia, including two Western Australian based Sisters of Saint Joseph, Julie O'Sullivan RSJ and Carla Curran RSJ, who served in the military prior to making their commitment to religious life. [Continue reading](#).

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE (24 APRIL) COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

The Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee has announced several [events](#) across Australia to mark the [108th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide](#). The Armenian Genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century; 1.5 million Armenians were massacred by Ottoman Turkey's "Young Turk" government beginning in 1915. The deportation and mass extermination of Armenians continued until 1923.

NEW REPORT REVEALS MAKEUP OF AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC POPULATION

The National Centre for Pastoral Research has published the [Social Profile of the Catholic Community in Australia](#), drawing on data from the 2021 Australian Census. View the NCPR [media release](#).

OCEANIA BISHOPS PUBLISH RESPONSE TO SYNOD WORKING DOCUMENT

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

EVENTS/WEBINARS

2023 CRA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY — REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Registrations are now open for the 2023 National Assembly, which will be held in Sydney in the week of Monday, 31 July to Thursday, 3 August 2023 at the Novotel Parramatta, 350 Church Street, Parramatta. Please go to the [CRA website](#) and [register online](#). Please [download the brochure](#).

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

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
Registration: \$150 pp. [View webpage](#); [Download the flyer](#); [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

FOREST DWELLING WEBINARS - SPIRITUALITY FOR OUR WISDOM YEARS

The Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas, is offering two webinars on "Spirituality for our Wisdom Years", including one featuring a conversation with Australian De La Salle Brother Philip Elwin.

Title: *Hidden Wonders, Little Things, and the Role of Imagination to Sustain Us in our Elder Years*
Date: Sunday 23 April 3.00 to 5.00 am AEST
Speakers: Rev Mary Earle & Dr Marilyn McEntyre
Registration: \$25.00 Register at [Eventbrite](#)

Title: *A Conversation with Phillip Elwin FSC. Elder Vision: Having Eyes to See and Ears to Hear the Sacred Presence*
Date: Wednesday 26 April 2023, 9.00–10.00 am AEST
Speaker: Br Phillip Elwin FSC & Dr Maggie Meigs
Registration: \$15.00 Register at [Eventbrite](#)

BE SLAVERY FREE – ONLINE EVENT TO MARK THE RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY

Be Slavery Free invites us to a webinar to mark the 10th anniversary of the Rana Plaza tragedy in Bangladesh, one of the deadliest industrial accidents in history, forcing the garment industry to confront the urgent need for better safety standards and improved working conditions.

Title: *Rana Plaza - 10 years on*
Dates: 24 April 2023, 2.00 pm in Melbourne | 12.00 in Perth | 1.30 pm in Adelaide
Registration: [Register free](#) at this link

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. Visit www.mohmv.com.au

ACRATH

ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) invites us to come together for an online seminar to learn and explore the causes and impact of human trafficking. Further details at the [ACRATH website](#).

Title: *Hearts Stirred to Action: The Call of the Human Face of trafficking*
Dates: Wednesday 3 May 2023, 11.00 am to 3.30 pm AEST
Mode: Two online sessions (11.00-1.00 and 1.30-3.30)
Registration: Register free to attend this event via [TryBooking](#)

LAUDATO SI' WEEK – ONLINE IGNATIAN RETREAT

Celebrate International or Australian Laudato Si' Week with an experience of Ignatian spirituality. This is an online convocation with spiritual exercises and conversations, using the life of a tree as a metaphor.

Title: *IM23: I am a Tree of Life*
Dates: Sunday 21 May to Wednesday 24 May 2023
Time: Two options daily: 10.00 am to 12 noon OR 6.30 to 8.30 pm AEST
Registration: \$125 Full Four Day Convocation. \$45.00 one day. A reduced price for those with limited means. [Register at this link](#)

EMPLOYMENT

PHILANTHROPY MANAGER

Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA), the Australian and international development organisation of the Loreto Sisters, is seeking a part time (0.6 FE) Philanthropy Manager. View the [advertisement](#) and [position description](#). Enquiries and applications are to be sent to: mwiaexecutiveofficer@loreto.org.au. Applications close 9am on Monday 1 May 2023.

RESOURCES

REFLECTIONS FOR PENTECOST

Plunge into Mystery: Scriptural Reflections on Pentecost Communities Year A 2023 is a resource written by Columban Father Charles Rue and consists of eight reflections for each Sunday after Easter and draws from the liturgy around Pentecost. [Download](#) the resource at the Columban website.

THE LIGHTER SIDE 🤔

