

NEWS

NEW CRA NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTED

Amid celebrations at the 2023 CRA National Assembly, a new National Council has been elected by CRA as 140 Leaders of Religious Congregations gathered last week at Parramatta for the 2023 CRA National Assembly. [Continue reading](#) the CRA media release.

BUILDING RELIGIOUS LITERACY DURING VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK



CRA has issued a [media release](#) for National Vocations Awareness Week (6-13 August) regarding the launch of its new resource, with St Pauls Publications, showcasing the stories of religious congregations: [Our Stories. Our Lives. Our Mission: Catholic Religious in Australia](#).

ACU PAYS TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION PIONEERS

In celebrating the 60th anniversary of its Signadou campus in Canberra, Australian Catholic University (ACU) has paid tribute to the Dominican sisters whose commitment to education for women, by women shaped the foundation of the campus and empowered generations of students. [Continue reading](#).

HOMELESSNESS WEEK 2023

This week is Homelessness Week in Australia (Monday August 7 to Sunday August 13). The theme for Homelessness Week 2023 is "It's time to end homelessness". The Society of St Vincent de Paul [website](#) features a [media release](#), a Housing and Homelessness [policy paper](#), and a Housing and Homelessness [pamphlet](#).

CATHOLICS AND MUSLIMS JOURNEYING TOGETHER

The [August issue](#) of the Columban Interfaith eBulletin includes a [reflection](#) on Catholics journeying together with Muslims by a member of Parramatta Diocese's Interfaith Commission.

SOCKTOBER 2023: CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN AUSTRALIA SCORE BIG FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN TIMOR-LESTE

[Socktober](#), the schools-based community engagement initiative of Catholic Mission, recently launched, seeks to show students and their families the injustice of global poverty, especially for young children, through the unifying power of the world game. [Continue reading](#) and watch a 1-minute launch [video](#).

POPE FRANCIS' WORDS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Pope Francis' engagement with youth was felt in his [homily](#) at the World Youth Day Mass held last Sunday in Lisbon where he urged them to shine, to listen and to be unafraid. The Mass in full can be viewed [here](#).

EVENTS/WEBINARS

CRA EVENTS WITH JAMES ALISON – REGISTRATIONS OPEN

CRA is bringing James Alison to Australia in September-October 2023. James Alison is a Catholic theologian, priest and author known for his firm and patient persistence in promoting truthful conversation and dialogue in the Church with regard to matters LGBTQIA+ and for his pastoral outreach in the same sphere. The full programme is being finalised. **Here are the CRA-hosted events:**

- Tuesday, 19 September 2023 ([Melbourne](#), in-person) [One-day CRA event](#), afternoon
- Tuesday, 26 September 2023 ([Sydney](#), in-person) [One-day CRA event](#), afternoon
- Thursday, 28 September 2023 (Sydney, in-person & Zoom) Afternoon [CRA workshop](#) for Religious & co-workers in ministry (schools, hospitals, aged care workers or others).
- Monday, 16 October 2023, 12.00 – 4.00 pm (North Perth, in-person) – [CRA Workshop](#)

Enquiries: Gillian Lee: Ph: 02 9557 2695 Email: secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au

CRA WELLBEING SEMINAR – REGISTER NOW

This in-person Seminar, held in Brisbane, features speakers from St Vincent’s Brisbane Palliative Care team and from Southern Cross Pastoral Care team, to help with the difficult conversations and with understanding the best of care towards the end of life.

Title: Quality Care at the End of Life
Date & Time: Wednesday 27 September 2023, 9.30 am to 4.00 pm
Venue: Brisbane International Virginia, Sandgate & Zillmere Rds, Boondall QLD
Registration: Register [online using Humanitix](#) or at the [CRA Events](#) webpage
Further information: Stephen Middleton | P: 02 9557 2695 | E: cpc@catholicreligious.org.au

CRA STEWARDSHIP ONLINE SEMINAR – SAVE THE DATE

CRA Stewardship Committee have asked Ernie Zibert Senior ICT Consultant at Pitcher Partners to speak on Cyber Security at an online Seminar for Leaders, leadership teams and finance personnel.

Title: Cyber Security
Date: Wednesday 4 October 2023; 2.00 to 4.30 pm AEST – **Please save the date**
Registration: Details coming soon - in the CRA Bulletin and [Events](#) webpage
Enquiries: Stephen Middleton | P: 0401 050 595 | E: cpc@catholicreligious.org.au

CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING EVENT - YARCK TO YEA WALK, RIDE OR RUN

Highways and Byways is hosting its annual [Yarck to Yea Ride-Walk-Run](#) along 5-27 km of the beautiful Great Victorian Rail Trail in Victoria. Highways and Byways is the charitable entity of the Missionary Sisters of Service. It assists those experiencing disadvantage and exclusion in rural Australia.

Title: Yarck to Yea, Ride or Run
Date: Saturday 19 August 2023, from 7.15 am
Venue: Two locations in Yarck, Victoria – [see flyer for details](#)
Registration: Cost: Adults \$30, Concession \$15, Family \$50. Register at [Trybooking](#)

SYDNEY JUSTICE & PEACE OFFICE

The next Sydney archdiocesan [social justice gathering](#), to be hosted by St Brigid's Parish Coogee, will explore the Bishops' 2023-24 social justice statement, which will be officially launched on 17 August.

Title: Getting ready for the referendum
Date: 23 September 2023, 10.00 am to 2.00 pm AEST
Venue: St Brigid's Parish, 135 Brook St, Coogee NSW
Registration: [Register free](#) at Eventbrite

CARITAS – WOMEN FOR THE WORLD GALA DINNER

Caritas Australia announces that [Women for the World](#) is now in its tenth year and invites us to its Gala fundraising dinner. *Women for the World* supports vulnerable women who need help to access to education, develop sustainable livelihoods, improve healthcare and reduce child mortality.

Title: Women for the World Gala Dinner
Date: Wednesday, 1 November 2023, 6.00 – 10.30 pm AEDT
Venue: Doltone House - Hyde Park, Level 3, 181 Elizabeth Street, Sydney
Registration: Click here to [buy a ticket](#) (\$195, or \$1800 for table of 10) or [make a donation](#)

RESOURCES

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION (15 AUGUST)

This reflection "[The Feast of the Assumption in Jerusalem](#)" by Beatrice Guarrera for Custodia Terrae Sanctae (August 2020) is brought to our attention by the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion in their latest newsletter *Tilling The Soil: Biblical Formation Resource*.

HOW CAN WE RECOGNISE TRUE CONSOLATION?

A [reflection](#) by Pope Francis on discernment, and in particular on the spiritual experience called "consolation", is featured at the website of Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia this week. There is also a [reflection](#) by Caroline Coggins honouring Michael Mullins SM who passed away on 10 July.

THE GOOD OIL

In the most recent edition of [The Good Oil](#), Patty Fawkner SGS reflects on the experience of making the Good Samaritans Sisters' chapel available to welcome members of the LGBTIQ+ at a thanksgiving Mass.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

The closest thing I get to a spa day is when steam from the dishwasher smacks me in the face!

Whoever said 'Out of sight, out of mind' never had a spider disappear in the bedroom!

