

NEWS

BISHOPS CONFERENCE AND CRA PUBLISH ROYAL COMMISSION UPDATE

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia have published a [report](#) updating the Church's progress in implementing the relevant recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Continue reading the joint [media release](#).

TOWARDS JUBILEE YEAR 2025

A friendly reminder that if CRA Members are planning to submit a response to the [CRA consultation regarding the Jubilee Year](#), the deadline is looming, and we are happy to extend it a few days to Monday 11 September 2023. For those who have already responded, thank you!

REGISTER NOW - CRA HEALTH & WELLBEING SEMINAR – 27 SEPT

This popular CRA in-person seminar in Brisbane has 20 places left. Register now – see below under [Events](#).

HISTORY MADE BY CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS WOMAN

History was made this week when Mary Coloe PVBVM, Professor Emerita of the University of Divinity, became the first Catholic woman to preach at St Paul's Cathedral (Melbourne), to celebrate the Feast of St Phoebe on 3 September. [Continue reading](#) and download Mary's [homily](#).

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY – 10 SEPT 2023

The Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday on the second Sunday in September – September 10 this year. The Bishops Conference website provides [resources](#) to assist in marking the day: bulletin notices; prayers of intercession and slides; prayer card; website banner, (also on the CRA [website](#)).

NATSICC STATEMENT ON THE 'VOICE'

At the CRA website you will find the [statement](#) of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) following the Prime Minister's Referendum date announcement.

EVENTS/WEBINARS

CRA VIC LEADERS' NETWORK DINNER

Date & Time: Wednesday 20 September 2023, at 6.30 pm
Venue: Vicky's Restaurant, 5-7 Strathalbyn Street, East Kew VIC
RSVP: 14 September 2023 jdrobik@opeast.org.au

JAMES ALISON IN CONVERSATION ABOUT INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA

CRA is bringing James Alison to Australia in September-October 2023. During this month there will be a number of events hosted by those with whom CRA has collaborated – click here to [see the list](#).

Here are the CRA-hosted events:

Title: **How did we get here, and where are we going? Opening up the discussion about the Catholic Church and matters LGBTQIA+**

Audience: Religious Institute Leaders and all Religious who want to meet, discuss and consider issues relating to their members and staff, and how to facilitate transparency and psychological well-being as part of coping with change in self-understanding in this area.

Date & Time: Tuesday 19 September, 2.00 – 5.30 pm

Venue: Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville VIC

Fee: \$40 p/p (includes afternoon tea)

Registration: [Register at Humanitix](#) and [download the flyer](#)

Title: **How did we get here, and where are we going? Opening up the discussion about the Catholic Church and matters LGBTQIA+**

Audience: As above

Date & Time: Tuesday, 26 September 2023, 2.00 – 5.30 pm

Venue: Mary MacKillop Place 11 Mount Street, North Sydney

Fee: \$40 p/p (includes afternoon tea)

Registration: [Register at Humanitix](#) and [download the flyer](#)

Title: **A mission-focused discussion about the Catholic Church and matters LGBTQIA+**

Audience: Religious & co-workers in ministry (e.g., schools, hospitals, aged care workers)

Date & Time: Thursday, September 28, 2023, 3.30 - 6.30 pm

Venue: Mary MacKillop Place 11 Mount Street, North Sydney

Format: Hybrid (in-person and Zoom)

Fee: \$40 p/p (in-person or Zoom)

Registration: [Register at Humanitix](#) and [download the flyer](#)

Title: **Developing a pastoral response to LGBTQIA+ members and their families**

Audience: Religious, their associates, staff and friends who wish to explore and discuss a pastoral approach to inclusivity and diversity in our Church and in our community

Date & Time: Monday, October 16, 2023, 12.00 – 4.00 pm

Venue: Redemptorist Monastery, 190 Vincent Street, North Perth WA

Fee: FOC (includes light lunch)

Registration: [Register at Humanitix](#) and [download the flyer](#)

ENQUIRIES: Please contact Gillian Lee: Ph: 02 9557 2695

Email: secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au

CRA-SUPPORTED WEBINAR - International Survey of Catholic Women

This webinar will feature Dr Tracy McEwan and Dr Kathleen McPhillips discussing the findings and recommendations from the global and Australian reports arising from the ISCW.

Title: The International Survey of Catholic women: Findings from Australia and Abroad
Date & Time: Thursday, 14 September 2023, 2.00 – 4.00 pm
Registration: [Register free](#) using Humanitix
Further information: [Download the flyer](#) at the [CRA website](#) or contact:
Taylor Coutinho, CRA Ph: 02 9557 2695, E: ea@catholicreligious.org.au

CRA HEALTH & 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: Gillian Lee | P: 02 9557 2695 | E: secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au

CRA STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR ONLINE – REGISTER NOW

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 Safety: Myths vs Reality
Date & Time: Wednesday 4 October 2023; 2.00 to 4.30 pm AEST
Registration: \$40 pp. See the [webpage](#), download the [flyer](#) and click here to [register](#)
Enquiries: Gillian Lee | P: 02 9557 2695 | E: secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au

ARRCC PUBLIC MEETINGS – PERTH, MELBOURNE, SYDNEY

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) invites us a number of public meetings:

Sydney. Thursday 7 September, 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Pitt Street Uniting Church, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney
Ways you can help get the word out: [Flyer](#) ; [Facebook event](#) ; [Copy for your congregation newsletter](#)

Perth. Saturday 9 Sept, 1.30 - 5.30 pm, Hillview Intercultural Community Centre, 1-3 Hill View Place, Bentley; Help get the word out: [Information & RSVP](#); Share the [Facebook](#) event

Melbourne. Wednesday 13 September, 7.30 to 9.00 pm, Stonnington Uniting Church, 59 Burke Road, Malvern East; Help get the word out: [Flyer](#); [Facebook event](#) ; [Copy for your newsletter](#)

A HOUSING SYSTEM THAT SERVES US ALL – ONLINE FORUM

The [Mercy Foundation](#) is running an [online forum](#) on 13 September 2023 at 9.30 am, to explore how we are violating the right to housing in Australia and the impact this is having on marginalised groups. We will discuss the opportunities to transform our housing system, using a rights-based approach, that delivers on the right to housing for all of us. [Free registration here.](#)

WEBINAR – SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform, Yarra Theological Union, and Garratt Publishing invite us to an [online convocation](#) to discuss issues relating to the forthcoming Bishops' Synod on Synodality. Leading the discussion is an ACBC representative at the Synod, Shane Mackinlay, Bishop of Sandhurst.

Title: Room for Everyone in Our Church Convocation
Dates: Thursday 14 September 2023, 7.00 pm ACT, NSW, VIC, QLD, TAS |
6.30 pm NT, SA | 5.00 pm WA | 9.00 pm NZ
Registration: [Register free](#) at the Garratt Publishing website; [Flyer available](#)

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 40-DAY SABBATICAL 2024 – VICTORIA

Santa Casa Retreat Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria, owned by the Sisters of Mercy, is offering a 40-day Sabbatical in 2024, limited to 15 participants.

Title: Honouring the Soul: Deepening our Encounters with God, Self, Others, Creation
Dates: 14 September to 26 October 2024
Venue: Santa Casa Retreat Centre, Queenscliff, VIC
Registration: Cost: \$6,350. Download the [brochure](#) and [timetable](#) for full details

RESOURCES

BOOK BY MERCY SISTER – “AN UNUSUAL LIFE”

Catharine Courtney RSM says: “Thank you to all who have the 500 copies of my book, “[An Unusual Life](#)”! We now have a limited number on hand for those who missed out. It is essentially a memoir of the changed situation in Religious life over the 70 years I have been In the Mercies and in national leadership in the time of change in Australia.” Obtain it on eBay using www.brisbanemercy.org.au/An-Unusual-Life.

ONE PEOPLE ONE LAND and SPIRIT DREAM

Monica Brown of Emmaus Productions offers two songs for free to CRA Members as a gesture of their support for the Voice in the upcoming Referendum. [Click here](#) for the music, sheet music and lyrics.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

