

## NEWS

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### **CRA URGE QLD GOVERNMENT TO REPEAL LAWS PERMITTING HOLDING CHILDREN IN WATCH HOUSES**

Catholic Religious Australia has written to the Queensland Government with grave concerns about its recent decision to suspend the state's Human Rights Act to permit adult Watch Houses to be used as youth detention centres. Please find attached CRA's latest media release.

### **CRA PATHWAYS**

The November edition of [CRA Pathways](#) is now available. It includes an article about the recent visit of theologian [Dr James Alison](#), speaking on outreach in the church to the LGBTQI+ community. Watch the [recordings of two of his seminars](#) or [listen to an interview](#) with James on ABC Radio National.

### **A REFLECTION ON THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY**

The experience of being part of the Synod of Bishops in Rome last month was a "conversion experience" writes the Provincial of the Divine Word Missionaries Australia Province. [Continue reading](#) here.

### **MERCY HEALTH CELEBRATES HISTORIC MILESTONE**

Mercy Health is celebrating 100 years of service of the Sisters of Mercy in the local community of Young, NSW through a month-long celebration in November. Continue reading the [media release](#).

### **VITAL ROLE OF MISSIONARIES IN MYANMAR'S HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE**

The United Nations has provided an update on the devastating situation in Myanmar since the military take-over in 2021. Continue reading [Catholic Mission's](#) media release.

### **CHRISTMAS APPEALS AND GIFTS**

Jesuit Mission invites us to support its [Christmas Appeal](#) to help empower marginalised people in India.

Palms Australia invites us to support their [Christmas Appeal](#) in support of the work of missionaries heading overseas at this time.

Shop for Christmas gifts and at the same time support [Cana Communities](#) which nurtures growth and acceptance, friendships and hope for those living through challenging times.

### **GREETINGS CARDS BY SUSAN DAILY IBVM OAM**

Ablaze Religious Greeting Cards feature the vibrant art of Susan Daily IBVM OAM "bringing out the God colours in the world" (Mt 5:14). There is a variety of cards for all religious and secular occasions. Click here for the [Order Form](#) and contact details.

## HUMANITARIAN AID AND PRAYER FOR THE HOLY LAND

Links for sending material aid to Israelis and Palestinians since the attacks of October 7 and the ensuing war in Gaza include: [Caritas Australia](#); Rozana's [Palestine-Israel Emergency Relief](#); and [Aid to the Church in Need](#).

Also, there is a [Prayer Service for Peace](#) in Sydney (see *Events* below) and an invitation to personally 'be with' a hostage in [prayer](#).

## EVENTS/WEBINARS

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### CRA VICTORIA LEADERS' NETWORK MEETING AND PRE-CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Date: Wednesday 23 November 2023  
Time: 9.30 am for 9.45 am start  
Venue: Ben Nevis Room - Manningham Conference Centre, 1 Thompsons Rd, Bulleen  
RSVP: 15 November 2023 [jillburma@gmail.com](mailto:jillburma@gmail.com)

### PUBLIC EVENT IN MELBOURNE – WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SYNOD?

Ms Susan Pascoe AM and Bishop Shane Mackinlay will join in discussion with Fr Frank Brennan SJ and Prof. Peter Sheehan to provide unique insight into the events of the First Assembly. [Download flyer](#).

Title: What happened at the First Assembly of the Synod on Synodality in Rome?  
Date: Thursday, 23 November 2023, 5.00 – 8.00 pm  
Venue: The Oratory, Newman College, Melbourne University, 887 Swanston St, Parkville, Victoria  
Registration: Please register (free) at [Trybooking](#)

### PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE – ABRAHAM CONFERENCE

The Abraham Conference Organising Committee invites us to pray for peace in Israel and Palestine. Join representatives from the three Abrahamic faiths - Jewish, Christian and Muslim - to share in scripture, prayer and silence in a call for peace.

Title: Abraham Conference – Prayer service for peace  
Date: Thursday 30 November 2023, 12.30 to 1.00 pm  
Venue: Ferguson Hall (St Stephen's Uniting Church), 197 Macquarie St, Sydney (opposite NSW Parliament)  
Registration: Places are limited. Please register at [this link](#)

### LAUDATE DEUM WEBINAR

The Justice and Peace Office (Sydney), Catholic Earthcare Australia and North Sydney Catholics invite us to a webinar on Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum* and its call for urgent action on climate change.

Title: Laudate Deum webinar  
Date: Wednesday 6 December 2023, 7.00 – 8.00 pm (AEDT)  
Mode: Live videostream via Zoom  
Registration: Join the webinar [here](#) (pw 223780)

## 40-DAY SABBATICAL AT SANTA CASA, QUEENSCLIFF

Places are filling quickly for the 40-day Sabbatical at [Santa Casa Retreat Centre](#), Queenscliff (Victoria). Please register asap using the information below. A [brochure](#) can be downloaded here.

Title: Honouring the Soul: Deepening our Encounters with God, Self, Others and Creation  
Dates: 14 September – 26 October 2024  
Venue: Santa Casa Retreat Centre, 33-35 Flinders Street, Queenscliff VIC 32  
Further information: [Refer to flyer](#) for further details

## RESOURCES

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### ARTS & FAITH: ADVENT

Prepare for Christmas and deepen your experience of Advent with [Arts & Faith: Advent](#) (Loyola Press). Each week receive a video commentary about a work of art inspired by the Sunday Scriptures.

### COLUMBAN RESOURCES

Download the Columban November [e-Bulletin](#) and subscribe to the Columban [Youtube](#) channel.

### THE LIGHTER SIDE

