



Victorian
Council of Churches



Council News

June 2021

Victorian Council of Churches

President:

Rev Fr Shenouda Boutros

Executive Officer:

Rev Ian Smith

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Reflections

As I write this we are in the midst of Reconciliation week... a week set aside each year to remind, encourage and challenge us to reflect deeply on our engagement with our First Peoples.

The theme for this year is 'not just

words but action' calling all Australians to be active in the task of reconciliation.

When we as Christians think back across these 200 plus years that the Christian message has been spoken or shared— it's a mixed message that our forebears left — occasionally the message or action is good but more often it left our First Peoples bereft or hurt...

Recalling the words of Paul in 2nd Corinthians 5, we are all called to be ambassadors, reconcilers and witnesses to the amazing reconciling act of God in our Lord Jesus Christ. So let us again take up the task of being reconcilers, reaching out in our communities to our First Peoples and all peoples who call this land home... listening and learning and sharing.

- Ian

I am beginning to accept invitations to come and share stories of the Council with your Church or group — I'm also happy to appear online or pre recorded

News from the Council

- **The AGM of the Victorian Council of Churches will be held in July** . Given the lateness of the 2020 AGM (October last year), the Standing Committee of Council has decided to delay the AGM for 2021 with a view that the 2022 AGM will again held in May of 2022.
- Council also is working on **finalising the next President of the Victorian Council of Churches** who will take office following the 2021 AGM. Council is hoping to be able to announce the new President shortly.
- Council continues to work on its priorities and activities going into 2022 as it seeks to be a voice amongst the Churches and an influence within society.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Victorian Council of Churches Annual General Meeting will be held on

July 24th

9.30—1 pm

This meeting will be for all delegates of VCC and will include

Receiving of reports, installing of new President,

More details coming

VCC—Contact details

- phone: 03 9650 4511 or 9412 8487

- email vcc@vcc.org.au

- Web www.vcc.org.au

- Facebook www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches

NOTE: The Victorian Office now has a new Postal address.

- postal address PO Box 6804 509 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne 3004

Coming Event

The Victorian council of Churches Faith and Order Commission is running this one day workshop for all people who are exploring or thinking about how churches in local areas can better collaborate and work together.



Covenanting Together in a Covid World.

6TH JULY

9.30 – 4PM

An opportunity for listening, learning and sharing ... A one day workshop for people who are interested in exploring new ways of working collaboratively together as churches... being the Body of Christ in new ways

This is an online or in person workshop
THIS WORKSHOP WILL INCLUDE PRESENTATIONS FROM:

Dr Antonia Pizzey Australian Catholic University Brisbane
Rev Dr Ray Williamson author of Australian Churches covenanting Together
Ms Liz Stone, Executive Officer National Council of Churches

Insights will be shared by people who are in leadership in cooperating Church communities within Victoria

This event is free



This event is facilitated by the
Faith and Order Commission of
the Victorian Council of Churches

to register:

www.trybooking.com/BPUMP

All welcome to attend



President's reflection

“A CLIMATE OF THE HEART: ONLY RELATEDNESS CAN SAVE US”

Sometimes the title says it all!.... Who could dispute that a greater expression of a universal and unconditional love is needed?

[Read More >>](#)



ACRT



What's in a number?

Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce (ACRT) Chairperson, Rob Floyd, takes us through the numbers representing people who have come to Australia seeking safety. More than a number, each one seeks hope for the future.

[Read More >>](#)

Christian Conference of Asia

Recognising the massacre of Armenians as genocide

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) joins with millions of Armenians all over the world who welcomed the US government's decision to recognise the massacre of about 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 as genocide.

[Read More >>](#)



[NCCA \(con't\)](#)

Act for Peace

Ration Challenge 2021

Will you join us for the challenge? Sign up now for the Ration Challenge, from **Sunday 13 – Saturday 19 June 2021**

Let's show we really are **#inthistogether**

[Read More >>](#)



Reconciliation in Australia

To walk this way

A reflection on Reconciliation by Felicity McCallum, First Nations Adviser to the NCCA.

There is something irresistible about the place of forgiveness and reconciliation....

[Read More >>](#)



Pacific Household of God

"Against The Odds: The Audacity To Believe"

A 'Household' Academic Writing and Arts Project by the Pacific Conference of Churches' Pacific Theological College.

Project Launch Date: 19 May 2021

[Read More >>](#)



June Calendar 2021



- 3 Mabo Day
- 5 [World Environment Day](#)
- 12 [World Day Against Child Labour](#)
- 13 Act for Peace [Ration Challenge](#) begins
- 15 [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)
- 20 [World Refugee Day](#)

[Read More >>](#)



“Sustaining Fellowship in Extraordinary Times” - WCC publishes its Annual Review 2020

As of 6 May 2021, the WCC Annual Review 2020 is available for download online. The annual review records many of the WCC's activities undertaken in 2020 and continuing into 2021.

[Read more](#)



The Bossey chapel, a safe space for celebration in times of pandemic

With well over a year past since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Easter celebrations in 2021 were bound to be unusual. Yet even amid such circumstances, the Ecumenical Institute chapel at Château de Bossey saw students and faculty gather to mark Orthodox Easter last Saturday evening.

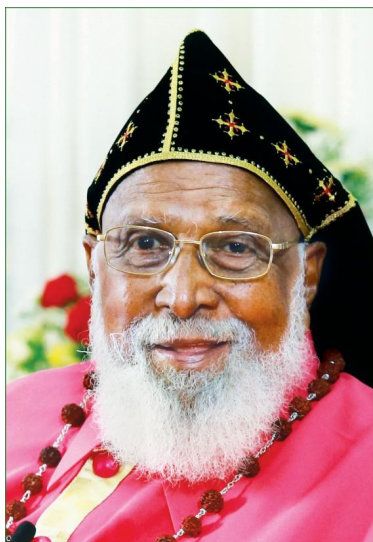
[Read more](#)



As gender norms change, workshop helps young people in Eastern Africa find a path to- ward justice

Seventy-five students and student mentors from over 15 church universities in Eastern Africa participated in an online training-of-trainers workshop on challenging toxic masculinities and toxic femininities. The event was hosted by the World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy (EHAIA) Eastern Africa regional office on 1-2 May.

[Read more](#)



WCC mourns passing away of His Grace Most Rev. Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan

His Eminence the Most Rev. Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan (Metropolitan Emeritus) of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, passed away on the 5 May in Kerala, India. He was 104 years old. Churches and the global ecumenical community are celebrating a remarkable life, lived in full, in service of God and humanity with holiness, humility, humour and helpfulness. His funeral [was] held on 6 May.

[Read more](#)

Church divisions over moral issues can be bridged with fruitful dialogue, webinar shows



A webinar on how churches make moral decisions—and what causes divisions—brought a lively discussion attended online by more than 100 people on 29 April. Basing their remarks on a World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission publication, “Churches and Moral Discernment. Volume 1: Learning from Traditions,” the speakers shared insights from very different church perspectives.

[Read more](#)



WCC presidents: the vision of Pentecost still shines

In a message for Pentecost, World Council of Churches regional presidents reflect on the first vision of Pentecost undimmed by hesitation, fear or apathy. “It augured a new heaven and a new earth,” their message reads. “In the intervening centuries, has that Pentecostal vision narrowed?”

[Read more](#)



World Council of Churches



Teaching Ecumenism – International Conference

Dates : 02 June 2021 - 05 June 2021 From 2-5 June 2021, the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Institute at Bossey hosts an international conference on 'Teaching Ecumenism in the Context of World Christianity'.

[Read more](#)



With newly organized library and archives, WCC's legacy is more accessible than ever

With the information on World Council of Churches (WCC) library and archives newly consolidated on the WCC website, the services and collections are more accessible than ever, making the legacy of the WCC come alive for people around the world.

[Read more](#)



On Orthodox Easter, “resurrection is God’s exclusive gift to all people”

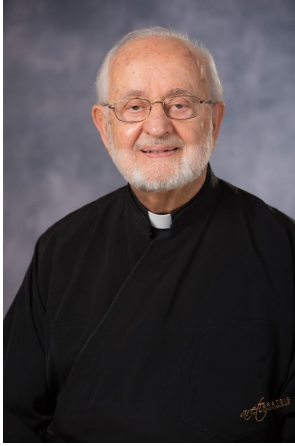
The world’s Orthodox Christians drew together in prayer, in small groups, in cathedrals and churches, or at home with loved ones, ringing a traditional Orthodox Easter greeting in an especially challenging year: “Christ is risen! Indeed, Christ is risen!”

Communication for Social Justice in a Digital Age

Dates : 13 September 2021 - 15 September 2021 This symposium will focus on the impact of digital transformation on communities and societies, and the actions needed to secure a just and inclusive digital future. Bringing together research, experiences from different regions and communities, expert input, and ethical and theological reflection, it will identify opportunities for action as a contribution to the 11th assembly of the World Council of Churches.

[Read more](#)





Rev. Fr Dr Alkiviadis Calivas: “the message of the Resurrection is always there”

As Rev. Fr Dr Alkiviadis Calivas celebrated Easter with his children and grandchildren near Boston, Massachusetts (USA) he reflected with joy on the differences between this year and last year, on the everlasting message of the Resurrection, and how we free ourselves from fear in order to find hope.

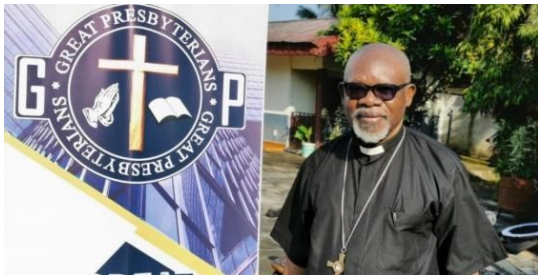
[Read more](#)



WCC laments “precious lives lost,” abhors violence affecting places of worship in Holy Land

World Council of Churches (WCC) acting general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca expressed mounting concern and profound grief at the rising toll of people killed and injured in the escalating violence in Israel and Palestine.

[Read more](#)



WCC mourns death of Rt Rev. Dr Nyansako-ni-Nku, visionary leader for the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is mourning the death of Rt Rev. Dr Nyansako-ni-Nku, an ecumenical and visionary leader in the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon.

[Read more](#)



WCC mourns loss of Rev. Dr Soritua Albert Ernest Nababan

Archbishop Rev. Dr Soritua Albert Ernest Nababan, a global ecumenical leader, passed away on 8 May in Jakarta, Indonesia, at the age of 88. He was the World Council of Churches (WCC) president from 2006-2013 and served as the former Ephorus (Archbishop) of the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan, the largest Protestant church in Indonesia and the largest Lutheran church in Asia with a membership of 4 million people.

[Read more](#)

JIM Cluster

Imagining a Better World: Richard Falk and Stuart Rees in Conversation with Joseph Camilleri

Conversation at the Crossroads invites you to a unique, international online event about two remarkable books and two inspiring journeys. The books are Richard Falk's *Public Intellectual: The Life of a Citizen Pilgrim*, and Stuart Rees' *Cruelty or Humanity*.

Richard Falk is one of the world's leading scholars in the fields of International Relations and International Law. He is Professor Emeritus of International Law, Princeton University. Stuart Rees is Emeritus Professor University of Sydney where for twenty years he held the chair in Social Work & Social Policy and founded the Sydney Peace Foundation.

Register: [Here](#), free

Where: Online webinar

When: June 8, 7:00 (AEST)

Statement from the Heart Study Guide

A new resource from the Uniting Church in Vic/Tas exploring the *Statement from the Heart* is now available.

- Go deeper into your Covenanting Journey
- Explore the *Statement's* three key elements: **'Voice.Treaty.Truth'**
- Can be used over six separate study sessions, or a single day intensive

Additional resource for facilitators available

You can download the study guide [HERE](#)

For more information, or for help organising study sessions, contact: Timothy.Molineux@victas.uca.org.au

RECONCILIATION WEEK (2021)

27 MAY - 3 JUNE

Join in and explore the theme **'More than a word. Reconciliation takes action'**. The beginning and end of National Reconciliation Week are marked by two significant dates in our shared history – the **1967 referendum** (27 May) and **Mabo Day** (3 June).

For Posters, Banners and Resources from Reconciliation Australia, visit: [HERE](#). **To look for Reconciliation Week Events near you, visit the** [Reconciliation Week Calendar](#). **Tasmanian Events are available** [HERE](#)



Whether you are a learned theologian or are just thinking about studying the bible and faith, there is a class for every student this upcoming semester. Whitley offers a wide range of courses from introductory subjects to further studies requiring prior study or experience, and intensive courses for those who have dedicated blocks of time.

This semester we are offering anything from learning basic Hebrew and seeing how the church has been shaped since the reformation to exploring how to live out your faith and make the connection between who you are and what you believe.

Below is a guide of all units being offered in the second half of 2021. Please read through and see which one speaks to you.

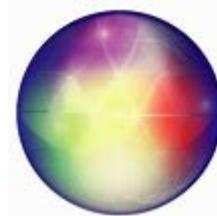
Interested? Enrolments are now open until 16 July for all semester 2 units or head to the [website](#) or [contact us](#) for more information.

Does one of the above units catch your eye?

Review our [timetable](#) to discover the dates and time of your preferred class or [contact our Registrar](#) Dorothy Morgan for more information.

Act now! Enrolments are open and close on July 16.

Jewish Christian Muslim Association



DONATIONS

JCMA is a not-for-profit organisation and donations go directly towards delivery of our many events, forums and conferences and to support our workshop programs in primary and secondary schools. As a listed harm prevention charity we have DGR (Deductible Gift Receipt) status. Your donations are tax-deductible (donations over \$2 are tax-deductible). If you would like to make a donation to help support the work of JCMA please go to our website <http://jcma.org.au/donation>.

JCMA Membership

JCMA is a membership based organisation for Jewish, Christian and Muslim people of faith. If you would like to find out about joining JCMA as a member you can go to our website at <http://jcma.org.au/jcma-membership> or call Ginette Everest on (03) 9287 5590 or email to: memberships@jcma.org.au.

For more information and details on any events see website: www.jcma.org.au



CEH TRAINING

LEARN WITH US & register @ Eventbrite for our upcoming FREE Webinars:

June 23 - 10:00 am - Hep B Made Easy

August 16 - 10:00 am - Hep B Made Easy

October 13 - 10:00 am - Hep B Made Easy

[Register here.](#)

UCA CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY –

Welcome to the **JUNE** Children & Families Update!

This month I'd like to particularly highlight the *Messy Discipleship Huddles* (Item 3) and the *Children & Families Ministry intensive* (Item 8) as excellent opportunities for you to consider (and possibly draw to the attention of others). Obviously the *Engage All Generations event* (Item 1) is also well worth considering. With all these activities being offered on-line, it doesn't really matter where you are located! As always, please feel free to share these links in any way with anyone you think might appreciate the content.

Chris.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY – JUNE

Engage All Generations June 9 11am AEST

[Engage All Generations: a strategic toolkit](#) is the latest book from Cory Seibel. This very special **FREE Zoom launch event** will include the opportunity to find out more about the book, engage with a number of the contributors and connect with others interested in intergenerational ministry.

Those contributing to the launch event will include:

📄 Cory Seibel (CAN)	Engage All Generations - an overview
📄 Chris Barnett (AUS)	Tools for Developing Intergenerational Ministry
📄 Jacolize Becker (NZ)	Intergenerational Sports and Games
📄 Tim Beilharz (AUS)	Intergenerational Church and Socio-Cultural Faith Development
📄 Tammy Tolman (AUS)	Moving All Ages Toward Life Together

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Sorry Day & Reconciliation Week

[Reconciliation takes action \(UCA Assembly\)](#)

[Reconciliation Sunday Resources \(UCA SA\)](#)

[Treaty and truth-telling \(Common Grace\)](#)

[2021 Reconciliation Week \(Pilgrim UC\)](#)

[National Sorry Day \(National Today\)](#)

Latest from Messy Church

[Deepening Discipleship \(BRF\)](#)

[A Voyage of Discovery \(Report\)](#)

[Get Messy! May-Aug Resource \(BRF\)](#)

[2022 Messy Church International Conference](#)

[Messy Discipleship: Launch Event Recordings](#)

Nb. A series of on-line *Discipleship Huddles* (focused on the content of the [Messy Discipleship](#) book) are being offered over the June-August period. Each of the three sessions will be of 1-hour in duration. Not just for those engaged in Messy Church, these Huddles are also suitable for ministers, pastors and those in other paid ministry roles. E-mail chris.barnett@victas.uca.org.au to express your interest or to seek more information.

UCA CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY (Con't) –

From CRCNA

[Shepherding children in difficult times \(CRCNA\)](#)
[Five Big Children & Families Ministry questions \(CRCNA\)](#)
[Planning Faith Formation: now and for the future \(CRCNA\)](#)
[Caring for yourself: put your oxygen mask on first \(CRCNA\)](#)
[Marking milestones: intergenerational ideas as families return \(CRCNA\)](#)

From Amplify (to watch)

[The power of mentoring \(Jim Schirmer\)](#)
[Adventuring into the Bible with children \(Wendy Strachan\)](#)
[Sparkling flourishing: breaking out of cultural captivity \(Tania Watson\)](#)
[Navigating Youth Ministry: sustainably, effectively, thoughtfully \(Steve Dixon\)](#)
[nb. 2022 Amplify March 5 \(watch out for more details\)](#)

Spiritual Practices (Lifelong Faith)

[Spiritual Practices: Prayer \(Lifelong Faith\)](#)
[Spiritual Practices: Eating Well \(Lifelong Faith\)](#)
[Spiritual Practices: Bible Reading \(Lifelong Faith\)](#)
[Spiritual Practices: Keeping Sabbath \(Lifelong Faith\)](#)
[Spiritual Practices: Forming habits \(Lifelong Faith\)](#)

From Fuller

[Listening can fuel creativity – Podcast \(Fuller\)](#)
[Teaching young people a daily way to pray \(Fuller\)](#)
[Three big questions that change everything \(Fuller\)](#)
[Leading a changing church for a changing world \(Fuller\)](#)
[Young people and identity: a bi-cultural perspective \(Fuller\)](#)

2021 Children & Families Ministry Intensive Unit July 7-9, 12-14 Parkville, Melbourne + On-line

The upcoming ***Children & Families Ministry intensive*** and the ***Graduate Certificate in Children & Families Ministry*** are excellent professional development opportunities for *ministers, pastors, chaplains, Christian educators and those in paid children & families ministry roles*. **Enquire NOW about the possibility of participating in the July offering face-to-face or on-line**. Even if this not for you at this time, let me encourage you to forward the information on to at least one person who you think might (or even *should*) be interested.

Click [Children & Families Ministry Intensive](#) or e-mail chris.barnett@victas.uca.edu.au to express interest or find out more.

Highlighted 2021 Events (for your diary, watch out for more)

Jun 9	Engage All Generations (Book Launch) (On-line 11am AEST)
Jun 19	Children's & Youth Ministry Training Day (Ridley College)
Jul 27, 28	InterGenerate AUS (Sydney, Brisbane, Christchurch + On-line)
Aug 7	Make it Messy! (Parkville, Melbourne)
Sep 11	Leaders to Go (On-line + Hub model)

Yours Faithfully,
Chris.

Australian Student Christian Movement

We are seeking a new National Coordinator!

10 May 2021

[Visit ASCM on the web](#)



ASCM is seeking a new National Coordinator

ASCM is seeking a new national coordinator! If you have a heart for working with students of all ages and the young-at-heart, enjoy working across different faith traditions, and are passionate about Christian activism, this is the role for you. A full position description and application information is [on our website](#).

Upcoming ASCM and WSCF events

Please see <https://ascm.org.au/events> for an up-to-date event calendar. All events take place via Zoom videoconferencing, which you can join from a computer, tablet, smartphone, or landline. **Register** for these events and we will send you the Zoom link.

ASCM Victorian Friends gathering

All ASCM friends in Victoria are invited to meet via Zoom for an update on ASCM plans, particularly in the context of the search for a new National Coordinator.

The ASCM continues to exist nationally and in Victoria, though not in the student-based form of yesteryear. There is need for ongoing international Christian connection through the WSCF, with ecumenical formation possibilities for young people as a focus.

If you feel a desire to find out about present SCM possibilities and connections, keep **Friday 21 May** (6-7 p.m.) free and register to participate in the Zoom meeting via [our website](#).

If you don't 'do Zoom' but want to be more involved, please let us know about your interest in the work of the ASCM so that we can keep in touch with you. Email the Victorian committee at vicscm@ascm.org.au or call Sandy Yule on 03 9600 4006.

ASCM NSW Discussion Series

The NSW Area Council of ASCM is proud to invite you to join us for a series of expert-led discussions. We have an incredible line of people involved in the Student Christian Movement now and/or in the past from Australia and internationally.

We plan to hold these discussions via Zoom every fortnight, starting off with the following four. Follow each event's link for more information and to register.

Sun 6 June 5-6pm: [Mandy Tibbey will interview friends from the World Student Christian Federation](#)

Sun 20 Jun 5-6pm: [Karen Pack \(PhD scholar\): A crisis of faith: The unfinished business of Constance Duncan \(1896-1970\)](#)

Sun 4 July 5-6pm: [Rev Dr David Gill: Students for the renewal of the church](#)

Support ASCM

Donate to our [annual appeal](#), [general fund](#), or [centenary trust fund](#), or find out how to [make a bequest to ASCM](#).

We want to hear from you

ASCM News is published fortnightly. Share it widely! Go to our website for our [newsletter archive](#) and [email subscription](#) page. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) for more news.

Do you have news about friends of ASCM and WSCF or other items of interest? Contact us at digital@ascm.org.au.

From Engage.Mail (Ethos)

THE POSSIBILITIES OF FINANCIAL INTERDEPENDENCE

10 May 2021 | Alison Sampson

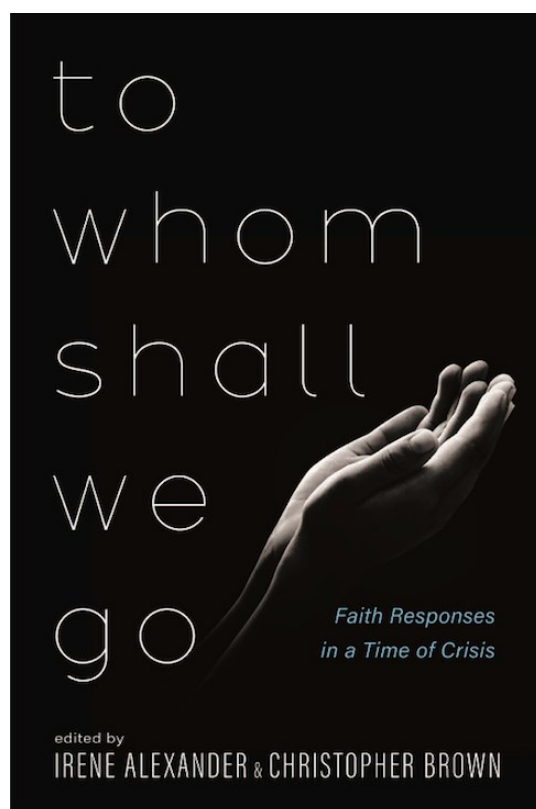
Capitalism tells us to be independent, to avoid being financially enmeshed - except with the banks, of course. But there is another way. Read [here](#).



New book on faith in a changing world

To whom shall we go?: Faith responses in a time of crisis, edited by Brisbane-based Irene Alexander and Christopher Brown, 'is a book for those seeking substance for their souls. The authors come from different disciplines, science, medicine, theology, missions, economics etc., and 3 countries, but share a strong but light-touch commitment to spiritual direction. This is expressed in a sustained engagement with our interior lives. Prayers, poems and liturgies bring reflectivity to the chapters. A substantial bibliography and helpful indexes round it off. It is a solidly satisfying meal for the whole person – truly a blessing'. (Gordon Preece, Ethos Director)

Read more endorsements [here](#). Order your copy via the publisher's [website](#) in a few days, or on Amazon and Book Depository and at Koorong soon.



Facing Family Violence in Faith Communities

Information sessions for community members

Everyone has the right to feel safe and free from violence in their relationships. Family violence, or domestic violence, is a pattern of behaviour where one person tries to dominate and control the other. It can include a range of direct and indirect behaviours including physical, verbal, social, sexual, financial, emotional and spiritual abuse, and stalking.

If you would like to know more about family violence and what faith communities can do to reduce and respond to family violence, then come along to one of our information sessions.

Topics include:

- What is family violence?
- How does family violence impact communities?
- Understanding respectful relationships
- How can we reduce family violence in faith communities?
- Support services available for people experiencing family violence

Ideal for

Community members of all religions and faith communities.

Relationships Australia Victoria is a leading training organisation with national and international expertise and more than 70 years' experience supporting Victorians through relationship counselling, conflict resolution, family dispute resolution, family relationships, couple therapy and parenting education.

We offer a range of professional development workshops for professionals in the community, welfare, education and legal sectors. Visit www.rav.org.au/training to view all our available workshops.

When

Two-hour information session from 10am-12pm on the following dates:

- Friday 14 May 2021
- Friday 28 May 2021
- Friday 4 June 2021

Come along and have a chat with an experienced Relationships Australia Victoria family violence practitioner.

Registration is not required.

Where

Northern Community CareWorks
81 High Street, Preston 3072

Cost

Free of charge.
Refreshments will be provided.

Enquiries

Please email any questions to events@81highstreet.org.au or call (03) 9484 4788.



The Facing Family Violence in Faith Communities initiative is supported by the Victorian Government.



Enquiries:

Please email any questions to events@81highstreet.org.au or call (03) 9484 4788



Online Event

On the Way to Sigtuna 2022: Online “Pre-Conference”

“Heeding the Spirit: New Horizons in Receptive Ecumenism”

When: 17 June 2021

Time: Thursday, 17 Jun 2021, 21:00 – Friday, 18 Jun 2021, 01:00 AEST

Register: Online at EventBrite

[“Heeding the Spirit: New Horizons in Receptive Ecumenism”](#)



The Sigtuna 2022 committee, in partnership with the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University (UK), will host an online “Pre-conference” in June this year. This one-day digital event is open to all and will both provide an excellent preparation for the main conference in 2022, and offer an introduction to the topic for any interested scholars, church leaders, and ecumenical practitioners.

The pre-conference will include a short introduction to Receptive Ecumenism, a series of short, highly accessible talks by leading voices in the field (including some of the invited speakers to the 2022 Sigtuna conference) and time for discussion and sharing. There will also be chance to hear about the Sigtuna conference in more details, and some exciting forthcoming publications.

Please register for the pre-conference **[“Heeding the Spirit: New Horizons in Receptive Ecumenism”](#)**

For further information: info.re5@ehs.se

The *Laudato Si'* Journey Continues

As the *Laudato Si'* Special Anniversary Year draws to a close, the next stage of the journey begins. Registrations for a Seven-Year Journey towards seven *Laudato Si'* Goals will open at the end of the *Season of Creation* when the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development will launch its online *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. The Platform will offer practical guidance on actions in line with the *Laudato Si'* Goals, a supportive community of practice and milestones for our journey together. Now ‘footsteps’ towards each of these Goals are being identified and once finalised will provide a global pathway towards a sustainable Church.

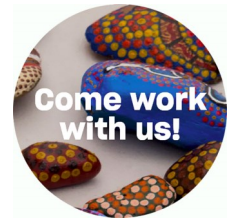
[Read more...](#)



Reconciliation Victoria

We're recruiting!

Reconciliation Victoria is currently seeking applications for the Education Officer role.



The role of Education Officer, reporting to the Operations Manager, is focused on supporting and implementing the Narragunnawali project and supporting Reconciliation Victoria's broader role related to reconciliation in Victorian schools and early years centres.

Read more and apply [here](#). Please share with your networks.

7 deaths in custody in the past 2 months

2 more people have been killed since the 30th anniversary of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. We must fight for justice and accountability for every person who has lost their life, every person who has lost a loved one, and every person who must fear how they will be treated in police custody.

Each of the lives lost in the hands of police custody is important. Their justice is important. Say their names, learn their stories, and fight for justice and accountability. The 'Deaths Inside' project tracks every known Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander death in custody in every jurisdiction from 2008 - 2021. We encourage you to visit and share the website, view the statistics, and read each person's story. The website can be found [here](#).

Support the aims of the [Raise The Age](#) campaign, calling for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised from 10 years of age to at least 14. Support the [Dhadjowa Foundation](#) to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families whose loved ones have died in custody. Support the aims of [Change The Record](#), to end the disproportionate incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Join Michael Long on his iconic walk to Dreamtime at the G.

Details of an amazing lineup of performers and activities to be released soon. Visit the [Long Walk website](#) for further details.

Saturday 5 June

Federation Square



Victorian Council of Churches
President:
Rev Fr Shenouda Boutros
Executive Officer:
Rev Ian Smith
Ph: 03 9412 8487 / 9650 4511

The Victorian Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*** If you have an event that you want others to know about then contact at vcc@vcc.org.au excluding January we plan to publish a Council News each month ***

Council News is the official newsletter of the Victorian Council of Churches

Editor Rev. Ian Smith Executive Officer

Email (as well as to unsubscribe): vcc@vcc.org.au

Tel: 9412 8487 / 9650 4511

Website: <http://www.vcc.org.au/>

We're on the web!
www.vcc.org.au



Victorian
Council of Churches

Contact us: web. www.vcc.org.au

Email. vcc@vcc.org.au

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The new Office

The office of the VCC is now level 6, West Tower, 608 St Kilda Rd.

Access to the building is via the right hand drive to the rear double glass doors.

If you wish to visit please ring 9412 8487 or 0408 313 610 and arrange at time.