

FOR YOUR CALENDAR – JANUARY/FEBRUARY

1 January – World Day of Peace – Pope Francis
1901 – Foundation Commonwealth of Australia
15 Jan – Birth of St Mary MacKillop in Fitzroy, Vic
Birth of Martin Luther King Jr in Atlanta USA
26 Jan – Australia Day/Survival Day

2 February – World Day for Consecrated Life
6 Feb – Waitangi Day Aotearoa New Zealand

8 Feb – Feast Day St Josephine Bakhita

11 Feb – International Day of Women and Girls in Science
11 Feb – World Day of Prayer for the Sick
13 Feb – 2008: Apology to Stolen Generation
17 Feb – 2014: Murder of Iranian asylum seeker Reza Barati on Manus Island
20 Feb – World Day of Social Justice

St Josephine Bakhita – Feast Day 8th February

The International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking was observed for the first time on the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita in 2015.

St Josephine joined the Canossian Sisters in 1893 and her life is an inspiration, particularly, for women who have been trafficked or enslaved and for those who work with them in the often long, slow, painful journey of healing and rehabilitation.

Josephine was a Sudanese-Italian active in Italy for 45 years after having been a slave in Sudan.



POPE FRANCIS' 52nd WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2019

Theme: ***Good politics is at the service of peace***

'It may be helpful to recall the "Beatitudes of the Politician", proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a faithful witness to the Gospel who died in 2002:

- ✚ Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role.
- ✚ Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility.
- ✚ Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest.
- ✚ Blessed be the politician who remains consistent.
- ✚ Blessed be the politician who works for unity.
- ✚ Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change.
- ✚ Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.
- ✚ Blessed be the politician who is without fear.'

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20181208_messaggio-52giornatamondiale-pace2019.html

WE CELEBRATE SMALL STEPS

CARMELITE NGO:

We rejoice with the Carmelite NGO and celebrate their acceptance as an accredited member with Observer Status of the UN Environment Assembly.

<http://carmelitengo.org/>

PRAYERFUL REFLECTIONS

*God of our present and our past,
Help us to remember how you have
empowered people
to work for positive change in our world.
Grant us courage and a vision of the future
to affirm and defend the right to wholeness
for all people.*

Amen.

for Australia Day/Survival Day

*Bounteous God,
we give thanks for this ancient and
beautiful land,
a land of despair and hope,
a land of wealth and abundant harvests,
a land of fire, drought and flood.
We pray that your spirit may continue to
move in this land and bring forgiveness,
justice and reconciliation and an end to all
injustice;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

A Prayerbook for Australia

"...for thousands of years you have lived in this land and fashioned a culture that endures to this day. And during all this time the Spirit of God has been with you..."

Pope John Paul II Alice Springs Address (1986)

