



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

General Secretariat

10 July 2007

Dear Friends

Re: 2007 Social Justice Sunday Statement

Who Is My Neighbour? Australia's role as a global citizen

Issued by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Social Justice Sunday this year will be celebrated on 30th September. I am writing to inform you about the Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Sunday Statement and how schools, Congregations and Church organisations will be able to access this document. The Statement will be launched in the week prior to Social Justice Sunday.

This year, the Social Justice Sunday Statement deals with global issues of justice, development and peace. Copies of the Statement can be ordered from the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council by filling out the attached form.

Additionally, a free electronic version of the Statement will be available on the websites of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (www.acbc.catholic.org.au) and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) from the week of the launch.

In St Luke's Gospel (Lk 10:29–37), a lawyer asks Jesus, 'Who is my neighbour?' Jesus answers with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Australia and Australians have a responsibility to be good global citizens: we have responsibilities beyond our national borders. This year's Social Justice Sunday Statement is a call for us Australians to act more in the interests of our neighbours who do not share our prosperity and security – an invitation to consider the way we live and act as individuals and as a nation.

The 2007 Social Justice Sunday Statement focuses on particular challenges that confront our world and provides suggestions for increasing awareness about global issues of social justice. I commend this Statement to you. I believe this is an important message for our community and would welcome your part in promoting it.

Yours sincerely in Christ

+ *Philip Wilson*

Archbishop Philip Wilson DD JCL
President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference