



No. 94 – September 2008

From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council,
the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

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FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

Social Justice Sunday - 28 September

As Social Justice Sunday approaches, now is the time to place your orders for the Australian Catholic Bishops' Statement. Parishes, schools and groups can order printed copies (minimum of 10) from the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council. The order form can be found on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Bishop Christopher Saunders, Chairman of the ACSJC has called on all Catholics and people of good will to consider the affluence of our nation against the circumstances of those who continue to experience great hardship.

'No matter how well the economy performs, the health of our society can be judged by the treatment of its most vulnerable citizens. Following years of prosperity, Australia has the means to act for the common good and with a special concern for the poor. We are challenged to really consider what sort of society we want now and for the future.'

Reflecting on the 2008 Social Justice Sunday Statement, *A Rich Young Nation - The challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia*, the Bishop poses the questions: 'What values characterise our daily lives? Have we become obsessed with economic success and material acquisition? Do we recognise those in need and our obligation to do something about it?

'For Christians, the Word of God constantly reminds us of our obligation to the poor. Each time we gather at Eucharist we give thanks for the saving presence of Christ who died for all. As the Holy Spirit transforms the gifts of bread and wine into the Lord's body and blood, so we are renewed in our commitment to be Christ's witnesses to the world.

'The Holy Father has affirmed the importance of our shared commitment to the poor when he said of the Church:

...love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to her as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word. (Deus Caritas Est, n.22)

'This Social Justice Sunday, we are all challenged to consider how we can be the Good News to the poor,' Bishop Saunders says.

In the 2008 Statement, the Bishops renew the call they made in 1992, as Australia emerged from a global recession:

'Once again we call for justice for those afflicted by poverty in our affluent society. We call on all political and community leaders, as they put in place policies based on well thought-out strategies for the years ahead, to bear in mind the circumstances and needs of the most vulnerable members of our society...

'It is important that together we face the reality of poverty and seek ways to address it, however difficult that may be at a personal or societal level. As a country that espouses the value of the 'fair go', it is time to act for those who have missed out on the benefits and opportunities that the good economic times have provided this nation,' the Bishops say.

Order forms, associated resources and information about the Social Justice Sunday Statement can be found on the ACSJC website: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues / Resources

NEW RESOURCE - BE MY WITNESSES: LIVING AS CHURCH AFTER WYD08

The Young Christian Students and Young Christian Workers have produced a program that focuses on how parishes, schools and communities can support young people to live as witnesses and disciples after World Youth Day. *Be My Witnesses* contains tips and ideas to help pilgrims and parishes turn their WYD08 experiences into new ways forward. It includes activities for reflecting with pilgrims on their journey and strategies for deepening faith, planning action and keeping connected. It also suggests ways that the whole parish can make a lasting space for young people. The resource can be downloaded from the AYCW website or an order form can be downloaded for hard copies of the resource. Visit: <http://www.ycw.org.au/>

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK 2008: 12-18 OCTOBER

Anti-Poverty Week focuses on poverty around the world, including Australia. It includes the UN's International Anti-Poverty Day, 17 October. The Week's main aims are to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship and to encourage research, discussion and action. Last year, more than 300 organisations were involved in activities, with a total participation of more than 10,000 people around the country. Everyone is very welcome to organise an activity during the Week or join in something being organised by other people. The website

www.antipovertyweek.org.au includes basic fact sheets, promotional material, a calendar of activities and links to other sources of information and ideas. It also includes contact details for the National Office and the Co-Chairs in each State. For more info or to list activities on the website, contact 1300 797 290 or apw@antipovertyweek.org.au

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE AUSTRALIA SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

Catholic Earthcare has a new sustainability initiative for the Catholic community in Australia: A Strategic Systems-based Integrated Sustainability Initiative (ASSISI) - for schools, parishes, congregations, health and aged care facilities and other church organisations. The ASSISI for Schools program is being piloted in four schools; Catholic Earthcare Australia is working with the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, the Catholic Education Commission of NSW, a variety of organisations with technical knowledge, a variety of community organisations, Climate Coolers and Greening Communities. To find out more about ASSISI for Schools and to register your interest, visit: <http://catholicearthcareoz.net/assisi.html>

2008 CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES AWARDS

Nominations are now being called for the 2008 Catholic Social Services Australia Awards. These Awards recognise and promote the work of Catholic Social Services Australia member

organisations and of individuals working in the broader social services sector. These Awards pay special tribute to outstanding people, programs and organisations who work tirelessly, and often quietly, for a better life for vulnerable, marginalised and disadvantaged people. Nominations close 24 September 2008. The Awards presentation forms part of the National Conference program, with the winners to be announced on Monday evening 13 October 2008. For more information please call (02) 6285 1366 or visit <http://catholicsocialservices.org.au/awards/2008>

2008 HUMAN RIGHTS MEDALS AND AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the 2008 Human Rights Medals and Awards. This year's theme is: 'Dignity and justice for all of us' - to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since 1987, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has recognised the often extraordinary contribution to Australian society of a wide variety of people to issues of human rights, social justice and equality through the annual Human Rights Medals and Awards. The 2008 winners will be announced at the Human Rights Medals and Awards luncheon ceremony to be held on Wednesday, 10 December in Sydney. Entries close 3 October. For further info contact (02) 9284 9618 or visit: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/hr%5Fawards/>

POSITION VACANT - INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS MANAGER

Caritas Australia is seeking an experienced and strategic manager with: extensive experience in international development with a partnership approach; a proven ability to engage in the Aid policy arena; an understanding of Catholic Church networks and the contexts within which Caritas works; leadership, advocacy and communication skills. Experience of working in the Asia and Pacific region would be an advantage and respect for the social teachings, ethos and values of the Catholic sector including knowledge of Catholic Church structures and reporting responsibilities is essential. Applications close 12 September. For further information visit: http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Positions_vacant&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=4317

ACF CAMPAIGN TO STOP PROPOSED URANIUM SALES TO RUSSIA

The Australian Conservation Foundation is calling on the Minister for Foreign Affairs to reject a proposed treaty for sale of Australian uranium to Russia. ACF believes this flawed treaty will unacceptably weaken Australia's policy and practice on nuclear safeguards, compromise our efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons and make Australia complicit in serious failures of the Russian state - where the rule of law, democratic values and human rights are not being observed. To find out more, visit: http://www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=1880&c=262618

REVIEW: ADULT MIGRANT ENGLISH PROGRAM DISCUSSION PAPER

As part of a review of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP), the Department of Immigration and Citizenship has released a discussion paper that proposes new directions to cater for the changing labour market needs and profiles of new arrivals. The Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson, invites your views on the new direction and how an effective and responsive AMEP can be delivered. To download the discussion paper, go to: http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/amep_discussion_paper.pdf

HEADS OF CHURCHES STATEMENT ON PALESTINE-ISRAEL

On 4 June at Australian Parliament House, a Heads of Churches Statement on Palestine-Israel was released. Reverend Gregor Henderson Head of the Uniting Church of Australia, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall Anglican Primate of Australia, Archbishop Mark Coleridge Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn and Carolyn Kitto representing Tim Costello the CEO of World Vision Australia, spoke on the need for a just and sustainable peace for both Palestine and Israel and called on the Australian Government and the Christian community to commit to working for a just and sustainable peace. The Statement was supported and signed by 57 National Heads of Churches, Church Leaders and Church Related International Aid Agencies. For more information, visit <http://icappi.org.au/>

NEW RESOURCE - 'YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES'
'The Lantern' is a set of 12 pamphlets in an attractive storage folder. Published by the Columban Mission Institute, there are twelve topics with stories and chat points that are relevant and challenging on: Witnessing Christ in the World; Dialogue with Australian Culture; The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults; Dialogue Within the Church; The Marginalised; Interreligious Dialogue; Migrants and Refugees; Environmental Dialogue; Learning how to Live Simply, Justly and at Peace; Reconciliation;

A Spirituality of Mission; A Local Inculturated Church. The Lantern can be used for: Topics for group discussion and reflection; Making connections between the spiritual life and lived faith; The RCIA program; Faith formation; A resource for further learning; Finding links to groups active in the community. \$10 per set includes GST. Postage extra. To order contact: Anne Lanyon, Columban Mission Institute, Locked Bag 2002, Strathfield NSW 2135. Ph 02 9352 8021 / Fax 02 9746 8033 / Email pej.cmi@columban.org.au

Latest Publications

(Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from the ACSJC website [that can be faxed to (02) 8306 3498]: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>)

2008 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT - ORDER NOW!

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled 'A Rich Young Nation: The challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia'. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form is available on the ACSJC website. The easiest way to order is to download the order form, make a credit card payment and fax it to (02) 8306 3498. Refer: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps towards eradicating poverty.

Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499

Ecumenical resource: 'Faces of Poverty'.

Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499 or download from the National Council of Churches website: <http://www.ncca.org.au/>

Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary, Liturgy Notes, Teachers' Notes and Powerpoint presentation - now available or soon available at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

PAMPHLET - 'CALLED TO BE THE GOOD NEWS'

The ACSJC has issued a pamphlet 'Called to be the Good News', which outlines the key principles of Catholic social teaching. It draws on relevant Encyclicals and the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church to highlight the principles of human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity. The document, which includes a prayer, is ideal for Catholic organisations, schools and parish groups. Cost 10 copies for \$1.50 including postage. Call (02) 8306 3499.

SERIES PAPER - 'TOWARDS A MORE JUST WORLD'.

Duncan MacLaren brings more than 25 years experience with Caritas Internationalis and other NGOs to his examination of how the Church can confront new problems concerning social justice and human rights. Paper No. 63 in the Catholic Social Justice Series uses as a reference point the Second Vatican Council's call for Catholics to 'read the signs of the times'. The paper explains how Catholic social teaching and its basis in the Gospels makes Catholic NGOs different from other agencies. It also suggests areas where Catholic social teaching has to be expanded to address some of the deep-seated problems of the modern world, particularly in the realm of advocacy, peace-building and reconciliation. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

SERIES PAPER - 'PALESTINE AND ISRAEL'.

In Catholic Social Justice Series No.62, journalist and author Peter Manning provides a comprehensive analysis of the issues behind the Middle East conflict. Throughout the tragic recent history of the region, the Catholic Church has consistently called for an even-handed, just and sustainable peace in which the claims and needs of both sides are heard. 'Until each side recognises the pain the other is suffering, there is no prospect of justice,' writes ACSJC Chairman Bishop Christopher Saunders in the foreword to the paper. Peter Manning's detailed examination of the key causes of the conflict helps readers understand the reasons for the impasse. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

SERIES PAPER - 'CONFRONTING THE DEATH PENALTY'.

Catholic Social Justice Series No.61 consists of four essays by authoritative writers on the

moral, legal and personal aspects of the death penalty. It considers capital punishment in the light of the attacks of September 2001, the international 'war on terror' and the moral and political problems thrown up as we see capital punishment rigorously applied in countries close to us. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers and the Social Justice Diary: \$6.60 a copy, plus postage. Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1; 2-3 copies \$1.45; 4-5 copies \$2.45)

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499, fax (02) 8306 3481 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>

This Month's Notices

CONTINUING THROUGH SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. EXHIBITION: 'IN LIVING MEMORY (NSW). An exhibition of surviving photographs from 1919 to 1966 from the records of the NSW Aborigines Welfare Board, presented by State Records NSW and NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Exhibition talks and tours for groups of 5 to 20 people, weekdays between 10.00am and 4.00pm. Call (02) 8247 8660 for enquiries and bookings. Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm, Sat 10.00am - 4.00pm. Free entry. State Records Gallery, Sydney Records Centre, 2 Globe Street (off George Street), The Rocks. Enquiries: (02) 8247 8660 or (02) 8247 8609. Web: http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/whats_on_at_the_state_records_gallery_8327.asp.

30 AUGUST. FORUM: 'THE CHURCH, THE STATE, THE MEDIA - WHO SETS THE NATION'S SOCIAL JUSTICE AGENDA?' (ACT). Presenters: Rev. Elenie Poulos (National Director, UnitingJustice Australia); Jack Waterford (Editor at Large, *Canberra Times*); John Langmore (Political Science Dept, University

of Melbourne; Former Federal MHR for Fraser); John Warhurst (Professor of Political Science, ANU). Sponsors: St Ninian's Uniting Church Social Action Group. Saturday 30 August 2008, 9.30 am - 3.30 pm. St Ninian's Uniting Church, cr Mouat & Brigalow Sts, Lyneham ACT. Registration and information: (02) 6251 2272 or (02) 6254 2961; Email jashaw@actewagl.net.au or mccconnell@ffdir.org.au.

31 AUGUST. REFUGEE AND MIGRANT SUNDAY (NATIONAL). Check your local diocese or parish for activities, which include: Festival of Refugees, 3.00pm - 5.00pm, Box Hill Town Hall; for information see http://www.ncca.org.au/actforpeace/protect_refugees/refugee_and_migrant_sunday.

1 SEPTEMBER. CONCERT FOR ZIMBABWE: 'LOVE WAR AND PEACE' (NSW). With the Sydney Soloists. The Sydney Peace foundation invites you to a special performance to raise funds for the Movement for Democracy in Zimbabwe, by arrangement with the Sydney Peace Foundation, the Sydney Soloists and the

Movement for Democracy in Zimbabwe. 7.00 pm, Music Workshop, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Macquarie St, Sydney. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Tickets: \$25. On line booking at www.cityrecitalhall.com. Tel: (02) 8256 2223. Information: <http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/publications/SPF-bulletin-July08.pdf>.

2 SEPTEMBER. LECTURE - THE 2008 BREAKDOWN IN THE WTO DOHA ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (NSW). Presented by the Sydney Centre for International Law; delivered by Dr Brett Williams, Director of the Public International Economic Law Program. Dr Williams will explain what happened at the Ministerial meeting. He will also make some general observations on what the parties have done wrong over the course of the negotiations, and assess what might happen next. 5.30 - 6.45 pm, Minter Ellison Room, Level 13, Law School, 173-175 Phillip St, Sydney (cnr King & Elizabeth Sts). Information: <http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/scil/events.html>. RSVP: law.scil-rsvp@usyd.edu.au.

3 SEPTEMBER. COMMEMORATION: 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ACT). Hosted by UN Information Centre and Amnesty International ACT and Southern NSW. Speakers: Professor Hilary Charlesworth, Australian Research Council Federation Fellow and Director of the Centre for International Governance and Justice; Richard Towle, UN High Commission for Refugees for Australia, NZ, PNG and the South Pacific; Dorothy Bennett, long time Amnesty member. 6.00pm - 7.00pm, Canberra Museum and Art Gallery Theatre, London Circuit, Civic, Canberra. Enquiries: bede_carmody@amnesty.org.au.

3 SEPTEMBER. SEMINAR: FAMILIES CARING ACROSS BORDERS: HOW MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES CARE FOR AGEING PARENTS ACROSS DISTANCE (VIC). Presented by LaTrobe University Refugee Health Research Centre with Dr Raelene Wilding, Lecturer in Sociology, La Trobe University. Registration 5.00pm, seminar 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Foundation House, 6 Gardiner Street, Brunswick. Contact rhrc@latrobe.edu.au or tel. (03) 9479 5874. Web: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rhrc/conferences.html>.

3 SEPTEMBER. MINI-CONFERENCE: HUMAN SECURITY AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE (NSW). A free conference co-hosted by the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney and World Citizens' Association (Australia). Speakers will discuss proposals that could strengthen global efforts to promote peace and human security, including a look at Australia's contribution. Speakers include Prof. John Langmore (University of Melbourne); Emeritus Prof. Stuart Rees (Director, Sydney Peace Foundation); Kavitha Suthanthiraraj, (Global Action to Prevent War, NY); Annie Herro (Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies). 2:00pm - 5:00pm, HR Carne Lecture Theatre (RMC Gunn Building, Regimental Crescent), University of Sydney. Information: Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, arts.cpac@usyd.edu.au or telephone (02) 9351 7686.

3-5 SEPTEMBER. NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VOLUNTEERING (QLD). This year's conference offers the opportunity to explore current and emerging trends in volunteering. For not-for-profit organisations, volunteer managers, policy makers, government officials, corporations, researchers, academics and volunteers. Standard registration rate \$895. Register online at www.volunteeringaustralia.org/conference. Enquiries: (03) 9820 4100 or email events@volunteeringaustralia.org. Web: <http://www.acoss.org.au/Events.aspx?displayD=99&articleID=4362>.

4 SEPTEMBER. LECTURE: 'HABEAS CORPUS, PROCEDURAL RIGHTS, AND FUNDAMENTAL LAW' (VIC). Speaker: Larry May, Washington University, St Louis USA. 6.00pm to 7.30pm, Monash University Law Chambers, 472 Bourke Street, Melbourne. RSVP to castan.centre@law.monash.edu.au or (03) 9905 3327.

5 SEPTEMBER. APPLICATIONS CLOSE FOR 18TH ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEOPLE'S DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM (NATIONAL). The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is calling for applications for its 18th Annual Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy Training Programme for Human Rights Defenders from the Asia-Pacific Region and Indigenous Australia. This three-week human rights and advocacy training course provides participants with a solid foundation of knowledge of the international human rights framework and

the UN system, as well as building practical advocacy, media and internet skills. The course will take place in Sydney and Canberra from 24 November to 12 December and coincides with the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Application form available at http://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au/documents/DTP18A08ApplicationFormFinal_000.doc. Web: www.forum-asia.org.

5 SEPTEMBER. FORUM: CREATING A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT AND THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR (NT). The Not-for-Profit Sector and the Commonwealth Government are exploring ways to develop a new and stronger relationship with each other, based on partnership and respect. It has been proposed that this could be done through the development of a National Compact. What do you think the value of a compact is, what should a compact focus on, and what should be in one? 9.00am to 1:00pm, Centre for Appropriate Technology, 32 Priest St, Alice Springs. Places are limited, so register as soon as possible: www.acoss.org.au, or phone (02) 9310 6203, or email compact@acoss.org.au. Copies of the consultation discussion paper are at www.acoss.org.au.

5-9 SEPTEMBER, 13-17 SEPTEMBER, 20-24 SEPTEMBER. DISCOVER LIFE IN A REFUGEE CAMP IN YOUR CITY (NSW, ACT). Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Australia is launching the first Australian tour of REFUGEE CAMP IN YOUR CITY, which aims to create a better understanding of the vulnerability of life for displaced people and refugees who have fled their homes. This innovative outdoor event is fully interpreted by MSF Australian returned field workers who have witnessed life in a refugee camp first-hand. 5-9 Sept: The Overflow, Sydney Olympic Park. 13-17 September: Martin Place, Sydney. 20-24 September: Glebe Park, Canberra. Information: <http://refugeecamp.msf.org.au/>; phone 02 8570 2625 or email: alexandra.brown@sydney.msf.org.

5-30 SEPTEMBER. TIMOR-LESTE TEXTILE EXHIBITION (VIC). Launch September 5 at 6pm; Forum ('Meanings, Makers and Markets'): September 6, 10.00am - 5.00pm, at St Kilda Town Hall and The Gallery, 99A Carlisle St, St

Kilda. Jointly presented by Alola Foundation, Friends of Suai Committee, City of Port Phillip, East Timor Women Australia (ETWA), METAC, International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), and Monash University. Information: assist@portphillip.vic.gov.au; phone (02) 9209 6777; web: www.friendsofsuai.org.au.

8-9 SEPTEMBER. THE AUSTRALIAN FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACE SEMINAR (VIC).

The importance of the family friendly workplace has become an issue that affects all organisations. Leaders from business, government and academia will provide insights and facilitate discussion on family friendly strategies. Speakers: Tim Costello, Pru Goward MP, Elizabeth Broderick, Robert Orth, Mark Ney APM. Main Hall, Melbourne Town Hall. Information: Workplace Training Advisory of Australia, 1300 138 037, Fax. (03) 9270 9099, Email registrations@wtaa.com.au. Web: <http://www.familyfriendlyworkplace.com.au/resources/Family%20Friendly%20Workplace%20Seminar.pdf>.

9 SEPTEMBER. LECTURE - THE PROHIBITION OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS: AFTER THE DUBLIN TREATY (NSW). Presented by the Sydney Centre for International Law; delivered by Dr Brian Rappert, University of Exeter. On 30 May 2008, over 100 states adopted the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). This presentation examines the prohibition agreed in the CCM in terms of the precedents it sets for the regulation of armed conflict. In making no exceptions for what counts as an appropriate type of 'cluster munition', this weapon now joins a relatively small group of others subject to a wide ranging prohibition by major formal international treaties. 5.30 - 6.45pm, Minter Ellison Room, Level 13, Law School 173-175 Phillip St, Sydney (cnr King & Elizabeth Sts). Information: <http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/scil/events.html>. RSVP: law.scil-rsvp@usyd.edu.au.

10 - 11 SEPTEMBER. COURSE: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING (NSW). Presented by Fr John Flader. 9.00 am - 5.00 pm, Wednesday and Thursday, Catholic Adult Education Centre, 3 Keating Street, Lidcombe NSW 2141. Tel (02) 9643 3660; Fax (02) 9643 3669; www.caec.com.au; info@caec.com.au.

11 SEPTEMBER. FUNDRAISER: 2008 REFUGEE BALL (NSW). To raise funds for international and domestic projects being supported by Friends of STARTTS (Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors). 7.00pm, Dockside, the Balcony Level, Cockle Bay Wharf, Sydney. To book tickets: www.raffle.org.au. For further details, email refugeeball@friendsofstartts.org.

12 SEPTEMBER. THIRD ANNUAL FABER LECTURE - FRANK BRENNAN SJ ON 'FAITH AND JUSTICE: IT IS NEVER ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER' (QLD). Fr Brennan will reflect on the situation both of the Australian Church post-World Youth Day and of Australian society after the 2020 Summit, in light of the Ignatian commitment to the service of faith and the promotion of justice. All welcome to attend this free public lecture. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion. 7.30pm, Holy Spirit Church, Harriett Street, Auchenflower. Web: <http://www.opw.catholic.org.au/upcoming-events/brisbane-third-annual-faber-lecture.html>.

12 SEPTEMBER. LECTURE - 'AFTER THE APOLOGY: A DIALOGUE ON RECONCILIATION' (VIC). To what extent does the apology mark the beginning of a new relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians? Where do we need to go from here? Professor Larissa Behrendt, Tom Calma (HREOC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Race Discrimination Commissioner), Prof. Ian Anderson (University of Melbourne). Chair: Kylie Belling. 6:00pm - 8:00pm, Village Roadshow Lecture Theatre, State Library of Victoria, Swanston Street, Melbourne. All welcome. RSVP: human-rights@unimelb.edu.au. Information: (03) 8344 1096; email p.harris@unimelb.edu.au. Web: <http://www.humanrights.unimelb.edu.au>.

13 SEPTEMBER. INAUGURAL NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LEGAL BALL (VIC). Melbourne Town Hall: Bookings essential. Information: (03) 9607 9474; (03) 9607 9474; 0413 009 072; Fax 03 9607 9438.

13-17 SEPTEMBER. REFUGEE CAMP IN YOUR CITY (NSW). The Overflow, Sydney Olympic Park. See entry for 5-9 September.

14-15 SEPTEMBER. NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LEGAL CONFERENCE (QLD). Topics include: '40 Years Since The Referendum' (The Hon Sir Gerard Brennan AC KBE); 'Legal Wins/Losses since the Referendum and Future Challenges for Indigenous Peoples' (Tony McAvoy, Tom Calma, Mullenjaiwakka, Megan Davis, Heron Loban); 'Running a Successful Native Title Case' (Glenn Kelly, David Saylor); 'Other Avenues for Realisation of Land Aspirations'; 'Intellectual Property' (Terri Janke). Information: <http://www.nswbar.asn.au/circulars/nilc07.pdf>. Ph (07) 3238 5109, (07) 3238 5100; Email: shaynegoodwin@qldbar.asn.au.

14 AND 21 SEPTEMBER. 'FIRST AUSTRALIANS': FREE SCREENINGS FOR LECTURERS AND TEACHERS (NATIONAL). 'First Australians' consists of seven documentaries that chronicle the birth of contemporary Australia as never told before, from the perspective of its first people. 'First Australians' explores what unfolds when the oldest living culture in the world is overrun by the world's greatest empire. Special preview screenings, Sunday 14 September at 10.00 am in all capitals except Hobart, where the screening is 21 September at 10.00 am. All tickets must be booked through the Metro/Screen Ed web site: <http://www.metromagazine.com.au>. Maximum of 4 bookings per person. Please print out the booking confirmation once you have made your booking and take it with you to the screening, as it is your ticket. Please also note: No children or teenagers are allowed at these special teacher preview screenings.

15 SEPTEMBER. TALK: 'LAY CATHOLICS - THE REALITY AND THE DREAM' (NSW). Hosted by the Australian Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ACMICA). Guest speaker: Kimberley Davis, Office for the Participation of Women (OPW). 6.00pm: Mass at Newtown Parish Church; talk at 7.00 pm in the Church. Response: Former Pax Romana-ICMICA President Bill Neville reflects on the meaning of ICMICA's 60 years. 8.00pm: Dinner at Newtown Presbytery, 109 Lennox St Newtown (across from the Church). All welcome; Talk Free; dinner: \$35 or \$10 (concession). Money raised will go towards ACMICA and Pax Romana. RSVP essential by 13

September if attending dinner. Ph: (02) 9557 3197; Email info@acmica.org. Web: http://www.acmica.org/paxromana_15sep07.pdf.

15 SEPTEMBER. GLOBAL AFFAIRS DIALOGUES (NSW). Explores the environmental impact of climate change, war and social strife, and the wide range of political and religious influences that shape our attitudes, values, and subsequently our actions. 7.00pm - 9.00pm, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000. Further information: 0431 605 374; dialogue_quest@hotmail.com.

17 SEPTEMBER. SPIRITUALITY FOR ALL SEASONS - TALK ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING (ACT). Presented by Sr Pauline Coll, Chair of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans. 7:30pm - 9:00pm, Rheinberger Centre, Cnr Weston and Loch Streets, Yarralumla, ACT. Cost: \$5.00. Inquiries: (02) 6163 4302 or margaret.ryan@catholiclife.org.au. Web: <http://www.opw.catholic.org.au/upcoming-events/spirituality-through-lectio-divina.html>.

17 SEPTEMBER. SEMINAR: THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INTERVENTION PHASE ONE: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA? (ACT). Delivered by Peter Stewart (Doctoral Scholar, James Cook University). Presented by Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. The Intervention's first year of operation has closed on a confused note. It is perceived by some as a qualified success, others disagree. 12.30 to 2.00pm, Humanities Conference Room, 1st Floor, AD Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), ANU. Enquiries: (02) 6125 0587 or email: admin.caep@anu.edu.au.

18 SEPTEMBER. CONVERSATION ON PEACEMAKING WITH CLAUDINE WERLEIGH (NSW). Sponsored by the NSW Ecumenical Council. Claudette is Secretary General of Pax Christi International. Her life's work has been bridging the gulf separating different worlds: the poor and the affluent, women and power structures. She will share stories about a spirituality of peace and social justice and about being an agent of change and transformation. 10.00am, Caritas House, 24-32 O'Riordan Street (cnr Reserve St), Alexandria NSW. Information: (02) 9299 2215 or jinkpin@ncca.org.au; 0411 450 953 or mscjust@smartchat.net.au.

20-24 SEPTEMBER. REFUGEE CAMP IN YOUR CITY (ACT). Glebe Park, Canberra. See entry for 5-9 September.

23-24 SEPTEMBER. WORKSHOP: MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF AT RISK ABORIGINAL CLIENTS (NSW). Presented by Dr Tracy Westerman. Function Centre, University of Technology Sydney. Information: Email ips@ips.iinet.net.au; Phone (08) 9362 2036; Fax (08) 9362 5546; Brochure: <http://www.indigenousspsychservices.com.au/index.php?page=viewStory&title=Purchase+Training>.

24 SEPTEMBER. SEMINAR - 'ABORIGINAL POVERTY: WHAT'S SOCIAL CAPITAL GOT TO DO WITH IT?' (ACT). Presented by Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research; delivered by Julie Lahn (Postdoctoral Fellow, CAEPR). This seminar draws together Aboriginal perspectives on the meaning of poverty to reflect on the relevance of social capital concepts for understanding Aboriginal economic disadvantage. 12.30 to 2.00pm, Humanities Conference Room, 1st Floor, AD Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), ANU. Enquiries: (02) 6125 0587 or email: admin.caep@anu.edu.au.

25 SEPTEMBER. FORUM - HUMAN RIGHTS AND RECONCILIATION: BRIDGING THE GAP IN TIMES OF TRANSITION (NSW). Speakers: Professor Stephan Parmentier, Faculty of Law, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Race Discrimination Commissioner, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. 6.15pm, Law Theatre, Law Building, University of New South Wales, Kensington. RSVP: ahrc@unsw.edu.au by Thursday, 18th September 2008. Further details at <http://www.ahrcentre.org/content/Activites/AHRCEvents.html>.

25 - 28 SEPTEMBER AND 10 - 12 OCTOBER. WORKSHOP: ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT IN PRISON (ACT). AVP workshops seek to empower people to lead non-violent lives through affirmation, respect for all, community building, co-operation and trust. The Basic workshop explores interpersonal conflict resolution skills by learning through doing. Information: (02) 6251 0037 or (02) 6251 2942; Web www.avp.org.au or email peacefulpathways.avp@gmail.com.

27 SEPTEMBER - 18 OCTOBER. ERISJ IMMERSION: TIMOR LESTE (INTERNATIONAL).

The Timor-Leste immersion promises to be an incredible journey into the life of the Timorese people and the resilient culture which has endured so much in recent years. As Australia's nearest northern neighbour, and a newly independent nation, there is so much to engage with from a social justice and human rights perspective. The Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice has built strong links with various communities that will be hosting us during this time. Participants will have opportunities to live with local people and engage in the daily life of the villages we visit. Cost for participants departing from Perth: \$2200 (unwaged), \$2600 (waged) or \$2900 (employer sponsored). Contact the Immersions Co-ordinator on (08) 9432 2411 or email: immersions@erisj.org.au for pricing information if your departure point is not from Perth. Web: <http://www.erisj.org.au>

29 SEPTEMBER. SYMPOSIUM: EMBRACING DIVERSITY (QLD). A Symposium on practical approaches when working with diversity. 8.15am - 4.30pm at the Logan Entertainment Centre. Hosted by Multilink, ECCQ, MAQ. For govt & private sector \$185, early bird \$170/ Non govt orgs \$165, early bird \$150. To book or for more information, ring Multilink on (07) 3808 4463, or email jessica@multilink.org.au.

30 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER. THE 4 Rs CONFERENCE - RIGHTS, RECONCILIATION, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY (NSW). The 4Rs international conference at the University of Technology Sydney frames Australia's future as a cosmopolitan civil society. The conference examines four themes: human rights, Indigenous advancement, inter-communal relations and active citizenship. Convened by Prof. Andrew Jakubowicz, Director, Centre for Cosmopolitan Civil Societies, University of Technology Sydney. Information and registration: <http://www.the4rsconference.org>.

1 OCTOBER. SEMINAR: 'A SPACE TO SPEAK - CHALLENGING REPRESENTATIONS OF CULTURALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES' (VIC). Presented by La Trobe University Refugee Health Research Centre with Caitlin Nunn,

Research Officer, The Refugee Health Research Centre, La Trobe University/Foundation House. Registration 5.00pm, Seminar: 5.30pm to 6.30pm, Foundation House, 6 Gardiner Street, Brunswick, Vic. Further information: rhrc@latrobe.edu.au or (03) 9479 5874 or visit www.latrobe.edu.au/rhrc/conferences.html.

2 OCTOBER. DISCUSSION: WORDS, IMAGES VOICES - LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS THAT SPEAKS OF JUSTICE (NSW). Presented by the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education and the Institute for Advancing Community Engagement, Australian Catholic University. 2.00pm - 4.00pm, Gleeson Auditorium, ACU National Strathfield Campus. Bookings close 26 September. Cost: \$25.00. For information and application form: http://www.erc.org.au/index.php?module=documents&JASDocumentManager_op=viewDocument&JASDocument_id=153.

2 - 4 OCTOBER. CONFERENCE - 'DISCOVERING BALANCE: PRISON REFORM, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS' (WA). Hosted by the Institute for Restorative Justice and Penal Reform and the Centre for Social and Community Research, Murdoch University. The *Discovering Balance* conference will explore issues relating to penal reform, restorative justice and human rights. Speakers include Prof. David Brown (UNSW), Prof. Andrew Coyle (Kings College London), Prof. Richard Harding (Inspector of Custodial Services, WA), Steven Heath (Chief Magistrate, WA), Ian Johnson (Commissioner, WA Department of Corrective Services), Prof. John Pratt (Victoria University of Wellington, NZ), Hon. Margaret Quirk (Minister for Corrective Services), Baroness Vivien Stern (Kings College London), Prof. Hilde Tubex (Department of Corrective Services). Earlybird registration closes 1 September; registration closes 31 September. Web: <http://irjpr.net.au/conference/>. Email: conference@irjpr.net.au. Tel: (08) 9325 5766.

2 - 5 OCTOBER. CONFERENCE: 'CHRISTIAN MISSION IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE' (ACT). Papers on all streams of missiology, including public theology, history, contextual mission and global mission. Speakers will include Professor Nico Koopman, Director of the Beyers

Naudé Centre for Public Theology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Details, and brochure, available at: www.missionstudies.org/au. Standard and concession rates: Early Bird registration \$195/\$120; after 1 September, \$240/\$150. Day registration: \$100 per day. Conference enquiries: (02) 6272 6201. Email jpitman@csu.edu.au or kchambers@csu.edu.au

3 OCTOBER. 2008 PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE (VIC). This event will discuss developments in the protection of human rights by Australian charters and

human rights acts. The conference provides an important opportunity to examine the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, the ACT Human Rights Act and other charters of rights. The day is aimed at both a legal and non-legal audience. Registration closes Friday, 26 September 2008 - no registrations or refunds possible after this date. Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton. Enquiries: (03) 8344 1011 or law-cccs@unimelb.edu.au. Web: <http://cccs.law.unimelb.edu.au>.

News Monitor

Indonesian executions “torture”: Priest

Describing their deaths as “torture”, a Catholic priest who witnessed the shooting executions of two Nigerian drug traffickers in Indonesia says it took seven minutes for them to die.

Nun runs Israel blockade

Tony Blair’s sister in law and an 81 year old Catholic nun joined two peace ships organised by a Melbourne man, Michael Shaik, which broke through Israel’s blockade of Gaza to deliver relief supplies.

End racism: Benedict

Emphasising the universality of the Church’s mission, Pope Benedict called for an end to racism.

Urgent to act on Murray-Darling: Toohey

Catholic Earthcare chair and Wilcannia-Forbes Bishop Chris Toohey said that it is urgent for Australians to get involved in addressing the degradation of the Murray-Darling basin.

Child removal threshold ‘too low’: ACU academic

ACU lecturer Dr Patricia Hansen told a child welfare conference that parents are losing custody of their children when “they could be given a second chance”.

Hickey slams WA Labor over homeless

On the eve of state elections, Perth Archbishop Barry Hickey criticised Western Australia’s Labor government for failing the homeless while the Broome diocese also highlighted housing issues in the region.

Sri Lankan bishop: ‘Help war refugees’

Jaffna Bishop Thomas Savundaranayagam appealed for assistance after nearly 200,000 people were forced to flee their homes after renewed fighting between Sri Lankan government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels.

Deported refugee killed

A Palestinian refugee, Akram al Masri, who was deported from Australia in 2002 been killed in his homeland less than six months after Australian authorities refused him a visitor’s visa.

Fiji seeks to end coup culture

The National Council for Building a Better Fiji co-chaired by Suva Archbishop Petero Mataka and coup leader Commodore Frank Bainimarama endorsed a People’s Charter for Change seeking an end to the country’s “coup culture”.

Edmund Rice Centre backs guest worker scheme

The Edmund Rice Centre welcomed the Australian Government's decision to launch a Pacific Guest Worker Scheme but it said that the Government also needs to address indigenous unemployment here.

Churches pray for Murray-Darling

Churches on the New South Wales South Coast observed a week of prayers for the well being of communities along the Murray-Darling river system.

Home a human right

Describing homelessness as human rights abuse, Society of St Vincent de Paul President Syd Tutton called on the Australian government to enshrine the right to housing in a Bill of Rights or other legislation.

- Courtesy CathNews, click on titles for details.



Social Justice Calendar

1 MON Biodiversity Month
National Wattle Day
First day of Ramadan

2 TUE Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Act, 1991

5 FRI Death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 1997

7 SUN 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Fathers Day
National Threatened Species Day (last Tasmanian tiger in captivity died in Hobart Zoo, 1936)

8 MON Birth of Mary, Mother of Jesus (Feast)
International Literacy Day

11 THU Terrorist attack on New York and Washington DC, 2001

12 FRI Death of Steve Biko, 1977

14 SUN Exaltation of the Holy Cross

15 MON Racial Hatred Act, Australia, 1995

16 TUE International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

18 THU Death of Dag Hammarskjold, 1961

19 FRI Thailand Military Coup, 2006

21 SUN 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
International Day of Peace

23 TUE Australian Consumers Association launched, 1959

27 SAT St Vincent de Paul
Aung San Suu Kyi (Burma) forms National League for Democracy, 1988

28 SUN 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Social Justice Sunday
Death of John Pat in Roeburne Prison WA, 1983, initiated the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

30 TUE World Maritime Day
Racial Discrimination Act proclaimed, Australia, 1975

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Website: <http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>. ACSJC Briefing is sent by email at the beginning of each month (except January). To subscribe or unsubscribe, go to the front page of the website Comments and contributions are also welcome.