



ACSJC Monthly Briefing July 2014 No 158



From the Secretariat, July 2014

Dear Friends,

This year Social Justice Sunday falls on 28 September.

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council is preparing to publish the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2014–2015.

This year's Statement is titled *A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in this sporting nation*. The Statement acknowledges the vital role that sport plays in the life of our nation. It celebrates the gifts that sport can give us as individuals and as a society, but also challenges us to confront a darker side of sport.

The title of the Statement refers to St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 9:24–27), where Paul compares the 'wreath that will wither', for which the athletes of the time competed, with the imperishable crown that we aspire to as followers of Christ.

Australians are passionate about their sport. The nation seems to stop for a grand final or a crucial cricket test. Local sporting clubs are a nucleus around which a true community can grow up and flourish. Lifelong friendships are forged; young people learn skills and resilience; volunteers devote time and energy to their organisations. Sport brings together people who otherwise might never come in contact.

As our lifestyles become more and more sedentary, sport makes an essential contribution to our health and wellbeing, both physical and mental.

Not least, sport can open doors for those who might otherwise be shut out of the community. For example, sport has empowered many of Australia's Indigenous people. Some of our greatest sporting heroes are people living with disabilities.

But there is another side to sport, one that can bring us disillusionment instead of delight. Too often, we see violence on the field, on the sidelines or in the street; we see abuse of drugs and alcohol; we see racism and abuse or exploitation of women; and we see a growing potential for crime and corruption.



This Social Justice Sunday, we are invited to explore how sport can help us celebrate sport's gifts and use them to bring about God's kingdom on Earth.

To Order

Parishes, schools and groups can order printed copies (minimum of 10) from the ACSJC. Order form and cost details can be found on the ACSJC [website](#) or call (02) 8306 3499.

Social Justice Sunday – Additional Resources

The ACSJC produces a range of additional resources to assist parish communities, schools and social justice groups to celebrate Social Justice Sunday.

Among the resources that will be available on the ACSJC website over the coming months will be:

- Social Justice Sunday Liturgy notes
- PowerPoint presentation
- Educational resources

Other resources that are very useful in parishes and schools are the Social Justice Sunday Prayer Card and 'Ten Steps' leaflet. These can be ordered from the ACSJC Secretariat on (02) 8306 3499.

Promotion

A possible entry in your organisation's newsletter could be:

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 28 September. This year's Social Justice Statement is titled: 'A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in our sporting nation'.

The Statement celebrates the place of sport in our national life, especially the way in which it brings individuals and communities together and contributes to our health and wellbeing. At the same time, the Statement challenges to look at sport's darker side – the potential for violence, abuse and corruption that blemish its image and disillusion those who love it most.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499.



Current Issues Resources, July 2014

FAIRTRADE AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES: 'THE POWER OF YOU'

New research into everyday shopping habits reveals Australians place a higher priority on purchasing products that support people in need. Eight in ten Australians would purchase everyday products which support people in need. Seven in ten Australians support the claim that ethical products are good value for money. You have the power to do



something amazing. The power to help farmers build better futures for themselves, and improve working conditions around the world. The world needs more like you. Fighting for fairer trade, a fairer world. Choose Fairtrade, and change the world one purchase at a time. For more information and a range of resources [click here](#).

CLOTHING FILM: THE TRUE COST – THE FUTURE IS ON SALE

While the price of clothing has been decreasing for decades, human rights and environmental costs have grown dramatically. It is the goal of this film to make those costs vividly clear as we explore how we got here, the damage being done, and the hope filled prospect of choosing a different future. See the video [here](#). Andrew Morgan has taken a first step in creating the teaser and building a growing team of experts around the world. He is now seeking to raise money to begin full production on the final film. Funds will go to principal photography and the post-production process.

CARITAS IS CELEBRATING ITS 50TH YEAR

In 1964, passionate Australian Catholics decided to create a development agency to confront poverty and injustice the world over. The Catholic Overseas Relief Committee was born. Since then, they have not only changed our name, they have grown and flourished, thanks to the dedication and compassion of supporters – people just like you. Last year alone, your generosity helped support long-term programs in 35 countries and delivered emergency relief to nearly 2.5 million people. Caritas has launched a special 50 year webpage where you can explore the Caritas Australia journey – check out their timeline and other online resources [here](#).

ASYLUM SEEKERS RESOURCE CENTRE (ASRC) – WHAT YOU CAN DO

With the political environment so hostile to asylum seekers, ASRC have been getting a lot of requests from people asking what they can do to help. One of the best things you can do is to exercise a fundamental democratic right and write to your Federal MP, holding them to account for the measures they are keeping in place in your name. ASRC's patron, Julian Burnside has observed that many of our Federal politicians do not know the facts about our refugee policy and have not confronted the moral issues it raises. You can find who your relevant MP is [here](#). Most have a contact button next to their names, which will email them through a standard form. Julian suggests that a handwritten letter is more likely to get attention, you can find the address of their local office in the List of Members [here](#). To help you know what to write, there is a one page tip sheet for how to best get your message through on Julian's [website](#).

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH NSW

This is part of a national mental health promotion campaign held throughout October each year. The timing of the campaign centres on 10 October, World Mental Health Day. It's never too early to start planning for events in your community to raise awareness of mental health, wellbeing and celebrating the uniqueness that shapes your community. There are free resources available including small grants, posters, postcards, event register, balloons and stress less tips, etc. on the Mental Health NSW [website](#).



CARITAS LAUNCHES NEW CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

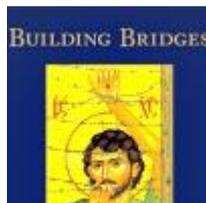
The online educational toolkit is designed to enrich students' understanding of how Catholic Social Teaching (CST) can be enacted in real-life situations and experience. Since the CST principles are so rich in meaning, this toolkit has been developed for multiple age ranges: Lower Primary, Middle Primary, Upper Primary and Secondary. Download the Toolkit [here](#).

NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY NETWORK

NEEN is a national initiative to promote open learning and collaboration amongst faith-based and not-for-profit community organisations to achieve energy savings and a positive energy future. Social services organisations, churches and parishes, kindergartens, aged care organisations, not-for-profit agencies and religious congregations are welcome to register for NEEN. For more information, visit the NEEN [website](#) or the NEEN [Facebook page](#). This includes a number of ideas and opportunities for grants.

REPORT: INEQUALITY IN AUSTRALIA

In recent decades the benefits of strong economic growth have flown disproportionately to the rich and economic inequality is growing rapidly in Australia. This is not only unfair it also poses threats to community wellbeing, health, social stability, sustainable growth and long-term prosperity. Extreme financial inequality exists in Australia and research indicates it is increasing. Australia21, in collaboration with the Australia Institute, held a multidisciplinary roundtable of stakeholders and experts to explore this question: 'How should Australia respond to the evidence of growing inequality in wealth and health?' The report of the roundtable, *Advance Australia Fair? What to do about growing inequality in Australia* by Bob Douglas, Sharon Friel, Richard Denniss and David Morawetz identified 10 ways to 'Advance Australia Fair'. It is available for free download or purchase of a hard copy. Available [here](#).



ACSJC Publications

(Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or [download](#) an order form from the ACSJC website that can be faxed to (02) 8306 3498)

NEW PUBLICATION – *BUILDING BRIDGES*

The ACSJC is now taking orders for the new publication of the collected Social Justice Statements issued by Australia's Bishops between 1988 and 2013.

The book, *Building Bridges: Social Justice Statements from Australia's Bishops 1988 to 2013*, brings these Statements together in an attractive and readable format. The publication is fully indexed, making this an exceptional resource for education and research. It offers an invaluable insight into Catholic social teaching brought to life in an Australian context over the past 26 years. This collection is a vital resource for anyone interested in the Church's



teaching on justice. It is of special interest to schools and universities and to parish and diocesan groups.

Building Bridges is available from the ACSJC for \$35.00 per copy including postage anywhere in Australia. Order forms are available on the ACSJC's [website](#).

PASTORAL LETTER – FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2014

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker for 2014 is entitled *Putting People First: The call for an economy of social inclusion*. It is available for download in regular and 'three-column' versions [here](#).

DISCUSSION GUIDE: 2014 WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE

The theme for the 47th World Day of Peace Message from Pope Francis is *Fraternity: the Foundation and Pathway to Peace*. In this his first World Day of Peace message, Pope Francis expresses his wish for everyone to live a life filled with joy and hope, in fraternity that helps us 'look upon and treat each person as a true sister or brother'. The ACSJC has prepared a Discussion Guide for the papal message, which is available on our [website](#).

SERIES PAPER 75 – 'JUSTICE IN THE NAME OF GOD'

Time and again in the Bible we come across the concepts of 'name' and 'word'. People of our time hear and read these concepts so often in Scripture and in the liturgy that it is very easy not to ask what their deeper meaning is. In part, this is because in today's society, 'word' and 'name' do not have the significance they had for the ancient peoples of the Eastern Mediterranean. For them, the name of God went with the idea of justice, and the prophets, in taking up the call to justice, did so in God's name: the two are inseparable. In the Gospel of John, the Incarnation is described in a profound way: the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Author Gerard Moore describes this paper as 'an attempt to revisit the theology of God as a God of justice' and asks: 'Where does justice fit as we contemplate the nature of God?' This paper surveys the prophets as messengers of God's ideal of justice and shows how this mission culminates in the mission of Jesus himself. Available [here](#).

SERIES PAPER 74 – 'TIME TO DRAW THE LINE: FINDING A JUST SETTLEMENT BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND TIMOR-LESTE'

Beneath the Timor Sea vast deposits of oil and gas lie between Australia, Timor-Leste and Indonesia. Who has a just claim to those resources? What does international law say about them? What are Australians' obligations as citizens of the world? What can we learn from the teaching of Christ and his Church as we grapple with these questions? Fr Frank Brennan tries to outline some answers to these questions in this Series paper, a sequel to his 2004 paper 'The Timor Sea's Oil and Gas: What's Fair?' He writes: 'This paper attempts to explain the issue so that Australians of good will can reach a conclusion about the best way forward for any Australian government committed to justice, transparency and good neighbourly behaviour.' Frank Brennan sets out the facts calmly and clearly and points us towards some ways forward. Available [here](#).

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers: \$7.50 a copy, including postage)





News Monitor

[End sexual violence in war: Cardinal](#)

Sexual violence in warfare is a 'deep wound on the body of humanity', Cardinal Vincent Nichols said.

[No compassion? No visas for asylum seeker's funeral](#)

In a decision sure to have caused more grief to the family of a Sri Lankan asylum seeker who committed suicide in Melbourne, Australian immigration authorities refused them entry to attend his funeral.

[Pope lauds St Egidio, targets capitalism](#)

The Holy Father braved Roman storms to visit the Community of Sant'Egidio in Rome. More than 10,000 joined him and heard the Pontiff reclaim the word 'solidarity' for Christianity.

[Pope slams world economy 'madness', ditches 'sardine can'](#)

Pope Francis slammed Europe's youth unemployment rate as economic 'madness' in an interview with a Spanish newspaper.

[CEOs sleep out for Vinnies](#)

Around 100 business leaders and senior bureaucrats - including Federal Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull - joined the annual Vinnies CEO sleepout last night.

[Cardinal says global capitalism built on idolatry](#)

The world financial system 'been built as a new idolatry,' charged Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, at a June 3 forum in Washington.

[Catholic Earthcare supports ecological and social justice](#)

To commemorate World Environment Day, Catholic Earthcare established 28 learning communities across Australia through the launch of the National Energy Efficiency Network (NEEN).

[Archbishop says Pope would be appalled by Manus Island](#)

Pope Francis would be appalled at the Australian Government's treatment of asylum seekers, according to the Archbishop of Brisbane, Mark Coleridge.

[Divisive Budget will widen rich-poor gap](#)

The 2014 Federal Budget will deepen the divide between rich and poor, and the greatest burden will fall on those who are young, on families, and on strugglers, the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and Catholic Social Services Australia said.



[Pre-World Cup, Brazil's churches raise awareness of sex abuse](#)

As Brazil counted down to the opening of the World Cup on June 12, churches in cities hosting the international soccer tournament were not content to sit on the sidelines and cheer.

– For details go to cathnews.com



Social Justice Diary, July 2014

1	Tue	2012: Commencement of the <i>Fair Work Amendment (TCF Industry) Act 2011</i> , ensuring fair pay and conditions for outworkers in the garment industry. International Tartan Day (Australasia)
2	Wed	
3	Thu	
4	Fri	
5	Sat	International Day of Cooperatives 1935: Birth of the Dalai Lama in Tibet – awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989
6	Sun	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday: <i>Incumbent upon the leadership of each particular Church, and upon the leadership that serves the various faith communities at the local level, is the responsibility to facilitate wherever possible reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.</i> READ MORE ↓ NAIDOC Week begins
7	Mon	1945: Blessed Peter To Rot – killed in Papua New Guinea, recognised as a martyr: Peter To Rot was born, probably in 1912, in New Britain, New Guinea, and baptised and brought up a Catholic.



		READ MORE ↓
8	Tue	
9	Wed	
10	Thu	1985: Sinking of Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior in Auckland
11	Fri	World Population Day
12	Sat	1971: Aboriginal Flag first flown in Adelaide
13	Sun	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Apostleship of the Sea
14	Mon	1995: Aboriginal Flag and Torres Strait Islander Flag proclaimed official flags of Australia
15	Tue	
16	Wed	1945: First Atomic bomb detonated in New Mexico
17	Thu	
18	Fri	1918: Birth of Nelson Mandela
19	Sat	
20	Sun	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1969: First moon landing accomplished by Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin and Michael Collins
21	Mon	
22	Tue	
23	Wed	
24	Thu	



25	Fri	Schools Tree Day
26	Sat	1833: Emancipation Bill approved, abolishing slavery throughout the British Empire
27	Sun	<p>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Bible Sunday National Missing Persons Week begins:</p> <p>National Missing Persons Week is an annual event to raise community awareness of the issues and impacts surrounding missing persons.</p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p> <p>National Tree Day</p>
28	Mon	
29	Tue	Eid-al-Fitr – Muslim breaking of the fast
30	Wed	International Day of Friendship
31	Thu	

