



ACSJC Monthly Briefing October 2014 No 161



From the Chairman October 2014

Dear friends,

The Australian Rules and Rugby League seasons are at their climax – the Grand Finals. All this season the sports pages have featured names like Inglis, Thurston, Soward and Thaiday in League, and Goodes, Franklin, Wingard and Ryder in AFL.

All these men can claim Indigenous heritage. They and many like them remind us of the enormous contribution that Indigenous people have made to Australian sports. Think beyond those two football codes and we can conjure with names like Cathy Freeman, Nova Peris, Kurtley Beale and countless others.

A community that has suffered the greatest injustices and is among the most marginalised has given Australian sports fans some of their most inspiring moments. Some, like Adam Goodes or Cathy Freeman, have built on those sporting triumphs to inspire and mentor young Indigenous people seeking their place in our society.

Sport builds communities and can open doors for those who might be on the margins of our society.

That is just one of the themes in this year's Social Justice Statement from Australia's Catholic bishops. Its title is *A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in our sporting nation*. (The "crown" in the title recalls St Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians.)

Sport is a national obsession: no news report, however brief, is complete without the results from the footy, the tennis, the golf. It brings us together.

That national obsession is a mirror that shows us both the best and the worst in us.

At its best, sport offers us the joy of movement and skill, it builds communities and teaches us what can come from perseverance, resilience and teamwork.

The Indigenous sporting heroes I mention are not the only great stories. In Brisbane in the early 2000s, a group of young mostly Muslim Hazara men from Afghanistan formed a soccer



club called the Tigers 11. They still compete in a Christian church soccer competition and have been transformational in breaking down suspicion and prejudice in local communities.

Father Peter Day tells about the Matthew Talbot Cricket Club, made up of homeless men who, for the first time in years, were suddenly given a reason to get out of bed. The team made the grand final in their league.

Alongside those stories are the everyday stories of volunteers – coaches, administrators and mums and dads looking after the barbecues – who contribute in a small way to the adventure of suburban sport in Australia. There are over two million volunteers and around 26,000 local sporting clubs bringing people together, supporting and being supported by their communities.

But sport as a mirror can show us the worst in our community – an image that is ugly and often unjust. It shows us abuse and violence on-field and off; it shows us greed and opportunism intruding into a community good; and it shows sport transformed into a megaphone for racism and sexism.

We have to confront the moments of disillusion: the parent on the sidelines bullying players and officials, or the sporting hero embroiled in scandals of abuse, drugs or alcohol. We have to be deeply worried about the growing influence of sports gambling and performance enhancing drugs, and the openings these present for criminal involvement and corruption.

The bishops' Statement calls on all levels of society to safeguard sport from the forces that undermine its integrity. Sport needs to be protected for its own sake and for what it offers society. In good sport, everyone is a winner. In a strong team, everyone can make their contribution.

A Crown for Australia was launched on 17 September by AFL hero Kevin Sheedy and journalist and author Geraldine Doogue. Later that day, in England, a team of priests and seminarians from the Vatican were facing up to the Royal Household's XI at Windsor, followed two days later by the Archbishop of Canterbury's XI in Canterbury.

In part, the Vatican team is inspired by Pope Francis, who saw and shared sport's magical hold on a football-mad Argentina. In a speech to the Argentine and Italian football teams, Francis spoke of sport's transforming power – its “beauty, comradeship and generosity”. This year, Australia's Catholic bishops want to celebrate the good that sport brings, and join in preserving and nurturing it against the forces that would undermine its ideals.

Most Rev. Christopher Saunders, DD
Bishop of Broome,
Chairman, Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

This reflection was first published in [CathNews](#) on 26 September 2014





Current Issues / Resources October 2014

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE

At a meeting with the Presidents of Israel and Palestine in June 2014, Pope Francis made this prayer for peace in the Holy Land, in the Middle East and in the entire world.

“Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

“We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried ... But our efforts have been in vain.

“Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: ‘Never again war!’; ‘With war everything is lost’. Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

“Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

“Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words ‘division’, ‘hatred’ and ‘war’ be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be ‘brother’, and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

“Amen.”

[\(Holy Father's address and prayer; Programme for 'Invocation of Peace, Vatican Gardens, 8 June: 2014\)](#)

CARITAS – PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The conflict in the Middle East has been at the forefront of the news, with reports of dreadful violence affecting civilians. Hearing about these terrible acts of violence has been heartbreaking; leaving many people asking what can be done? Pope Francis has been asking people to pray especially for peace in Iraq, and for the people who have been forced to flee from their homes. To find out more, [click here](#).

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS



Persecuted Christians around the world desperately need your prayers. Will you commit to pray for them? Every year, Christians around the world gather on the first Sunday of November to pray for the persecuted Church. As Victoria and fellow believers at the Deeper Life Church in Gombe, Nigeria, prayed together for the persecuted church, they couldn't have imagined how soon they would be persecuted themselves. But at that very moment, gunmen opened fire in the church, killing Victoria's father and younger brother. Yet Victoria's hope in Christ shone as she spoke of her father, declaring: 'He is not dead. Definitely one day we are going to meet again.' Join the Christians in Gombe and others around the world as we unite in prayer for the persecuted on Sunday 2 November, the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Resources are available on the Voice of the Martyrs [website](#).

NEW PUBLICATION: REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

UNSW Press has just published *Refugees: Why Seeking Asylum is Legal and Australia's Policies Are Not* by Jane McAdam and Fiona Chong. The book, written for a general audience, explains who asylum seekers are, what the law is, and what policies like offshore processing, mandatory detention, and turning back boats mean in practice. Using real-life examples, this book reminds us of the human impact of Australia's policies. Jane McAdam is Scientia Professor of Law at the University of New South Wales, a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute and a Research Associate at the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford.

ONLINE RESOURCE: THE WAY OF PEACE – ANZAC CENTENARY EDITION 1915–2015

This is an online resource produced by the Columban Mission Institute's Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice to enable Christian reflection and response during the time of the Anzac Centenary. It will be available from 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. As violence and warfare continue to plague so many parts of the world today, this resource provides stimulus for you to be creative and active in responding to the Christian call to be peacemakers in the footsteps of the non-violent Jesus. For further information: email pej.cmi@columban.org.au or 02 9352 8000. Download [here](#) after October 4th.

THOUSANDS ATTEND CHARITY SOCCER MATCH PLAYED AT BEHEST OF POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis, an avid soccer fan, succeeded in bringing together football legends past and present – and of differing religions – to play an Interreligious Match for Peace in Rome in September. The match, arranged at the behest of the Holy Father, aimed to promote peace and non-discrimination. The event was intended to gather players and fans in a moment of unity and solidarity in support of world peace and to demonstrate the power of sport in building peace, according to Vatican Radio. 'Religion and sport,' the Pope said, 'can collaborate and offer to all of society eloquent signs of this new era in which people 'will never again raise the sword one against another.' Read the article [here](#).

MEDIA RELEASE: CATHOLIC EARTHCARE RESPONDS TO NORTHERN AUSTRALIA.



Catholic Earthcare Australia (CEA) has joined with another 34 organisations and peak bodies that have thrown their weight behind a call from the Kimberley to Cape Network, for development and conservation across Northern Australia that maintains the natural and cultural values and strengthens whole communities.

‘The Kimberley to Cape framework proposed for this Green Paper provides fertile ground for collaboration across all sectors in northern Australia. The long-term wellbeing of local ‘people, plants and places’ must be central to decision-making on the future development of Northern Australia,’ says Catholic Earthcare Director, Jacqui Rémond.

Bishop Christopher Saunders, from the Diocese of Broome (Kimberley region) and Father Michael Lowcock, Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Townsville also declared their support because the Network aligns with Catholic Social Teaching principles of solidarity, subsidiarity, the common good and supports the dignity of humanity and the integrity of creation. For more information, visit [here](#).

NEW REPORT: ‘VOICES OF BOUGAINVILLE’

The Panguna copper and gold mine has played a central role in Bougainville’s recent economic and political history. Until 1989 it formed the foundation of an economic development model centred on large-scale mining. Subsequently, the eruption of intense social conflict over the mine’s operation played a central role in triggering the region’s decade long civil war. The mine now lies at the heart of debates over the region’s political and economic future, as discussion surrounding the mine’s proposed reopening gains momentum. These debates are closely intertwined with discussions over the island’s prospective independence. To access the Jubilee Australia report, visit [here](#).

ACCER REPORT: AFTER A CENTURY THE MINIMUM WAGE SYSTEM ABANDONS FAMILIES

ACCER has published this briefing paper on the Fair Work Commission’s June 2014 decision which set wages on the basis of the needs of single workers, without taking into account the needs of workers with family responsibilities. ACCER has given notice to the Commission that it intends to challenge the decision to adopt the single person test in the course of the forthcoming Annual Wage Review. The briefing paper argues that the single person decision was unfair to low paid workers and their families, contrary to law and inconsistent with precedent. Read the full report [here](#).

ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE (ASRC) IS ASKING FOR HELP TO STOP TEMPORARY PROTECTION VISAS (TPVs)

Refugees given temporary protection under a TPV live in a state of anxious uncertainty because they have to re-prove their refugee status every three years; they struggle to find stable employment, they can’t reunite with their family and develop serious mental health issues because of their experiences. We know all of this, because John Howard introduced TPVs between 1999 and 2008 and this was the outcome. The ASRC is calling on Australians to write to Senators from their home state, urging them to vote NO to Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs); and voice their support for a common sense, fair approach to processing and settling refugees. A full explanation and sample letter is available [here](#).



ONLINE PETITION: PUT AN END TO OFFSHORE DETENTION

Our Government is failing to ensure even the most basic standard of care for people in the Manus Island and Nauru detention centres. Join the campaign calling on Immigration Minister Scott Morrison to put an end to this disgraceful policy, which is fast becoming our nation's greatest shame. The petition to close down the Manus Island and Nauru detention centres is a collaboration between GetUp, the Refugee Action Coalition, Doctors for Refugees, ChilOut, the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, and numerous groups and individuals fighting for compassionate and humane treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

What can you do?

- 1) Sign the petition [here](#);
- 2) Add the petition to your facebook page or twitter account;
- 3) Distribute the link to the petition to your own email list, and encourage others to sign and distribute. If you would like to sign on to the petition as an organisation or group, please email: petition@getup.org.au

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 on Julian's website for how to best get your message through [here](#).

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](#).

DVD RESOURCE FOR CONVERSATIONS ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

The Women's Reconciliation Network held 'The Forum, Exploring Perspectives: Conversations on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People' at the Ashfield town Hall on 26th March, 2014. The presenters were Kirsten Grey,



Kamilaroi/Muruwari Woman, CEO NSW Reconciliation Council; George Williams AM, Prof. Constitutional Law UNSW; Nicole Watson, Birri Gubba Woman, Researcher, Jumbunna House of Learning UTS; and Jeff McMullen AM, Journalist and Film Maker. A DVD called 'Exploring Perspectives' has been produced from this forum (duration 27 minutes). The DVD has the key points from the four presentations. The Women's Reconciliation Network invites you to share this DVD resource in schools, tertiary institutions, community groups and learning circles. For copies contact [Helen Kearins at ACSJC](#).

BEYONDBLUE ANTI-RACISM CAMPAIGN

Beyondblue has launched a new campaign to highlight the effects racism has on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their everyday lives. This comes as new research shows Indigenous people still face widespread racism from other Australians, including negative stereotypes and 'casual' racism. The Stop Think Respect campaign centres on TV ads showing non-Indigenous Australians engaging in subtly racist acts, such as treating Indigenous Australians with suspicion. Find out more [here](#).

ARCHBISHOP TUTU'S PRAYER FOR THE RIGHTS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

On World Peace Day Archbishop Tutu released a statement in support of Australian Aboriginal People. He said that, 'Our diversity is a Gift from God. It strengthens and enriches us. All people, regardless of their looks, cultures and beliefs – including the Aboriginal Peoples of Australia – are equally entitled to dignity, to justice, and to the right to participate in decisions affecting their lives.' Archbishop Tutu encouraged 'a national healing process for all Australians.' Read the full statement [here](#).

TREATY VIDEO LAUNCH

Aboriginal Peoples have waited more than 200 years for formal and binding agreements with the Australian Government. They want the opportunity to take control over their lives and to determine their futures through legal agreements, compacts, covenants or treaties established in law and enforceable through the courts. Please take time to watch this 8 minute [You-Tube](#).

RECOGNISE RELAY

The Recognise relay set off again on its journey across Australia, making its way north across the Atherton Tablelands and up the Cape York Peninsula. The relay gives communities across the nation a chance to be part of the movement to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia's Constitution – and to ensure there is no place for racial discrimination in it. Find out more about the [Journey to Recognition](#).

ONLINE PETITION: MYRIAD – PATENTING GENES

Two American big biotech companies just faced off against an Australian woman with breast cancer and won the right to control human genes that could save the lives of millions. Yvonne D'Arcy fought to get a patent overturned, but the Australian Federal court sided with American corporations Myriad Genetics and Genetic Technologies that the BRCA1 gene mutation -- a gene linked to breast and ovarian cancer -- is an 'invention' that can be used for



‘economic benefit’. This court ruling is a major victory for corporate power, and will have devastating implications for not just breast cancer research, but all cancer research globally. You can sign the petition here to ask Myriad Genetics and Genetic Technologies drop their patent claim on the breast and ovarian [cancer gene](#).

ONLINE PETITION: HELP END SLAVERY

Women and girls leave their homes every day to find jobs as domestic workers in the cities of Australia. But when they show up for their first day of work, some find out they’ve been deceived. Locked inside the homes of strangers, their passports taken away, often beaten and sexually abused, caught in the nightmare of modern slavery. For the first time ever, there’s a global standard to protect domestic workers. It’s called Convention 189. 14 key countries have already signed on and momentum is growing for an international surge of support. If Australia ratifies now it will be crucial to ensure other countries in the region feel compelled to take action. Call on the Government of Australia to ratify Convention 189 immediately and help end domestic slavery. Sign the petition [here](#).



ACSJC Publications October 2014

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2014–2015 – ORDER NOW!

This year’s Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement is entitled ‘A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in our sporting nation’. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form, letter from the President of the Bishops Conference and summary material are available [here](#).

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten Steps Towards Being a Good Sport.

Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499

Social Justice Statement Summary, Liturgy Notes, Community and Student Resources, PowerPoint Presentation – available soon at the ACSJC [website](#).

Ecumenical resource: ‘Gambling and its Impact in Australia – Is nothing sacred?’.

Download from the National Council of Churches [website](#).

BUILDING BRIDGES

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 [here](#).

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 [here](#).

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



News Monitor October 2014

[Cardinal tells UN of shared responsibility in protecting planet](#)

The Vatican Secretary of State told the United Nations that a sense of "shared responsibility to protect our planet and the human family" must influence how nations react to the reality of climate change.

[Priest steps in to help indigenous villagers in Indonesia](#)

In spite of an apparent escalation by police, priests vowed to continue fighting on behalf of indigenous Indonesian farmers locked in an ongoing land dispute on the island of Flores in East Nusa Tenggara Province.

[ACRATH to visit Canberra to advocate for trafficked victims](#)

Thirteen ACRATH members from around Australia made their annual visit to Federal Parliament in a bid to influence policies affecting people trafficked into Australia.

[Australian bishops talk about transformative power of sport](#)

Legendary coach and AFL player Kevin Sheedy and renowned journalist Geraldine Doogue launched the Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney.

[World faces worst humanitarian crisis since WWII: Caritas head](#)

Conflict in Iraq, Syria and Gaza led to the greatest humanitarian crisis the world faced since the Second World War, the head of the Church's relief and development work said.

[Catholic couple launch private mission to rescue migrants at sea](#)

A Catholic couple launched a private mission, inspired by Pope Francis, to rescue migrants in danger of death in the Mediterranean.



– courtesy cathnews.com



Social Justice Diary October 2014

October 2014

1	Wed	International Day for Older Persons 2005: Second Bali bombing: 20 people killed and more than 100 injured
2	Thu	International Day of Non-Violence 1869: Birth of Mahatma Gandhi
3	Fri	Day of Jewish and Christian Dialogue
4	Sat	St Francis of Assisi Yom Kippur (Jewish Day of Atonement) World Animal Welfare Day World Space Week commences 1957: Sputnik 1 launched by the Soviet Union
5	Sun	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time World Teachers Day
6	Mon	World Habitat Day: The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October each year as World Habitat Day. READ MORE ↓
7	Tue	
8	Wed	
9	Thu	World Post Day World Sight Day
10	Fri	World Mental Health Day



11	Sat	<p>International Day of the Girl Child 1962: Opening Session of Vatican Council II</p>
12	Sun	<p>Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Anti-Poverty Week begins:</p> <p>Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians. Around the world, more than a billion people are desperately poor. In Anti-Poverty Week, you can help fight poverty and hardship!</p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p> <p>2002: First Bali bombing: 202 people killed and 240 injured</p>
13	Mon	<p>International Day for Disaster Reduction:</p> <p><i>Humanitarian emergencies are increasingly common and destructive and affect more people than ever before.</i></p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p>
14	Tue	
15	Wed	<p>International Day of Rural Women</p>
16	Thu	<p>World Food Day</p>
17	Fri	<p>International Day for Eradication of Poverty:</p> <p>In 1993, the UN General Assembly designated this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries.</p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p>
18	Sat	
19	Sun	<p>Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time World Mission Sunday 2001: Sinking of SIEV X:</p> <p>On this day we remember the 350 people (146 children, 142 women, 65 men) who died in the disaster of the SIEV X, as well as their families and all people who are forced to take treacherous journeys in the pursuit of freedom and safety. Read more on the Siev X website.</p>



20	Mon	
21	Tue	
22	Wed	
23	Thu	
24	Fri	United Nations Day World Development Information Day Disarmament Week begins
25	Sat	
26	Sun	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1985: Uluru returned to traditional owners, the Anangu people
27	Mon	
28	Tue	
29	Wed	
30	Thu	
31	Fri	

