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*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,

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and its Secretariat wish you a happy New Year, with every blessing for you, your loved ones and local communities.

Let us pray that 2010 will bring social justice and peace to vulnerable members of the Australian community and around the world. In his 2010 World Day of Peace message, released as world leaders met in Copenhagen, Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that protection of the environment and good stewardship of God's creation is part of this work for justice.

'May this be clear to world leaders and to those at every level who are concerned for the future of humanity: the protection of creation and peacemaking are profoundly linked'. [n 11]

In his message, the Pope poses the following critical questions:

'Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate

change, desertification, the deterioration and loss of productivity in vast agricultural areas, the pollution of rivers and aquifers, the loss of biodiversity, the increase of natural catastrophes and the deforestation of equatorial and tropical regions?

'Can we disregard the growing phenomenon of "environmental refugees", people who are forced by the degradation of their natural habitat to forsake it - and often their possessions as well - in order to face the dangers and uncertainties of forced displacement?

'Can we remain impassive in the face of actual and potential conflicts involving access to natural resources?' [n 4]

He states that, 'all these are issues with a profound impact on the exercise of human rights, such as the right to life, food, health and development.' [n 4]

Further, he says 'it should be evident that the ecological crisis cannot be viewed in isolation from other related questions, since it is closely linked to the notion of development itself and our understanding of man in his relationship to others and to the rest of creation.' [n 5]

Pope Benedict exhorts all people to act in their various capacities to combat misuse of the environment and the related broad-ranging consequences:

'Protecting the natural environment in order to build a world of peace is thus a duty incumbent upon each and all. It is an urgent challenge, one to be faced with a renewed and concerted commitment; it is also a providential opportunity to hand down to coming generations the prospect of a better future for all.' [n 11]

The Holy Father's World Day of Peace Message can be accessed on the Vatican website at:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20091208_xliii-world-day-peace_en.html

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council has produced a discussion guide on the peace message which can be downloaded from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Responding to and promoting the Pope's message here in Australia, Archbishop Philip Wilson, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, issued a statement saying that 'peace is made impossible by a lack of justice for those living in countries which may be reduced to nothing if action is not taken'.

'Indeed, how we relate to the environment more than ever before affects those who have little control over their circumstances. Pope Benedict's letter focuses in particular about the need for wealthy nations, and indeed individuals, to recognise the fundamental right to life of all - which requires in turn the right to health, food and to development.'

Commenting on the disappointing outcome of the international conference, Archbishop Wilson said,

'The Pope's letter came, interestingly, at the same time as the nations of the world came together to discuss how to address climate change and its effects in climate change ... Sadly, as reflected in the outcomes of Copenhagen, international consensus on a united way forward in caring for the earth remains elusive.

'The imminent threat to island nations such as Tuvalu and Kiribati requires a genuine and serious commitment. Sadly, Copenhagen's outcomes will not be enough, but perhaps the Pope's words may change some hearts.' (refer: http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_details&gid=945&Itemid=355)

The failure of Copenhagen to reach a binding agreement of substance is a major disappointment for neighbouring low-lying nations of the Pacific which are threatened by rising seas.

Leading a delegation of representatives from Pacific Island communities to Copenhagen in December, Sr Geraldine Kearney sgs of the *Pacific Calling Partnership* said the aim was to ensure that the human face of climate change was not forgotten:

'As a group of Pacific partners, we want to be a visible and tangible sign of being neighbours ... As a delegation, we intend to make every effort to create a groundswell of heartfelt response to the cries of the most vulnerable of the vulnerable.'

Joining the delegation, Phil Glendenning of the Edmund Rice Centre said,

'This is not an issue of the future. Climate change has a human face now! In Kiribati we heard the concerns of President Anote Tong and of local residents and we saw for ourselves the impact rising sea levels are having. We saw the hospital wards that have been flooded, the dead and dying palm trees, and the villages and food-providing fields inundated by sea water.' (refer: <http://catholicreligiousaustralia.com/en/749>)

This January, a group of Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist leaders have written, under the banner 'Australian Religious Response to Climate Change', calling on the Prime Minister and Opposition leader to ensure bi-partisan support for Australia to meet UN emissions reduction targets of 40% of 1990 levels by 2020 and for substantial funding for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries and support for a legally binding climate agreement.

Commenting on the outcome at Copenhagen, the leaders have stated, 'With few exceptions any vision for a more sustainable and just world appears to have been sacrificed for more short-term national interests. Any economic system has its long-term health deeply embedded in a sustainable environment ... Responding to the environmental challenge should therefore be couched in the language of investment rather than cost. (refer: http://www.arrcc.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=1&Itemid=8)

While not referring specifically to the Copenhagen summit, Pope Benedict makes a similar observation in his 2010 World Day of Peace message - calling for a greater and more planned strategy for the protection of the environment:

‘It is not hard to see that environmental degradation is often due to the lack of far-sighted official policies or to the pursuit of myopic economic interests, which then, tragically, become a serious threat to creation. To combat this phenomenon, economic activity needs to consider the fact that every economic decision has a moral consequence and thus show increased respect for the environment. When making use of natural resources, we should be concerned for their protection and consider the cost entailed - environmentally and socially - as an essential part of the overall expense incurred ... To protect the environment, and safeguard natural resources and the climate,

there is a need to act in accordance with clearly-defined rules, also from the juridical and economic standpoint, while at the same time taking into due account the solidarity we owe to those living in the poorer areas of our world and to future generations.’ [n.7]

For further information about the *Pacific Calling Partnership*, visit the Edmund Rice Centre website at: http://www.erc.org.au/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=63&MMN_position=67:67

Visit the website of Catholic Earthcare Australia to find out more about the sustainability initiative ‘ASSISI’ which provides simple steps that individuals, schools, parishes, hospitals and other Church organisations can take for ecological sustainability: <http://www.catholicearthcare.org.au>

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues / Resources

CARITAS AUSTRALIA HAITI EMERGENCY RESPONSE APPEAL

Caritas is providing immediate assistance to survivors following the deadly earthquake in Haiti. Hundreds of thousands of people are severely affected and need your help. ‘It is the disaster of the century. We should be prepared for thousands of dead and injured’, said Caritas USA staff member Karel Zalenka from Port au Prince. Ms Jamie Davies, Director of Caritas Australia’s Programs team and with extensive experience in Haiti said, ‘An initial priority for Caritas will be to assess the damage and our local capacity to provide aid to survivors of the quake. Caritas runs over 200 hospitals and medical centres in Haiti. It is experienced and prepared to respond to humanitarian disasters there as a result of the frequent hurricanes’. You can support the Caritas Appeal by calling 1800 024 413 or by donating online at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/source/Donation/>

WELCOME SR HELEN KEARINS

Sr Helen Kearins rsm has recently commenced work with the Australian Catholic Social Jus-

tice Council as Research and Projects Officer. Among the many areas of work for social justice that Sr Helen has been involved in are support for the work of the Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice, Directorship of and advocacy work for the Mercy Foundation, and coordination of the Mercy Aboriginal Justice Network and Mission for Justice programs at the Sisters of Mercy National Office. We welcome Helen to the Secretariat of the ACSJC and look forward to working with her.

FLAMINIA GIOVANELLI NAMED UNDERSECRETARY OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

Dr Flaminia Giovanelli, an official of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, will be the first laywoman to serve as the dicastery’s undersecretary. A pontifical council Communiqué state, “The appointment of Giovanelli confirms the great trust the Church and Benedict XVI place in women. In his time, Pope John Paul II also underlined the need for a ‘fuller and meaningful participation of women in the development of society.’” Dr Giovanelli is the second woman to serve as un-

dersecretary of a pontifical council. Rosemary Goldie, an Australian, held the position at the Pontifical Council for the Laity from 1966-76. Dr Giovanelli began working with the Pontifical Commission in 1974. She is an expert in the development and labour policies of the International Labour Organization, the Council of Europe, the European Union, and the United Nations Councils and the Commission for Europe. (refer: <http://www.zenit.org/article-28123?l=english>)

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

In early January, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma announced the members of the Ethics Council responsible for developing and maintaining standards of the new representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In addition to Mr Calma, other members of the Council are Prof. Larissa Behrendt, Mr Wesley Enoch, Ms Mary Graham, Ms Nalwarri Ngurruwutthun and Prof. Lester Irabinna Rigney. (refer: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2010/1_10.html)

Commissioner Calma tabled his sixth and final Social Justice Report in federal Parliament out-of-session on 20 January and the Report was launched along with the Native Title Report on 22 January. The Social Justice Report 2009 focusses on: justice reinvestment to reduce Indigenous over-representation in the criminal justice system; protection of Indigenous languages; and sustaining Aboriginal homeland communities. To download, visit: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/sj_report/sjreport09/index.html

On 25 January, Human Rights Council President Cathy Branson QC announced that Mr Calma will be completing his term as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner on 31 January 2010. President Branson said, 'Commissioner Tom Calma has made outstanding contributions to human rights protections in Indigenous affairs and race relations during his five and a half years with the Australian Human Rights Commission ... It is perhaps fitting that Commissioner Calma is completing his term at the same time as a new national representative body for Aborigi-

nal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is being developed - a process in which Tom has played a major role. His work in developing the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples is but one of Tom's many achievements in his role as Commissioner'. (refer: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2010/4_10.html)

MONTHLY BULLETIN: 'GROWING A CULTURE OF PEACE'

In the face of growing violence in our world, Christians are called to be peacemakers. Pope Benedict has made it clear in his World Day of Peace Message this year, when people make the connections between peace, ecology and justice and live accordingly, a culture of peace can grow. The Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice is producing a new monthly bulletin for parish and school newsletters. It focuses on topics connected with peace, ecology and justice, and includes a brief Reflection related to the scripture of the first Sunday of each month, a Fact File, an Action, and a Link to more information. As well as being in Word to copy into bulletins, it is available in pdf format as a handout. To subscribe email pej.cmi@columban.org.au. For further information contact (02) 9352 8021 or annelanyon.cmi@columban.org.au

CAMPAIGN - 'A BETTER WAY'

Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) believes that the approach of the Northern Territory Intervention is flawed. Breaching the Racial Discrimination Act is no way to protect children. For that reason, ANTaR supports Tom Calma's 10-point plan to take the racism out of the intervention. The 'A Better Way' campaign reminds people that Aboriginal lives are still being controlled in the Northern Territory. The campaign shows that sustainable, community-led solutions are the most effective way of solving community problems. Aboriginal voices should not be ignored. (refer: <http://www.antar.org.au/abetterway>)

REPORT - 'THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'

In mid-January, the first United Nations study on the state of the world's indigenous peoples was released. It reveals alarming statistics on poverty, health, education, employment, human rights, the environment etc. The world's

370 million indigenous peoples suffer from disproportionately, often exponentially, higher rates of poverty, health problems, crime and human rights abuses. The UN report stresses that self-determination and land rights are vital for indigenous people's survival. For further info visit <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?entry=E09190>. To report can be accessed at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/sowip.html>

PUBLICATION - 'ORDINARY COURAGE'

At the age of thirty-four, Donna Mulhearn had become disillusioned by her career as a journalist and political adviser and set off on a journey of self-discovery. One day, during this wonderful period of freedom, she heard something radical, a call to action that would change her course, and her life, forever. A man on the radio was appealing for human shields in Iraq—volunteers to deter the 'Coalition of the Willing' from attacking Baghdad. Despite protests from concerned family and friends, Donna soon found herself travelling to Baghdad to join hundreds of shields from all over the world who formed small teams to protect major sites—power stations, water treatment plants, communication centres—that were crucial to the life of innocent people. Donna's story is exceptional, brave and full of conviction. It shows that by being true to yourself you can transform not only one life, but many. Published by Murdoch Books, paperback, 272 pages, \$32.95. (refer: <http://murdochbooks.com.au/ordinary-courage-9781741966718.htm>)

DVD & BOOKLET - 'CARERS' STORIES OF HOPE AND RECOVERY'

beyondblue has launched a new DVD, 'Carers' Stories of Hope and Recovery' which gives personal accounts of caring for a family member or friend with depression, anxiety or a related disorder. The DVD complements the booklet 'Caring for Others and Caring for Yourself'. Both the DVD and booklet can be accessed via the *beyondblue* website: http://www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link_id=59.1178

PUBLICATION - EXECUTIVE PAY

The Australia Institute has just released a policy briefing - *Reining It In: Executive pay in Australia*. It outlines the failures of market

based determination of executive pay and provides suggested measures to address these failures. Between 1993 and 2008 the average pay of CEOs in Australia's top 100 public companies skyrocketed from just over half a million dollars to \$3.2 million. During the same period the average weekly wage approximately doubled to an incomparable \$62,218. While the Productivity Commission has held an Inquiry into the issue, its final report failed to recommend changes which adequately address the excessiveness of executive pay in Australia. To access the Australia Institute report, visit: <https://www.tai.org.au/index.php?q=node/19&act=browse&type=1>

AGAINST STATE OVERRELIANCE ON GAMBLING

The Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) raised concerns over the South Australian Treasurer's support of poker machines as a source of revenue. ACL Director Jim Wallace said, 'This is not just a problem in South Australia but in all States where poker machines have been legalised and State Governments have themselves become addicted to a revenue stream that represents a significant part of their budgets. The draft Productivity Commission report into problem gambling released late last year showed that gamblers in Australia lose over \$18 billion per year including over \$12 billion on poker machines... the taxes from poker machines going to State Governments are huge, and they have a strong financial interest in blocking stronger measures to combat problem gambling.' (refer: http://www.acl.org.au/national/common_display.stw?page=media)

NEW WEBSITE: JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE

The Justice and Peace Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney has just launched its new website. It has been established to provide the community with information about the initiatives of Sydney's Justice and Peace Office, and with a range of resources and suggestions for celebrating and living out Catholic Social Teaching. Highlights of the website include its news and events sections, and a comprehensive bank of resources and links relating to issues of justice, peace and ecology. Refer <http://justiceandpeace.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/ORDER_FORM.pdf)

DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2010

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is *If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation*. The ACSJC discussion guide consists of a brief overview of the Pope's message, some points for reflection and prayer. This is an ideal resource for schools and social justice discussion groups. It can be downloaded in pdf or word formats from the ACSJC homepage: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

ORDER NOW! - 2010 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2010 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. It highlights the theme of peace-building as a Christian response to anger and violence in Australian society. The Diary provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included. This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

2009 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT - ORDERS STILL BEING TAKEN

The 2009 Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled 'And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young people and justice'. The ACSJC is still taking orders for the Statement. An order form, sum-

mary and other resources are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps towards being witnesses to the Gospel.

Call (02) 8306 3499

ACSJC DISCUSSION GUIDE - CARITAS IN VERITATE

The ACSJC Discussion Guide reviews key themes of Pope Benedict's Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), as well as offering questions for reflection, excerpts for discussion, and prayer. Available in html and pdf formats on the ACSJC website: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

SERIES PAPER - 'WORK AND DIGNITY'

Catholic Social Justice Series (No. 66) is a collection of the Pastoral Letters for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker that have been issued by the Chairman of the ACSJC each year since 1998. Themes in these letters include the nature of a just wage and the vital link between fair pay and family life; the importance of trade unions in the working life of a society; and the wider significance of work in the community. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

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

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499, fax (02) 8306 3489 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf



This Month's Notices

JANUARY - 28 MAY. EXHIBITION: 'TALKING FAITHS - MY STORY, YOUR STORY, OUR STORY' (VIC). This exhibition documents a project involving young people exploring interfaith issues through a multicultural perspective. Talking Faiths features multimedia representations and photographs of the project and artworks developed by the students as part of their conversations. This exhibition is a part of the Parliament of the World's Religions cultural program. Cost: \$8, children free. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Immigration Museum, Old Customs House, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Contact: 13 11 02. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/talking-faiths-exhibition>.

JANUARY - MARCH. SUDANESE STORIES EXHIBITION (NSW). The Blacktown area has become home for migrants from Sudan; many are newly-arrived refugees from the country's war-torn southern region. While the Sudanese people now living in Blacktown survived, about two million from their nation died in the turmoil and four million were displaced. Here you can see and hear, in the community's own words, how people escaped and lived, often for many years, in refugee camps. This exhibition is a celebration of their spirit and resilience in their new home. 9.30 am to 7.45 pm weekdays. Level 1, Max Webber Library, 61 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown. Contact: 02 9839 6677. Web: <http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/exhibition/sudanestories/>.

DECEMBER ONWARDS. CHILD HEALTH AWARENESS EVENTS: 'SURVIVE PAST FIVE' FIFTH BIRTHDAY PARTIES (NATIONAL). Micah Challenge wants to see a 'Survive past five' 5th Birthday party held in every electorate in Australia before the 2010 federal election, to advocate for child health. 'Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed'. Psalm 82:3. Several events have already happened with more to come. Web: <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/fifthbirthdayaction>.

FEBRUARY 2010. FEBFAST FUNDRAISER (NATIONAL). FebFast invites people to sacrifice

their alcohol intake during the shortest month of the year, and at the same time, raise funds to support organisations working to reduce alcohol and other drug related harm in young people through research, prevention and service delivery activities. Funds raised through FebFast are distributed across Australia through a grants program that takes place in the second half of the year. Web: <http://www.febfast.com.au/>.

1 FEBRUARY. THEOLOGY ON TAP (NSW). On the first Monday of every month, Theology on Tap brings the young people of Sydney together for some real answers on the Catholic faith in a relaxed atmosphere. This month's forum is given by social commentator Mark Shea, who will be speaking on the topic '101 Reasons not to be Catholic!', sharing all the contradictory complaints about the Catholic faith that are floating around in our culture. 6:30 pm, PJ Gallagher's Irish Pub, 74 Church Street, Parramatta. Web: <http://www.theologyontap.com.au>.

2 FEBRUARY. BOOK LAUNCH: 'ORDINARY COURAGE' (NSW). Murdoch Books and The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at The University of Sydney are holding the launch of Donna Mulhearn's book about her journey to Baghdad as a human shield. 'In this powerful memoir, Donna's courage and principles stand in damning contrast to the lies told in our name. 'I salute her,' says John Pilger. To be launched by journalist and author Antony Loewenstein. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Footbridge Theatre, University of Sydney, Parramatta Road, Camperdown. Contact: claireg@murdochbooks.com.au, RSVP by 29 January. Web: <http://www.edmundrice.org/er:Book-launch-event-Ordinary-Courage>.

3 FEBRUARY. FORUM: 'SUPPORTING YOUTH DISENFRANCHISED FROM EDUCATION' (QLD). This forum will provide an opportunity to share stories and hear new ideas about how schools, youth and community services, governments, parents and community members can ensure that young people (8 - 14) from all

backgrounds get the most out their education. Organised by NEYON (North East Youth Organisations Network). Cost: \$25 - \$35. 9.00 am to 1.00 pm, Australian Catholic University, Banyo. Contact: 07 3407 8102 or admin@yanq.org.au. Web: <http://www.barc.org.au/cms/index.php>.

4 FEBRUARY. EDMUND RICE AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE: 'AFTER COPENHAGEN' (NSW). The struggle for climate change awareness and action is very much alive despite a somewhat disappointing result in Copenhagen. Jill Finnane, a delegate at the conference will give a short report and Leonie will also provide an update on the response to the petition. The rest of the time will be spent in an informal discussion on 'good' climate awareness companies and how they are responding to climate change. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, Flemington. Contact: 02 8762 4200 or leoniec@erc.org.au. Web: <http://www.edmundricecommunity.com/events/afternoon-tea-for-the-future>.

4 FEBRUARY. IMMERSION EXPERIENCE TO EAST TIMOR (TAS). Catholic Youth Ministry, together with Eddie Rice Tasmania and Vinnies Youth are proud to be offering an opportunity for some Tasmanians to take part in an immersion experience to East Timor in September of this year. To find out more about the immersion experience, please come to this information session. Please note, that you will need to be 18 years or older as of September, 2010. Please pass this information on to anyone you think might be interested. 7.30 pm, Holy Spirit Church foyer, Sandy Bay Road, Hobart. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/whatson.html>.

5 FEBRUARY. THE NUCLEAR DEBATE (SA). Mark Diesendorf, Helen Caldicott, Barry Brook and Tom Blees will debate the question of Nuclear Energy. They are all committed to taking action on CO2 emissions, none of them are employed by politicians or the nuclear industry. Barry and Tom argue that Nuclear Power must be part of the mix of solutions to solve the level of CO2 emissions. Helen and Mark have argued against the idea of going down the Nuclear road. 7:30 pm, Horace Lamb Lecture Theatre, Adelaide University, Adelaide. Web: <http://www.greenleft.org.au/calendar/?q=node/3332>.

5 FEBRUARY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'ASYLUM SEEKERS - HUMANITARIAN OR RACIST RESPONSE?' (NSW). Kate Gauthier, National Convenor, A Just Australia; Steve Cornelius, Co-Coordinator Amnesty International, Australia. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

6 FEBRUARY. PALMS AUSTRALIA FOCUS WORKSHOP (QLD). Expert facilitators guide participants through sessions aimed at exploring their motivations for development work and provide a framework based in development theory and Catholic social teaching from which to view different opportunities. Participants also learn what it takes to volunteer cross-culturally, what international volunteering involves and what to do next if they are interested in working in Asia, Africa or the Pacific. Brisbane. Contact: 02 9518 9551. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au/news/latest/28/>.

6 FEBRUARY. BREAKFAST AND LAUNCH: BORDERLANDS CENTRE FOR NONVIOLENCE (VIC). Introduction by Prof Joseph Camilleri on the life and work of the late Vin D'Cruz, whose books on Gandhi were the seeds for this library and centre. Assoc Prof Tom Weber, renowned Gandhian scholar will speak on Gandhi, Non-violent Activism and Social Change. For those who would like to discuss the future of nonviolent activism, peace-building and cooperation around these issues, there will be a shared lunch and discussion (12.00 to 2.30 pm). Cost: \$20; concession \$15. 9.00 to 11:30 am, Borderlands, Augustine Centre, 2 Minona Street, Hawthorn. Contact: 03 9819 3502 or info@oases.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/centre-nonviolence-launch>.

6 - 7 FEBRUARY. SENTENCING CONFERENCE (ACT). The Conference will look at sentencing of criminal offenders from several perspectives including informing the public about sentencing, sentencing indigenous offenders, children and sentencing, national consistency in sentencing, sentencing in arson (bushfire) cases and sentencing in sexual assault cases. Presented by National Judicial College of Australia / ANU College of Law. Cost: \$350. National Convention Centre, Canberra. Contact:

sentencing@law.anu.edu.au, 02 6125 6655 or 02 6125 2906, RSVP by 29 January. Web: <http://www.njca.com.au/Professional%20Development/programs%20by%20year/2010/Sentencing%202010/Sentencing%202010.htm>

7 FEBRUARY. FUNDRAISING SWIM: SYDNEY MORNING HERALD COLE CLASSIC SWIM (NSW).

This iconic event is a challenge for people to swim 1km or 2km through the surf. Held in conjunction with the Manly Life Saving Club, The Cole Classic is a great event for every aspiring swimmer. At the same time you can fundraise for Caritas, CatholicCare, Father Chris Riley's Youth off the Streets, St Vincent de Paul NSW, etc. Cost: \$42 - \$57. Shelly Beach, Manly. Contact/Web: <http://www.coleclassic.com/>.

7 FEBRUARY - 17 APRIL. COURSE: 'SACRED EARTH' (VIC). A ten week course in ecological spirituality organised by Edmund Rice Network - Oceania. Cost: \$6600. Centre for Ecology and Spirituality, 183 Burns Road, Glenburn. Contact: centreecology@bigpond.com or 03 5797 8532. Web: <http://www.edmundrice.org/glenburn>.

8 - 12 FEBRUARY. REFUGEE STUDIES SUMMER SCHOOL: 'REFUGEE LAW, ADVOCACY, EFFECTIVE CONSULTATIONS AND SKILLS TRAINING' (NSW). The 2010 Centre for Refugee Research Summer School includes a diverse suite of professional courses which are designed to be taken individually or as an integrated training package. Topics: 'An introduction to Refugee Law'; Advocacy Training; 'Responding to the early settlement needs of newly arrived refugees'; etc. Speakers: Eileen Pittaway, Linda Bartolomei, Rebecca Eckert, Effie Mitchell and Geraldine Doney. Cost: \$175 - \$800. University of NSW, Kensington. Contact: 02 9385 1961 or crr@unsw.edu.au, RSVP by 1 February. Web: <http://www.crr.unsw.edu.au/news-and-events/crr-summer-school-8-12-february-2010-235.html>.

9 - 16 FEBRUARY. PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: 'THE MEKONG - A RIVER OF LIFE' (ACT). Featuring images of life along the Mekong river in South East Asia. Opening on 11 February, 6.00 pm, speaker: Bob McMullan MP, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance. 9.45 am to 4.30 pm.

The High Court of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra. Opening places limited, please RSVP 03 9289 9409 or www.surveymonkey.com/mekong. Web: http://www.usyd.edu.au/mekong/documents/events/mekong_exhibition_canberra_invitation.pdf.

9 FEBRUARY. SYMPOSIUM: 'PERFORMING POLICY: THE EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE OF SOCIAL POLICY' (QLD). This Symposium examines social policy in its enactment, rather than its formal definition. Such an approach provides greater insight into the impact and outcomes on people, and thus defines social citizenship in practice. Speaker: Professor Michael Lipsky, author of Street Level Bureaucracy. Cost: \$120. 9.00 am to 6.30 pm, Sir Llew Edwards Building (14), University of Queensland, St Lucia, Brisbane. Contact: P.Henman@uq.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.uq.edu.au/swahs/index.html?page=30504&pid=29079>.

10 FEBRUARY. FILM SCREENING: 'THE AGE OF STUPID' (VIC). This ambitious documentary/drama/animation hybrid stars Pete Postlethwaite as an archivist in the devastated world of the future, asking the question: 'Why didn't we stop climate change when we still had the chance?' He looks back on footage of real people around the world in the years leading up to 2015 before runaway climate change took place. Organised by Western Region Environment Centre. Cost: \$15. 7.00 pm, Sun Theatre, 8 Ballarat Street, Yarraville. Contact: 0431 121 218, bookings are essential. Web: <http://www.greenleft.org.au/calendar/?q=node/3342>.

12 FEBRUARY. BOOK LAUNCHES AND ANDREW MCNAUGHTAN LECTURE (NSW). Introduction by Nigel Stewart, McNaughtan Foundation. Every year AETA, (the Australia-East Timor Association NSW) remembers Dr Andrew McNaughtan with a memorial lecture in his honour. Book launches: 'Step by Step: Women of East Timor, Stories of Resistance and Survival', Jude Conway (ed), book to be launched by Kerry Nettle; and 'Xanana: Leader of the Struggle for Independent Timor-Leste', by Sara Niner, book to be launched by Robert Domm. Cost: donation. 6.00 pm, gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Contact: 02 9660 2333. Web: <http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/events4.htm>.

12 FEBRUARY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'POST-COPENHAGEN- AUSTRALIA'S ETS - WHERE TO NOW?' (NSW). Dr Mark Diesendorf, UTS Institute Environmental Studies, author Climate Action: A Campaign Manual for Greenhouse Solutions; John Kaye, NSW Greens MLC. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

12 - 14 FEBRUARY. SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK-END: 'RISK BEING DIFFERENT' (SA). A weekend for young adults who are, in the spirit of Edmund Rice, passionate about Social Justice. Explore the call to Presence, Compassion and Liberation. How can we act to be agents for change in our world today? This residential weekend is for young people aged 18–25. No cost. Christian Brothers' House, Middleton. Contact: 0438 505 400 or 0400 939 415. Web: <http://www.edmundricecommunity.com/events/risk-being-different-a>.

13 FEBRUARY. 'JUSTICE NOT RACISM: RALLY AGAINST THE NT INTERVENTION' (WA). Part of a national day of action. Organised by Aboriginal Rights Coalition. 12.00 pm, Wesley Church, corner William and Hay Streets, Perth. Contact: 0431 017 157. Web: <http://www.greenleft.org.au/calendar/?q=node/3348>.

13 FEBRUARY. YCM TRAINING DAY (QLD). The Annual Youth and Children's Ministry training day offers an incredible opportunity for parish volunteers to gather for a day of prayer, networking and quality presentations from experienced leaders across parish ministries relating to children and young people. Participants will be able to choose from 28 workshops and 3 keynote addresses, offering a wide variety of practical ideas and resources. Speakers: Fr Kevin Bates SM, Fr Chris Gleeson SJ, Anne Frawley-Mangan, etc. Cost: \$35. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Australian Catholic University, McAuley Campus, Banyo. Contact: ycm.fl@bne.catholic.net.au or 07 3109 6800, RSVP by 5 February. Web: <http://www.ycm.org.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11779>.

14 FEBRUARY: KAMAY-BOTANY BAY DAY OF HEALING 'SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER -2010' (NSW). A multi-faith celebration on the

second anniversary of the National Apology to Australia's Aboriginal People. Includes: Smoking ceremony; Earth, Fire, Water Ritual; Reconciliation Speech - 'What Follows Sorry?'; Col Hardy Band, Aboriginal dancers and traditional games; etc. Cost: \$7 parking. 1:30 to 5:30 pm, Kamay-Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell. Contact: 02 9523 9514. Web: http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au/webapp_375357/Shaping_our_Future_Together.

15, 18, 23, 26 FEBRUARY. WORKSHOPS: CLEAR EXCHANGE (VIC, WA, SA, NSW). The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICANi) in partnership with the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) present these workshops on nuclear weapons. The New Clear Exchange workshop will be a dynamic mix of information and discussion about nuclear weapons issues. The workshops are specifically targeted for environment non-government organisations, aid and development organisations, church groups, unions and international studies students and academics, as well as those already involved in nuclear issues in Australia and globally. 9:30 am to 5.00 pm. 15 February: VIC, Green Building, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton, contact: 03 9347 4795. 18 February: Perth. 23 February: Adelaide. 26 February: Sydney. Contact: mihiri@icanw.org, RSVP by 3 February. Web: http://icanw.org/ican_australia.

16 FEBRUARY. AFGHANISTAN VIGIL (VIC). This vigil has been organised as part of a broader campaign to call for Troops Out of Afghanistan, including monthly actions to draw attention to the situation in Afghanistan and expose our governments' role in the war. 4.00 to 6.00 pm, Office of Federal Labour MP Lindsey Tanner, 280 King Street, Melbourne. Contact: 0407 070 841. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/afghanistan-vigil>.

16 FEBRUARY. FREEZE! STOP FOR POVERTY (NSW). Be part of a movement to stop extreme poverty around the world. Join hundreds of Sydney-siders in a Stop For Poverty synchronised freeze! You only need to donate 3 minutes of your time to help draw attention to the fight against global poverty. Register today to learn the secret locations <http://www.stopforpoverty.org/>.

16 - 25 FEBRUARY. MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION: 'BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER WORLD' (NSW).

Caritas Australia and AusAID are exhibiting this display around Australia. It highlights the Millennium Development Goals and the promise of world Governments to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Video, photographs, visual installation as well as contributions (such as posters, baskets, school books, readers) from Caritas partner communities make up the installation. Volunteers are needed, if you can help contact 02 8306 3425 or beckys@caritas.org.au or register at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=LDZRBdaauaypWaxlX6Br1Q_3d_3d. No cost. Martin Place, Sydney. Contact: 02 8306 3400. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/Venues/index.html>.

17 FEBRUARY. BOOK LAUNCH: 'EMANCIPATION: HOW LIBERATING EUROPE'S JEWS FROM THE GHETTO LED TO REVOLUTION AND RENAISSANCE' (NSW). Featuring author Michael Goldfarb, in conversation with Antony Loewenstein. Emancipation tells the story of how this isolated minority emerged from the ghetto and against terrible odds established themselves as shapers of history, as writers, revolutionaries, social thinkers, and artists. Their struggle to create a place for themselves in Western European life led to revolutions and nothing less than a second renaissance in Western culture. Cost: \$10, \$7 concession. 6.30 pm, gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Contact: 02 9660 2333. Web: http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/events4_htm.

17 FEBRUARY. BRIEFING: OECD GUIDELINES (VIC). Oxfam Australia, an OECD Watch member, is hosting a briefing for civil society. This is an opportunity to learn more about the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the Review process. Speaker: Joris Oldenziel, OECD Watch Secretariat. 9.30 to 11.30 am, Oxfam Australia, Conference Room, 132 Leicester Street, Carlton. Contact: serenal@oxfam.org.au or 9289 9490, RSVP by 3 February. Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au> and <http://www.oecdwatch.org>.

17 FEBRUARY. SAMOAN CULTURAL WORKSHOP (QLD). This is an opportunity to provide

better understanding of cultural awareness of Pacific Island People, through sharing experiences and respect. This course will improve your skills and knowledge to work more effectively with Pacific Islander clients/students in appropriate and culturally sensitive ways. The training will be facilitated by an experienced Community Educator and Elders. A program of Redcliffe Community Association. Cost: free. 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, Baptist Church Hall, corner of Silver Street and Maine Terrace, Deception Bay. Contact: Respect3@redcliffecommunity.org.au, RSVP by 5 February. Web: <http://www.barc.org.au/cms/index.php>.

18 FEBRUARY. JAZZ FOR JUSTICE (NSW). Legendary Australian musicians Doug Parkinson and Grace Knight unite for a unique evening of music in Sydney's Martin Place. Highlighting the long history of music and social action, this exciting event is strictly limited so get in early for your FREE tickets (max 2pp). Licensed bar and BYO food. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, The Amphitheatre, Martin Place, Sydney. Contact: jazzforjustice@caritas.org.au or 1800 024 413. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home1>.

18 FEBRUARY. COMMUNITY SECTOR INDUSTRY ISSUES FORUM (ACT). Issues include: Industrial Relation issues for the Community Sector (Award modernisation, federalisation of the SACS award, etc), Taxation Reform including Fringe Benefit Tax and its effects on the Community Sector and Workforce Development and Retention Issues. Productivity Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald will outline these issues at the start of the day and experts in each area will lead discussions. The day is hosted by Catholic Social Services Australia, Anglicare Australia, Salvation Army and UnitingCare Australia and is open to all organisations in the community sector. Venue: Canberra (to be confirmed). Web: http://www.acoss.org.au/upload/events/6706_csii%20forum%20invite.pdf.

18 FEBRUARY. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: PROFESSOR GARETH EVANS AO QC (ACT). Co Chair International Commission on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. 'Eliminating Nuclear Threats: A Practical Agenda for Global Policy

Makers'. Cost: \$55 members, \$75 guests. 11.45 am to 1.30 pm, 16 National Circuit, Canberra. Contact: 02 6121 2199 or npc@npc.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingSpeakers.html>.

18 - 19 FEBRUARY. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE SUMMER FORUM: 'THE RIGHT TO CARE THAT WORKS' (NSW). Speakers will examine the evidence and address the challenge of delivering care that works within the broader context of respecting the rights of those who experience mental illness. Topics include: balancing human rights, mental health and social inclusion; coercive treatment and mental health, equity of access across gender, age and rural and remote areas, clinical and human rights issues in prisons. Speakers: Prof Steven Segal of the University of California; Associate Prof Dr Cheryl Kernot of the UNSW Centre for Social Impact; Prof Henry Brodaty, Director, Dementia Collaborative Research Centre; Mary O'Hagan, initiator of mental health service user movement in New Zealand. Cost: \$585. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Darling Harbour. Contact: 02 9810 8700 or info@themhs.org, RSVP by 16 February. Web: <http://themhs.org/summer-forum/2010-summer-forum>.

19 FEBRUARY. FISH FRIDAY (NSW). Hungry Sydney-siders can share in a simple meal of fish and rice on Friday 19 February as the Caritas Australia 2010 Project Compassion appeal commences. Top Aussie chefs will be cooking the fish in Sydney's Martin Place between noon and 2.30pm. Fish Friday follows the tradition of the commencement of Lent and provides an opportunity for supporters to show solidarity with the millions in our world who rely on fish and rice as their staple diet. Web: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghpN_Ql2kL0.

20 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH. PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: 'THE MEKONG - A RIVER OF LIFE' (VIC). Featuring images of life along the Mekong river in South East Asia. Opening: 19 February, 10.00 am, Melbourne Supper Club, Level 1, 159-161 Spring Street, Melbourne. Exhibition: 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, The State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne. Contact: www.surveymonkey.com/mekong or 03 9289 9409, RSVP essential for opening. Web:

http://www.usyd.edu.au/mekong/documents/events/mekong_exhibition_victoria_invitation.pdf.

20 FEBRUARY. CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE, EARTH AND THE SACRED (QLD). Following on from the Ecospirituality Principles developed by Earth Link, participants will explore the Christian theological dimensions of the principle: 'Acknowledge the Sacred in the interdependent web of life'. 10.00 am to 3.30 pm, Four Winds, 104 Robinson Road South, Ocean View. Contact: 07 3425 3138 or earthlink@mercy.org.au. Web: http://www.arrcc.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=294:sat-20-feb-ocean-view-christian-perspectives-on-the-connections-between-people-earth-and-the-sac&catid=37:queensland&Itemid=19.

21 FEBRUARY. HUMAN RACE: FUNDRAISE FOR HUMANITY (VIC). Live in Melbourne and care about humanity? Give your mind, body and soul a real workout, while having loads of fun with the chance to win some seriously wicked prizes and make a positive difference through some inspiring community projects. Caritas Australia's Livelihood Project in Sri Lanka will receive half of all funds raised. Cost: \$30. 9.00 am, South Lawn, University of Melbourne, Parkville. Contact: humanrace@palmeraprojects.org. Register: <http://www.humanrace2010.org.au>.

22 FEBRUARY. BOOK LAUNCH: 'XINRAN - MESSAGE FROM AN UNKNOWN CHINESE MOTHER' (NSW). Ten chapters, ten women and many stories of heartbreak, including her own. Xinran once again takes us right into the lives of Chinese women - students, successful business women, midwives, and peasants, all with memories which have stained their lives. Whether as a consequence of the single-child policy, destructive age-old traditions or hideous economic necessity... some women had to give up their daughters for adoption, others were forced to abandon them - on city streets, outside hospitals, orphanages. In conversation with Annette Shun Wah, freelance broadcaster, actor and writer. \$10, \$7 concession. 6.30 pm, gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Contact: 02 9660 2333. Web: <http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/events4.htm>.

24 - 25 FEBRUARY. CONFERENCE: 'CLIMATE ACTION 2010 - REBUILDING CAPACITY AND STRATEGY POST-COPENHAGEN' (NSW). Climate Action Network Australia is hosting this conference which will review the outcomes at Copenhagen and will seek to strike a global climate deal, and prepare policy positions and strategies towards the 2010 Federal election. Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. Web: <http://cana.net.au/2010-cana-conference-registration>.

24 OR 26 FEBRUARY. HOUSING WORKSHOPS: 'MOVING OUT, MOVING FORWARD -A GUIDE TO EFFECTIVELY MAINTAINING YOUR TENANCY' (QLD). Workshops for young women (aged 12 - 25) from CALD backgrounds. Topics include: rights and responsibilities of tenants and lessors, living skills, living with other people, how to get your bond back, etc.
24 February. North: The Community Place, 84 Kedron Park Road, Woolloowin.
26 February. South: Multicultural Development Association, 512 Stanley Street, South Brisbane. 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. Contact: 07 3847 9633 or group@othilas.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.othilas.org.au/>.

25 FEBRUARY - 25 MARCH. INTRODUCTORY PASTORAL CARE TRAINING (ACT). Become a Pastoral Carer in your Community - affirm the power of Love and Care through the Spirit of God in the Community. Applications are invited for people in Canberra and Region to train as Pastoral Carers in their local community. The Canberra and Region Centre for Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education Inc, ACT Health and Canberra Hospital. Thursdays, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Canberra Hospital. Contact: 02 6244 2261 or lyn.kelly@act.gov.au. Web: www.pastoralcareact.org/cpe.

26 FEBRUARY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'ONE STATE: RESOLVING ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT?' (NSW). Anthony Loewenstein, freelance journalist & author *My Israel Question*; Ian Bickerton, History Research Fellow UNSW, author *The Arab-Israel Conflict - A History*. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

27 FEBRUARY. PALMS AUSTRALIA FOCUS WORKSHOP (NSW). Expert facilitators guide participants through sessions aimed at exploring their motivations for development work and provide a framework based in development theory and Catholic social teaching from which to view different opportunities. Participants also learn what it takes to volunteer cross-culturally, what international volunteering involves and what to do next if they are interested in working in Asia, Africa or the Pacific. Sydney. Contact: 02 9518 9551. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au/news/latest/28/>.

27 FEBRUARY. MICAH ACTION TRAINING DAY (NSW). This training day will equip you to speak out for God's justice and get on board with Micah Challenge's 2010 election campaign. This training day features the NSW launch of the new Micah Challenge Action Toolkit, plus guest speakers, presentations from politicians and policy experts and practical workshops. Cost: \$15, concession \$10, free registration for people outside of the greater Sydney region. 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, Morling College, 120 Herring Road, Eastwood. Contact: nsw@micahchallenge.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/events>.

28 FEBRUARY. AFRICAN-EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY CELEBRATION (TAS). On this last Sunday of the month all are invited to join in the African-Eucharistic Community Celebration at 12.00 pm, Sacred Heart Church, New Town. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/whatson.html>.

28 FEBRUARY - 2 MARCH. JCMA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: 'WOMEN, FAITH AND ETHICS' (VIC). Daughters of Faith Conference for Jews, Christians and Muslims. Women's stories, reflections and spirituality. Cost: \$230 - \$330. 2.00 pm, 'Amberley', Edmund Rice Centre, 7 Amberley Way, Lower Plenty. Contact: vcc@vcc.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.paxchristi.org.au/plugins/events.cgi?all=1&num=10>.

2 MARCH. UNSW PUBLIC SEMINAR: 'GLOBAL STUDY ON CHILD POVERTY AND DISPARITIES - VANUATU' (NSW). Professor Peter Whiteford, Social Policy Research Centre. 12.30 to 1.30

pm, Room 250, Level 2, Robert Webster Building (G14), UNSW. Contact: sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au or 02 9385 7805. Web: <http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/seminars-conferences/seminar-seminars/>.

2, 8, 24, 30 MARCH. EDMUND RICE PEACE AND JUSTICE COURSE (QLD). 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Oceania Support Centre, Kate Street, Indooroopilly. Contact: 07 3327 2200. Web: <http://www.edmundricecommunity.com/events/event/listByDate?date=2010-03-2>.

4 MARCH. IQ2 NUCLEAR ENERGY DEBATE: 'AUSTRALIA SHOULD EMBRACE NUCLEAR POWER' (VIC). Dr James Hansen, US, will debate this vital issue of the use of nuclear energy as an alternative to the use of fossil fuels. Joining him, for the affirmative, will be Dr Ziggy Switkowski, outspoken advocate of nuclear power and Dr Erica Smyth. The negative will consist of Molly Harriss Olson, former Presidential advisor to President Clinton on energy, Dr Mark Diesendorf, world renowned writer on climate change and Adam Morton, The Age. Cost: \$30, concession \$20. 6.30 to 8.30 pm, Melbourne Town Hall, Melbourne. Web: <http://www.iq2oz.com/events/event-details/2010-series-melbourne/01-march.php>.

4 - 13 MARCH 2010. MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION: 'BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER WORLD' (NSW). Caritas Australia and the Australian Government's aid agency, AusAID, are exhibiting this display around Australia. It highlights the Millennium Development Goals and the promise of world Governments to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Video, photographs, visual installation as well as contributions (such as posters, baskets, school books, readers) from Caritas partner communities make up the installation. No cost. Yamuloong, 71 Prospect Road, Garden Suburb, (Newcastle). Contact: 02 8306 3400. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/Venues/index.html>.

5 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'PRISONS AS A LAST RESORT: THE POTENTIAL FOR REFORM' (NSW). Prof Eileen Baldry, UNSW; Greg Smith MP, NSW Shadow Attorney General, Shadow Minister of Justice. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street,

Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odlbradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

5 MARCH. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (NATIONAL). The women of Cameroon invite us to come with them to the Land Of Promise, Land Of Glory; to come together with confidence: 'Let Everything That Has Breath, Praise God'. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can come to know how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression. Resources and information about events: <http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/>.

5 MARCH. CONFERENCE: 'THEN AND NOW - THE AUSTRALIAN RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE' (NSW). Studies of Religion in Focus Conference is an interfaith initiative to resource teachers in their teaching of Studies of Religion I and II. The conference aims to broaden teachers' understanding and experience through interaction with speakers and academics from different faiths. It is presented by Affinity Intercultural Foundation. Cost: \$70. 8.45 am to 3.30 pm, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: info@affinity.org.au or 02 9702 0789, registration is essential at [www.affinity.org.au](http://www.affinity.org.au/images/stories/2010SoRConferenceFlyer.pdf). Web: <http://www.affinity.org.au/images/stories/2010SoRConferenceFlyer.pdf>.

7 MARCH. CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY (NATIONAL). Every year, from Perth to Penrith, hundreds of thousands of Australians get stuck in and Clean Up their local environment by collecting and removing rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day. This year is the 20th anniversary and we hope to make it the biggest community event to date! How to get involved - Clean Up Australia Day is fun, easy and everyone can get involved. Individuals and local groups can either choose their own site to Clean Up or volunteer at an existing site. Web: <http://www.cleanup.org.au/au/>.

9 MARCH. EDMUND RICE CENTRE (ERC): JUST TALK (SA). Young adults, senior school students, ERC volunteers and anyone interested

are welcome. Round table conversations focusing on a key justice presentation, followed by a meal. Speakers: Donna Mulhearn, Mason Somerville etc. 6.15 to 8.15 pm, Boardroom, 103 George Street, Thebarton. Contact: 0438 505 400 or 0400 939 415. Web: <http://www.edmundricecommunity.com/events/just-talk>.

9 MARCH. GLOBAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES: 'WHAT IS GLOBAL HEALTH?' (NSW). Global-HOME (global health group at the University of Sydney) has developed a lecture series featuring world-renowned experts discussing current issues in global health. These lectures will be invaluable for those who have an interest in being involved in global health or working in the developing world. Speakers: Joel Negin, School of Public Health, Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Simon

Moss, Global Poverty Project. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, University of Sydney (main campus). Contact: camhollows@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/global-health/news-events/events.php>.

11 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION (NATIONAL). Attend from anywhere in the world. Topics will address the categories of primary prevention, secondary prevention, tertiary prevention, and new technology. Sponsored by Deakin University's School of Health and Social Development (Melbourne, Australia) and Phoenix House (Bundaberg, Australia). No cost. 9.00 am to 4.00 pm EST Australia, location online. Contact: Georgia.babatsikos@deakin.edu.au. Web: <http://childsexualabuseprevention.wikispaces.com/First+International+Online+Conference+on+Child+Sexual+Abuse+Prevention>.

News Monitor

New director for Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office

Father Maurizio Pettena was appointed director of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO), replacing Monsignor John Murphy, who has retired.

Rethink needed on housing the homeless: priest

South Australian Social Inclusion Commissioner Monsignor David Cappo called for a revision of the Federal Government's approach to homelessness, saying an external body is needed to help monitor the bureaucracy.

Samson & Delilah wins Catholic accolade

The Australian Catholic Film Office awarded its 2009 Film of the Year to Warwick Thornton and Kath Shelper's Samson & Delilah.

Alternative schoolies trip to Philippines an eye-opener

An "alternative schoolies immersion trip" to the Philippines proved to be an eye-opener for Victorian school students, bringing them face to face with the extremely poor living conditions people deal with around the world.

Melbourne priest asks Indian student killer to surrender

A Melbourne priest and a youth worker urged the person behind the murder of an Indian student to surrender to them. "We could act as circuit-breakers," says Father Bob Maguire.

Charities claim dumping fees cost the needy

The Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul Society and UnitingCare Wesley said dumping fees, incurred for clearing unusable goods dumped on them, are preventing money going to help the needy.

Australian religious leaders call for bolder climate action

Leaders of Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist faiths from around Australia wrote a letter to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott, calling for stronger action on climate change.

End violence against international students: Catholic agencies

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) and the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) appealed for an

end to violence towards international students living in Australia.

Tax overhaul could cut back welfare services

The Henry tax review recommendation to end Fringe Benefits Tax concessions, which allows charity-run hospitals and nursing homes to top up payment to staff, could strip salary perks of some of the lowest-paid workers.

Support grows for “Bali Nine” Scott Rush

Brisbane priest Father Tim Harris said there was growing support for former parishioner, Scott Rush, on death row in Bali, since a statement by fellow “Bali Nine” Renae Lawrence that he was just a first time courier.

Christmas Island conditions worsening: Brennan

Jesuit Father Frank Brennan said conditions on Christmas Island now resemble those during worst days of the Howard era, and urged the Rudd Government to transfer asylum seekers to the mainland.

Hope lies in local level climate action: Vatican official

Although there was general disappointment as the UN climate talks wrapped up in Copenhagen on Saturday, the Holy See urged for a positive outlook, Zenit reported.

Push for “urgent and drastic action” on climate

The Edmund Rice Centre, which was in attendance at the UN climate summit at Copenhagen, issued an appeal calling Australians to make known to the Rudd Government the need for “urgent and drastic action” on climate change.

Benenson Society launches in Melbourne

The Benenson Society was launched in Melbourne by Father Tony Kerin, Episcopal Vicar for Justice in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the archdiocese said in a statement.

Migrants making Church “vibrant”

Migrants are keeping the Catholic Church in Australia vital and energetic while making church a more enjoyable place for Australian Catholics, The Age reports.

Pope slams “deceitful” liberation theology

In an address to Brazilian bishops, Pope Benedict said the “visible consequences” of the “deceitful principles” of liberation theology have been “rebellion, division, dissent, offense, anarchy (that) are still being felt.”

- courtesy CathNews, for details click headlines or go to <http://cathnews.com>



Social Justice Calendar

2 TUE World Wetlands Day: Theme: *Wetlands, Biodiversity, and Climate Change*

5 FRI Cape York Peninsula Heads of Agreement signed, 1996

6 SAT Waitangi Day, Aotearoa New Zealand

7 SUN 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

11 THU Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes -
World Day of Prayer for the Sick

12 FRI The Freedom Ride commenced, journeying through NSW country towns to raise

awareness of racism against Aboriginals, 1965

13 SAT Apology to Stolen Generations by Australian Government, 2008

14 SUN 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

17 WED Ash Wednesday

20 SAT UN World Day of Social Justice

21 SUN 1st Sunday in Lent
UN International Mother Language Day,
originating from Bangladesh Martyrs Day

28 SUN 2nd Sunday in Lent

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL PO Box 7246, Alexandria NSW 2015. Tel: (02) 8306 3499, Fax: (02) 8306 3498, Email: admin@acsjc.org.au 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 welcome.