



No. 111 – April 2010

*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,

As we journey through Holy Week, we follow the trials and suffering of Christ and bear witness to his resurrection. As individuals and as a community of believers we attest to the fact Christ died for us, and through his rising, offers us salvation. We have a hope that overcomes the suffering and injustice of this world and refuses to accept that 'this is all there is' or that 'this is the way it will always be'.

Pope Benedict XVI has previously alluded to the Passion of Christ when referring to the injustices of this world. He has spoken of 'scourges of humanity' inflicting 'wounds that torture the souls and bodies of countless of our brothers and sisters'. He has highlighted the Christian calling to bring healing to those wounds - to bring peace and to restore the common good.

Right now in Australia, a cruel debate is starting to flare once more over asylum seekers arriving by boat and about those in

the process of having their claims assessed. There is a potent mix of sensationalised media reporting, political point scoring, xenophobia and resentment. The consequence is that the circumstances and need of people who are in desperate situations is forgotten. At worst, they are being demonised and portrayed as a threat to our way of life.

The harsh and unjust treatment of the most vulnerable is always a challenge - perhaps more so for Christians who are called to see the face of Christ in the poor. A few years ago, the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees stated that:

'In migrants the Church has always contemplated the image of Christ who said, "I was a stranger and you made me welcome" (Mt 25:35). Their condition is, therefore, a challenge to the faith and love of believers, who are called on to heal the evils caused by migration and discover the plan God pursues through it even when caused by obvious injustices ...

'If, on the one hand, the suffering that goes with migration is neither more nor less than the birth-pangs of a new humanity, on the other the inequalities and disparities behind this suffering reveal the deep wounds that sin causes in the human family. They are thus an urgent appeal for true fraternity.' (http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/migrants/documents/rc_pc_migrants_doc_20040514_erga-migrantes-caritas-christi_en.html)

The Pontifical Council uses here the broad concept of 'migrants'. Even greater is the urgency of the claim for justice of the particular category of migrant who is fleeing persecution and seeking asylum in another country.

And the true solidarity the Pontifical Council speaks of - where is that to be found in the current national debate? We read newspaper headlines like 'Asylum seekers flood in', 'Boat people overload' or 'They're here'. Political rhetoric seems geared to turn the desperation of vulnerable people into issues of border security, military deployment and offshore detention.

The fact is that asylum seekers arriving by boat are not 'illegal immigrants' - they have a right to claim asylum in Australia. We are not being swamped by asylum seekers. The Refugee Council of Australia points out that the 6,170 asylum applications to Australia last year represented only 1.6 per cent of the 377,160 received by 44 industrialised nations. The number of claims made on Australia is small. By comparison, the US received 49,020 applications, France 41,980, Canada 33,250, UK 29,840, Germany 27,650, and Sweden 24,190. (<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2010/100324%20RCOA%20response%20to%20UNHCR%20stats.pdf>)

In the broader context, the current debate needs to acknowledge that 42 million people worldwide are uprooted by conflict and persecution. This number includes 16 million people who are refugees and asylum seekers and 26 million who are internally displaced. 80 per cent of these people are to be found in developing countries.

Pope Benedict has responded to this global challenge of migration in his recent encyclical, *Caritas in veritate*, where he says:

'This is a striking phenomenon because of the sheer numbers of people involved, the social, economic, political, cultural and religious problems it raises, and the dramatic challenges it poses to nations and the international community. We can say that we are facing a social phenomenon of epoch-making proportions that requires bold, forward-looking policies of international cooperation if it is to be handled effectively ... No country can be expected to address today's problems of migration by itself. We are all witnesses of the burden of suffering, the dislocation and the aspirations that

accompany the flow of migrants ... Every migrant is a human person who, as such, possesses fundamental, inalienable rights that must be respected by everyone and in every circumstance.' (http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate_en.html)

Remember the call made last October by Bishop Joseph Grech, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference delegate for refugee and migrant issues. He was urging a more compassionate discussion about refugees and asylum seekers and noted that the low numbers who enter Australia each year are not a significant burden for a country as wealthy as ours. He urged all Australians, including politicians, to stop and think about asylum seekers and why they were seeking to escape their homeland. He said:

'...we should all be aware of the incredible trauma being experienced by many people in present and past war zones such as Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Iraq.

'Not only does Australia have humanitarian obligations under UN Charters, but many Australians are descendants of people who came to Australia to escape persecution in their countries of birth. This can help us to understand and open our hearts to those who are suffering.' (http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_details&gid=897&Itemid=355)

The need for more compassion in how we respond to people fleeing desperate situations remains. With an approaching election campaign in which this issue is likely to dominate, we should ask the question 'is this the way it will always be?'

Surely there is another way. Imagine our political leaders acknowledging the terrible circumstances these people are fleeing. Imagine a nation encouraged to be proud that we are one of only a few in the region to have signed the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees. Given our wealth and prosperity, it would not be unreasonable to consider increases in our humanitarian intake and more

adequate funding for community organisations that assist asylum seekers while their claims are being processed. It should not be unreasonable to expect our political leaders to make a bipartisan commitment to a reasoned debate and a compassionate and humane response to those seeking asylum in Australia.

Easter is a time of hope against all odds, of the redemption of our humanity in Christ and of the renewal of our faith. As the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Philip Wilson, has said in his Easter message: 'During the Easter celebrations, we vividly recall how he came to save us by

showing us how to love our neighbour and, through the ultimate sacrifice of his death and resurrection, provided us with the light that shines in the darkness calling us to show the same love for one another'. (<http://www.ncca.org.au/home/media-releases/525-easter-2010-messages-from-australian-church-leaders->)

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and its Secretariat wish you the joy of the Easter Season.

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues / Resources

CARITAS AUSTRALIA - PROJECT COMPASSION 2010

Caritas Australia's Project Compassion runs until Easter Sunday, 4 April. 'Blueprint for a better world' is this year's theme for Project Compassion and is inspired by the Millennium Development Goals. For the Church, these goals are not just development objectives for freedom from hunger, for the right to an education and health, for equality and for a sustainable environment; they encompass all that is necessary for our brothers and sisters to realise their human dignity and have life to the full. To make your donation, visit: http://www.caritas.org.au/project_compassion_10/index.html

WELCOME TO COUNTRY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A Q&A factsheet has been produced by Reconciliation Australia on the topic of Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country. The factsheet considers the questions: What's a Welcome to Country? Is a Welcome to Country a new thing, invented recently for the sake of political correctness? What's an Acknowledgment of Country? Why are Acknowledgements of Country and Welcomes to Country important? How does a Welcome to or Acknowledgement of Country help address Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

disadvantage? and Why should we be welcomed by or acknowledge Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people if they no longer legally own the land? To access, visit: <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/reconciliation-resources/facts--figures/qa-factsheets/welcome-to-and-acknowledgement-of-country>

NEW BOOK - 'THIS IS WHAT WE SAID'

'Concerned Australians' has produced a book that gives voice to what many Aboriginal people feel about the NT Intervention. The book is entitled, 'This Is What We Said'. Editor, Michele Harris OAM, said, 'The new legislation recently tabled in Parliament leads us to believe that the majority of Aboriginal people have not been heard by Government. They have been ignored.' Using pictures and quotations taken from footage of actual consultations at Bagot, Ampilatwatja, Utopia and Yirrkala, this book provides a graphic account of the depth of frustration and despair of many Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory regarding the Intervention. The hard back book is available at \$15 + \$2 packaging and post, per copy, within Australia. For further information contact: Concerned Australians, PO Box 281, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 or harrisme@bigpond.com

NEW BOOK - 'ISLAMAPHOBIA IN AUSTRALIA'

Social anthropologist Alice Aslan is the author of 'Islamophobia in Australia', a book that traces the rise of racism against Muslims through an extensive analysis of critical events and issues including the Gulf War, the September 11 terror attacks, the Bali bombings, ethnic crime, ethnic gang rapes, Middle Eastern asylum seekers, the Cronulla riots and the negative portrayals of Muslims and Muslim women in the Australian media and public discourse. \$25 plus \$5 for postage. For further information contact: AGORA PRESS, PO Box 1174, Glebe, 2037 NSW or agorapr@tpg.com.au. Web: <http://www.islamophobia.com.au/contact.html>

NEW RESEARCH - CHURCH VOLUNTEERS AND WIDER COMMUNITY

Far from being inward-looking and focused only on their own church group, church-going volunteers are part of society's powerful, invisible safety net. National Church Life Survey Research has found that church attendees are more likely to be volunteers than the general community (57% vs 35%). In addition, volunteering within the congregation is strongly related to volunteering beyond it, with many people volunteering in both the congregation and the community. NCLS Research director Dr Ruth Powell said, 'This is because of widely-known Christian messages about helping others in need, because church attendees are reminded of those messages and because most churches provide structured opportunities for volunteering, such as congregation-based activities in welfare and social justice. In fact, the middle-aged well-educated female churchgoer is very likely to be one of Australia's many volunteer heroes.' For further information, visit <http://www.ncls.org.au> or call 2 8267 4394.

PACE E BENE - 'SPIRITUALITY AND PRACTICE OF NONVIOLENT LEADERSHIP'

Effective leadership can only emerge from, and be sustained by, a foundation of self-understanding. An 8-day residential program for church leaders, clergy and lay people will explore questions of self-care, integrity, power and hierarchy as a basis of different ways of functioning as a leader. The program aims to

deepen leadership skills through a disciplined and sustained practice of reflection on inner work. Module 1 (available twice): 8-13 August or 29 August - 3 September, Perth WA
Module 2: 14-17 November, Sydney or Melbourne (TBC). For further information, visit <http://www.paceebene.org.au/> and press the 'workshops' link.

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK 2010

This year, Anti-Poverty Week begins on Sunday 17 October. The week is concerned with poverty around the world, especially in the poorest countries but also in wealthier countries like Australia. The twin aims of the week are to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship and to encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems. The organisers of Anti-Poverty Week are encouraging individuals, communities and organisations to mark the Week in your diaries and begin thinking about activities that could be initiated and promoted. Further information is available at www.antipovertyweek.org. To let the organisers know of events or initiatives you may be considering, contact apw@antipovertyweek.org.au or 1300 797 290.

SPRC's 'MAKING A DIFFERENCE' PROJECT

The UNSW's Social Policy Research Centre is studying young Australians in economic adversity. The 'Making a Difference' project explores the perceptions of economically disadvantaged young Australians (aged 11 to 17 years), how they experience economic adversity and may experience exclusion in family, school, neighbourhood and peer domains. Preliminary findings show that many young Australians on low income face significant participation barriers and cannot access activities that others take for granted. The research is designed to provide an evidence base for more effective policies to support young people by drawing on young people's insights and priorities. It reflects recent developments in poverty research that emphasise the need to capture living standards more directly by engaging with those living at the poverty coalface. To find out more, download the SPRC newsletter at: http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/media/File/Youth_and_poverty.pdf

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)

SERIES PAPER - 'WOMEN IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA'

Catholic Social Justice Series paper No. 67 is a collection essays by women engaged in wide-ranging areas of Church life. Ten years ago the Catholic Bishops of Australia responded to the work of a devoted group of women and men who had compiled a report on the place of women in the Church. That report, *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus*, was published in 1999. The Bishops responded to the report in their Social Justice Sunday Statement of 2000. Reflecting on developments since then, the collection of eight papers include: 'Where would the churches be without women?' by Kimberly Davis and Helen Mary Peters RSM; '*Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus - A Retrospective*' by Sonia Wagner SGS; 'What was it like then? Challenges and achievements' by Therese Vassarotti; 'Australian women in the life of the Church in 2010', by Tricia Walsh; 'The inaugural Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship' by Beth Doherty; 'Female lay ministry: My experience as a lay parish pastoral director' by Kari Hatherell; 'Being 'invisible': Women in the Church and the world' by Geraldine Hawkes; and 'Women: Key leaders in the cause of social justice' by Sandie Cornish. ACSJC Chairman, Bishop Christopher Saunders says, 'It is my hope that this publication will be a valuable contribution among a number of initiatives, 10 years on, supporting continued discussion on the contribution of women to the life of the Church'. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2010

The ACSJC discussion guide on Pope Benedict XVI's World Day of Peace Message consists of a brief overview of the 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>

STILL TAKING ORDERS - 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

This Australian Catholic Bishop's 2009 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, summary 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 Chairmen 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>.

DECEMBER 2009 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>.

16 MARCH - 25 SEPTEMBER. KURDS IN AUSTRALIA EXHIBITION: 'SURVIVAL OF A CULTURE' (VIC). This exhibition explores how the Kurdish culture has survived through adversity, invasion, and division of the Kurds' traditional lands. It examines the traditions at the core of the Kurdish culture that have enabled it to survive, and which Kurds proudly maintain in Australia today. A variety of

objects will be on display, including traditional costumes, instruments, hand-woven crafts and pewter wear. Cost: \$8, children free. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Contact: 13 11 02. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/>.

5 APRIL. THEOLOGY ON TAP: 'SPIRITUAL WARFARE - NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BONES' (NSW). Young people meet together for some real answers on the Catholic faith in a relaxed atmosphere. Be equipped with the essential weaponry and armour of an enduring prayer life to succeed in the spiritual battlefield. Live band 'Gaps at Sea'. Speaker: Fr Robert Stewart, Vicar Provincial, Capuchin Friars Leichhardt. 6.00 pm, PJ Gallagher's Irish Pub, 74 Church Street, Parramatta. Contact: jessica_langrell@hotmail.com. Web: <http://www.sydney.catholic.org.au/youth/theology/>.

7 APRIL. UTSPEAKS PUBLIC LECTURE: 'DIVERSITY AND COHESION - CAN THE RICH POTENTIAL OF A DIVERSE AND SOCIALLY COHESIVE AUSTRALIA SURVIVE ENDURING RACISM AND POLITICAL OPPORTUNISM?' (NSW). Drawing on research into the weave of multi-cultural Australia, this public lecture maps the dizzying social, economic and cosmopolitan contradictions that make up our society. While exposing the worrying realities for ethnically diverse communities and immigrants in our country, it calls for a fresh approach to managing Australia's diversity or risk serious economic and social loss. Speaker: Professor Jock Collins, UTS Professor of Economics, Co-Director of the Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre. No cost. Drinks

6.00, lecture 6.30 to 7.50 pm, The Great Hall, Level 5, UTS Tower, Broadway, Ultimo. Contact: 02 9514 1734 or robert.button@uts.edu.au, RSVP by 6 April. Web: <http://www.uts.edu.au/new/speaks/>.

7 APRIL. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'I FEEL PASSIONATE ABOUT GLOBAL JUSTICE' (NSW).

Speakers: Ben Spies-Butcher and Jennifer Burn. Bellevue Hotel, 159 Hargrave Street, Paddington. Contact: 02 9387 3152. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/spirituality%20in%20the%20pub.htm>.

7 - 8 APRIL. CITY OF SYDNEY LIVING IN HARMONY FESTIVAL: CHINESE CULTURAL DAY (NSW).

Discover all there is to know about Chinese culture and heritage in this program of workshops and performances. Highlights include calligraphy and a traditional tea ceremony. 10.30 am to 4.30 pm, Chinese Garden of Friendship, Darling Harbour South End. Contact: 02 9246 7874 or livinginharmony@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=82655>.

7 - 9 APRIL. COLLOQUIUM ON IDENTITY AND MISSION 'UNITY IN DIVERSITY' (VIC).

The Colloquium is a unique opportunity to bring together people working in Catholic agencies to share their understandings of being Church in contemporary Australian society. Building on the success of the previous colloquia, this colloquium is designed particularly for present and future leaders. Its specific focus will be on the sectoral, demographic, gender and institutional diversity of Catholic involvement in the public sphere. The conversations will aim to discern and explore how true and effective unity in identity and mission might be nurtured and celebrated. The event is open to people working in Catholic Church agencies, particularly those who may be involved in leadership or identity-based roles. Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy. Contact: 03 9953 3553 or Joan.Manshon@acu.edu.au. Web: http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=355.

8 APRIL. CROSS CULTURAL FORUM: 'UNDERSTANDING ISLAM, THE MUSLIM

COMMUNITY AND IMPACT ON SERVICES - BEYOND THE VEIL' (VIC). The forum will provide an understanding of the Muslim community and barriers which prevent service access. Speakers: Mrs Manar Chelebi, Executive Officer, Australian Council for Islamic Education in Schools and Diversity Consultant; Mr Yasser Soliman, President of Islamic Family and Child Care Agency. Cost: \$55. 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, corner of Bell Street and St Georges Road, Preston. Contact: josie@prioletticonsultants.com.au or 03 9038 9292. Register: <http://www.prioletticonsultants.com.au>.

8 APRIL. AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PACIFIC STUDIES (AAAPS) CONFERENCE: 'OCEANIC TRANSFORMATIONS' (VIC).

While the globalization of markets has been seen as an inevitable process, recent events point to a need for more attention to be paid to local solutions to global problems within the Oceanic region. Australia's role seems marked by contradiction. Official institutions are attempting to increase their influence in the region, yet Australians learn less and less from their educational institutions and media about Oceania. At the same time, growing diasporas of Pacific Islanders in Australia are making their presence felt in fields of culture, music, sport, education and civil society. Cost: \$300, concession \$80. Victoria University Conference Centre, 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Contact: events@aaaps-conference.ning.com or 0409 183 315. Web: <http://www.aaaps.edu.au/>.

8 APRIL. FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCILS OF AUSTRALIA (FECCA) ACCESS AND EQUITY CONSULTATIONS (VIC).

FECCA is conducting a national consultation on Commonwealth Government services and wants to hear your views. The consultation will allow FECCA to gain an understanding about how well government agencies work with people from migrant and refugee backgrounds in areas such as health, housing, employment, learning English and interpreting services. This information will then be used to make recommendations about how government agencies can improve the way they work. The consultation will be hosted by the Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District.

2.00 to 5.00 pm, Shepparton. Contact: 03 5831 2395. Web: <http://www.fecca.org.au/>.

9 APRIL. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'POLITICS OF DISABILITY: WHAT SHOULD RUDD DELIVER' (NSW). Speakers: Bill Shorten, Federal MP, Parliamentary Sec. Disability and Children's Services; Rhonda Galbally, OA, Chair, National Disability Advisory Council, author 'Just Passions'. 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/>.

10 APRIL. CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN CULTURES (NSW). Cultural stalls, performances, food stalls, DJ Prince 2000, Best African Dress Award, Sports activities, children's activities, and workshops. 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, Auburn Park, Macquarie Road, Auburn. Contact: 0403 562 595 or africultures@hotmail.com. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/46835/448/>.

10 APRIL. FORUM: 'IF YOU WANT TO CULTIVATE PEACE, PROTECT CREATION' (NSW). Rev Dr Sean McDonagh will explore the spirituality, theology and justice of this challenge from Pope Benedict's World Day of Peace Message. Respondents: Most Rev Julian Porteous, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Sydney; Sandra Menteith, Lecturer in Environmental Ethics, Catholic Institute of Sydney; and Emily Aitken, Waitara Parish Youth Leader, "Greensteps" participant. Musical interlude by students of St Patrick's College Strathfield. Wine and cheese served. Cost: donation, \$10 suggested. 5.00 to 7.00 pm, Thomas Aquinas Centre, Santa Sabina College, 90 The Boulevard, Strathfield. Contact: 02 9352 8000 or cmi@columban.org.au. Web: http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/community_engagement/institute_for_advancing_community_engagement/news_and_events/10_04_10/.

10 - 18 APRIL. NSW YOUTH WEEK: 'LIVE IT NOW' (NSW). The objectives of National Youth Week are to: provide an opportunity for young people aged 12 to 25 to express their ideas and views, raise issues of concern to them, act on issues which affect their lives and create and enjoy entertainment; provide an opportunity

for the wider community to listen to young people, and to acknowledge and celebrate the positive contributions made by their efforts and achievements; promote a community focus on issues of concern to young people. For ideas to run a Youth Week event in your area: <http://www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au/>.

11 APRIL. JUST CYCLE YARRA VALLEY (VIC). This charity cycling event and family day will place a focus on social justice issues while raising money for Jesuit Social Services. The day features 45km and 120 km cycling courses and offers live music and entertainment. Gates open: 6.00 am, Start: 7.30 am (120 km), 9.30 am (45 km), Concert: 11.30 am to 4.00 pm, Rochford Wines, corner Maroondah Highway and Hill Road, Coldstream. Cost: \$130-\$145. Contact: justcycle@jss.org.au. Web: <http://www.justcycle.com.au/> .

11 APRIL. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AFTERNOON TEA FUNDRAISER (QLD). The Romero Centre is holding its first Afternoon Tea to raise funds to support Brisbane's refugees and asylum seekers. Cost: \$25-\$35. 2.30 to 4.00 pm, East Brisbane Community Centre, 538 Vulture Street, East Brisbane. Contact: 07 3846 3250. Web: http://www.romerocentre.org.au/events/2010-04-11_tea.php.

11 APRIL. PAX CHRISTI FORUM: 'TROOPS OUT OF AFGHANISTAN - BREAKING THE SILENCE' (VIC). Speakers: Prof. Joseph Camilleri, Ms Onnie Wilson, Mr Chip Hendriss. No cost. 2.00 to 5.30 pm, Centre for Theology and Ministry, College Crescent, Parkville. Contact: 03 9893 4946. Web: <http://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/Events/NetworkCollaboratorsEvents/OtherEvents/tabid/467/Default.aspx>.

12 APRIL - 15 MAY. PEACEBUILDING CERTIFICATE COURSE (NSW). One aim of the Peacebuilders International is to provide intensive training courses and accredited courses in Peace Building. Sessions include: Principles and Practice for Non-Violent Relations, Fundamentals of Peacebuilding, Developing Peacebuilding Initiatives and Sustaining Peacebuilders, etc. Cost per week: \$200 (live out), \$350 residential. Kings School, North Parramatta. Contact: 02

9086 9365 or office@peacebuilders.in. Enrol: <http://www.peacebuilders.in/main/index.php?page=certificate-course>, RSVP essential.

12, 19 APRIL. AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES SEMINAR SERIES (ACT). This series will provide a range of seminars around the subject of Indigenous Wellbeing. They are also available via video-conference at the time of the seminar or as downloadable audio recordings shortly after the seminar.

12 April: Kirrily Jordan, CAEPR - 'Making sense of Wellbeing: From statistical indicators to qualitative accounts of Indigenous world views'.

19 April: Tina Takagaki, Productivity Commission - 'Overcoming Indigenous disadvantage and improving Indigenous wellbeing - different approaches with a similar goal?'

No cost. Monday lunchtimes, 12.30 to 2.30 pm, Mabo Room, AIATSIS Building, Acton Peninsula, Canberra. Contact: cressida.fforde@aiatsis.gov.au or 02 6261 4221. Web: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/seminars.html>.

13 APRIL. SEMINAR: RACISM AND CHILD HEALTH (VIC). Speaker: Dr Naomi Priest is a Research Fellow in child public health and health inequalities. Her current research is focused on addressing child health inequalities through combating racism and promoting diversity and inclusion. She is also involved in developing mental health promotion interventions for children living in disadvantaged areas. 1.00 to 2.00 pm, Economics and Commerce Building, Theatrette 3 [G13], University of Melbourne. Contact: dehms@unimelb.edu.au. Web: <http://www.socialjustice.unimelb.edu.au/events/forthcoming.html>.

13 APRIL. CITY OF SYDNEY LIVING IN HARMONY FESTIVAL: CROSS CULTURAL WORKSHOP - 'A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A REFUGEE' (NSW).

Presented by the Australian Red Cross, this afternoon explains about the struggles faced by refugees and the contributions they make to Australian society. There will be stories from some of those who have sought help from Red Cross and documentaries about their lives.

12.00 to 1.00 pm, Redfern Community Centre, Level 3, 29-53 Hugo Street, Redfern. Contact: 02 9246 7878 or livinginharmony@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=82666>.

14 APRIL. BREAKFAST: 'WHY AUSTRALIA NEEDS A NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME' (VIC). Catholic Social Services is holding this breakfast with speaker, Bruce Bonyhady, Chair of Yooralla, President of Philanthropy Australia and Chair of ANZ Trustees Ltd. Cost: \$15. 7.15 to 8.45 am, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Contact: 03 9287 5566 or office@css.org.au, RSVP by 9 April. Web: <http://www.css.org.au/>.

14 APRIL. CHRISTIANS FOR AN ETHICAL SOCIETY FORUM: 'CLIMBING OUT OF RECESSION ON THE BACKS OF THE UNEMPLOYED' (ACT). Speakers: Professor John Neville, Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and a past President of the Economics Society of Australia, will speak on recession, interest rates and the unemployed; and Sue Jordan, CEO, St John's Care, Reid. Cost: \$5 donation. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Kings Avenue, Barton will speak on insights into the experiences of unemployed gained in her work at St John's. Contact: 02 6291 4537. Web: <http://www.ces.org.au/index.htm#Calendar%20of%20Events>.

15 APRIL. LECTURE: 'THE CRISIS TO COME: INDONESIA AND THE POLITICS OF 21ST CENTURY UNDERDEVELOPMENT' (VIC). Intractable economic underdevelopment is dividing Indonesia politically and culturally ever more deeply. The current appearance of stability hides fragility while the basis is laid for social crisis and for a new political and cultural radicalism. Speaker, Max Lane, is the author of 'Unfinished Nation: Indonesian before and after Suharto'. No cost. 6.30 to 8.00 pm, Theatre A, Elisabeth Murdoch Building, University of Melbourne, Parkville. Contact: 03 9035 8103 or renelson@unimelb.edu.au, RSVP essential. Register: http://www.asiainstitute.unimelb.edu.au/community/public_lectures.html.

16 APRIL. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'WAR CRIMES IN SRI LANKA - WHAT OUTCOMES?' (NSW).

Speakers: Dr Sam Pari, Tamil Youth Organiser; Brami Jegan, Co-ordinator Sri Lanka Project, CPACS and Sydney University. 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/>.

16 APRIL. CITY OF SYDNEY LIVING IN HARMONY FESTIVAL: ABORIGINAL HERITAGE TOUR (NSW).

Join Royal Botanic Gardens' Aboriginal Education Officer, Clarence Slocock, for a journey of discovery. Uncover the Gardens' rich Aboriginal heritage, experience traditional music, dance and artefacts and taste some bush food. 2.00 to 3.30 pm, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Contact: 02 9246 7312 or livinginharmony@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=82659>.

16 - 28 APRIL. 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. No cost. Cathedral Parish Centre, St Michael and St John's Cathedral, corner Keppel and William Streets, Bathurst. Contact: 02 8306 3400. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/Venues/index.html>.

17 APRIL. LECTURE: 'NEW HOPE FOR AFRICA: THE CHURCHES' ROLE IN PEACEMAKING, DEVELOPMENT AND TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE' (VIC).

Social Policy Connections, in association with Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia, invite you to hear one of Africa's most eminent churchmen, Revd Dr Andre Karamaga. Dr Karamaga is General Secretary of the All African Conference of Churches, comprising 173 churches and Christian organisations in 40

African countries, with 120 million adherents. He will also speak of the church's role as a peace keeper in wars that plague Africa. As a Rwandan leader, he lost family members in the genocide. 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, Study Centre, Yarra Theological Union, 34 Bedford Street, Box Hill. Contact: 03 9890 1077, 1800 025 101 or admin@socialpolicyconnections.com.au. Web: www.actforpeace.org.au.

17 APRIL. PALMS FOCUS WORKSHOP (VIC).

A workshop to come together with others wanting to reflect on Justice, Global Development and Volunteering. 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. These workshops are also perfect for people considering a cross-cultural Encounter or other short-term visit or wanting to improve the contributions they make locally to global justice. Cost: \$40 donation (includes lunch). 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Simonds Hall, 120 Toorak Road, South Yarra. Contact: palms@palms.org.au or 02 9518 9551, RSVP by 14 April. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au/news/events/>.

17 APRIL. VICTORIAN MICAH ACTION TRAINING DAY (VIC).

Be inspired and equipped to speak up and take action with your church and community for the global poor in 2010. Biblical teaching, practical advocacy workshops, how to run a survive past five 5th birthday party, resources and stories to get your church or group active for justice, how to visit a politician, climate change and the poor and more. Speakers : Steve Bradbury, former CEO, TEAR Australia and Micah Network Chair; Cath James, Environment Project Officer and Climate Change campaigner, Uniting Church Social Justice Unit; Professor John Langmore, involved with the UN in the development of the MDGs; etc. Cost: \$15. 9.00 am to 3.30 pm, Tear Australia, 1/4 Solwood Lane, Blackburn. Contact: jill.ruzbacky@victas.uca.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/events>.

17 APRIL. TEAR WA WORKSHOP: 'FAIRER HOMES AND GARDENS - AN ADVENTURE IN LIVING JUSTLY' (WA). A day to explore what it means to live justly in an unjust world. The

day will be practical with plenty of space for conversations and interactive workshops in small groups. Workshops include - ethical shopping supermarket tour; sustainable gardening; living simply; giving; how to green your home; etc. Speaker: Jon Cornford. Cost: \$30, concession \$20. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Notre Dame University, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9443 5100 or andrew@tear.org.au, RSVP by 12 April. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/states/news/fairer-homes-gardens/>.

17 APRIL. CITY OF SYDNEY LIVING IN HARMONY FESTIVAL: INDONESIAN CULTURAL DAY (NSW). Experience the richness of Indonesian culture through beautiful traditional dances and music provided by a 16 piece Balinese orchestra. Enjoy various kinds of sumptuous food and enrich your cultural knowledge through a variety of workshops. 10.30 am to 3.00 pm, Redfern Town Hall, 73 Pitt Street, Redfern. Contact: 02 9246 7878. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=82663>.

17 APRIL. IRAQI FESTIVAL DAY (QLD). The Romero Centre is working with the Iraqi Community to hold this festival day. It will include music, art, food, poetry and children's activities. All are welcome. 10.00 am to 3.30 pm, Marymac Hall, 616 Ipswich Road, Annerley. Contact: 07 3846 3250 or admin@romerocentre.org.au. Web: http://www.romerocentre.org.au/events/2010-05-17_iraqi-community-festival.php.

18 APRIL. APPIN MASSACRE MEMORIAL CEREMONY (NSW). This annual event remembers the Dharawal people killed in the Massacre of 1816. The ceremony involves a short walk to the site. Sausage sizzle lunch will be provided. Hosted by Winga Myamly Reconciliation Group. No cost. 12.00 to 3.30 pm, Cataract Dam Picnic Area, Cataract Dam Road, Appin. Contact: 02 9603 6854 or 02 9605 4540. Web: http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au/_webapp_434387/Appin_Massacre_Memorial_Cermony_2010.

18 APRIL. ETHIOPIAN FESTIVAL (VIC). Celebrate the rich culture of the Ethiopian community at this festival. Come along

and experience Ethiopian music, dance performances, special talks and film screenings. Enjoy a cooking demonstration and fashion show, taste Ethiopian cuisine and take part in an Ethiopian coffee ceremony. Cost: \$8, children free. 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Contact: 13 11 02. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/whatson/event/?event=562840>.

19, 26 APRIL, 3, 10, 17 MAY. WORKSHOP: BASICS OF THE NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION MODEL' (NSW). Presented by Kate Raffin, this dynamic workshop is for anyone who wants to learn more about speaking and listening openly, honestly and empathically. Learn helpful, accessible and easy tools of Nonviolent Communication; practice Nonviolent Communication in relaxed and spacious conditions; explore real life situations with safety and revelation. Course contribution: \$150 - 350. Mondays 6.00 to 9.00 pm, 'Upper Room', St Marys, 21 Swanson Street, Erskineville. Contact: 02 9557 7986 or kate@kateraffin.com, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.nvcaustralia.com/trainings.htm>.

20, 22 APRIL, 4, 6 MAY. QCOSS FORUMS: POLICY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT (QLD). Each year QCOSS engages its members and stakeholders in a number of policy, advocacy and collaboration forums across the state as part of its ongoing commitment to represent the views of the sector. The half-day forums give you and your organisation: the opportunity to comment on social issues faced by your community and provide recommendations on how to best address them; a chance to provide input into QCOSS's future policy positions; an invaluable opportunity to network with other local organisations; and advice on increasing advocacy and collaboration within the sector. No cost.

20 April: 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, Leichhardt Community Centre, 1-17 Denman Street, Leichhardt.

22 April: 10.30 am to 2.30 pm, Roma Neighbourhood Centre, 44 Quintin Street, Roma

4 May: 1.00 to 5.00 pm, Mackay TBC.

6 May: 12.15 to 2.15 pm, Multicultural,

QCROSS, 20 Pidgeon Close, West End. Contact: policy@qcross.org.au or 07 3004 6915. Register: <http://www.qcross.org.au/Article.aspx?type=policy&id=4949>.

20 - 21 APRIL. SOCIAL INCLUSION

CONFERENCE (ACT). This conference will give you a greater understanding of Australia's social inclusion agenda and practical advice on how to focus your organisations work to build a more socially inclusive Australia. Speakers: Dr John Falzon, St Vincent de Paul Society, National Council of Australia; Kerry Graham, Chief Executive Officer, The Inspire Foundation; Damian Ferrie, Executive Director, Community Programs, Department of Planning and Community Development, VIC; Desley Hargreaves, National Manager, Social Work Services, Centrelink; etc. Cost: \$3188.90. National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra. Contact: 1300 316 882 or registration@criterionconferences.com. Web: <http://www.achievingocialinclusion.com/>.

21 APRIL. PRIOLETTI COURSE: 'CROSS CULTURAL AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION' (VIC). This course provides an excellent overview for understanding and communicating with people from cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Cost: \$110. 1.00 to 4.00 pm, Northcote Library Meeting Room, 32-38 Separation Street, Northcote. Contact: josie@prioletticonsultants.com.au or 03 9038 9292. Register: <http://www.prioletticonsultants.com.au>.

21 APRIL. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'WAR WILL NOT BRING PEACE' (VIC). Speakers: Deborah Storey and Margaret Fyfe. Dinner arrive 6.00 for 6.30 pm, session begins 8.00 to 9.30 pm The Veneto Club, Sala Venetia Room, 191 Bulleen Road, Bulleen. Contact: 03 9850 7111 to book (mention Spirituality in the Pub and the date you want), information: 0417 319 556. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/spiritualityinthepub.htm>.

21 - 22 APRIL. CONFERENCE: 'STREET BY STREET, SUBURB BY SUBURB: COMMUNITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION' (VIC). This conference is hosted by the Centre for Civil Society, a public policy and social innovation think tank for the empowerment of ordinary people. It is a national strategy

and development event for people interested in practical approaches for effective community building and social inclusion. This conference will explore initiatives for the practical implementation and coordination of these strategies, including: Street by Street; Neighbourhood Power; Circles of Support; Neighbourhood Supported Living Networks; The Sharehood; Neighbourhood Cultural Exchange, etc. Cost: \$88-\$550. Angliss Conference Centre, Level 5, 555 La Trobe Street, Melbourne. Contact: vern@civilsociety.org.au or 03 9824 4713. Register: <http://www.civilsociety.org.au/CommunityBuildingNationalConference2010.htm>.

21 - 27 APRIL. NEW TACTICS DIALOGUE: 'ENGAGING YOUTH IN NON-VIOLENT ALTERNATIVES TO MILITARISM' (ONLINE). Governments around the world target youth for military recruitment and service. In response, human rights organizations have developed innovative ways of introducing youth to non-violent alternatives to military service and combating the culture of militarism. This tactical dialogue is a space for those working with and interested in engaging youth in non-violent alternatives to militarism to share their stories, challenges, resources and ideas. Web: <http://www.newtactics.org/en/blog/new-tactics/engaging-youth-non-violent-alternatives-militarism>.

24 APRIL. SECOND DENIS KEVANS ANZAC EVE MEMORIAL PEACE CONCERT (NSW). As well as a fund-raiser for Timor Leste, a DVD will be screened on Northern Territory Aboriginal land that will become a dump site for all the radioactive poisons from Lucas Heights and elsewhere (Muckety Nuclear Waste issue). A speaker from the anti-Nuclear Coalition will follow. Performers include: Tug Dumbly, Snez, Daniel Marjason, Mark Marusic, Bluey Quilty, etc. Cost: \$20, \$10 concession. 1.00 to 5.00 pm, upstairs Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, 1 Bedford Street, Newtown. Contact: 02 9569 6070. Web: <http://www.criticaltimes.com.au/news/tug-dumbly-to-feature-with-jack-munday-at-newtown-anzac-eve-peace-concert/>.

24 APRIL. CITY OF SYDNEY LIVING IN HARMONY FESTIVAL: GLEBE COMMUNITY MURAL LAUNCH (NSW). Members of the Glebe

community have come together to paint a mural that celebrates harmony, diversity and identity in the local area. This launch event will reveal the final artwork and showcase other work done in the community. 1.00 to 3.00 pm, Peter Forsyth Auditorium, Francis Street, corner Franklyn Street, Glebe. Contact: 02 9246 7319 or livinginharmony@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=82664>.

27 APRIL. MATT LAFFAN MEMORIAL ADDRESS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE 'IN SEARCH OF ORIGINS: BLINDNESS IN HISTORY AND LAW' (NSW).

This lecture will unpack the lives of some extraordinary blind people in history from the time of the Gospels to the present day. Of all the professions, law has attracted disabled persons like Matt Laffan and Professor McCallum because it is housed in the mind as a way of thinking and of problem solving. The lecture will conclude by examining the contributions of blind persons to the law, whether as lawyers, as academics, as judges or as litigants. Speaker: Professor Ron McCallum AO. No cost. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Sydney Law School, New Law Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0248 or law.events@sydney.edu.au. Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/law/457.html?eventid=5406>.

27 APRIL. CITY OF SYDNEY LIVING IN HARMONY FESTIVAL: 'CROSS CULTURAL TOUR - AUBURN GALLIPOLI MOSQUE' (NSW).

For Muslims, a mosque is the traditional centre of the community - not only place for daily ritual prayer but also for weekly neighbourhood gatherings. Join this visit of Auburn Gallipoli Mosque and learn about its history, stunning architectural features and the traditions which take place there. 1.00 to 3.00 pm, Auburn Gallipoli Mosque, 15-19 Gelibolu Parade, Auburn. Contact: 02 9246 7312 or livinginharmony@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=82656>.

27 APRIL. AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE: 'BEING FAIR WITH FOOD: HOW MUCH FOOD DO WE NEED?' (NSW). Using very beautiful and reflective photos of families across the

globe, and The Sydney Food Fairness Alliance, Food Summit 2009 Declaration, Hungry for Change, we will examine the type and amount of food consumed in different countries around the world.

We will compare the type and amounts of weekly food for families in Germany, USA, Bhutan and Egypt and six other countries. Topics to emerge for discussion depending on the ideas and knowledge of the group could include: Food wastage, packaging, fresh food as opposed to dried or pre-packaged, how much does one family need? Cost: donation \$5 or \$2. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, Homebush West. Contact: leoniec@erc.org.au or 02 8762 4200. Web: http://www.erc.org.au/?&MMN_position=1:1.

28 APRIL - 26 MAY. PASTORAL CARE INTRODUCTORY TRAINING (ACT).

The Canberra and Region Centre for Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and the Canberra Hospital are holding this Introductory Course (40 hour unit). Courses are accredited by the NSW College for CPE, which is an affiliated body of the Australia and New Zealand Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ANZACPE). CPE training groups are available for people from all faith traditions, and walks of life. Cost: \$200. Wednesdays, Canberra Hospital. Contact: 02 6244 2261 or lyn.kelly@act.gov.au. Web: <http://www.pastoralcareact.org/cpe/>.

29 APRIL. FILM: 'WAR CHILD - A BOY SOLDIER'S STORY' (VIC).

This powerful award winning film tells the story of Emmanuel Jal, a child of war in Sudan, a boy soldier, a survivor, a refugee. Follow his extraordinary journey as he finds the courage to overcome adversity and rise to become an international musical artist. All proceeds go towards Brotherhood of St Laurence programs that help refugees settle in Australia and rebuild their lives. Cost: \$30. 6.00 to 9.30 pm, ACMI Cinemas, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Federation Square, Melbourne. Contact: events@bsl.org.au or 03 9483 1113. Book: <http://www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on.aspx?id=53&dt=29/04/2010>.

29 APRIL. UTSPEAKS: 'TO LEARN OR EARN? CAN FORCING STUDENTS TO FINISH YEAR 12 PROMISE LIVES AS HAPPY, CAPABLE AND

PRODUCTIVE PEOPLE?’ (NSW). This public lecture considers the implications of retaining more young people in school. It explores the forms of complexity in young people’s lives that must be recognised in policy and offers insights on how parents, schools, TAFE, employers and governments can make finishing school a lot easier. No cost. Drinks 6.00, lecture 6.30 to 7.45 pm, University of Technology Sydney, University Hall, UTS Science Building 4, 745 Harris St, Ultimo. Contact: robert.button@uts.edu.au or 02 9514 1734. Web: <http://www.uts.edu.au/new/speaks/2010/April/2904.html>.

29 - 30 APRIL. THE NATIONAL DISABILITY SUMMIT (VIC). The summit will comprehensively cover the impact and implications of working Australia’s Disability services and solutions to the current pressure on Australia’s disability services system. This event is proudly endorsed by National Disability Services, Australian Human Rights Commission, JobAccess, Vision Australia, Deaf Australia, Carers Australia, Physical Disability Australia, Yooralla, Autism Spectrum Australia and The Spastic Centre of NSW. Speakers: Dr Ken Baker, National Disability Services; Dr Jeff Harmer, FaHCSIA; Graeme Innes AM, Disability Discrimination Commissioner and Human Rights Commissioner; etc. Cost: \$990. 8:30 am to 30 April 5:00 pm, Leonda by the Yarra, 2 Wallen Road, Hawthorn. Contact: 02 9080 4090 or infor@iir.com.au. Register: <http://www.iir.com.au/conferences/healthcare/the-national-disability-summit-11007>.

29 - 30 APRIL. INTERNATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE: ‘UNFINISHED BUSINESS: PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL INCLUSION’ (VIC). The conference theme acknowledges that 25 years after deinstitutionalisation, people with mental illness tend to fare badly on many of the key dimensions of social inclusion: health, housing, education and employment. This is ‘unfinished business’. The conference will focus on pathways to greater social inclusion for people with a mental illness. It will showcase the excellent work occurring across different sectors, present the latest research into what works, and point to the way forward. Cost: \$55-\$654. Melbourne Cricket Ground. Contact: 03 9519

7000 or conference@vicserv.org.au, RSVP by 16 April. Register: <http://vicserv.org.au/conference2010/>.

29 APRIL - 11 NOVEMBER. PASTORAL CARE BASIC TRAINING (ACT). The Canberra and Region Centre for Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and the Canberra Hospital are holding this Basic Course (400 hour unit). Courses are accredited by the NSW College for CPE, which is an affiliated body of the Australia and New Zealand Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ANZACPE). CPE training groups are available for people from all faith traditions, and walks of life. Cost: \$1000. Thursdays, Canberra Hospital. Contact: 02 6244 2261 or lyn.kelly@act.gov.au. Web: <http://www.pastoralcareact.org/cpe/>.

30 APRIL. ETHICA: WINTER WARMER FUNDRAISER EVENT (VIC). Be prepared for the cold weather ahead and buy a special gift for loved ones or yourself. You’ll be able to buy beautiful Fairtrade products like alpaca scarves and gloves, bags, novelty items and much more while hearing about the Sisters of St Joseph project and listening to Peruvian music. Every Ethica product sold can change the life of someone in need, their family and the community. 5.30 pm, Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Contact: 03 9926 9300 or mmhc@sosj.org.au. Web: <http://www.ethica.org.au/pages/ethica.sf>.

30 APRIL. POLITICS IN THE PUB: ‘PAPUA-NEW GUINEA: THE MIDAS NATION - OUR NEWEST RICH COUNTRY?’ (NSW). Speakers: Dr Bob Creelman, geoscientist/engineer; Brian Gomez, Economist. 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/>.

30 APRIL - 2 MAY. CATHOLIC SISTERHOOD WOMEN’S CONFERENCE (NSW). This conference seeks to draw women together for a weekend of prayer and praise, sisterhood time and formation in what it means to be and live as a Catholic woman in the 21st century. Speakers: Bronwen Healy, founder, Hope Foundation; Anna Khrohn, co-convenor

Anima, Academic Skills Advisor, John Paul II Institute; Fr Steve Fletcher MGL; Francine Piola, Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council; and Sr Mary Madeline OP, University of Sydney Catholic Chaplaincy Team. Cost: \$190. Collaroy Centre, Homestead Avenue, Collaroy Beach. Contact: info@sisterhood.org.au. Web: http://www.sisterhood.org.au/conference_1.html.

30 APRIL - 9 MAY. HUMAN RIGHTS ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL (NATIONAL). HRAFF was founded in 2007 by Evelyn Tadros, Naziath Mantoo and a dedicated team who had a vision to make human rights accessible, relevant and significant to the broader Australian community. HRAFF has grown into a nationwide Festival showing in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and Canberra. Further information: <http://www.hraff.org.au/>.

1 MAY. EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE COURSE: 'RESILIENT CITIES: SAVING OUR CITIES FROM PEAK OIL AND CLIMATE CHANGE' (WA). Professor Peter Newman, Professor of Sustainability, Curtin University, will be taking people through his new book 'Resilient Cities'. The discussion will focus on how the Crash can be used to create a new green economy and sustainable cities. It will also provide approaches that governments at all levels can adopt to facilitate this transition and also what we as households and businesses can do. The emphasis of the day will be on hopeful solutions that can be adopted. Cost: \$25-\$150. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9432 2400 or admin@erisj.org.au. Web: <http://erisj.org.au/new/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=13>.

1 MAY. PRESENTATION: 'WHAT ARE WOMEN THEOLOGIAN SAYING IN A TIME OF CLIMATE CHANGE?' (NSW). A relevant and stimulating conversation drawing on the insights of Elizabeth Johnson, Barbara Fiand, Judy Cannato and Sally McFague. Facilitated by Anne Boyd pbvm. Cost: \$90. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Rahamin Ecological Learning Community, St Joseph's Mount, 34 Busby Street, Bathurst. Contact: 02 6332 9950 or contact@rahamim.org.au. Web: <http://www.rahamim.org.au/Home/tabid/772/Default.aspx>.

1 MAY. CITY OF SYDNEY LIVING IN HARMONY FESTIVAL: SPANISH CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY CELEBRATION (NSW). This family afternoon will include interactive demonstrations and talks, showcasing diverse Spanish cultures and traditions. There will be programs for children and adults with opportunities to learn Spanish words and games; listen to travel talks on Latin America and Spain; learn an old Spanish card craft, taste Spanish cuisine or try some dance steps etc. 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Instituto Cervantes, 22-24 City Road, Chippendale. Contact: 02 9274 9200 or ic.sydney@cervantes.es, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=82667>.

1 - 7 MAY. MACSIM SYDNEY TO SURFERS BIKE RIDE (NSW). If you are a serious or fit road cyclist and think you can help raise some much needed funds to support the work of Father Chris Riley with Youth Off the Streets, join this ride. Cost: \$890. 8.00 am, Hornsby TAFE College car park, Jersey Street, Hornsby. Contact: 02 9520 9820 or sydneytosurfers@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.sydneytosurfers.org.au/>

1 - 16 MAY. FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT: 'THE BIG SWAP' (NATIONAL). With events, activities and promotions happening across each country, the Fortnight gives each of us the opportunity to celebrate and recognise the life-changing difference fair trade makes for millions of developing country farmers, their families and communities. This fortnight make the big swap to Fair Trade whether it's your daily caffeine fix, afternoon cuppa, chocolate treat or buying a gift. Web: <http://www.fairtrade.com.au/ftf2010>.

3 - 6 MAY. CONFERENCE: 'INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ON AGEING' (VIC). This conference will provide a reliable platform for a global information exchange for all working to generate positive social change for older people. The themes that form the program framework - Global Warming and the Environment; Social Inclusion; The Changing Economy; and Human Rights. Are expected to stimulate new conversations as well as explore in more depth more traditional subject areas. Each theme will be informed by international

and regional frameworks including UN Principles for Older People, the UN Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Active Ageing Framework of the World Health Organization. Cost: \$900-\$1195. Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Contact: 02 9265 0700 or ifa2010@arinex.com.au. Web: <http://www.ifa2010.org/default.asp>.

4 MAY. GLOBALHOME LECTURE SERIES: 'CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH' (NSW). With rising global temperatures, current efforts to improve health and poverty will face new and unpredictable challenges. Speaker, Dr Ben Ticehurst, Doctors for the Environment, and Dr Paul Beggs, Winner of 2009 Eureka Prize in Medical Research, bring the health implications of this global threat alive. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, Eastern Ave Auditorium, University of Sydney. Contact: xzha6818@uni.sydney.edu.au. Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/medicine/542.html?eventcategoryid=46&eventid=5421>

4 - 13 MAY. 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. No cost. Bendigo Town Hall, 189-193 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo. Contact: 02 8306 3400. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/Venues/index.html>.

5 MAY. RETHINKING WASTE - RETHINK, REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE! (VIC). Learn about the benefits of embracing the concept of rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle (the 4Rs). Explore Australian and Victorian waste systems and discover how you can act as a household to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Hosted by Glen Eira City Council. 2.30 to 4.30 pm or 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Social Room, 1st Floor, Caulfield Park Pavilion and Community Room, 280C Balaclava Road, Caulfield North. Contact: 03 9380 1556, RSVP by 28 April. Web: <http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?PageId=1461&h=0>.

6 - 7 MAY. CONFERENCE: 'RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS; LOCAL INITIATIVES' (ACT). The ACT Domestic Violence Prevention Council and the ACT Family Pathway Network is holding this conference on domestic violence. The conference will focus on how challenges at the national level offer opportunities for reform of policies and practices for responding to family violence. Eminent speakers will focus on current research and practice in the field of family law and family violence. It will showcase leading examples of locally-based family violence interventions. This conference will appeal to a broad cross-section of people in the justice, legal, corrective services, health, education and community support, research and academic communities. Cost: \$220. National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra. Contact: coast@law.anu.edu.au or 02 6125 3487. Web: <http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/fvc.htm>.

8 MAY. WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY. World Fair Trade Day has grown into a global festival of Fair Trade with events organized worldwide, on and around the second Saturday of May by members of the World Fair Trade Organization across 70 countries. Events have included Fair Trade breakfasts, talks, markets, live performances, fashion shows, carnivals, festivals, processions and protests, to drive Fair Trade and campaign for justice in trade and promote sustainable social and environmental policy. 100% Fair Trade organizations and the products and produce of marginalized communities are showcased on the day. Web: <http://www.worldfairtradeday10.org/>.

Blue Mountains Food Coop (NSW), 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, Ha'penny Lane, Blue Mountains. Contact: edu.foodcoop@exemail.com.au. Web: http://www.worldfairtradeday10.org/index.php?option=com_wftdevents&view=event&id=1356&lang=en.

Manly Fair Trade Markets (NSW). 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, Manly Wharf Forecourt. Contact: 02 9976 1658. Web: <http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au/Manly-Fair-Trade-Markets.html>.

Fair Trade High Tea (QLD). Speaker: Kohinoor Yeasmin, CEO, Bangladesh Fair Trade organisation Tarango, will be speaking on her personal experiences and the positive impact of fair trade on her country and the people in Bangladesh. Afternoon includes Ethical fashion showcase and live music. High Tea includes champagne, finger food, Fairtrade tea and coffee. Cost: \$30. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Arts Centre, St Margaret's Anglican Girls' School, Ascot. Contact: qldfairtrade@gmail.com, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.qldfairtrade.org.au/>.

12 - 14 MAY. WACOSS CONFERENCE (WA). The WACOSS Conference provides for the largest gathering of social service practitioners, policy-makers, program providers, businesses,

non-profit organisations and non-government human services of its kind. The Conference creates an opportunity for delegates to engage in leadership development, lively discussions on cutting edge ideas and practices from experienced national and international speakers and the opportunity to network with colleagues and share ideas and experiences. Speakers: Mark Bin Bakar, founder of Abmusic, honorary Stolen Generation Alliance member, West Australian of the Year; Hildy Gottlieb, President, Community Driven Institute, Arizona; Hon Colin Barnett MLA, Premier WA; etc. Cost: \$350-\$780. 8.00 am to 5.00 pm, Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, 21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth. Contact: 08 9389 1488 or aline@eecw.com.au. Register: <http://wacoss.org.au/conference2010/>.

News Monitor

Fairtrade Easter chocolate campaign to stop child trafficking

Good Shepherd Mission & Justice and the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans launched a Fairtrade Easter Chocolate campaign to stop child trafficking into West African cocoa plantations.

Make indigenous poverty history: Caritas

Caritas Australia is raising funds and awareness through its 2010 Project Compassion to combat indigenous poverty.

Vinnies critical of government NT income plan

St Vincent de Paul CEO John Falzon said the federal government is acting in an “exclusionary and divisive” manner over its forced income management and Racial Discrimination Act plans.

Make aged care an entitlement: Catholic Health Australia

Catholic Health Australia said the government should make aged care “an entitlement available to every person who needs it” and replace the Howard era formula with a Medicare-style entitlement.

CSSA criticises lack of consultation over income management

Catholic Social Services Australia said there is a “desperate need” for a compact between the Government and community organisations, following the absence of consultation in the development of income management legislation currently before Parliament.

Pope calls for global renewal in business

The current economic situation is a moment of “opportunity” and could be a time for a “revision of development models and of a new organisation in the world of finance,” said the Pope.



Social Justice Calendar

2 THU Death of Pope John Paul II, 2005

5 SUN Passion (Palm) Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week

7 TUE World Health Day

9 THU Holy Thursday

10 FRI Good Friday
120 nations sign treaty banning biological warfare, 1972
Belfast Agreement signed, Northern Ireland, 1998

11 SAT Holy Saturday

12 SUN Easter Sunday
In 1990, USA cannery Starkist announced cessation of use of tuna caught in drag nets; number of dolphins killed as a result of tuna fishing has since fallen by 97%

14 TUE First presidential elections elect Xanana Gusmao as President of East Timor, 2002
Death of Rachel Carson, 1964: author of Silent Spring (1962), which alerted the world to the dangers of the use of chemical pesticides

15 WED Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Royal Commission Final Report signed, 1991

18 SAT World Heritage Day
Death of Albert Einstein, 1955

19 SUN 2nd Sunday of Easter
Pope Benedict XVI elected, 2005

22 WED International Earth Day

23 THU World Book and Copyright Day

24 FRI First United Nations Conference opens with 45 nations attending, 1945

25 SAT ANZAC Day

26 SUN 3rd Sunday of Easter
Bishop Gerardi murdered in Guatemala, 1998

28 TUE St Peter Chanel, first martyr from Oceania, killed on Futuna in the New Hebrides in 1841

30 THU International Guide Dogs Day

Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC's Seasons of Social Justice Diary. The cost is \$6.60. To order go to http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html, or call 02 8306 3499.

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