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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,

On 14 September, the Australian Catholic Bishops' 2011-2012 Social Justice Statement was launched by the Hon. Graham West, Executive Officer of the St Vincent de Paul Society in New South Wales. The response was given by Mrs Margaret Wiseman, Catholic prison chaplain in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

In the Statement, *Building Bridges, Not Walls*, the Bishops urge all Australians to think about the conditions in our prisons, and to ask who are most likely to find themselves there and why. They highlight the steep increase in the numbers of people imprisoned and how the majority of inmates come from the most disadvantaged sections of the community: the underprivileged, those suffering from mental illness, and especially the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia.

Justice Reinvestment for Reconciliation and a system that restores

In his address, Graham West acknowledged the traditional owners the Cammeraygal people.

In doing so, he said, 'it is with sadness when I reflect on the fact that too many sons of the traditional owners, Dharawal, Gadigal, Bundjalung, Wiradjuri and many other Aboriginal peoples are in jail or detention around Australia.'

'As a nation, we are discussing recognition of Aboriginal Australians in the constitution: a welcome move. But we must also work to reduce the injustices that lead our Aboriginal brothers and sisters to be vastly over-represented in our cells and our justice system.'

'Only when rates are equal on many fronts - health, life expectancy and incarceration - can we truly say that we have taken steps to a lasting reconciliation.'

Graham called for a commitment to justice reinvestment. In particular, he called on Federal Government and the Council of Australian Governments to 'provide appropriate funding to state and territory governments that provide meaningful programs that will reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system.'

'This money would only need to be a fraction of the present custodial budgets because community development is more cost-effective, even if it is more challenging, as the bishops' statement points out' ...

'Perhaps the Government could go one step further and tie this support into a Justice Reinvestment framework ... This need not be as difficult as it sounds as our American and British friends are already taking steps down this path, and we can stand on the shoulders of their research.'

'But one thing is clear: the longer we wait, the more we will lose of the unrealised potential of our young people and their inalienable right to dignity and a worthwhile future.'

Graham spoke of how the chaplains in prisons and juvenile justice centres 'make a real difference to not only the prisoners and detainees, but to the staff too. They offer a source of hope, and their work deserves more recognition.

'They are also a great starting point for those wanting to take up one of the greatest challenges in the bishops' statement and that is to support those in the custodial system to make the transition back into the community following release,' he said.

Breaking down the walls that divide

In her response, Margaret Wiseman said that the role of prison chaplains to build bridges between people on the 'inside' and those on the 'outside' is one we all need to be engaged in.

'The prison threshold is the dividing line between outside and inside. Outside is the world we can go wherever we want, choosing the people we want to meet. It is a world of families, jobs and where we have time for relaxation. Inside everything is different. Freedom to move is restricted. The women are locked up in a small cell from 3.30 pm to 8 am, and often many times during the day as well.'

Speaking of the hardship, loneliness and despair prisoners experience, she said, 'Time and again the question is asked, "Who is God?" Many women feel strongly that they have not just been deserted by people but also by God. For these people God seems to be on the outside. The thick prison walls have left God outside.'

Margaret emphasised how we are all made in the image and likeness of God and, because we are all precious in God's eyes, no one can stand by when oppression and violence threaten or destroy human dignity. 'Most of us, thank God, are not called to live on the extreme margins of our society in order to be faithful, but all of us, at various points in our lives, are called to step out in pursuit of integrity and justice.'

'Prison Pastoral care is the responsibility of everyone. By bringing people into prison

the outside view can change by all working together,' Margaret says. And she spoke of how the parish community of Epping and Carlingford in Sydney had become involved in her chaplaincy - running a Sunday Service in the chapel, providing morning teas, spending time with inmates around special days like Christmas and Mother's day, and being sponsors for inmates preparing for Baptism. The local St Vincent de Paul Conference has given financial support, food vouchers and clothing.

Margaret would like parish communities around Australia consider how they could also work with prison chaplains to walk the journey with prisoners helping them to make decisions, providing mentoring support and assisting them to re-establish themselves in the community after release.

Remember those in prison as though you were in prison with them

In thanking and both speakers, Bishop Christopher Saunders spoke of how prison chaplains reveal to us the dignity of each prisoner.

'They remind us of something society is in danger of forgetting: prisoners are human beings. They're individuals - somebody's son or daughter. They're someone we went to school with. Very often, they're somebody's mother or father ...

'Christians know that a human being is someone who is made in the image of God. So if we forget the humanity of prisoners, then in a significant way we've forgotten our Christian calling. In 2007, Catholic prison chaplains from all over the world gathered in Rome for an international congress. Their theme was "Discovering the Face of Christ in Every Prisoner".'

'The icon on the cover of this Statement portrays the face of Christ. We want everyone who reads this Statement to see that face and to remember it as they think of those in prison', Bishop Saunders said.

He said, 'Even though the face of the prisoner is concealed behind the walls of prison, they remain part of our society and, in many ways,

reflect the standards of our society. Poverty, inequality, lack of access to education, lack of family support and lack of care for people who suffer from mental illness: all these factors make it more likely that the less fortunate will end up incarcerated instead of getting the help they need.

‘That is in no way to excuse criminals or to suggest that they somehow are not responsible for their actions. But it does make the point that society as a whole is also responsible for the conditions in our prisons and for the numbers of people who find themselves there.’

Drawing from scripture, Bishop Saunders said that we all share a responsibility to address those factors that expose people to incarceration and to create opportunities that will ensure prison is truly a last resort.

Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured (Heb. 13:3)

Catholic Bishops’ Statement and associated resources

There are many ways the message of the Bishops’ 2011-2012 Statement can be promoted throughout the year ahead.

The Secretariat still has copies of the Statement for those who would like to place an order. The Statement can also be downloaded from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

There are other resources that are ideal for prayer, worship, and personal reflection, and for discussion in classrooms and among groups. Prayers, teachers’ resources, liturgy notes, the Ten-Steps leaflet and prayer card, and a PowerPoint presentation can be accessed via the ACSJC website.

The addresses delivered at the launch of the Social Justice Statement will soon be posted on the ACSJC website.

John Ferguson (National Executive Officer)



Current Issues / Resources

URGENT APPEAL - CLEMENCY FOR ANDREW & MYURAN

Andrew and Myuran, two young Australians, face execution in Indonesia. They have admitted trying to traffic drugs to Australia. They have exhausted their appeals. All that can save them is clemency from Indonesia’s President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The ‘Mercy Campaign’ has been established by lawyers, volunteers and a journalist to send a simple and respectful message to the President: please spare the life of Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran. Lawyer Julian McMahon says, ‘How can you help? You can be a respectful, courteous, clear thinking, courageous person and involve yourself in the Mercy campaign. Please visit the Mercy Campaign website, sign and promote the

petition for clemency: <http://mercycampaign.org>

INTERNATIONAL PRISON CHAPLAINS CONFERENCE

Australian prison chaplains have just returned from the 13th World Congress of the International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care in Cameroon. The 130 delegates made a Declaration at the end of the Congress: expressing concern that ‘governments tend to respond to the overwhelming desire of people to feel more secure by increasing prison terms and harshening prison conditions’; ‘that the current prison conditions usually do not permit an effective rehabilitation’; that ‘Prisons seem to be places of revenge rather than of reform’; and ‘that Prison Pastoral Care should not limit

itself to visiting prisoners, but to striving for a just society and caring for the wellbeing and respect of all persons involved as well as to the reform of the Criminal Justice and Prison Systems so that they may be effective and respectful of human dignity of all'. To view the full Congress Declaration and other reports and presentations, visit the ICCPPC website at: http://www.iccppc.org/congress_2011/english_cameroon.htm

REPORT - 'SENTENCING SNAPSHOTS'

A new series of sentencing reports launched today by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research suggests that the courts are much tougher on offenders than many people think. The Bureau analyzed sentencing patterns during 2009 and 2010 for eight offences: sexual assault, assault, break and enter, child sexual assault, motor vehicle theft, robbery, drink driving and drug offences involving amphetamine importation, distribution and use. In only two of the serious offence categories were less than half of the offenders imprisoned. These were for the categories of serious assault and high range drink driving. Commenting on the figures, the Director of the Bureau, Dr Don Weatherburn, blamed sensationalist media reporting for the impression that the courts treated serious offenders very leniently. 'The inevitable result is that people end up with a distorted impression of court sentencing practice. This then undermines public confidence in the administration of justice,' said Dr Weatherburn. To access the report, visit: http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/pages/bocsar_mr_bb65_72

NEW STUDY CONCERNING VICTIMS OF CRIME

A new study into victim's satisfaction with the criminal justice system has found many feel their involvement in the justice system adds to their feelings of loss and trauma. The University of Melbourne study asks victims of crime their views and experiences with criminal justice. The researchers now want victims of crime across Australia to take part in phase two of the study via an online survey so they can get a broader cross-section of victims' experiences. Dr Stuart Ross, from the University of Melbourne, said preliminary

results showed many victims felt their interests and rights were either excluded or dealt with as secondary concerns in criminal justice processes. Victims were particularly concerned about lack of information about their case, being excluded from having a meaningful role, and not being consulted about decisions, especially about the charges laid against offenders. (refer: <http://newsroom.melbourne.edu/news/n-637>)

CANA COMMUNITIES - MENTORING PROGRAM

'An Opportunity to Step Out with Prisoners Stepping Out'. Cana Communities is expanding its work with men and women leaving prison. Sometimes this involves providing a home for them to live in an environment that encourages trust and assists them in coming to terms with their release. Part of this care involves volunteers acting as mentors. Effective mentoring can help prevent re-offending. Sister Anne, the prison Chaplains and the members of the Cana Community are seeking men and women who would like to experience this special outreach. Initially just a few hours per month are required pre-release, during which the relationship is established. On release, the extent of the involvement is based on the need but a commitment to this work is expected to last over several months. If you would like to know more about this work please contact frank@ozburrows.com or elizabethlee@ozemail.com.au. Visit the website: <http://www.cana.org.au>

FACT SHEET - 'ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM'

It is a sad fact that Aboriginal people are vastly over represented in the justice system and currently make up 26% of the prison population, even though they are only 2.5% of the population. Twenty years on from the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody report was handed down, the number of Aboriginal people in jail has continued to increase. The Social Justice Statement comprehensively looks at the justice system as a whole, and does highlight the unacceptable rate of Indigenous imprisonment. To supplement the Social Justice Statement, the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Sydney has produced a fact sheet on Indigenous people and the justice system. It focuses on the statistics which speak of a

system that is discriminating against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Download the document at:

http://acmsydney.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/acm-factsheet_social-justice-sunday.pdf

BOOK - 'WALK WITH US'

Walk With Us - Aboriginal Elders Call Out to Australian People to Walk with them in their Quest for Justice is the long awaited sequel to the highly regarded *This Is What We Said*. It presents the ongoing impact of the NT Intervention on the lives of Aboriginal people in their own words, covering the visit of two Aboriginal NT Elders, Rosalie Kunoth-Monks and Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra, to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in Geneva in August 2010. About her visit to Geneva Ms Kunoth-Monks said she felt for the first time that she was indeed a part of the human race. 'I have to go out of Australia to have that wonderful feeling and the lack of control that was on me, in a different country a long, long way from home.' Four communities are presented in this book: Galiwin'ku - Elcho Island, Nauiyu - Daly River, Yuendumu, Utopia, Yirrkala and Milingimbi, and what the Elders are saying about the Intervention; shires and hub towns; customary law; culture, language and identity; respect and heritage. This beautifully illustrated and important book supplies an update of the current status of the NT Intervention. To order, visit:

<http://stoptheintervention.org/facts/films-and-literature/book-walk-with-us>

REPORT - 'OVERCOMING INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE'

The latest 'Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage' report was released on 25 August. Of the 45 quantitative indicators in the report, available data show improvement in outcomes for 13 indicators - including in employment, educational attainment and home ownership. For 10 indicators, including many health and school education outcomes, there has been no significant improvement, while for another seven, including social indicators such as criminal justice, outcomes have actually deteriorated. To access the report, visit: <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/>

[reports/indigenous/key-indicators-2011](http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/indigenous/key-indicators-2011)

CAMPAIGN - 'DON'T ABANDON HOMELANDS'

An Amnesty International campaign is warning that Traditional homelands that are home to nearly one-third of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory are now at risk. Research shows that with proper services people can be healthier, live longer and contribute valuable work on homelands, all with their identity and connection to the land intact. Yet the government's policy of stripping funding from essential services will effectively force people into hub towns and cities. The government needs to hear from you and the thousands of Australians that don't want to see another mistake on Aboriginal policy. Take two minutes to write your own email to Jenny Macklin and Warren Snowden. With just a few sentences you can let the government that know you care about homelands. Visit the campaign site at: http://www.amnesty.org.au/action/action/26569/?utm_source=homelands3&utm_medium=edm-share&utm_content=link1

CARITAS AUSTRALIA EAST AFRICA APPEAL

The drought crisis situation in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and across the horn of Africa continues to decline. Currently about 13.3 million people in the region are in need of food, water and basic facilities. Half of those are children. The worst droughts in 60 years, almost all the new refugees are from Somalia. They are arriving in shocking health and nutritional condition. Over the last seven weeks, Ethiopia's population in need increased from 3.2 to 4.5 million; Kenya from 2.4 to 3.75 million and Somalia from 3.2 to 4.5 million. This is a far-reaching crisis affecting women, men, children and the elderly. Worldwide, humanitarian needs have been estimated at USD 2.4 billion but only about half of that is funded. Support the people of East Africa by donating online to Caritas Australia's East Africa Crisis Appeal. Your support to the East Africa appeal will provide life giving assistance to those most in need. To find out more and to make a donation, visit: http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=East_Africa_Crisis_Appeal

CATHOLIC MISSION - 'HEAR MY VOICE'

World Mission Day is celebrated every year in

every country wherever there are Catholics committed to building a better world for all of God's people. In Australia, it is celebrated on 23rd October. National Director of Catholic Mission, Martin Teulan says, "Hear My Voice" is our theme for this year's World Mission Month, where we hear the voices of the world's indigenous peoples. We celebrate their contribution around the world with their unique cultures, languages and spiritual traditions, all enriching our Universal Catholic Faith. In Australia we look at the remote community of Wadeye in the Northern Territory and we follow Angela, an indigenous woman, who has just been involved with theological studies at Nungalinya College in Darwin. We share her journey of providing spiritual support to many.' To find out more about Catholic Mission and to make a donation, visit: <http://www.catholicmission.org.au/world-mission-month>

CHURCH CALL FOR ONSHORE PROCESSING AND DECRIES AMENDMENTS TO MIGRATION ACT

Bishops Christopher Saunders has called the Government's determination to continue with its policy to deport asylum seekers from Australia by amending the Migration Act 'a national disgrace'. The Chairman of the ACSJC Said, 'The Government and the Opposition's policies on asylum seekers are not aimed at helping those most in need. Instead they are aimed at helping politicians on both sides of the house out of a corner. Both sides of the House are not concerned with human rights, only their own political well being,' he said. (refer: http://www.sydneycatholic.org/news/latest_news/2011/2011913_1396.shtml)

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office has warned that off-shore processing will not solve the underlying problem. 'The human drive to escape war and poverty will continue to prompt asylum seekers to find alternatives, potentially placing their lives in even greater danger of exploitation and abuse', says Fr Maurizio Pettenà. 'The current government has done much to humanise the approach towards asylum seekers, but should reflect further their motives for wanting to change the Migration Act. The numbers of asylum seekers that Australia

can expect are not so large that we can't manage it effectively here.' The ACM RO has urged the government not to change the Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act which would allow the transfer of children and unaccompanied minors. (refer: http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=1180)

ACOSS CALLS FOR ALLOWANCE INCREASES

New data released by the Bureau of Statistics shows people trying to survive on the lowest income support payments are in the worst financial stress. Allowances such as Newstart and Single Parenting payments need to be increased as proposed by both the Henry Review and the OECD, according to the Australian Council of Social Service. Dr Cassandra Goldie says, 'People on Newstart Allowance, who are forced to live on just \$34 a day, are particularly at breaking point, with 79% reporting three or more indicators of financial stress. They are closely followed by people on Parenting Payments (77%). One third to one half of these groups reported not being able to afford a special meal once a week or to have friends or family over for a meal once a month, something the rest of us take for granted. The majority reported being unable to raise \$2000 for something important if it should arise. Sadly this picture is not surprising when you consider the fact that the gap between people on the lowest income payments (Newstart and sole parents) compared to those on pensions has been increasing for a long time.' (refer: http://www.acoss.org.au/media/release/people_on_lowest_payments_in_the_worst_financial_stress)

CHURCH PROVIDERS SAY PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY DESERVE A 'FAIR GO'

Australia's Major Church Providers say that changes to eligibility for the Disability Support Pension will see a large number of people with disability relegated to live on \$34 a day because the labour market is not ready and able to employ them. New 'Disability Impairment Tables' that tighten eligibility for the Disability Support Pension are due to come into effect on 1 January 2012. The Government's own modelling suggests that 40 per cent of people with disability currently

eligible for DSP will not be eligible as of this date. For more information, and to access the report 'What if employers say no?' visit: <http://www.catholicsocialservices.org.au/node/42831>

RESOURCE: 'FAMILIES, BECOME WHAT YOU ARE'

The Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council has produced a parish kit and prayercard 'Families: Become What You Are'. Two bookmarks and a kit will be sent to every parish over the coming week. The bookmarks are available for 50c each, or at a discounted charge for bulk purchases. Inquiries: email sales@catholic.org.au, or telephone (02) 6201 9850.

JUBILEE AUSTRALIA CAMPAIGN - 'STOP DEBT VULTURES!'

Jubilee Australia's campaign seeks to put an end to the practices of 'Vulture Funds'. Vulture funds are private investment firms that prey on the world's poorest countries. These commercial bankers circle developing countries on the lookout for debts that the country is struggling to repay. Then they swoop down, purchase the debt on the secondary market for a cheap price, and sue the poor country to recover the full value of the debt, plus interest, penalties and legal fees. This greed undermines our international debt relief initiatives and, without legislation to prevent it, these vulture funds are free to profiteer from poor country debts in courts around the world, including in Australia. To find out more and consider how you can help, visit: <http://www.jubileeaustralia.org/page/work/stop-debt-vultures>

www.jubileeaustralia.org/page/work/stop-debt-vultures

THE SYDNEY ALLIANCE

The Sydney Alliance brings together diverse community organisations, unions and religious organisations to advance the common good and achieve a fair, just and sustainable city. The Alliance provides opportunities for people to have a say in decisions that affect them, their families and everyone working and living in Sydney. It is a non-party political organisation. The Alliance held its Founding Assembly on the evening of 15 September at Sydney Town Hall. To find out more, visit: <http://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/>

ICAN PROJECT - 'BOMBS NO MORE'

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN) has launched 'Bombs No More'. This is a citizen disarmament initiative that provides people with the opportunity to transform a nuclear bomb into something peaceful. ICAN's goal is to collect thousands of postcards of 'disarmed bombs' from across the world to show government leaders that there's strong public support for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Entries will be judged by Nobel Peace Prize winners and displayed at the United Nations. Bombs No More provides the opportunity for you to get involved in the campaign to abolish nuclear weapons. You can order blank postcards by emailing info@icanw.org. Once your postcards have been transformed, post them back to ICAN and they will publish them online. You can view submissions at: www.bombsnomore.com

Latest Publications

(Orders: (02) 8306 3499 or download order form and fax to (02) 8306 3498: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf)

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2011-2012 - ORDER NOW!

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement is entitled 'Building Bridges, Not Walls: Prisons and the justice system'. The ACSJC is still taking orders for the Statement. An order form and other

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

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps to Building Bridges, Not Walls.

Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499

Social Justice Statement Summary, Liturgy Notes, Community and Student Resources, PowerPoint Presentation - now available at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Ecumenical resource: 'I Was in Prison and You Visited Me'. Download from the National Council of Churches website: <http://www.ncca.org.au/>

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE - 'READING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES'

The ACSJC has prepared educational materials for parishes, social justice groups and schools engaged with the Church's social teachings. Now available are the guides 'Reading the Signs of the Times', 'Rerum Novarum' (1891), 'Quadragesimo Anno' (1931) 'Mater et Magistra' (1961) and 'Octogesima Adveniens' (1971) for download at <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SERIES PAPER - 'THE LOVE THAT SURPRISES'
In Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.69, entitled 'The Love that Surprises: Lessons from Timor-Leste', Mark Green describes his experiences working for Caritas Australia in Timor-Leste. His work in remote communities prompted him to think deeply about the concrete reality of Catholic social teaching and our relationships with marginalised communities close to our shores. (\$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 \$1.20; 2 copies \$1.80; 3-5 copies \$3.00)

This Month's Notices

NATIONAL

7 - 13 OCTOBER. AUSTRALIAN RELIGIOUS RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE (ARRCC) RIDE TO WORSHIP WEEK. For God's planet, the poor and your health join in Ride to Worship Week - all you need to do is to cycle, walk, or use another form of environmentally friendly transport to get to and from your religious activities, like Sunday Mass. You can join as an individual, a family, or as a whole faith community. ARRCC are looking for people to be Ride to Worship Week 'champions' who would recruit a place of worship or a local faith community, resources are available from secretary@arrcc.org.au or 0447 730 772. Register and information: <http://www.arrcc.org.au/ride-to-worship-week-2011>.

14 OCTOBER. MARY MACKILLOP FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER: 'GREEN AND GOLD DAY'. Join the Mary MacKillop Foundation in supporting Aussies who make a difference, and celebrating the Australian spirit. You can register to wear green and gold at your work, school or community group. The Mary MacKillop Foundation continues the legacy of Australia's first saint in fostering this Aussie helping spirit by giving grants of up to \$10,000

each to small life-changing projects. Web: http://www.mackillopfoundation.org.au/green_and_gold_day.

16 - 22 OCTOBER. ANTI-POVERTY WEEK. This is a week when we can all do something about poverty. Last year, at least 600 organisations around Australia participated in more than 450 activities during the Week, with a total participation of more than 10,000 people. Why not organise a display, stall or award? Maybe a workshop, lecture or forum? How about a fundraiser, fact sheet or petition? Contact: apw@antipovertyweek.org.au or 1300 797 290. For information and ideas, visit the website: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au>.

19 - 25 OCTOBER. WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM (IFOR/WPP) ONLINE DIALOGUE: 'FAITH-BASED PEACEBUILDING: THE NEED FOR A GENDER PERSPECTIVE'. The role of religion in conflict and peace building, the rise of religious fundamentalism, and the threat this poses for women's human rights are issues receiving increasing attention. International Fellowship Of Reconciliation's Women Peacemakers Program (IFOR/WPP) and its partners have been exploring the link between gender, religion and (inter)faith-based peace

building, including the positive role religion can play in promoting peace building and human and women's rights. This dialogue is an opportunity for those involved in faith-based and interfaith-based peace building and gender work, as well as those interested in it, to discuss these questions and share experiences. Web: <http://www.newtactics.org/en/dialogue/faith-based-peacebuilding-applying-gender-perspective>.

QUEENSLAND

9 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: 'WELLS FOR SUDAN HIGH TEA'. The Australian Ursulines in partnership with the Toowoomba Diocesan Social Justice Commission and Communities in Southern Sudan are supporting the installation of wells in isolated villages in Southern Sudan. A well costs approx \$14,000 and will give better access to clean water to approx 10,000 people - \$1.40 per person. Cost: \$20. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, St Mary MacKillop Parish Centre, 12 Hardy Road, Birkdale. Contact: 07 3822 1476. Web: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11636&cid=7464&id=3434>.

11 OCTOBER. MARY MACKILLOP MEMORIAL LECTURE: 'MARY MACKILLOP, A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR US IN TROUBLING TIMES'. Mary MacKillop Memorial Lecture by Bishop (now retired) Bill Morris DD. Cost: \$20, concession \$15. 7.00 pm, Cultural Centre, Mary MacKillop College, Buckland Road, Nundah. Contact: 07 3266 1300 or sosjadminqld1@bigpond.com. Web: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11636&cid=7464&id=3411>.

29 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER. FAIR TRADE ARTISANS' MARKET: 'HANDS OF THE WORLD'. Bags, baskets, bowls and boxes -but not only those- will be available from Turkey, Kenya, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Australia, Mexico, India, Vietnam, Thailand, Peru, Ecuador, Laos, Nepal and other projects. The Fair Trade Artisans' Market offers an opportunity to buy, at excellent prices, unusual decorative pieces in clay, wood, straw, glass and textiles. Cost: free entry. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Francis Rush Centre (situated alongside the Cathedral of St Stephen), 277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane. Web: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11636&cid=7464&id=3405>.

NEW SOUTH WALES

UNTIL 7 OCTOBER. EXHIBITION: 'UNSAFE HAVEN: HAZARAS IN AFGHANISTAN'. In January 2011 the Australian and Afghan Governments signed an agreement allowing the forced repatriation of Afghan refugees 'judged not to be in need of international protection'. Forty-nine refugees from the Afghan Hazara minority have now had their refugee status rejected and may be forcibly deported, among them a 15-year-old boy. This exhibition presents photographic evidence from Hazara communities in Afghanistan. It documents the daily life and continuing persecution of this minority people, in violation of human rights standards. The photographs were taken by University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) graduate, Abdul Karim Hekmat. This exhibition is hosted by the Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre at UTS and supported by the Refugee Council of Australia, Amnesty International Australia, and Sydney Peace Foundation. UTS Tower Foyer, Level 4 (Entrance level), 15 Broadway, Sydney. Contact: ccs@uts.edu.au. Web: <http://newsroom.uts.edu.au/events/2011/09/unsafe-haven-hazaras-in-afghanistan>.

6 OCTOBER. MATTARA MULTIFAITH CONCERTS AND EXPO. A diverse entertainment program featuring: Pipes & Didge ensemble, a variety of dance performers, vocal ensembles, the Newcastle Ukestra, spoken word artists, and more. A Multifaith Expo will be displayed in the adjoining room during the afternoon and evening showcasing a number of interest groups and guest speakers. Presented by the Multifaith Association of Newcastle and the Hunter Region. 4.00 pm: 'Little Sparks' Concert, no cost. 7.30 pm: 'Lift Up The Light' Concert, cost: \$5. Newcastle City Hall. Web: <http://www.mattarafestival.org.au/external-events-various-locations/>.

7 OCTOBER. CATHOLICCARE FUNDRAISER: PINK DIAMOND CHARITY BALL. Host of the night - Ray Dineen. Music by Alan Ward's Big Band. Money being raised will go to Youth Refuges. Cost: \$120. 6.30 pm, West Leagues Club, 88 Hobart Road, New Lambton. Contact: 0421 957 378 or pinkdiamondball@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pink-Diamond-Ball/136184074362>.

9 OCTOBER. MULTI-FAITH FORUM: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS. Faith-Ecology-Network (FEN) has joined hands with the Hindu Council of Australia, Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), and the UWS Multi-faith Chaplaincy to organise a joint multi-faith forum to address the moral and ethical issues involved in tackling the very important problem of climate change, environmental degradation and the prevailing atmosphere of greed, fear and hatred afflicting the humanity. No cost. 1.45 to 5.00 pm, University of Western Sydney, Parramatta Campus, (Room: PS-EB.G.02). Contact: 02 9873 4214 or 0406 033 704, RSVP by 30 September. Register: <http://www.arrcc.org.au/ecoforum>.

9 - 11 OCTOBER. NATIONAL SOCIAL COHESION CONFERENCE. Issues to be addressed are: Multiculturalism and Social Inclusion: Similarities and Differences; Diversity in Australian Social Landscape; Citizenship in a Pluralistic Society. Speakers: Prof Desmond Cahill, RMIT University; Prof Emeritus Gary Bouma, Monash; Mr Mehmet Ozalp, Charles Sturt University. This conference is co-organised by Affinity Intercultural Foundation, University of Western Sydney, Macquarie University and Sydney University. Cost: \$15-\$100. UWS Bankstown. Contact: 02 9702 0789. Web: <http://affinity.org.au/>.

11 OCTOBER. PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA 30 YEAR CELEBRATION AND LUNCHEON. Speaker: Jonathan Aitken. Jonathan is a former Member of Parliament (England), Cabinet Minister and ex-prisoner. He is a well-known broadcaster, lecturer and public speaker. He is the author of twelve books including the Award winning biography of President Nixon *Nixon: A Life* and two volumes of autobiography *Porridge & Passion* and *Pride and Perjury*. Cost: \$60. 12.30 to 2.30 pm, Parliamentary Dining Room, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 9896 1255 or nsw.office@prisonfellowship.org.au. Web: http://www.prisonfellowship.org.au/jonathanaitkenevents_336_1.html.

11 OCTOBER. EDMUND RICE CENTRE AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE FILM SCREENING: 'THE FUTURE MAKERS'. Australia has some of the world's largest renewable

energy resources. A number of Australians are world leaders in the field of renewable energy and sustainable solutions. This film showcases recent research into alternative energy sources: solar, geothermal, wave and tidal. The idea of bio-mimicry - drawing on inspiration from nature for technical designs - is also explored. Come and share your ideas about what the future holds for renewable energy. The film will be presented by Andrew Lenart, a member of the ATFF group. Cost: Donation of \$2 or \$5. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, Homebush, near Flemington Station. Contact: stephanies@erc.org.au or 02 8762 4200. Web: <http://www.erc.org.au>.

17 OCTOBER. SYDNEY INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY YOUTH JUSTICE CONFERENCING SEMINAR: 'PRINCIPLES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE'. The seminar considers the current state of evidence and practice in restorative justice and youth justice conferencing, which has been an important aspect of dealing with young offenders under the Young Offenders Act in NSW. Speakers: Dr Kelly Richards, Senior Research Analyst, Australian Institute of Criminology; Bryan Boulton, Youth Justice Conferencing Convenor; a NSW Police representative will be addressing the youth justice conferencing process from the perspective of police involvement. This event is sponsored by Juvenile Justice NSW. No cost. 5.15 to 8.00 pm, The Foyer, Level 2, Sydney Law School, Building F10, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0429 or law.events@sydney.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://sydney.edu.au/news/law/458.html?eventarchive=2011>.

18 OCTOBER. FAITH FORMATION EVENT - DIALOGUE BETWEEN BUDDHISTS AND CHRISTIANS: 'CONVERSATION TO COLLABORATION?' Speakers: Prof. John D'Arcy May, Senior Research Fellow in Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies, Trinity College Dublin; Mohini Gunesequera; and Ranmal Samarawickrama. 7.30 pm, Level 8, Caroline Chisholm Centre, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills. Contact: trish.madigan@dbb.org.au. Web: <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/fx-view-event.cfm?loadref=134&id=5>.

18 OCTOBER. ACTION FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES (APDP) FORUM: 'AUSTRALIAN MINING GOLD RUSH TO THE PHILIPPINES - AT WHAT COST?' With gold prices reaching new record levels, there is a rush to exploit mining opportunities in the Philippines. Four APDP members joined fact-finding missions to mines in the province of Nueva Vizcaya in July. This forum will be their report back on the expansion of large scale mining that is opposed by community and church groups, as well as the Provincial governor and council. Find out why, and what you can do to support the local communities. 6.30 to 8.30 pm, AMWU offices, 136 Chalmers Street, Surry Hills. Contact: apdp2008@gmail.com.

18 OCTOBER. ST VINCENT DE PAUL LECTURE: 'WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FEEL WELL? EXPRESSIONS OF WELL-BEING IN SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES'. Speaker: Dr Andy Marks, St Vincent de Paul Society's senior researcher. Hosted by the Australian Health Promotion Association, this event seeks to heighten awareness of the links between socio-economic disadvantage and health. A joint NSW AHPA and NSW PHAA anti-poverty week event. Cost: \$15, concession \$5. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Kerry Packer Education Centre, RPAH, Building 72, John Hopkins Drive (off Missenden Road), Camperdown. Contact: tessa.piper@sswahs.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.vinnies.org.au/files/NSW/SocialJustice/SJ%20Event%20-%20Andy%20Marks%20-%20Oct%202011.pdf>.

20 OCTOBER. ACU VOICE DEBATE: 'THE ETHICS OF WAR'. Is war a vital evil in the protection of human rights? Should scientists take responsibility for the weapons they create that enable grand scale destruction? What role does politics play and who really benefits from conflict? Join the debate, led by guest speaker Dr John Forge, and a panel including Fr Frank Brennan AO, Professor of Law, ACU Public Policy Institute; Claire Mallinson, National Director of Amnesty International Australia; and Professor Tony Coady, Professor of Philosophy, University of Melbourne. There will be time for audience members to engage in a Q&A session with the panel. To submit your questions before the event contact via

Twitter using @ACUVoice or #ACUVoice or email acuvoice@acu.edu.au. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, The Australian Museum Theatre, 6 College Street, Sydney. Contact: acuevents@acu.edu.au or 02 9739 2221, RSVP by 30 September. Web: http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/research/about_us/news_and_events/events/acu_voice_the_ethics_of_war/.

22 OCTOBER. PALMS JUBILEE DINNER. Palms is celebrating its 50th Birthday. Join returned volunteers and the many friends and supporters of Palms. Cost: \$55. 7.00 pm, Jubilee Dinner and Celebration, The Heritage Function Centre, Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club, 117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde. Contact: 02 9518 9551 or register online at: <http://www.palms.org.au/news/50th-anniversary-dinner-22-oct-2011/>.

23 OCTOBER. FAITH ECOLOGY NETWORK (FEN) ENRICHMENT DAY: 'ECOLOGY OF THE FORESTS'. For all members of FEN, as well as friends, and those interested in FEN. Explore the dry sclerophyll, heath woodland and scrub, and for the adventurous, temperate rainforest, with Fran Bodkin, Dharawal knowledge holder and Ayya Analaya, female monk at Santi. Please bring refreshments to share - vegetarian preferred. Launch of FEN Website. 10.15 am to 4.30 pm, Santi Forest Monastery, 100 Coalmines Rd, Bundanoon. Contact: 02 9352 8021 or 0408 279 871 or pej.cmi@columban.org.au, RSVP essential. Visit the website: http://www.columban.org.au/our-works/peace-ecology-justice/faith-ecology-network/?searched=faith+ecology&advsearch=exactphrase&highlight=ajaxSearch_highlight+ajaxSearch_highlight1.

24 OCTOBER. JUSTICE AWARDS DINNER. The Law and Justice Address will be delivered by Dr Tom Calma, the MC for the evening will be Mr Richard Glover. The event is held by The Board of Governors of the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW. Cost: \$99, concession \$65. 6.00 pm, Strangers' Dining Room, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 8227 3200. Book: <http://eventsonline.messagesticksoftware.com/AttendeeEntry.aspx>. Web: [http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/ljf/site/templates/pdf/\\$file/2011_JA_invitation.pdf](http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/ljf/site/templates/pdf/$file/2011_JA_invitation.pdf).

27 - 28 OCTOBER. GATHERING OF REFLECTION, DIALOGUE AND PRAYER: 'PILGRIMS OF TRUTH, PILGRIMS OF PEACE'.

This gathering which will coincide with the invitation from Pope Benedict XVI to leaders of the world's religious traditions to gather in Assisi for a prayer day of peace. It is an opportunity to pray for peace and to learn about vehicles to promote peace and justice in our world. Keynote speaker: Sr Trish Madigan OP, Chair of the Commission for Interfaith Relations, Diocese of Broken Bay, and Director of CIMER (Dominican Centre for Interfaith Ministry and Research). She recently returned from Northern Iraq where she took part in a research project 'Three Generations of Women in Iraq'. Cost: \$130. 10.00 am, Mary MacKillop Place, 80 William Street, North Sydney. Contact: director.opw@catholic.org.au or 02 6201 9867, RSVP by 7 October. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/OPW%20Pilgrims%20of%20truth%20&%20peace%20Oct%202011.pdf>.

28 OCTOBER. CHRISTINE'S ART FUNDRAISING DINNER. A dinner supporting Father Chris Riley's Youth off the Streets to ensure all children have the means to make our world an amazing place. 70's Fancy Dress. Speakers: Kerri Pottharst; Donny Singe; Christine Bullivant; Deb Carr; John Alexandria and Nicole Scott. Special Guests: Billy The Kid DIB World Champion Boxer; Jessica Mauboy. Cost: \$250. 6.00 pm to 12.30 am, Le Montage, 38 Frazer Street, Leichhardt. Book: <http://christines-art.com/charity-dinner-fcr-yots.php>.

29 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: SPIRIT OF ASSISI CONCERT. Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Peace. An evening of instrumental and choral music and reflections on peace. Including works of John Rutter, John Tavener, Howard Goodall and Karl Jenkins. Starring: Jane Rutter, Flute Queen. This concert also features a wonderful selection of professional, parish, school and university choirs. Hosted by Franciscan Friars, Province of the Holy Spirit. All proceeds will be directed to The House of Welcome. Cost: \$25, concession \$20, purchase tickets from <http://www.spiritofassisiaustralia.com>. 7.30 pm, Pitt Street Uniting Church, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney. Contact: info@

spiritofassisiaustralia.com or 02 9369 9393. Web: <http://www.houseofwelcome.com.au>.

3 NOVEMBER. CITY OF SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE Q&A SESSION: 'PROBLEMS OF KNOWLEDGE AND FREEDOM'. Prof Chomsky (this year's recipient of the Peace Prize) will be in conversation with distinguished Australian journalist and human rights campaigner Mary Kostakidis.. 10.30 am, Sydney Opera House. Cost: \$25, concession \$15; from the Opera House Box Office: <http://www.sydneypacefoundation.org.au/>.

3 NOVEMBER. SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE GALA DINNER. The Sydney Peace Foundation invites you to attend 2011 Sydney Peace Prize Gala Dinner in the presence of the 2011 Sydney Peace Prize Recipient, Professor Noam Chomsky. Former Peace Prize Recipient and Father of Reconciliation, Patrick Dodson will present the Sydney Peace Prize to Professor Chomsky. Contributions from the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore MP and Professor Stuart Rees. Cost: \$350, MacLaurin Hall, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 4468 or peace.foundation@sydney.edu.au. Web: <http://www.sydneypacefoundation.org.au/>.

12 NOVEMBER. ST VINCENT DE PAUL FUNDRAISER DINNER AND SHOW: 'SONGS FOR YOU'. St Vincent de Paul Society presents Ashleigh Grace. *Songs for You* CD will be available on the evening. Proceeds from the evening will support Mary MacKillop Outreach and Sydney Night Patrol. Cost: 7.00 pm, Canada Bay Club, 4 William Street, Five Dock. Contact: 0409 927 939. Web: <http://www.vinnies.org.au/songs-for-you-fundraiser-nsw>.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

13 OCTOBER. CHRISTIANS FOR AN ETHICAL SOCIETY (CES) FORUM: 'LANGUAGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL'. Speaker: Dr Haydn Washington. Cost: \$5 donation is invited to cover the cost of room hire. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton. Contact: 02 6291 4537 or chair@ces.org.au. Web: <http://communitiesonline.org.au/group.php?id=2081>.

VICTORIA

11 OCTOBER. RERUM NOVARUM LECTURE: 'SEEKING ASYLUM - IS THERE A JUST SOLUTION?' This year's Rerum Novarum Oration, delivered by Bishop Vincent Long van Nguyen, who arrived on Australia's shores as an asylum seeker, will examine this issue through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. The Official Response to the Oration will be given by the Honourable Mr Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister of Australia. As Prime Minister, Mr Fraser was instrumental in formulating an immigration policy that enabled the compassionate and orderly integration of asylum seekers and refugees coming by boat from Indo-China. 7.00 pm, ACU Central Hall, 20-22 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Contact: 03 9926 5727 or justice@cam.org.au. Web: http://www.cam.org.au/index.php?view=details&id=347%3A2011-rerum-novarum-lecture&option=com_eventlist&Itemid=393.

13 OCTOBER. BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE LUNCHTIME SEMINAR: 'YOUNG PEOPLE, THE RISE OF PRECARIOUS EMPLOYMENT AND THE ROLE OF CONTROL OVER TIME IN SOCIAL CONNECTION'. Speaker: Dan Woodman, TR Ashworth Lecturer, Sociology, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne. He has published on how social change is reshaping youth transitions, young people's hopes for the future, and inequality in young people's lives. 12.00 to 1.00 pm, Fr Tucker's room, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Contact: kphilipp@bsl.org.au or 03 9483 1364. Web: <http://www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on.aspx?id=676&dt=13/10/2011>.

13 - 14 OCTOBER. CONFERENCE: 'ST MARY MACKILLOP - HER INFLUENCE ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW.' Workshop topics: seeking out the most marginalised; working in partnership with Indigenous Australians; sainthood - a theological perspective; international engagement - moving beyond boundaries; etc. The conference is auspiced by MacKillop Family Services, the Josephites, Australian Catholic University, the Victorian Aboriginal Catholic

Ministry and Catholic Social Services Victoria. Speakers: Fr Frank Brennan SJ; Michael McGirr, author. Cost: \$200. 13 October 6.30 pm, Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne; 14 October 9.00 am, Thomas Carr Centre, East Melbourne. Contact: margaret.allen@me.com or 0418 776 987, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.css.org.au/MaryMacKillop>.

14 OCTOBER. THE LONG WALK WOMEN'S LUNCHEON. The Long Walk invites you to celebrate Indigenous women's leadership over lunch with great entertainment and conversation at the sixth annual Women's Luncheon. Special Guests: Rosalie Kunoth-Monks; Fay Ball; The Sunshine Sisters; Mistress of Ceremonies: Pauline Whyman. Funds raised through the Women's Luncheon will contribute to The Long Walk's Cultural Exchange in 2012. Cost: \$110. 11.30 am, Peninsula at Central Pier, 161 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands. Contact: 03 9230 0300 or info@thelongwalk.com.au. Web: <http://www.thelongwalk.com.au/>.

19 OCTOBER. CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES MORNING TEA. Gather to meet associates and purchase goods supplied by the Good Shepherd Trading Circle, Josephite Sisters Women's Employment Project and the Afghan Women's Cooking Group. 11.00 am to 12.30 pm, Knox Centre. Contact: 03 9287 5570. Web: <http://www.css.org.au>.

21 OCTOBER. SOCIAL POLICY CONNECTIONS FORUM: 'TAKING A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TO CHALLENGING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY IN AUSTRALIA - WHAT WE CAN DO ... TODAY.' Keynote address: Dr Cassandra Goldie, Executive Officer, Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS). Panel Respondents: Lucy Adams, Lawyer, Public Interest Law Clearing House; Michaela Guthridge, Board Member, Social Policy Connections. Hosted by St Vincent de Paul Society. The forum will be followed by Mass celebrated by Fr Bruce Duncan, starting at midday, all welcome. 9.45 to 11.30 am, Gerald Ward House, 43 Prospect Street, Box Hill. Contact: 03 9895 5859 or livia.carusi@svdp-vic.org.au, RSVP by 17 October. Web: <http://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/?p=3348>.

21 - 22 OCTOBER. NATIONAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM: 'WHAT DOES A HUMANE AND EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM LOOK LIKE?' The National Justice Symposium is an opportunity to hear from key leaders in the justice system. Speakers: Hon. Andrew McIntosh, Minister for Crime Prevention; Frank Vincent QC; Frank Brennan SJ AO; Julie Edwards, CEO Jesuit Social Services; etc. The symposium is jointly sponsored by Jesuit Social Services and the Public Policy Institute, Australian Catholic University. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, 21 October; 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, 22 October; Australian Catholic University, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy. Contact: 03 9427 7388 or erin.bright@jss.org.au. Web: <http://www.jss.org.au/nationaljusticesymposium>.

TASMANIA

13 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB FORUM: 'EUTHANASIA - IS THIS THE FUTURE?' Those who are profoundly handicapped, elderly or dying deserve special respect. They are no less worthy of human care and dignity. The Church states that to deliberately end a life is morally wrong. In countries where euthanasia has been legalised with strict safeguards, euthanasia has included people who have not or could not give consent. The panellists are: Fr. Michael Tate, former Minister for Justice; Dr. Paul Dunne, palliative care specialist; and Dr Gerry McGushin, practicing doctor. 7.15 pm, Prince of Wales Hotel, Battery Point. Contact: 03 6208 6271 or tcjpc@aohtas.org.au.

18 OCTOBER. DOROTHY PEARCE ADDRESS. This year's speaker for the annual Dorothy Pearce Address is Dr. Cassandra Goldie, Chief Executive of the Australian Council of Social Service. The talk is in celebration of the 50th birthday of the Tasmanian Council of Social Service. Hobart. Contact: 03 6231 0755. Web: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/events.php>.

19 OCTOBER. ANGLICARE SOCIAL ACTION RESEARCH CENTRE (SARC) FORUM. This event will showcase some of the research and reports that SARC have been working on recently. These will include Anita Pryor's mental health and homelessness report, *A Big Mental Sigh*,

and also Jo Flanagan's soon to be released report about poverty and the cost of living. 10.30 am to 1.00 pm, Tailrace Centre, 32 Elouera Street, Launceston. Contact: 03 6213 3567. Web: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/events.php>.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

18 OCTOBER. ECUMENICAL ANTI-POVERTY WEEK SERVICE: 'FORGOTTEN FAMILIES OF OFFENDERS AND VICTIMS OF CRIME'. All are invited to attend the 2011 Ecumenical Anti-Poverty Week Service. Keynote address will be given by Rev Monsignor Michael Keating. 1.00 pm, St Mary's Cathedral, Perth. Contact: 08 9422 7900. Web: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/events.php>.

22 OCTOBER. CLOTHES SWAP FUNDRAISER: 'SWAP FOR SOMALIA'. Do you have "guilt" clothes at the back of your wardrobe, the ones you've never worn, perhaps your promising yourself you will fit them one day? Do you have clothes that are too nice to just give away? Why not exchange them at a clothing swap for TEAR Australia. All money goes to TEAR's aid work in Somalia. Cost: \$15. 1.00 pm, Mount Pleasant Uniting Church, 1 Coomoora Road, Mt Pleasant. Contact: 08 9252 0920. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/states/news/swap-for-somalia-clothes-swap-fundraiser/>.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 7 OCTOBER. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY TRAINING PROGRAM DARWIN. This program is a 5-day (late October) intensive training program that will help develop knowledge, confidence and skills of community advocates to protect, promote and fulfil their human rights as recognised in Australian and International Law. The Fred Hollows Foundation will fund the cost of the program; there is no charge for participation. The training will be delivered by experienced Indigenous and non-Indigenous international human rights lawyers and community advocates. The program is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples from Darwin and the surrounding regions who have an interest in protecting the rights of Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Contact: 02 9385 2807 or dtp@unsw.edu.au. Web: <http://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au>.

UNTIL 7 OCTOBER. ART EXHIBITION: 'NGARUWANAJIRRI: HELPING ONE ANOTHER'.

Charles Darwin University Art Collection and Art Gallery features more than 150 works by 17 Tiwi artists who work as a co-operative at The Keeping House at Wurrumiyanga (Nguiu) on Bathurst Island. The exhibition features a range of paintings in ochre on paper and canvas/linen, watercolour and acrylic paintings, ironwood carvings, sculptures, hand-crafted objects and batik silks. This is Ngaruwanajirri Inc's first major retrospective exhibition and marks the launch of a special suite of 48 monotypes/monoprints, created with collaborating printer Marilyn Gibson. Monday to Friday, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Charles Darwin University Art Gallery, Building Orange 12.1.02, Casuarina Campus, Darwin. Contact: 08 8946 6621. Web: <http://www.cdu.edu.au/advancement/artcollection/cduartgallery.html>.

17 - 20 OCTOBER. MISSION AUSTRALIA POVERTY WEEK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: 'PACK SORT AND DELIVER!' To help support Anti Poverty week Mission Australia NT is looking for two amazing volunteers to assist in one of our Sobering up shelters with the following: packing and delivering relief kits to clients, packing blankets and delivering them to various sites. Full training and support will be provided to the volunteers and a Mission Australia Staff member on site at all times to provide guidance. 12.00 to 3.00 pm, Coconut Grove, Darwin. Web: <http://www.missionaustralia.com.au/volunteer-at-mission-australia/volunteer-opportunities/962-nt-volunteer-opportunities>.

18 OCTOBER. ANTI-POVERTY WEEK PRESENTATION. Fr Frank Brennan will present on the theme of poverty. Fr Brennan AO SJ

is a Jesuit priest and lawyer and is Professor of Law in the Public Policy Institute at the Australian Catholic University. He has also been the Director of the Uniya Jesuit Social Justice Centre in Sydney. 6.30 pm, Museum and Art Gallery NT, Darwin. Web: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/events.php>.

19 OCTOBER. ANTI-POVERTY WEEK PRESENTATION. Mark Squirrell has worked for the International Rescue Committee and other NGOs before joining the United Nations World Food Program. Often conflicts and famine go hand in hand and Mark has worked in many conflicted countries trying to get support to the hungry. Whilst in Nepal Mark successfully climbed Mt Everest as part of the WFP 'Fight World Hunger Campaign.' Mark is author of *From Arafat to Everest*. 5.00 pm, NT Library, NT Parliament House, Darwin. Web: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/events.php>.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 21 OCTOBER. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY TRAINING PROGRAM ALICE SPRINGS. This program is a 5-day intensive training program (November 7-11) that will help develop knowledge, confidence and skills of community advocates to protect, promote and fulfil their human rights as recognised in Australian and International Law. The Fred Hollows Foundation will fund the cost of the program; there is no charge for participation. The training will be delivered by experienced Indigenous and non-Indigenous international human rights lawyers and community advocates. The program is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples from Darwin and the surrounding regions who have an interest in protecting the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Contact: 02 9385 2807 or dtp@unsw.edu.au. Web: <http://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au>.

Edmund Rice Centre calls for new policy on refugees

The Edmund Rice Centre invited the charting of a new direction in asylum-seeker policy, in the light of the High Court's Malaysia decision, it said in a press release.

PM's attack 'a new low' against court judgments

Fr Frank Brennan SJ described Prime Minister Julia Gillard's attack on High Court Chief Justice Robert French as "a new low in the treatment meted out by politicians to judges when they don't like the result", reported the Australian.

Church, Vinnies welcome High Court decision

The Church said it could assist the government in the matter of asylum seekers, and welcomed the High Court's permanent injunction against the deportation of two asylum seekers to Malaysia, the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office said in a statement.

Catholic groups speak up about proposed carbon tax

Catholic social justice agencies raised a range of issues relating to the proposed carbon tax as the Australian Government prepares to introduce bills on the legislation into parliament, reported the Catholic Leader.

ERC legal opinion that Nauru, PNG deportations could be invalid

The Edmund Rice Centre was given a legal opinion which said any attempt to use Nauru or

PNG for the processing of asylum seekers could be found invalid, the Centre said in a media release.

Rethink incarceration, bishops urge

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference was calling upon politicians to rethink tough crime campaigns that are causing needlessly high rates of incarceration, reported AdelaideNow from the Advertiser.

Consider migrant issue morally and ethically: bishop

Australia needs moral and ethical parameters articulated immediately, which will help in dealing with the issue of migrants and refugees, said Bishop of Sale, Bishop Christopher Prowse, according to The Catholic Weekly.

Sharia means freedom, tolerance: new Aussie grand mufti

Islamic religious law, or sharia, is often vilified but is really about freedom and tolerance, Australia's new grand mufti said, according to the Herald Sun.

PM's taken Labor down morally derelict path: priest

Fr Frank Brennan, SJ, believes Kevin Rudd would never taken Labor down the path of expelling child asylum seekers to Malaysia, reported The Australian from his piece on Eureka Street.

- Courtesy Church Resources. For details click on headlines or to cathnews.com



Social Justice Calendar

1 Sat	International Day for Older Persons	13 Thu	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction World Sight Day
2 Sun Time	Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary International Day of Non-Violence 1869: Mahatma Gandhi born	15 Sat	UN International Day of Rural Women
3 Mon	Day of Jewish and Christian Dialogue	16 Sun	Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time World Food Day 1992: Rigoberta Menchu Tum (Guatemala) receives Nobel Peace Prize
4 Tue	Feast of St Francis of Assisi World Habitat Day World Space Week commences 1957: First space Sputnik launched by the Soviet Union	17 Mon	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty National Water Week begins
5 Wed	UN World Teachers Day	19 Wed	2001: Sinking of SIEV X
9 Sun	Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time World Post Day	23 Sun	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
10 Mon	World Mental Health Day 1967: Treaty on the Exploration and Use of Outer Space	24 Mon	United Nations Day Disarmament Week commences World Development Information Day
11 Tue	1962: Opening Session of Second Vatican Council	26 Wed	1985: Uluru returned to traditional owners, the Anangu people
		30 Sun	Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time World Mission Sunday

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.

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 are also welcome.