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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,

As we journey through the Season of Lent, Pope Benedict has reminded us of the Christian calling of 'complete self-giving' characterised in way of the Cross. In his homily on Ash Wednesday he highlighted how a response to that call is both transcendental and practically lived out in our communities.

He said, 'To "return to God with all your heart" on this Lenten journey means embracing the cross, following Christ along the path which leads to Calvary, unto complete self-giving. It is a journey which teaches us each day to abandon our selfishness and self-absorption in order to make room for God, who opens and transforms our heart.' (http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/homilies/2013/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20130213_ceneri_en.html)

That self-giving has been so much a part of Benedict's papacy. It will be an important legacy in the Church's teaching about love and justice.

In his recent declaration of resignation, the Holy Father said, 'After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry. I am well aware that this ministry, due to its essential spiritual nature, must be carried out not only with words and deeds, but no less with prayer and suffering. However, in today's world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the bark of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me.'

Speaking to a Consistory he had assembled, he said, 'I thank you most sincerely for all the love and work with which you have supported me in my ministry and I ask pardon for all my defects. And now, let us entrust the Holy Church to the care of Our Supreme Pastor, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and implore his holy Mother Mary, so that she may assist the Cardinal Fathers with her maternal solicitude, in electing a new Supreme Pontiff'.

(http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2013/february/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20130211_declaratio_en.html)

The President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Denis Hart, was among many to express gratitude for the papacy Benedict XVI. 'Millions of Catholics are grateful for his holiness and teaching, and are encouraged by his gentle and loving service,' he said. 'As he retires to a life of prayer for the Church, we remember with gratitude and prayer his faithfulness to the call given him as Vicar of Christ and chief pastor of the universal Church.'

His Eminence Cardinal George Pell said, 'Pope Benedict has always loved the Church and worked to do what was best for her.

'We thank him for his years of devoted leadership and service and his brilliant teaching. We will pray for him as he enters retirement. We must also pray for the Church as she prepares to choose the next successor of Saint Peter,' said Cardinal Pell.

Archbishop Philip Wilson spoke of how, 'as its spiritual leader, Pope Benedict has steered the Catholic Church through extremely challenging times and he has done so with great grace and humility. His announcement yesterday is further testament to his unselfish commitment to the Church and its future ... His insightful writings and teachings on theology and current issues affecting the Church will have a lasting impact, as will his leadership in the area of ecumenism.'

Archbishop Adrian Doyle highlighted his role as a teacher, saying 'The amount of his writings astounded me at times. He also has a very profound awareness of the dignity of every human person. This was expressed with great clarity in his messages on the World Day of Peace which occurs each year on 1 January.'

It was in this year's World Day of Peace message that Pope Benedict emphasised the notion of 'self-giving', which has been a foundational aspect of his social teaching. Self-giving is based in love of God, which is realised in a concrete way in love of neighbour - 'in such a way that we feel the needs of others as our own, share our goods with others and work throughout the world for greater communion in spiritual values'.

He has again emphasised how self-giving must be the foundation of a new economic model that addresses causes and consequences of the current global economic crisis. He says, '... true and lasting success is attained through the gift of ourselves, our intellectual abilities and our entrepreneurial skills, since "liveable" or truly human economic development requires the principle of gratuitousness as an expression of fraternity and the logic of gift'. (# 3&5 http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20121208_xlvi-world-day-peace_en.html)

[xvi/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20121208_xlvi-world-day-peace_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20121208_xlvi-world-day-peace_en.html))

This logic of gift represents a higher level of giving. It goes beyond what the market and social structures offer. And this was perhaps best explained in his 2009 Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* where he spoke of graduated forms of justice.

The Pope speaks of a basic level of commutative justice 'which regulates the relations of giving and receiving between parties to a transaction' or, in other words, giving in order to receive. Distributive and social justice concern 'giving through duty' and social obligations which are often imposed by the state. But Pope Benedict calls for a higher level of giving - one of 'increasing openness, in a world context, to forms of economic activity marked by quotas of gratuitousness and communion'.

In addressing the question of overcoming divisions to properly build up communities, he says that the this higher level of giving (the 'logic of gift' and 'principle of gratuitousness') is not just an optional extra, but should be a force for authentic human development in the operation of economic, social and political systems around the world. (# 34, 35, 39 http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate_en.html)

The logic of gift is born of love - or *caritas*. It relates as much to the structural operation of our society as it does to our personal and family lives.

This final observation from Pope Benedict's message for Lent is valuable as we journey through the Season:

Hence, for all Christians ... there is a need for faith, for that encounter with God in Christ which awakens their love and opens their spirits to others. As a result, love of neighbour will no longer be for them a commandment imposed, so to speak, from without, but a consequence deriving from their faith, a faith which becomes active through love. Christians are people who have been conquered by

Christ's love and accordingly, under the influence of that love - "*Caritas Christi urget nos*" (2 Cor 5:14) - they are profoundly open to loving the neighbour in concrete ways. This attitude arises primarily from the consciousness of being loved, forgiven, and even served by the Lord, who bends down to wash the feet of the Apostles and offers himself on the Cross to draw humanity

into God's love. (http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/lent/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20121015_lent-2013_en.html)

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues / Resources

WATCH FOR THE ACSJC'S NEW WEBSITE!

We are commissioning a new design for our website and it will be online soon. The site will give better access to our resources and incorporate features that will make it easier to use. The web address will remain the same: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au.

PROJECT COMPASSION: 'OPEN DOORS INTO THE FUTURE'

In 2013, Project Compassion carries the message 'Open doors into the future', which is taken from Pope Benedict XVI's 2007 encyclical *Spe Salvi*: 'We work towards a brighter and more humane world so as to open doors into the future' (n 35). This year's Project Compassion stories are about children, young people and the communities who support them. Caritas Australia's partners around the world are helping to open doors into education, sustainable livelihoods, affordable healthcare and supportive, safe environments. As a result, more children and young people now have hope for the future. To find out more, visit:

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.

STATEMENTS ON ACT OF RECOGNITION

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill was passed with bipartisan support on 13 February 2013, the fifth anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda has warmly welcomed the passing of the Bill 2012. Commissioner Gooda said the Bill is 'an enormous step towards the main goal of constitutional reform. It should also serve as a springboard for further action to prepare the nation for a referendum'. Web:

www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/index.html.

The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples welcomed the passing of the Act but says the

hard yards in achieving substantive Constitutional reform are now just beginning. 'Today is the first test of multi-partisan leadership, now all parties must continue to work together to achieve a referendum involving substantive reform not just symbolic recognition,' said Congress Co-Chair Jody Broun. Co-Chair Les Malezer added, 'Any process from here on in must ensure full participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people'. Web: <http://nationalcongress.com.au/congress-call-for-hard-yards-on-constitutional-reform/>.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH ALLIANCE

Catholic Health Australia is one of many health, social service and public policy organisations forming a new alliance calling on governments at all levels to consider how the legislative decisions they make will affect the health of the nation and address increasing health inequity across Australia. The Social Determinants of Health Alliance (SDOHA) was launched by Social Inclusion Minister Mark Butler on 7 February. The alliance aims to share the knowledge its members have gained working with those most affected by inequity to bring about fundamental change to how governments address the health of Australians. To find out more, visit the SDOHA website at: <http://socialdeterminants.org.au>

COUNCIL FOR AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC WOMEN (CACW) RESOURCE

The CACW has prepared a resource to assist parishes to celebrate International Women's Day on Sunday 10 March. CACW has distributed the resource to all parishes across Australia. The resource is also available for downloading at www.opw.catholic.org.au.

REPORT: 'RECOGNISING AND VALUING THOSE WHO CARE'

Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, has released a report suggesting a range

of reforms to remove the lifelong disadvantage experienced by many people who are carers. The report shows that the majority of caring in our community is undertaken by women and that the current superannuation, taxation and employment systems severely disadvantage them. The report is available at: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/sex_discrimination/VUCW_australiaResearchPrj/.

REPORT ON AUSTRALIA'S REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM

The Refugee Council of Australia has completed its annual submission on Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program. Some of RCOA's recommendations include: reconsideration of the removal of eligibility to the Special Humanitarian Program for refugees who arrive by boat; ending the numerical link between the onshore and offshore components of the program; progress through the Bali Process to build regional refugee protection in the Asia-Pacific region; abandonment of offshore processing of asylum seekers; using detention as a last resort for children in detention and; better support for asylum seekers to secure work. The full submission is available at <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/isub.php>

RCOA has also released a statistical snapshot of key international and national statistics on refugee needs. Drawn from information in the submission, the snapshot provides data on global refugee movements, asylum trends, resettlement and immigration detention. It is available at <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/isub/2013-14-IntakeSub-stat-snapshot.pdf>

PETITION: END THE DETENTION OF CHILDREN!

Australian Young Christian Students (YCS) are calling on the Prime Minister and Australian Parliament to uphold rights of Child Convention and end the detention of children. Around 590 children are currently locked up within Australia in immigration detention, and with the recent amendments to the Migration Act, their wellbeing is set to get even worse. The Parliament has not ensured that a guardian for the children will be sent offshore, so there is no-one who can advocate for their needs. No legal safeguards have been put in place to ensure their safety. To support YCS in their call for the rights of vulnerable children and young people, visit the petition website and lend your support: <http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/australian-parliament-uphold-rights-of-child-convention-end-the-detention-of-children>.

HEAR OUR VOICES - FORMERLY DETAINED CHILDREN AT THE UN

'Hear our Voices' is a creative presentation delivered by six youngsters with immigration detention experience in front of States, UN agencies and NGOs at the Day of General Discussion which was held on 28 September last year. During the Day, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child underlined that article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which also applies in migration situations and is legally binding for its 193 States parties, explicitly states that 'no child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily' and the 'arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.' The script of the presentation is made up of the actual words of the participating youth with detention experience, which ranges from six weeks to six years. The theatre presentation is the result of a one week residential workshop in which the formerly detained children used creative art techniques to tell their stories. To view the podcast, visit: <https://vimeo.com/55099054>. To find out more about the Global Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children, visit: www.idcoalition.org.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (UNHCR) GUIDELINES ENSURING EVERY CHILD'S RIGHT TO ACQUIRE A NATIONALITY

This is the first ever set of detailed guidelines on interpretation and implementation of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The guidelines will be relevant to a wide range of UNHCR operations and provide a solid basis for implementation of a key aspect of UNHCR's statelessness mandate, namely the prevention of statelessness among children. See: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/50d460c72.pdf>.

START FREEDOM SUNDAY

Start Freedom Sunday on February 17 brought together the church community to show the world our compassion for those enslaved and our determination to end human trafficking and modern slavery. Your community is still able to take part by learning together in study groups and holding fundraisers. Resources and creative ideas are available at: www.stophetraffik.org/campaign/startfreedomSunday.

FAIRTRADE INTERNATIONAL (FLO) HAS RELEASED 'MONITORING THE SCOPE AND BENEFITS OF FAIRTRADE 2012' REPORT

This report is a compendium of data and

summaries of key research exploring the impacts of Fairtrade. The report highlights the importance of small farmer organisations in the Fairtrade system. By the end of 2011, the total number of small-scale farmers in the Fairtrade system reached 1 million with a 26 percent increase in sales revenues on Fairtrade terms. The report is available at: http://www.fairtrade.net/impact_studies1.html.

JUBILEE AUSTRALIA INVESTIGATIVE REPORT: 'PIPE DREAMS'

This report challenges the 'official' projections of those with power, and finds that the \$19 billion Exxon-Mobil led deal to extract gas from Papua New Guinea's Southern Highlands, while bringing a windfall to foreign companies and some government officials, is likely to exacerbate poverty, increase corruption and lead to more violence in PNG: www.jubileeaustralia.org.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR CENTRE OF FULL EMPLOYMENT AND EQUITY (COFFEE): PATH TO FULL EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

The Conference will seek to explore the apparent contradictions of the policy stances that are now entrenched and causing the prolonged global unemployment crisis. Papers in any area of labour market analysis will be of interest. Guidelines for Submission: Abstracts should be a maximum of 150 words. Deadline for abstracts: 8 March. The conference will be held on 10 - 12 July in Darwin. Web: <http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/>.

ROOTS OF PEACE CAMPAIGN AGAINST LANDMINES

Roots of Peace is a humanitarian organisation dedicated to eradicating landmines worldwide and rehabilitating the land to make it productive again. Its roots are in the heart of California's agricultural grape growing region. With the generous support of the entire California wine industry, Roots of Peace aims to turn 'Mines into Vines', which helps innocent farmers and families avoid a lethal harvest of bloodshed for future generations. For a report on the organisation's visit to the Vatican, see http://rootsofpeace.org/rop-events/mines_to_vines_on_sacred_sites. Their website is at: <http://rootsofpeace.org/>.

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/OrderFormPublications.pdf>)

DISCUSSION GUIDE: 2013 WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE

The theme for the 46th World Day of Peace Message from Pope Benedict XVI is *Blessed Are the Peacemakers*. Pope Benedict's 2013 Message reminds us at that we all have a role to play in building peace in our communities and the world. The Message focuses on human dignity, rights and responsibilities, as well as the fiftieth anniversaries of Pope John XXIII's *Pacem in Terris* and of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council. The ACSJC has prepared a Discussion Guide for Pope Benedict's Message, which is available on our website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SERIES PAPER - 'WHERE DO WE STAND? WITH WHOM DO WE STAND?'

Paper no. 73 in the ACSJC's Catholic Social Justice Series is titled 'Where Do We Stand?'

With Whom Do We Stand? People with disability and the call of Jesus'. In it, authors Patrick McArdle and Patricia Mowbray explore the issue of disability and ask what we as Christians are called to do for our brothers and sisters. Too often, they say, those who live with a disability are ignored or shunned by our society. In fact, the authors argue, we all live in precarious and vulnerable situations and unless we appreciate and confront our own vulnerabilities and are willing to enter into true relationship with those living with disability, we will struggle to recognise them as fully human in the way Jesus did. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

ORDER NOW! - 2013 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2013 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. 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>

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2012-2013 - STILL TAKING ORDERS

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement is entitled 'The Gift of Family in Difficult Times: The social and economic challenges facing families today'. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form and other information/resources are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Social Justice Statement Summary, Audio version of the Statement, Community and Student Resources, PowerPoint Presentation - now available at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Ecumenical resource: 'Peace in the Marketplace - So all may live in dignity'. Download from the National Council of Churches website: <http://www.ncca.org.au/component/content/article/41-sjn-resources/686-social-justice-sunday-2012>

SERIES PAPER - 'CHARITY AND JUSTICE'

The ACSJC has published Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.72, entitled 'Charity and Justice: St Mary MacKillop and Australian Society'.

Author Professor John Warhurst draws on presentations at a conference on the life, work and legacy of Mary MacKillop that was organised last year by Catholic Social Services Victoria, MacKillop Family Services, the Sisters of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic University and the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. It also draws on the 2011 CSSA McCosker oration by Sr Anne Derwin RSJ. The paper's principal theme is St Mary's unswerving vision: that a commitment to justice must go hand in hand with a commitment to hard practical work on behalf of people on the margins of society.

(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

UNTIL 17 MARCH. NATIONAL FILM TOUR: 'BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA'. Jessie Taylor and Ali Reza Sadiqi travelled across Indonesia and met with 250 asylum seekers in jails, detention centres and hostels. Through candid interviews, hidden camera footage and in the words of asylum seekers themselves, the story of the 'refugee' is told. Meet the human faces behind this issue. The film will be screened in NSW (Springwood, Newcastle, Avoca Beach, Forestville), QLD (Nambour, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Townsville), TAS (Newnham, Hobart), VIC (Carlton), and ACT (Canberra), before hosting a screening for our politicians. Web: <http://deepblueseafilm.com/>.

1 MARCH. AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FILM LAUNCH: 'TWENTY YEARS, TWENTY STORIES'. This film project

celebrates the twentieth anniversary of the Disability Discrimination Act. Paralympian Kurt Fearnley says the films are powerful personal stories of Australians who've overcome difficulties in their lives. 'This project hasn't been driven by those with gold medals or fast wheelchairs, these are stories about your everyday Australian with a disability,' said Mr Fearnley. The Project will be launched by the Governor-General Quentin Bryce on March 1 at 6pm. At that time, all twenty films will be loaded up to the website <http://humanrights.gov.au/twentystories>. A promo of the film is now online.

18 - 24 MARCH. A TASTE OF HARMONY. Funded by the Scanlon Foundation, A Taste of Harmony celebrates diversity in Australian workplaces by encouraging colleagues to share food and stories from different cultural backgrounds. Workplaces are asked to register and then organise a lunch and encourage

workers to bring a dish that represents their cultural background or from a culture they might not have tried before. At the event workers are encouraged to share stories of their cultural background. For further details and to register an event, visit www.tasteofharmony.org.au.

21 MARCH. NATIONAL CLOSE THE GAP DAY: 'INVESTING FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE'. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People still die 10-17 years younger than other Australians. Closing this health gap cannot be done overnight. We need a long-term commitment with adequate funding, and investment in real partnerships. Join the campaign by registering your own National Close the Gap Day event. Resources: <https://www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/national-close-the-gap-day/>.

21 MARCH. HARMONY DAY: 'MANY STORIES - ONE AUSTRALIA'. Australia's cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. We all make up the pages of a bigger Australia and we all have a story to tell. Celebrate Harmony Day with your own event or joining with others. Resources and events: www.harmony.gov.au.

13 - 25 APRIL. PALMS AUSTRALIA: 'ENCOUNTER KIRIBATI'. Palms is a major overseas service agency of the Catholic Church in Australia and has been preparing, placing and supporting Australian volunteers on mission in developing countries for over 50 years. Encounters are small groups of 8-10 who will travel with a Palms staff member to visit Palms' volunteers in country and learn about their work. This is a unique opportunity for those interested in social justice and development, and will provide an opportunity to witness first-hand how communities can work in solidarity to reduce poverty. Space is limited. Contact: sarah@palms.org.au or 02 9518 9551. Web: www.palms.org.au/encounters/.

15 - 24 APRIL. CATHOLIC MISSION'S GETTING INVOLVED GLOBALLY (GIG) PROGRAM: TIMOR LESTE IMMERSION. Immersion is first and foremost a 'being with' others. Experience the hospitality of our nearest Asian neighbour in this mission encounter in communities in

Timor Leste. Lead by experienced facilitators, communities in the Majority/Developing World will host participants. Facilitator: Luke Keighery. Contact: 1800 257 296. Web: www.catholicmission.org.au/educationformation/gig.

20 - 23 MAY. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN: 'THE GREAT GRACE: RECEIVING VATICAN II TODAY'. Registration is now open for the Archdiocese of Sydney's forthcoming conference. Various venues. Cost: \$250-600. Web: www.thegreatgrace.org.au.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

5 or 7 MARCH. AUTHOR ROBYN DE CRESPIGNY PUBLIC LECTURE. Robin de Crespigny will discuss her first book *The People Smuggler: The True Story of Ali Al Jenabi, The 'Oskar Schindler Of Asia'*. No cost. Web: www.thepeoplesmuggler.com/events/.

5 March: 5.30 to 6.30 pm, Sir Roland Wilson building, McCoy Cct, ANU. Contact: Freilich.Foundation@anu.edu.au or 02 6125 5527.

7 March: 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Paperchain Bookstore, 34 Franklin St, Manuka. Contact: 02 6295 6723.

5 MARCH. GUINNESS AND GOD. Lulu Mitshabu will tell her story of how her faith has led her to her role of overseeing African aid programs for Caritas. 6.30 pm, dinner; 7.30 pm, talk; King O'Malley's Irish Pub, Garema Place, Civic. Contact: 02 6163 4300 or youth_events@catholiclife.org.au. Web: www.guinnessandgod.com/news/.

15 MARCH. ACTCOSS TRAINING: ABORIGINAL CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE. This workshop for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers provides participants with a general introduction into the recent history of Aboriginal people in Australia. It aims to improve knowledge of Aboriginal culture and dispossession, and explores ways organisations may improve their practice to respond to the needs of Aboriginal peoples. Facilitated by Kerry Reed-Gilbert of Kuracca Consultancy. Cost: \$165-305. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Level 1 meeting room, Weston Community Hub, 1/6 Gritten St, Weston. Contact: actcoss@actcoss.org.au. Web: www.actcoss.org.au/secdevel/seminars.html.

16 MARCH. ST PATRICK'S DAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE. Speaker: Michael Kirby AC CMG. 12 noon, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton. Contact: 02 6231 9104 or angela1@homemail.com.au. Web: www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/view_event.cfm?loadref=18&id=1071.

NEW SOUTH WALES

4 MARCH - 31 MAY. BROKEN BAY INSTITUTE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE JUSTICE AND PEACE COURSES. The Broken Bay Institute and The University of Newcastle have partnered to deliver two comprehensive theological education programs. Each runs for one semester from 4 March to 31 May 2013. They are: 'Augustinian Spirituality for Social Justice' and 'Social Teaching of the Church'. These are postgraduate courses delivered online and can be credited towards a Theology degree subject to conditions. Web: www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/fx-view-event.cfm?loadref=132&id=18.

5 MARCH. AUSTRALIAN FAIR TRADE & INVESTMENT NETWORK (AFTINET) SEMINAR: 'WOMEN AND GLOBALISATION: THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT'. Trade agreements can create global rules which mean higher prices for medicines and for seeds used by women farmers, privatisation of public services and less ability for governments to make laws to protect women's rights. AFTINET presents a special seminar to mark the lead-up to International Women's Day and the 16th Round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) negotiations being held in Singapore. Speakers: Dr Elizabeth Hill, Department of Political Economy, Sydney University; Dr Patricia Randal, AFTINET; and Kelly Nichols, Doctors Without Borders. No cost. 12.15 to 1.30 pm, Waratah Room, NSW Parliament House, 6 Macquarie St, Sydney. Web: <http://aftinet.org.au/cms/>.

5 or 19 MARCH. PUBLIC MEETINGS: 'RECOGNITION ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION'. Hunter Presbytery Social Justice Committee in conjunction with You Me Unity are running these meetings.

5 March: 6.30 pm, Wesley Uniting Church, East Maitland.

19 March: 6.00 pm, University of Newcastle Great Hall.

Contact: 02 4936 6735. Web: www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/bulletin-notices.

6 MARCH. LOWER HUNTER SVDP SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP DINNER: 'WEALTH INEQUITY AND HOMELESSNESS'. Speaker: Dr John Falzon, National Executive Officer, St Vincent de Paul Society. 6.30 pm, East Maitland Bowling Club, Bank St, East Maitland. Contact: 02 4934 2905. Book: www.stickytickets.com.au/10139.

6 MARCH. SYDNEY DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE'S (SDC) INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SALUTE TO WOMEN WORKING IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: 'INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN: IDEAS WORTH SHARING'. Speakers: Gemma Sisia, the Australian-born founder of St Jude's School in Tanzania; Naomi Steer, founding National Director of Australia for UNHCR. 6.00 to 9.00 pm, Macquarie University, The Hub, Level 3. Contact: 0417 272 101. Web: <http://sdc.groupsite.com/calendar/event/2013/3/6/357172>.

6 MARCH. PRESENTATION: 'THANK GOD FOR EVOLUTION - RECONCILING FAITH AND SCIENCE'. Speaker: Rev Dr Eduardo is a Carmelite priest from Argentina who is highly qualified in the Sciences and a renowned expert on the areas of Science and Faith, Science and Philosophy and Spiritual Ecology. This event is an initiative of the Social Justice Ecology and Peace Network of Kiama and Albion. Cost: \$10. 5.30 pm, liturgy followed by light meal; 7.00 pm, Fr Eduardo; St Paul's Parish Hall, Albion Park. Contact: 02 4232 1535 or wendy.carter@dow.catholic.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: www.dow.org.au/news/news/item/news-in-brief-164.

6 or 8, 12, 13 MARCH. AUTHOR ROBYN DE CRESPIGNY PUBLIC LECTURE. Robin de Crespigny will discuss her first book *The People Smuggler: The True Story of Ali Al Jenabi, The 'Oskar Schindler Of Asia'*. Web: www.thepeoplesmuggler.com/events/.

6 March: 7.00 to 9.00 pm, The National

Theatre, Wallace St, Braidwood.

12 March: 6.15 pm, Balgowlah Rotary.

13 March: 7.00 to 8.00 pm, Castle Hill Library, Sonya Phillips Room, cnr Castle and Pennant Sts, Castle Hill. Contact: 02 9761 4534.

8 MARCH. STARTTS WORKSHOP: 'CORE CONCEPTS IN WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS FROM REFUGEE BACKGROUNDS'.

This workshop focuses on providing a framework for understanding the unique issues and challenges faced by refugee children and adolescents. It will look at the impact of war and violence from a developmental perspective, with attention paid to attachment and resilience. Cost: \$149, concession \$99. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, STARTTS, 152-168 The Horsley Dr, Carramar. Book: www.startts.org.au.

9 MARCH. ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY 'SECOND CHANCE INITIATIVE' INFORMATION MORNING.

The St Vincent de Paul Society in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta is calling for volunteers willing to make a difference to their community by sharing their time, knowledge and encouragement to people exiting prison. Volunteers will be thoroughly trained for their roles to operate in 'circles' of 4-6 people to support prisoners exiting the corrective environment. 10.00 am, St Vincent de Paul Diocesan Office, Level 4, 73-75 Dunmore St, Wentworthville. Contact: 02 9689 1900. Web: www.parra.catholic.org.au/news---events/events/events.aspx/st-vincent-de-paul-society--second-chance-initiative--information-morning.aspx.

9 MARCH. APOLOGY TO STOLEN GENERATION DAY MASS.

Giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples a voice in the Diocese of Broken Bay. Celebrant: Fr David Ranson. 11.00 am, St. Edward's College, 13 Frederick St, East Gosford. Contact: 0412 247 386. Web: www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/fx-view-event.cfm?loadref=132&id=26.

10 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MASS.

Council for Australian Catholic Women in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invites you to celebrate with Bishop Bill. Morning tea will follow with guest speaker Rev Christine Sheppard OAM. 9.30 am, Sacred Heart

Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West. Contact: 0409 300 192. Web: www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/bulletin-notices.

11 MARCH. JAMBEROO SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: RESTORING THE BALANCE 'SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY - THE CRY OF THE EARTH'.

Speaker: Fr (Dr) Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O.Carm, Professor at the Argentinean Catholic University. He also is a member of the International Commission of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) of the Carmelite Order. 7.30 pm, Jamberoo Pub. Contact: 02 4232 3121 or 02 4232 2735. Web: www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/.

11 - 12 MARCH. NSW COMMUNITY HOUSING CONFERENCE: 'MAKING A DIFFERENCE, SHAPING THE FUTURE'.

Building on the success of previous years, the concurrent sessions and master classes will be highly practical and hands on, with significant practitioner input from the sector exploring the most innovative approaches to addressing issues such as: governance and growth of organisations; building communities; development; homelessness; workforce; and Aboriginal housing. Cost: \$144-500. Menzies, 14 Carrington St, Sydney. Contact: 02 9414 4970 or isabella@hotelnetwork.com.au. Web: <https://secure.hotelnetwork.com.au/NSWCHC/program>.

15 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'THE CAMPAIGN TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN - IS IT WORKING?'

Speakers: Kate Gleeson, Fellow, Macquarie University and Australian Research Council; and Ludo McFerran, Project Manager of Safe at Home, at Work Program, Domestic Violence Clearing House UNSW. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, 1/64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9489 0530 or jnagy@froggy.com.au. Web: www.politicsinthepub.org.au/.

15 MARCH. HUNTERS HILL SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'PERSONAL ETHICS AND PUBLIC LIFE'.

Speaker: The Hon Justice Margaret Beazley AO. Justice Beazley is one of Australia's most senior judicial officers. She was designated an Officer in the Order of Australia for 'service to the judiciary and

the law, particularly through contributions to professional and ethical standards, to the advancement of women in the legal profession and the community'. Cost: \$50. 7.00 pm, Villa Maria Parish Hall, cnr Mary St and Gladesville Rd, Hunters Hill. Contact: 02 9990 7003 or catalyst-for-renewal@tpg.com.au, RSVP by 7 March. Web: www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/Slp%20Programs.htm.

15 - 17 MARCH. WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER. Take time out of your busy schedule to invest in a most precious asset ... your marriage. This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again. Cost: \$55+donation. Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Contact: 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au. Web: www.wwme.org.au.

17 MARCH. SYDNEY DIOCESE DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD. The Feast of the Annunciation is internationally recognised as the Day of the Unborn Child. While the feast of the Annunciation will be celebrated on Monday, 8 April this year, Lent is a time to pray specially for all unborn children whose lives have been ended by abortion. A project of Family Life International. 10.30 am, Mass, St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, followed by the Angelus at 12.00 noon and then a prayerful procession led by Bishop Julian Porteous through the streets of Sydney. 1.30 pm, Benediction, St Mary's Cathedral, followed by afternoon tea with the Bishop in the Cathedral Hall. Contact: 02 9519 9111 or mail@fli.org.au. Web: www.lifemarriagefamily.org.au.

18 MARCH. CATHOLICCARE FUNDRAISER: ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON. Don your best of Irish luck outfit and join us for our annual St Patrick's Day celebrations: Two-course lunch and beverages; celebrity guests, fabulous prizes; best dressed awards and more. Proceeds support children in crisis. Contact: \$150. 12.00 to 2.30 pm, The Strangers' Dining Room, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: Bronwyn.mckay@catholiccare.org. Web: www.catholiccare.org.

18 MARCH. BOOK LAUNCH: 'A DECISION TO DISCRIMINATE' ABORIGINAL

DISEMPOWERMENT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. Organized by the Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation. Launched by Jeff McMullen AM. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Marrin Weejali, 79 Jersey Rd, Blackett. Contact: 02 9677 1703, 02 0096 7727 or 0426 876 695. Web: www.concernedaustralians.com.au/ADTD_booklaunches.html#Blackett.

19 MARCH. PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE (PIAC) COURSE: 'ADVOCACY STRATEGIES'. This day will teach you the building blocks of good advocacy and how you can effectively work with government and other decision-making bodies. Participants will have the opportunity to plan an advocacy strategy around a real issue in their community or from their work. Cost: \$240. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Sydney CBD. Contact: 02 8898 6503. Book: www.piac.asn.au/trainingevent/advocacy-strategies.

20 MARCH. PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE (PIAC) COURSE: 'ADVOCACY SKILLS'. This day provides the skills to match the strategies you have put together in your strategy planning. You will learn to be more effective in your advocacy work in this practical course. Cost: \$240. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Sydney CBD. Contact: 02 8898 6503. Book: www.piac.asn.au/trainingevent/advocacy-skills.

20 MARCH. STARTTS WORKSHOP: 'CORE CONCEPTS IN WORKING WITH PEOPLE FROM REFUGEE BACKGROUNDS'. This workshop is designed to put a framework of understanding around working with refugees and asylum seekers. It focuses on understanding the link between what refugees have been through, the sorts of issues and behaviours they may present with, and how to work in a way that fosters feelings of trust, safety and control, while minimising the risk of retraumatisation. Cost: \$149, concession \$99. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Library Museum, Meeting Room 2, 553 Kiewa St, Albury. Book: www.startts.org.au.

21 MARCH. DIALOGUE WITH ARAB WOMEN: 'BUILDING PEACE, ACHIEVING JUSTICE?' In partnership with the Australian Arab Women's Dialogue and the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, the Sydney Peace Foundation

brings you a panel discussion facilitated by Prof Stuart Rees with: Ms Zeina Daccache, Lebanon. Clinical Psychologist, Drama Therapist, Actress and Filmmaker; Ms Manal Elattir, CEO, Social Enterprise for Women's Economic Empowerment; and Dr Houriya al-Kazim, United Arab Emirates, Medical Director and Consultant Breast Surgeon, Well Woman Clinic. In the Arab Spring, women have played a prominent role in the struggle to secure basic human rights. This dialogue will provide a forum for participants to discuss the role of women in building and sustaining democratic practice in their countries. No cost. 12.30 to 1.30 pm, Eastern Avenue Lecture Theatre, University of Sydney. Contact: peace.foundation@sydney.edu.au. Web: www.ausarabwomensdialogue.org.au.

21 MARCH. AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE: 'COAL SEAM GAS: A CLEANER FUTURE ?' Food for thought - are we heading to a secure, cleaner and brighter future? What could be the outcome of ambitious and unrestricted exploration for coal seam gas? Could it be another huge threat to Environmental Sustainability? Join us to explore and talk about this burning issue facing our nation. Small group discussion and stimulus game along with watching eye opening videos. Facilitator: Chitra Bedekar. Cost: \$2-5 donation. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Rd, near Flemington Station, Homebush West. Contact: eco.justice@erc.org.au or 02 8762 4200.

22 MARCH. FUNDRAISER: HARMONY BALL. Celebrate Harmony Day at a Fundraiser for Building Refugee Housing in Newcastle. The night includes a 2 Course Dinner by Elsa's African Food Music, speakers, multicultural dance and circus, prizes for tables with best national costume. A family friendly event. Cost: \$55, concession \$35, under 5 free. 6.00 to 11.45 pm, The Croatian Wickham Sports Club, Albert St, Wickham. Contact: 02 4961 4886 or debra_jane@bigpond.com. Book: www.trybooking.com/CKXU.

26 MARCH. WATAC PRESENTATION: 'BEING TOMORROW'S CHURCH TODAY - A CHALLENGE'. Celebrating 50 years of the Second Vatican Council. Speakers: Bishop

William Morris, Michael Morwood and Rosemary Breen. Cost: \$28. 5.00 to 8.00 pm, NSW Parliament House Theatre. Contact: 02 9520 9409 or helen@watac.net, RSVP by 11 March. Web: www.watac.net/index.php.

26 MARCH. YOUTH OFF THE STREETS FUNDRAISER: CAMPBELLTOWN CLASSIC GOLF DAY. Enjoy 18 rounds of golf, breakfast, lunch and the opportunity to win some great prizes to help raise funds for disadvantaged youth. Campbelltown Golf Club. Contact: 02 4622 3712 or bsims@cathclub.com.au. Web: <http://foundation.youthoffthestreets.com.au/Events#.USLVdvlzc8o>.

27 MARCH. YOUTH OFF THE STREETS FUNDRAISER: EDEN GARDENS MORNING TEA. You are invited to the bi-annual morning tea where you have the opportunity to hear Father Riley speak, meet some young people from Youth Off The Streets and enjoy the beautiful Eden Gardens. Cost: \$10. 10.00 am, Eden Gardens Centre, cnr Lane Cove and Fontenoy Rds, North Ryde. Contact: info@edengardens.com.au or 02 9491 9900, RSVP essential. Web: <http://foundation.youthoffthestreets.com.au/Events#.USLVdvlzc8o>.

5 APRIL. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'GILLARD GOVERNMENT'S URANIUM DEAL WITH INDIA - WHY IT IS SO DANGEROUS?' Speakers: Professor Richard Broinowsky, former Ambassador Asian Countries, author *Fact or Fission - The Truth about Australia's Nuclear Ambitions*; Dave Sweeney, Nuclear Free Campaigner ACF. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, 1/64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9489 0530 or jnagy@froggy.com.au. Web: www.politicsinthepub.org.au/.

29 APRIL TO 1 MAY. CONFERENCE: 'MISSION: ONE HEART, MANY VOICES'. Speakers: Dr Jose Ramos Horta, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Fr Stephen Bevans svd, leading Missiologist; Dr Gemma Tulud Cruz, expert theologian on migration; etc. The conference offers an opportunity to listen, discuss and experience the many and diverse voices and graces of living and leading mission in Australia and globally. Conference convenors, Catholic Religious Australia and Catholic Mission, invite all those passionate about mission and in

leadership roles in parishes, communities, organisations and agencies to come together and join the conversation that will enable us all to live and lead mission better. Cost: \$95-450. Sydney Congress Hall, 140 Elizabeth St, Sydney. Contact: 1800 257 296. Web: www.mohmv.com.au.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

4 - 5 MARCH. ABORIGINAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID. The Aboriginal Mental Health Course has been amended by Aboriginal people to reflect the differences in mental health for Aboriginal People, and is highly recommended for people who work in human relations areas such as teachers, community services, emergency services etc, who regularly engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is delivered by Aboriginal people. Cost: \$350. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. Darwin CBD. Contact: info@dancingbrolga.com or 0417 374 844. Web: www.ntcoss.org.au/event/aboriginal-mental-health-first-aid-2.

QUEENSLAND

9 MARCH. HOPE FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER: MARKETS OF HOPE. A community event to support Hope Foundation and local artisans. Hope Foundation exists to bring hope, help and healing to hurting people, primarily women in the areas of addiction and those caught in the sex industry - both those involved and their loved ones. There will be stalls with home-made, hand-made, fair trade items and live local music. Free entry. 2.00 to 6.00 pm, St Bartholomew's Church Hall, 1349 Logan Rd, Mt Gravatt. Contact: 0433 170 263 or bronwen@hopefoundation.org.au. Web: www.96five.com/event/markets-of-hope-3/.

19 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'DILEMMAS IN SUPPORTING "CHOICE"'

Presented by Dr Michael Kendrick. Michael will assist us to systematically think through a more sustainable framework for ensuring people with disability get to exercise as much autonomy and choice as possible. Organised by Quality Lifestyle Support Toowoomba with Community Resource Unit. Cost: person with a disability or family member \$65, full fee \$150. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Burke and Wills

Hotel, The Downs Room, 554 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba. Contact: 07 3844 2211 or cru@cru.org.au. Web: www.qcoss.org.au/dilemmas-supporting-%E2%80%9Cchoice%E2%80%9D-presented-dr-michael-kendrick.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

6 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FUNDRAISER: 'ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN'. Speaker: Justice Catherine Davani, PNG. Justice Davani will be discussing her experiences within the legal system in Papua New Guinea. Funds raised during the International Women's Day campaign will go towards the Critical Services Initiative in Papua New Guinea. Jointly presented by UN Women Australia and The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre. 6.00 pm, Allan Scott Auditorium, entry via Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, UniSA City West campus, Hawke Building, 55 North Terrace, Adelaide. Contact: adelaide@unwomen.org.au or 0439 835 589. Web: http://w3.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2013events/UNWomen_Davani.asp.

6 MARCH. TEAR FOOD AND JUSTICE STUDY SESSION. Food is something we handle every day. It is one of the primary ways we interact with our world. Is our food production and distribution sustainable and just? Are we complicit in environmental destruction and human degradation? The City TEAR Group invites you to join them on a journey through the food chain as they explore the world of food. Hear stories of TEAR's partners as they strive for sustainability and food security, and spend time in your pantry learning how to research your foods origins and possible social and environmental impacts. Bring two food items from your kitchen that you regularly use to help get the journey started. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, 176 Wattle St, Malvern. Contact: ben.clarke@tear.org.au, RSVP by 6 March. Web: www.tear.org.au/news/food-and-justice.

25 - 26 MARCH. ACOSS NATIONAL CONFERENCE. This conference is a community sector event bringing together key decision makers, practitioners, researchers and the people at the front line of social policy and services. It will focus on the importance of putting social outcomes at the centre of

economic decision making. In 2013, with both the Federal Budget and election to follow, you can expect the latest ideas and directions on policy and practice affecting people experiencing poverty and inequality and those who work with them. Cost: \$130-750. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, National Wine Centre, cnr of Botanic and Hackney Rds, Adelaide. Contact: louise@acoss.org.au. Web: <http://conference.acoss.org.au/>.

TASMANIA

19 MARCH - 10 MAY. ART EXHIBITION: 'LITTLE (BIG) WORLD: EXPLORING CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN TASMANIA'. The work expresses the way in which grade 10 students understand the complexity of cultural diversity and the role that understanding cultural differences can promote positive relationships at a personal and community level. This project is a joint initiative of the NEW Gallery, the Pro-Vice Chancellor's office and the Faculty of Education Global Education program. As part of the University of Tasmania's (UTAS) community outreach program, this exhibition will be displayed in coordination with Harmony Day. No cost. Mon - Fri 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, New Gallery 1 & 2, UTAS, Newnham Drive, Newnham. Web: www.events.utas.edu.au/2013/march/little-big-world-exploring-cultural-diversity-in-tasmania.

20 MARCH. WORKSHOP: 'THRIVING, SURVIVING OR NOSEDIVING - CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARE'. An interactive workshop examining the concepts of stress and support for those who care. Explore emotions experienced by carers such as stress, sadness and grief. Deeply held values and beliefs directly impact on the way that carers do, or do not seek assistance for themselves. Presenter: Louse Venter, pastoral care worker, Palliative Care unit, St Luke's. Cost: \$10. 1.30 to 4.00 pm, Emmanuel Pastoral and Spirituality Centre, 123 Abbott St, Newstead. Contact: 03 6334 1082. Web: www.hobart.catholic.org.au/media/events/thriving-surviving-or-nosediving-caring-those-who-care.

20 MARCH. WORLD VISION ONE JUST WORLD PUBLIC FORUM: 'ON THE ROAD TO HARMONY'. 21 March is Harmony Day and

the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Even when it's intended to assist, culture is often the first thing to be affected when aid and development agencies arrive. So what measures need to be taken to ensure that projects designed to assist are carried out in a culturally sensitive manner? What has to be considered when comparing the needs of men and women? Speaker: Dr. Ernesto Sirolli, Sustainable Economic Development Expert and Founder, Sirolli Institute. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Lecture Theatre 5, Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, Newnham campus, UTAS. Web: www.onejustworld.com.au/Upcoming-Forums.

22 MARCH. AHURI HOUSING RESEARCH SEMINAR: 'SUPPORTING ACCESS TO HOUSING'. The event has been designed around a panel discussion and audience Q&A focusing on the key research findings and their implications for policy and practice. Panel includes: Dr Cameron Duff, AHURI Research Centre, Monash University; Dr Patricia Short, AHURI Research Centre, University of Queensland; and Mr Peter White, Director, Housing Tasmania. Facilitator: Dr Andrew Hollows, Deputy Executive Director, AHURI Ltd. Cost: \$45. 9.00 to 11.30 am, Hotel Grand Chancellor, 1 Davey St, Hobart. Book: www.cvent.com/events/supporting-access-to-housing/event-summary-9f9be266298646069117c219f24d93c4.aspx.

VICTORIA

1 MARCH. BOOK LAUNCH: 'SOCIAL JUSTICE: FULLER LIFE IN A FAIRER WORLD'. By Bruce Duncan CSsR. Speaker: Bishop Vincent Long OFMConv. 5.30 pm, Cathedral Room, Knox Centre, Ground Floor, 383 Victoria Pde, East Melbourne. Contact: admin@socialpolicyconnections.com.au or 03 9890 1077, RSVP essential. Web: www.socialpolicyconnections.org.au/.

2 MARCH. MELBOURNE DIDGERIDOO AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL. The Aboriginal Artist Development Fund Inc. in conjunction with the Melbourne Didge Circle with major sponsorship from Mia Mia Gallery and Manningham City Council are proud to present this Festival. It will be a day long celebration and showcase one of the oldest wind instruments, The

Didgeridoo. This day of entertainment for the whole family includes stalls, workshops, activities and a concert featuring world class performers and musicians. Cost: \$5. 11.00 am to 10.00 pm, Mia Mia Art Gallery, Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimons Ln, Templestowe. Contact: 03 9846 4636 or info@miamia-gallery.com. Web: www.didgefestival.com.

6 MARCH. FOUNDATION HOUSE SEMINAR: 'PRECARIOUS LIVES, UNCERTAIN FUTURES'. Migration status, and issues of safety for refugees or asylum seekers and their loved ones, means that uncertainty dominates the client experience and their relationships with workers. This session will explore and identify ways of responding to refugees and asylum seekers who are impacted by ongoing uncertainty. It will be of interest to those working in housing, material support, health services and education. Cost: \$50. 4.00 to 7.00 pm, Foundation House, 6 Gardiner St, Brunswick. Contact: 03 9389 8965 or pdregistrations@foundationhouse.org.au. Book: www.trybooking.com/CGAH.

6 MARCH. BREAKFAST BRIEFING: 'BUILDING A MORE JUST AND COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY: THE ROLE OF MARRIAGE IN AUSTRALIA TODAY'. Speaker: The Hon Kevin Andrews, MP. Kevin Andrews is Shadow Minister for Families, Housing and Human Services in the Australian Parliament. This briefing will draw on his recent book, *Maybe 'I do' - Modern Marriage & the Pursuit of Happiness*. Cost: \$20. 7.15 to 8.45 am, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne. Contact: 03 9287 5566 or lucia.brick@css.org.au, RSVP by 28 February. Web: www.css.org.au/documents/Flyer6MarchBreakfast_001.pdf.

8 MARCH. CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA INTERACTIVE FORUM: 'UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING THE IMPACT OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AT WORK'. Two thirds of women who have experienced family violence are in the workforce and many are at risk of losing their jobs, sliding into homelessness and poverty as a result. As employers, we can all play our part in breaking this cycle. Led by McAuley Community Services for Women. 9.00 am to 12.00 pm, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne.

Contact: 03 9287 5566 or lucia.brick@css.org.au, RSVP by 5 March. Web: www.css.org.au.

9 MARCH. PICNIC: 'FACE TO FACE WITH FUKUSHIMA'. A delegation from Japan visit Australia on a tour which will coincide with the second anniversary of the nuclear disaster at the Daiichi power plant in Fukushima, Japan. Speakers: Akira Kawasaki, of the Japanese Peace Boat organisation; and Kenichi Hasegawa, a dairy farmer from Fukushima. No cost. 1.00 to 2.30 pm, Ceres 'village green', Roberts St (off Blyth St), East Brunswick. Contact: info@jfp.org.au. Web: www.mapw.org.au/events/face-face-fukushima-picnic.

9 MARCH. 'FACE TO FACE WITH FUKUSHIMA': DINNER. A delegation from Japan visit Australia on a speaking tour which will coincide with the second anniversary of the nuclear disaster at the Daiichi power plant in Fukushima, Japan. Speakers: Akira Kawasaki, Peace Boat organisation; Kenichi Hasegawa, a dairy farmer from Fukushima. Cost: \$35. 6.30 pm, La Notte, 140-146 Lygon St, Carlton. Contact: secretary@mapw.org.au, RSVP by 6 March. Web: www.mapw.org.au/events/face-face-fukushima-dinner.

12 MARCH. VCOSS CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION FORUM. Speaker: Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner. Mick's presentation will focus on the importance of community sector organisations (CSOs) engaging with their communities around the importance of recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people in the Constitution. Within the Victorian context, our expert panel will speak to effective ways CSOs can promote and take positive action within their local communities to support the recognition of ATSI people in the Australian Constitution. No cost. 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, RACV Club, 501 Bourke St, Melbourne. Contact: renata.anderson@vcoss.org.au. Book by 8 March: <http://vcossco.nstitutionalrecognition2013.eventbrite.com/#/>.

14 MARCH. CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA COMMISSIONING MASS AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Speaker: Cath Garner, Executive Director, Mission and Strategy, Cabrini Health, who will speak on 'Partnering

with community service organisations to advance mission effectiveness'. 4.30 pm, Commissioning Mass, at All Saints Church, Fitzroy. 5.30 pm, Annual General Meeting, at all Saints Hall. 6.30 pm, refreshments, at St Mary's House of Welcome, Brunswick St, Fitzroy. Web: www.css.org.au/documents/February_2013.pdf.

14 - 15 MARCH. SYMPOSIUM: 'IRAQ 10 YEARS ON'. The Australian Middle East Research Forum (AMERF) is a cross-institutional, cross-disciplinary research forum focused on research into the Middle East from an Australian perspective. It is attached to Deakin University's Centre for Citizenship and Globalisation. This forum will 'review the successes and failures of Australia's role in the war and the tenuous and difficult relationship between the two nations beyond the withdrawal.' Speakers include: Dr Jenny Grounds, President of MAPW. Deakin University, City Centre Campus, L3, 550 Bourke St, Melbourne. Web: www.mapw.org.au/events/symposium-iraq-10-years.

15 MARCH. AUSTRALIANS FOR PALESTINE FILM: RACHEL. 10 years ago American student Rachel Corrie was killed by an Israeli bulldozer as she tried to stop it crushing a Palestinian home. To commemorate this event this film by French Israeli filmmaker Simone Bitton is being screened. Cost: \$15, concession \$12. 6.15 pm, State Library of Victoria Conference Centre, Entry 2, 179 La Trobe St, Melbourne. Book: www.eventbrite.com.au/event/4361336876?ref=ebtnebtckt#.

16 MARCH. CORANDERRK FESTIVAL. This festival will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station, and honour the ancestors who farmed the property and who lived and died there. The Festival includes live music, cultural activities/workshops, informative/photographic display, bush tucker tasting and more. Cost: \$15, concession \$10. 12.00 noon to 8.00 pm, Coranderrk, Barak Lane, Healesville. Web: www.reconciliationvic.org.au/calendar/coranderrk-festival-to-mark-150th-anniversary.php.

18 MARCH. MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF WAR (MAPW) PUBLIC HEALTH LECTURE: 'FUKUSHIMA 2 YEARS ON'. Speaker: MAPW's Peter Karamoskos, a nuclear radiologist, and public representative on the Radiation Health Committee of nuclear regulatory body ARPANSAi. Dr Karamoskos visited the Fukushima area in a 2012 IPPNWi medical delegation and has many interesting stories and pictures. No cost. 6.30 pm, Kitchener House Auditorium, 685 Ryrie Street, Geelong. Contact: geelong@mapw.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: www.mapw.org.au/events/fukushima-2-years.

19 MARCH. ONE JUST WORLD FORUM: 'THE RECIPE FOR ERADICATING POVERTY'. In the year 2000, 189 nations commenced the new millennium with a promise to free people from extreme poverty by addressing eight key issues understood to perpetuate it. This pledge became the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which encompass poverty and hunger, education, gender equality and women's empowerment, health, environment and global partnership. What change does the world need to see in order to eliminate extreme poverty? Speakers: Rosangela Berman-Bieler, Chief, UNICEF Disability Section, New York; Julia Newton-Howes, CEO, CARE Australia. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, The Edge Theatre, Federation Square, Swanston St, Melbourne. Web: www.onejustworld.com.au/Upcoming-Forums.

19 MARCH. INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL AUSTRALIA NETWORK (IPAN) FORUM: 'FOLLOWING THE US TO WAR: LESSONS FROM IRAQ'. To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the foray into Iraq. Chair: Ged Kearney, ACTU. Speakers: Dr Jenny Grounds, President of MAPW; Professor Richard Tanter MAPW; and Paul Barratt, President, Campaign for an Iraq War Inquiry. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Melbourne City Conference Centre, 194 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne (cnr of Swanston St). Contact: 0431 475 465. Web: www.mapw.org.au/events/following-us-war-lessons-iraq.

20 MARCH. FOUNDATION HOUSE SEMINAR: 'THE IMPACT OF LONG-TERM DETENTION'. This session will provide an overview of current research, and explore the impact of detention and the asylum seeking process for

refugee survivors of torture and trauma. It will be of interest to those working in counselling, health, community and educational settings. Cost: \$50. 4.00 to 7.00 pm, Foundation House, 6 Gardiner St, Brunswick. Contact: 03 9389 8965 or pregistrations@foundationhouse.org.au. Book: www.trybooking.com/BNLR.

20 or 21 MARCH. AUTHOR ROBYN DE CRESPIGNY PUBLIC LECTURE. Robin de Crespigny will discuss her first book *The People Smuggler: The True Story of Ali Al Jenabi, The 'Oskar Schindler Of Asia'*. No cost. Web: www.thepeoplesmuggler.com/events/.

20 March: 10.30 am, Hamilton Library, 105 Brown St, Hamilton. Contact: 03 5573 0470.

21 March: 11.00 am to 12.00 pm, Portland Library, 38 Bentinck St, Portland. Contact: 03 5522 2265.

21 March: 6.00 pm, Essendon Rotary, Fredrick's Restaurant, 980 Mt Alexander Rd, Essendon. Contact: 0409 759 678.

22 MARCH - 28 JULY. AFGHANISTAN EXHIBITION: HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, KABUL. This exhibition, with more than 230 priceless treasures, some thousands of years old, offers a rare opportunity to discover the surprising, untold story of the long and extraordinarily rich culture that is Afghanistan. For years these artefacts were thought lost as war and instability shook the country. In 2003, they were uncovered from vaults in the central bank of the presidential palace, where they had been placed in secrecy by a few courageous staff from the National Museum, Kabul. Cost: \$24, concession \$16. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson St, Carlton. Contact: 13 11 02. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whatson/coming-soon/afghanistan>.

28 MARCH. FOUNDATION HOUSE WORKSHOP: WORKING WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS. This workshop aims to deepen the knowledge of

staff working with asylum seekers regarding the impact of torture and trauma, and related experiences. It provides an overview of the Foundation House framework for understanding and addressing the effects of persecution and human rights violations, and provides a basis for developing appropriate support and service provision for people from this background.

Cost: \$210. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm, Foundation House, 6 Gardiner St, Brunswick. Contact: 03 9389 8965 or pregistrations@foundationhouse.org.au. Book: www.trybooking.com/CGAL.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

8 MARCH. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST: 'HOW DO WE STOP THE VIOLENCE?' Speakers: Angela Hartwig, CEO Women's Council For Domestic and Family Violence Services; Robert Andrew, Relationships WA Manager Domestic Violence Services; and Angela Russo, a domestic violence survivor. Cost: \$40. 7.30 to 9.00 am, Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Mill St, Perth. Contact: sarah.johnston@eoc.wa.gov.au or 08 9216 3911. Book: www.trybooking.com/40097.

22 MARCH. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION INTERFAITH HARMONY EVENT: 'LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOUR IN A MULTI-FAITH SOCIETY'. This will be a discussion on WA's most important human rights issues. Speakers: Rosemary Hudson Miller, Uniting Church Associate General Secretary for Justice and Mission; Rabbi Dovid Freilich, Medal of the Order of Australia recipient for service to the Jewish community in the fields of education, culture and interfaith promotion; and Imam Afroz Ali, International Ambassador for Peace award winner. No cost. 10.00 to 11.30 am, Atrium Theatre, 168 St Georges Tce, Perth. Contact: sarah.johnston@eoc.wa.gov.au or 08 9216 3911. Book: <http://www.trybooking.com/41144>.

News Monitor

Vietnamese Catholic priest nominated for Nobel Prize

Fr Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly, a 65 year-old Catholic priest and human rights activist together with the Most Venerable Thich Quang Do, Patriarch of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV), were nominated for the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize by US Members of Congress Chris Smith and Zoe Lofgren, reports the Independent Catholic News.

Irish PM apologises to Magdalene laundries victims

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny apologised to thousands of women who suffered in appalling conditions in church-run laundries, after a report found more than a quarter were sent there by the state, according to an AFP report on Yahoo7.

Celebrations over coal and seam backdown premature, says priest

A surprise announcement by AGL to suspend plans to sink up to 72 coal seam gas wells at 11 surface locations between Liverpool and Campbelltown west of Sydney triggered few celebrations among residents, including Varrowville's religious communities, reported Sydney Catholic.

Mining chief seeks Vatican advice on community relations

The incoming chief of Anglo American mining company, Mark Cutifani, has sought divine help in addressing the social complexities of Africa's mining industry, reports The Australian.

For details click on headlines or go to cathnews.com

Social Justice Calendar

- 1 Fri International Death Penalty Abolition Day
Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day
1999: International Treaty to Ban Landmines becomes effective
World Day of Prayer: I was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me. (France)
- 3 Sun Third Sunday of Lent
Clean Up Australia Day
- 4 Mon 1979: Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Redemptor Hominis*
- 5 Tue 1970: International Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- 8 Fri International Women's Day
- 10 Sun Fourth Sunday of Lent
- 11 Mon 100th anniversary of the founding of Canberra
- 15 Fri World Consumer Rights Day
- 17 Sun Fifth Sunday of Lent
St Patrick
- 19 Tue St Joseph, husband of Mary
2003: US and allies invade Iraq

- 21 Thu UN International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
World Down Syndrome Day
World Poetry Day
World Forestry Day
UN Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial
Discrimination begins
National Harmony Day (Australia)
National 'Close the Gap' Day
- 22 Fri World Water Day
- 24 Sun Palm Sunday
World Tuberculosis Day (WHO)
Day of the Unborn Child
1980: Assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero
- 25 Mon UN International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery
1877: Death of Caroline Chisholm
- 28 Thu Holy Thursday
- 29 Fri Good Friday
- 30 Sat Holy Saturday
- 31 Sun Easter Sunday
Neighbour 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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