

# ACSJC Monthly Briefing June 2018 No 201



## From the Secretariat June 2018

Dear friends,

This week we have been celebrating National Reconciliation Week, which runs from 27 May through to 3 June.

Reconciliation Australia is the national expert body on reconciliation in Australia and it hosts and promotes Reconciliation Week each year. This year, they have chosen the theme 'Don't Keep History A Mystery: Learn. Share. Grow'. The campaign highlights some of the lesser known aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, histories, cultures, and achievements, and prompts all Australians to ask 'What are some of the things I don't know about our shared history?'

The webpage for [Reconciliation Week](#) has many helpful resources, covering issues as diverse as Indigenous history, activism, land rights, heroes, the Stolen Generations, sport and more.

### **Informed dialogue and cultural respect essential for true reconciliation**

Education and awareness are vital for the progress of reconciliation. This is especially important when the '[Australian Reconciliation Barometer](#)' survey reveals significant misperceptions and biases in the broader Australian community. Almost one in three do not accept that policies allowed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be taken from their families as recently as the 1970s. More than one in three do not accept that Indigenous peoples were subject to mass killings, incarceration, forced removal from their land and restricted movement throughout the 1800s.

Karen Mundine, CEO of Reconciliation Australia, says truth telling and historical acceptance is key. 'It's essential that we know each other, and that we share an understanding of the history that has shaped the relationship between wider Australia and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as it stands today. Only by acknowledging, accepting and addressing our shared history can we become a more just and equitable Australia.'

Rebecca Hunt of *IndigenousX*, wrote in [The Guardian](#) of the importance of educated dialogue and cultural respect as a basis for true reconciliation. *IndigenousX* is a communications platform for Indigenous people to share their knowledge, opinions and experiences with a wide audience and to actively challenge stereotypes of the Indigenous community.

Speaking of a reconciled Australia, Rebecca says, 'I envision a society flooded with positive representation of my people in the media and on social media, where our Aboriginality does not automatically make us the target of racism and discrimination. Where my culture, the oldest living culture in the world, is respected and not demeaned and belittled as a costume or face-paint worn at Invasion Day celebrations.'

'True reconciliation', she says, 'requires a long-term commitment from non-Indigenous Australians to look past their western lens and take the time to reflect on unconscious bias and listen to the truth of our history and experiences. For many non-Indigenous Australians, it can be difficult to identify how to take the first step.'

'The first step is the easiest: start by actively listening to us. When you seek to learn about our history, our culture and our ways, listen to the whole story. Prepare to learn of our innate trauma and our resilience. To truly listen, practice humility. Understand that we deal with complex layers of trauma and intergenerational trauma through our own experiences and the experiences of our community as our culture is based on the concept of "we" and not "I".'

### **Calling for empathy, challenging stereotypes, always demanding respect**

The challenge to actively listen, to educate ourselves and address common misconceptions and biases is aided by a new book edited by Dr Anita Heiss. *Growing up Aboriginal in Australia*, published by [Black Inc](#), opens the window on the personal experiences of 51 people of diverse ages, locations, walks of life and livelihoods, providing an insight into Indigenous Australia from an Aboriginal perspective. The anthology shows there is no single way to define what it means to grow up Aboriginal in Australia, but the stories come together through a common experience of racism.

In an interview with *ABC Radio* program '[AWAYE](#)', Anita Heiss said there are many themes running through the stories – family and kinship, country and place, the impact of dispossession and the Stolen Generations. One of the most significant themes is of identity and the resilience required in the face of the racism experienced often from an early age in the school setting. The common story is being told 'you are not black enough' to be Aboriginal and 'too black' to be part of the mainstream. 'One of the most significant themes is one of identity – the way in which Aboriginal people have identified themselves; the way in which they have been challenged in terms of their identity by non-Indigenous people,' Anita said.

'This anthology had to be done; this was a fantastic way to start new conversations in the classroom about what it means to grow up as an Aboriginal person in Australia, not just today but in the past, and to start a new dialogue around breaking down some of those stereotypes.'

Contributors include well-known writers, thinkers and activists such as Tony Birch, Celeste Liddle, Deborah Cheetham, Adam Goodes and Miranda Tapsell, as well as community leaders, young people and elders from across Australia.

*Growing up Aboriginal in Australia* brings together diverse stories – all spoken from the heart – sometimes calling for empathy, oftentimes challenging stereotypes, always demanding respect. It is an essential resource for libraries, social justice groups and secondary and tertiary curricula promoting truth, justice and reconciliation.

### **Carrying the importance of identity, family and resilience**

A month from now – July 1 – we will be celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) have taken up the theme 'Because of Her, We can!' for this important day in the liturgical calendar.

They say, 'Our Mothers, Sisters, Aunties, Grandmothers and Daughters have been, and continue to be the thread which holds our families together. They have fought for justice, reconciliation and social change. Our Mother Mary is another strong inspirational woman in our lives, teaching us to open our hearts to God.

'Women form the backbone of communities across Australia. This is particularly true for Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Ministries. Women are at the forefront of these community driven organisations

designed to meet the spiritual and physical needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. It is time for us to celebrate and embrace the role that women play in our Ministries, our Church and our families.'

Issuing a Pastoral Letter for this day, Bishop Christopher Saunders has spoken of the courageous effort of mothers to protect their families and communities together in the face of great injustices. 'The forceful separation of Aboriginal children from their families and the placing of them in institutional care, mistakenly "for their own good", was a policy almost universally held by others as an appropriate thing to do. Today we know how mistaken that opinion was in its entirety.'

He speaks of mothers sorrowing for children they will never see again and the social dislocation wrought by such policies that continue to have a vast inter-generational impact. 'Despite all the horrendous stories of injustice and the untold thousands of chapters that could be written on the matter, it is heartening to recognise the mothers who have battled and largely succeeded in holding Indigenous families together.'

Speaking of the grave injustices that have been visited on the First Peoples over centuries and to this day, Bishop Saunders says, 'The dark abyss of Aboriginal History in Australia, as we know it, has been remarkably bathed in the light that emanates from the goodness, and the heroic efforts, of many people who are driven by a sense of charity and a longing for what is right. Most notably among these people are numerous mothers in Indigenous Communities throughout the land whose love and determination have achieved inspirational things for themselves and their families. In prayerful thanksgiving we salute them and commend them to Almighty God and to the care of Mary, who has steadfastly lived the Beatitudes of Jesus.'

The Pastoral Letter with a wide variety of resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday are available at the [NATSICC](#) website.

Listening to the voices and the stories of the First Peoples, accepting the truth of our shared history, establishing dialogue that is informed and partnerships that are respectful – these are essential ingredients for reconciliation. They are as important on the personal level, in addressing misinformation and racism, as they are in addressing the structural impediments to self-determination, the likes of which were raised by Indigenous leaders one year ago in their [Uluru Statement From the Heart](#).

National Reconciliation Week and next month's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday offer again the opportunity to listen, to accept and to walk with our sisters and brothers who are the First Peoples of this land.

John Ferguson  
National Executive Officer



## Current Issues/Resources June 2018

### **MEDIA RELEASE: Cuts to support system leave people seeking asylum in destitution**

Thousands of people seeking protection while living in the Australian community are at risk of destitution and homelessness due to the latest government move to

completely cut income support for people who need it the most. The government is planning to make cuts to the Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS) program that provides a basic living allowance (typically 89% of Newstart allowance, equating to just \$247 per week), casework support, assistance in finding housing, and access to torture and trauma counselling. The Refugee Council of Australia, Australian Council of Social Service and an alliance of close to 100 civil society organisations, including the Australian Catholic social Justice Council are calling on the government to urgently reverse their position to cut income support for people seeking asylum from 1 April 2018. To read more, visit [here](#). To support the call, visit [here](#).

### **JOINT CATHOLIC STATEMENT ON INCOME CUTS FOR PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM IN AUSTRALIA**

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS Australia), Jesuit Social Services and the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA), have issued a joint statement expressing deep concern about the government's reductions to the Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS). This service is 'a vital safety net for people seeking asylum in Australia. It provides basic income support, casework services, and access to torture and trauma counselling services to many women, men, and children'. It appears that the government plans to reassess all those currently receiving the payment. The statement says that 'many thousands, including those with undiagnosed mental health conditions, chronic illness and families with school-aged children, could be cut off from support, with only a 7–10 day transition period'. To see the full text of the Statement and the changes the organisations are calling for, visit [here](#).

### **AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES REFUGEE TASKFORCE – 'DIGNITY NOT DESTITUTION'**

This ecumenical campaign challenging Government cuts to support services for people seeking asylum provides very helpful advocacy suggestions. There is a 'Dignity NOT Destitution' pamphlet that can be sent in hard copy or downloaded. There is also support information for writing to the Minister or visiting your local Member of Parliament. There are also suggestions for donating and assisting the services of agencies that support people who are seeking asylum. To find out more about the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce and the 'Dignity NOT Destitution' campaign, visit [here](#).

### **REFUGEE WEEK – 17 TO 23 JUNE**

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to raise awareness about the issues affecting refugees and celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. Celebrated since 1986, Refugee Week coincides with World Refugee Day (20 June). In 2018, Refugee Week will be held from 17 June to 23 June. The theme for Refugee Week 2018 is #WithRefugees. Today, more than ever, we need a global movement to demand the safety and rights of refugees are protected. In Australia, it is the responsibility of our government and each one of us to ensure people forced to flee from their homes can live with dignity and with hope. To find out more, visit the [Refugee Council of Australia](#).

### **HELP AN INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY RESETTLE IN AUSTRALIA**

The global refugee crisis is now at a scale never seen before and countries all around the world, including Australia, need to do more to respond. The Australian government is examining ways in which to allow members of the Australian community to sponsor refugees into the country. We believe the Australian community would like to do more to help the world's refugees and it's time to collect the evidence! We know from talking to people in towns all across Australia that there are many people who are willing to invest time, money and other resources in helping to expand our national response to the refugee situation. Join this movement to show that our community is willing to welcome refugees! For more information, visit the [Refugee Council of Australia](#).

### **POPE FRANCIS' APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION 'GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE'**

In a new apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* – 'Rejoice and be Glad' – Pope Francis calls on Catholics to follow Jesus' beatitudes through serving the marginalised, the poor and migrants, while offering an unequivocal defence of the child in the womb. The document is available [here](#).

### **NEW VATICAN DOCUMENT ON ECONOMIC ISSUES**

The Holy See has released a new document on the economy and finance, addressing many topics including the regulation of markets, speculation, credit, consumption, savings, fiscal system, offshore sites, public debt, and the banking system. The document, published on 17 May 2018, is titled *Oeconomicae et Pecuniariae Quaestiones* – 'Considerations for An Ethical Discernment on Certain Aspects of the Present Economic and Financial System'. It comments: 'Well-being and development both demand and support each other, calling for sustainable policies and perspectives far beyond the short term ... Money must serve and not govern'. It deplores 'a profound amoral culture within which one doesn't hesitate very often to commit offenses when the foreseen advantages outweigh the fixed penalties'. The document is available [here](#).

### **QUARTERLY ESSAY: 'DEAD RIGHT – HOW NEOLIBERALISM ATE ITSELF AND WHAT COMES NEXT'.**

Economist Richard Denniss' Quarterly Essay 'Dead Right' will be published on 4 June. 'For decades, we have been told that the private sector does everything better, that governments can't afford to deliver the services they once could, but that security and prosperity for all are just around the corner. In fact, Australians are less equal, and more of us are economically vulnerable.' Denniss looks at ways to renew our democracy and an idea of the national interest that goes beyond economics. For information and to order a copy visit [here](#).

### **SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE AWARD TO PROFESSOR JOSEPH STIGLITZ**

Professor Joseph Stiglitz, American economist, Nobel laureate and lifelong champion for global economic justice, has been awarded the 2018 Sydney Peace Prize. Professor Stiglitz is a former senior vice president and chief economist of the World Bank and is a former member and chairman of the US president's Council of Economic Advisers. He has also been a member of the Pontifical Academy for Social Sciences. The award will take place on Thursday 15 November at Sydney Town Hall. More information is available [here](#).

### **REPORT: FEELING THE PINCH – NATIONAL ECONOMIC & SOCIAL IMPACT SURVEY 2018**

The Salvation Army has released a report on the life experiences of people who have called on its services. It finds that the average Newstart recipient is living on just \$17.00 a day after accommodation expenses. The report also describes how more than two out of five households with children are experiencing food insecurity; the high rate of domestic violence experienced by respondents; and difficulties experienced by jobseekers. The Salvation Army is calling for an immediate increase in the rate of the Newstart Allowance. The report's key findings are available [here](#).

### **REPORT: AUSTRALIAN HOMELESSNESS MONITOR 2018**

This report, published by Launch Housing, examines changes in the scale and nature of homelessness, as well as how social, economic and policy drivers influence these changes. Drawing on a variety of sources, the report examines trends and causes of homelessness. Key findings include: rough sleeping levels are increasing; older Australians are increasingly experiencing homelessness; Indigenous Australians are overrepresented; demand for specialist homelessness services is increasing;

homelessness in Australia is outpacing population growth; and there are significant links between domestic violence and homelessness. To access the report visit [here](#).

#### **REPORT: THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTRALIA**

'The State of Homelessness in Australia's Cities' Report was compiled by the Centre for Social Impact at The University of Western Australia (CSI UWA). It looked at Registry Week data from across Australia, where specialist homelessness services interviewed 8,370 individuals experiencing homeless in Australia's major cities over a seven year period. This report is the first study of its kind, drawing on the lived experience of such a large, national cohort of homeless Australians. The data reveals a bleak picture of the state of homelessness, but hope on the part of those experiencing homelessness. The report is available [here](#).

#### **ANGLICARE'S 2018 RENTAL AFFORDABILITY SNAPSHOT**

Every year, Anglicare Australia conducts a survey on the possibility for people on low incomes to rent a home in the private market. Anglicare takes a snapshot of the thousands of properties listed for rent and tests whether each property is affordable and suitable for people low incomes. The 2018 Snapshot reveals that Australia-wide, only 485 rentals were affordable for a single person on the Disability Support Pension; 180 rentals were affordable for a single parent with one child on Newstart; three rentals were affordable for a single person on Newstart; and only two rentals were affordable for a single person in a property or share house on Youth Allowance. The full report is available [here](#).

#### **RESOURCES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has produced a number of resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, which falls on 1 June. These resources include a Resource Kit, a Bishop's Pastoral Letter, liturgical suggestions, a reflection by Erica Barnard and a guide to Welcome to Country and Acknowledgment Ceremonies. The resources can be accessed [here](#).

#### **PLAQUES ACKNOWLEDGING FIRST PEOPLES' CUSTODIANSHIP**

The practice of inclusion forms an important part of rebuilding the relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians. Plaques are now available from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) as a symbol of welcome for Indigenous people and an acknowledgement that there is an understanding of Australia's past. This plaque is endorsed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference to be used in Catholic schools, parishes and organisations nationally. The artwork was created by Murri Ministry in Brisbane. They are available in A4 and A3 sizes. More information is available [here](#).

#### **BOOK: 'GROWING UP ABORIGINAL IN AUSTRALIA'**

What is it like to grow up Aboriginal in Australia? This anthology, compiled by award-winning author Anita Heiss, showcases many diverse voices, experiences and stories in order to answer that question. Contributors include: Tony Birch, Deborah Cheetham, Adam Goodes, Terri Janke, Patrick Johnson, Ambelin Kwaymullina, Jack Latimore, Celeste Liddle, Amy McQuire, Kerry Reed-Gilbert, Miranda Tapsell, Jared Thomas, Aileen Walsh, Alexis West, Tara June Winch, and many, many more. Published by Black Inc. For more information visit [here](#).

#### **LISTENING TO THE 'STATEMENT FROM THE HEART'**

For National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June), the Anglican Board of Mission has released an eight-part study, written by Celia Kemp, to open up conversation about the church's theological

response to the Statement from the Heart. The studies are for those interested in a Christian response to Australia's history, listening to what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christians are saying right now, and grappling with the question of what it is to be a truly Australian church. To access the study and for more information, visit [here](#).

#### **VACANCY: DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC EARTHCARE AUSTRALIA**

Caritas Australia is currently advertising for a person to fill the role of Director, Catholic Earthcare Australia. The position is based in Caritas' National Office, Alexandria NSW. It requires an experienced senior manager to advocate for environmental and ecological sustainability and deliver educational programs to schools, parishes and related forums. Enquiries to Paul O'Callaghan CEO, Caritas Australia on 0434142069. To apply for the role, please visit [here](#) and view the full Position Description. Applications should be sent to [jobs@caritas.org.au](mailto:jobs@caritas.org.au).

#### **CARITAS AUSTRALIA AND EDMUND RICE CENTRE OPPOSE POTENTIAL CUTS TO OVERSEAS AID**

Caritas Australia and the Edmund Rice Centre have expressed alarm at reports that the Coalition Government is considering cutting Australia's aid budget by up to 10 per cent. This is in addition to the 30 per cent of cuts we have seen since 2013 and would significantly undermine our country's efforts to help end extreme poverty, save lives, and support communities in times of major humanitarian disasters. Mr O'Callaghan pointed to 'generous Australians from every walk of life showing leadership by donating their time, effort and money to stand in solidarity with the world's poorest communities. Yet our government is demonstrating the opposite, choosing instead to walk away from the poor.' Caritas is encouraging Australians to write to their Federal MPs to express opposition to any cuts to overseas aid. Read the Caritas Australia release [here](#) and the Edmund Rice Centre release [here](#).

#### **MENTAL HEALTH MONTH STARTER KIT**

October is Mental Health Month in New South Wales, Victoria, and the ACT. Mental Health Month is an opportunity to raise awareness around mental health & wellbeing, centres around World Mental Health Day, which is marked each year on October 10. A Mental Health Month project or event is a great way to encourage awareness of mental health, and social and emotional wellbeing in your community. It can decrease stigma, and empower people to seek help, for themselves or others. The Mental Health Association NSW has developed this Starter Kit for people considering a project for the occasion. To access the kit and for more information, visit [here](#).

#### **SPECIAL REPORT: HEART-WARMING PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS BOTH YOUNG AND OLD**

'The Record', the journal of the Archdiocese of Perth, carries a story about students at Whitford Catholic Primary School who regularly visit the aged care home at Mercyville Hostel across the road. One teacher says: 'For us it is about outreach, being the hands of Jesus in that respect. There are a lot of children who don't have their grandparents close by, it's good for them to have this experience with the elderly.' Read the full report [here](#).



#### **ACSJC Publications June 2018**

##### **PASTORAL LETTER – FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2018**

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker for 2018 is entitled *A Fair Day's Pay – for the dignity of workers and the good of all*. Bishop Vincent Long Van

Nguyen highlights the impact of wage stagnation on most families. Many families are feeling the squeeze of balancing household budgets where wages are barely keeping up with the costs of living or falling behind. But it is the precarious circumstances of over 1.5 million low-paid workers and almost 2 million people who are unemployed or who have withdrawn from the labour market that demand attention. They will remain in poverty or at risk of poverty without significant increases in minimum wages and income support allowances. The Pastoral Letter is available for download [here](#).

#### **SERIES PAPER 82 – ‘INTO THE DEEP’**

In this paper, Peter Arndt examines the issues faced by the indigenous people of West Papua and discusses their claim for freedom and independence. Peter has visited West Papua on several occasions, has met and spoken with people working for freedom and justice, and has heard their accounts of oppression and brutality on the part of police and security forces there. He places the struggle of the West Papuans in the context of the message of the Gospel and Catholic social teaching. ‘That deep reflection on Gospel values and Church teaching is what makes this publication so inspiring. Peter places his friends’ experience in the context of the Scriptures and looks deeply into the Church’s teachings on justice and asks what he must do. He discerns the answer with clarity and courage’ (Bishop Vincent Long, Chairman, ACSJC). To find out more and to order, visit [here](#).

#### **SERIES PAPER 81 – ‘AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL’**

This paper examines Australia’s economic policies and their effect on the most vulnerable and expands on themes in the Australian bishops’ 2017–18 Social Justice Statement. ‘An Economy that Works for All’ discusses the serious effects of growing inequality, described by the International Monetary Fund as ‘the defining challenge of our time’. Author Joe Zabar, of Catholic Social Services Australia, also summarises the history behind Australia’s current economic policies and the responses of internationally recognised economists and institutions. He proposes ways in which marginalised and excluded Australians can be helped to share in the fruits of our prosperity. To find out more and to order, visit [here](#).

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2017–2018**

This year’s Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement is entitled ‘Everyone’s Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy’. PDF and Word versions of the Statement as well as a range of print and multimedia resources are available on the ACSJC website, [here](#).

#### **SERIES PAPER 80 – ‘THE Human FACE OF HOMELESSNESS’**

This paper is written by Liz de Chastel, Director of Social Policy, and Fr Frank Brennan SJ, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services Australia. In this paper they examine the realities of life for the more than 100,000 Australians who find themselves without accommodation. Homelessness has particularly severe impacts on children and on older people, especially older women; on people living with mental illness; and on Indigenous Australians. The Catholic bishops of Australia are making homelessness a particular focus of the Church’s mission. This paper asks why so many people are homeless in our rich nation. It looks at some of the many ways in which the Catholic Church is working to help Australians who need suitable housing, and it asks what more the Church can do to respond to the call of Jesus regarding those most in need. To find out more and to order, visit [here](#).

#### **SERIES PAPER 79 – ‘Human Trafficking and Slavery: A response from Australian Catholics’**

This paper is written by Christine Carolan, Executive Officer of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) and Sr Noelene Simmons SM, NSW Regional Co-ordinator for ACRATH. It describes the forms that slavery and related crimes take in the modern world, the Church’s teaching

on and response to slavery and other forms of exploitation, and the international and Australian laws that deal with slavery. It also describes the work of organisations committed to combating slavery and helping its victims – in particular, ACRATH’s efforts to educate Australians, to advocate on behalf of victims, and to work with similar organisations here and overseas to shut down human trafficking and help its victims. To find out more and to order, visit [here](#).

### ***BUILDING BRIDGES***

The book, *Building Bridges: Social Justice Statements from Australia’s Bishops 1988 to 2013*, brings the Statements together in an attractive and readable format. The publication is fully indexed, making this an exceptional resource for education and research. It offers an invaluable insight into Catholic social teaching brought to life in an Australian context over the past 26 years. This collection is a vital resource for anyone interested in the Church’s teaching on justice. It is of special interest to schools and universities and to parish and diocesan groups.

*Building Bridges* is available from the ACSJC for \$35.00 per copy including postage anywhere in Australia. Order forms are available [here](#).

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



## **News Monitor June 2018**

### **[Close the camps now and stop the posturing](#)**

28-May-2018

It’s time to close refugee camps on Nauru and Manus Island and put an end to this inhumane chapter in Australian history, writes Fr Frank Brennan SJ. Source: *Eureka Street*.

### **[Cheating workers out of wages is a sin: Pope](#)**

25-May-2018

Loving wealth destroys the soul and cheating people of their just wages and benefits is a mortal sin, Pope Francis said. Source: *Crux*.

### **[Government must embrace Uluru Statement](#)**

25-May-2018

It is one year since the historic “Uluru Statement from the Heart” on constitutional recognition of Australia’s First Peoples, writes Sr Valerie Deakin SGS. Source: *The Good Oil*

### **[Climate coalition marches towards 700 members](#)**

25-May-2018

A worldwide Catholic movement that was born out of a need "to do something" about climate change four years ago has grown to include almost 700 organisations. Source: *Mercy World*.

### **[Newstart recipients left with \\$17 a day after expenses](#)**

23-May-2018

The average Newstart recipient is left with just \$17 a day after paying accommodation expenses, new research has shown. *The Guardian*.

### [Vinnies chief slams bridging visa cancellations](#)

21-May-2018

The head of the St Vincent de Paul Society says the Turnbull Government's decision to strip support from asylum-seekers transferred to Australia for medical treatment is “an unprincipled act of cruelty”. Source: *The Guardian*

### [Paul VI and Oscar Romero to be canonised in October](#)

21-May-2018

Pope Francis will canonise Blesseds Oscar Romero, Paul VI and four others on October 14 at the Vatican during the meeting of the world Synod of Bishops, the Vatican has announced. Source: *CNS*.

### [Vinnies chief slams bridging visa cancellations](#)

21-May-2018

The head of the St Vincent de Paul Society says the Turnbull Government's decision to strip support from asylum-seekers transferred to Australia for medical treatment is “an unprincipled act of cruelty”. Source: *The Guardian*.

### [Review calls for stronger anti-discrimination laws](#)

18-May-2018

Federal anti-discrimination laws would be strengthened to better protect religious beliefs under recommendations handed to the Turnbull Government. Source: *The Courier Mail*.

### [Minimum wage increases 'didn't hurt jobs'](#)

17-May-2018

A decade of increases to the minimum wage did nothing to destroy jobs and actually increased hours worked, a new report has found. Source: *News.com.au*.

### [Cost of housing driving up child poverty rates](#)

16-May-2018

Housing costs are responsible for pushing a further 229,000 Australian children below the poverty line, a new analysis shows. Source: *The Guardian*.

### [Tax cuts good politics, bad policy](#)

15-May-2018

The tax cuts announced in last week's federal Budget may have been good politics, but not necessarily good policy, writes Catholic Social Services Australia's Joe Zabar. Source: *Eureka Street*.

### [Vatican casts critical eye over capitalist system](#)

15-May-2018

Two Vatican offices are set to release a joint document evaluating the morality of the global market system. Source: *NCR Online*.

### [Minimum wage 'manifestly inadequate'](#)

11-May-2018

The Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations has told the Fair Work Commission that the minimum wage is “manifestly inadequate” and hundreds of thousands of families are living in or threatened by poverty. Source: *ACBC Media Blog*.

### [Archbishop Coleridge: Keep Jesus at heart of everything](#)

11-May-2018

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, the newly-elected president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, wants to help the Church “find a distinctively Gospel voice” in social debates. Source: *ACBC Media Blog*.

### [Caritas criticises cuts to foreign aid](#)

10-May-2018

Further cuts to Australia’s foreign aid spending announced in the federal Budget could diminish Australia’s international influence, Caritas Australia has warned.

### [Budget tax plan ‘caviar for the corporates’](#)

09-May-2018

The St Vincent de Paul Society has criticised the Turnbull Government’s Budget 2018 plan to flatten the tax system so that only 6 per cent of taxpayers face the top rate. Source: *ABC News*.

### [Homeless facing growing challenges](#)

09-May-2018

People experiencing homelessness face increasing challenges, according to an expert panel at the recent annual general meeting of Catholic Social Services Victoria. Source: *Melbourne Catholic*.

### [Francis urges action on slavery](#)

08-May-2018

Pope Francis has called for concerted effort from all parts of society to address the root causes of human trafficking, which he describes as a crime against humanity. Source: *Vatican News*.

### [Sr Patricia fights deportation from Philippines](#)

07-May-2018

Sr Patricia Fox, the Australian religious sister whose missionary visa was revoked by the Philippine Government last month, has debunked allegations against her in a 25-page document. Source: *ucanews.com*.

### [Increase minimum wage: Bishop Long](#)

02-May-2018

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council chair Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv. has called for an urgent increase in minimum wages and the Newstart Allowance.

### [Budget welcomed, ‘but there’s a long way to go’](#)

02-May-2018

The Victorian Budget has “something for nearly everyone”, but “fundamental” challenges remain, according to Catholic Social Services Victoria.

- *courtesy cathnews.com*



## Social Justice Diary June 2018

### June 2018

1	Fri	<a href="#">Global Day of Parents</a>
2	Sat	
3	Sun	<p>Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ)</p> <p>1886: <a href="#">Catholic and Anglican Martyrs of Uganda</a></p> <p>1992: <a href="#">Decision in the Mabo Case by the High Court</a></p>
4	Mon	<p><a href="#">International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression</a></p> <p>1989: <a href="#">Tiananmen Square Massacre, Beijing</a></p>
5	Tue	<p><a href="#">World Environment Day</a></p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p> <p><a href="#">50th anniversary of the assassination of Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy</a></p>
6	Wed	
7	Thu	
8	Fri	<p>The Sacred Heart of Jesus</p> <p><a href="#">World Oceans Day</a></p>
9	Sat	
10	Sun	<p>10th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>1838: <a href="#">Massacre of up to 30 Aboriginal people at Myall Creek NSW</a></p> <p>1935: <a href="#">Establishment of Alcoholics Anonymous in New York</a></p>

11	Mon	<p>1975: <a href="#">Ratification by Australia of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</a></p> <p>1975: <a href="#">Enactment of the Racial Discrimination Act</a></p>
12	Tue	<p><a href="#">World Day Against Child Labour</a></p> <p>1988: <a href="#">Presentation by Aboriginal leaders of the Barunga Statement to Prime Minister Bob Hawke</a></p>
13	Wed	
14	Thu	<a href="#">World Blood Donor Day</a>
15	Fri	<p><a href="#">World Elder Abuse Awareness Day</a></p> <p><i>Eid-Al-Fitr: Muslim Breaking of the Fast</i></p>
16	Sat	
17	Sun	<p>11th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Beginning of <a href="#">National Refugee Week</a></p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p> <p><a href="#">World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought</a></p>
18	Mon	
19	Tue	<p><a href="#">International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict</a></p> <p>1945: <a href="#">Birth of Aung San Suu Kyi</a></p> <p>1969: <a href="#">Affirmation by Arbitration Commission of the principle of equal pay for women performing equal work</a></p>
20	Wed	<a href="#">World Refugee Day</a>
21	Thu	
22	Fri	
23	Sat	<a href="#">United Nations Public Service Day</a>

		<a href="#"><u>International Widows' Day</u></a>
24	Sun	Nativity of John the Baptist
25	Mon	<a href="#"><u>Day of the Seafarer</u></a>
26	Tue	<a href="#"><u>International Day in Support of Victims of Torture</u></a> <a href="#"><u>International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking</u></a>
27	Wed	
28	Thu	
29	Fri	Saints <a href="#"><u>Peter</u></a> and <a href="#"><u>Paul</u></a> , Apostles
30	Sat	1945: <a href="#"><u>Introduction of unemployment benefits in Australia</u></a>