



# ACSJC BRIEFING

No. 59 – July 2005

*From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia - [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)*

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## FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

The ACSJC is now preparing for the launch of the 2005 Social Justice Sunday Statement in September. The ACSJC wishes to draw your attention to this event and some associated resources that are available for order and/or downloading from the ACSJC website.

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on 25 September.

Background information and order forms for the Statement are now available on the ACSJC website. Included is a message from Archbishop Francis Carroll, President of the Bishops' Conference, outlining the importance of this year's Statement.

### **JESUS, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD – LIVING THE GOSPEL TODAY**

Jesus is the light of our lives. He is light for our footsteps and the guide for our path. As we walk in the light we give it a chance to shine in our world. How today are we light for the world?

This year's Social Justice Sunday Statement is titled "Jesus, Light for the World – Living the Gospel Today".

Based on Gospel accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus, the Statement considers our calling to bring the light of Christ to the world. When Jesus cures the sick woman (Lk 8:40-56) he shines a light on the treatment of the marginalised and dispossessed. As he approaches death his closing words to his disciples are to

care for the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger (Mt 25:31-46). Our Lord offers a spirituality for living out justice when he says "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:3).

There are many situations of injustice that we come across in our everyday lives. And there are numerous ways in which we are and can be the light of Christ in our world.

Among the issues addressed by the Bishops in the Social Justice Sunday Statement is the amount of wealth and possessions we waste in a world where poverty affects billions of people. A life of affluence can mean a culture of waste – it can also mean a culture of busyness in which the important things in life are neglected as we work longer and harder.

As a people vitally concerned about the reign of God we are called to stretch our love to embrace the hungry and needy on every part of the globe, and to every aspect of our lives.

In this 40th anniversary year of the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes*, we are reminded that "Christians can have nothing more at heart than to be of ever more effective and generous service to humanity in the modern world".

In this Year of the Eucharist, we recall how our communion in God involves communion in each other since it is the one Bread and the one Cup we are invited to share.

We build God's kingdom through our prayer and worship, in our actions for justice, advocacy for the poor, care for the earth, our encouragement of our brothers and sisters, and our rejection of pessimism. We are called to bring Christ's light to people in need and to celebrate the hopes and joys of all.

#### **TO ORDER**

Parishes, schools and groups can order printed copies (minimum of 10) from the ACSJC. Order form and cost details can be found on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - COMPLEMENTARY RESOURCES**

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council produces a range of complementary resources to assist parish communities, schools and social justice groups to celebrate Social Justice Sunday.

These following resources will soon be available on the ACSJC website (<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>) and can be downloaded free of charge:

1. Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary
2. Social Justice Sunday Liturgy Notes
3. Teachers' Notes

Resources that are very useful in parishes and schools are:

1. Leaflet: "Ten Steps Towards Living the Gospel Today"
2. Social Justice Sunday Prayer Card.

These can be ordered from the ACSJC Secretariat on (02) 9956 5811.

- *John Ferguson (National Executive Officer)*

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# LATEST PUBLICATIONS

(orders Tel: 02 9956 5811 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>)

**2005 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT – ORDER NOW!:** This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled "Jesus, Light for the World – Living the Gospel today". The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form is available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

**ACSJC STATEMENT FOR JUBILEE SUNDAY:** To highlight the ecumenical celebration of Jubilee Sunday (26 June), the ACSJC released a Statement which is available on the ACSJC website at: [http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/issues/statement\\_for\\_jubilee\\_sunday,\\_26\\_june\\_2005.html](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/issues/statement_for_jubilee_sunday,_26_june_2005.html)

**PASTORAL LETTER: THE MINIMUM WAGE IN AN AGE OF PROSPERITY AND WEALTH:** The Pastoral Letter issued by Bishop Christopher Saunders for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker is available and can be downloaded from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

**SERIES PAPER: TRADE JUSTICE:** Catholic Social Justice Series No. 54 – Sr Suzette Clarke rsc and Dr Patricia Ranald consider the imposition of unjust trade agreements, indiscriminate trade liberalisation and privatisation on many poor communities, particularly in the third world, and emphasise the rights of all adequate access to food, a livelihood, water, health and education. (Cost \$6.60 plus postage) (postage rates listed below)

**JOINT SUBMISSION – "RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT & WORKPLACE RELATIONS 'BUILDING ON SUCCESS: CDEP DISCUSSION PAPER 2005'":** The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council, Catholic Welfare Australia and ACSJC lodged a joint submission responding to the Government's proposed reforms to the Community Development Employment Program. This submission can be found at: [http://www.catholicwelfare.com.au/publications/Submissions/CDEP%20Final\\_2005.pdf](http://www.catholicwelfare.com.au/publications/Submissions/CDEP%20Final_2005.pdf)

**SERIES PAPER: ENDING HUNGER – HOW FAR CAN WE GO?** Catholic Social Justice Series No.53 – Fr Bruce Duncan CSsR reveals how easily attainable is the central goal of the Millennium Development Goals, endorsed at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000, to reduce the extent of hunger and the most acute poverty by half by 2015. The document praises the leading role of Australia in responding to the tragedy of the Indian Ocean tsunami and calls on Government to increase its commitment to these goals. (Cost \$6.60 plus postage) (postage rates listed below)

*(Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1; 2-3 copies \$1.45; 4-5 copies \$2.45)*

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## **CURRENT ISSUES/RESOURCES**

**MEDIA RELEASE – "ACSJC STATEMENT MARKS JUBILEE SUNDAY" - 22 June 2005:** To highlight the ecumenical support for debt reduction on Jubilee Sunday, the ACSJC has released a Statement for Jubilee Sunday on June 26. Bishop Christopher Saunders, Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, said, "Great progress has been made in the debt campaign, with a significant announcement being made earlier this month, but we still live in a world where millions live in poverty and there is a great imbalance in the distribution of wealth and resources." The Bishop said, "Debt cancellation is a matter of justice, not charity. Poor countries should only have to pay interest on their debts after they have spent what they need to address poverty. They should not have to reduce spending on health, education and other essential services so that they can meet debt repayments." (refer: [http://www.acsjc.org.au/Content/media\\_releases/2005\\_06\\_22\\_1119419565.html](http://www.acsjc.org.au/Content/media_releases/2005_06_22_1119419565.html))

**MEDIA RELEASE – "ENDING HUNGER: HOW FAR CAN WE GO?" – 14 June 2005:** His Eminence, Cardinal Edward Cassidy AC launched the Catholic Social Justice Series Paper written by Fr Bruce Duncan CSsR on the Millennium Development Goals. Rich countries need to double their aid if they are to meet the goals of lifting 500 million people out of dire poverty, 250 million out of hunger and saving 30 million children. All it takes is a fraction of the unprecedented prosperity of developed nations to make poverty history. The generous response of governments and individuals to victims of the tsunami tragedy demonstrates a worldwide shift in attitudes to poverty. It shows that rich nations like Australia have the backing and the capacity to help their neighbours in distress. (refer: [http://www.acsjc.org.au/Content/media\\_releases/2005\\_06\\_14\\_1118713573.html](http://www.acsjc.org.au/Content/media_releases/2005_06_14_1118713573.html))

**LITURGY RESOURCES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY (3rd July) – "COME, LISTEN, LIVE":** The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Commission has produced liturgical resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday which will be celebrated on 3 July. The theme is "Come, Listen, Live. Share the Bread of Life together". President of the Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Francis Carroll says the theme is both welcoming and challenging. "It sounds a call to come together, to listen to one another, to come into genuine relationships and so live life more fully. To share a meal together both expresses close relationships and strengthens a Communion of life. In our Catholic tradition, the Eucharist, the Bread of Life, is both a sign and a source of that Communion of Life.

"In this special year, the Church asks us to reflect on the gift that Jesus has given us in the Eucharist. For us Australian Catholics, both indigenous and non-indigenous, it calls us to break the Bread of Life together as brothers and sisters in the one Body of Christ." Archbishop Carroll says. To access the liturgical resources, visit: <http://www.natsicc.org.au/liturgy.htm>

**BROCHURE – "CHANGING CLIMATE, CHANGING CREATION":** With support from the Uniting Church and Catholic Earthcare Australia, ACF and the NCCA have produced a brochure which is being distributed to churches across the country. Christian groups everywhere are getting active on climate change. The Changing Climate, Changing Creation brochure encourages Australian Christians to: write to or visit their federal MP and ask what they are doing to address the threat of climate change; find out more about reducing energy and water usage and waste at home; take action on climate change within churches and small groups.

Copies of the brochure can be accessed at the following website:  
<http://www.acfonline.org.au/asp/pages/document.asp?IdDoc=2414>

**ISSUES PAPER – "THE REALITY OF INCOME INEQUALITY IN AUSTRALIA":** The Society of St Vincent de Paul has released the first in a new Social Policy Issues series dealing with income inequality. Contrary to recent assertions made by the Government and certain researchers, the paper uses ABS data to show that income inequality in Australia is growing. Assertions that income inequality is moderating are based on the use of averages and percentages, which disguise an unequal growth in income reflected in absolute terms, especially at the lower levels.

(<http://www.vinnies.org.au/index.cfm?state=national&section=socialj&id=689>)

**ANTI-POVERTY WEEK 2005:** The organisers of the annual Anti-Poverty Week (16-22 October) are encouraging individuals and organisations to plan now for activities in October 2005. The Week focuses on poverty around the world, including Australia. Everyone is encouraged to organise activities during the Week or join in some being organised by other people. The activities can be large or small, and activities at local levels are especially welcome. The website <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au> includes basic fact sheets, promotional material and links to sources of information and ideas about ways of reducing poverty and hardship. To notify planned activities, or obtain further information, please contact us at 1300 797 290 or [apw@antipovertyweek.org.au](mailto:apw@antipovertyweek.org.au)

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## **JULY NOTICES**

**JUNE 9 – JULY 16: EXHIBITION, "BLACK ON WHITE"** (Vic). An exhibition of artwork examining issues of Aboriginality and non-Aboriginality. The Centre for Contemporary Photography, 404 George St, Fitzroy. (refer: <http://www.sosj.org.au/justice/events.html>)

**JUNE 10 – JULY 9: EXHIBITION, "IN OUR HANDS – A CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION IN ART AND WRITING"** (Vic). ANTaR Boroondara has produced the project with sponsorship from the City of Boroondara and Balwyn Rotary. 12.00 – 5.00pm, Wednesday to Friday, Town Hall Gallery in Burwood Road, Hawthorn. (refer: <http://www.sosj.org.au/justice/events.html>)

**JULY 1 – 9: "NAIDOC WEEK 2005 AT PARRAMATTA"** (NSW). Parramatta celebrates NAIDOC Week (National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration) with a huge line up of music, dance, visual art, film, performance, storytelling, workshops, kids activities and displays. Celebrations sponsored by Parramatta City Council begin with the Sydney Indigenous Arts Festival embracing the rich diversity of Indigenous culture. The entertainment line up confirmed for 2005 are expected to draw crowds from Sydney and beyond. For further info visit: <http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/discover/naidoc2005.html>

**JULY 3 – 10: NAIDOC WEEK EVENTS.** NAIDOC week is a way of celebrating and promoting a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our culture. NAIDOC celebrates the survival of Indigenous culture and the Indigenous contribution to modern Australia. All Australians are encouraged to participate in the week's activities. The theme for this year is 'Our future begins with solidarity'. The national focus city is Adelaide, South Australia where the National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony and Ball will be held on Friday 8 July at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Visit the National website for further info. (refer: <http://www.naidoc.org.au>)

**JULY 3: MASS AND CELEBRATIONS, "25 IN 2005 – CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF COMMUNITY, PRAYER AND SERVICE."** (SA) You, your family, your organisation are invited to attend the Aboriginal and Islander Sunday Mass & 25th Anniversary Celebrations of the Otherway Centre. 11.00am, St Francis Xavier Cathedral, cnr Wakefield Street & Victoria Square, Adelaide. And afterwards in the Otherway Centre, 185 Pirie Street Adelaide for lunch and the presentation of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Annual Community Service Awards. RSVP on (08) 8232 1001.

**JULY 4: PUBLIC LECTURE, "THE CHURCH'S COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ITS MISSION IN THE WORLD"** (Qld). Ms Sandie Cornish will present this talk at St Oliver Plunket Parish, 21 Beauvardia Street Cannon Hill from 7.30pm. (refer: <http://www.uq.net.au/cjpc/mediajune22005.htm>)

**JULY 4 – 9: EXHIBITION, "ART FROM INSIDE: THE PRISON FELLOWSHIP EXHIBITION"** (NSW). This exhibition is organised by Prison Fellowship Australia, an ecumenical organisation providing education, counselling and court support to prisoners and their families throughout Australia. 11.00am-4.00pm, ACU National Gallery at Strathfield, Strathfield Campus (Mount Saint Mary), 25A Barker Road, Strathfield NSW. For further info call (02) 9701 4256 or refer: [http://www.acu.edu.au/acu\\_national/News\\_\\_\\_Events\\_Calendar/Events.cfm](http://www.acu.edu.au/acu_national/News___Events_Calendar/Events.cfm)

**JULY 5: SEMINAR, "THE FUTURE FOR LAND RIGHTS"** (NSW). A Seminar co-hosted by ANTaR and the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning. 6.00-7.30pm, University of Technology, Sydney. More details soon at: <http://www.antar.org.au/>

**JULY 5: PUBLIC LECTURE, "CORBY, THE TSUNAMI, AND DEPICTIONS OF ASIA IN AUSTRALIA"** (Vic). Does Asia have an image problem? Do we give the region a fair hearing in Australia? Asialink invites you to hear eminent speakers discuss the role of the media, academia and the government in shaping our views of this dynamic region to our north. 1.00pm to 2.00pm, Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Level 1, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, The University of Melbourne (corner of Swanston Street and Monash Road). For more info call (03) 8344 4800 or visit: [http://events.unimelb.edu.au/eventid\\_1786.html](http://events.unimelb.edu.au/eventid_1786.html)

**JULY 5: PUBLIC LECTURE, "THE CHURCH'S COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ITS MISSION IN THE WORLD"** (Qld). Ms Sandie Cornish will present this talk at Sacred Heart Parish, 19 Cothill Road, Booval from 7.30pm. (refer: <http://www.uq.net.au/cjpc/mediajune22005.htm>)

**JULY 6: PUBLIC FORUM, "AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION POLICY - A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS?"** (NSW) Hear the views of Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM Human Rights Commissioner, Dr Michael Head, Margaret Piper, Dorothy Hoddinott. 6:30 - 8:30pm, Parramatta Town Hall, 182 Church St Parramatta. (refer: <http://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org/template.php3?area=news&content=noticeboard>)

**JULY 6: ADDRESS BY GREG COMBET, SECRETARY – AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS**, "Industrial Relations, employee rights and the economy" (ACT). 12.00 – 2.00pm, National Press Club, 16 National Circuit Barton ACT, Canberra (refer: <http://www.npc.org.au/speakers.htm>)

**JULY 7: LAUNCH, "POLMIN: INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY FOR THE COMMON GOOD"** (Vic). The Australian Political Ministry Network is being re-launched in their new Melbourne offices. The launch will include an update on PolMin's activities. 6.00 – 7.30pm Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville, Melbourne (<http://www.polmin.com.au/>)

**JULY 7: WORKSHOP, "CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE SECULAR HUMAN RIGHTS TRADITION"** (Qld). Ms Sandie Cornish will present an in-depth workshop at Justice Place, 5 Abingdon St, Woolloongabba from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Cost of this workshop will be \$40 (\$30 concessions) Bookings are required for this workshop – call the Brisbane Catholic Justice and Peace Commission on (07) 3891 5911 or e-mail [petercjpc@uq.net.au](mailto:petercjpc@uq.net.au) (refer: <http://www.uq.net.au/cjpc/mediajune22005.htm>)

**JULY 13: PUBLIC LECTURE, "LIVING WITH A MONASTIC HEART TODAY – WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?"** (NSW). Esther de Waal, Aquinas Academy Diamond Jubilee Guest, will consider the monastic tradition as it can be lived today as a lay person. 6.00 – 8.00pm in the Crypt of the historic St Patrick's Church, Grosvenor Street, The Rocks, Sydney. \$10 per person. Call (02) 9247 4651 for more information.

**JULY 14: PUBLIC LECTURE, "HUMAN TRAFFIC - MAKING REFORMS FOR A SLAVERY SMART AUSTRALIA"** (NSW). The desperation of enslaved and sex trafficked people in Australia is a fact we can no longer downplay or ignore as a community. But are our laws, immigration policies and social support structures adequate to meet this growing threat to human rights? In this lecture in the UTSpeaks Series, UTS Community Law Centre Director Jennifer Burn will describe the challenges now facing Australia in responding to slavery and present opportunities for achieving law and visa reform and community action, arising from the UTS Anti Slavery Project. 6.00pm, Guthrie Theatre, Level 3 Peter Johnson Building, 702-730 Harris St Ultimo, Sydney. RSVP by Wednesday 13 July 2005 on (02) 9514 1734 or Robert.Button@uts.edu.au (refer: [http://www.graduateconnections.uts.edu.au/events/utspeaks\\_20050714.html](http://www.graduateconnections.uts.edu.au/events/utspeaks_20050714.html))

**JULY 15: CATALYST DINNER, "GROUNDS FOR HOPE"** (NSW). Special guest Esther de Waal will address all at this dinner event organised by Catalyst for Renewal. The night will also include a lovely meal with table service and a raffle with special prizes. \$40 per person (\$35 for friends of Catalyst). BYO drinks. RSVP by July 7 on (02) 9816 4262.

**JULY 19: PUBLIC LECTURE, "OTHERS' RIGHTS"** (ACT). Karen Knop, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, will address the International Law Discussion Group concerning what picture emerges and what questions arise if we focus on Others' rights as something distinct from a lesser set of our own. The impulse of international human rights is to include: if "everyone has the right to X", then surely we want to include immigrants, refugees and non-citizens generally in "everyone"? This impulse downplays, ignores, even disguises the fact that in both public and private international law, strangers can have rights that are theirs alone and that can sometimes be greater than those of everyone else. 12.30pm Staff Library Level 1, Faculty of Law, (Bldg 5), cnr Fellows & East Roads, ANU. RSVP to: [cipl@law.anu.edu.au](mailto:cipl@law.anu.edu.au) by cob 18 July 2005. (refer: <http://law.anu.edu.au/cipl/events.asp>)

**JULY 19: PUBLIC FORUM, "THE BIG ISSUES – BEYOND TSUNAMI"** (SA). Jointly presented by World Vision Australia and AusAID and supported by The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, UniSA. Come along and hear how Australia's major aid agencies and the Federal Government are using the money committed to rebuilding tsunami affected communities in the Asia Pacific region and what's already been achieved. Speakers include: Murray Proctor, AusAID; Tim Costello, World Vision; Andrew Hewett, Oxfam; Robert Tickner, Red Cross; Robert Glasser, CARE Australia; Jack de Groot, Caritas Australia. 5.30pm, Adelaide Town Hall. Bookings: via the Hawke Centre web site: <http://www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au> or RSVP line 08 8302 0215

**JULY 24: PUBLIC FORUM, "DOCO MAKING AND SOCIAL CHANGE"** (Vic). Canadian film maker Avi Lewis will discuss the relationship between social movements and cinematic activism. Documentary work continues to enjoy a renewal of popularity with cinema distribution. But for film makers actively producing to affect social change how successful are they outside the box office? Cost \$5 & special screening will occur after the event. 2.00 – 6.00pm, Guild Theatre, Melbourne University Student Union, Melbourne. (refer: [http://www.melbourne.indymedia.org/calendar/event\\_display\\_detail.php?event\\_id=1101&day=24&month=7&year=2005](http://www.melbourne.indymedia.org/calendar/event_display_detail.php?event_id=1101&day=24&month=7&year=2005))



**JULY 28: PUBLIC FORUM, "FROM LABOURING TO CO-LABOURING"**

(NSW). Bishop Michael Malone, Bishop of Maitland, will address this Catalyst for Renewal forum on the changing face of ministry. 6.00 – 8.00pm in the Crypt of the historic St Patrick's Church, Grosvenor Street, The Rocks, Sydney. Entry by donation. (refer: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au>)

**JULY 29: PUBLIC MEETING, "CORPOCRACY VS GLOBAL COMMONS"** (Vic).

Aggressive domestic and foreign policies have promoted the wealth and power of a few while actively suppressing alternatives to neoliberalism, corporate-led globalisation and war. This public meeting considers the alternatives. MC is Rod Quantock. Speakers include Phyllis Bennis, Sharan Burrow, Carol Araullo and Margo Kingston. 6.00pm, Storey Hall RMIT, 344 Swanston St, Melbourne. Cost \$5. (refer:

[http://www.melbourne.indymedia.org/calendar/event\\_display\\_detail.php?event\\_id=965&day=29&month=7&year=2005](http://www.melbourne.indymedia.org/calendar/event_display_detail.php?event_id=965&day=29&month=7&year=2005))

**JULY 29-31: EVENT, "BRISBANE SOCIAL FORUM"** (Qld). The social forum brings together diverse people to explore issues of peace, globalisation, equality, and cultural, social and environmental justice. It will feature Jacqui Katona, indigenous and environmental activist, journalist Margot Kingston and Indonesian trade unionist Dita Sari as keynote speakers. From 9.00am, Friday 29 July, Aung Sun Suu Kyi Building, University of Queensland Student Union (behind the Schonell Cinema complex) St Lucia. For further information call 0437 544 366 or 0439 844 880 or visit: <http://www.brisbanesocialforum.org>

*(email news of your forthcoming social justice event by the last week of each month to: [admin@acsjc.org.au](mailto:admin@acsjc.org.au))*

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## **JUNE NEWS MONITOR**

**BENEDICT CHOOSES THEME FOR WORLD PEACE DAY:** "In Truth, Peace" is the theme Pope Benedict XVI has chosen for the 1 January 2006 celebration of World Peace Day.

**COMMISSION SAYS VIVIAN ALVAREZ-SOLON NEEDS SUPPORT:** The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission of Brisbane is calling for support for Vivian Alvarez-Solon, the Australian woman who was wrongfully deported to the Philippines four years ago.

**ZIMBABWEAN ARCHBISHOP SAYS HE'S READY TO DIE TO DEFEND PEOPLE:** Archbishop Pius Ncube of Bulawayo said he would rather die than stay silent in the face of widespread human rights abuses in his country.

**AMNESTY PRAISE FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN ACTION:** Amnesty International Australia has responded warmly to an initiative of the Commission for Australian Catholic Women following revelation of the observation by male guards of female detainees using shower and toilet facilities at South Australia's Baxter Detention facility.

**UGANDAN LEADER PRAISES CHURCH ACTIVITIES:** Although admitting that he has had a "cold" relationship with the Catholic Church, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda has paid tribute to the Church for improving the people's welfare.

**CALL TO DOUBLE AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL AID:** Cardinal Edward Cassidy launched Fr Bruce Duncan's paper, 'Ending Hunger: How far can we go', in Melbourne. The paper, commissioned by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council calls Australia to double our International Aid.

**ACSJC STATEMENT MARKS JUBILEE SUNDAY:** Throughout the world, Jubilee Sunday (26 June) offers Christians the opportunity to remember their Jubilee Year commitment and to act and pray for the people of our world who are burdened by debt.

**SENATE BIDS FAREWELL TO HARRADINE:** The Senate bade farewell to Brian Harradine - the senator from Tasmania who played hardball with both Labor and the Coalition.

**GELDOF WANTS POPE AT G8 SUMMIT:** Bob Geldof, the rock-star-turned anti-poverty campaigner, called on Pope Benedict to visit July's G8 summit to add his voice to the throng of people who will be calling for action to help Africa.

**THE WORLD MUST NOT FORGET BHUTANESE REFUGEES:** Bhutanese refugees are among the hardest-hit refugees in China. The desperate situation facing around 100,000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal was highlighted by the head of the Jesuit Refugee Service on World Refugee Day.

**BISHOPS DENOUNCE ZIMBABWE "CLEAN-UP":** Heads of the Catholic Church in Zimbabwe issued a pastoral letter, saying that President Robert Mugabe's clampdown on street traders and shack dwellers "cries out for vengeance to God".

**BENEDICT XVI ASKS FOR WORLDWIDE SOLIDARITY TO ALLEVIATE SUFFERING :** Pope Benedict XVI renewed the Church's call for a worldwide solidarity as a challenge to alleviate the suffering of its people and asked for a more equitable sharing of the riches of the planet.

**VATICAN CALLS FOR PASTORAL REFLECTION ON "WOMEN OF THE STREET":** Rome hosted the first international pastoral meeting for the liberation of "women of the street."

**DIRECTOR OF EDMUND RICE CALLS GOV'T MORALITY 'QUESTIONABLE':** The underlying morality of the Howard Government ought now to be regarded as questionable and a full judicial inquiry into the Department of Immigration is now essential, according to the executive director of the Edmund Rice Centre.

**VATICAN PRAISES G-8 DECISION TO CANCEL DEBT:** The Vatican hailed an agreement by the world's richest nations to cancel \$40 billion of debt owed by some of the world's poorest countries, but said the move should be followed by an increase in development aid.

**LAUNCH OF MARY POTTER TRUST FOUNDATION:** The Mary Potter Trust Foundation, established by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary in Australia to further the assistance they provide to the marginalised in contemporary society, was launched in Sydney.

**COMMISSION SPEAKS OUT AGAINST DETENTION INDIGNITY:** The head of the Commission for Australian Catholic Women has said she is appalled that male prison officers are able to view female detainees in a special unit at the Baxter Immigration Detention Centre in South Australia.

**ADELAIDE ARCHBISHOP BLESSES MURRAY RIVER:** Archbishop Philip Wilson blessed the River Murray, as South Australians braced for what may be one of their driest winters on record.

**PELL PLEA FOR FALUN GONG DETAINEE:** Cardinal George Pell has appealed for asylum for a Chinese Falun Gong convert who faces deportation from Australia.

**VINNIES CONTINUES TO ARGUE CASE FOR BOTTOM 10%:** The St Vincent de Paul Society has hit back at strong criticism from the Centre for Independent Studies, of its recent paper *The Reality of Income Inequality in Australia*.

**ARCHBISHOP BLAMES DROUGHT DESPAIR FOR SUICIDE INCREASE:** Bishops Conference President Archbishop Francis Carroll has expressed alarm at the fact that a number of farmers in his Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese have taken their lives because of the worsening drought.

**CARITAS BEGINS PNG RELIEF PROGRAM:** Caritas Australia is embarked upon a joint effort with the Archdiocese of Madng to implement the Manam Island Relief Program, which follows last year's devastating volcanic eruptions that forced the evacuation of 11,000 people.

**VINNIES SAYS SENATOR PATTERSON IS "IN DENIAL":** The St Vincent de Paul Society has reacted to Family and Community Services Minister Kay Patterson's denial of its research paper claims about the growing gap between rich and poor, by saying that she is "in denial", and responding in a "mischievous" manner.

**EDMUND RICE CENTRE BRANDS INVASIVE MARKET RESEARCH UNETHICAL:** Advertisers must be scrutinised for increasingly sophisticated techniques that invade the brains of consumers and rendering the poor and 'rationally disadvantaged' more vulnerable to manipulation, according to an analysis in the Edmund Rice Centre's *Good Business* newsletter.

**BISHOP HITS BACK AT MINISTER'S CLAIMS ON IR REFORMS:** Parramatta Diocese Bishop Kevin Manning has reacted swiftly to the claim of Federal Workplace Relations Minister Kevin Andrews that the Government's new industrial relations legislation is "in line with Christian principles".

- courtesy Church Resources' *CathNews*, stories in detail at <http://www.cathnews.com/news/506>

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## **JULY SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR - JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS**

Through the United Nations, the denial of human rights of Indigenous peoples is now internationally recognised. Genuine equality for indigenous citizens requires active recognition and acknowledgement of their unique identity and cultural heritage. The Indigenous peoples of Australia have a unique status as the 'first peoples' of this land. The principles of self-determination offer a way forward for Australian Indigenous peoples.

Indigenous Australians are still the most gravely disadvantaged group in the national population, and many levels of disadvantage continue to worsen rather than improve.

**EDUCATION:** only 38% of Indigenous students complete high school, compared with over 76.3% of non-Indigenous students.

**EMPLOYMENT:** 20% of Indigenous people are unemployed, approximately three times higher than the rate for other Australians.

**HOUSING:** Of 4000 Indigenous homes surveyed in 1998-1999 in the Northern Territory, only 13% had functioning water, waste, cooking and cleaning facilities.

**HEALTH:** Indigenous peoples' life expectancy is 20 years less than non-Indigenous; infant mortality rate is about twice as high.

**PRISON INCARCERATION:** Consistently since 1999, Indigenous peoples have constituted approximately 20% of the prison population, although they are only 3% of the total population.

**INDIGENOUS DEATHS IN CUSTODY:** Despite some improvements, Indigenous deaths in custody over the past decade still represent 18% of all deaths in custody. In 2000-2003, it was 20%.

**LAND RIGHTS:** Despite the decisions of Mabo and Wik, the nature of land ownership and the control of resources are still being disputed. Determination of claims through the court system is criticised because of its high cost and disadvantages for Indigenous claimants.

### **ACTION**

To promote reconciliation and maintain awareness of and respect for the dignity of Indigenous peoples, always acknowledge traditional peoples at every meeting or gathering.

Suggested words of acknowledgement of traditional peoples:

I would like to acknowledge the \_\_\_\_\_ people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand.

This acknowledgement could be said together:

We acknowledge and pay respect to the \_\_\_\_\_ people as the original and ongoing owners and custodians of this land. We commit ourselves to actively work for reconciliation and justice alongside Indigenous people.

## **RECONCILIATION**

The relationship between Indigenous and other Australians has been wounded by injustice and misunderstanding. There is widespread acknowledgement in the community of the need for national reconciliation, so that the relationship can be healed and a better future together built.

Reconciliation requires conversion, a change of heart expressed in new ways of behaving.

### **JULY 3 ABORIGINAL SUNDAY & BEGINNING OF NAIDOC WEEK**

Aboriginal Sunday is a time for celebration of a unique and beautiful culture and a time to recognize that much still has to happen in our nation for true recognition of that culture and for a real and lasting justice for all people. Within the framework of celebration and our faith, let us bring together all peoples to once again unite in the struggle to recognise, affirm and celebrate Australia's Indigenous peoples and culture. We cannot afford to let the efforts of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation fade into the distance before any real and lasting change has been effected, the struggle must continue.

- Vicki Walker, NATSICC Chairperson, Aboriginal Sunday 2003

### **PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION**

*In the midst of conflict and division,*

*We know it is you*

*Who turns our minds to thoughts of peace.*

*Your spirit changes our hearts:*

*Enemies begin to speak to one another,*

*Those who were estranged join hands in friendship,*

*And nations seek the way of peace together.*

*Let your spirit be at work in us.*

*Give us understanding and put an end to strife,*

*Fill us with mercy and overcome our denial,*

*Grant us wisdom and teach us to learn*

*From the people of the land.*

*Call us to justice.*

- ACSJC Prayer Card

### **WEBSITES**

· Site for identifying the traditional peoples of local areas:

<http://www.foundingdocs.gov.au/pathways/>

· ANTaR <http://www.antar.org.au>

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