



## No. 93 – August 2008

*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,

Refugee and asylum seeker advocates have welcomed the Federal Government announcement of the restriction of the use of detention as a major step towards restoring human dignity and humane treatment to Australia's defective immigration system.

#### The Immigration Minister's announcement

On Tuesday 29 July, Senator Chris Evans announced a range of reforms to the immigration detention system, limiting the use of immigration detention centres - making detention 'a last resort and for the shortest practicable time'. While mandatory detention will be retained under the reforms, the Minister says 'a person who poses no danger to the community will be able to remain in the community while their visa status is resolved.'

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship will now take a 'risk-based approach' to detention. The Department will have to justify why a person should be detained and, once in detention, a detainee's case will be reviewed every three months.

The statement says that mandatory detention will remain for three groups of people:

- Unlawful non-citizens who present unacceptable risks to the community and people who have repeatedly refused to comply with their visa conditions.
- Unauthorised boat arrivals at excised places - for the period needed for health, identity and security checks.
- Unauthorised boat arrivals at excised places will continue to be processed on Christmas Island but will now have access to legal assistance and an independent review of unfavourable decisions.

The Ministerial Statement can be accessed at:  
<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/media-releases/2008/ce08072.htm>

A related address by Senator Evans to a Centre for International and Public Law seminar is available at: <http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/speeches/2008/ce080729.htm>

#### Responses from Church and community groups

Bishop Joseph Grech, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference spokesman on immigration issues, welcomed the announcement and said this represented an important day for Australia. 'The new risk-based detention policy will do much to restore balance to the treatment of asylum seekers in this country so that people who pose a low risk can live in the community while their claims are being tested, rather than being locked up indefinitely.

'This is something we have called for over many years and is a more humane way of dealing with people who arrive in Australia, often from desperate situations in other countries, seeking our protection,' he said.

The Bishop made particular mention of the onus being shifted to the Department to justify why a person should be detained and of the Minister's commitment that children will not be detained in immigration detention centres.

‘The reforms announced today will go a long way towards creating a system which meets Australia’s international humanitarian obligations towards asylum seekers while retaining enough checks and balances to ensure the integrity of Australia’s immigration program,’ said Bishop Grech. (refer: <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bc/famlife/200807291877.htm>)

In welcoming the Minister’s announcement, the Edmund Rice Centre commented on previous arrangements. Mr Phil Glendenning said the practice of mandatory indefinite detention ‘has been used to deter asylum seekers from coming to Australia, to “persuade” those who did arrive to go away, often back to situations of extreme fear and death for them and their families and to punish those who tried to stay despite the persuasions.’

He noted the serious damage done to helpless people during the 15 years of this policy. ‘We know of people who were pushed and cajoled and actually forced to return to situations where they and their families continue to live in fear and hiding, where they have disappeared, where their children have been killed. We have particularly serious concerns for rejected asylum seekers who were sent back to Afghanistan and are now living in danger in that country.’

Responding to the reforms, Mr Glendenning said that there must be a low upper limit on the period of detention for health, identity and security checks and that this limit should be declared by Government and adhered to by the Department. (refer: <http://www.cathnews.com/article.aspx?aeid=8318>)

The Refugee Council of Australia said the announcement continued a process of reform which began in 2005 after the inquiries sparked by the horrendous circumstance endured by many, including Cornelia Rau and Vivian Salon.

‘While we are disappointed that the Rudd Government is retaining its policies of mandatory detention and the excision of offshore islands from the migration zone, we welcome the practical changes aimed at reducing the human cost of these policies’, said Refugee Council CEO Paul Power.

‘By removing the punitive nature of previous detention arrangements for asylum seekers and giving higher priority to maintaining our nation’s treaty obligations, today’s announcements will help in the restoration of Australia’s reputation as a nation which respects human rights,’ he said. (refer: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/media.html>)

## Reflecting on the past injustices of mandatory detention

In its submission to the recent Joint Standing Committee inquiry into immigration detention, the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council noted the longstanding opposition by the Catholic Church in Australia to the mandatory detention arrangements of Australia’s immigration policy.

This opposition has been expressed in the words and tireless work of the Bishops Conference and its organisations, the Religious Orders, parish communities, service delivery agencies and lay organisations. The Church’s concerns in this area are perhaps best expressed in the Bishops’ Statement of 2004 which can be accessed at: <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bc/famlife/2004051418.htm>

All asylum seekers, even those who are not entitled to refugee status, must be treated humanely. They are entitled to protection against further despair and psychological harm. Those seeking protection are entitled to humane treatment and a quick determination of their status.

The prolonged detention of asylum seekers and sending them to offshore camps conflicts with our nation’s moral and legal responsibilities. Far too often, people in such places sink into despair and mental illness as they wait for a decision. People should be released into the community following the minimum time necessary for security and health checks, identity checks and lodgement of applications for visas.

This is a time for hope that human rights and dignity will be restored to Australia’s immigration system and that the necessary legislative amendments will not be blocked in the Senate.

It is a time of thanks and celebration for a policy announcement that makes worthwhile the years of advocacy and practical assistance given to the cause of justice for refugees and asylum seekers.

It is also a time for remembering those who have suffered. In the words of the national lobby group, *A Just Australia*, it is time for ‘a moment of silence’:

‘And while we celebrate this change, we need to take a moment to remember those for whom the changes did not come soon enough. The hundreds of children whose innocent lives were ripped apart, the adults who went catatonic and had to be hospitalised, those who sewed their lips together in silent protest, the decent officers who tried to

make a difference, the nurses and doctors who tried to provide healthcare, the community leaders who spoke out, the university students who ran the freedom bus trips, the advocates who put their lives on hold and became traumatised themselves.

Wherever you are, take a moment of silence to remember....’

John Ferguson  
National Executive Officer



## Current Issues / Resources

### WORLD YOUTH DAY

For transcripts, photo coverage and other downloadable resources of the wonderful WYD08 events, visit: <http://www.wyd2008.org> and <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au>

### GETUP! PETITION - ‘END MANDATORY DETENTION’

GetUp! has a petition calling for changes that will ensure immigration detention meets the following principles: immigration detention should not be mandatory; it should be used only for legitimate necessary purposes; it should have clear time limits with public and legal scrutiny; it should have all the ordinary standards expected by the rule of law; it should ensure those in detention can access all necessary legal and welfare services. To find out more about the petition, visit: <http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/EndMandatoryDetention&id=365>

### MIGRANT & REFUGEE WEEK RESOURCE - ‘YOUNG MIGRANTS: A GIFT TO AUSTRALIA’

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office has produced a parish kit for Migrant & Refugee Week (25 - 31 August). The kit offers guidelines of reflection and suggestions for celebrations in parishes and communities for every day of the week leading up to Migrant and Refugee Sunday on 31 August. Monsignor John Murphy, Director of ACMRO, says ‘the inspiration behind the project has been the Pope’s Message for 2008 World Day for Migrant and Refugees... We hope we are offering a valid resource to help us acknowledge, value and celebrate the diverse and cultural richness with which the Australian Nation and the Catholic Church in Australia are both being graced.’ For further information and to access a copy, visit <http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au> or call (02) 6201 9848

### IMMIGRATION DETENTION UNDER REVIEW

The Joint Standing Committee on Migration has received submissions to the inquiry into immigration detention in Australia. These submissions will soon be posted on the Joint Standing Committee webpage: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/detention/subs.htm>

### CALL FOR CONSISTENT STANCE ON THE DEATH PENALTY

Fr Frank Brennan SJ, professor of law at the Australian Catholic University, has called on the Federal Government to speak clearly and consistently against the death penalty at a time when the ‘Bali Bombers’ are facing death by firing squad. In an article to *The Age*, Fr Brennan says, ‘As well as the Bali Bombers, there are at present three young Australians on death row in Indonesia. One is Scott Rush, a drug mule. Other Australians in the drug trade will face a similar fate. For their sake we need to put a consistent position on the death penalty now... It is always a question of prudential statesmanship when to intervene in the domestic affairs of other countries. But even when a decision is taken not to intervene to protect the human rights of foreign nationals in another country, a responsible Australian government can still express its view on the appropriate universal values that we espouse in season and out of season.’ To read the article, visit: <http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/a-matter-of-principle-20080729-3mse.html>

### ANTI-POVERTY WEEK 2008: 12-18 OCTOBER

*Anti-Poverty Week* focuses on poverty around the world, including Australia. It includes the UN’s International Anti-Poverty Day, 17 October. The Week’s main aims are to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship and to encourage research, discussion and action. Last year, more than 300 organisations were involved in activities, with a total participation of more than 10,000 people around the country. Everyone is very welcome to organise an activity during the Week or join in something being organised by other people. The website [www.antipovertyweek.org.au](http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au) includes basic fact sheets, promotional material, a calendar of activities and links to other sources of information and ideas. It also includes contact details for the National Office and the Co-Chairs in each State. For more info or to list activities on the website, contact 1300 797 290 or [apw@antipovertyweek.org.au](mailto:apw@antipovertyweek.org.au)

## **NEW BOOK: 'TRAFFICKED'**

*Trafficked*, by Kathleen Maltzahn, tells the story of a rare human rights campaign that succeeded in changing government policy to protect women smuggled into Australia each year to work in the sex trade. In 2003, the Coronial Inquiry into Puongtong Simaplee's 2001 death at the Villawood Detention Centre put the issue of trafficking for prostitution in Australia on the national agenda for the first time. *Trafficked* contains first-person accounts of women like Puongtang, stories that inspired women's groups to make sure trafficked women could no longer be ignored.' For further information visit: <http://www.unswpress.com.au/isbn/9780868409139.htm>

## **FOUR PRINCIPLES THAT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**

The Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission has produced a set of brochures boldly titled: 'Four Principles That Can Change the World'. These brochures cover the principles of 'human dignity and human rights', 'subsidiarity', 'the common good' and 'solidarity'. To download the documents, visit the website of the Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (<http://www.tasjustice.org.au>) or call (03) 6208 6271

## **HEADS OF CHURCHES STATEMENT ON PALESTINE-ISRAEL**

On 4 June at Australian Parliament House, a Heads of Churches Statement on Palestine-Israel was released. Reverend Gregor Henderson, Head

of the Uniting Church of Australia, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, Anglican Primate of Australia, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn and Carolyn Kitto, representing Tim Costello the CEO of World Vision Australia, spoke on the need for a just and sustainable peace for both Palestine and Israel and called on the Australian Government and the Christian community to commit to working for a just and sustainable peace. The Statement was supported and signed by 57 National Heads of Churches, Church Leaders and Church Related International Aid Agencies. For more information, visit <http://icappi.org.au/>

## **SOCIAL POLICY CONNECTIONS**

Social Policy Connections emerged out of discussions among people concerned to bring the social traditions of the churches into engagement with current issues in social policy, particularly to provide a strong voice in social advocacy. SPC does not claim to speak for the churches, but speaks in its own name as an independent organisation inviting serious collaboration among people inspired by Gospel values. In February 2007 SPC opened its office in the St Ignatius Centre behind St Ignatius church in Richmond in Melbourne. SPC has invited paid membership and expanded our networking, especially with like-minded groups and social agencies. Web: <http://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au>.

# 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/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>)*

## **2008 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT - ORDER NOW!**

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled 'A Rich Young Nation: The challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia'. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form and other information/resources are available on the ACSJC website. The easiest way to order is to download the order form, make a credit card payment and fax it to (02) 8306 3498. Refer: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## **PAMPHLET - 'CALLED TO BE THE GOOD NEWS'**

In the lead-up to World Youth Day, the ACSJC issued a pamphlet 'Called to be the Good News', which outlines the key principles of Catholic social teaching. The pamphlet draws on relevant Encyclicals and the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church to highlight the principles of human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity. The document, which includes a prayer, is ideal for Catholic organisations, schools and parish groups. Cost 10 copies for \$1.50 including postage. Call (02) 8306 3499.

## **PASTORAL LETTER - FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2008**

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, entitled, 'Migrant workers in Australia - Our responsibility as a global citizen', considers

the rights and protections Australia should ensure for an increasing number of workers who come to this nation to help meet growing skills shortages in the labour market. Available for download in regular and 'three-column' versions at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2008

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is *The Human Family, A Community of Peace*. The ACSJC discussion guide consists of a brief overview of the Pope's message, some points for reflection and prayer. A helpful resource for group and classroom discussion. Download at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## SERIES PAPER - 'CONFRONTING THE DEATH PENALTY'

The latest paper in the Catholic Social Justice Series consists of four essays by authoritative writers on the moral, legal and personal aspects of the death penalty. It considers capital punishment in the light of the attacks of September 2001, the international 'war on terror' and the moral and political problems thrown up as we see capital punishment rigorously applied in countries close to us. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers & the Social Justice Diary: \$6.60 a copy, plus postage. Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1; 2-3 copies \$1.45; 4-5 copies \$2.45)

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499, fax (02) 8306 3481 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>

# This Month's Notices

**14 MAY - 15 AUGUST. EXHIBITION, 'ABORIGINAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS' (NSW).** Discover the work of Richard Campbell, an accomplished artist, who has been painting for approximately 30 years. He is recognised as one of many Aboriginal artists who work with both contemporary and traditional mediums and symbols. Richard has created 14 beautiful and symbolic paintings entitled 'Aboriginal Stations of the Cross'. Richard's work is on display at the Australian Museum, Indigenous Australians Exhibition, Level G, 6 College Street, Sydney (opposite Hyde Park). For further info contact (02) 9320 6000 or visit [http://www.austmus.gov.au/visiting/whatson/display.cfm?event\\_id=304](http://www.austmus.gov.au/visiting/whatson/display.cfm?event_id=304)

**1 AUGUST. OXFAM TRIVIA NIGHT (WA).** The Bayswater Group is holding a trivia night to raise money for Oxfam Australia's Mining Ombudsman Project. Tables of 6. Cost: \$15 for adults and \$12 for concessions. 7:30pm, Irish Club, 61 Townshend Rd, Subiaco. Email: [cjforsey@iprimus.com.au](mailto:cjforsey@iprimus.com.au); Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/events/wa/>

**2 AUGUST. MARCH AND RALLY 'ABOLISH ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS' (NSW).** Speakers include John Kaye, Greens MLC, John Hallam, People for Nuclear Disarmament Flashpoints Project, and Jessica Morrison, Australian Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Organised

by the Hiroshima Day Committee. 12:30pm, Town Hall Square, Sydney. Contact: (02) 9982 4192 or (02) 9749 0409 for further information. Web: <http://www.hiroshimacommittee.org>

**3 AUGUST. BIBLE GARDEN OPENING (ACT).** This event marks the opening of the Bible Garden, a beautiful landmark on the grounds of the Australian Centre of Christianity and Culture. The Bible Garden features the plants described in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. It provides a setting in which the stories of the Bible may be told, and invokes the atmosphere of the Middle East. The Hon. Sir William Deane will open the Bible Garden at the official ceremony.

**3 AUGUST. MULLUM TO BRUNS RUN & WALK (NSW).** Organised by Mullum to Bruns Incorporated, the inaugural Run and Walk aims to provide opportunities for people to get physically active and for others to compete. All proceeds are given to charities. In 2008 the Mullum to Bruns Incorporated will be fundraising for the Brunswick Valley Rescue Squad and Oxfam Australia, specifically targeting the Indigenous Australia projects. Registration from 7:15am to 8:15am. Please refer to the website for further information. Telephone: (02) 6684 6886; Email: [info@mullumtobrunns.org.au](mailto:info@mullumtobrunns.org.au); Web: [http://www.mullumtobrunns.org.au/event\\_info.html](http://www.mullumtobrunns.org.au/event_info.html)

**3 - 5 AUGUST. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD LABOUR AND CHILD EXPLOITATION (QLD).** Children's Rights International is hosting an International Conference in Cairns. The Conference will evaluate the progress and achievements made in relation to the eradication of the worst forms of child labour and will explore the challenges ahead in securing rights for children in the 21st century and meeting the UN Millennium Goals by 2015. Conference fee: \$880. For program and registration details, visit: <http://www.childjustice.org>

**5 AUGUST. OXFAM AUSTRALIA 'WALK OUR TALK' TRIVIA NIGHT (QLD).**

In addition to trivia, speakers from Oxfam Australia, Green Cross Australia and Carbon Counters will discuss key environmental issues for the present and future, the effects of climate change at local and global scales, ideas to help individuals and businesses to go 'green', and how the Queensland Government is addressing carbon emissions. Tickets: \$5.00. Free admission for children. Includes fair trade tea/coffee, and costs of making the event carbon neutral. Tickets can be purchased on the night. 6:00pm - 8:30pm, MaryMac Centre, 616 Ipswich Rd, Annerley. Contact: 0423 863 512; Email: [kimberleym@oxfam.org.au](mailto:kimberleym@oxfam.org.au); Web: <http://groups.google.com/group/oxfamauq>

**5 AUGUST. UQ UNITES FOR INDIGENOUS CHILD HEALTH (QLD).**

An event to raise awareness of child health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and to give everyone the opportunity to voice their support for health equality, and learn about inspiring initiatives from around Australia to 'Close the Gap' in child and maternal health. Participating organisations include UNICEF, ANTA QLD, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Studies Unit, University of Queensland. 10:00am - 2:00pm, The Grassy Knoll, Campbell Place Courtyard, Salisbury Rd, University of Queensland, St Lucia. Email: [Jessie.wells@uq.edu.au](mailto:Jessie.wells@uq.edu.au); Web: [http://www.uq.edu.au/events/event\\_view.php?event\\_id=4501](http://www.uq.edu.au/events/event_view.php?event_id=4501)

**5 AUGUST. PRISONER'S AID INFORMATION SESSION FOR VOLUNTEERS (ACT).** Prisoners Aid has been assisting prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families since 1963. With the opening of the ACT's new prison in the next 2-3 months, Prisoners Aid is planning a major expansion of their activities. Opportunities and training opportunities for potential volunteers will be covered at the session. Light refreshments will be available from 5:15pm. 5:30pm - 6:30pm, Wesley Church Foyer, 22 National Circuit, Forrest. For further information, call (02) 6257 4866 (morning) or (02) 6251 8721 (evening).

**6 AUGUST. SEMINAR: 'CLOSING THE GAP? MONITORING TRENDS IN INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS' LIFE EXPECTANCY' (ACT).**

Len Smith of the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute will review the policy commitment to narrow the 17-year gap between the life expectancy of Indigenous Australians and that of the total population, and to report annually on progress. 12.30 to 2.00pm, Humanities Conference Room, First Floor, A.D. Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), The Australian National University, Canberra. For more information contact (02) 6125 0587 or [admin.caepr@anu.edu.au](mailto:admin.caepr@anu.edu.au) Web: <http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/events08.php>

**6 AUGUST. LECTURE: 'ONE WORLD, ONE DREAM: WILL THE BEIJING OLYMPICS CHANGE CHINA?' (TAS).** With the Olympic Games opening in Beijing this week, Dr Haiqing Yu looks at the lead up to the Games in China. A second lecture presented by Dr Mark Harrison after the Games, followed by a panel discussion chaired by Dr Haiqing Yu, will review their impact. The details of the second lecture will be available shortly. Free entry. 5:30pm, Law Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. Email: [sals.admin@utas.edu.au](mailto:sals.admin@utas.edu.au); Web: <http://www.utas.edu.au/events/whatson.html>

**6 AUGUST. HIROSHIMA DAY MORNING VIGIL (VIC).**

Organised by the Medical Association for Prevention of War (Victoria Branch) supported by Pax Christi and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Please gather on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral. 7:00am - 9:00am, St Paul's Cathedral, cnr Swanston and Flinders Streets. Telephone: (03) 8344 1737; Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/files/downloads/Hiroshima%20poster.pdf>

**6 AUGUST. FORUM: 'SENSE AND SENSIBILITY: THE KEY TO CATHOLIC AND ISLAMIC CO-EXISTENCE IN THE FUTURE' (ACT).** Federal Liberal MP and Shadow Minister for Justice and Border Protection, Christopher Pyne will be the speaker at the next St Thomas Forum. 7.30-9.00pm, St Thomas More School Hall, 30 White Crescent, Campbell ACT. Web reference: <http://www.cathnews.com/article.aspx?aeid=8333>

**7 AUGUST. SEMINAR: 'CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE PACIFIC' (NSW).**

Climate change is a daily reality in the Pacific, with devastating consequences for many Pacific Islands people. This event will feature experiences and stories of three voices from affected communities. Speakers include Aisake Casimira, Ecumenical Animator with the Pacific Conference of Churches, Akii Neneia Taratiera, Pacific Calling Partnership,

and Sulufaiga Uota. Organised by the Edmund Rice Centre. Free admission. 6:00pm - 8:00pm, Wesley Church, Wesley Mission, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney. Web: <http://www.erc.org.au/>

**7 AUGUST. MAPW HIROSHIMA DAY LECTURE: 'NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OTHER CHEERFUL THINGS- A MESSAGE OF HOPE' (ACT).** The world is threatened not only by climate change but also by 26,000 nuclear weapons, many still on high-alert and at risk of accidental launch. The talk will be presented from a Christian perspective, and will focus on the Australian-initiated International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN, the recent cluster munitions treaty, and the arms fair that is to open in Adelaide on Remembrance Day. Speaker: Dr Susan Wareham OAM, National President of MAPW. 7:00pm, Chapel, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton. Contact: (02) 6272 6201; Web: <http://www.acc-c.org.au/>

**7 AUGUST. SONS OF KORAH TOUR (ACT).** The internationally acclaimed Australian band Sons of Korah are joining with Bible Society NSW in August to launch their new album and raise funds for the children of Rwanda through the Society's 'Hands for Hope' project. Cost: \$20 each or \$50 for families. Tickets will be sold at the door. 7:30pm, Belconnen Baptist Church, cnr Dallachy and MacAdams Sts, Page. Telephone: (02) 9888 6588; Web: [www.biblesocietynsw.com.au/events/sok\\_album](http://www.biblesocietynsw.com.au/events/sok_album)

**9 AUGUST. HIROSHIMA RALLY FOR PEACE AND JAPANESE FOR PEACE CONCERT (VIC).** Organised by Nuclear Free Australia, the rally will commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and opposition to the nuclear industry. Themes include No Uranium Mining, No War, Nuclear Weapons, and No Nuclear Waste Dumps. The rally will begin at 1:00pm at the State Library, Victoria. This will be followed by the Japanese For Peace Concert at Melbourne Town Hall. Tickets: Adults \$15, Concessions: \$10, free admission for carers of people with disabilities. 3:00pm - 5:00pm, Melbourne Town Hall, cnr Swanston and Collins Streets, Melbourne. Email: [jfp@hotmail.com.jp](mailto:jfp@hotmail.com.jp); Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/peace-concert-2008>

**9 AUGUST. INTRODUCING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING (VIC).** Introducing Catholic Social Teaching will examine what Catholic Social Teaching is, its sources, major principles, and how it can help us to live a faith that does justice. Presented by Sandie Cornish, Loyola Institute. Suggested donation \$50, no cost to people involved

in the work of the province. All day from 9:00am, Champion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, 99 Studley Park Road, Kew. For further information, please contact: (02) 8918 4152 or email: [Loyola@loyola.org.au](mailto:Loyola@loyola.org.au); Web: [http://loyola.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=46&Itemid=71](http://loyola.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=46&Itemid=71)

**10 AUGUST - 23 AUGUST. EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IMMERSIONS: BROOME (WA).** This journey to the north-west coast of Western Australia gives participants an amazing opportunity to engage with some of the richness of Indigenous Australia, as well as the beauty of the awesome landscapes in this part of the world. We are privileged to be hosted by traditional owners of the region, and to be able to camp in Minyirr Park, literally alongside the spectacular Cable Beach. Participants will engage in a range of experiences and activities while gaining real insights into some of the issues, struggles and successes of Aboriginal people. Cost for participants departing from Perth: \$2200 (unwaged), \$2700 (waged) or \$2900 (employer sponsored). Please contact the Immersions Co-ordinator on (08) 9432 2411 or email: [immersions@erisj.org.au](mailto:immersions@erisj.org.au) for pricing information if your departure point is not from Perth. Web: <http://www.erisj.org.au>

**10 AUGUST. USING THE PASTORAL SPIRAL (VIC).** Using the Pastoral Spiral introduces the Pastoral Spiral methodology as an Ignatian way of engaging in pastoral planning and social justice action. Presented by Sandie Cornish, Loyola Institute. Suggested donation \$50, no cost to people involved in the work of the province. All day from 9:00am, Champion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, 99 Studley Park Road, Kew. For further information, please contact: (02) 8918 4152 or email: [Loyola@loyola.org.au](mailto:Loyola@loyola.org.au); Web: [http://loyola.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=46&Itemid=71](http://loyola.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=46&Itemid=71)

**12 AUGUST. EDMUND RICE BUSINESS ETHICS INITIATIVE BREAKFAST (NSW).** Business needs to make a profit but not at the cost of damaging people, communities or the environment. The purpose of the Business Ethics Initiative Breakfast is to encourage organisations to take a more proactive stance to ensure that the benefits they confer on communities and the environment become and remain a central priority. Speaker: Peter Holmes à Court, CEO of the Australian Agricultural Company, a director of Queensland Rail, and a director of Viocorp International. Tickets: \$40, ERBEI members \$25. Bookings close on August 7th. 7:15am - 8:50am, Gilbert + Tobin,

2 Park Street, Sydney. Contact: (02) 9475 9728 or [marisab@erc.org.au](mailto:marisab@erc.org.au). Web: <http://www.erc.org.au/>

**13 AUGUST. SEMINAR: 'SAVING AND STRENGTHENING CDEP' (ACT).** Will Sanders (Senior Fellow, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research) will defend the Community Development Employment Programme from its critics who say that it is little better than Aboriginal welfare dependence. The CDEP has many strengths; most notably its flexibility and support for Indigenous community-based organisations, particularly in remote areas. This seminar will consider how the scheme can be improved. 12.30 to 2.00pm, Humanities Conference Room, First Floor, A.D. Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), The Australian National University, Canberra. For more information contact (02) 6125 0587 or [admin.caep@anu.edu.au](mailto:admin.caep@anu.edu.au) Web: <http://www.anu.edu.au/caep/events08.php>

**14 AUGUST. SEMINAR: 'PROTECTING US FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL: JUDICIAL AND NON-JUDICIAL DETENTION IN AUSTRALIA' (NSW).** Speaker: Professor Frances Dominello, Department of Law, Macquarie University. Free entry. 1:00pm - 3:00pm, Trevor Martin Moot Court, Building W3A, Room 328, Balaclava Rd, North Ryde. Telephone: (02) 9850 4236; Email: [lisa.ford@law.mq.edu.au](mailto:lisa.ford@law.mq.edu.au); Web: <http://www.pr.mq.edu.au/events/index.asp?ItemID=3426>

**15 AUGUST. TIMOR-LESTE VISION QUIZ NIGHT (WA).** Timor-Leste Vision is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation which is raising funds for the people of Ainaro, Timor-Leste. All proceeds of the quiz night will go towards the renovation of the St Louis Gongaza Boarding College and the Villa Maria Community Centre in Ainaro. Cost: \$15 per person or \$120 for a table of eight. Bar is available for drinks. No BYO. Bring along snacks to nibble. Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. Mt Lawley Bowling Club, cnr of Storthes St and Rookwood St, Mt Lawley. For bookings, please call 0407 195 555 or email: [Joanne@tlv.org.au](mailto:Joanne@tlv.org.au). Web: <http://www.tlv.org.au/events.asp>

**15 AUGUST. INTRODUCING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING (NSW).** Introducing Catholic Social Teaching will examine what Catholic Social Teaching is, its sources, major principles, and how it can help us to live a faith that does justice. Presented by Sandie Cornish, Loyola Institute. Suggested donation \$50, no cost to people involved in the work of the province. All day from 9:00am, Canisius Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, 102 Mona Vale Road, Pymble. For further information, please contact: (02) 8918 4152 or email: [Loyola@loyla.org.au](mailto:Loyola@loyla.org.au); Web: <http://loyola.org.au/index>.

[http://www.erc.org.au/php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=46&Itemid=71](http://www.erc.org.au/php?option=com_content&task=view&id=46&Itemid=71)

**16 AUGUST. COMMUNITY DEMOCRACY CONFERENCE (NSW).** Hosted by Wollongong Against Corruption (WAC), this state-wide inaugural Community Democracy Conference will bring together community activists, interested citizens and community groups from across NSW to chart a new direction for community rights and empowerment in local communities. Keynote speakers include John Hatton, Jack Munday and John Mant. Bookings by August 12 essential as seats are limited. Cost: \$40 (waged) or \$20 (unwaged). Includes morning/afternoon tea and lunch. 10:00am - 6:00pm, Fraternity Club, Bourke Street and Princes Hwy, Fairy Meadow. Telephone: 0412 464 055. Web: <http://www.wollongongagainstcorruption.org.au>

**18 AUGUST - 20 AUGUST. NATIONAL CONFERENCE: ASSOCIATIONS OF CHILDRENS WELFARE AGENCIES CONFERENCE (NSW).** Local, interstate and international speakers will present research, expert practice and policy initiatives on themes including the impact of social disadvantage and social exclusion on children, youth and families, and enhancing safety and wellbeing for children, youth and families with high needs. The deadline for the receipt of postal pre-registrations is August 4. For online pre-registrations, the deadline is August 11. The conference will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. For registration costs and further information, please refer to the website. Telephone: (02) 9254 5000; Email: [info@acwa08.com](mailto:info@acwa08.com) or [registration@acwa08.com](mailto:registration@acwa08.com); Web: <http://www.acwa08.com/>

**19 AUGUST. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'THE MANY FACES OF THE INTERNATIONAL WAR ON TERRORISM' (VIC).** The 'war on terrorism' has been waged globally since 9/11. Yet it has many faces, domestic and international, legal and political. Even experts often fail to define terrorism, finding it a challenge to distinguish terrorism from ordinary crimes. The public at large tends to confuse the fighting in Afghanistan or Iraq with terrorist attacks in Bali or London. This lecture will try to unravel the intertwined threads of the on-going struggle against terrorism. Speaker: Professor Yoram Dinstein, Professor Emeritus, Tel Aviv University. Free event, but RSVP essential to: [law-rvsp@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:law-rvsp@unimelb.edu.au) with 'Dinstein' in the subject line. Enquiries: (03) 3 8344 1153; Email: [d.costello@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:d.costello@unimelb.edu.au); Web: [http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/events/Jacobson 2008.pdf](http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/events/Jacobson%2008.pdf)

**21 AUGUST. PEACE AT THE PORT (SA).** The event is being held to commemorate the International Day of Peace, beginning with a short peace walk around various historical sites in Port Adelaide. This will be followed by the planting of a 'Peace Tree'. A community discussion about promoting peace, alternatives to violence, safety and wellbeing in the community will be initiated by members from the Medical Association for the Prevention of War. Refreshments and participation is free of charge. The event will commence and finish at St Paul's Church Hall. 2:00pm - 5:00pm, St Paul's Church Hall, 1 Church Place, Port Adelaide. Telephone: (03) 8344 1637; Email: [mapw@mapw.org.au](mailto:mapw@mapw.org.au); Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/peace-port>

**22 AUGUST. USING THE PASTORAL SPIRAL (NSW).** Using the Pastoral Spiral introduces the Pastoral Spiral methodology as an Ignatian way of engaging in pastoral planning and social justice action. Presented by Sandie Cornish, Loyola Institute. Suggested donation \$50, no cost to people involved in the work of the province. All day from 9:00am, Canisius Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, 102 Mona Vale Road, Pymble. Telephone: (02) 8918 4152 or email: [Loyola@loyla.org.au](mailto:Loyola@loyla.org.au); Web: [http://loyola.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=46&Itemid=71](http://loyola.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=46&Itemid=71)

**23 AUGUST. OXFAM WALK AGAINST WANT ALBURY-WODONGA (NSW).** Walkers will meet at Rotoract Park where they can enjoy a coffee or grab a sausage from the local rotary club. They then will walk to the Noreuil Park by about 1pm where they will be able to enjoy light entertainment and relax after the walk. 10:00am, Rotoract Park, Urana Road. To register, email: [tristan.williams@vispace.com.au](mailto:tristan.williams@vispace.com.au); Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/walk/wheretowalk/nsw/>

**25 - 31 AUGUST. MIGRANT & REFUGEE WEEK (NATIONAL).** The theme of Migrant and Refugee Week is 'Young Migrants: A Gift to Australia'. To find out more about this week and get information about how your parish can participate in the prayer and celebration of this week, visit <http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au> or call (02) 6201 9848

**26 AUGUST. PUBLIC SEMINAR: BOUMEDIENE V BUSH 2008 (NSW).** Dr James Renwick, Barrister, Selbourne Chambers and Fulbright Scholar, and Professor Geoffrey Garratt, CEO of the United States Studies Centre, Sydney University, will reflect on the controversial legal policy issue of the United States' detention centre at Guantanamo Bay and the reasons for persisting with the military commission concept, in the face of strong legal opposition at home and abroad. Hosted by the

Sydney Centre for International Law, Sydney University. Seminar is free, but please RSVP to: [law.scil@usyd.edu.au](mailto:law.scil@usyd.edu.au). 5:30 - 6:45pm, Minter Ellison Room, Level 13, Law School, 173-175 Phillip Street, Sydney. Web: <http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/scil/events.html>

**29 - 30 AUGUST. SONS OF KORAH TOUR (TAS).** The internationally acclaimed Australian band Sons of Korah will be bringing their unique musical interpretations of the Psalms to Tasmania, to support The Bible Society.

HOBART: Tickets: Adults: \$10, Full-Time Students: \$5, Family: \$25.

29 August, 7:30pm, CityLight Church, 150 Redwood Rd Kingston.

LAUNCESTON: Tickets: Adults: \$10, Full-Time Students: \$5, Family: \$25.

30 August, 7:30pm, Tailrace Centre, 1 Waterfront Drive Trevallyn.

BURNIE: 31 August, 6:30pm, Burnie City Life Centre, 30 Main Rd, Wivenhoe.

An offering will be collected to cover costs and support Bible Work.

Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/whatson.html>

**30 AUGUST. SEMINAR: 'THE CHURCH? THE STATE? THE MEDIA?' (ACT).** This seminar hosted by St Ninian's Uniting Church Social Action Group will consider who sets the nation's social justice agenda. Cost: \$20 full, \$30 for two at the same address, \$15 Concession. 9.30am - 3.30pm, St Ninian's Uniting Church, Cnr Mouat & Brigalow Sts, Lyneham, ACT. For Registration and further info contact (02) 6251 2272, (02) 6254 2961 or [jashaw@actewagl.net.au](mailto:jashaw@actewagl.net.au), [mccconnell@ffdlr.org.au](mailto:mccconnell@ffdlr.org.au)

**27 SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 18. ERISJ IMMERSION: TIMOR LESTE (INTERNATIONAL).** The Timor-Leste immersion promises to be an incredible journey into the life of the Timorese people and the resilient culture which has endured so much in recent years. As Australia's nearest northern neighbour, and a newly independent nation, there is so much to engage with from a social justice and human rights perspective. The ERISJ has built strong links with various communities that will be hosting us during this time. Participants will have opportunities to live with local people and engage in the daily life of the villages we visit. Cost for participants departing from Perth: \$2200 (unwaged), \$2600 (waged) or \$2900 (employer sponsored). Please contact the Immersions Co-ordinator on (08) 9432 2411 or email: [immersions@erisj.org.au](mailto:immersions@erisj.org.au) for pricing information if your departure point is not from Perth. Web: <http://www.erisj.org.au>

**12 - 18 OCTOBER. ANTI-POVERTY WEEK (NATIONAL).** Anti-Poverty Week focuses on poverty around the world, including Australia. The major aims of the week are to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship, and to encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems. Last year, over 300 organisations and more than 10,000 people were involved in activities across the country. Everyone is welcome to organise

activities or join in something being organised by other people. The activities can be large or small, and activities at local levels are especially welcome. Please refer to the website for basic fact sheets, promotional material, a calendar of activities, and links to other sources for information and ideas. Telephone: 1300 797 290; Email: [apw@antipovertyweek.org.au](mailto:apw@antipovertyweek.org.au); Web: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au>

## News Monitor

### **Higher Medicare thresholds to hurt families: CHA warns Rudd**

Catholic Health Australia warned Prime Minister Kevin Rudd that the Government's move to raise Medicare surcharge levy thresholds will hurt families.

### **Arriving Pope asks young people to go green**

Following a mid-flight media conference in which he exhorted young people to take responsibility for the environment, Pope Benedict arrived in Sydney for World Youth Day.

### **Water a right: Pope**

Pope Benedict backed a "right to water" in a call for national and international solidarity on water related issues.

### **Focus on climate facts: Wilson**

Adelaide Archbishop and ACBC President Philip Wilson says the effects of climate change are clear to pastors in his diocese and that action is needed so "we learn to live in this land".

### **"Carbon poverty" measures welcome: CSSA**

Catholic Social Services and other agencies welcomed a commitment by the Federal Government to ensure that poor people are not adversely impacted by carbon pollution reduction strategies.

### **200,000 more for hospital wait lists: CHA**

Catholic Health Australia warned that tax changes raising the threshold of the health insurance tax

penalty to \$100,000 will force 200,000 people who dropped their health cover back on to public hospital waiting lists.

### **Workers miss real wage increase: Quinlan**

Catholic Social Services head, Frank Quinlan, says July's \$21.66 Federal Minimum Wage increase will merely cover recent CPI increases for minimum wage workers but other workers will receive a much less significant increase.

### **Vatican inaugurates worker safety department**

Vatican Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo blessed the headquarters of the city state's newly created Department of Health and Welfare.

### **Hospital beds need brokering: Catholic Health**

Saying that scores of beds in suburban hospitals go empty each day, Catholic Health Australia CEO Martin Laverty proposed a "brokering service" to ensure better use of available beds.

### **Affluence and punishment in Eureka Prize nominations**

Finalists in this year's Eureka Prize for research on ethics been cited for their work on the moral demands of affluence, in the area of neuroethics and the theory of punishment.

### **Cardijn Community launches**

Leaders and ex-leaders from a range of lay apostolate movements faithful to the Cardijn tradition launched a national network following a conference on community building that concluded over the weekend.



# Social Justice Calendar

**2 SAT** First Indo-Chinese refugees allowed to settle in Australia, 1965

**3 SUN** 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**4 MON** National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day

**6 WED** The Transfiguration (Solemnity)  
Hiroshima Day, 1945

**8 FRI** Mary MacKillop (Feast)  
Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, 1945

**9 SAT** International Day of the World's Indigenous People

**10 SUN** 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**12 TUE** International Youth Day

**15 FRI** Assumption of Mary (Solemnity)  
End of World War II in the Pacific, 1945

**16 SAT** Wave Hill Station, NT, returned to the Gurindji People, 1975

**17 SUN** 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**18 MON** Vietnam Veterans Day

**23 SAT** International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

**24 SUN** 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

**26 TUE** *MV Tampa* rescues 433 asylum seekers from a sinking vessel. Australian Government refuses entry to its shores and sends troops to prevent disembarkation, 2001

**27 WED** Dom Helder Camara died, 1999

**30 SAT** East Timor's Independence Ballot, 1999 - 78.5% of East Timorese vote for independence

**31 SUN** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Refugee & Migrant Sunday

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL** PO Box 7246, Alexandria NSW 2015. Tel: (02) 8306 3499, Fax: (02) 8306 3498, Email: [admin@acsjc.org.au](mailto:admin@acsjc.org.au)  
Website: <http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>. ACSJC Briefing is sent by email at the beginning of each month (except January). To subscribe or unsubscribe, go to the front page of the website Comments and contributions are also welcome.