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From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council,
the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

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Dear Friends,

In these days of Lent, we prepare for Easter through prayer, repentance, almsgiving and re-evaluating our lives. It is a time not just for 'giving things up', but of giving of ourselves to others.

In this year's message for lent, Pope Benedict XVI has drawn his theme from St Paul's Letter to the Romans - 'The justice of God has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ'.

Echoing the words in his recent encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Benedict says that achieving justice means much more than simply rendering to every person his or her due. It is much more than what the law and distributive systems can ensure.

'In order to live life to the full, something more intimate is necessary that can be granted only as a gift: we could say that man lives by that love which only God can communicate since He created the human person in His image and likeness. Material goods are certainly useful and required ... yet "distributive" jus-

tice does not render to the human being the totality of his "due."

Commenting on the cause of injustice, the Holy Father points to the fracturing of humanity's relationship with our God and of the communion we are called to with our brothers and sisters. The unity of transcendent and worldly relationships summed up in Christ's great commandment is damaged by a turning away from others. Against human nature which is 'open to sharing freely', people can become preoccupied with their own wants and needs and place themselves 'above and against others'.

Considering how the world can be freed from the selfish influence and instead be opened to love, Pope Benedict draws on the Hebrew concept of *sedaqah* that links faith in God with social justice.

'*Sedaqah*, in fact, signifies on the one hand full acceptance of the will of the God of Israel; on the other hand, equity in relation to one's neighbour (cf. Ex 20, 12-17), especially the poor, the stranger, the orphan and the widow (cf. Dt 10, 18-19). But the two meanings are linked because giving to the poor for the Israelite is none other than restoring what is owed to God, who had pity on the misery of His people.'

This Season of Lent, the Holy Father calls us to a conversion:

'Conversion to Christ, believing in the Gospel, ultimately means this: to exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and accept one's own need - the need of others and God, the need of His forgiveness and His friendship. ... Thanks to Christ's action, we may enter into the "greatest" justice, which is that of love (cf. Rm 13, 8-10), the justice that recognises itself in every case more a debtor than a creditor, because it has received more than could ever have been expected.

‘Strengthened by this very experience, the Christian is moved to contribute to creating just societies, where all receive what is necessary to live according to the dignity proper to the human person and where justice is enlivened by love.’

Pope Benedict’s message can be accessed at: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict

[xvi/messages/lent/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20091030_lent-2010_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/press_messages/press_messages/20091030_lent-2010_en.html)

May these days of Lent be a time of greater awareness of God’s love for us and our calling to bring this love to the world.

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues / Resources

CARITAS AUSTRALIA - PROJECT COMPASSION '10

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia’s major annual fundraising and education campaign which begins on Ash Wednesday, 17 February and runs until Easter Sunday, 4 April. It is a time to reflect upon the significant issues of poverty, peace, justice and development. ‘Blueprint for a better world’ is this year’s theme for Project Compassion and is inspired by the Millennium Development Goals. For the Church, these goals are not just development objectives for freedom from hunger, for the right to an education and health, for equality and for a sustainable environment; they encompass all that is necessary for our brothers and sisters to realise their human dignity and have life to the full. To find out more about Project Compassion and to make your donation, visit: http://www.caritas.org.au/project_compassion_10/index.html

CATHOLIC BISHOPS GO ONLINE FOR LENT

As Catholics begin to plan their Lenten journey this year, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is calling on people to take up a new and exciting challenge. ‘Instead of just giving up something for Lent, why not take up something as well,’ says ACBC Commission for Mission and Faith Formation Chair, Archbishop John Bathersby. ‘This year we are asking that you consider spending time with friends and family reflecting on the Scriptures that lead us to this joyous celebration of the Church’. The call goes out for people to share their Easter journey with others, in an innovative online

experience called ‘The Reflection’. Twelve Australian Bishops have agreed to participate in this pilot series, and will explore the Sunday Gospels of Lent with participants using a lectio divina model of prayer. ‘The Reflection’ comprises seven short weekly episodes. Website <http://thereflection.vividas.com>

MARY MACKILLOP TO BE CANONISED

The Holy Father announced on 20 February that Blessed Mary MacKillop will become Australia’s first recognised saint on Sunday 17 October. CathNews issued a special edition of its news service covering the announcement and responses around Australia. It can be found at: <http://www.cathnews.com/newsletters/20Feb10.htm>

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY PARISH KIT

The Office for the Participation of Women has produced a Parish Kit for International Women’s Day on 7 March. The Kit is titled ‘The 2015 Challenge’ and takes up the theme of the international day - ‘Empowering women to end poverty by 2015’ - and the challenge of the Millennium Development Goals. This resource is also released in the tenth anniversary year of the Australian Catholic Bishops’ Social Justice Statement in response to the Report ‘Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus’. The kit contains: a letter from Patricia Banister, Chair of the Council for Australian Catholic Women; a letter from the Catholic Bishops of Australia; liturgy and homily notes and prayers of general intercession. Website: <http://www.opw.catholic.org.au/>

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA PAPER

On 10 February, Catholic Social Services Australia launch a comprehensive discussion paper: 'The Social Inclusion Agenda: Where it came from, what it means, and why it matters'. Executive Director, Frank Quinlan said there are many causes of entrenched disadvantage and no single solution. 'To succeed, the social inclusion agenda must embrace a wide range of initiatives including adequate income support, community strengthening projects, early childhood interventions, employment and education programs and more flexible and innovative ways of administering and funding programs and services.' Website: <http://www.catholicsocialservices.org.au/>

POSITION VACANT - YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS OFFICER

The Youth and Young Adults Officer position is based at St Vincent de Paul's NSW State Council Office at Lewisham. The aim is to develop the Society's Youth and Young Adult membership, including the provision of training and support for the spiritual formation of our members and volunteers. Together with qualifications in social science, human services, youth ministry or related field, the successful candidate will possess strong written and oral communication skills, demonstrated organisational skills, training experience and the ability to work both independently and within a team on a wide range of projects aimed at developing membership in this critical area for growth. Full-time position. For a copy of the position description, visit www.vinnies.org.au (NSW Employment) or call (02) 9568 0216. Position closes: COB, Monday, 8 March 2010

RCOA AND AJA JOIN FORCES

On December 14, members of the refugee policy advocacy organisation, A Just Australia (AJA), voted in favour of a motion to merge the AJA campaign with the work of the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA). This motion, proposed by members of the AJA board and supported overwhelmingly by its membership, brings together two of the most significant

independent voices on refugee policy. While RCOA's formal structure remains unchanged, the AJA campaign will be retained by RCOA as a major focus of its public education and advocacy work.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSIONER

In mid-February the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission Cathy Branson QC, welcomed Mr Mick Gooda as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner. Commissioner Gooda is a descendant of the Gangulu people of Central Queensland. He was previously the Chief Executive Officer of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health. Mr Gooda was a member of the Western Australian Premier's Advisory Council on Racial Discrimination and has extensive knowledge of the diversity of circumstance and cultural nuances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Australia. He is the Australian representative on the International Indigenous Council which focuses on healing and addictions. He also has a keen interest in the Lateral Violence Program in Canada and has been working closely with the First Nations people of Canada on the relevance of this program to Australia. (refer: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2010/8_10.html)

MONTHLY BULLETIN: 'GROWING A CULTURE OF PEACE'

The Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice is producing a new monthly bulletin for parish and school newsletters. It focuses on topics connected with peace, ecology and justice, and includes a brief Reflection related to the scripture of the first Sunday of each month, a Fact File, an Action, and a Link to more information. As well as being in Word to copy into bulletins, it is available in pdf format as a handout. To subscribe email pej.cmi@columban.org.au. For further information contact (02) 9352 8021 or annelanyon.cmi@columban.org

Latest Publications

(Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from the ACSJC website [that can be faxed to (02) 8306 3498]: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf)

DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2010

The theme of the Holy Father's message is *If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation*. The ACSJC discussion guide consists of a brief overview of the Pope's message, some points for reflection and prayer. This is an ideal resource for schools and social justice discussion groups. It can be downloaded in pdf or word formats from the ACSJC homepage: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

ORDER NOW! - 2010 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2010 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. It highlights the theme of peace-building as a Christian response to anger and violence in Australian society. The Diary provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included. This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

2009 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT - ORDERS STILL BEING TAKEN

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled 'And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young people and justice'. The ACSJC is still taking orders for the Statement. An order form,

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

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps towards being witnesses to the Gospel.

Call (02) 8306 3499

ACSJC DISCUSSION GUIDE - CARITAS IN VERITATE

The ACSJC Discussion Guide reviews key themes of Pope Benedict's new Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), as well as offering questions for reflection, excerpts for discussion, and prayer. Available in html and pdf formats on the ACSJC website: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

SERIES PAPER - 'WORK AND DIGNITY'

The latest paper in the Catholic Social Justice Series (No. 66) is a collection of the Pastoral Letters for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker that have been issued by the Chairman of the ACSJC each year since 1998. Themes in these letters include the nature of a just wage and the vital link between fair pay and family life; the importance of trade unions in the working life of a society; and the wider significance of work in the community. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

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

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499, fax (02) 8306 3489 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf



This Month's Notices

JANUARY - 28 MAY. EXHIBITION: 'TALKING FAITHS - MY STORY, YOUR STORY, OUR STORY' (VIC). This exhibition documents a project involving young people exploring interfaith issues through a multicultural perspective. Talking Faiths features multimedia representations and photographs of the project and artworks developed by the students as part of their conversations. This exhibition is a part of the Parliament of the World's Religions cultural program. Cost: \$8, children free. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Immigration Museum, Old Customs House, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Contact: 13 11 02. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/talking-faiths-exhibition>.

JANUARY - MARCH. SUDANESE STORIES EXHIBITION (NSW). The Blacktown area has become home for migrants from Sudan; many are newly-arrived refugees from the country's war-torn southern region. While the Sudanese people now living in Blacktown survived, about two million from their nation died in the turmoil and four million were displaced. Here you can see and hear, in the community's own words, how people escaped and lived, often for many years, in refugee camps. 9.30 am to 7.45 pm weekdays. Level 1, Max Webber Library, 61 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown. Contact: 02 9839 6677. Web: <http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/exhibition/sudanestories/>.

DECEMBER 09 ONWARDS. CHILD HEALTH AWARENESS EVENTS: 'SURVIVE PAST FIVE' FIFTH BIRTHDAY PARTIES (NATIONAL). Micah Challenge wants to see a 'Survive past five' 5th Birthday party held in every electorate in Australia before the 2010 federal election, to advocate for child health. 'Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed' Psalm 82:3. Several events have already happened with more to come. Web: <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/fifthbirthdayaction>.

20 FEBRUARY - 19 MARCH. PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: 'THE MEKONG - A RIVER OF LIFE' (VIC). Featuring images of life along

the Mekong river in South East Asia. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne. Contact: www.surveymonkey.com/mekong or 03 9289 9409. Web: http://www.usyd.edu.au/mekong/documents/events/mekong_exhibition_victoria_invitation.pdf.

1 MARCH. FORUM: 'YOUNG PEOPLE, DEMOCRACY AND FAITH' (SA). The Catholic Youth and Young Adults Office is inviting young people to this forum on democracy and its relationship to faith. It will include a presentation by Australian Electoral Commission and reflections from young people. 7.00 pm, Catholic Education Office Conference Centre, Rooms 7 and 8, George Street, Thebarton. Contact: sarah.moffatt@ceo.adl.catholic.edu.au or 08 8301 6866. Web: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/AdelaideYouthMinistry/media/files/4703.pdf>.

3 MARCH. YOUTH HEALTH FORUM: 'YOUTH HOMELESSNESS: EVIDENCE AND APPROACHES FOR WORKING EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER' (NSW). Program includes: dynamics of youth homelessness; recent research findings and policy implications; the effectiveness of intensive case management on high needs young people and placement stability; an overview of effective service provision etc. The chairperson and facilitator for the day is Michael Coffey, CEO, Youth Accommodation Association. Cost: \$25. 9.00 am to 12.30 pm, Lorimer Dods Theatre, Children's Hospital, Westmead. Contact: 02 9845 3338 or kays1@chw.edu.au, RSVP by 1 March. Web: http://www.caah.chw.edu.au/events/yhf_2010-10-03.pdf.

3 MARCH. UNIFEM MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST (VIC). The Breakfast is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the contribution made by women across the globe and to make a contribution to realising and protecting the rights of all women. Speakers: Ms Maxine Morand, Victorian Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development; and Dr Rose

Aderolili, Chief, Human and Social Development Section at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Cost: \$65, concession \$48. 7.00 to 8.45 am, RACV Club, 502 Bourke Street, Melbourne. Contact: Melbourne@unifem.org.au or 0448 388 191. Web: <https://unifemprototype.worldsecuresystems.com/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=55885>.

4 MARCH. IQ2 NUCLEAR ENERGY DEBATE: 'AUSTRALIA SHOULD EMBRACE NUCLEAR POWER' (VIC). Dr James Hansen, US, will debate this vital issue of the use of nuclear energy as an alternative to the use of fossil fuels. Joining him, for the affirmative, will be Dr Ziggy Switkowski, outspoken advocate of nuclear power and Dr Erica Smyth. The negative will consist of Molly Harriss Olson, former Presidential advisor to President Clinton on energy, Dr Mark Diesendorf, world renowned writer on climate change and Adam Morton, The Age. Cost: \$30, concession \$20. 6.30 to 8.30 pm, Melbourne Town Hall, Melbourne. Web: <http://www.iq2oz.com/events/event-details/2010-series-melbourne/01-march.php>.

4 MARCH. UNIFEM BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST (QLD). Speaker: Dr Rose Aderolili, Chief, Human and Social Development Section, United Nations Economic Commission on Africa (UNECA). It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the contribution made by women across the globe and to make a contribution to realising and protecting the rights of all women. Cost: \$48, concession \$40. 6.45 to 8.45 am, Great Hall, Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre. Contact: 07 3324 8848 or gpickers@bigpond.net.au, RSVP by 19 February. Web: <https://unifemprototype.worldsecuresystems.com/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=55883>.

4 MARCH. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'MY DRESS, MY IMAGE, MY CHOICE' (TAS). Speaker, Saara Sabbagh has worked as a youth worker and cross-cultural educator. Her passion is in bringing communities together and creating a better understanding between the Muslim and wider Australian community. This women-only presentation focuses on media and its role in shaping people's perceptions of various communities, particularly minority groups and how the media impacts on the lives of Australian Muslims in both positive and negative ways.

Cost: \$10. 7.30 pm, McNeill Performing Arts Centre, St Michael's Collegiate School, Davey Street, Hobart. Contact: saara@eveconsulting.com.au. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/whatson.html>.

4 MARCH. HALF DAY WORKSHOP: 'THE OCCASIONAL COUNSELLOR' (VIC). This workshop is aimed at those who are not professional counsellors but are called upon to give support to individuals who are distressed, bewildered, angry or confused. This workshop is aimed at introducing the participants to simple, practical strategies for assisting their clients while clearly remaining within their existing role. Speaker: David Cherry, Clinical and Forensic Psychologist. David has been providing training in a range of areas for over 25 years, including teaching in counselling courses at Swinburne and Melbourne University. Cost: \$150. 12.30 to 4.30 pm, Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville. Contact: 03 5427 1378 or david@davidcherry.com.au. Web: <http://www.davidcherry.com.au/index.htm>.

4 - 5 MARCH, 15 - 16 JULY. COURSE: 'EXPLORERS AND MEANING-MAKERS: EDUCATORS ON THE FRONTIER OF MISSION' (NSW). The course is designed to provide key people within Catholic educational systems the opportunity to explore the following: understanding mega-trends (globalism, secularism, and pluralism) impacting on Australian society and call to mission; approaches to experience, culture and Christian tradition in making meaning with and for students, staff and parents; skills to successfully pursue the meaning-making process. Speakers: Drs Therese and Jim D'Orsa, faculty members of the Department of Mission and Culture, Broken Bay Institute. Cost: \$495 - \$1155. Caroline Chisholm Centre, 423 Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills. Contact: 02 9847 0030 or info@bbi.catholic.edu.au. Web: <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au>.

4 - 13 MARCH. MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION: 'BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER WORLD' (NSW). Caritas Australia and AusAID are exhibiting this display around Australia. It highlights the Millennium Development Goals and the promise of world Governments to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Video, photographs, visual installation as well as contributions (such as posters, baskets, school books, read-

ers) from Caritas partner communities make up the installation. No cost. Yamuloong, 71 Prospect Road, Garden Suburb, (Newcastle). Contact: 02 8306 3400. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/Venues/index.html>.

5 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'PRISONS AS A LAST RESORT: THE POTENTIAL FOR REFORM' (NSW). Speakers: Prof Eileen Baldry, UNSW; Greg Smith MP, NSW Shadow Attorney General, Shadow Minister of Justice. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

5 MARCH. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (NATIONAL). The women of Cameroon invite us to come with them to the Land Of Promise, Land Of Glory; to come together with confidence: 'Let Everything That Has Breath, Praise God'. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can come to know how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression. Resources and information about events: <http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/>.

5 MARCH. SERVICE FOR WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (QLD). Inter-denominational, international and multicultural service. Everyone is invited to unite in this world-wide fellowship of prayer and worship. Speaker: King Tshume. 10.00 am, St Paul's Cathedral, William Street, Rockhampton. Web: http://www.rok.catholic.net.au/News/wdop_march_2010.pdf.

5 MARCH. STUDIES OF RELIGION IN FOCUS CONFERENCE: 'THEN AND NOW - THE AUSTRALIAN RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE' (NSW). This is an interfaith initiative to resource teachers in their teaching of Studies of Religion I and II. The conference aims to broaden teachers' understanding and experience through interaction with speakers and academics from different faiths. It is presented by Affinity Intercultural Foundation. Cost: \$70. 8.45 am to 3.30 pm, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: info@affinity.org.au or 02 9702 0789, registration essential at www.affinity.org.au. Web: <http://www.affinity.org.au>.

[au/images/stories/2010SoRConferenceFlyer.pdf](http://www.affinity.org.au/images/stories/2010SoRConferenceFlyer.pdf).

5 MARCH. UNIFEM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST (SA). In 2009, the largest event was held in Adelaide with over 1900 women attending, \$40,000 was raised which helped support UNIFEM's Pacific Markets Project which aims to improve conditions in Melanesian rural market places. Speaker: Sally Sara, award winning foreign correspondent with the ABC. Host: Senator the Hon Penny Wong. Cost: \$40. 6.30 to 9.00 am, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide. Contact: adelunifem@unifem.org.au or 08 8223 3388. Web: <http://unifem.org.au/iwd/Events/sa>.

5 MARCH. UNIFEM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCH (ACT). The MC will be Virginia Hausseger, Canberra ABC TV News presenter and columnist. Guest speaker: Dr Hamidah Marican, Executive Director of the Malaysian organisation Sisters in Islam (SIS). Cost: \$65, concession \$40. 12.00 to 2.00 pm, National Convention and Exhibition Centre, Constitution Avenue, Canberra City. Contact: unifem@onqconferences.com.au or 02 6288 3998. Web: http://www.abcon.biz/files/UNIFEM_IWD_2010.pdf.

5 MARCH. UNIFEM SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST (NSW). It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the contribution made by women across the globe and to make a contribution to realising and protecting the rights of all women. Host: Geraldine Doogue, speaker: Dr Rose Evaster-Aderolili, Head of the Gender and Macroeconomic Model, African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD), Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia. Cost: \$60. 7.00 to 8.50 am, Bayside Grand Hall, Sydney Exhibition and Convention Centre. Contact: 0415 972 281 or iwdsydney@unifem.org.au. Web: <https://unifemprototype.worldsecuresystems.com/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=55864>.

5 MARCH. CONFERENCE: 'KEY FORCES FOR CLIMATE ACTION' (NSW). Climate politics forces new issues onto the political agenda. New sites of policy, contestation and transformation are emerging. But what are the key forces for climate action today? This deliberative conference poses polarities, generating

debate and dialogue. Across four panels we address policy, structures, justice and strategy, debating experience and possibilities. Presentations and discussions will be printed as background papers for the 2010 Climate Movement Summit in Canberra held later in March. The conference is convened by the Climate Action Research Group in partnership with Friends of the Earth Australia. No cost, donation for lunch. 9.00 am to 6.00 pm, Lecture Theatre 024, New Law School, University of Sydney. Contact: rebecca.pearse@uts.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://cosmopolitancivilsocieties.com/projects/climate-action-research-group/>.

6 MARCH. SEMINAR: INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND ECUMENISM (NSW). An opportunity for parish representatives and certificate students of ecumenical and interfaith dialogue to meet and learn. Presenters: Fr Walter Fogarty, Dr Antoinette Collins, Alice Priest. 9.00 am to 3.30 pm, Institute for Mission, corner Flushcombe Road and Marion Street, Blacktown. Contact: 02 9831 4911 or ifm@tpg.com.au. Web: <http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/events.htm>.

7 MARCH. CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY (NATIONAL). Every year, from Perth to Penrith, hundreds of thousands of Australians get stuck in and Clean Up their local environment by collecting and removing rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day. This year is the 20th anniversary and we hope to make it the biggest community event to date! How to get involved - Clean Up Australia Day is fun, easy and everyone can get involved. Individuals and local groups can either choose their own site to Clean Up or volunteer at an existing site. Web: <http://www.cleanup.org.au/au/>.

7 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MASS (NSW). Bishop Michael Malone will preside, morning tea will follow. 9.30 am, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/International%20Women%27s%20Day%20Mass%20Mar%202010.pdf>.

8 MARCH. UNIFEM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST (WA). This fundraising breakfast to support Millennium Goal projects (empowering women migrant workers in Indo-

nesia), will be hosted by, Babs McHugh from ABC radio. Speakers: Elizabeth Shaw, 2009 WA Citizen of the Year, 2008 Australian Youth Representative to the UN; Dr Hamidah Marican, Executive Director, Sisters in Islam, a champion of the development of under-represented groups and talent pools which includes women in the workplace. Cost: \$55. 7.00 to 9.00 am, Grand Ballroom, Hyatt Hotel, Perth. Contact: 0403 040 092 or perth@unifem.org.au, RSVP by 28 February. Web: <https://unifemprototype.worldsecuresystems.com/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=55886>.

8 MARCH. PRESENTATION: 'ABOLISHING POVERTY - THE HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITY' (NSW). The Sydney Peace Foundation, with the support of several other organisations, is hosting a lecture by Prof Muhammad Yunus, the first ever recipient of the Sydney Peace Prize and 2006 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Prof Yunus established the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, fuelled by the belief that credit is a fundamental human right. His objective was to help poor people escape from poverty by providing loans on terms suitable to them and by teaching them a few sound financial principles so they could help themselves. Grameen Bank has lifted millions out of poverty by disbursing \$6.6bn in millions of tiny loans to the poor. 5.00 to 6.15 pm, Wesley Conference Centre, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney. Contact: csi@unsw.edu.au, RSVP by 26 February. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

8 MARCH. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST (WA). Speaker is Chief Judge Antoinette Kennedy, of the District Court. Chief Judge Kennedy, who retires after 25 years on the bench, was the first woman appointed to the District Court. In 2005 she was appointed Chief Judge. She has been at the forefront of change for women in WA's legal system. Cost: \$40. 7.15 for 7.30 am start to 9.00 am, Terrace Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 99 Adelaide Terrace, Perth. Contact: 08 9216 3955 or eoc@eoc.wa.gov.au, RSVP by 26 February. Web: <http://www.eoc.wa.gov.au/>.

8 - 14 MARCH. ONLINE SHOWCASE: 'THE GREATEST FREEDOM SHOW ON EARTH' (INTERNATIONAL). A global showcasing of what

young people have been doing as part of 'Start Freedom - Young People Campaigning to Combat Trafficking'. Web: <http://www.startfreedom.org>.

8 - 14 MARCH. PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION: 'WOMEN'S EYE ON PEACE' (NSW). This phenomenal photography exhibition celebrates International Women's Day and the achievements and contribution of women to human rights worldwide. Opening night: 10 March 6.00 to 9.00 pm; Exhibition: 12.00 to 6.00 pm, TAP Gallery, Level 1, 278 Palmer Street, Darlinghurst. Contact: nswsvawactiongroup@amnesty.org.au, RSVP for opening night. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/22496/>.

9 MARCH. GLOBAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES: 'WHAT IS GLOBAL HEALTH?' (NSW). GlobalHOME (global health group at the University of Sydney) has developed a lecture series featuring experts discussing current issues in global health. These lectures will be invaluable for those who have an interest in being involved in global health or working in the developing world. Speakers: Joel Negin, School of Public Health, Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Simon Moss, Global Poverty Project. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, University of Sydney (main campus). Contact: camhollows@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/global-health/news-events/events.php>.

9 MARCH. EDMUND RICE CENTRE AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE: 'WATER VAPOUR A MAJOR GREEN HOUSE GAS' (NSW). A new report from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration tracked changes in the concentration of water vapour in the stratosphere. This was the first time such changes have been able to be tracked. Find out about the effects of water vapour feedback and how we can or cannot affect the levels of this greenhouse gas. Small informal discussion and time at the end for sharing over a cup of tea or coffee. All are welcome. Cost: \$5/\$2 donation. 2.00 pm, Library, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Street, Homebush West. Contact: Leoniec@erc.org.au.

10 MARCH. FORUM: 'COUNTING THE COST - BUILDING CAPACITY: FOSTERING WOMEN'S FINANCIAL SECURITY FOLLOWING VIOLENT

RELATIONSHIPS' (NSW). A forum for researchers, practitioners and professionals interested in women's financial security pre and post violent relationships. The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse will present findings on its research study examining factors affecting women's financial security and strategies to support them. Workshops will offer forum participants opportunities to discuss and develop further practical strategies in areas of social security, employment, immigration, child support, accommodation, legal and health issues. No cost. Contact: clearinghouse@unsw.edu.au or 02 9385 2990. Web: <http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/events/reports.html#clearinghouse>.

10 MARCH. ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE: A CAPPELLA FUNDRAISING NIGHT (NSW). The Asylum Seekers Centre of NSW is holding a fundraising night with a cappella musical performances by the Spooky Men's Chorale and Voices from the Vacant Lot. All funds will go towards supporting the work of the Asylum Seekers Centre. Cost: \$30. 7.00 for 7.30 pm, Notes Newtown, 73-75 Enmore Road, Newtown. Book tickets at <http://www.oztix.com.au>. Web: <http://www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au>; <http://www.spookymen.com.au>; www.voicesfromthevacantlot.net.

11 - 14 MARCH. NATSICC YOUTH LEADERSHIP GATHERING (QLD). The current National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council has shown a strong commitment to nurturing youth in the Church. Councillors have formulated a Youth Gathering that will focus on developing leadership skills and encouraging self esteem in Indigenous Catholic Youth. The evangelical aspect of the Gathering will be concerned with ways to bring Indigenous Youth back to Mass. The other facet of the Gathering will focus on the use of technology to maintain and form networks. Contact: craig@natsicc.org.au. Web: http://www.natsicc.org.au/downloads/YLG_Flyer_sml.pdf.

11 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION (NATIONAL). Attend from anywhere in the world. Topics will address the categories of primary prevention, secondary prevention, tertiary prevention, and new technology. Sponsored by Deakin University's School of Health and

Social Development (Melbourne, Australia) and Phoenix House (Bundaberg, Australia). No cost. 9.00 am to 4.00 pm EST Australia, location online. Contact: Georgia.babatsikos@deakin.edu.au. Web: <http://childsexualabuseprevention.wikispaces.com/First+International+Online+Conference+on+Child+Sexual+Abuse+Prevention>.

12 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'AFGHANISTAN: SHOULD AUSTRALIA WITHDRAW?' (NSW). Phil Glendenning, Director, Edmund Rice Centre; Bob Howard, University of Sydney. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

13 MARCH. EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (ERISJ) WORKSHOP: 'AID OR DEVELOPMENT: CHARITY OR SOCIAL JUSTICE?' (WA). Most people agree that poverty is obscene. Many fear that we are stuck with it. This Intensive explores techniques and understandings that are already building a world in which poverty need not be. This Intensive provides participants with an opportunity to reflect upon key issues in aid and development; build clarity about the practical and conceptual similarities and differences between aid, development, charity and social justice; engage with the Millennium Development Goals as a framework for identifying development priorities; examine mandates and models of development; and learn how to become involved in campaigns to tackle poverty. Presenter: Janeen Murphy. Cost: \$25 - \$150. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, ERISJ, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9432 2400 or admin@erisj.org.au. Web: <http://erisj.org.au/node/236>.

13 MARCH. PALMS AUSTRALIA FOCUS WORKSHOP (SA). Each workshop provides an opportunity for anyone considering volunteering their skills to reduce poverty, to consider practical and philosophical details. Expert facilitators guide participants through sessions aimed at exploring their motivations for development work and provide a framework based in development theory and Catholic social teaching from which to view different opportunities. Participants also learn what it takes to volunteer cross-culturally, what international volunteering involves and what to do next if they

are interested in working in Asia, Africa or the Pacific. Adelaide. Contact: 02 9518 9551. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au/news/latest/28/>.

13, 20 MARCH. COURSE: VOLUNTEERS SUPPORTING OTHERS IN CRISIS (VIC). The course is suited to those in care situations such as teachers, StVdP members and church groups. Topics include: values, attitudes and confidentiality; listening skills; reactions to difficult feelings; problem solving; conflict resolution etc. Speakers: Arda Tymensen and June Aspinnall for Centacare Gippsland. 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, St Mary's Parish Hall, Cowes on the two Saturdays. Contact: 03 5678 2271 or 03 5952 5958, RSVP as places are limited.

14 MARCH. WOMEN OF FAITH DINNER (NSW). An evening that combines the intellectual, cultural and spiritual richness of women from diverse faiths and traditional backgrounds. The dinner provides a unique forum to engage women in an authentic experience of inter-faith and intercultural dialogue with guest speakers and traditional entertainment. Web: <http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/events.htm>.

14 MARCH, 4 APRIL, 2 MAY, 4 JULY, 1 AUGUST, and 12 SEPTEMBER. COURSE: 'THE PARRAMATTA CERTIFICATE IN ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE 2010' (NSW). Learn more about the history of the different Christian Churches and how they are working together to restore Christian unity. Develop greater understanding of, and empathy for, religions like Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Aboriginal Spirituality. Learn how religions are working towards respect and understanding for each other and promoting peace among all people. The course is open to people of any Christian denomination or faith. Cost: \$65.00 per Unit. Saturdays, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, Institute for Mission, corner of Marion Street and Flushcombe Road, Blacktown. Contact: 02 9831 4911 or ifm@tpg.com.au. Web: http://www.instituteformission.com.au/One_off_courses.shtml.

14 - 21 MARCH. CELEBRATE OUR CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK (VIC). This is Victoria's largest event for the promotion of cultural, linguistic and religious diversity and community harmony. The week incorporates the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Dis-

crimination, which falls on 21 March each year. Right across Victoria there will be events and activities for everyone to enjoy. Web: <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/>.

15 - 21 MARCH. CELEBRATING WORKPLACE DIVERSITY EVENT: 'A TASTE OF HARMONY' (NATIONAL). A Taste of Harmony is about recognising and celebrating the rich cultural diversity that exists in Australian workplaces. An initiative of The Scanlon Foundation, A Taste of Harmony week coincides with National Harmony Day. A Taste of Harmony encourages all workplaces to celebrate their diversity by gathering colleagues together over a delicious lunch made up of foods from different lands. No fundraising involved. Resources are available at the website: <http://www.tasteofharmony.org.au/>.

16 MARCH. DOCUMENTARY: 'TO SHOOT AN ELEPHANT' (NSW). The Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine and the Sri Lanka Human Rights Project (Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, The University of Sydney) present this eye witness documentary from Gaza, directed by Alberto Arce and Mohammad Rujailah. Filmed during Israel's 'Operation Cast Lead' (2008-2009) by foreigners who chose to be embedded with the ambulances and Palestinian civilians. Proceeds will go towards CJPP's advocacy projects and El-Wafa Rehabilitation Hospital in Gaza. Donations to the hospital will go through Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA. Many visuals in this documentary are quite brutal, but this is the true reality of war. Cost: donation. 6.30 pm, The Auditorium, NSWTF, 27 Reservoir St, Surry Hills. Contact: brami.jegan@usyd.edu.au, or gobie.rajalingam@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.srilankaproject.com.au>, <http://www.coalitionforpalestine.org>, <http://www.toshootanelephant.com> or <http://www.apheda.org.au>.

16 MARCH. GLOBAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES: 'AID AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS?' (NSW). GlobalHOME (global health group at the University of Sydney) has developed a lecture series featuring world-renowned experts discussing current issues in global health. These lectures will be invaluable for those who have an interest in being involved in global health or working in the developing world. Speakers:

Tim Costello, CEO, World Vision Australia; Joel Negin, School of Public Health, Menzies Centre for Health Policy. 5.30 to 7.00 pm, University of Sydney (main campus). Contact: camerono@ualberta.ca. Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/global-health/news-events/events.php>.

16 MARCH. THIRD SECTOR WOMEN'S NETWORKING LUNCH (VIC). To celebrate International Women's Day, women of the third sector from professional and industry associations, member benefit organisations, community groups, advocacy groups, charities and foundations are meeting at this lunch. Cost: \$77 - \$97. 12.30 to 3.00 pm, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Contact: 03 9248 5100 or conferences@gs-press.com.au. Web: <http://www.celebratethirdsectorwomen.com.au/>.

16 MARCH. OXFAM FUNDRAISING DINNER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (WA). All proceeds support Oxfam Australia HIV and AIDS projects in Southern Africa. Dinner will be followed by a brief talk on these projects. Cost: \$30 (BYO wine). The Bengal Old Fire Station, 18 Phillimore Street, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9336 1499 or susandavidson@bigpond.com, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/event-calendar>.

16 MARCH - 25 SEPTEMBER. KURDS IN AUSTRALIA EXHIBITION: 'SURVIVAL OF A CULTURE' (VIC). This exhibition explores how the Kurdish culture has survived through adversity, invasion, and division of the Kurds' traditional lands. It examines the traditions at the core of the Kurdish culture that have enabled it to survive, and which Kurds proudly maintain in Australia today. A variety of objects will be on display, including traditional costumes, instruments, hand-woven crafts and pewter wear. Cost: \$8, child/concession free. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Contact: 13 11 02. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/>.

17 MARCH. ST PATRICK ECUMENICAL SERVICE (ACT). Representatives from the Embassy of Ireland, diplomatic missionaries of countries with historic ties to Ireland, Irish organisations in Canberra, the Celtic Choir and Irish traditional musicians have all been invited to participate. Bishop Pat Power will oversee

proceedings and give the homily. The service has been organised by the Canberra Friends of Ireland Society. 12.00 noon, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton. Web: http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/view_event.cfm?loadref=18&id=714.

17 MARCH. CHRISTIANS FOR AN ETHICAL SOCIETY FORUM: 'THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES OF POVERTY AND AFFLUENCE' (ACT). The Canberra CES theme for the year will be introduced by speakers addressing theological perspectives of Poverty and Affluence. The key speaker will be Frank Brennan AO, Jesuit priest, a Professor of Law at the Australian Catholic University and Visiting Professorial Fellow at the University of New South Wales. President Gregor Henderson will chair this forum. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton. Contact: canberra.admin@ces.org.au. Web: <http://www.ces.org.au>.

17 MARCH. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: 'SECURING JOBS AND RIGHTS FOR WORKING AUSTRALIANS' (ACT). Speaker: Jeff Lawrence, Secretary, Australian Council of Trade Unions. Under Jeff's stewardship, the ACTU was a key negotiator in the drafting of the Fair Work Act, which features a guaranteed safety net of rights and conditions, improved protection from unfair dismissal, the abolition of Australian Workplace Agreements, an independent umpire, and rights to collective bargaining. Cost: \$55 members, \$75 guests. 11.45 am to 1.30 pm, 16 National Circuit, Canberra. Contact: 02 6121 2199 or npc@npc.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingSpeakers.html>.

18 MARCH. FORUM: 'SEEKING ASYLUM UNDER RUDD - WHAT'S CHANGED SINCE HOWARD?' (WA). Public forum with speakers from Tamil community and Refugee Rights Action Network. Cost: donation. 6:30 pm, Fox Lecture Theatre, Arts Faculty, University of Western Australia. Contact: 0417 904 329 or info@rran.org. Web: <http://www.rran.org/>.

19 MARCH. CONFERENCE: 'GROWING UP FAST AND FURIOUS: REVIEWING THE IMPACTS OF VIOLENT AND SEXUALISED MEDIA ON CHILDREN' (NSW). An Australian Conference on Children and the Media, with international

researchers, Prof Rowell Huesmann (long term impacts of violent media), Prof Ed Donnerstein (Internet violence and cyber-bullying), Distinguished Prof Craig Anderson (violent video games), and Prof Louise Newman (Victoria, sexualisation of children), Dr Wayne Warburton (NSW, violent music videos), Dr Cordelia Fine (Victoria, advertising) and Prof Elizabeth Handsley (SA, regulation and classification). In this important and timely conference leading researchers will review the evidence related to children's experiences with a range of violent and sexualised media, examine their marketing, and discuss appropriate regulatory responses, including how well our classification systems reflect current research. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 37 Reservoir St, Surry Hills. Contact: info@youngmedia.org.au. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/45850/449/>.

19 MARCH. GLOBAL MARKET DAY (QLD). This initiative of Arana Hills Church of Christ is a bi-annual ethical market featuring Fairtrade clothes, jewellery, toys, competitions, and food from around the world (and an Oxfam stall). Arana Hills Church of Christ, 2 Bringelly Street, Arana Hills. Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/event-calendar>.

19 - 20 MARCH. SYMPOSIUM: 'RACISM REVISITED: ANTI-RACISM LEADERSHIP AND PRACTICE' (WA). The Symposium aims to revisit experiences and discuss anti-racism leadership and practice in order to develop practical solutions to advance the fight against racism in Australia. The Symposium includes plenary addresses from eminent person researchers, government representatives, Indigenous and ethnic community leaders, NGOs, and community groups. Hosted by Murdoch University in partnership with the Ethnic Communities Council of WA, Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia and the Federation of African Communities' Council. Cost: \$330 - \$385. 9.00 am, Murdoch University, Perth. Contact: 08 9389 1488 or info@eecw.com.au, RSVP by 12 March. Web: <http://www.rralp2010.com.au/>.

20 MARCH. JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDRAISING DINNER (VIC). Guest speaker Hon Julia Gillard MP will deliver the Frank Costigan QC lecture. Entertainment: Dancing to The Frantics. The book 'Doing Justice - Reflections

from thirty years' will be officially launched at the Dinner. The book is available at a special price of \$30 if purchased with Annual Dinner tickets. Cost: \$150. 7.00 pm, Victory Room, Etihad Stadium. Contact: betty.munckton@jss.org.au or 03 9427 7388, RSVP by 10 March. Web: <http://www.jss.org.au/>.

20 MARCH. HARMONY DAY CELEBRATIONS (QLD). Sample many ethnic dishes and enjoy being entertained by local cultural groups. Free activities for the children: beading, badge making and face painting. If you have a group of singers or dancers that would like to perform at this event phone Sharon on 07 3865 2880.

9.30 am to 3.30 pm, Zillmere Community Centre, 54 Handford Road, Zillmere. Web: <http://www.barc.org.au/cms/index.php>.

20 MARCH. AUSTRALIA-JAPAN PEACE FORUM (VIC). This year will mark Japanese for Peace's fifth anniversary and the 65th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The forum will discuss steps to be taken to help create a nuclear-free world, as part of the lead-up to the NPTi Review Conference. The organisers wish to invite people to come together to work for the common cause of eradicating nuclear weapons. Speakers: Professor Yuki Tanaka, Hiroshima Peace Institute; Associate Professor Tilman Ruff, University of Melbourne, former President, Medical Association of Prevention of War. Performer: Anne Norman, Master of Shakuhachi. Cost: \$5. 2.00 to 5.00 pm, Melbourne City Conference Centre, corner Little Lonsdale and Swanston Streets, Melbourne. Contact: jfp@hotmail.co.jp. Web: http://www.jfp.org.au/index_eng.html.

21 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (INTERNATIONAL). The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid 'pass laws'. Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. This day is the beginning of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimi-

nation. Web: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/racial/>.

21 MARCH. HARMONY DAY (NATIONAL). Harmony Day, an Australian Government initiative that began in 1999, provides Australians with an opportunity to think about our community's success as a multicultural society, re-commit to continuing tolerance, goodwill and understanding among all groups, and say no to racism. The key message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. It coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Events: <http://www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day/>.

22 - 28 MARCH. ONLINE CONFERENCE: 'SPEAK OUT' (INTERNATIONAL). This online conference is about advocacy and social justice. Topics include: theory, theology, history and promising practices of advocacy. It is jointly sponsored and managed by the International Social Justice Commission and The Salvation Army Ethics Centre. Registered users will be able to post their contributions and participate in discussions with leading Salvation Army thinkers in these fields. No cost. Web: http://www1.salvationarmy.org/ihq/www_ihq_isjc.nsf/vw-local/speak-out.

23 MARCH. SPECIAL SCREENING: 'SOMEWHERE NEAR TAPACHULA' (ACT). St Francis Xavier College is hosting this screening to raise money for the children of Mission Mexico. Operated by Alan and Pamela Suske, Mission Mexico is a Christian refuge for boys and girls, aged 2 to 17 years, who have been abandoned, abused, neglected or orphaned. This documentary on the children at Mission Mexico focuses on the empowerment and freedom they discovered through surfing. Cost: \$15, concession \$10. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, St Francis Xavier College Theatre, 12 Barnard Circuit, Florey. Contact: 1300 438 849, ticketsupport@moshtix.com.au. Tickets: <http://www.somewhereneartapachula.com/>.

23 MARCH. GLOBAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES: 'CONFLICT AND HEALTH?' (NSW). Global-HOME (global health group at the University of Sydney) has developed a lecture series featuring world-renowned experts discussing current issues in global health. These lectures will be invaluable for those who have an interest in

being involved in global health or working in the developing world.

Speakers: Dr Ben Saul, Director of the Sydney Centre for International Law and Dr Nicholas Coatsworth, board member, Médecins Sans Frontières Australia. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, University of Sydney (main campus). Contact: grit3326@uni.sydney.edu.au. Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/global-health/news-events/events.php>.

24 MARCH. AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE ASSOCIATION (ARA) ANNUAL ORATION: 'SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT' (SA). The Annual Oration has been established to provide an opportunity to showcase ARA and the place it holds in the community thereby raising public awareness of the value of refugees and migrants and the issues they face. Mr Hieu Van Le, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission and a former refugee - will discuss his vision of South Australia in 2036 when it celebrates its bicentenary. No cost, tax free donation welcome. 6.45 to 8.00 pm, Allan Scott Auditorium, UniSA City West Campus, Hawke building, Adelaide. Contact: 08 8161 3322. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/sa/event/22529/>.

24 - 26 MARCH. CHALLENGING SILENCE CONFERENCE (QLD). This Advanced Practice Training conference is for NGO managers and practitioners, government child protection, domestic violence, health and human services policy makers, front line staff, health professionals, police, lawyers, teachers and all professionals interested in working through the complex maze of child protection, family support and intervention and domestic violence issues in our society. Speakers: Dr Jenny Gilmore; Allan Wade; Hugh Mackay. Cost: \$1000. Stamford Plaza Brisbane Hotel, corner Edward and Margaret Streets, Brisbane. Contact: 07 3221 1999 or sales@spb.stamford.com.au. Web: <http://www.peakcareconference.com.au/default.aspx>.

24 - 31 MARCH. MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION: 'BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER WORLD' (NSW). Caritas Australia and the Australian Government's aid agency, AusAID, are exhibiting this display around Australia. It highlights the Millennium Development Goals and the promise of

world Governments to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Video, photographs, visual installation as well as contributions (such as posters, baskets, school books, readers) from Caritas partner communities make up the installation. No cost. Lismore Workers Club, 231-235 Keen Street, Lismore. Contact: 02 8306 3400. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/Venues/index.html>.

25 MARCH. NATIONAL CLOSE THE GAP DAY (NATIONAL). National Close the Gap Day is an annual event organised by Oxfam recognising Australia's largest campaign to improve Indigenous health. Get involved and join the thousands of people around Australia holding events to raise awareness of the Indigenous health crisis. Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/close-the-gap-day>.

25 - 26 MARCH. ACROSS NATIONAL CONFERENCE: 'A VOTE FOR EQUITY' (ACT). This is a major event for social services and the community sector. It is a key opportunity to examine Australia from the perspective of low income Australians: what policies and programs are working; what needs to change; and how best to achieve that. Cost: \$90 to \$550. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Rydges Lakeside, 1 London Circuit, Canberra. Contact: conference@across.org.au or 02 9310 6200. Web: <https://s.eventarc.com/view/266/across-national-conference-2010-a-vote-for-equity>.

26 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'THE NEW NUCLEAR DEBATE' (NSW). Senator Scott Ludlam, Greens WA; Bob Howard, Department of Government and International Relations, Sydney University. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

27 MARCH. PALMS AUSTRALIA FOCUS WORKSHOP (NSW). Each workshop provides an opportunity for anyone considering volunteering their skills to reduce poverty, to consider practical and philosophical details. Expert facilitators guide participants through sessions aimed at exploring their motivations for development work and provide a framework based in development theory and Catholic social teaching from which to view different opportu-

nities. Participants also learn what it takes to volunteer cross-culturally, what international volunteering involves and what to do next if they are interested in working in Asia, Africa or the Pacific. Mittagong. Contact: 02 9518 9551. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au/news/latest/28/>.

27 MARCH. CASE MEDICAL ETHICS CONFERENCE: 'CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE END OF LIFE' (NSW). Moral dilemmas abound when it comes to issues of life and death. This conference brings a forum of people interested in a biblical approach to medical ethics. Speakers: Megan Best, Rod Benson, Frank Brennan, Russell Clark and Kate Bradford. 8:30 am, New College, UNSW (Main Common Room). Contact: 02 9381 1999 or case@newcollege.unsw.edu.au. Web: <http://www.case.edu.au>.

27 MARCH. REFLECTION AFTERNOON: 'EMPTYING OUT: LENT AND THE CALL TO SIMPLICITY AND JUSTICE' (NSW). Talk, hear, and pray about justice and ecology this Lent. This afternoon is organised by the Sydney Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Office with input from Fr Paul Ghanem OFM and Jenni Hickson. Fr Paul worked as drug and alcohol counsellor before joining the Franciscan Friars. He is passionate about the sacred message of ongoing ecological conversion, and its basis in theology and philosophy. Jenni Hickson has worked with youth people in the area of faith formation, spirituality and justice, for both the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Australian Jesuits. No cost. 2.00 to 5.00 pm, St Mary's Catholic Church, 21 Swanston Street, Erskineville. Contact: 02 9390 5319 or chantelle.ogilvie@sydneycatholic.org, RSVP by 23 March for catering.

28 MARCH. PALM SUNDAY PEACE WITNESS (NSW). This is being organised through the Sydney Coalition for Peace and Justice, with the support of the NSW Ecumenical Council. It will include a short Christian liturgy, contributions from people from other religious groups and a lively range of speakers on issues of peace and contemporary concern, plus at least one choir. All are welcome for this important occasion to witness to peace at the heart of our Christian faith. 2.30 pm, Parramatta Town Square. Contact: mscjust@smartchat.net.au.

29 MARCH. SOCIAL JUSTICE CONVERSATIONS (SA). Catholic Youth Office invites young people to be involved in a conversation to understand social justice and personal involvement. 7.00 pm, Catholic Youth Office, 112 Kintore Street, Thebarton. Contact: sarah.moffatt@ceo.adl.catholic.edu.au or 08 8301 6866. Web: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/AdelaideYouthMinistry/events>.

30 MARCH. GLOBAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES: 'MANAGING A HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE' (NSW). GlobalHOME (global health group at the University of Sydney) has developed a lecture series featuring world-renowned experts discussing current issues in global health. These lectures will be invaluable for those who have an interest in being involved in global health or working in the developing world. Speakers: LCOL Geoff Matthew and LEUT Melanie O'Kane. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, University of Sydney (main campus). Contact: asch2765@uni.sydney.edu.au. Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/global-health/news-events/events.php>.

5 APRIL. THEOLOGY ON TAP (NSW). Young people meet together for some real answers on the Catholic faith in a relaxed atmosphere. 6.30 pm, PJ Gallagher's Irish Pub, 74 Church Street, Parramatta. Contact: jessica_langrell@hotmail.com. Web: <http://www.sydney.catholic.org.au/youth/theology/>.

6 - 8 APRIL. AN INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM: 'DEATH AND DYING' (VIC). The program will provide participants with knowledge and insight into how each religious tradition views the human person, understands the afterlife and finds hope rather than despair in the face of death. The meaning of the rites of passage as practiced by the different faith traditions will be presented. Legal, ethical, and medical aspects of preparing for death will be explored from the different faith perspectives, with input from those involved directly with the dying and their families. Hosted by the Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission, sponsored by the Victorian Multicultural Commission and Australian Catholic University. Cost: \$60. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Mercy Theatre, Australian Catholic University, St Patrick Campus. Contact: ecum@cam.org.au. Web: <http://www.cam.org.au/whats-on/death-and-dying-an-interfaith-symposium.html>.

7 APRIL. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'I FEEL PASSIONATE ABOUT GLOBAL JUSTICE' (NSW).

Speakers: Ben Spies-Butcher and Jennifer Burn. Bellevue Hotel, 159 Hargrave Street, Paddington. Contact: 02 9387 3152. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/spirituality%20in%20the%20pub.htm>.

10 APRIL. FORUM: 'IF YOU WANT TO CULTIVATE PEACE, PROTECT CREATION' (NSW).

Rev Dr Sean McDonagh will explore the spirituality, theology and justice of this challenge from

Pope Benedict's World Day of Peace Message. Respondents: Most Rev Julian Porteous, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Sydney; Sandra Menteith, Lecturer in Environmental Ethics, Catholic Institute of Sydney; and Emily Aitken, Waitara Parish Youth Leader, "Greensteps" participant. Musical interlude by students of St Patrick's College Strathfield. Wine and cheese served. Cost: donation (\$10 suggested). 5.00 to 7.00 pm, Thomas Aquinas Centre, Santa Sabina College, 90 The Boulevard, Strathfield. Contact: 02 9352 8000 or cmi@columban.org.au.



News Monitor

Cost of electricity to rise: Vinnies

The St Vincent de Paul Society said introducing smart metering for electricity, combined with other potential energy policy shifts, will add "hundreds of dollars to (annual) energy bills".

Lawyers should help society and individuals, said archbishop

Those charged with the administration of the law must meet both the needs of society and the dignity of the human being, Archbishop Mark Coleridge told the annual Red Mass in Sydney.

Vinnies welcomes weekly payment for poor

The St Vincent de Paul Society welcomed the Federal Government's move to allow disadvantaged people to access Centrelink payments weekly rather than fortnightly, but reiterated its opposition to compulsory income management.

Brennan appointed advocate for disadvantaged, calls for rights charter

Father Frank Brennan been appointed as "Catholic Advocate in Residence" for four social justice bodies in a move to to drive change on the health and welfare of disadvantaged Australians.

Abbott's homelessness stance dismays welfare services

Opposition Leader, Tony Abbott, dismayed welfare services by declining to match the Rudd government's goal to halve homelessness by 2020, saying governments cannot stop people from being homeless "if that's their choice".

Caritas-led flashmob freezes Sydney for poverty

Thousands of Sydneysiders brought parts of the city to a halt yesterday in a flashmob freeze co-ordinated by Caritas Australia as it called for the Australian government to 'Stop Global Poverty'.

Do a carbon fast this Lent: British bishop

A British bishop and a climate change campaigner are urging people to go on a carbon fast this Lent - abstain from meat, eat by candlelight, and cut down on computer, mobile phone and iPod use.

Church seeks to support miners' families

The bishop of Rockhampton raised concern about the impact of mining on family life, especially the 12-hour shifts that workers spend in the mine.

- Courtesy CathNews, for details click on headlines or go to <http://cathnews.com>



Social Justice Calendar

1 MON International Death Penalty Abolition Day
International Treaty to Ban Landmines, 1999
Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day
Landcare Month, Australia

5 FRI World Day of Prayer
International Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1970

7 SUN 3rd Sunday in Lent
Clean Up Australia Day

8 MON UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace -
International Women's Day

14 SUN 4th Sunday in Lent

17 WED St Patrick (Solemnity)

19 FRI St Joseph, husband of Mary (Solemnity)
US and allies invade Iraq, 2003

20 SAT World Day of Planetary Consciousness -
Equinox

21 SUN 5th Sunday in Lent
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination begins
National Harmony Day (Australia)
World Poetry Day
World Forestry Day

22 MON World Day for Water

23 TUE World Meteorological Day

24 WED Assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, 1980

25 THU The Annunciation (Solemnity)
UN International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
Death of Caroline Chisholm, 1877

28 SUN Passion (Palm) Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week

Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC's Seasons of Social Justice Diary. The cost is \$6.60. To order go to http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html, or call 02 8306 3499.

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