



## No. 112 – May 2010

*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 CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

Below is the text of a Pastoral Letter issued to mark the Feast of St Joseph the Worker (1st May), which I invite you to circulate in your parish and local communities. The formatted letter can be downloaded from: [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

#### **Australia at the Crossroads: A time to set new rules**

Key moments in history - times of celebration, tragedy or loss - can stand out in the memory, capture an era and mark a point of change. The global financial crisis was one such moment.

The GFC, as we have come to know it, came to a head one week in mid-September 2008 when giant investment banks filed for bankruptcy, were being taken over or bailed out by the public purse.

That very week, the Australian Catholic bishops were launching their 2008 Social Justice Sunday Statement addressing the issue of affluence and poverty in Australia. The

Statement noted how a slowing economy was causing concern that 'all is not right with our society'. Regarding the disadvantaged who had already been denied the benefits of 15 years of spectacular growth, the bishops commented:

'The poorest members of our nation have known and experienced this for many years, but their voice is rarely heard ... The slowing of the economy has given increased urgency to the call on Australian society to address the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.'<sup>1</sup>

An important area for action identified by the bishops was the plight of low-paid and unemployed workers struggling to make ends meet on inadequate levels of pay and income support.

Responding in part to the excesses of the market that caused the crisis, Pope Benedict XVI, in his 2009 Encyclical 'Charity in Truth', has also highlighted the needs of vulnerable and unemployed workers and their families. In particular, he has spoken of how the global trend to deregulate and downsize public systems of social protection to give a competitive advantage in the global market presents a 'grave danger for the rights of workers, for fundamental human rights and for the solidarity associated with the traditional forms of the social State.'<sup>2</sup>

#### **The position of the most vulnerable**

Every day, staff in agencies like CatholicCare and Vinnies provide support to families struck by unemployment and the grind of poorly paid, insecure and intermittent work. They experience, first hand, the poverty caused by a market that has not provided worthwhile employment opportunities or training that would allow people to get into the workplace and bargain for pay above safety net wages.

They have also witnessed the impact of public policy that has sought to increase worker

productivity by deregulating workplaces and to lift participation in the workforce by restrictions on social security. Broadly speaking, these changes may have benefited highly paid workers and unemployed people with skills. They have been of little benefit for workers and unemployed people who have minimal bargaining power and remain 'unattractive' to the market. The clearest indication of this is the declining value of minimum wages and income support.

In its submission to the current Annual Wage Review, the Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations (ACCER) has shown that safety net wages have not kept pace with costs of living. Average weekly earnings have risen by 53.2% over the past decade to \$1,223, but the base wage for a trade qualified worker has risen by only 29.5% to \$637.60 and the Federal Minimum Wage by 35.8% to \$543.78. The minimum would be around \$610 if it had increased in line with average wages.<sup>3</sup>

This decline in the value of safety net wages means that these workers have effectively been denied the rewards other workers have received for increased productivity over the decade. It should be noted that many are engaged in the vital work of service-based industries such as health care and social assistance.

The Federal Minimum Wage and the wages safety net must be judged on the ability to keep workers and families out of poverty. The ACCER has shown that over the past decade, safety net wages supplemented by family benefits have not prevented families falling into poverty or coming close to it. Its message to the new wage setting body is clear:

'The obligation on Fair Work Australia to set a fair safety net of wages means, in our submission, that it should be satisfied that poverty is not only avoided, but that workers should have a wage that is substantially above poverty.'<sup>4</sup>

Just as pressing is the need to assess the adequacy of unemployment benefits. Following the public outcry over the plight of single age pensioners and a subsequent public inquiry, the

Government last year lifted the weekly rate by \$33 to \$308. With pension supplements, this amounted to \$336. People on the lower rate of unemployment allowance, who have not received a decent increase since the 1980s, had their single rate lifted by only \$1.35 to a paltry \$228.<sup>5</sup>

For a long time, organisations like ACCER, Catholic Social Services Australia and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council have called for more concerted action on poverty - for a thorough review of poverty measures, a more accurate and transparent assessment of true costs of living, improved minimum wages and increased support for unemployed workers and their families.<sup>6</sup>

### **Addressing the logic of disparity**

Especially at this time, we must be wary of a narrow view of national economic performance that lacks concern for those who are struggling.

In 2008, the Australian Fair Pay Commission announced a wage-setting decision that amounted to a loss in the real value of safety net wages. Among its concerns was the need to contain inflation in other parts of the labour market. In its 2009 decision, the Commission went further and imposed a wage freeze on these 1.6 million safety net workers with the aim of preventing job loss and promoting economic recovery. This burden has not been proportionately carried by the average income earner,<sup>7</sup> still less by those at the highest levels of the wealth spectrum.

Last year, in response to the financial crisis and instances of companies awarding executive pay increases at the same time as their workers were being retrenched, the Government established an inquiry into executive remuneration. The Productivity Commission found that the average annual pay of CEOs of the top 20 companies is around \$7.2 million, 110 times average wages and 255 times the minimum wage.

These highest levels of remuneration illustrate the inequity resulting from a perverse logic that fails to acknowledge the notion of fair pay and family needs. Low-paid workers with

little or no discretionary income are now bearing the cost of a financial crisis that was not of their making. While they endure a pay freeze for the sake of Australia's economic interests, the Productivity Commission has dismissed suggestions of tougher restrictions on executive remuneration through pay caps or reduced tax concessions because 'getting this wrong in relation to the senior executives of Australia's largest companies could be very damaging to our national economic interests.'<sup>8</sup>

Australians should be concerned about a notion of 'national economic interests' that fails to adequately consider human dignity, social wellbeing and equity. At a time when the world is dealing with the economic crisis, Pope Benedict reminds governments especially that 'the primary capital to be safeguarded and valued is man, the human person in his or her integrity.' He reasserts that the person is 'the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life'.<sup>9</sup>

#### A time to set new rules

Drawing from the Holy Father's recent Encyclical, we can consider five key challenges for decision-makers in government and business as they address the impact of the GFC:

- A focus on the nation's international competitiveness and long-term development must include adequate protections for low-paid and unemployed workers.<sup>10</sup>
- We must restore trust in the structures of our society by reducing disparity in wealth and ensure the market is not 'the place where the strong subdue the weak'.<sup>11</sup>
- Equity and justice must be built into the very operation of the market and be respected 'as the economic process unfolds, and not just afterwards or incidentally'.<sup>12</sup>
- Industry must be accountable not only to shareholders but also to workers, clients, suppliers and the community.<sup>13</sup>
- Respecting the God-given dignity of each person and the needs of the most vulnerable, we must move beyond simply ensuring *commutative* justice (giving in order to receive) and even *distributive* justice (the duty to give the minimum owed according to basic needs). We must now consider a higher

level of justice based on social solidarity, generosity and compassion.<sup>14</sup>

Australia is at a crossroads. How we respond to the needs of the poorest individuals and families will characterise the spirit of this nation. As Pope Benedict has said,

'The current crisis obliges us to re-plan our journey, to set ourselves new rules and to discover new forms of commitment, to build on positive experiences and to reject negative ones. The crisis thus becomes an opportunity for discernment, in which to shape a new vision for the future.'<sup>15</sup>

Most Rev. Christopher Saunders, DD  
Bishop of Broome  
Chairman, Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, 2008, *A Rich Young Nation: The challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia*, Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, p.5

<sup>2</sup> Pope Benedict XVI, 2009, *Caritas in veritate*, Encyclical letter, n.25

<sup>3</sup> ACCER, 2010, 'Submission to Fair Work Australia to the Annual Wage Review 2009-10', pp.18, 24, 27, 29, 36.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p.106

<sup>5</sup> Australian Council of Social Service, 'Rising Numbers of Jobless Australians Living on \$32/Day Need Payment Boost', 10 Sept. 2009

<sup>6</sup> ACCER, 2010; CSSA, 2008, *An Entitlements Commission: A proposal for an independent commission to inform decisions about the adequacy of pensions and other income support payments*, pp.23-25; ACSJC, 2009, *Dignity and Work*, Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.66

<sup>7</sup> ACCER, 2010, pp.39, 44-45.

<sup>8</sup> Productivity Commission, 2009, *Executive Remuneration in Australia*, Report No.49, pp.xvi, 358f

<sup>9</sup> Pope Benedict XVI, 2009, n.25

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, n.32

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, nn.32, 36, 42

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, n.37

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, n.40

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, nn.6-7, 34-39

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, n.21



## Current Issues / Resources

### **MEDIA RELEASE - 'WE ARE JUDGED BY OUR TREATMENT OF REFUGEES'**

Bishop Christopher Saunders has called for a more compassionate response to asylum seekers and for leadership from both sides of politics that ensures a humane response to those fleeing persecution. 'Australia's recent suspension of processing for Sri Lankan and Afghan asylum seekers is regrettable. Applications for asylum should be assessed on individual circumstances, not simply on nationality. When it abandoned the 'Pacific solution', the Rudd Government promised that asylum seekers would be detained for the shortest time possible. Australia must keep that promise,' he said. 'The facilities at Curtin, such as they are, are extremely unwelcoming - nothing more than a primitive detention centre devoid of resources and set in the midst of an inhospitable environment. They are indicative of a national attitude lacking in compassion and care for those who have suffered so much already. We can afford to be far more compassionate and humane in our response to people fleeing desperate situations and in dire need,' Bishop Saunders said. (Refer: [http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/media\\_releases/2010\\_04\\_21\\_12861898183.html](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/media_releases/2010_04_21_12861898183.html))

### **REFUGEE COUNCIL ON UNHCR ASYLUM STATISTICS**

The Refugee Council of Australia's (RCOA) response to the UNHCR's 2009 statistics on asylum applications in industrialised countries emphasised that Australia's share of global asylum applications remains very small. In 2009, Australia received 6170 asylum applications, just 1.6% of the 377,160 applications received across 44 industrialised nations. Of the 44 nations, Australia was ranked 16th overall and was 21st on a per capita basis. RCOA emphasised that the applications received in Australia must be viewed in light of the 286,680 applications received in Europe and the 82,270 applications received in North America. The RCOA's media statement can be accessed at: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/media.html>.

The UNHCR's statistical overview of asylum applications lodged in industrialised countries is available at <http://www.unhcr.org.au/pdfs/AsylumReport2009.pdf>

### **NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK**

Each year National Reconciliation Week (NRW) celebrates the rich culture and history of the First Australians. It is the ideal time for everyone to join the reconciliation conversation and to think about how we can help turn around the disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This year, NRW runs from 27 May until 3 June with the theme 'Reconciliation: Let's see it through!' Reconciliation Australia has posters available free of charge to organisations and individuals keen to promote the week. Visit the Reconciliation website or call (02) 6273 9200 for further information. Resources for NRW available at: <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/reconciliation-resources/significant-events--anniversaries/nrw-resources>.

### **SORRY DAY AND WEEK OF PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission has produced prayer and reflection resources for Sorry Day and the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation (26 May - 3 June 2010). These can be downloaded at the NATSIEC webpage: <http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec/resources/prayer/509-week-of-prayer-for-reconciliation>

### **NEW BOOK - 'THIS IS WHAT WE SAID'**

'Concerned Australians' has produced a book that gives voice to what many Aboriginal people feel about the NT Intervention. The book is entitled, 'This Is What We Said'. Editor, Michele Harris OAM, said, 'The new legislation recently tabled in Parliament leads us to believe that the majority of Aboriginal people have not been heard by Government. They have been ignored.' Using pictures and quotations taken from footage of

actual consultations at Bagot, Ampilatwatja, Utopia and Yirrkala, this book provides a graphic account of the depth of frustration and despair of many Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory regarding the Intervention. The hard back book is available at \$15 + \$2 packaging and post, per copy, within Australia. For further information contact: Concerned Australians, PO Box 281, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 or [harrisme@bigpond.com](mailto:harrisme@bigpond.com)

### **NEW JOINT ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM**

In a new initiative between Monash University's Faculty of Arts and the Australian Catholic University, students will be able to study a diverse and well-researched range of units in all aspects of Islamic studies from 2011. Units will cover Arabic language, Qur'an and Hadith studies, Islamic history, law, contemporary thought, art, and comparative studies. A limited range of units will be available in 2010 including: Arabic language (Monash); Islam: Principles, civilisations, and influences (Monash); Introduction to Islam (ACU); Approaches to the Qur'an and Hadith (ACU). For more information, go to: Bachelor of Arts with a major in Islamic Studies <http://www.monash.edu.au/pubs/handbooks/aos/arts-ug-islamic-studies.html> Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Research) in Islamic Studies <http://www.monash.edu.au/pubs/2010handbooks/courses/3937.html>

### **PACE E BENE - 'SPIRITUALITY AND PRACTICE OF NONVIOLENT LEADERSHIP'**

Effective leadership can only emerge from, and be sustained by, a foundation of self-understanding. An 8-day residential program for church leaders, clergy and lay people will explore questions of self-care, integrity, power and hierarchy as a basis of different ways of functioning as a leader. The program aims to deepen leadership skills through a disciplined and sustained practice of reflection on inner work. Module 1 (available twice): 8-13 August or 29 August - 3 September, Perth WA  
Module 2: 14-17 November, Sydney or Melbourne (TBC). For further information, visit

<http://www.paceebene.org.au/> and press the 'workshops' link.

### **ANTI-POVERTY WEEK 2010**

This year, Anti-Poverty Week begins on Sunday 17 October. The week is concerned with poverty around the world, especially in the poorest countries but also in wealthier countries like Australia. The twin 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. The organisers of Anti-Poverty Week are encouraging individuals, communities and organisations to mark the Week in your diaries and begin thinking about activities that could be initiated and promoted. Further information is available at [www.antipovertyweek.org](http://www.antipovertyweek.org). To let the organisers know of events or initiatives you may be considering, contact [apw@antipovertyweek.org.au](mailto:apw@antipovertyweek.org.au) or 1300 797 290

### **FEATURED WEBSITE: DESA**

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) is pleased to announce the launch of its new website. The website has always been a significant part of DESA's outreach effort. Through the new site, both existing users and new visitors can gain a greater understanding of the Department's activities and achievements in promoting development for all. Website: <http://www.un.org/desa/>

### **COLUMBAN MISSION INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER**

Related to the Gospel of the first Sunday of the month, the May edition of the new monthly bulletin for parishes and schools from the Columban Mission Institute called 'Growing a Culture of Peace' is on the theme of 'Globalising Love'. To subscribe email [pej.cmi@columban.org.au](mailto:pej.cmi@columban.org.au) or contact Anne Lanyon, Co-ordinator, Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice, Locked Bag 2002, Strathfield NSW, 2135. Ph 02 9352 8021 Fax 02 9746 8033

(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](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf))

## **PASTORAL LETTER - FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2010**

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker for 2009 is entitled 'Australia at the Crossroads: A time to set new rules'. It is available for download in regular and 'three-column' versions at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## **SERIES PAPER - 'WOMEN IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA'**

Catholic Social Justice Series paper No. 67 is a collection essays by women engaged in wide-ranging areas of Church life. The collection of eight papers include: 'Where would the churches be without women?' by Kimberly Davis and Helen Mary Peters RSM; '*Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus - A Retrospective*' by Sonia Wagner SGS; 'What was it like then? Challenges and achievements' by Therese Vassarotti; 'Australian women in the life of the Church in 2010', by Tricia Walsh; 'The inaugural Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship' by Beth Doherty; 'Female lay ministry: My experience as a lay parish pastoral director' by Kari Hatherell; 'Being 'invisible': Women in the Church and the world' by Geraldine Hawkes; and 'Women: Key leaders in the cause of social justice' by Sandie Cornish. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

## **DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2010**

The ACSJC discussion guide on Pope Benedict XVI's World Day of Peace Message consists of a brief overview of the 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/>

## **STILL TAKING ORDERS - 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**

This Australian Catholic Bishop's 2009 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

(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](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>.

**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, children free. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Contact: 13 11 02. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/>.

**30 APRIL - 9 MAY. HUMAN RIGHTS ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL (HRAFF) (NATIONAL).** HRAFF was founded in 2007 by Evelyn Tadros, Naziath Mantoo and a dedicated team who had a vision to make human rights accessible, relevant and significant to the broader Australian community. HRAFF has grown into a nationwide Festival showing in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and Canberra. Further information: <http://www.hraff.org.au/>.

**1 MAY. EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (ERISJ) COURSE: 'RESILIENT CITIES:**

**SAVING OUR CITIES FROM PEAK OIL AND CLIMATE CHANGE' (WA).** Professor Peter Newman, Professor of Sustainability, Curtin University, will be taking people through his new book 'Resilient Cities'. The discussion will focus on how the Crash can be used to create a new green economy and sustainable cities. It will also provide approaches that governments at all levels can adopt to facilitate this transition and also what we as households and businesses can do. The emphasis of the day will be on hopeful solutions that can be adopted. Cost: \$25-\$150. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9432 2400 or [admin@erisj.org.au](mailto:admin@erisj.org.au). Web: <http://erisj.org.au/new/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=13>.

**1 MAY. PRESENTATION: 'WHAT ARE WOMEN THEOLOGIANS SAYING IN A TIME OF CLIMATE CHANGE?' (NSW).** A relevant and stimulating conversation drawing on the insights of Elizabeth Johnson, Barbara Fiand, Judy Cannato and Sally McFague. Facilitated by Anne Boyd pbvm. Cost: \$90. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Rahamin Ecological Learning Community, St Joseph's Mount, 34 Busby Street, Bathurst. Contact: 02 6332 9950 or [contact@rahamim.org.au](mailto:contact@rahamim.org.au). Web: <http://www.rahamim.org.au/Home/tabid/772/Default.aspx>.

**1 MAY. CITY OF SYDNEY LIVING IN HARMONY FESTIVAL: SPANISH CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY CELEBRATION (NSW).** This family afternoon will include interactive demonstrations and talks, showcasing diverse Spanish cultures and traditions. There will be programs for children and adults with opportunities to learn Spanish words and games; listen to travel talks on Latin America and Spain; learn an old Spanish card craft, taste Spanish cuisine or try some dance steps etc. 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Instituto Cervantes, 22-24 City Road, Chippendale. Contact: 02 9274 9200 or [ic.sydney@cervantes.es](mailto:ic.sydney@cervantes.es), RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=82667>.

**1 MAY. NEW CLEAR EXCHANGE WORKSHOP (VIC).** This will provide an update on current nuclear weapons capabilities, explain the need for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, and help to follow events at the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty review beginning 3 May in New York. Participants will be able to discuss how to actively support the campaign and will be provided with materials. The workshop will be coordinated by International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Campaign Director Coordinator Dimity Hawkins. 9.30 am to 1.30 pm, Level 2 Conference Room, Alan Gilbert Building, 161 Barry Street, Carlton. Contact: [mapw@mapw.org.au](mailto:mapw@mapw.org.au), RSVP ASAP. Web: <http://www.paxchristi.org.au/plugins/events.cgi?all=1&num=10>.

**1 - 7 MAY. MACSIM SYDNEY TO SURFERS BIKE RIDE (NSW).** If you are a serious or fit road cyclist and think you can help raise some much needed funds to support the work of Father Chris Riley with Youth Off the Streets, join this ride. Cost: \$890. 8.00 am, Hornsby TAFE College car park, Jersey Street, Hornsby. Contact: 02 9520 9820 or [sydneytosurfers@gmail.com](mailto:sydneytosurfers@gmail.com). Web: <http://www.sydneytosurfers.org.au/>.

**1 - 16 MAY. WORLD FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT (NATIONAL).** Fair Trade Day, 8 May, has grown into a global festival of Fair Trade with events including breakfasts, talks, markets, live performances, fashion shows, carnivals, festivals, processions and protests, to drive Fair Trade and campaign for justice in trade and promote sustainable social and environmental policy. Each of the key events in NSW, QLD, VIC and WA will feature international guest speaker Kohinoor Yeasmin, CEO of Tarango Fair Trade in Bangladesh. Web: <http://www.fairtrade.com.au> and <http://www.worldfairtradeday10.org/>.

**2 MAY. OPEN HOUSE FORUM: 'CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF PORT PHILLIP THROUGH SONG, DANCE, FOOD AND THE VISUAL ARTS' (VIC).** Following the Parliament of World's Religions Reflections, this is an opportunity to hear from local faith leaders and their reflections on the Parliament of World's Religions (Dec 09). You will have a

chance to explore issues and topics with leading faith figures, and celebrate the diversity that enriches our community. 4.00 to 8.00 pm, Temple Beth Israel, 76 Alma Road, St Kilda. Contact: 03 9209 6385 or [cdelfrat@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:cdelfrat@portphillip.vic.gov.au). Web: <http://www.ncca.org.au/home/calendar/view/2355/304>.

**2 MAY. CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS: 'CONNECTING THE JOURNEY' (NSW).** Blue Mountains Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) and BM People For Reconciliation (P4R) are holding this event which will include local Aboriginal artists and their art works on display and for sale; displays by a variety of groups including Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups and schools to showcase significant reconciliation events/ initiatives across the Blue Mountains; afternoon tea and launch of the 2009 BM ANTaR/P4R Report of Activities. Speaker: Leanne Townsend, CEO NSW Reconciliation Council. No cost. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Small Hall, Wentworth Falls School of Arts, Great Western Hwy, Wentworth Falls. Contact: 02 4758 6811. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/47845/448/>.

**3 MAY. SHOAH (HOLOCAUST) SERVICE (NSW).** The NSW Council of Christians and Jews is privileged to invite all members of the Sydney community of all denominations to attend its Holocaust Commemoration held annually in memory of the Shoah's Jewish suffering - which is often seen as a paradigm for the suffering of others. Speaker: George Sternfeld, Holocaust survivor. 6.00 pm, Crypt, St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Contact: [dacymarianne@yahoo.com.au](mailto:dacymarianne@yahoo.com.au). Web: <http://www.ccjaustralia.org/en/?item=302>.

**3 - 6 MAY. CONFERENCE: 'INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ON AGEING' (VIC).** This conference will provide a reliable platform for a global information exchange for those working to generate positive social change for older people. The three themes that form the program framework - Global Warming and the Environment, Social Inclusion, The Changing Economy and Human Rights - are expected to stimulate new conversations as well as explore in more depth more traditional subject areas. Each theme will be informed by international

and regional frameworks including UN Principles for Older People, the UN Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Active Ageing Framework of the World Health Organization. Cost: \$900-\$1195. Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Contact: 02 9265 0700 or [ifa2010@arinex.com.au](mailto:ifa2010@arinex.com.au). Web: <http://www.ifa2010.org/default.asp>.

**3, 10, 17 MAY. WORKSHOP: 'BASICS OF THE NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION MODEL' (NSW).** Presented by Kate Raffin, this dynamic workshop is for anyone who wants to learn more about speaking and listening openly, honestly and empathically. Learn helpful, accessible and easy tools of Nonviolent Communication; practice Nonviolent Communication in relaxed and spacious conditions; explore real life situations with safety and revelation. Course contribution: \$150-350. Mondays 6.00 to 9.00 pm, 'Upper Room', St Marys, 21 Swanson Street, Erskineville. Contact: 02 9557 7986 or [kate@kateraffin.com](mailto:kate@kateraffin.com), RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.nvcaustralia.com/trainings.htm>.

**4 MAY. GLOBALHOME LECTURE SERIES: 'CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH' (NSW).** With rising global temperatures, current efforts to improve health and poverty will face new and unpredictable challenges. Speakers: Dr Ben Ticehurst, Doctor for the Environment, and Dr Paul Beggs, Winner of 2009 Eureka Prize in Medical Research, bring the health implications of this global threat alive. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, Eastern Ave Auditorium, University of Sydney. Contact: [nvit7048@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:nvit7048@uni.sydney.edu.au) Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/global-health/news-events/events.php>.

**4 MAY. PUBLIC ADDRESS: 'AUSTRALIA - WHERE THE FIRST AND LAST ARE GUARANTEED EQUAL TREATMENT!' (SA).** A public address that calls us to question why it is that Australia's first and last peoples are the most marginalized in our society. Speaker: Phil Glendenning, director, Edmund Rice Centre, former National President of Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation and author, 'Australian Citizens' Statement. Phil is currently on the Board of ANTaR, the Refugee Council, A Just Australia and ACOSS. Cost: gold coin donation. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Main

Hall, Migrant Resource Centre, 59 King William Street, Adelaide. Contact: 08 8354 2100. Web: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/AdelaideYouthMinistry/media/files/4726.pdf>.

**4 MAY. INSIGHTS GATHERING (NSW).** The Insights Team invites you to reflect, listen to others, and share your thoughts and feelings on the impact of sexual abuse by some clergy. The courage to listen to ourselves, each other and the Spirit in response to the issue of sexual abuse in our community in the hope of addressing together our emerging needs. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, St Laurence Centre, Broadmeadow Road, Broadmeadow. Contact: 02 4940 8091 or [insightsteam@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:insightsteam@mn.catholic.org.au). Web: [http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/Insights\\_Gathering\\_May10.pdf](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/Insights_Gathering_May10.pdf).

**4 MAY. LECTURE: 'INFLUENCING THE POLITICAL PROCESS' (WA).** Speaker: Dr Martin Drum, Lecturer in Politics and International Relations, University of Notre Dame. 6.45 to 9:30 pm, Melville Civic Square Library. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/wa/event/22842/>.

**4 - 13 MAY. MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION: 'BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER WORLD' (VIC).** 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, readers) from Caritas partner communities make up the installation. No cost. Bendigo Town Hall, 189-193 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo. Contact: 02 8306 3400. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/Venues/index.html>.

**4, 5, 6, 17, 20 MAY. LECTURE: 'WELCOMING PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS: WHY AND HOW' (QLD, NSW, NT).** These will be sponsored by Catholic Religious Australia's Australian Mission Network in several centres around Australia throughout May. Speaker: Dominican Sr Dr Trish Madigan, Executive Officer, Broken Bay Diocese Commission for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; foundation member, Women's Interfaith

Network and a representative, Australian National Dialogue of Christians, Jews and Muslims.

**4 May, Cairns:** 7.30 pm, 'Seville' Mercy Conference Centre, Earlville. Contact: 07 4054 1106.

**5 May, Townsville:** 7.30 pm, Holy Spirit Annexe, Cranbrook. Contact: 07 4726 3253 or [srtherese@iprimus.com.au](mailto:srtherese@iprimus.com.au).

**6 May, Lismore:** 7.00 pm, McCarthy Hall, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary parish, Alstonville. The lecture will be 'Interfaith Issues - the Church and Islam'. Contact: 02 6628 7307 or [jgriffiths@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:jgriffiths@catholicmission.org.au).

**17 May, Wagga:** 7.00 pm, Conference Room, McAlroy House. Contact: 02 6937 0013 or [ccarroll@csoww.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ccarroll@csoww.catholic.edu.au).

**20 May, Alice Springs:** 7.00 pm, Andy McNeill Room, Town Council. Contact: 08 8956 0967 or [mikhael.loke@divineword.com.au](mailto:mikhael.loke@divineword.com.au).

Web: <http://catholicreligiousaustralia.com/en/816>.

**5 MAY. SEMINAR: 'ABORIGINALITY AND JOURNALISM: FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE NEWSROOM' (NSW).** University of Technology Sydney (UTS): Cosmopolitan Civil Societies (CCS) Research Centre seminar featuring Associate Professor Minelle Mahtani from The University of Toronto and Brenda Nadjiwan, chairperson of the Strategic Alliance of Broadcasters for Aboriginal Reflection (SABAR) and hosted by UTS:CCS member Heidi Norman. No cost. 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre, Level 3, MaryAnn House, 645 Harris Street, Ultimo. Contact: [ccs@uts.edu.au](mailto:ccs@uts.edu.au), RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.ccs.uts.edu.au/>.

**5 MAY. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'I FEEL PASSIONATE ABOUT RECONCILIATION / HEALING' (NSW).** Speakers: Antony Lowenstein and Leanne Townsend. 6.30 to 9.00 pm, Bellevue Hotel, 159 Hargrave Street, Paddington. Contact: 02 9387 3152. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/spirituality%20in%20the%20pub.htm>.

**6 MAY. RESEARCH AND POLICY CENTRE LUNCHTIME SEMINAR: 'INSIGHTS INTO NEIGHBOURHOOD STIGMA' (VIC).** This presentation, explores residents' accounts of experiences of place-based stigma,

contemporary contexts for understanding why people and places are vulnerable to being stigmatised, the contribution of stigma to problems of social exclusion and the reproduction of socio-economic disadvantage, and strategies for challenging place-based stigma. Speaker: Deborah Warr, Senior Research Fellow, McCaughey Centre, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne. 12.00 to 1.00 pm, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Fr Tucker's room, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Contact: [kphilipp@bsl.org.au](mailto:kphilipp@bsl.org.au) or 03 9483 1364. Web: <http://www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on.aspx?id=76&dt=6/05/2010>.

**6 - 7 MAY. CONFERENCE: 'RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS, LOCAL INITIATIVES' (ACT).** The ACT Domestic Violence Prevention Council and the ACT Family Pathway Network is holding this conference on domestic violence. The conference will focus on how challenges at the national level offer opportunities for reform of policies and practices for responding to family violence. It will showcase leading examples of locally-based family violence interventions. This conference will appeal to a broad cross-section of people in the justice, legal, corrective services, health, education and community support, research and academic communities. Cost: \$220. National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra. Contact: [coast@law.anu.edu.au](mailto:coast@law.anu.edu.au) or 02 6125 3487. Web: <http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/fvc.htm>.

**7 MAY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'THE UNHEARD TRUTH: POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS' (NSW).** Speakers: Stuart Rees, Director, Sydney Peace Foundation and Claire Mallinson, Amnesty International. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or [odlbradley@pacific.net.au](mailto:odlbradley@pacific.net.au). Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

**7 MAY. FUNDRAISER: MOTHER'S DAY BALL (ACT).** Karinya House for Mothers and Babies will hold a Mother's Day Ball, including a three-course meal and entertainment. There will be raffles and auctions throughout the night, with drinks available for purchase from the

bar. Proceeds from the Mother's Day Ball will assist Karinya House to provide vital support services for pregnant and parenting women in crisis throughout the ACT and surrounding region. Cost: \$70. 7.00 pm, Southern Cross Club, Phillip. Contact: 02 6241 8427 or [jackie.gallagher@karinyahouse.asn.au](mailto:jackie.gallagher@karinyahouse.asn.au). Web: [http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/view\\_event.cfm?loadref=18&id=745](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/view_event.cfm?loadref=18&id=745).

**7 - 8 MAY. CAMPAIGN VIGIL: 'DUSK 'TIL DAWN' (WA).** This vigil outside the Perth Immigration Detention Centre is to let people inside and out know that not all Australians reject asylum seekers. The Perth Immigration Detention Centre is again being used to hold asylum seekers, and with the Rudd Government's freeze on processing new asylum claims from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka it may soon hold more. 6.00 pm, opposite the boom gates to the short term parking, corner of Baker and McCombe Roads, Perth Domestic Airport, Redcliffe. Contact: 0417 904 329. Web: <http://www.rran.org/>.

**8 MAY. MICAH CHALLENGE REGIONAL TRAINING DAY (NSW).** This election year is a key opportunity to make sure Australia does all it can to see the MDG's achieved. This training day will equip you to speak out for God's justice and get on board with Micah Challenge's 2010 election campaign. It features the new Micah Challenge Action Toolkit, plus guest speakers, presentations from policy experts and practical workshops. Cost: \$15, \$10 concession. 9.00 am to 1.00 pm, Armidale District Baptist Church, corner Jessie and Rusden Streets, Armidale. Contact: 02 6775 2067 or [constable456@hotmail.com](mailto:constable456@hotmail.com), RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/events>.

**8 MAY. CAMPAIGN: 'BE A LIFESAVER - PROTECT REFUGEES' (NSW, QLD, SA, VIC).** Australia has a proud history of helping refugees fleeing war and persecution. But now our politicians are trampling on this record and punishing these most desperate of people to score political points. 300 people are gathering to form a giant human life ring, and show our politicians on all sides that they've got it wrong - Australians do care about saving lives and we won't accept punishment of people

to win votes. Be sure to wear your brightest yellow and red clothes.

**NSW:** 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, Bondi Beach. Contact: [nswcampaigns@amnesty.org.au](mailto:nswcampaigns@amnesty.org.au). Register: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/22927/>.

**QLD:** 1.00 to 3:00 pm, King George Square, Brisbane. Contact: [qldaia@amnesty.org.au](mailto:qldaia@amnesty.org.au). Register: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/qld/event/22928/>.

**SA:** 1.00 to 3.00 pm, The Human Rights Wall, Barker Gardens, corner of Prospect and Alpha Roads, Prospect. Contact: [sant@amnesty.org.au](mailto:sant@amnesty.org.au). Register: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/sa/events/>.

**VIC:** 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, St Kilda Beach, 43 Jacka Boulevard, St Kilda. Contact: [vicaia@amnesty.org.au](mailto:vicaia@amnesty.org.au). Register: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/vic/events/>.

**8 MAY. RALLY: 'REFUGEES ARE WELCOME' (VIC).** Indigenous elders welcome Merak asylum seekers with Original National passport-signing ceremony. Speakers: representatives from Aboriginal community, Trades Hall and the Tamil community. 12.00 noon, Victorian Trades Hall, corner Lygon and Victoria Streets, Carlton. Contact: 0400 588 202, 0413 377 978 or [refugeeaction@hotmail.com](mailto:refugeeaction@hotmail.com). Web: <http://www.rac-vic.org/>.

**8 MAY. WILLS ELECTORATE FORUM: MAKE POVERTY HISTORY (VIC).** Oxfam in conjunction with the Make Poverty History coalition are holding an electoral forum in the Federal Seat of Wills. If you live around Brunswick, Coburg, Pascoe Vale or Glenroy, this is a chance to hear and engage in debate with candidates from the major parties about fighting global poverty, the aid budget and funding climate change adaptation programs in developing countries. Speakers: Kelvin Thomson (Federal Member for Wills), Mark Riley (Australian Greens) and Andrew Hewett (Oxfam Australia). Brunswick Town Hall, corner Sydney Road and Dawson Street, Brunswick. Contact: [clancym@oxfam.org.au](mailto:clancym@oxfam.org.au). Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/event-calendar>.

**10 MAY. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY - RECLAIMING A LIBERATING VISION: A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE' (NSW).** Speakers Trish Madigan

and Tamkin Ansari. Jamberoo Hotel, 12 Allowrie Street, Jamberoo. Contact: 02 4232 2735. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/spirituality%20in%20the%20pub.htm>.

**10 - 16 MAY. NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK (NVW).** NVW is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who volunteer. Australian volunteers are essential to society, and many charities would struggle to survive without the support of their volunteers. Australian volunteers contribute more than 700 million hours of community service to so many areas of society, including community health care, heritage and arts, environment conservation, emergency services, education, social justice and sports. NVW provides a platform to pay tribute to these volunteers who donate their time and energy to help others. Web: [http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02\\_article/default.asp?nav\\_top\\_id=55&nav\\_cat\\_id=357](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02_article/default.asp?nav_top_id=55&nav_cat_id=357).

**11 MAY. SEMINAR: 'BOYCOTTING ISRAELI APARTHEID: PRACTICAL AND ETHICAL QUESTIONS' (NSW).** Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and Sydney Peace Foundation are holding this seminar. Professor George Bisharat will describe the growing international movement in support of boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) seeks to compel Israel to comply with international law, and will argue that BDS represents a non-violent, morally defensible, and effective strategy for positive change. He will address ethical questions surrounding the academic and cultural aspects of the boycott movement and will argue that there is no justification for exempting academic institutions from the general boycott of Israeli goods and services. No cost. 12.00 to 2.00 pm. CPACS, Mackie Building, room 107, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 4468. Web: [http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/peace\\_conflict/news/events.shtml](http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/peace_conflict/news/events.shtml).

**11, 13, 17, 18 MAY. PRESENTATION: 'CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND THE CHURCH OF THE POOR' (NSW, QLD, SA, VIC).** A Presentation for School Leaders, Identity Leaders, Teachers, Board members and

anyone interested in hearing an inspiring and challenging speaker. Visiting scholar and author, Dr James Nickoloff is Associate Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he taught Catholic systematic theology from 1989 to 2009. He is currently Adjunct Professor of Theology at Barry University in Miami, Florida. 10.00 am to 3.15 pm.

**11 May (NSW):** St Patrick's College, Francis Street, Strathfield.

**13 May (QLD):** St Laurence's College, 82 Stephens Road South, Brisbane.

**17 May (SA):** Rostrevor College, Glen Stuart Road, Woodforde.

**18 May (VIC):** St Kevin's College, Moonga Road, Toorak.

Contact: [madeline.kift@erea.edu.au](mailto:madeline.kift@erea.edu.au) or 03 9426 3206, RSVP at least one week before event. Web: <http://cjpcevents.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/j-nickoloff-brochure-31.pdf>.

**12 MAY. SEMINAR: 'HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PALESTINIAN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES' (NSW).** Professor Bisharat from the University of California, Hastings will be speaking on law and politics in the Palestinian occupied territories. Professor Bisharat studied law, anthropology, and Middle East studies at Harvard, and wrote a book about Palestinian lawyers working under Israeli military occupation in the West Bank. 12.30 to 2.00 pm, Staff common room, Faculty of Law, University of NSW. Contact: [ahr@unsw.edu.au](mailto:ahr@unsw.edu.au), RSVP by 10 May. Web: <http://www.ahrcentre.org/ahrcevents.html>.

**12 MAY. LECTURE: 'ISRAEL AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW' (NSW).** University of Technology: Cosmopolitan Civil Societies event, a public lecture with Professor George Bisharat from the Hasting Law School. This lecture is organised in conjunction with the Sydney Advocacy Group, Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine. No cost. 4.00 to 6.00 pm, UTS Building 5, Haymarket Campus, Quay Street, Room 1.11, Ultimo. Contact: [ccs@uts.edu.au](mailto:ccs@uts.edu.au), RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.coalitionforpalestine.org/sydneyevents.html>.

**12 MAY. FORUM: 'FLEEING OPPRESSION - PEOPLE SEEKING REFUGE' (ACT).** Christians for an Ethical Society are holding this forum. Speakers: Kerry Murphy, Immigration Law Specialist, D'Ambra Murphy Lawyers, former Jesuit Refugee Service coordinator; and Paul Power, CEO Refugee Council of Australia. Cost: \$5 donation. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton. Contact: 02 6291 4537. Web: <http://www.ces.org.au/index.htm#Calendar%20of%20Events>.

**12 MAY. FRIELICH FOUNDATION'S INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURE: 'WHERE TO FROM HERE? AUSTRALIA'S ROLE IN REFUGEE PROTECTION' (ACT).** Speaker: Professor Penelope Mathew, will look at Australia's past and present policies against the backdrop of global refugee movements, assessing these policies for compliance with accepted international human rights standards, and evaluate their utility in dealing with the problem of forced migration. She will suggest ways of changing the national conversation about the issue. Active audience participation in a new national conversation will be encouraged during and after her presentation. 6.00 pm, Sir Roland Wilson Building, McCoy Circuit, Australian National University. Contact: [mathewlecture.rsvp@anu.edu.au](mailto:mathewlecture.rsvp@anu.edu.au) or 02 6215 9299, RSVP essential. Web: [http://www.ces.org.au/non\\_ces\\_events.htm](http://www.ces.org.au/non_ces_events.htm).

**12 MAY. ST THOMAS MORE FORUM: 'HOW THE CHURCH SHOULD ENGAGE WITH OUR PARLIAMENTS AND PUBLIC OPINION' (ACT).** Catholic senators Barnaby Joyce, Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Infrastructure and Water; and Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector will discuss how the Church should engage with parliament and public opinion. In an election year when it stated by some that only secular views have a right to be in the public square, those that believe that religion and faith are just as entitled to participate in the great political debates of the day will hear from two Senators who are in the front line. Cost: \$10, \$3 concession. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, St Thomas More Hall, 30 White Crescent, Campbell. Register: <http://community.catholiclife.org.au/events/>

[st-thomas-more-forum-may-12.](http://www.ces.org.au/index.htm#Calendar%20of%20Events)

**12 MAY. LAUNCH: SAVERPLUS (VIC).** Saver Plus is a matched savings and financial education program, developed by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ and delivered across Australia in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society, The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program provides financial training and support, and ANZ motivates participants to continue to save by matching their savings dollar for dollar, up to \$500. The Brotherhood of St Laurence is delivering Saver Plus in Frankston and on the Mornington Peninsula and is hosting this launch at ANZ Rosebud to let the local community know the program is available in their area. 5.30 to 6.30 pm, ANZ Rosebud, 1095 Point Nepean Road, Rosebud. Contact: [nstreet@bsl.org.au](mailto:nstreet@bsl.org.au) or 03 8781 5932. Web: <http://www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on.aspx?id=73&dt=12/05/2010>.

**12 - 14 MAY. WACOSS CONFERENCE (WA).** The WACOSS Conference provides for the largest gathering of social service practitioners, policy-makers, program providers, businesses, non-profit organisations and non-government human services of its kind. The Conference creates an opportunity for delegates to engage in leadership development, lively discussions on cutting edge ideas and practices from experienced national and international speakers and the opportunity to network with colleagues and share ideas and experiences. Speakers: Mark Bin Bakar, Abmusic, honorary Stolen Generation Alliance member, West Australian of the Year; Hildy Gottlieb, President, Community Driven Institute, Arizona; Hon Colin Barnett MLA, Premier WA; etc. Cost: \$350-\$780. 8.00 am to 5.00 pm, Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, 21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth. Contact: 08 9389 1488 or [aline@eecw.com.au](mailto:aline@eecw.com.au). Register: <http://wacoss.org.au/conference2010/>.

**13 MAY. LECTURE: 'THE LONG BETRAYAL OF REMOTE INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA: THE RECORD OF SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS' (SA).** Alison Anderson will review the experience of recent policy initiatives on the ground, as felt by language-speaking members of desert indigenous societies, and noting that almost all

comment on the Intervention and its effects has been by outsiders without capacity to know the true responses of the target social group. Nicolas Rothwell will provide a separate account of the assumptions underlying policy-making and the effects of the paradigm in place today on the ground. The aim is to provide a reality check and to suggest that we are still in an era of profound colonial administration, and that power relations as much as passive welfare constitute the bar to progress. No cost. 5:45 to 8:00 pm, UniSA City West Campus, Hawke Building level 5, 50 North Terrace, Adelaide. Register: [http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2010events/Rothwell\\_Anderson.asp](http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2010events/Rothwell_Anderson.asp).

**13 - 16 MAY. NATSICC YOUTH LEADERSHIP GATHERING (QLD).** Indigenous youth from all over Australia are invited, the program will include: workshops focused on enhancing self esteem and confidence; learning to understand the language of the Bible and Scripture and the Catholic Tradition and workshops on public speaking and presentation skills. It will be an informative but fun filled event. Australian Catholic University has sponsored a trip to watch a Brisbane Broncos home game and local elders will take the group on a cultural tour of the local area. Cost: \$350, NATSICC will support 2 youth from every State and Territory to attend. Australian Catholic University Campus, Brisbane. Contact: [craig@natsicc.org.au](mailto:craig@natsicc.org.au), RSVP essential, limited places. Web: <http://www.natsicc.org.au>.

**14 MAY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'THE BURDEN OF DEBT: HOW SERIOUS AND WHO WILL PAY' (NSW).** Speakers: Dr Jim Stanford, Canadian Auto Workers union, author *Economics for Everyone*; and Associate Professor Steve Keen, author *Debunking Economics*, University of Western 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](mailto:odl_bradley@pacific.net.au). Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

**14 MAY. FUNDRAISER: 'SWINGING 60S QUIZ NIGHT' (NSW).** Join us for our unique quiz night and help raise funds for the Asylum Seekers Centre's humanitarian work. Hosted by outrageous Quiz Masters, H.G. Nelson and Julian Morrow. Bring 1960s style to the table

and win prizes for the best dressed team. \$60.00 recommended minimum donation. 7.00 pm, North Sydney Leagues Club, 12 Abbott Street, Cammeray. Contact: 02 9361 5606 or [ascquiznight2010@gmail.com](mailto:ascquiznight2010@gmail.com). Web: <http://www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au/>.

**14 MAY. HUMAN RIGHTS DINNER (VIC).** The Human Rights Law Resource Centre and the Public Interest Law Clearing House are holding this dinner. Speakers: Louise Arbour, President and CEO, International Crisis Group and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2004-08); and Rob Hulls, Deputy Premier of Victoria and Attorney-General of Victoria. Cost: \$75-\$120. 7:00 to 11:45 pm, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hilton South Wharf entrance, Rooms 210 and 211, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf. Contact: [jess.easton@pilch.org.au](mailto:jess.easton@pilch.org.au) or 03 8636 4459, RSVP by 3 May. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**14 - 16 MAY. PILGRIMAGE TO CORANDERRK (VIC).** CFAR, Binnap Partners and the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry invite you on a pilgrimage at Healesville. Learn about the history of Aboriginal people in Victoria. It will be led by Wurundjeri elders (descendents of the original Coranderrk community and Custodians of the land), members of the Worawa Aboriginal College community, and others. Cost: \$220. Contact: [cfar@passiton.org.au](mailto:cfar@passiton.org.au), RSVP by 26 March. Web: <http://inetfs1.whitefriars.vic.edu.au/infide/2010/In%20Fide%20Newsletter%20Issue%2007%20-%20Pilgrimage%20to%20Coranderrk.pdf>.

**15 MAY. MICAH CHALLENGE REGIONAL TRAINING (NSW).** This election year is a key opportunity to make sure Australia does all it can to see the MDG's achieved. This training day will equip you to speak out for God's justice and get on board with Micah Challenge's 2010 election campaign. It features the new Micah Challenge Action Toolkit, plus guest speakers, presentations from politicians and policy experts and practical workshops. Cost: \$15, \$10 concession. 1:20 to 5:20 pm, Albion Park Uniting Church, corner Russell and Terry Streets, Albion Park. Contact: [nsw@micahchallenge.org.au](mailto:nsw@micahchallenge.org.au), RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/events>.

**15 MAY. ERISJ COURSE: 'INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS: SYSTEMS, LAWS, ENTITLEMENTS' (WA).** On completion of this Intensive, participants will understand: how to protect and promote their own human rights and those of other individuals and communities; the functions and limitations of the international human rights system; how to identify domestic human rights issues, and place them within an international context; the skills and knowledge they now possess to make their own human rights work more effective. Speaker: Anna Copeland, Solicitor, Supreme Court WA, and a registered Migration Agent, lecturer, Human Rights Law, Curtin University and Murdoch University International Human Rights Program, Geneva. Cost: \$25-\$150. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9432 2400 or [admin@erisj.org.au](mailto:admin@erisj.org.au). Web: <http://erisj.org.au/new/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=14>.

**16 MAY. JUBILEE SUNDAY (NATIONAL).** Scripture tells us that Jesus' ministry in our world was finished and he was handing over to us, his followers, to continue his work for God's Kingdom. On Jubilee Sunday, we are asked to focus on one of the root causes of endemic global poverty - the unjust and unpayable debts of many countries. One of these countries is Haiti, now suffering not only from the effects of past economic policies but from the devastating earthquake. Resources available at: <http://www.jubileeaustralia.org/>.

**16 - 23 MAY. WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: 'YOU ARE WITNESSES TO THESE THINGS' (NATIONAL).** This year's theme is 'You are witnesses of these things' (Luke 24:48) and a variety of resources and links can be found on the NCCA website to assist Australians in joining more effectively in that great wave of prayer begun by Jesus himself when he prayed 'that they may all be one ... so that the world may believe' (John 17:21). Web: <http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/faith-unity/wopcu>.

**17 MAY. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'GROUNDWELL: THE FIRE IGNITES AMONG GENERATIONS' (NSW).** Speakers: Robyn Gallagher and Susan Neylan. 7.30 to 9.00

pm, Union Hotel, Pacific Highway and West Street, North Sydney. Contact: 02 9958 5963 or [kamlam@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kamlam@optusnet.com.au). Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/spirituality%20in%20the%20pub.htm>.

**17 MAY. NATIONAL PRO BONO DAY AND WALK FOR JUSTICE (NSW).** This is the first day of National Law Week. The centrepiece of this day will be the 3-5 km walk past key city legal landmarks which aims to raise awareness of unmet legal need in the community and raise funds to support the work of the pro bono clearing houses in each State and Territory. It is an initiative of the Public Interest Law Clearing Houses of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland and the National Pro Bono Resource Centre. Cost: \$15, \$5 concession. 6.50 am, Archibald Fountain, Hyde Park, Sydney. Contact: [info@pilchsw.org.au](mailto:info@pilchsw.org.au). Register: <http://www.pilchsw.org.au>.

**17, 20, 24, 26, 27 MAY. SEMINAR: 'SEX ON DEMAND' (VIC, NSW, ACT, WA).** Victor Malarek is an award winning journalist and author of six books including: *The Natashas: Inside the new global sex trade*. Each year more than 800,000 women and children are lured into prostitution to meet an insatiable demand. Full details are available at: <http://www.justsalvos.com>.

**17, 31 MAY, 21 JUNE. LEADERSHIP CAPACITY BUILDERS SERIES (SA).** Everyone is called to be a leader in some aspect of their lives. Come and join other young people in discussions about leadership. This course covers: quality, styles and structures of leadership; Jesus the leader: the concept of servant leadership; and practical skills for leadership. 7:30 to 9:30 pm, Rooms 7 and 8, Catholic Education Office, George Street, Thebarton. Contact: [sarah.moffatt@ceo.adl.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sarah.moffatt@ceo.adl.catholic.edu.au), RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/AdelaideYouthMinistry/media/files/4728.pdf>.

**18 MAY. NATIONAL E-CONFERENCE: 'MARY - FIRST DISCIPLE' (NATIONAL).** Broken Bay Institute working with the Australian Catholic Bishops present this e-conference. Fr Frank Maloney SDB, the key presenter, will explore Mary as disciple, woman, and mother. Join

us as we reflect on the image of Mary as presented in art through the ages. Listen to others share their personal relationship with Mary both in prayer and in daily life. No cost. 10.30 am to 3.15 pm Eastern Standard Time; 10.00 am to 2.45 pm Central Standard Time; 8:30 am to 1.15 pm Western Standard Time. Contact: 02 9847 0556 or [vryan@bbi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:vryan@bbi.catholic.edu.au). Web: <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au>.

**18 - 26 MAY. MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION: 'BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER WORLD' (VIC).** 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, readers) from Caritas partner communities make up the installation. No cost. Memorial Hall, Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, corner Ovens and Ford Streets, Wangaratta. Contact: 02 8306 3400. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/Venues/index.html>.

**19 MAY. NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL DINNER: 'WHAT IS OUR CHRISTIAN MISSION TOGETHER TODAY?' (NSW).** To celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for 2010 and to mark the 100th anniversary of the Edinburgh International Missionary Conference. Speakers: Metropolitan Archbishop Paul Saliba, Antiochian Orthodox Church; Commissioner Linda Bond, Salvation Army Eastern Territory. Cost: \$55. 7.00 for 7.30 pm, Fontana di Trevi Function Centre, 53 Raymond Street, Bankstown. Contact: 02 9299 2215 or [kmoroney@ncca.org.au](mailto:kmoroney@ncca.org.au), RSVP by 12 May. Web: <http://www.churchresources.info/missionspirit/0410/NSWEC%20Dinner%20Invitation%2019%20May.pdf>.

**19 MAY. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'OUR EMERGING SPIRITUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTALISM' (NSW).** Speakers: Margaret Hinchey and John Charadia. 7.30 pm, Sutherland United Services Club, 7 East Parade, Sutherland. Contact: 02 9520 0617 or 02 9548 2475. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/spirituality%20in%20the%20pub.htm>.

**20 MAY. ABORIGINAL CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE TRAINING, PART I (ACT).** This one-day workshop for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers gives participants a general introduction into the recent history of Aboriginal people in Australia. It aims to improve knowledge of Aboriginal culture and dispossession, and explores ways the organisations might improve their practice to respond to the needs of Aboriginal people. Facilitated by Kerry Reed-Gilbert. Cost: \$48-\$237. 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach. Contact: 02 6202 7200. Web: <http://www.actcoss.org.au/secdevel/seminars.html>.

**20 MAY. LECTURE: 'REFUGEES - INNOCENT VICTIMS, ILLEGAL MIGRANTS OR POLITICAL PAWNS?' (NSW).** Dr Eileen Pittaway, Director of the Centre for Refugee Research, UNSW and Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Sciences and International Studies will speak on her recent research relating to refugees. The lecture will be introduced by Richard Towle, the Australasian-Pacific Regional Representative for the UNHCR. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, Leighton Hall, John Niland Scientia Building, UNSW Kensington. Register: <http://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/so-what>.

**22 MAY. WALK AND CONCERT FOR RECONCILIATION (NSW).** Organised by Mt Druitt and District Reconciliation Group, with the support of Blacktown City Council, NSW Reconciliation Council and Mt Druitt Police. Concert and BBQ: 12.00 noon, walk commences: 2.00 pm, Mt Druitt Town Square, between Westfield Shopping Centre and the Library, Mt Druitt. Contact: 02 9625 4344. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/47570/448/>.

**23 MAY. RISE FESTIVAL - REFUGEE SURVIVORS AND EX-DETAINEES FESTIVAL (VIC).** Featuring Westridaz hip hop, Gulus Kogoyo Capoeira dance, the Social Studio fashion show, Pataphysics, the Liberian Choir and lots more. Hosted by comedians Amer Rahman and Nazeem Hussain of Fear of a Brown Planet. Limited seats available arrive early to secure a seat. 3.00 to 6.00 pm, BMW Edge Building, Federation Square, Melbourne. Contact:

[admin@riserefugee.org](mailto:admin@riserefugee.org) or 03 9639 8623. Web: <http://www.riserefugee.org>.

**24 MAY. SEMINAR: 'RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: MOVING FORWARD' (NSW).** This seminar includes short presentations from a small panel of speakers offering different perspectives to a critical discussion of restorative justice. Seminar participants will have opportunities to explore these issues with the speakers after each presentation. Speakers: Dr Ivo Aertsen, Criminology professor, Leuven Catholic University (K.U.L. Belgium); Julie Stubbs, Professor of Criminology, Sydney Law School; and Natalia Blecher, BA/LLB (Hons); Researcher, Supreme Court of NSW. No cost. 4.00 to 7.00 pm, Sydney Law School, New Law Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0238 or [law.events@sydney.edu.au](mailto:law.events@sydney.edu.au), RSVP essential. Web: [http://www.criminology.law.usyd.edu.au/seminars\\_events/](http://www.criminology.law.usyd.edu.au/seminars_events/).

**24 MAY. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'LOVE FOR SALE AND LABOUR FOR HIRE' (QLD).** In this presentation, University of Queensland's (UQ) Human Trafficking Working Group will explore and discuss some of the challenges of combating human trafficking in Australia. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Terrace room, top floor, Sir Llew Edwards Building, University of Queensland, St Lucia. Contact: [events@bel.uq.edu.au](mailto:events@bel.uq.edu.au) or [a.schloenhardt@law.uq.edu.au](mailto:a.schloenhardt@law.uq.edu.au). Web: <http://www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking>.

**24 - 28 MAY. UQ DIVERSITY WEEK (QLD).** University of Queensland has students from more than 120 countries and will celebrate with a week of stimulating discussions, awards and other activities. Contact: 07 3365 3052 or [equity@uq.edu.au](mailto:equity@uq.edu.au). Web: <http://www.uq.edu.au/diversity-week/>.

**25 MAY. GLOBALHOME LECTURE SERIES: 'INDIGENOUS HEALTH' (NSW).** This component of the lecture series will explore Indigenous health and aims to engage students to contemplate health in a wider context. It also aims to inspire students with recent successes and strengths in Closing the Gap programs and inform on avenues for action. Speakers: Dr Paul Torzillo, Medical Director, Nganampa Health Council, member, National Indigenous

Health Equity Council; and Associate Professor Ngaire Brown, Director, Poche Centre for Indigenous Health. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, Eastern Ave Auditorium, University of Sydney. Contact: [nvit7048@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:nvit7048@uni.sydney.edu.au). Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/global-health/news-events/events.php>.

**25 MAY. FUNDRAISER SILENT FILM FESTIVAL: 'SILENTS IN THE CITY: AUTUMN AND WINTER' (NSW).** Silent Film Australia, presenter of Australia's Silent Film Festival, and the Pitt Street Uniting Church are proud to host a season of restored silent film classics and live music to support Tradewinds' not for profit project in East Timor. Featuring: The Mascot, (1933) 26 minutes, Ladislav Starewicz, fascinating short film by Polish master of animation, making a child's toys come to life in a most charming and realistic way. Silent: Nosferatu, (1922) 81 minutes, this German horror classic is the first movie based on Bram Stoker's 'Dracula'. Tradewinds Fairtrade organic coffees and teas available for nominal charge from 6.15 pm each evening. Cost: \$20, concession \$15. 7.00 pm, Pitt Street Uniting Church, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney. Contact: 0419 267 318 or [info@ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au](mailto:info@ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au). Web: <http://www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au>.

**25 MAY. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'HERITAGE IN AFGHANISTAN: NINE YEARS AFTER BAMIYAN' (QLD).** This lecture provides comparative perspectives on heritage and peace building from four different countries based on the past fifteen years of the speaker's firsthand knowledge in Afghanistan, East Timor, South Africa and Vietnam. Speaker: Prof Amareswar Galla. 5.30 to 6.30 pm, James and Mary Emelia Mayne Centre, University of Queensland, St Lucia. Contact: [r.ralph@uq.edu.au](mailto:r.ralph@uq.edu.au). Web: [http://www.uq.edu.au/events/event\\_view.php?event\\_id=6062](http://www.uq.edu.au/events/event_view.php?event_id=6062).

**26 MAY. SOCIAL JUSTICE CAREERS FAIR (NSW).** Sydney Law School and Sydney University Law Society (SULS) invites you to the inaugural Social Justice Careers Fair. The Fair will provide direct access to law students seeking to pursue a career in social justice. The Fair will be of interest to government, non-government, community and not-for-profit organisations whose work falls within

the broad ambit of social justice. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, New Law Building, University of Sydney Camperdown campus. For more information or to participate as a presenter, e-mail [socialjusticecareers@suls.org.au](mailto:socialjusticecareers@suls.org.au). Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**26 MAY. AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (ACU) SOCIAL JUSTICE YOUTH FORUM (NSW).** This initiative launched by ACU is an opportunity to engage and explore ACU's Mission with secondary school students who share a commitment to social justice. The themes of this forum are climate change and indigenous issues. Speaker: Phil Glendenning, Director, Edmund Rice Centre, President, Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, and a part of the Pacific Calling Partnership's delegation to the Copenhagen Climate Conference. 9.00 am to 2:30 pm, Australian Catholic University, North Sydney Campus (Mackillop). Web: [http://www.acu.edu.au/apply\\_and\\_enrol/useful\\_links/events/social\\_justice\\_youth\\_forum\\_2010/sjyf\\_sydney/](http://www.acu.edu.au/apply_and_enrol/useful_links/events/social_justice_youth_forum_2010/sjyf_sydney/).

**26 MAY. SEMINAR: 'ABU GHRAIB - THE MANIPULATION OF THE LAW ON TORTURE' (NT).** The Faculty of Law, Business and Arts (LBA) seminar series operates during teaching semesters at Charles Darwin University. Speakers: Mr Jeswynn Yognaratnam; chair: Geoff James, Lecturer in Law, School of Law and Business. 12.00 to 1.00 pm, Blue 1, Room 62, Faculty of Law, Business and Arts, Charles Darwin University. Contact: 08 8946 6830 or [lbadeanadmin@cdu.edu.au](mailto:lbadeanadmin@cdu.edu.au). Web: <http://www.cdu.edu.au/lba/seminarseries.html>.

**28 MAY. WINTER WARMER FUNDRAISER (VIC).** Please join us and celebrate Mary Mackillop's legacy of helping those in need. Be prepared for the cold weather ahead and buy a special gift for loved ones or yourself. You'll be able buy beautiful Fairtrade products like alpaca scarves and gloves, bags, novelty items and much more while you hear about the Sisters of St Joseph project and listen to Peruvian music. Every Ethica product sold can change the life of someone in need, their family and the community. 5.30 pm, Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Contact: 03 9926 9300 or [mmhc@sosj.org.au](mailto:mmhc@sosj.org.au).

Web: [http://www.sosj.org.au/news-events/list\\_events.cfm?loadref=8](http://www.sosj.org.au/news-events/list_events.cfm?loadref=8).

**31 MAY. SEMINAR: 'GOD BEYOND BORDERS' (NSW).** Chair of the Micah Challenge Theological Working Group, Rev Dr Andrew Sloane, has authored an article entitled 'Love and Justice in international frame' and will speak to this subject at this open seminar. 6.00 pm, Morling College, Sydney. Web: <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/events>.

**31 MAY - 1 JUNE. CONFERENCE: 'COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL' (VIC).** Communities in Control will look at issues of power - who has it; who needs it; how to get it; and how to use it to create change for equality, inclusion and justice. There is a post-Conference Skills Day: 'Sustainable Fundraising and Marketing in Tough Times' on 2 June. Paul Bird, Director, Mission Australia; Hugh De Kretser, Executive Officer, Federation of Community Legal Centres; Mary O'Hagan, Former NZ Mental Health Commissioner, international advisor, advocate and mental health service user; etc. Cost: \$298. Moonee Valley Racing Club, Members Gate 1, McPherson Street, Moonee Ponds, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9320 6800. Web: [https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/secure/event/event\\_sign\\_up.form?conferenceld=115&area=control](https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/secure/event/event_sign_up.form?conferenceld=115&area=control).

**1 JUNE. WATAC LUNCHEON: 'OUR TIME IS NOW' (NSW).** Speaker: Professor Larissa Behrendt 'Our Time Is Now' NAIDOC Person of the Year. Larissa Behrendt is a Euleyai/Kamillaroi woman, author and Professor of Law and Director of Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous Home of Learning at UTS. She has worked with the United Nations and is a Commissioner at the Land and Environment Court. Cost: \$75. 12.00 to 2.45 pm, Dining Room, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 9520 9409, RSVP by 21 May. Web: <http://www.watac.net/index.php>.

**1 - 3 JUNE. NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE (ACT).** This year, the conference themes reflect the fact the conference will occur in the national capital, the traditional country of the Ngunnawal peoples and a place where significant native title decisions have

been made. This important national event provides us all with the opportunity to have new conversations, make new connections and strengthen old friendships. This year we encourage you to step back from the day-to-day processes of the Native Title Act and consider what drives claimants to seek resolution through a native title claim. At the conference we can take the time to positively and openly engage with these issues, so that all parties can build better native title processes. Cost: \$800, concession \$500. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Contact: [ntru@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:ntru@aiatsis.gov.au) or 02 6246 1161. Web: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru/nativetitleconference/conf2010/conf2010.html>.

**3 JUNE. ABORIGINAL CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE TRAINING, PART II (ACT).** This one-day follow up workshop is for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers who have attended Part I (20 May). The workshop provides an opportunity to further advance skills when working with Aboriginal people and community. It builds on the initial training by incorporating group work and case studies relating to workplace skills, communication and protocols, and allows people to put into practice their existing knowledge and expertise. Facilitated by Kerry Reed-Gilbert. Cost: \$48-\$237. 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach. Contact: 02 6202 7200. Web: <http://www.actcoss.org.au/secdevel/seminars.html>.

**5 JUNE. NUCLEAR ABOLITION DAY (NATIONAL).** Thousands of people across the world will take part in coordinated local events to mark Nuclear Abolition Day. Our message is simple: it's time for governments to begin negotiating a Nuclear Weapons Convention to ban all nuclear weapons. Here are some ideas about what you could do: hold a peace vigil in a public place; spread the word on a local radio station; organise a morning tea with a

local school to celebrate Nuclear Abolition Day, etc. Contact: [misha.byrne@gmail.com](mailto:misha.byrne@gmail.com). Events: <http://www.nuclearabolition.org/>.

**7 - 20 JUNE. OXFAM EXHIBITION: REFUGEE REALITIES (ACT).** The Refugee Realities simulation exercise enrolls people as inhabitants of an unnamed country from which they must flee. After travelling through dangers, they must cross an international border and learn how to live in a refugee camp. The simulation concludes with a debrief and discussion about what participants learnt, and what all Australians can do to support refugee and universal human rights, both at home and around the world. Sunday 20 June is World Refugee Day, and the beginning of Refugee Week 2010. Stage 88, Commonwealth Park, northern foreshores of Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra. Register: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/refugee/public/rrp/index.php>.

**9 JUNE. INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH SEMINAR: 'THE RULE OF LAW IN PEACE AND CAPACITY BUILDING OPERATIONS' (QLD).** Speaker: Dr Bryn Hughes. 12.30 to 1.30 pm, Room 212, Chamberlain Building (#35), University of Queensland, St Lucia, Queensland. Contact: 07 3346 7344 or [issr@uq.edu.au](mailto:issr@uq.edu.au). Web: <http://www.issr.uq.edu.au/news-events>.

**9 JUNE - 10 NOVEMBER. PASTORAL CARE BASIC TRAINING (ACT).** The Canberra and Region Centre for Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and the Canberra Hospital are holding this Basic Course (400 hour unit). Courses are accredited by the NSW College for CPE, which is an affiliated body of the Australia and New Zealand Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ANZACPE). CPE training groups are available for people from all faith traditions, and walks of life. Cost: \$1000. Thursdays, Canberra Hospital. Contact: 02 6244 2261 or [lyn.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:lyn.kelly@act.gov.au). Web: <http://www.pastoralcareact.org/cpe/>.

## [Speak for asylum seekers, commission urges](#)

Brisbane's Catholic Justice and Peace Commission urged Catholics to speak out for asylum seekers in the national debate over boat arrivals.

## [Bring asylum seekers back to mainland: priest](#)

The Marist priest flown to the Christmas Island detention centre by the Federal Government said overcrowding is devastating asylum-seekers, locals and the island's crumbling infrastructure.

## [Caritas calls for paediatric HIV medications](#)

In conjunction with World Health Day, Caritas Australia called on the Australian pharmaceutical company, Roche, to develop paediatric HIV medications.

## [Vatican guide to dealing with sex abuse goes online](#)

The Vatican put online a guide to its rules for handling sex abuse charges against priests, in the face of mounting media criticism of Church leaders.

## [Bishops say scrap bureaucracy to help Aboriginal people](#)

Wasteful inquiries and studies aren't solving the problems faced by Australia's Aboriginal communities, said the country's Catholic bishops, who have called on the government to act.

## [Pope promises action on clerical sex abuse](#)

Pope Benedict promised Church action to confront the clerical abuse scandal, in remarks to his weekly public audience in St Peter's Square.

## [Salvadoran politician's hand in Romero killing](#)

A man who participated in the murder of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero named Roberto D'Aubuisson, the deceased founder of the conservative Arena political party, as the person who gave the order to kill him.

## [Columban ecologist urges Creation Synod](#)

Outspoken Irish Columban ecologist Fr Sean McDonagh told a Sydney audience that a Synod on Creation is necessary if Church teaching on ecology is to grow out of its infancy.

## [Churches criticise Rudd over asylum seekers](#)

Churches criticised Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's decision to suspend the asylum claims of Sri Lankans and Afghans for three and six months, drawing comparison with the Howard Government's treatment of refugees.

## [Cath groups urge govt to reverse asylum suspension](#)

The Federal Government's suspension of processing new asylum claims from Sri Lankans and Afghans runs contrary to the country's commitment to fairness and humanity, said the St Vincent de Paul Society and other Catholic groups.

## [New focus on CAFOD BHP queries](#)

Following the opening of an American investigation into BHP Billiton, fresh attention is being paid to UK Caritas organisation CAFOD allegations that a partner of the mining giant had offered bribes to Filipino community leaders.

*For details, click on headlines or go to [cathnews.com](http://cathnews.com)*



# Social Justice Calendar

- 1 SAT** St Joseph the Worker  
International Workers Day  
Save the Rhino Day
- 2 SUN** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter
- 3 MON** World Press Freedom Day
- 8 SAT** World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day  
War ends in Europe, 1945  
First Anti-Vietnam War Moratorium  
March in Australian cities, 1970
- 9 SUN** 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Mothers Day
- 10 MON** Nelson Mandela's Inaugural Address as  
President of South Africa, 1994
- 12 WED** International Day for Nurses  
(Anniversary of Florence Nightingale's  
birth)  
Doctors for Doctors Day
- 13 THURS** International Conscientious  
Objectors Day
- 15 SAT** UN International Day of Families
- 16 SUN** The Ascension  
World Communications Day  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
commences
- 17 MON** World Information Society Day  
(formerly World Telecommunication  
Day)  
Death of Fr Ted Kennedy, 2005
- 20 THU** Timor-Leste becomes fully  
independent, 2002
- 21 FRI** World Day for Cultural Diversity for  
Dialogue and Development  
Murder of Australian Josephite Sister  
Irene McCormack in Peru, 1991
- 22 SAT** International Day for Biological  
Diversity  
Theme: *Biodiversity for Development*
- 23 SUN** Pentecost (Solemnity)
- 24 MON** Mary Help of Christians, Patron of  
Australia  
Foundation of World Council of  
Churches, 1948
- 25 TUE** Bringing Them Home Report released,  
1997  
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of  
Non-Self-Governing Territories  
commences  
Africa Day
- 26 WED** National Sorry Day
- 27 THUR** Referendum allows Federal  
Government to grant citizen rights to  
Indigenous Australians, 1967  
National Reconciliation Week begins  
Week of Prayer for Reconciliation begins
- 29 SAT** Torres Strait Islander flag launched  
International Day of UN Peacekeepers
- 30 SUN** Trinity Sunday
- 31 MON** World No Tobacco Day

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

**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.