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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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FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and its Secretariat would like to wish you a happy New Year. We extend best wishes to you, your families and loved ones for the year ahead. We remember particularly those who have been affected by the floods in Queensland, northern New South Wales and Victoria.

Religious Freedom: the Path to Peace

You would be aware that the Pope dedicates the first day of each year to pray for universal peace. The theme of Pope Benedict XVI's World World Day of Peace in 2011 is '*Religious Freedom the Path to Peace.*'

The Pope places the message in the context of threats to religious freedom from secularism, fundamentalism and a growing pluralism. He says that the differences which should enrich human culture are increasingly being exploited, especially in the area of religion. He affirms that the right to religious freedom

is rooted in the dignity of the human person—a theme that has long been a part of Catholic social doctrine.

“Religious freedom expresses what is unique about the human person, for it allows us to direct our personal and social life to God, in whose light the identity, meaning and purpose of the person are fully understood. To deny or arbitrarily restrict this freedom is to foster a reductive vision of the human person; to eclipse the public role of religion is to create a society which is unjust, inasmuch as it fails to take account of the true nature of the human person; it is to stifle the growth of the authentic and lasting peace of the whole human family.” (Par 1)

(refer: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20101208_xliv-world-day-peace_en.html)

The Pope speaks of the public dimensions of religious freedom - how religious freedom is not just an individual right but exists in relationship with others and is attained in one's, community and in society where believers and religious institutions make a positive contribution. He says that, “Religion should not be marginalized or prohibited, but seen as making an effective contribution to the promotion of the common good.” (Par 6)

The exclusion of religion from public life deprives society of a dimension open to transcendence. It fails to respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and deprives society of a vital aspect of human development.

When religious freedom is acknowledged, the dignity of the human person is respected at its root, and the ethos and institutions of peoples are strengthened. Religious freedom and the responsibilities that flow from it provide

for the formation of the good citizen who exercises citizenship that advances a sound political and juridical culture and fosters the life of the whole community.

The World Day of Peace message also highlights where human dignity is undermined whenever people are hindered from professing their religion or faith and living accordingly.

Today's world witnesses cases of persecution, discrimination, acts of violence and intolerance based on religion. The leaders of these religions are the first ones called to mutual respect and dialogue. The Church too is called to Dialogue as a shared pursuit. In a globalized world marked by increasingly multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies, the great religions can serve as an important factor of unity and peace for the human family.

To the leaders of world religions and to the leaders of nations, he called for a renewed commitment to "promoting and protecting religious freedom, and in particular to defending religious minorities; these do not represent a threat to the identity of the majority but rather an opportunity for dialogue and mutual cultural enrichment." (Par.13)

In his homily on the World day of Peace Pope Benedict XVII reminds us that "*The world needs God.*" It needs universal shared ethical and spiritual values and religion offers a precious contribution to their pursuit. In the face of discrimination, abuses and religious intolerance, he urges each one of us not to yield to discouragement but to be animated by a genuine spirit of peace, which is inspired by prayer and lived in daily interaction. (refer: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/homilies/2011/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20110101_world-day-peace_en.html)

And in his address to speech members of the Diplomatic Corps at the Vatican, the Pope referred to recent instances of religious freedom being denied, in the attack on Christians in Alexandria in Egypt and the murder of the Governor of Punjab, Pakistan because of his opposition to the blasphemy laws of that country. He also referred to the marginalization of Christianity in western countries by the banning of religious feasts and symbols from civic life under the guise of respect for other religions.

At a fundamental level, he emphasized that the right to religious freedom is meaningless if it is only an abstract proposition and if it cannot be exercised in public. Religious freedom must find application and respect at every level and in all areas otherwise there is a risk that deep injustice will be done to citizens wishing to profess and freely practise their faith.

(refer: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2011/january/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20110110_diplomatic-corps_en.html)

Through prayer, giving material support, and advocacy, we can join in the global work for solidarity among peoples of all faiths for the expression of religious belief. Here in Australia, we can consider the importance of religious freedom and the great contribution religion does make and can increasingly make to the life of our nation.

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council has prepared a Discussion Guide on the Holy Father's World Day of Peace message, which can be downloaded from the ACSJC website. (refer: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>)

John Ferguson



Current Issues / Resources

VALE BISHOP JOSEPH GRECH

The Church is mourning the loss of Bishop Joseph Grech, Bishop of Sandhurst, who passed away on 28 December. President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Archbishop Philip Wilson paid tribute to Bishop Joseph as an exceptional pastor. “My brother Bishops and I are deeply saddened by the death of Bishop Joe Grech. Bishop Joe has been a wonderful member of the Episcopal Conference. He has made a tremendous contribution to the Church in Australia because of his deep faith and spirituality, which has been shown especially in the zeal with which he dealt with issues of migrants and refugees and his outreach to young people.” (http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=1051&tmpl=component&format=raw&Itemid=355)

Archbishop Antonio Vegliò, President of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Refugees wrote to the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference saying, “I myself, together with the Rev. Fr. Gabriele F. Bentoglio, Under-Secretary of this Dicastery of the Holy See, and the whole staff of this Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, would like to underline Bishop Joe’s strong commitment to the issues of migrants and refugees. I appreciated and supported him when he frequently spoke out on the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees in Australia. I did admire him particularly when he matched his interventions with pastoral action and did whatever he could to the benefit of many sisters and brothers in detention centres.” (http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=1054&Itemid=355)

MEDIA RELEASE - ‘BISHOP ALARMED ABOUT SAFETY OF ASYLUM SEEKERS’

As asylum seekers in Curtin detention centre face uncertainty over the processing of their claims and the possibility of being deported to danger following Australia’s new Memorandum of Understanding with Afghanistan, Bishop Christopher Saunders has called on the

Minister and Departmental officials to meet with the detainees and explain how their real concerns for their future safety are being taken into account. “At the end of the day, the facilities at Curtin are still barbed-wire encampments set in the midst of an inhospitable environment. At its best it represents a punitive response to a global social problem involving millions of displaced people.” He said that, “out of a basic sense of compassion we need to address two of the most damaging elements of the refugee migration system - prolonged immigration detention and the fear of being repatriated to circumstances of extreme danger.” http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/media_releases/2011_01_20_68687859889.html

The Immigration Department is sending a team of officials to visit the centre in the next few weeks to conduct information sessions for detainees.

EDMUND RICE CENTRE - DEPORTATION AGREEMENT CAUSE FOR GRAVE CONCERN

Edmund Rice Centre director, Phil Glendenning, has expressed grave concern at Australia’s signing of an agreement that will allow for the deportation from Australia of Afghan asylum-seekers back into situations of danger. “Many Afghan asylum-seekers have now been made vulnerable by this memorandum of understanding, including members of the persecuted Hazara ethnic minority and women who will be perceived as having departed from acceptable cultural norms. ... The memorandum even explicitly lays out the groundwork for the deportation of separated and unaccompanied children back to the war zone that is Afghanistan,” he stated.

To view the public statement of Australian organisations and individuals expressing grave concerns over Australia’s MOU with Afghanistan, visit: http://www.erc.org.au/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=126

VINNIES FLOOD APPEAL

As the flood crisis worsens and the rampage of damage and loss continues in Queensland and Northern New South Wales, Vinnies is desperately calling on the community to get behind the St Vincent de Paul Society Flood Appeal. Floods have damaged critical infrastructure, with some communities expected to be isolated for weeks. Financial donations are the most effective way to quickly provide the right kind of assistance to people who need it most. To make a donation, visit: <https://vinnies.org.au/appeals-processor-national?donate=qld> or call 13 18 12. Web: <http://www.vinnies.org.au/qldfloodappeal>

CALLS FOR CONTINUED PRAYER FOR SUDAN

Zenit reports that the early results of a referendum on secession in Southern Sudan indicate that the region may soon become the 54th independent African state later this year. Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala of Tombura-Yambio, in the southern region of Sudan, is asking the international community to continue to pray for a “permanent peace” in Sudan and underlined the need for continued support, noting that “this is a historical time for us with noble and delicate decisions before us.” The official result of the vote, which closed January 15 will not be released until February 6 or February 14 if there are appeals. (refer: <http://www.zenit.org/article-31548?l=english>)

GUIDE TO THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Australian Human Rights Commission has developed several resources to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to understand and protect their rights. The overview and community guide on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples aim to bring the Declaration to life by highlighting existing examples of Indigenous peoples’ rights in action. To access this material, visit: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/declaration_indigenous/index.html

SOCIAL POLICY CONNECTIONS - NT INTERVENTION AND RACE DISCRIMINATION ACT.

Social Policy Connections has called on the Federal Government to withdraw the present discriminatory legislation and unconditionally to ‘reinstate’ the Racial Discrimination Act. “The Racial Discrimination Act (RDA), as it was amended in the Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination) Act 2010, came into effect on 31st December 2010. However, Social Policy Connections (SPC) considers this legislation to be incomplete and that such vital aspects of the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) cannot be relegated to ‘special measures’. The Act, as it stands, will not provide protection against racial discrimination. Amendments to this legislation ‘reinstating’ the RDA in its original determination are urgently needed.” The group call on the government to ensure that any future welfare reform is non-discriminatory and does not impinge on the rights of any recipient. To read the statement, visit: <http://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/>

PUBLICATION: ‘A BETTER WAY’

With the release of their new book ‘A Better Way: Success stories in Aboriginal community control in the Northern Territory’, ANTaR is calling on governments to support Aboriginal organisations and communities in driving solutions to the challenges they face. The book highlights 13 successful Aboriginal community-controlled organisations in the NT that are working across a diverse range of sectors. All feature Aboriginal management and administration, are responsive to local community needs and priorities and work in partnership with other organisations. Together, they offer an alternative response to the challenges facing Aboriginal communities based on community participation and leadership. To download, visit: <http://www.antar.org.au/abetterway>.

(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 2011

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is *Religious Freedom: the Path to Peace*. 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! - 2011 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2011 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. It also highlights aspects of the theme for Social Justice Sunday in 2011 - 'Prisons and the justice system'. 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>

IMPORTANT NOTE: The ACSJC has become aware that a small number of copies of the 2011 Social Justice Diary are defective, either because the pages have been bound in the wrong order or because they have not been properly stapled. If you have received any defective copies of the Diary, we sincerely apologise and assure you that we will gladly replace them. Please contact us by mail

(PO Box 7246, Alexandria NSW 2015), email (admin@acsjc.org.au) or phone (02) 8306 3499.

2010 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT - STILL TAKING ORDERS

The 2010 Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled 'Violence in Australia: A message of peace'. The ACSJC is still taking orders for the Statement. An order form and other information/resources are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps towards being a peacemaker.

Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499

Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary, Liturgy Notes, Teachers' Notes, PowerPoint Presentation - now available at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Ecumenical resource: 'Peace Be With You'. Download from the National Council of Churches website: <http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/social-justice>

SERIES PAPER - 'MERCY AND JUSTICE EMBRACE'

Sr Marie Farrell rsm considers the vast range of people and organisations working for justice in today's Church in Australia and how they form a mosaic of social justice that reflects the mystery of the Eucharist and God's bond with humanity. (\$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 \$1.20; 2 copies \$1.80; 3-5 copies \$3.00)



This Month's Notices

20 JANUARY - 6 FEBRUARY. WELCOME ART EXHIBITION (NSW). Welcome is an art exhibition being held to celebrate the day Australia ratified the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees (22 January) and to raise funds for the Asylum Seekers Centre of New South Wales. Proceeds raised from artworks sold will be donated to the centre. Cost: donation. Gallery, 228 Illawarra Road, Marrickville. Contact: 0422 689 886 or satu.chad@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

1, 3, 22 FEBRUARY. MAKE POVERTY HISTORY (MPH): 'MEET AND GREET' AND PLANNING DAY (NSW, VIC). MPH will be running two 'Meet and Greet' sessions and a planning day in early 2011. MPH is encouraging representatives from all active, passive and new or potential member agencies to come along to the sessions. They will offer an opportunity to ask questions and build relationships before the decision making campaign planning day. 1 February, 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, World Vision Australia, Level 3, 134 Williams Street, Potts Point, NSW; 3 February, 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, Oxfam Australia, 132 Leicester Street, Carlton, VIC; 22 February, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Oxfam Australia, 132 Leicester Street, Carlton, VIC. Contact: sam@makepovertyhistory.com.au. Web: <http://www.acfid.asn.au/acfid-news/make-poverty-history-meet-and-greet-and-planning-day>.

2 FEBRUARY. LECTURE: 'ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS IN INDIGENOUS TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES: A LIBERAL DILEMMA' (NSW). CIS Policy Analyst Sara Hudson presents on alcohol restrictions in Indigenous towns and communities, as the first instalment of the CIS Meet the Researchers lecture series for 2011. No cost. 6.00 to 7.15 pm, The Centre for Independent Studies, Level 4, 38 Oxley Street, St Leonards. Contact: office@cis.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.cis.org.au/events/upcoming/event/26/Alcohol-Restrictions-in-Indigenous-Towns-&-Communities--A-Liberal-Dilemma/0>.

4 - 6 FEBRUARY. PACE E BENE AUSTRALIA NATIONAL GATHERING: 'ENGAGING NONVIOLENCE - NONVIOLENT LIVING IN THE 21ST CENTURY' (VIC). An invitation to join with others at the 3rd National Gathering of Pace e Bene Australia, sharing the journey of 'exploring nonviolence' and how it takes shape in our lives. Cost: accommodation \$175, concession \$155; plus invitation to contribute to conference costs. Amberley, Edmund Rice Centre, 7 Amberley Way, Lower Plenty. Contact: 03 5562 3277, 0408 541 152 or bobmyers@aapt.net.au. Web: <http://paceebene.org.au/>.

5 FEBRUARY. SEMINAR: 'ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE USED AS POLITICAL FOOTBALLS. WHAT CAN WE DO?' (TAS). We all know asylum seekers arriving here by boat are used as political footballs, with community views and fears around so-called 'boat people' are often founded on myth, not fact. Watch a powerful new TV campaign you can share with friends and family and join in training which will help you understand the facts and learn how to handle people's objections. 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, Hobart Action Centre, Level 1, 130 Macquarie Street, Hobart. Contact: arigby@amnesty.org.au. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/tas/event/24264/>.

5 FEBRUARY. KARELLE SUMMER SALE (NSW). Karelle Life Enrichment services aim is to give adults with intellectual disabilities a chance to experience a normal working life. The employees are paid standard award rates. All products will be hugely discounted on this sale day up to 70%. Products include chopping boards, cheese boards, coasters, doll beds, photo frames, coffee tables, mirrors etc. 9.00 am to 2.00 pm, Karelle Life Enrichment service, 86 Glossop St, St Marys. Contact: 02 9623 1999 or production@karelle.org.au. Web: <http://www.karelle.org.au>.

7 FEBRUARY. A FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH ELDERS: 'BRINGING YOU UP TO DATE WITH THE IMPACTS OF LIVING UNDER THE

INTERVENTION' (VIC). Elders, Rosalie Kunoth Monks OAM from Central Australia and Dr Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra OAM from Arnhem Land joined in conversation with Prof. the Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC expressing their views on the Northern Territory Intervention. They have since shared their concerns with the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Rosalie and Djiniyini, now accompanied by other Elders/ leaders including Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann AM, will share what has been happening and highlight the changes taking place in the various communities/ homelands of the NT. 5.45 to 7.30 pm, Theatre G08, Ground Floor, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton. Contact: 03 8344 1153, RSVP 3rd February. Web and registration: <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/go/news-and-events/all-forthcoming-events>.

7 FEBRUARY. SEMINAR: 'ETHICAL MANAGEMENT OF LOBBYISTS AND INTEREST GROUPS - GUIDELINES FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE' (ACT). This lunchtime seminar updates the new legal requirements covering lobbying and outlines how the public service can interact with lobbyists and interest groups in ethical ways. Speakers: Senator Guy Barnett, author *Make a Difference: A Practical Guide to Lobbying*; Associate Professor Gary Johns, Australian Catholic University; Ian Walker, Norton Rose Australia. Sponsored by the Australian Catholic University's Public Policy Institute, Norton Rose Australia legal firm and Connor Court Publishing. 12.30 pm, Norton Rose Australia, Level 6, 60 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra. Contact: 0421 332 395 or elizabeth.obrien@acu.edu.au. Web: <http://www.acu.edu.au/ppi>.

7 FEBRUARY. SEMINAR: 'ABORIGINAL YOUNG PEOPLE AND CRIME' (NSW). This seminar is focusing on youth crime and juvenile justice, will explore in detail the issues associated with Aboriginal young people and crime. Consideration will be given to the reasons for this continued over-representation, while also seeking to highlight promising programs and community-based initiatives. Speakers: Edwina Crawford Manager, Aboriginal Strategic Coordination Unit, Department of Human Services NSW - Juvenile Justice; Bob Debus, Former Minister for Home Affairs in the

Australian Government and a former NSW Attorney General; Anthony Paulson, Centre Manager, Tirkandi Inaburra. Seminar sponsored by Department of Human Services NSW - Juvenile Justice. No cost. 6.00 to 8.00 pm (registration from 5.15 pm), Foyer (level 2), Sydney Law School, Camperdown Campus. Contact: 02 9351 0238, RSVP essential. Contact: law.events@sydney.edu.au. Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/law/458.html?eventarchive=2011>.

10 FEBRUARY. AID/WATCH FORUM: 'IMPLICATIONS OF THE HIGH COURT DECISION FOR THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR' (VIC). The Not-for-Profit Project at the Melbourne Law School, in partnership with Changemakers Australia and PilchConnect, are holding this forum on the High Court's recent important decision in *Aid/Watch Incorporated vs. Commissioner of Taxation* [2010] HCA 42,. The event is open to all interested in the decision's implications for the role of advocacy in the not-for-profit sector. 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, Melbourne Law School, University Square, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton. Contact: 03 9035 4418 or law-nfp@unimelb.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: http://melbourneuniv-web.ungerboeck.com/coe/coe_p2_details.aspx?eventid=6610&essionid=fb2fg8fb6fe3einfap.

11 FEBRUARY. LAUNCH: SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT 2010 AND NATIVE TITLE REPORT 2010 (NSW). The Australian Human Rights Commission invites you to the launch of the Social Justice and Native Title Reports. Introduction by the Hon. Catherine Branson QC, President, Australian Human Rights Commission and keynote address by Mr Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner. A panel discussion will speak about recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution. 10.30 for 11.00 am, Turner Hall, Building B - Ultimo College, MaryAnne Street, Ultimo, NSW. RSVP to socialjustice@humanrights.gov.au or (02) 9284 9603. Web: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/launch/

11 FEBRUARY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC - WHAT IS AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSIBILITY?' (NSW).

Speakers: Phil Glendenning, Director Edmund Rice Centre; Maria Tilmon Kiribati, representative Pacific Call Partnership. 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:02_9692_0005_or_odl_bradley@pacific.net.au). Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

12, 19 FEBRUARY. RETREAT: 'AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES' (QLD). This retreat will provide both input and prayer on each of the stages of the Spiritual Exercises and will provide those considering making the Exercises with a valuable opportunity to 'taste and see' before making the decision to undertake the journey. Bring your own lunch. Speaker: Dale Keenan. Hosted by: Faber Centre of Ignatian Spirituality. Suggested donation: \$50. 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, Faber Centre, 111 Sir Samuel Griffith Drive, Bardon. Contact: 07 3368 2450 or fabercis@bigpond.com. Web: <http://www.cis.jesuit.org.au/Faber2.html>.

12 FEBRUARY, 12 MARCH. RETREAT: 'PRAYING SCRIPTURE' (NSW). These day retreats are part of an introductory series, for those who would like to learn to pray in the different ways available in the Christian tradition. All are welcome to come to this series, either for the whole series or just one day.

12 February. Praying with Scripture 2 - Slow Reading: Guy Yeomans, based on Luke's Gospel and Brendan Byrne SJ's book on Luke, 'The Hospitality of God'. Time will be provided for reflection as a group and individual silent contemplation.

12 March. Praying with Scripture 3 - Pondering the Word of God: Lynette Toohey RSCJ. 'Pondering these things in her heart' is the way Mary allowed the Word of God to touch her heart and affect her life. We explore the Word of God so that it may nourish our life. Suggested donation: \$65 per session. 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, Canisius Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, 102 Mona Vale Road, Pymble. Contact: 02 9488 4524 or canisius@cis.jesuit.org.au. Web: <http://www.cis.jesuit.org.au/Canisius1.html>.

13 FEBRUARY. APOLOGY DAY YARNING SESSION (QLD). To commemorate the 2008 Sorry speech, a yarning session will be held at Teralba Park. Come along and share your

thoughts and feelings on the landmark Apology with elders. No cost. 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, Teralba Park, corner Pullen and Osborne Roads, Everton Hills. Contact: magpiehouse@ihug.com.au. Web: <http://www.barc.org.au/post/12594>.

14 FEBRUARY. VALENTINES DAY REFUGEE TRAINING AND DINNER: 'SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR REFUGEES AND HUMAN RIGHTS' (VIC). In order to change current public misconceptions about asylum seekers in Australia, the next part of Amnesty International's campaign has two parts: a large scale media advertising campaign and a community engagement strategy to be rolled out by Amnesty supporters. The aim of the two part campaign is to ultimately get Australians to rethink their position on this issue and change the conversation about asylum seekers. Cost: \$15. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Victorian Action Centre, 134 Cambridge Street, Collingwood. Contact: vicvolunteers@amnesty.org.au, RSVP by 10 February. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/vic/event/24430/>.

16 FEBRUARY. FORUM: 'HOW DO WE FEED AND CLOTHE THE WORLD IN 2050'? (VIC). ABC journalist Fran Kelly will facilitate a diverse panel of leaders from the science, agriculture, community and policy sectors. Speakers: Professor M.S. Swaminathan, world-renowned agricultural scientist, leader, Green Revolution India; Dr Brian Keating, Director, CSIRO National Research Flagship on Sustainable Agriculture; Matthew Wright, founder and Executive Director, Beyond Zero Emissions, and winner of the Environment Minister's 2010 Young Environmentalist of the Year Award; etc. Forum sponsored by the Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre (PICCC), in conjunction with CCRSPI and the Sustainable Living Foundation. No cost. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, BMW Edge auditorium, Federation Square, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9035 8269 or piccc-info@unimelb.edu.au. Register: <http://www.theccrspiconference.com.au/viewStory/Public+Forum>, RSVP essential.

16 FEBRUARY. LECTURE: 'TOLERANCE OR TOLERATION? HOW TO DEAL WITH RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS IN EUROPE' (NSW). Lorenzo Zucca, King's College London, distinguishes between tolerance and toleration as competing

attitudes towards religious diversity. He stipulates a definition of tolerance as a non-moralizing attitude, which should be kept apart from moralizing toleration (involving a great deal of moral judgement) and should be understood as the human disposition to put up with diversity. Tolerance thus defined is the basis for an alternative approach to cope with religious conflicts. No cost. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Sydney Law School, Building F10, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0429 or law.events@sydney.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/law/457.html?eventid=7079>.

16 FEBRUARY. NCOSS FORUM: ABORIGINAL SELF-DETERMINATION (NSW). NCOSS is holding this forum to discuss and debate how its election recommendation on the Right to Self-Determination, Autonomy and Representation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People can be practically implemented. 9.45 am to 1.30 pm, Jubilee Room, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 9211 2599 (ext. 118) or wendy@ncoss.org.au, RSVP by 11 February. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/51345/451/>.

18 FEBRUARY. CALL + RESPONSE SCREENING (NSW). Call+Response is a first of its kind feature documentary film that reveals the world's 27 million dirtiest secrets: there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Call+Response goes deep undercover where slavery is thriving from the child brothels of Cambodia to the slave brick kilns of rural India to reveal that in 2009, slave traders made more money than Google, Nike and Starbucks combined. There is a sea of change happening in human rights activism. The world's issues cannot be solved alone by governments and non-profits, but require community-based participation. 7.00 pm, Kingsford Church of Christ, 399 Anzac Parade, Kingsford. Contact: 02 9663 2272 or jon@kingsfordchurch.org.au. Web: <http://www.hope1032.com.au/Noticeboard.asp?cid=58&navid=3>.

19 FEBRUARY. SEMINAR: 'A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TO EMPOWERING ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES IN QUEENSLAND' (QLD). This event will include more than 20 well-known speakers as well as

workshops and discussion panels. Speakers: Associate Professor Gracelyn Smallwood; Dan O'Gorman SC, Stephen Keim SC and Ralph Devlin SC; Alf Lacey, Mayor of Palm Island; Historian Dr Joanne Watson; Claire Mallinson, Director of Amnesty International Australia; Magistrate Jacqueline Payne; Supreme Court Justice Ros Atkinson and Rev Alex Gater, Anglican Prison Ministry. Workshop topics include: Family wellbeing and child safety, Professor Boni Robertson; Health services, Dr Noel Hayman; Employment, Grant Sarra, Consultant, Indigenous Employment and Job Generation; The 10% Project, Ken Georgetown, CEO of Murri Watch, Coordinator Indigenous Incarceration Advocacy Project; UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Rodney Dillon, Amnesty International. No cost. 9.30 am to 4.45, State Library of Queensland, Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Brisbane. Contact: 07 3351 6571 or reimagineassoc@bigpond.com, RSVP by 14 February. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/qld/event/24476/>.

19 FEBRUARY. 'TOGETHER WE CAN' CONCERT (NSW). A celebration of the Kairos Outside prison ministry through music and reflection, featuring Claire Wright and guest artists. More details on Kairos Outside: http://www.kairos.org.au/Kairos_Outside.aspx. Doors open 6.30 pm for refreshments and reconnection. Concert begins 7.30 pm. All proceeds to Kairos Outside ministry programs. 6:30 pm, Northridge, 6 Chilvers Road, Thornleigh. Contact: 0432 968 911 or ko.sydney1@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.hope1032.com.au/Noticeboard.asp?cid=58&navid=3>.

22 FEBRUARY. PRIORLETTI COURSE: 'CROSS CULTURAL AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION' (VIC). This course provides an excellent overview to understanding and communicating with people from cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. This course would be useful for direct services workers, administrative staff and co-ordinators / managers who communicate or work with people of CALD backgrounds. Cost: \$110. 1.00 to 4.00 pm, Northcote Library Meeting Room, 32-38 Separation Street, Northcote. Contact: josie@prioletticonsultants.com.au, 03 9038 9292 or 0438 846 584. Web: <http://www.prioletticonsultants.com.au>.

25 FEBRUARY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'WIKILEAKS - PERSECUTION: ASSANGE - COURAGE, POLITICIANS - COWARDICE' (NSW). Speakers: John Pilger, independent journalist and filmmaker; Stuart Rees, Director, Sydney Peace Foundation. 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/>.

26 - 27 FEBRUARY. FESTIVAL: 'ANATOLIAN CULTURES AND ARTS' (VIC). The culture of Anatolia comes to Melbourne. Concerts by international artists, music, art exhibitions, traditional foods, folk dances, competitions and more. Proudly presented by Istanbul culture and arts centre and Melbourne young businessmen association. Supported by the Australian Intercultural Society. No cost. Waterfront City Docklands Melbourne. Contact: info@istanbul.org.au. Web: <http://www.istanbul.org.au>.

27 FEBRUARY. INDIGENOUS CULTURAL FUND: INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY EXPO (NSW). Join HipHop Izzie, Aunty Margaret and Mt Druitt Indigenous Choir and other artists along with organisations like Initiative Church for celebration and dinner CultureKids program and Family fun. 3.00 pm, West Tradies Club, Woodstock Avenue, Dharruk. Contact: 02 4576 7875 or indigenouisculturalfund@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.aboriginalministries.org>.

3 MARCH. VISION IN ACTION FORUM: 'INNOVATIVE WAYS FOR HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES TO COLLABORATE WITH GRASSROOTS ACTIVISTS IN ARMED CONFLICT?' (VIC). Vision in Action will celebrate the creative human rights initiatives of Victorian refugee and migrant community groups in places of conflict, in an evening of conversations and performances. Victorians of refugee and migrant backgrounds will share their experiences and display the work they do to promote peace in their home countries. In support of this, the forum will then explore innovative ways for humanitarian agencies to collaborate with grassroots activists in armed conflict. Speakers: Akoch Acuei Manhiem, Director, The Sudanese Lost Boys Association of Australia; Chris Roche, Director of

Development Effectiveness, Oxfam Australia; Denise Cauchi, Director, Humanitarian Crisis Hub. 5.30 pm, BMW Edge, Federation Square, Melbourne. Web: <http://crisishub.org.au/vision-in-action/>.

3 MARCH. BREAKFAST MEETING: 'GOODSTART: A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ALTERNATIVE TO ABC'S CORPORATE CHILDCARE' (VIC). Tony Nicholson, Executive Director of the Brotherhood of St Laurence, will speak about the GoodStart venture, reflecting on its mission and vision for early learning and childhood development, and on the implications of the initiative for social enterprise in Australia. GoodStart is a consortium of community sector organisations including the Benevolent Society, Mission Australia and Social Ventures Australia, with the aim of improving the quality of education and care of Australian children. Event hosted by Catholic Social Services Victoria. 7.15am for 7.30am to 8.45am at the Cathedral room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne. Cost is \$15. RSVP by Monday 28 February 2011 to esilvius@css.org.au or phone 9287 5566. Web: <http://www.css.org.au/documents/FlyerMar2011.pdf>

4 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'THE IMPACT OF RISING INTEREST RATES ON HOUSING AND JOBS FOR YOUNG AND OLD' (NSW). Speakers: Mary Rawlings, President Lane Cove Retirement Unit Assoc; Dr Alan Morris, Housing Analyst Social Policy Research Centre UNSW; Louis Christopher, real estate analyst, Principal SQM Research. 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/>.

4 - 6 MARCH. YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS (YCS) NATIONAL TRAINING FOR ADULT ASSISTANTS (VIC). Come join Adult Assistants from around Australia in a weekend of training and complementary formation for your role in the YCS Movement. Over the weekend you will discuss, explore and learn important skills to help you support your YCS group to be awesome places of formation, faith and leadership development. Sessions include: ways to developing critical mind

sets in students through the review of life, child protection, review of life session, role of the assistant in local groups, walking with students as they carry out their actions, preparing and reflecting with your group, use of the gospels in your YCS group, reflection and meditation of scripture, spirituality of the YCS, the formation, development of leaders. Cost: Approx \$160 for the weekend (food and accommodation included). 11.00 am Friday to 3.00 pm Sunday, Melbourne, Victoria (venue TBC). Contact: adult.assistants@aycs.org.au or 0431 846 464, RSVP by 4 February. Web: <http://novemberebulletin.wikispaces.com/>.

7 MARCH. REFUGEE AWARENESS: ENTRIES CLOSE FOR THE REFUGEE FILM FESTIVAL, AUSTRALIA (NATIONAL). This is a volunteer run film festival designed to raise awareness of refugees. Entries are now open for the 2011 event, send films by 7 March. Further information: www.australianrefugeefilmfestival.org/

11 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MENTAL HEALTH UNDER THE GILLARD GOVERNMENT?' (NSW). Speakers: Professor Ian Hickie, Director Brain Mind Institute University Sydney; Anne Deveson, filmmaker, author of *Tell Me I'm Here*, story of her son's schizophrenia. 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/>.

11 MARCH. RETREAT: 'LIVING THE BEATITUDES' (NSW). Jesus gives us the Beatitudes as a way of life, and as we explore them, we are invited to discover how we may make them a reality in our lives, and so become more like Jesus. Speaker: Mary Flynn RSJ. Suggested donation: \$45 BYO lunch. 9.30 am to 2.30 pm, Canisius Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, 102 Mona Vale Road, Pymble. Contact: 02 9488 4524 or canisius@cis.jesuit.org.au. Web: <http://www.cis.jesuit.org.au/CanisiusBeat.html>.

18 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'US/AUSTRALIAN FREE TRADE TREATY - ANOTHER ALMIGHTY DECEPTION?' (NSW). Speakers: Patricia Randal, Australian Fair Trade Investment Network, Jane Kelsey, Professor of Law, Auckland 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/>.

19 MARCH. JESUS SEMINAR REGIONAL CONFERENCE: 'JESUS - BETTER KNOWN AND BIBLE - BETTER READ' (NSW). Speakers: Lloyd Geering, member of The Sea of Faith, and Dr. Greg Jenks, Academic Dean at St Francis Theological College. Cost: \$60, concession \$55. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Beecroft Community Centre, corner Beecroft and Copeland Roads, Beecroft. Contact: 0405 758 116 or cpirtfreedomtoexplore@yahoo.com.au. Web: <http://www.cpirtfreedomtoexplore.org/>.

21 - 25 MARCH. ERC INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS: 2011 LET'S TALK DHAWUNDA IMMERSION (NSW). A cross cultural learning experience to further develop knowledge and understanding of Indigenous culture and issues in rural New South Wales. The immersions include participating in a number of cultural activities, as well as visits to Aboriginal communities and significant sites across central NSW. Open to teachers and educators from Armidale Catholic Schools Office as part of the Smarter Schools National Partnership Literacy Numeracy Program. Let's Talk Dhawunda is a five day cross cultural immersion program that visits Aboriginal communities across Moree, Myall Creek Massacre site, Walgett, Brewarrina, Goolooga, Lightning Ridge and Narran Lakes. Contact: 02 8762 4215 or cassg@erc.org.au. Web: http://www.erc.org.au/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=124.

News Monitor

Floods should not swamp aged-care reform, say advocates

The urgency for aged-care reform will not be reduced by the challenge of flood recovery, said the chief executives of Catholic Health Australia and the Council on the Ageing in *The Australian*.

Agreement will send Afghans back into danger: ERC

The signing of an agreement between Australia and Afghanistan allowing the deportation of Afghan asylum-seekers will send people back into situations of danger, said Phil Glendenning, director of the Edmund Rice Centre, according to a media release.

Bishop calls for immediate improvements for asylum seekers

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council said the Federal Government must act on commitments it made to improve conditions for asylum seekers and speed up processing, according to a media release.

Sister takes on government over child asylum seekers

A Brigidine sister who runs an asylum seeker project is taking on the Commonwealth Government over the detention of child asylum seekers, reported *The Age*.

- For details, click on links or go to <http://cathnews.com>

Social Justice Calendar

2 Wed Presentation of Jesus (Feast)
World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
World Wetlands Day

5 Sat 1996: Cape York Peninsula Heads of Agreement signed

6 Sun Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Waitangi Day, Aotearoa New Zealand

11 Fri World Day of Prayer for the Sick
1990: Nelson Mandela released from prison

12 Sat 1965: The Freedom Ride commenced
2005: Sr Dorothy Stang murdered in Brazil

13 Sun Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time
2008: Apology to Stolen Generations by Australian Government

20 Sun Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time
UN World Day of Social Justice

21 Mon UN International Mother Language Day

27 Sun Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

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.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL PO Box 7246, Alexandria NSW 2015. Tel: (02) 8306 3499, Fax: (02) 8306 3498, Email: 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.