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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,

I knew a man in his eighties who has gone to God many years ago now. I used to catch up with Jack from time to time for a coffee and a yarn. In the course of our conversations he'd offer pearls of wisdom - the kind that come from a long life lived well.

One day we were talking about some political promise or policy announcement that was splashed across the front page of *The Mirror*. After discussing the issue from all angles, he threw the paper on the table, looked up and said, "I tell you son - believe nothing of what you read and only half of what you see!"

This common wisdom had served him well. He had seen two world wars, supported an extended family through the great depression, toiled in workshops in his early days and working his way up the ladder through the period of post-War reconstruction. There wasn't much he hadn't seen and he'd heard a

lot over the years from politicians, employers, union leaders and others.

Was Jack's advice simply cynicism; an admission of defeat and surrender to hopelessness? I don't think so. More like a healthy skepticism that is infused with solidarity and some hope. The kind we like to think is in our national character and sense of egalitarianism.

"Believe nothing of what you read and only half of what you see!" His advice rarely fails, particularly when watching the evening news or current affairs.

For the last year or more, we have witnessed the re-emergence of the divisive asylum-seeker debate. Political rhetoric and sensationalist broadcasting have painted a distorted picture of Australia being invaded and overrun by boat-people, of their sole motivation being to get a piece of what's ours, of their homelands being safe now and that they should return.

But never rule out the possibility of surprise. There are times when the media comes into its own - reporting the facts, without the need for commentary and, indeed, if you turn down the sound, you can see exactly what's happening.

In recent times there have been three images that have jumped out from the distorted picture as the truth of what asylum seekers are experiencing.

The first image is of the boat carrying around 70 people foundering off Christmas Island and the locals trying hard to save as many as they could as the boat came apart on the rocks. Only the hardest of hearts could watch that tragedy unfold on 15 December and not feel deep despair or the impulse to pray to God for these souls.

It even provided the opportunity to reflect on why individuals and families would take such a perilous journey. It became a bit clearer to us that they are not coming to this country on a luxury voyage seeking a holiday, but have already been through perilous conditions looking for protection from persecution and threats to life and limb. Perhaps for a moment it provided a window of opportunity for us Australians to see that these people are vulnerable and fleeing rather than threatening and invading.

The second image is of the funerals in Sydney for the people who perished - widows and orphans standing at the gravesides in inconsolable grief for the ones they had lost. What about the nine year old boy, known as Seena, who lost his mum, dad and brother in the tragedy? It's hard not to think of the young ones in our own families when we see him and imagine what it would be like if they were going through a crisis like this.

At this very time of grief, the Opposition Immigration spokesman Scott Morrison was questioning the cost of the funerals - saying that the services should have been held on Christmas Island and that family members should foot the bill for their own travel to the funeral. Shadow treasurer Joe Hockey restored a real sense of compassion to this unfortunate, not just poorly timed, episode.

The third image is of the Immigration Minister Chris Bowen being heckled by concerned citizens at a public event. It was the launch of Harmony Day 2011 as the mourners, including Seena, were being flown back to Christmas Island - another journey made more arduous by delays caused by bad weather. They were sent back to that place, despite the Chairwoman of the Detention Health Advisory Committee, Professor Louise Newman's advice that Seena should stay, and despite the Minister's undertaking that Seena along with others

including two children who were also orphaned in the tragedy would be brought back to the mainland and integrated into the community the following week.

As at 4 February this year, there were 1027 children in detention and only 37 were detained in the community under residence determinations - the only form of detention where the children are actually in the community.

These images are difficult to take in. But they humanise asylum seekers where the current system would prefer them to remain unknown to us.

They point to the reality of why people flee their homelands, for no one would take such a perilous journey if they were not driven to seek their own safety and protection. They point to the experience of being detained for prolonged periods in remote locations on the mainland or offshore, an arrangement that has pretty successfully kept asylum seekers out of sight and out of mind. And they point to the challenge we face, as a nation. How will we respond to people who are no longer unknown to us? Not strangers but mothers, fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters among us and in need of our support.

Old Jack would have had something to say about this. He was a man of his time. Living in a society shaped by the White Australia policy and loyal to Empire, he had some strong views about the cultural foundation of the Commonwealth and our duty to King and country. He also had a firm commitment to the common good and kept an eye out for anyone who was struggling or in need. Seeing the three images we have witnessed over recent months, I have no doubt that his jaw would drop in horror. Jack would be very concerned about where Australia has headed and how it has responded to the most vulnerable.

John Ferguson



Current Issues / Resources

STATEMENTS FROM INDIGENOUS ELDERS AND NON-INDIGENOUS LEADERS

On 7 February, a public forum was held at the Melbourne Law School - 'Bringing you up to date with the impacts of living under the Intervention'. Present were Elders Dhanggal Guruwiwi from Nhulunbuy, George Gaymarani Pascoe from Milingimbi, Rosalie Kunoth-Monks OAM from Utopia, Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann AM from Nauiyu (Daly River), Djapirri Munurrungitj from Nhulunbuy, Rev Dr. Djiniyini Gondarra OAM from Galiwin'ku and Harry Jakamara Nelson from Yuendumu. In conversation with the Hon Alastair Nicholson, they spoke about the impact of the Intervention. Two important statements were issued that day. One statement is from the Elders to the People of Australia. The other is a statement on Aboriginal rights by non-Indigenous community leaders. Both question the legality of the Northern Territory Emergency Response under international law and highlight major concerns about the impact of compulsory measures and the failure to properly consult with the communities affected. The statements can be accessed at the 'concerned Australians' website: <http://www.concernedaustralians.com.au/>

NATIVE TITLE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORTS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda launched his first Social Justice and Native Title Reports in Sydney on 11 February. The 2010 Social Justice Report makes the case for full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also focuses on the need for stronger and deeper relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader Australian community, between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and governments, and within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities themselves. The 2010 Native Title Report outlines the practical steps needed to engage in meaningful and effective consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and provides guidance to governments wanting to deliver sustainable

and beneficial outcomes for Traditional Owners. The 2010 Social Justice Report can be found at: www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/sj_report/sjreport10/ The Native Title Report can be found at: www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/nt_report/ntreport10/

PARISH KIT: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - 8 MARCH

8 March 2011 marks the centenary of International Women's Day being celebrated around the world. Recognising and honouring these 100 years is an opportunity to inspire and affirm the work of women in society and in the Church. The Bishops Commission for Church Ministry, with the assistance of the Council for Australian Catholic Women and the Office for the Participation of Women, has issued a parish kit that includes scriptural notes, prayers and other information to assist us celebrating this important occasion, on the Sunday prior to the International day - that is 6 March. To download the parish kit, visit: <http://www.opw.catholic.org.au/>

PROJECT COMPASSION 2011

Your generosity has enabled Caritas Australia to help so many marginalised people throughout the world. With your support, Caritas Australia is working hard to support communities living in poverty to help people to help themselves. In 2011, Project Compassion begins on 6 March and ends on Easter Sunday, 24 April 2011. Catholic schools and parishes throughout Australia will receive educational materials aimed at broadening the way we view the world. International speakers from our partner organisations also visit Australia to participate in a public speaking campaign for people of all ages. Visit the Project Compassion website for more information about how you can get involved: http://www.caritas.org.au/project_compassion_11/About/index.html

FEATURED WEBSITE: CHILOUT

ChiLOut is a not-for-profit community group of Australians who are concerned with the plight of children held in immigration detention.

ChilOut began its campaign in 2001, and quickly drew the support of many thousands of Australian parents and citizens who were against the detention of children. In 2005, the Howard government committed to release children from secure detention facilities. In recent years, although there has been no official change to policy, this practice has been reversed and the numbers of children being held in locked facilities has risen to alarming numbers, with conditions in those facilities worsening. ChilOut has resumed its campaign to ensure the rights of those children will be upheld. Visit the ChilOut website to get more information and join their campaigns and initiatives: <http://www.chilout.org>

DICTIONARIES FOR DETAINEES (REFUGEE RIGHTS ACTION NETWORK)

The vast majority of asylum seekers who are detained speak little or no English, meaning they are frequently not properly understanding the situation they are in and are unable to effectively advocate for themselves. Asylum seekers in detention also feel isolated, forgotten, even believing that they are hated by the Australian community. The 'Dictionaries for Detention' project is one small way which the community can seek to redress these negative aspects of detention. A donation of \$20 to \$30 is sufficient to fund one dictionary. When making a donation for a Dictionary, people are encouraged to send RRAN a card with a welcoming message to the detainees. Web: <http://www.rran.org/dictionaries-detainees>.

VISIT ASYLUM SEEKERS IN DETENTION

Lots of teenaged kids have been brought to Melbourne from Christmas Island to wait while their visas are processed, or while they claims are suspended. They need to know that there are Australians out there who care for them and support them. Join this group who co-ordinate visits to people in the two detention centres in Melbourne. Web: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=148933925130686>.

THE LETTER WRITING PROJECT (ASYLUM SEEKERS CHRISTMAS ISLAND)

Writing letters to people in detention has been an integral part of assisting asylum seekers

in remote locations where the likelihood of receiving visitors is minimal. Because of Christmas Island's extreme isolation, letter writing is even more crucial to help bridge the gap between Australians and asylums seekers. They need to know they've not been forgotten. Web: http://asci.org.au/demo/?page_id=86.

NSW STATE ELECTION RESOURCES

Two valuable resources have been produced in the lead-up to the NSW elections. The first is NetAct's kit: *Caring About the State of Our Future - and doing something about it* - available at: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/NetAct%20Caring%20about%20the%20State%20of%20our%20Future%20Feb%2011.pdf>

The second is the *State Your Case - Prisons Issue* leaflet, produced by the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes (NSW) Social Justice Committee - available at: http://www.clrinsw.org/current/soc_just/sj_110201.pdf

BOOK: FAITHFUL CITIZENS

In his new book, *Faithful Citizens: A practical guide to Catholic Social Teaching and community organising*, Austen Ivereigh considers why the Church's rich tradition of social teaching remains the Church's 'best kept secret'. Faithful Citizens aims to bridge the gap between the written word of social doctrine and the call for all Christians and people of good will to apply the teachings to the assessment of local problems and forming groups to work for change. There are chapters providing practical examples of peace-building, assembling in solidarity, and addressing issues of wage justice, housing and immigration. A full review of this book, published by Darton, Longman & Todd, can be found on the British Jesuit's website: http://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/BOOK_20101217_1.htm and <http://www.booktopia.com.au/faithful-citizens-a-practical-guide-to-catholic-social-teaching-and-community-organising/prod9780232527896.html>

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE - 5 SUGGESTIONS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Giving the final address at a 'Sacred Scripture in the Church' conference in Madrid recently,

President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Cardinal Peter Turkson, said the Word of God is the best guide for Christians to discern how to minister in the world. Focusing on encyclical Caritas in Veritate he said the Pope 'does not prescribe any plan or recipe, or policies or solutions. Instead, he recommends the Word of God as our tool of discernment.' He gave five suggestions for social ministries and the work for justice: A realistic approach in reading the signs of the times; Basing our work on fundamental values and a new vision of the future; Taking responsibilities with confidence rather than resignation; 4. Being open to a profound cultural renewal; and, Affirming human dignity and human rights through the Word of God. For further information, visit: <http://www.zenit.org/article-31718?!=english>

WARNING ABOUT FINANCIAL SCAMS

The Apostolic Nunciature in Australia issued

the following notification:

'The Holy See continues to receive notices of financial scams perpetrated via Email and which falsely refer to Heads of Dicasteries and other Church Authorities. Such scams solicit financial support in favour of exceptional situations or fictitious projects. They also ask for monetary transfers that involve money laundering resulting from illicit dealings. 'In case of any doubt regarding the legitimacy of requests made with reference to Cardinals, Bishops or other Officials of the Roman Curia, it is advisable to contact the Apostolic Nunciature for further inquiry and clarification. It would likewise be worthwhile that the Episcopal Conference, Religious Superiors and other Institutions (universities, schools, and associations) be notified of this occurrence so that they may in turn be prudent in verifying such cases, thus not succumbing to the requests.

Canberra 15 February 2011'

Latest Publications

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

DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 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>

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

1 MARCH. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: LOUISE TARRANT, NATIONAL SECRETARY LHMU (ACT). Too many people in our community are not sharing fairly in the progress of recent decades. The income shift away from workers, the erosion of the social wage, the increased risk exposure of individuals and households, the loss of political agency and the decline of collective organisation and legitimacy makes for an increasingly unequal and fragile democracy. Ms Tarrant will argue that this is the major domestic policy challenge facing government and civil society. Cost: \$55 members, \$75 guests. 11.45 am to 1.30 pm, National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: 02 6121 2199 or npc@npc.org.au. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au>.

1 MARCH. AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE: 'CHILDREN AND THE MEDIA: SCARED, SLEEPLESS AND HOSTILE: CHILDREN, VIOLENT / FRIGHTENING MEDIA AND PUBLIC POLICY' (NSW). Speakers: John Murray, Doug Gentile and Ed Donnerstein (US) and Australians Wayne Warburton, Sarah Blunden, Richard Eckersley and Elizabeth Handsley will discuss the issue of violent and frightening media, impacts on children's sleep and anxiety levels, and policy responses including evidence-based classification systems. Professor Alan Hayes, Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, will chair the conference. Cost: \$130-\$255. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 37 Reservoir

Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 08 8376 2111 or admin@youngmedia.org.au. Web: http://www.youngmedia.org.au/mediachildren/01_18_sydney_conference-prelim.htm.

1 - 5, 8 - 13 MARCH, 1 - 14 APRIL. PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: 'MISSING PEACE SRI LANKA' (ACT, QLD, VIC). Missing Peace is a charity photographic exhibition that goes behind tourist facades and security fences to reveal the ground realities of post war Sri Lanka. It features recent photographs and tells a complex story from multiple perspectives - survivors, soldiers, expatriates and aid agencies. It portrays a resilient people searching for diaspora support to piece together their broken lives after the war.
1 - 5 March (ACT): ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic Square, London Circuit.
8 - 13 March (QLD): Bleeding Heart Gallery, 166 Ann Street, Brisbane.
1 - 14 April (VIC): The Highway Gallery, 14 The Highway, Mount Waverley.
Contact: diasporalanka@gmail.com or 0403 694 132. Web: <http://www.diasporalanka.com/blog/?p=61>.

2, 15 MARCH: ECUMENICAL GATHERINGS: 'LIVING JESUS' (QLD). 'I am delighted to have the privilege of publicly speaking about Jesus and His vision. Through His life, death and resurrection He gave us a new world and made us new people. Today many people are searching for good news and the life of Jesus

can satisfy their desire completely,' says Most Rev John Bathersby, Archbishop of Brisbane. Each gathering includes prayer, presentations by 3 church leaders, multimedia, witness sharings, a question and answer panel and concludes with prayer.

2 March: Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, 358 Given Terrace, Paddington. Presenters: Archbishop John Bathersby (Catholic), Rev Noel Noack (Lutheran), Rev Bruce Johnson (Uniting).

15 March: St Paul's Anglican Church, Brisbane Street, Ipswich. Presenters: Archbishop Phillip Aspinall (Anglican), Rev Bruce Johnson (Uniting), Archbishop John Bathersby (Catholic).

30 March: Grace Lutheran College, Anzac Avenue, Rothwell. Presenters: Rev Noel Noack (Lutheran), Rev David Loder (Baptist), Archbishop John Bathersby (Catholic).

12 April: Newlife Uniting Church, 4 Greenwich Court, Robina. Presenters: Rev Bruce Johnson (Uniting), Archbishop Phillip Aspinall (Anglican), Archbishop John Bathersby (Catholic).

7.00 - 9.30 pm. Web: <http://www.livingjesus.org.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11966>.

3 MARCH. RESEARCH AND POLICY CENTRE SEMINAR: 'TWO PATHS TO AGEING: THE REAL COSTS OF MEANS TESTING AND USER PAYMENTS' (VIC). This paper explores the emergence of a 'dual welfare state', where different policy mechanisms are used to address similar problems faced by different social groups, arguing that this is the result of economic and political pressures reinforced by population ageing. Broadening our approach to policy to include different policy instruments, and to include economy wide effects, not only fiscal impacts on government, can lead to better outcomes. Speaker: Ben Spies-Butcher, lecturer, Economy and Society, Department of Sociology, Macquarie University. 12.00 to 1.00 pm, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Fr Tucker's room, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Contact: kphilipp@bsl.org.au or 03 9483 1364. Web: <http://www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on.aspx?id=122&dt=3/03/2011>

3 MARCH. BREAKFAST MEETING: 'GOODSTART: A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ALTERNATIVE TO ABC'S CORPORATE CHILDCARE' (VIC). 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. Speaker: Tony Nicholson, Executive Director, Brotherhood of St Laurence. Cost: \$15. 7.15 to 8.45 am, Cathedral room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne. Contact: esilvius@css.org.au or 03 9287 5566, RSVP by 28 February. Web: <http://www.css.org.au/documents/FlyerMar2011.pdf>.

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. 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. Contact: events@crisishub.org.au or 03 9095 8588. Web: <http://crisishub.org.au/vision-in-action/>.

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 MARCH. INTRODUCTORY PASTORAL CARE TRAINING (ACT). Become a pastoral carer in your community. Affirm the power of love and care through the spirit of god in the community. Applications are invited for people in Canberra and Region to train as Pastoral Carers in their local community. The Canberra and Region Centre for Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education Inc, ACT Health, and The Canberra Hospital. Cost: \$300. Thursdays, 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, The Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran. Contact: 02 6244 2261 or lyn.kelly@act.gov.au. Web: <http://www.pastoralcareact.org/cpe>.

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 MARCH. NORTHCOTT FUNDRAISER: WOMEN'S SPORTS FESTIVAL BREAKFAST (NSW). Join MC, Felicity Harley, Editor of Women's Health magazine for a breakfast fit for champions with some of Australia's most influential sportswomen for the Women's Sports Festival Breakfast including Louise Savage, Elyse Perry, Catherine Cox and Northcott Ambassador Alex Blackwell. Hear also from inspirational Northcott client and young sportswoman Kristy Pond, who was appointed Parramatta Sportsperson of the Year in 2010. Sydney Olympic Park Authority is hosting the event in partnership with Northcott Disability Services, with all proceeds raised to assist children and young adults with disabilities to pursue their sporting and recreational interests. Cost: \$55. 7.45 am, Novotel Sydney, corner Olympic Boulevard and Herb Elliott Avenue, Olympic Park. Contact: 02 9890 0954 or carol.hanna@northcott.com.au. Web: <http://www.northcott.com.au/events.php?id=79>.

4 MARCH. UN WOMEN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD) LUNCH: 'CELEBRATING 100 YEARS' (ACT). MC, Virginia Hausegger, ABC broadcaster and journalist; and guest speaker, Princess Kasune Zulu, UN Women (formerly UNIFEM). Cost: \$35-\$70. 11.30 am to 2.00 pm, National Convention Centre, Constitution Avenue, Canberra. Contact: 02 6288 3998 or unwomen@onqconferences.com.au, RSVP by 2 March. Web: <http://www.onqconferences.com.au/IWD2011/register.php>.

4 MARCH. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (NATIONAL). World Day of Prayer 2011 services are to be held in many locations all over Australia. For details near you see: <http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/>.

4 MARCH. RALLY: 'STOP THE RACIST NT INTERVENTION' AND 'EQUAL PAY - JOBS WITH

JUSTICE' (VIC). Melbourne Anti-Intervention Collective (MAIC) will be holding a rally to boost signatures for a petition sponsored by the Construction Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) and Unions NT. The petition has been created out of concern at the exploitation of Aboriginal workers taking place under the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP). Of particular concern is the use of CDEP labour on the federal government's \$672 million Strategic Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP). Local Aboriginal workers on the CDEP have been working for substandard CDEP wages, or for the BasicsCard, alongside fully paid construction workers from outside the community. 5.00 to 7.00 pm, State Library of Victoria, corner Swanston and Latrobe Streets, Melbourne. Web: <http://www.maicollective.blogspot.com/>.

4 - 6 MARCH. YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS (YCS) NATIONAL TRAINING FOR ADULT ASSISTANTS (VIC). Come join Adult Assistants (AA) 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. Cost: \$160. 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/>.

4 - 14 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS FROM THE FILM: 'A CRY FROM IRAN' (NSW, VIC). A story of how one man's passion for Jesus cost him his life. Bishop Haik Hovsepien was martyred for his faith. His wife and family have fled Iran, and today they are travelling the world to share their story with other Christians. You can hear their story first hand, as his wife, Takoosh, and son, Andre, visit Australia. Andre Haik was the director of the award winning documentary about Haik's life 'A Cry from Iran.'

4 March (NSW): 7.30 pm, Kingsway Community Church, 9 Resolution Drive, North Caringbah.
5 March (NSW): 7.30 pm, Hornsby Baptist Church, corner Pretoria Parade and College

Crescent, Hornsby.

6 March (NSW): 10.00 am, Lighthouse Church, 1 Railway Station Square, Wollongong.

6 March (NSW): 6.30 pm, Gynea Baptist, corner Tea Garden Avenue and Hotham Road, Kirrawee.

8 March (NSW): 7.30 pm, Marsfield Community Church, 58-60 Agincourt Road, Marsfield.

9 March (NSW): 7.30 pm, St Andrews Presbyterian Church, corner Auckland and Laman Streets, Cooks Hill, Newcastle.

11 March (VIC): 7.30 pm, Assyrian Assembly of God, 43 Mahoneys Road, Reservoir.

13 March (VIC): 10.00 am, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 581 Riversdale Road, Camberwell.

13 March (VIC): 6.00 pm, Sunbury Baptist Church, 207 Gap Road, Sunbury.

14 March (VIC): 7.30 pm, Berwick and Nazart Baptist Church, 379 Narre Warren North Road, Narre Warren North.

No cost, donations for Persecuted Church gratefully accepted. Contact: 02 9451 2999 or odaustralia@od.org. Web: <http://www.opendoors.org.au>.

5 MARCH. DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA COMMISSION FOR ECUMENISM AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE SEMINAR: 'AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND LEARN' (NSW).

Speakers: Rev Mark Lieschke, President of Lutherans, NSW, speaking on 'What can we learn from Martin Luther?'; Dr Gideon Goosen speaking on the scandal of divisions among Christians and a Theology of Ecumenism; and Ms Sujatha Natarajan, Founder of the UNSW Hindu Society speaking on 'Growing up a Hindu in Australia'. Cost: \$20-\$65. 9.00 am to 3.30 pm, Institute for Mission, corner of Flushcombe Road and Marion Street, Blacktown. Contact: 02 9831 4911 or mh@instituteformission.com.au, RSVP by 28 February. Web: <http://www.instituteformission.com.au>.

5 - 6 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ART AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION (NSW).

This event features art, woodworking, lace making, embroidery, textiles fashion and various craft items available for sale. Devonshire Teas available for purchase as well as sausage sandwiches. Proceeds will be donated to Samaritan Safe House for Trafficked Women. No cost, gold coin donation gratefully received. 5 March: 10.00 am to 4.00 pm; 6

March: 10.00 am to 2.00 pm; Function Room, The Hills Shire Council, corner Showground and Carrington Roads, Castle Hill. Contact: 0412 230 347 or 9894 6555 or janined@tapsmarketing.com.au. Web: <http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Council-Activities.html>.

6 MARCH. PALMS AUSTRALIA VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSION (NSW). Palms Australia is seeking volunteers willing to live in another country for 12 months, sharing skills to reduce poverty. Positions exist in education, health, administration, agriculture, trades and other professional or technical areas.

6 March: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, Buller Hall, 25-57 Lambert Street, Camperdown.

10 March: 7.00 pm, St Peter Julians' Hall, 426 Sussex St, Haymarket, Sydney. Contact: marie@palms.org.au or 02 9518 9551. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au>.

6 MARCH. PANEL: 'LOOKING FORWARD/ LOOKING BLAK': INDIGENOUS IDENTITY IN AUSTRALIAN CINEMA (SA). Join actors Rosalie Kunoth-Monks (Jedda) and Tom E Lewis (Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith), directors Beck Cole (Here I Am) and Rolf de Heer (Ten Canoes) and chair Margaret Pomeranz as they explore, from a range of vantage points, the rapidly changing landscape of Indigenous representation and identity in Australian cinema. The panel will follow a free film program of significant films that relate to the representation of Aboriginal people since the mid 1950s to 2011, all screening during the Big Pond Film Festival (24 Feb- 6 March). The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre at UniSA is supporting the BigPond Adelaide Film Festival as part of the Stop(the)gap International Indigenous art in motion program. No cost. 2.30 for 3.00 pm, The Hawke Centre, Bradley Forum, UniSA City West campus, Hawke Building, Level 5, 50-55 North Terrace, Adelaide. Contact: 08 8302 0371 or hawkecentre@unisa.edu.au. Web: http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2011events/BAFF_forum.asp.

6 MARCH. CELEBRATION MASS: 'INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CENTENARY' (NSW). Presider: Bishop Michael Malone, with guest speaker, Shirley McHugh. Followed by morning tea in the Toohey Room. 9.30 am, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. Contact:

sarah.lonsdale@mn.catholic.org.au or 02 4979 1150, RSVP by 3 March. Web: http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/Parish_Update_01Feb11.pdf.

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/.

7 MARCH. SYDNEY DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE SEMINAR: 'THE INCLUSIVE MUSEUM - BUILDING COMMUNITIES IN UNUSUAL OPEN SPACES' (NSW). Frank Howarth, Director of the Australian Museum and Chairperson of ICOM Australia, and Michael Rolfe, CEO of Museums & Galleries NSW, will present a stimulating discussion on the role for museums and galleries in development and poverty alleviation. Community engagement and capacity building case studies in the Pacific region as well as local will be explored. Cost: \$5. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, UTS Building 10, Level 6, Staff training room, 235 Jones Street, Broadway Campus. Contact: 0414 905 290 or snoopyk75@hotmail.com. Web: <http://sdc.groupsie.com>.

8 MARCH. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST (WA). Women's body image will be the topic of discussion on the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day. Speakers: Elizabeth Reid Boyd, ECU psychology lecturer and co-author of *Body Talk: A power Guide for Girls*; Kate O'Hara, General Manager Marketing for the Perth Fashion Festival Every Body Counts campaign; and Nicole Nannen, recovering anorexia nervosa patient. Cost: \$40. 7.00 to 9.00 am, Parmelia Hilton, Argyle Room, Mill Street, Perth. Contact: sarah.johnston@eoc.wa.gov.au or 08 9216 3900, RSVP by 21 February. Web: <http://www.eoc.wa.gov.au/Publications/DiscriminationMattersNewsletter/iwdbreakfast.aspx>.

8 MARCH. HAWTHORN PARISH BUSINESS BREAKFAST: 'WHO IS WELCOME AT OUR TABLE? AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO

REFUGEES' (VIC). Immaculate Conception Parish Hawthorn, in conjunction with the Australian Jesuits, will host this breakfast. Speaker: Fr Sacha Bermudez-Goldman SJ, former Director of Jesuit Refugee Services Australia. The breakfast will launch the Jesuit Lenten Podcast Series. Cost: \$40. 7.15 to 8.30 am, Kooyong Tennis Club, 489 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong. Contact: 03 8862 4020. Web: <http://www.express.org.au/article.aspx?aeid=24907>.

8 MARCH. SOCIAL JUSTICE SEMINAR SERIES: 'RECOGNITION, DIFFERENCE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION' (VIC). This seminar will draw on ideas of recognition and social justice to examine social inclusion discourse and policy from the perspective of different social groups. Recognition can be conceptualized in two ways, relating to a person's identity and sense of self, and relating to institutional status and participatory parity. Speaker: Dr Zoë Morrison, Senior Manager, Research and Policy Centre, Brotherhood of St Laurence and an Honorary Research Associate of the School of Social and Political Science, University of Melbourne. 1.00 to 2.00 pm, Economics and Commerce Building, Theatrette 1 [G11], University of Melbourne. Contact: dehms@unimelb.edu.au or 03 9035 5997. Web: <http://www.socialjustice.unimelb.edu.au/events/forthcoming.html>.

8 MARCH. CRIMINAL JUSTICE NETWORK FORUM (QLD). The Network's purposes are: sharing information, networking, creating coalitions on projects and working together for change. 1.30 to 3.30 pm, 121 Cordelia Street, South Brisbane. Contact: info@cjn.org.au or 07 3025 2013. Web: <http://www.cjn.org.au>.

9 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SPEECH: MANAL OMAR, AUTHOR OF 'BAREFOOT IN BAGHDAD' (SA). Manal Omar, Director, Iraq Programs at the United States Institute for Peace, was named in 2007 by Islamic Magazine as one of the ten young visionaries shaping Islam in America. She has worked for multilateral aid organisations, focusing on women's rights within an Islamic framework, and the role of women in post conflict, peace mediation and nation building. Manal's work has taken her to diverse countries including Yemen, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Sudan,

Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territories and Kenya. Event jointly presented by UN Women, The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre at UniSA and the Don Dunstan Foundation. Cost: \$25. 5.30 pm, Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, UniSA City West Campus, Hawke Building, Level 3, 50-55 North Terrace. Contact: adelaide@unifem.org.au. Web: http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2011events/UNWomen_ManalOmar.asp

9 - 14 MARCH. PHOTO EXHIBITION OPENING AND CAMPAIGN LAUNCH: 'END THE CYCLE OF POVERTY AND DISABILITY' (VIC). End the Cycle is a community awareness initiative that seeks to promote the human rights and empowerment of people with disabilities living in poor countries. It is implemented through a rights-base methodology - people with disabilities and their organisations have participated in every stage of resource development, retaining control over the use of their own words and images. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, The Atrium, Federation Square, Melbourne. Contact: 03 8843 4509 or info@endthecycle.com.au. Web: <http://www.cbm.org.au/content/what-we-do/end-the-cycle>.

9 MARCH - 23 APRIL. TAKE THE CARBON FAST (NATIONAL). Take the Carbon Fast for lent to reflect on God's creation and take action to protect the world's most vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change. Fasting in the Bible takes on huge significance as a period of reflection, giving up luxuries, seeking God, repentance and transformation. There will be seven session guides with bible studies under each of these themes. As you undergo the seven weeks of carbon fasting, explore the sessions to reflect on your experiences and changes in lifestyle. To discuss the seven sessions, you can meet weekly with a local small group of other participants. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/advocacy/articles/carbon-fast/>.

10 MARCH. THE AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AHURI) SEMINAR: 'HOUSING, LONELINESS AND HEALTH IN CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIA: WHAT IS THE CONNECTION?' (VIC). What is the connection between housing, loneliness and health in contemporary Australia? Hosted

by Terry Laidler, Chair, Victorian Mental Health Reform Council and former ABC radio presenter, the event will commence with a presentation from Professor Franklin and short responses from three panellists who will each reflect on issues from their unique perspectives, before segueing into an audience discussion and Q&A with panel members. 9.15 to 11.15 am, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne. Contact: damien.coup@ahuri.edu.au. Web: <http://www.apo.org.au/node/23775>.

10 MARCH. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: DR TOM CALMA AND MICK GOODA, CO-CHAIRS OF THE CLOSE THE GAP CAMPAIGN FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH EQUALITY (ACT). Cost: \$55 members, \$75 guests. 11.45 am to 1.30 pm, National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: 02 6121 2199 or npc@npc.org.au. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au>.

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; and 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 odlbradley@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>.

11 - 13 MARCH. AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE: 'AUTHENTICITY - THE CULTURE WE LIVE IN IS WHAT WE MAKE IT' (NSW). The theme was chosen for the challenge it gives to us as young people to stand up as Christ's body on earth, and become involved in changing the course

of history in Australia today. Activities include: Black Tie Ball; State of Origin Footy Match; Cardinal's Cup Debate; Mass, confession and adoration; etc. Speakers: Cardinal Raymond Burke; Cardinal George Pell; etc. Cost: \$110-\$200. University of Notre Dame, Sydney. Contact: secretary@catholicstudents.org.au. Web: http://catholicstudents.org.au/Brochure_2.pdf.

12 MARCH. LENTEN LITURGIES OF HOPE AND HEALING (NSW). As part of our pilgrimage towards Easter, Bishop Michael, accompanied by the Diocesan WYD Cross, will travel around the diocese to lead Lenten Liturgies of Hope and Healing. We live in parishes, neighbourhoods, a nation and a world that needs healing. Join with members of your region to reflect and pray to the God who is justice, mercy and love.

12 March: 12.30 to 1.00 pm, St Stephen's, Witt Street, Tea Gardens.

19 March: 12.30 to 1.00 pm, Holy Cross, 30 Oakland Street, Glendale.

26 March: 12.30 to 1.00 pm, St Philip's, 31 Vista Parade, Kotara.

2 April: 12.30 to 1.00 pm, St Augustine's Hall, Bathurst Street, Singleton.

8 April: 7.00 pm, St Paul's, 10 Young Street, Rutherford.

15 April: 7.00 pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Hamilton.

Contact: 02 4979 1111. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/Lenten%20Services%20of%20Hope%20&%20Healing%20Mar%202011.pdf>.

13 MARCH. THEOLOGY ON TAP (NSW). Young people meet together for some real answers on the Catholic faith in a relaxed atmosphere. Live performance by Gary Pinto. Speaker: Cardinal Raymond Burke from USA. 6.00 pm, PJ Gallagher's Irish Pub, 74 Church Street, Parramatta. Contact: jessica_langrell@hotmail.com. Web: <http://www.sydney.catholic.org.au/youth/theology/>.

15 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'MICHAEL PROJECT: NEW WAYS OF WORKING WITH HOMELESS MEN' (NSW). Robyn Edwards, Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) and Tim Marchant, Mission Australia, present this seminar. 12.30 to 1.30 pm, Room 223, John Goodsell Building

(F20), UNSW. Contact: 02 9385 7800 or sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au, RSVP by 11 March. Web: <http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/events/seminars/>.

15, 21, 23, 28 MARCH. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'WORKING TOGETHER TO CLOSE THE GAP ON HEALTH INEQUALITIES - A VOCATIONAL CHALLENGE FOR CATHOLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVIDERS' (WA, VIC, QLD, NSW). In this lecture, Fr Frank Brennan SJ Advocate in Residence for Catholic Health Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, and St Vincent de Paul will use research from the PWC inFORMATION report to put some challenges and to provide some pointers for the Catholic health and welfare sectors wanting to further close the gap, serving the needs of the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised Australians. The lecture should be of interest to health professionals and welfare service providers alike.

15 March (WA): 12.00 to 1.30 pm, St John of God Group Services, 454 Scarborough Beach Road, Osborne Park.

21 March (VIC): 12.00 to 1.30 pm, Mercy Health Corporate Office Boardroom, Level 2, 12 Shelley Street, Richmond.

23 March (QLD): 12.00 to 1.30 pm, Kevin Cronin Room, Ground floor, Whitty Building, Raymond Terrace, South Brisbane.

28 March (NSW): 12.00 to 1.30 pm, St Vincent's Clinic Lecture Room, 438 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst.

No cost. Contact: secretariat@cha.org.au, RSVP by two days before seminar date. Web: <http://www.cha.org.au>.

16 MARCH. PUBLIC FORUM: 'BREAKING AUSTRALIA'S SILENCE - WIKILEAKS AND FREEDOM' (NSW). John Pilger, Andrew Wilkie MP and Julian Burnside QC will address this public forum sponsored by the Sydney Peace Foundation, City of Sydney Council and Amnesty International. Admission free. 6.30pm, Sydney Town Hall. For further information contact spf@arts.usyd.edu.au or (02) 9351 4468.

17 MARCH. WORKSHOP: ABORIGINAL CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE TRAINING (ACT). This 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: \$54-\$239. 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>.

17 MARCH. OPEN FORUM: 'CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' (NSW).

The forum will touch on such issues as the process towards constitutional reform, possibilities for reform and chances of success. The Open Forum's Panel will include: Associate Professor Megan Davis, Federal Government's Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians; Professor George Williams; and Paul Kildea, Co-Director, Referendums Project, Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law. No cost. 6.00 pm, Indigenous Law Centre (ILC), Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales (UNSW). Contact: ilc@unsw.edu.au. Web: <http://www.ilc.unsw.edu.au/>.

17 MARCH. PIAC COURSE: 'INTRODUCTION TO ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNING' (NSW).

This training course provides an introduction to advocacy, and how you can advocate for your issues to government. Participants will have the opportunity to plan an advocacy campaign around a real life issue from their work. Cost: \$230. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Haymarket. Contact: 02 8898 6531. Web: <http://www.piac.asn.au/course/introduction-advocacy-and-campaigning>.

17 MARCH. ECUMENICAL ST PATRICK'S DAY SERVICE (ACT).

The annual ecumenical service in honour of St Patrick will be held in the chapel at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton. Web: <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/accc/>.

17 MARCH. CATHOLICARE ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS (NSW).

Come and join in the fun of St Patrick's Day celebrations in CatholicCare's 70th anniversary year. Enjoy a superb two-course lunch, fabulous

entertainment, marvellous music, lucky door prizes, raffles, auctions and more. It's held to raise funds for CatholicCare's Children and Youth Services. Cost: \$140. 12 noon to 3.00 pm, Strangers' Dining Room, NSW Parliament House. Contact: 02 9390 5370 or bronwyn.mckay@catholiccare.org, RSVP by 4 March. Web: <http://www.catholiccare.org/Home.aspx?element=1&category=1>.

17 MARCH. QUEENSLAND CHURCHES TOGETHER WORKSHOP: DR ANTHONY REDDIE (QLD).

Speaker: Dr Anthony G. Reddie, Research Fellow Black Theology, The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Racial Justice Consultant for the Methodist Church of Great Britain, Convenor of the Black Theology in Britain Forum, Editor of *Black Theology: an International Journal* and author of *Black Theology, Slavery and Contemporary Christianity; Is God Colour Blind?*; etc. 2.00 to 5.00 pm, St Francis College, Milton. Contact: 07 3369 6792 or admin@qct.org.au. Web: <http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec/theology/christ-and-culture>.

18 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'US/ AUSTRALIAN FREE TRADE TREATY - ANOTHER ALMIGHTY DECEPTION?' (NSW).

Speakers: Patricia Ranald, Australian Fair Trade Investment Network; and 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).

Lloyd Geering has been a champion of progressive religious thought outside the traditional institutions and is a member of The Sea of Faith. Greg Jenks, is interested in the application of progressive scholarship to the practice of local Christian faith communities, he is Academic Dean at St Francis Theological College, Brisbane. Cost: \$60, concession \$55. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Beecroft Community Centre, cnr Beecroft and Copeland Roads, Beecroft. Contact: 0405 758 116 or cprtfreedomtoexplore@yahoo.com.au. Web: <http://www.cprtfreedomtoexplore.org/>.

19 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL FAIR TRADE WOMEN'S DAY SHOPPING TOUR (VIC).

Celebrate the achievements of women around the globe this International Women's Day. You are welcome to a fair trade shopping tour and lunch that connects women in three continents - Asia, South America and Africa. Hear the stories of the women who make the craft - learn about how to start a grass roots fair trade enterprise - extend a hand to women across the globe through the power of your spending. The cost includes transport, champers, refreshments, fair trade gift bag and 2 course lunch at Charcoal Lane. Cost: \$70. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, Sankofa. Contact: 03 9416 4584 or info@sankofa.com.au. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/553>.

20 MARCH. JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDRAISER: JUST CYCLE YARRA VALLEY (VIC). This is an exciting event that offers you the choice of three courses, all professionally managed and supported: 120km challenge featuring Mount Donna Buang climb; 65km endurance ride through the Yarra Valley; or 12km recreational ride for the whole family. Just Cycle Yarra valley also features: live entertainment and activities, wine tasting and gourmet food, an enjoyable day amongst the vines with family and friends, and your chance to support the most disadvantaged in our community. Web: <http://www.justcycle.com.au/>.

20 MARCH. STRATEGIC COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEE FAMILIES (SCARF) FUNDRAISER: HARMONY DAY HIGH TEA AND TRIVIA FUNDRAISER (NSW). SCARF is an independent, not-for-profit, community based incorporated association, established to enhance the resettlement process of permanent resident status refugee entrants in the Illawarra Region of NSW. They hope to see refugee entrants happily settled and participating fully in the life of the wider community. Cost: \$20. 2.00 to 4.30 pm, Thirroul Railway Institute. Contact: 02 4227 1600. Web: <http://www.scarf1.org.au/events.htm>.

20 MARCH. BLACK HARMONY GATHERING (VIC). Held on the banks of the Yarra River at Fairfield Amphitheatre, Melbourne celebrates

the music and dance of our black brothers and sisters. With global food and craft markets, the whole family is invited for a day of cross cultural music and dance. With performances from Australia's First Nations, The Congo, Sudan, Senegal, The Cook Islands, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde and more. Presented by Multicultural Arts Victoria, Warrior Spirit Arts Collective and PBS fm. 12.00 to 6.00 pm, The Fairfield Amphitheatre, Heidelberg Rd, Fairfield. Contact: office@multiculturalarts.com.au or 03 9417 6777. Web: <http://www.multiculturalarts.com.au/events2011/blackharmony.shtml>.

21 MARCH. HARMONY DAY (NATIONAL). Harmony Day is celebrated around Australia each year. It's a day where all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. The day is also the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Harmony Day is managed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and gives people the opportunity to celebrate what makes each Australian unique and share what we have in common. The continuing message for Harmony Day in 2011 is that Everyone Belongs, which means all Australians are a welcome part of our country, regardless of their background. For events: <http://www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day/whats-on.htm>.

21 - 25 MARCH. NATSIEC INDIGENOUS THEOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE: 'CHRIST AND CULTURE - MOTHER TONGUE THEOLOGISING' (NSW). This conference will focus on re- contextualising and re-reading scripture from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective. The starting point of this conference is to recognise that the Bible grew out of ancient cultures and myths that represented the attempt by Hebrew people to speak of the One God they knew. This conference will be an opportunity to develop a 'mother tongue' theology, one that speaks to the God that we know; the God in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and contexts. This conference is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People only. Speaker: Dr. Anthony Reddie, Research Fellow Black Theology, The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education. Cost: \$500. St Joseph's, Baulkham Hills. Contact: 02 9299

2215 or grussell@ncca.org.au. Web: <http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec/theology/christ-and-culture>.

21 - 25 MARCH. ERC INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS: LET'S TALK DHAWUNDA IMMERSION (NSW).

Join the Edmund Rice Centre for a unique cross cultural learning experience to develop your 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. Let's Talk Dhawunda is a five day cross cultural immersion program that visits Aboriginal communities across Moree, Myall Creek Massacre site, Walgett, Brewarrina, Goodooga, 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.

23 MARCH. ANDREW MCNAUGHTON LECTURE (NSW).

The introduction will be made by last year's guest lecturer Judith Conway author of *Step by Step: Women of East Timor, Stories of Resistance and Survival*. An update on current projects inside Timor Leste from Nigel Stewart [CHAIR McNaughton Foundation] and music from diva Jeannie Lewis. Guest lecturer, Shirley Shackleton will answer questions on her book *Circle Of Silence* whilst the lecture will reflect on the life of Dr McNaughton as she knew him. Cost: \$10 suggested donation. 6.00 pm, gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe. Contact: 02 9660 2333. Web: <http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/events4.htm>.

24 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'NUCLEAR POWER - BEQUEATHING YET MORE PROBLEMS TO FUTURE GENERATIONS?' (ACT).

Speaker: Dr Sue Wareham, Past President, Medical Association for Prevention of War. Chair: Revd Dr Erica Mathieson. Cost: \$5 donation. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Culture and Christianity, corner Blackall Street and Kings Avenue, Barton. Contact: 02 6291 4537 or chair@ces.org.au. Web: <http://www.ces.org.au/index.htm>.

24 MARCH. OZANAM LECTURE (VIC). An annual lecture held in honour of the St Vincent

de Paul Society's founder, Frederic Ozanam. The lecture will be delivered by Rev Desmond de Sousa CSSR, Professor of Catholic Social Teaching for over 40 years. Respondent: Maria Minto Cahill, President of Flemington Conference, St Vincent de Paul Society. 6.00 pm, St Francis Pastoral Centre, St Francis Church, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Web: <http://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/Events/NetworkCollaboratorsEvents/OtherEvents/tabid/467/Default.aspx>.

24 MARCH. NATIONAL CLOSE THE GAP DAY (NCTGD) (NATIONAL).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are still dying 10 to 17 years younger than other Australians. NCTGD is a way for all Australians to join together and remind our political leaders of their commitments to close the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and other Australians within a generation. The focus this year is on the need to build the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce. For more information or to sign the Close the Gap pledge visit <http://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/indigenous-australia/close-the-gap>.

24 MARCH. CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSIONING MASS AND AGM (VIC).

These events are an opportunity to join with others who are engaged in the wide range of activities within the Catholic social services sector, to reflect on and to celebrate our commitment. Our guest speaker at the AGM this year is Professor Ruth Webber, Director of Quality of Life & Social Justice Research Centre at ACU. Ruth will speak on Rebuilding communities after natural disasters - Lessons from community sector responses to the 2009 Victorian bushfires. 4.30 pm, All Saints Church, 174 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy; 6.00 pm AGM in the hall of All Saints, followed by light refreshments at St Mary's House of Welcome, 165 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Contact: esilvius@css.org.au or 03 9287 5566, RSVP by 10 March. Web: <http://www.css.org.au/documents/AGMflyerFinaldraft-print.pdf>.

25 MARCH. CATALYST DINNER: 'MY PEOPLE - WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE WANT TO GO, A COURAGEOUS ABORIGINAL WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE' (NSW). The Convenors of Catalyst for Renewal Inc. invite you to a

night of lively conversation featuring Bess Nungarrayi Price. Bess has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Aboriginal Community Management and Development from Curtin University and has worked in education, administration, media, community development and language teaching. Currently Bess chairs the NT Government's Indigenous Affairs Advisory Council and has been appointed to the Commonwealth Government's Advisory Group on Violence against Women. Cost: \$45. 7.00 pm, Villa Maria Parish Hall, corner Mary Street and Gladesville Road, Hunters Hill. Contact: 02 9990 7003 or catalyst-for-renewal@tpg.com.au, RSVP by 17 March. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/catalyst%20dinners.htm>.

26 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'THE MYTHS OF WHITENESS: TRUTH, KNOWLEDGE AND POWER' (NSW). A day with Dr Anthony G. Reddie, Research Fellow Black Theology, The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Racial Justice Consultant for the Methodist Church of Great Britain, Convenor of the Black Theology in Britain Forum, Editor of Black Theology: an International Journal and author of *Black Theology, Slavery and Contemporary Christianity; Is God Colour Blind?*; etc. Cost \$10. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, United Theological College, 16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta. Contact: sefc@bigpond.com, RSVP by 18 March. Web: <http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec/theology/christ-and-culture>.

28 MARCH. TEAR AUSTRALIA PRESENTS SHANE CLAIBORNE IN BRISBANE (QLD). With tears and laughter, Shane unveils the tragic messes we've made of our world and the tangible hope that another world is possible. Shane's experience is varied, from studying at Eastern University and Princeton Seminary, to working alongside Mother Teresa in Calcutta, to a year at wealthy mega-church Willow Creek in Chicago, to working for peace in Baghdad amid falling bombs in the Iraq war. Shane Claiborne is author of *The Irresistible Revolution, Jesus For President, and Becoming The Answer To Our Prayers*. Cost: gold coin donation appreciated. 7.30 pm, Gateway Baptist Church, 1052 Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Rd, Mackenzie. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/states/P5/>.

29 MARCH. EVENING FORUM: 'STAKEHOLDING: TOWARDS A CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY OF RADICAL INCLUSIVITY' (ACT). Speaker: Dr Anthony G. Reddie, Research Fellow Black Theology, The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Racial Justice Consultant for the Methodist Church of Great Britain, Convenor of the Black Theology in Britain Forum, Editor of Black Theology: an International Journal and author of *Black Theology, Slavery and Contemporary Christianity; Is God Colour Blind?*; etc. Held in association with Christians for an Ethical Society and Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton. Contact: 02 6272 6201 or grussell@ncca.org.au. Web: <http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec/theology/christ-and-culture>.

29 - 30 MARCH. ACOSS NATIONAL CONFERENCE (VIC). There will be sessions covering important subjects such as the National Reform Agenda; Closing The Gap; Housing and Homelessness; National Disability Insurance Scheme; and sector perspectives on Climate Change action, Tax Reform, Aged Care, Mental Health, and Gambling. Speakers: Senator Bob Brown, Leader of the Australian Greens; Saul Estlake, The Grattan Institute; Ged Kearney, ACTU; Dr Tom Calma, Co-Chair of the Closing the Gap Steering Committee; etc. Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Contact: conference@acoss.org.au. Web: <http://www.acoss.org.au/nationalconference>.

30 MARCH. EVENING FORUM: 'SAMENESS, SIMILARITY AND DIFFERENCE: AN INTERCULTURAL THEOLOGY FOR HUMAN SOLIDARITY' (NSW). Dr Anthony G. Reddie, will look at how we live together and what resources Christian theology provides us for how we go about doing this. Held in association with Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Sydney Archdiocese. Speaker: Dr Anthony G. Reddie, Research Fellow Black Theology, The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Racial Justice Consultant for the Methodist Church of Great Britain, Convenor of the Black Theology in Britain Forum, Editor of Black Theology: an International Journal and author of *Black Theology, Slavery and Contemporary Christianity; Is God Colour*

Blind?; etc. No cost. 6.00 pm, Polding Centre, Level 5, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney. Contact: grussell@ncca.org.au or 02 9299 2215, RSVP by 23 March essential. Web: <http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec/theology/christ-and-culture>.

30 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'PRAYER THAT CHANGES OUR WORLD' (NSW). You're invited to join us to get inspired to go on a journey from believer to disciple to a place where we discover our salvation is bound up with those who suffer, the poor and the marginalised. With tears and laughter, Shane Claibourne unveils the tragic messes we've made of our world and the tangible hope that another world is possible. Shane's experience is varied, from studying at Eastern University and Princeton Seminary, to working alongside Mother Teresa in Calcutta, to a year at wealthy mega-church Willow Creek in Chicago, to working for peace in Baghdad amid falling bombs in the Iraq war. Shane Claiborne is author of *The Irresistible Revolution, Jesus For President*, and *Becoming The Answer To Our Prayers*. Cost: gold coin donation appreciated. 7.30 pm, Eastern Ave Lecture Theatre, Sydney University. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/states/news/shane-claiborne-in-sydney/>.

30 MARCH. GLOBAL ER FORUM: 'EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT CONFERENCE' (NSW). The Forum will focus on recent trends in employment relations in key economies North America, Europe and Asia and their implications for Australia. The Forum will also provide an opportunity to review the effects of recent reforms in Australia in the context of the re-elected Labor government from a wide range of employer and union perspectives. Cost: \$550. 8.45 am to 5.00 pm, Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, Pyrmont. Contact: 02 9351 5624 or business.workplaceresearchcentre@sydney.edu.au. Web: <http://www.wrc.org.au/event-details.php?eventid=101>.

1 APRIL. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'PRISON LAW REFORM - THE NEW CAMPAIGN' (NSW). Speakers: John Dowd, Chancellor, Southern Cross University, former NSW Attorney General; Brett Collins, Coordinator Justice Action. 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/>.

2 APRIL. BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER: 'HOMEWORK' (VIC). This fundraising event will provide support for homeless women in Victoria. Women who come to Bethlehem have experienced long-term homelessness. The community provides accommodation and support to women, many of whom experience disabilities associated with abuse and/or mental ill-health. As a result, the women have lost contact with family and friends. Cost: \$220. 7.00 pm, Palladium Ballroom, Crown, Whiteman Street, Southbank. Contact: 03 9462 3937 or homework@bethlehem.com.au. Web: <http://www.bethlehem.com.au/downloads/AugustBethStar-2010.pdf>.

4 APRIL. WORKSHOP: 'WORKING WITH OFFENDERS POST-RELEASE' (NSW). The Community Restorative Centre (CRC) has extensive experience work with ex-prisoners, and is offering a one-day workshop on working with clients who are transitioning from prison back to the community. The workshop will provide an understanding of the NSW prison system; the impact of incarceration; the complex issues that affect offenders post release; strategies to work more effectively with this client group; and knowledge of available services and resources. Cost: \$220, concession \$150. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Foyer (Level 2), Sydney Law School, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0450 or law.criminology@sydney.edu.au. Web: http://sydney.edu.au/law/criminology/seminars_events/#postrelease.

6 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'THE IMPACT OF THE NSW CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ON CRIME' (NSW). Presenter: Dr Vasilis Sarafidis, BA (Hons) Sussex, MPhil Cambridge, PhD Cambridge Lecturer, Lecturer in econometrics, University of Sydney. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR). No cost. 10.00 to 11.00 am, Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: bocsar_seminars@agd.nsw.gov.au or 02 9231 9190. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/51844/449/>.

11 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'BEYOND PUNISHMENT: ACTUARIAL RISK' (NSW). Sydney Institute of Criminology. No cost. 5.30 to 8.00 pm, Foyer (Level 2), Sydney Law School, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0238 or law.events@sydney.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: http://sydney.edu.au/law/criminology/seminars_events/#postrelease.

11 - 12 APRIL. CONFERENCE: 'SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES ON THE 2008 NATIONAL AND ABORIGINAL TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY' (ACT). The main aim of the conference is to initiate a conversation between stakeholders and academics about data and the research required to enhance the social science evidence base around Indigenous wellbeing and socioeconomic disadvantage. The conference covers a range of topics including: child development, crime and justice, culture, the customary economy, demography, education, employment, fertility, health, housing, income and financial stress, mobility, poverty, social exclusion, substance abuse and wellbeing. Cost: \$275. Haydon-Allen Tank, Australian National University. Contact: 02 6125 0587 or admin.caep@anu.edu.au. Web: <http://caep.anu.edu.au/Seminars/conferences/conference.php>.

12 - 13 APRIL. CANA CONFERENCE: 'THE ELEVENTH HOUR' (VIC). This conference is the annual planning, networking and strategising event for members of Climate Action Network Australia. The theme of this conference will focus on the key matters on the climate change agenda in Australia this year and towards 2012: the pollution price and its complementary measures and the international negotiations. Cost: \$154. 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Conferences on Clarendon, 120 Clarendon St, South Melbourne. Contact: admin@cana.net.au. Web: <http://www.cana.net.au/hot-topics/eleventh-hour-cana-conference-2011>.

www.cana.net.au/hot-topics/eleventh-hour-cana-conference-2011.

14 - 15 APRIL. RECONFIGURING CATHOLIC GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE (NSW). Catholic Health Australia's Conference is a forum for exploring the evolving governance structures of health and human service organisations within the Catholic Church in Australia. The Conference will hear from speakers who include leaders from within the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, leaders from within the Catholic health and aged care community, leaders from the Catholic social service and Catholic education sector, and long experienced experts in governing and running Catholic organisations. Cost: \$370-\$480. Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach. Contact: 02 6203 2777 or angelaz@cha.org.au. Web: <http://www.cha.org.au>.

15 - 17 APRIL. NATIONAL FAMILY GATHERING: 'SHARE THE DREAM - FAMILIES TRANSFORMING THE WORLD' (VIC).

This gathering is hosted by the Melbourne Archdiocese of behalf of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life (BCPL). Chair of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life Bishop Eugene Hurley said that this event is extremely important for families, to inspire and encourage them. 'These events give people a sense that they are not alone in the world. Our culture can be very individualistic and we really want to affirm families', said Bishop Hurley. Speakers: Bishop Jean Laffitte, Secretary to the Pontifical Council for the Family; Melinda Tankard Reist; Byron and Francine Pirola; Dr Brigid McKenna and Dr Adam Cooper; etc. Cost: per family \$250-\$280. Xavier College, Barkers Road, Kew. Contact: 0407 081 256 or 03 9287 5579. Web: <http://www.sharethedream.org.au>.

News Monitor

Caritas Australia urges solidarity for the vulnerable

Caritas Australia urged all Australians to remain in "solidarity" with "vulnerable communities", as 64 million more people across the globe plunged into extreme poverty in the past year, reported The Catholic Weekly.

JRS gets new director

Malaysian Jesuit Father Aloysius Mowe took over as the new director of Jesuit Refugee Service Australia from Father Sacha Bermudez-Goldman, who was appointed as the new Social Delegate for the order, reported Province Express.

Canberra convent will house refugees

CatholicCare purchased the Josephite convent at O'Connor in Canberra to use as transitional housing for refugee families assigned to it by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, reported the Catholic Voice.

Korean bishops new Caritas agency to help Nth Korea

Caritas Corea International, the Korean bishops' first and newly established official foreign relief agency, said it will begin sending aid to North Korea from April, reported ucanews.com.

Transfer for Pakistani Christian woman blasphemy prisoner

A Pakistani Christian woman sentenced to death under the country's blasphemy laws was transferred to a more secure prison cell to protect her from assassination attempts, said a report on the Christian Today website.

Focus rage on asylum seeker conditions, not politicians: Jesuit

The Jesuit theologian and commentator Father Andrew Hamilton called for a "shift in the public imagination concerning asylum seekers", in a commentary for Eureka Street.

Apology was like a 'sacramental' sign, Rudd explains

Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd described his 2008 Apology to the Stolen Generations as like a "sacramental" sign.

ACU extends paid parental leave to a year

The Australian Catholic University was set to introduce 40 weeks' paid leave for new mothers and fathers at 60 per cent of their normal pay - on top of the 12 weeks' maternity leave on full pay for women and three weeks for men it already provides, reported the Sydney Morning Herald

Indigenous attendance highest at Catholic schools

Indigenous attendance rates at public high schools across the country are falling, except

in Western Australia, where they were stable - but indigenous attendance at Catholic schools bucked the trend, improving in most states, The Australian reported.

Call to reform remand and support young offenders

New research by Jesuit Social Services' showed that the number of young people in remand in Victoria was growing. The organisation called on the government for reform as well as support options outside prison, said a media release.

School issues memo on Muslim student issues

The principal of Adelaide's Christian Brothers College circulated a staff memo to aid in culturally sensitive situations when dealing with Muslim students, touching issues such as the inappropriateness of tutoring students on a one-on-one basis and avoiding physical contact, reported the ABC.

Change the NT intervention, said priest and advocate

Three years after the Australian Government's historic apology to the Stolen Generations, Jesuit Father Frank Brennan said Indigenous people were still being singled out by policies which deny them the opportunity to speak for themselves, reported Province Express.

Coalition commitments for prison reform

The NSW Opposition called for prison reforms in response to a questionnaire by a church and social justice advocacy group, reported the Sydney Morning Herald.

Cardinal's climate change views flawed, said BoM director

The head of the Bureau of Meteorology rebuked Cardinal George Pell for his scepticism about climate change, insisting the cardinal was misled, reported the Sydney Morning Herald.

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



Social Justice Calendar

- | | | | |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| 1 Tue | International Death Penalty Abolition Day
Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day
Landcare Month, Australia
1999: International Treaty to Ban Landmines | 20 Sun | Second Sunday of Lent
World Day of Planetary Consciousness |
| 4 Fri | World Day of Prayer: How Many Loaves Have You? (Chile) | 21 Mon | UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
UN Week of Solidarity with the Peoples struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination begins
World Poetry Day
World Forestry Day
National Harmony Day (Australia) |
| 5 Sat | 1970: International Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons | 22 Tue | World Water Day |
| 6 Sun | Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Clean Up Australia Day | 23 Wed | World Meteorological Day |
| 8 Tue | International Women's Day | 24 Thu | 1980: Assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero |
| 9 Wed | Ash Wednesday | 25 Fri | The Annunciation
UN International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
1877: Death of Caroline Chisholm |
| 13 Sun | First Sunday of Lent | | |
| 17 Thu | St Patrick (Solemnity) | | |
| 19 Sat | St Joseph, husband of Mary (Solemnity)
2003: US and allies invade Iraq | 27 Sun | Third Sunday of Lent
Earth Hour |

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.

