



No. 129 – November 2011

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>

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- From the Secretariat
- Current Issues/Resources
- Latest Publications
- This Month's Notices
- News Monitor
- Social Justice Calendar

Dear friends,

In the past few months, Australia has been torn by an extraordinary level of controversy over the issue of asylum seekers. I am sure that you will be aware of the constant calls by the Catholic Church - and other organisations and individuals - for Australia to take a different approach towards asylum seekers who come to Australia by boat. Despite evidence that the majority of Australians want to see asylum seekers processed in Australia, and despite the government's own commitment in 2008 to use detention only as a last resort and for the shortest practical time, both sides of politics are committed to ever harsher measures against boat arrivals. In particular, they both propose to deport asylum seekers to another country.

For the moment, however, by a strange irony, the government is doing something that churches, refugee advocates, lawyers, doctors and many others have been imploring it to do for years: it is processing these boat arrivals in Australia. The government's preferred policy is to deport 'irregular maritime arrivals' (as it calls these people) to Malaysia. The High Court ruled against the policy, however, and the government believed that in the short

term it could not persuade parliament to change the legislation and make its proposed policy legal. Bishop Christopher Saunders, the ACSJC's Chairman, referred to attempts to change the legislation as 'a national disgrace' and said the government was fighting 'an unjust war' against 'innocent people who are completely defenceless and desperate' (refer: http://www.sydneycatholic.org/news/latest_news/2011/2011913_1396.shtml).

For the moment at least, asylum seekers are staying in Australia. They are, however, being detained in conditions that are causing them terrible damage. On 24 October the ABC's *Four Corners* showed how conditions of detention are leading to mental illness, self-harm and suicide for asylum seekers. The program was able to bring Australians something they are rarely allowed to see or hear: the suffering faces of refugees themselves, and their testimony in their own words.

Detainees and former detainees told of months or years of isolation, frustration and increasing despair behind the razor wire. They told of their own experience of mental illness as the months dragged on, and of seeing their friends mutilating themselves or even taking their own lives. Doctors recounted their frustration at not being able to help these people, and of their concern at seeing detainees given medication that was inappropriate for the conditions from which they were suffering. Refugee advocates told of an assessment process that makes too many mistakes, obliging applicants to go through long-drawn-out appeal processes that can add many months to their time in detention. (To see the *Four Corners* report and its transcript, refer: <http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2011/10/20/3344543.htm>.)

Bishop Saunders has called the detention centre at Curtin, WA, 'a chamber of horrors' (refer: <http://www.cathnews.com/article.aspx?aeid=28756>). Professor Patrick McGorry, Australian of the Year in 2010, referred to

detention centres as factories for producing mental illness. Dr Peter Morris of the Northern Territory branch of the Australian Medical Association has said, ‘We believe that the policy of mandatory detention is medically harmful, violates basic human rights. We agree that the detention of asylum seeker children and their families is a form of child abuse.’

As this message was being written, Australia heard of the tragic suicide of Jayasaker Jayrathana in Villawood detention facility. It appears that had been granted refugee status but that his detention, which had lasted two years, had continued while he was waiting for security clearance. This case is the latest in a long list of tragedies emerging from Australia’s refugee policy.

Recently the ACSJC has signed a number of documents calling for a change in the divisive nature of the national debate on asylum seekers, for national and international leadership on the issue, and for an end to mandatory detention. One was an ‘Open Statement on Asylum Seekers’, which pointed to the success in the 1970s of Australia’s response to the influx of boat people from Vietnam. A ‘humane and effective bi-partisan solution was put in place’, the statement says; Australia took in about 250,000 Indochinese refugees, and helped craft a regional solution that dealt with the needs of more than 2.5 million others (refer: http://www.erc.org.au/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=146). Signatories to the statement included the ACSJC, the Edmund Rice Centre, the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and the Refugee Council of Australia. Individual signatories included former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, former NSW Attorney-General John Dowd, Br Julian McDonald, and Professors Richard Broinowski, Mary Crock, William Maley, Patrick McGorry and Louise Newman.

The ACSJC was also one of 260 charities, advocacy organisations and community groups that signed an open letter to members of parliament. The open letter calls for:

□ both major political parties to respect the full implications of the High Court ruling

□ the government to take leadership and use the ruling as an opportunity to reframe the national debate about refugees and asylum seekers

□ the government to immediately rule out offshore processing and mandatory detention, and allow people seeking asylum to be placed in the community whilst waiting for a decision

□ onshore processing for all asylum seekers

□ the government to increase our refugee and humanitarian intake in the region and honour its commitment to resettle the 4000 refugees from Malaysia

□ the government to continue to work towards a regional solution to the plight of asylum seekers.

The letter continues: ‘The groups urge all political parties and Members of Parliament to stop using policies regarding asylum seekers to foster misunderstanding, social division and distrust, and instead use it as an opportunity to get on with the job of fulfilling Australia’s commitment under the Refugee Convention to treat people humanely, process applications for asylum onshore, and promote the better treatment of asylum seekers and refugees in our region.’

Other organisations that signed the letter included the Refugee Council of Australia, the Edmund Rice Centre, Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission, Centacare, numerous religious orders, and diocesan and archdiocesan social justice commissions and offices in Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra-Goulburn.

(Refer: http://acoss.org.au/policy/community_services/community_sector_statement_on_asylum_seeker_malaysia_deal_high_court_ruling/)

It is still possible to sign this letter: you or your organisation can do so by following the link above.

When we read this testimony, and see the suffering faces of people desperately in need of help, we have to ask how long we can continue to shut our ears to the call to our

sense of humanity and justice. The ‘shut them out or lock them up’ mentality is not typical of our history. As already mentioned, Australia cooperated with its regional neighbours in finding a solution to the needs of Indochinese boat people. Fr Jim Carty, Coordinator for Marist Asylum Seeker and Refugee Services, has reminded us that Australia was one of the original architects and signatories of the 1951 UN Convention for Refugees. Now, he suggests, Australia is trying to abrogate its responsibilities under the Convention and plans to use changes to the Migration Act to water down those protections (refer: http://www.sydneycatholic.org/news/latest/news/2011/2011913_1396.shtml).

There is another way. Australia can see the situation for what it is. We are not being swamped by boat people. We will not succeed in deterring people seeking hope and security, and we should not try. The solution to the refugee problem worldwide will only be reached through international cooperation. In an extended interview, available on the ABC *Four Corners* website, Bishop Saunders expressed the belief that Australians will tire of the idea of locking people away from the freedoms they are entitled to, and will show the leadership that their politicians are not prepared to show. Let us pray that that will happen soon.

John Ferguson (National Executive Officer)



Current Issues / Resources

FOUR CORNERS - ‘ASYLUM’

Right now there are over 4,000 people held in immigration detention centres across Australia. On average, asylum seekers remain in detention for around a year, but that figure hides a group of people who remain locked away for much longer periods of time. Just over a year ago, the Federal Government announced it would begin releasing children into the community to minimise the harm caused by their incarceration. At the same time, thousands of adults remain locked away in detention centres remote from the rest of the world - a situation that’s concerning to many healthcare professionals. Reporter Sarah Ferguson interviews a range of experts, including Bishop Christopher Saunders, regarding the treatment and conditions of detention endured by people held in remote detention facilities. For further information and the full interview with Bishop Saunders, visit: <http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2011/10/20/3344543.htm>

RERUM NOVARUM LECTURE - ‘ASYLUM SEEKERS. IS THERE A JUST SOLUTION?’

Each year the Office for Justice and Peace of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne holds an event to commemorate the 1891 encyclical of Pope Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum*. Delivering the 2011 Rerum Novarum Oration, Vincent Long Van Nguyen proclaimed ‘unashamedly

that the Church is on the side of the poor as God is on their side.’ Giving a heartfelt and passionate account of his life’s journey, Bishop Vincent implored the large audience to ‘approach the issue from a positive narrative and not from a narrow and negative mentality that demeans all Australians.’ In response, the Right Honourable Mr Malcolm Fraser implored all to move beyond the sectarian and divisive debates of the past that are sadly etched into Australia’s history. Mr Fraser praised the Church, and in particular former Melbourne Archbishop Daniel Mannix, for a courageous stand in support of the poor and downtrodden. Then, as now, the Church must take up the challenge to be a voice for the voiceless. For more information, visit: <http://www.cam.org.au/rno2011.html>

CARITAS AUSTRALIA EAST AFRICA CRISIS APPEAL

Double your giving with the Australian Government’s Dollar-for-Dollar initiative. From 5 October until 30 November 2011 the Government will dollar match all public donations to the Caritas Australia East Africa Appeal. The drought crisis situation in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and across the horn of Africa continues to decline. Currently about 13.3 million people in the region are in need of food, water and basic facilities. Half of those are children. Support the people of East Africa

by donating online to Caritas Australia's East Africa Crisis Appeal. Your support to the East Africa appeal will provide life giving assistance to those most in need. To find out more and to make a donation, visit: http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=East_Africa_Crisis_Appeal

URGENT APPEAL - CLEMENCY FOR ANDREW AND MYURAN

Andrew and Myuran, two young Australians, face execution in Indonesia. They have admitted trying to traffic drugs to Australia. They have exhausted their appeals. All that can save them is clemency from Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The 'Mercy Campaign' has been established by lawyers, volunteers and a journalist to send a simple and respectful message to the President: please spare the life of Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran. Lawyer Julian McMahon says, 'How can you help? You can be a respectful, courteous, clear thinking, courageous person and involve yourself in the Mercy campaign'. Please visit the Mercy Campaign website, sign and promote the petition for clemency: <http://mercycampaign.org>

JESUIT SOCIAL JUSTICE - NATIONAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

A recent National Justice Symposium, convened by Jesuit Social Services and attended by judges, academics and senior figures in the justice system, has called for plans for mandatory minimum sentences to be scrapped. In the keynote address, former Victorian Supreme Court Judge, Frank Vincent AO QC, said that minimum mandatory sentences had the potential to not only lead to injustice for some young people but will also be counter to the long term achievement of a safe community.

'A humane system recognises that prisons are inherently damaging institutions, I know from nearly 50 years working in the criminal justice system that detention in a youth facility or an adult prison even for a very short period can have profound impact on the lives of young people. We need to work on a basis of prison as a last resort. The research shows that putting people in jail makes it more likely that they will reoffend once released.' Also addressing the Symposium were Julie

Edwards, CEO of Jesuit Social Services, Andrew McIntosh, Victorian Minister for Crime Prevention and Minister for Corrections, Professor Tony Vinson and Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO. For more information, visit: <http://www.jss.org.au/nationaljusticesymposium>

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE SYDNEY - SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY

The Archdiocesan Social Justice Day is being held on Wednesday 16 November. Each school community is invited to send between six and eight students from Years 10-11 to this day. The venue is Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College, Burwood. The theme for the 2011 Social Justice Day is based upon this year's Social Justice Statement presented to all Australians by the Australian Catholic Bishops: *Building Bridges, Not Walls: Prisons and the justice system*. For more information and to view podcasts of the launch as well as recent interviews, visit the Catholic Education Office Website at: <http://www.ceosyd.catholic.edu.au/Parents/Religion/Pages/BuildingBridgesnotWalls.aspx>

CANA COMMUNITIES - MENTORING PROGRAM

'An Opportunity to Step Out with Prisoners Stepping Out'. Cana Communities is expanding its work with men and women leaving prison. Sometimes this involves providing a home for them to live in an environment that encourages trust and assists them in coming to terms with their release. Part of this care involves volunteers acting as mentors. Effective mentoring can help prevent re-offending. Sister Anne, the prison chaplain and the members of the Cana Community are seeking men and women who would like to experience this special outreach. Initially just a few hours per month are required pre-release, during which the relationship is established. On release, the extent of the involvement is based on need but a commitment to this work is expected to last over several months. If you would like to know more about this work please contact frank@ozburrows.com or elizabethlee@ozemail.com.au. Visit the website: <http://www.cana.org.au>

DEATHS IN CUSTODY CAMPAIGN

Brisbane's Catholic Justice and Peace Commission and the Archdiocesan Murri Ministry Team have joined together to launch

a campaign to get Government action to address ongoing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in custody. The campaign was launched at Musgrave Park, South Brisbane, on the anniversary of the death in custody of a 16 year old Aboriginal youth, John Pat, in 1983. The event was chaired by the Director of Brisbane Murri Watch, Mr Ken Georgetown, and prominent elders, Aunty Alex Gater and Aunty Jean Phillips, led prayers during the launch. The Coordinator of the Murri Ministry Team, Ms Ravina Waldren, said she had a heavy heart as she remembered the many Aboriginal people who have died in custody over the years. The Commission's Executive Officer, Peter Arndt, said that Governments must take action to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission if Aboriginal deaths in custody are to stop. To find out more about the campaign, visit: <http://cjpbrisbane.wordpress.com/2011/10/03/deaths-in-custody-campaign-launched/> Download the factsheet at: <http://cjpbrisbane.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/deaths-in-custody-launch-fact-sheet11.pdf>

BOOK - 'WALK WITH US'

Walk With Us - Aboriginal Elders Call Out to Australian People to Walk with them in their Quest for Justice is the long awaited sequel to the highly regarded *This Is What We Said*. It presents the ongoing impact of the NT Intervention on the lives of Aboriginal people in their own words, covering the visit of two Aboriginal NT Elders to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in Geneva in August 2010. Four communities are presented in this book: Galiwin'ku - Elcho Island, Nauiyu - Daly River, Yuendumu, Utopia, Yirrkala and Milingimbi, and what the Elders are saying about the Intervention; shires and hub towns; customary law; culture, language and identity; respect and heritage. To order, visit: <http://stoptheintervention.org/facts/films-and-literature/book-walk-with-us>

CONCERNED AUSTRALIANS - 'UN HEARS THAT AUSTRALIA FAILS ITS CHILDREN IN NT'

Two reports were tabled at a UN meeting on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. These reports looked closely at whether Australia's commitments through the Convention on the Rights of the Child are being complied

with. The first report, *Listen to Children*, was far reaching across our nation's children in its comment. The second, *Children of the Intervention*, focused solely on those children living in the 'prescribed communities' of the Northern Territory. This presentation by Djapirri Mununggirritj and Kathy Guthadjaka expressed fear for the children of the Northern Territory; 'We fear for their future, for their ability to learn to walk in two worlds, to obtain an education and a job. We fear for their health and their general wellbeing. But most of all, we fear that these recent changes [NTER legislation] will lead to the loss of our land, our culture and our language.' They believe that gross overcrowding and the failure to provide environmentally safe housing for children has put their health at grave risk. For further information, visit: <http://stoptheintervention.org/facts/press-releases/united-nations-hears-that-australia-fails-its-children-in-the-northern-territory-11-10-11>

VIDEO - 'EVALNGELISATION WITH ATTITUDE'

The Disability Projects Office of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life has recently released a video about people with disability and their families participating in the life of the Catholic Church in Australia. What does evangelisation mean? We are part of the Body of Christ, with the opportunity to serve, being asked to participate in full membership of our community. In accordance with Church teaching, this video encourages us to explore the practical dimensions of our spirituality and affirm the dignity of the human person. We are called to create opportunities for people with disability and their families to participate in the richness of our faith communities where everyone is valued, gifted and acknowledged. View the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xctxqx4l0w>

VATICAN CALLS FOR GLOBAL AUTHORITY TO REGULATE MARKETS

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace has just released a note on financial reform, entitled *Towards Reforming the International Financial and Monetary Systems in the Context of Global Public Authority*. The President of the Council, Cardinal Peter Turkson, says, 'The economic and financial crisis which the world is going through calls everyone, individuals and

peoples, to examine in depth the principles and the cultural and moral values at the basis of social coexistence. What is more, the crisis engages private actors and competent public authorities on the national, regional and international level in serious reflection on both causes and solutions of a political, economic and technical nature.’ The document calls for a public authority to address a growing economic divide, ‘in a globalised world which makes individuals and peoples increasingly interconnected and interdependent, but which also reveals the existence of monetary and financial markets of a predominantly speculative sort that are harmful for the real economy, especially of the weaker countries.’ To access the statement, visit: <http://www.zenit.org/article-33718?l=english>

AFTINET - ‘END SECRECY IN TRANSPACIFIC PARTNERSHIP’

The Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network has issued an open letter to the Minister for Trade, calling for democratic scrutiny in negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) between the US, Australia, and seven other countries. The letter calls on governments to release draft text of the proposed agreement, as well as a document which reportedly restricts access to negotiating documents for four years after the conclusion of the negotiations. AFTINET campaigner Harvey Purse says, ‘US pharmaceutical companies want more changes to intellectual property rights and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme so they can charge higher prices for medicines. Agribusiness companies want to abolish GE food labelling, Media and services companies want to weaken Australian content rules in media and in government purchasing. These are health, social and cultural policies that should be decided through democratic parliamentary processes, not secretly signed away in trade negotiations.’ To find out more, visit: <http://aftinet.org.au/cms/sites/default/files/FINAL%20release%20the%20text%20post%20Chicago%200911.pdf>

ACOSS POVERTY REPORT

The Australian Council of Social Service is calling on the Commonwealth Government to commit to increase income support allowances like Newstart in order to tackle

growing inequality in Australia. ACOSS CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie says, ‘Our Poverty Report shows that one of the main causes of this growing inequality is the shutting out of a disadvantaged subset of people from the jobs market, despite declining unemployment rates. There are large numbers of people who are out of paid work or only have a few hours of work per week and have to rely mainly on social security payments such as Newstart for their income ... [T]he growing disparity between people on Newstart Allowance and those on pensions like the DSP, which now stands at \$131 a week, must be addressed as a matter of urgency. This is especially imperative given the real likelihood of a substantial increase in the number of people going onto Newstart Allowance as a result of the Government’s planned changes to the eligibility criteria for DSP.’ To access the report, visit: http://acoss.org.au/images/uploads/ACOSS_Poverty_October_2011.pdf

FAIRWEAR - CAMPAIGN FOR OUTWORKERS

Fairwear is seeking support in a campaign calling for the Gillard government to act on its promises to outworkers. The Prime Minister agreed to a range of protections to outworkers as part of the current ALP National Platform (2009). These commitments included: regulatory protection in order to control the exploitative conditions; working in partnership with States and Territories to harmonise existing state laws and regulations dealing with outworkers within 12 months; nationally consistent rights to legal redress and protection; an end to the artificial distinction between so-called ‘employee’ outworkers and ‘contract’ outworkers; ensuring Right of Entry provisions regarding Outwork. Fairwear says there has been no movement on the promises around legislation and we are now more than 12 months past the time period the Government had committed to introduce legislation. To find out more, visit: <http://www.fairwear.org.au/actions/join-us-in-calling-for-the-gillard-government-to-act-urgently-on-its-promises-to-outworkers/>

JUBILEE AUSTRALIA - ‘ALTERNATIVES TO DEBTORS’ PRISON’

Jubilee Australia’s latest report calls for a new international response to sovereign debt crises, including the elevation of debt

renegotiation decisions to a neutral and legitimate forum. The debt crises in Greece, Spain and Ireland have emphasised the urgency of the issue, but the phenomenon of countries repeatedly going broke has a long history. The report examines this history and the key patterns that have emerged.

Written in collaboration with Ross Buckley, Professor of International Finance Law at the University of NSW, and funded by the Australian Council for International

Development, the new report makes the case for an independent arbitration mechanism modelled on the US bankruptcy code, that would give priority to governments' obligations to meet the essential needs of its citizens, introduce a modicum of accountability to financing decisions, and elevate debt renegotiation decisions to a neutral and legitimate forum. To access the Report, visit: <http://www.jubileeaustralia.org/page/work/debt-and-development>

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)

ORDER NOW! - 2012 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2012 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. 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. A great Christmas gift. Diaries will be available in November. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

LAUNCH OF THE 2011-2012 SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Addresses delivered at the launch of the 2011-2012 Social Justice Statement by the Hon. Graham West, Executive Officer of the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, Mrs Margaret Wiseman, prison chaplain in the Archdiocese of Sydney, and Bishop Christopher Saunders are available for download on the ACSJC homepage: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2011-2012 - STILL TAKING ORDERS

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement is entitled 'Building Bridges, Not Walls: Prisons and the

justice system'. 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 to Building Bridges, Not Walls.

Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499

Social Justice Statement Summary, Liturgy Notes, Community and Student Resources, PowerPoint Presentation - now available at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Ecumenical resource: 'I Was in Prison and You Visited Me'. Download from the National Council of Churches website: <http://www.ncca.org.au/>

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE - 'READING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES'

The ACSJC has prepared educational materials for parishes, social justice groups and schools engaged with the Church's social teachings. The latest discussion guide is on Pope John Paul II's 1981 encyclical *Laborem Exercens*. This and other discussion guides available for download at <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SERIES PAPER - 'THE LOVE THAT SURPRISES'

In Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.69, entitled 'The Love that Surprises: Lessons from Timor-Leste', Mark Green describes his experiences working for Caritas Australia in Timor-Leste. His work in remote communities

prompted him to think deeply about the concrete reality of Catholic social teaching and our relationships with marginalised communities close to our shores. (\$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

NATIONAL

25 NOVEMBER - 10 DECEMBER. 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE. This international campaign originates from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute and is sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. Participants chose the dates November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women, and December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasise that such violence is a violation of human rights. For events and resources see the website: <http://16dayscwgil.rutgers.edu/>.

QUEENSLAND

30 OCTOBER. KATHY KELLY TOUR AFTERNOON TEA: 'COST OF WAR ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN AFGHANISTAN'. Kathy helped initiate 'Voices in the Wilderness', a campaign to end the UN/US sanctions against Iraq. Kathy remained in Baghdad during bombing, living alongside Iraqi civilians in an effort to prevent the war. She has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize. Kathy has also participated in nonviolent direct actions in Nicaragua, Haiti, Bosnia, Lebanon, Gaza, and the Occupied West Bank. Co sponsored by Womens International League for Peace and Freedom (Brisbane). Cost: \$15, \$10 concession. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, West End Uniting Church, Sussex Street, West End. Contact: 07 3369 4004 or vicki4peace@yahoo.com. Web: http://www.kathykellytour.org/?page_id=449.

3 NOVEMBER. ABRAHAMIC FAITHS CONCERT: 'ONE GOD, MANY VOICES'. This annual evening of Jewish, Christian and Muslim sacred voices and music hosted by the Queensland

Forum for Christians, Jews and Muslims and The Multi-Faith Centre, followed by a delicious kosher-halal supper. No cost. 7.00 pm, Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University, Nathan Campus. Contact: 07 3735 7052 or mfc@griffith.edu.au, RSVP by 28 October. Web: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11637&cid=7465&id=3480>.

3 NOVEMBER. DISCUSSION: 'PUTTING A PRICE ON CARBON POLLUTION?' The Toowoomba Social Justice Commission will be hosting an evening discussion around the issue of placing a price on carbon pollution. The discussion will not be taking a partisan political stance - but instead viewing the issue through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching and statements made by the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change and the Brisbane Catholic Justice and Peace Commission. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, Social Justice Office, 123 Neil Street, Cathedral Centre, Toowoomba. Contact: 07 4613 0895, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.tsjc.org/events/>.

5 NOVEMBER. WOMEN 'WOVEN IN LOVE' WORKSHOP. This mini workshop offers a nurturing experience to explore and support women in their relationship as daughters, or as mothers. It offers a time for personal reflection, rejoicing, celebration and healing. Facilitated by Gail Godfrey from the JPIL Centre for Family and Life. Cost: donation. 3.00 to 6.00 pm, St Mary's Parish Hall, Bromelton Street, Beaudesert. Contact: 0400 488 221 or pa.woodridge@bne.catholic.net.au, RSVP by 2 November. Web: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11637&cid=7465&id=3447>.

5 NOVEMBER. FILM SCREENING: 'NEFARIOUS: MERCHANT OF SOULS'. 'Modern day slavery.' It sounds like a paradox. Hasn't humanity

progressed? But with over 27 million enslaved people across the world, human trafficking is still the battlefield of the 21st century. *Nefarious: Merchant of Souls* is a hard-hitting documentary that exposes the disturbing trends in modern sex slavery. There are wonderful heart warming stories of Jesus breaking into lives bringing healing and freedom. Cost: \$10. 7.00 pm, Citipointe Main Auditorium, 322 Wecker Road, Carindale. Web: <http://www.nefariousdocumentary.com>.

11 NOVEMBER. RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN LAUNCH. Organised by Bishop Brian Finnigan, Toowoomba Social Justice Commission and The Diocesan Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group. Contact: justice@twb.catholic.org.au or 07 4613 0895, RSVP by 4 November. 10.00 am, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parish Centre, 123 Neil Street, Toowoomba. Web: http://www.tsjc.org/uploads/media/Invitation_to_RAP_Launch.pdf.

NEW SOUTH WALES

29 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: SPIRIT OF ASSISI CONCERT. Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Peace. An evening of instrumental and choral music and reflections on peace. Including works of John Rutter, John Tavener, Howard Goodall and Karl Jenkins. Starring: Jane Rutter, Flute Queen. This concert also features a wonderful selection of professional, parish, school and university choirs. Hosted by Franciscan Friars, Province of the Holy Spirit. All proceeds will be directed to The House of Welcome. Cost: \$25, concession \$20, purchase tickets from <http://www.spiritofassisiaustralia.com>. 7.30 pm, Pitt Street Uniting Church, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney. Contact: info@spiritofassisiaustralia.com or 02 9369 9393. Web: <http://www.houseofwelcome.com.au>.

3 NOVEMBER. CITY OF SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE Q&A SESSION: 'PROBLEMS OF KNOWLEDGE AND FREEDOM'. Prof Chomsky (this year's recipient of the Peace Prize) will be in conversation with distinguished Australian journalist and human rights campaigner Mary Kostakidis. 10.30 am, Sydney Opera House. Cost: \$25, concession \$15; from

the Opera House Box Office: http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/noam_chomsky.aspx. Web: <http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/>.

3 NOVEMBER. SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE GALA DINNER. The Sydney Peace Foundation invites you to attend 2011 Sydney Peace Prize Gala Dinner in the presence of the 2011 Sydney Peace Prize Recipient, Professor Noam Chomsky. Former Peace Prize Recipient and Father of Reconciliation, Patrick Dodson, will present the Sydney Peace Prize to Professor Chomsky. Contributions from the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore MP and Professor Stuart Rees. Cost: \$350. MacLaurin Hall, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 4468 or peace.foundation@sydney.edu.au. Web: <http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/>.

4 NOVEMBER. KATHY KELLY WORKSHOP: 'CONVERSATIONS ON TRUTH IN WAR'. A workshop on the uses and effects of media in militarised conflicts. Special commentator: Associate Professor Jake Lynch, Director of Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney; Secretary General, International Peace Research Association; Executive Member, Sydney Peace Foundation. Speaker: Kathy Kelly has participated in nonviolent direct actions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Haiti, Bosnia, Lebanon, Gaza, and the Occupied West Bank. Cost: \$95, concession \$65, (dinner \$20 optional). 9.30 am to 5.00 pm. 1063 Lake Road, Bungendore. Contact: 02 6238 0588 or director@silverwattle.org.au. Web: <http://www.silverwattle.org.au>.

4 NOVEMBER. SPEAKER: 'GUESS WHO'S COMING TO TOWN?' Sister Mary, Catholic Chaplain to Bathurst Gaol, will speak on challenging and inspirational stories of her experiences behind the walls of one of the states oldest prisons. Cost: \$12. 12.00 noon, Havannah House, Brown Street, Forbes. Contact: 02 6852 2334, RSVP by 2 November. Web: http://www.vision.org.au/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=145&xtmode=view&extid=104866&tmpl=component&date=2011-11-04&return_to=L2luZGV4LnBocD9vcHRpb249Y29tX2pjYWxwcm8mYW1wO0l0ZW1pZD0xNDUmYW1wO2RhdGU9MjAxMS0xMS0wNA==.

5 NOVEMBER. CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA FUNDRAISER: 'FAMILY FAST DAY'. A simple meal will be provided and all money raised will be donated to Caritas Australia. Cost: \$10. 12.00 pm, 22 Tanilba Avenue, Tanilba Bay. Contact: 02 4982 3837 or 02 4932 1242, RSVP by 2 November. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/Catholic%20Women%27s%20League%20Family%20Fast%20Day%20Nov%2011.pdf>.

6 NOVEMBER. LAUNCH: AUSTRALIAN CAMPAIGN TO BAN URANIUM WEAPONS. The launch is on the International Day of Action Against Depleted Uranium Weapons. November 6th is also the United Nations' Day for Prevention of the Exploitation of the Environment during Wars and Armed Conflicts. Come and hear more about the world-wide movement to ban the use of these devastating weapons and find out how to assist victims, mostly children, and ensure their suffering never happens again. 3.00 to 4.00 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, Homebush West, (near Flemington Station). Contact: acbuw@hotmail.com or 0422 74 9319. Web: <http://acbuw.org>.

8 NOVEMBER. COMMUNITY FORUM: HOMELESSNESS. CatholicCare Social Services - Diocese of Parramatta (CCSS) and Churches Housing are co-hosting this forum. The Bishop of Parramatta, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, is hosting lunch at the conclusion of the morning's sessions. Presenters: Rev Derek Yule, Executive Officer of Churches Housing Inc and Chair of the Community Housing Federation of Australia; Rosemary Bishop, Chair of Affordable Community Housing Ltd (ACHL) in NSW and CEO of the Mamre Project at St Marys, NSW; Tanya Gadiel, Chief Executive of Parramatta Mission's community services division; and Cathy Tracey, Senior Manager, Family and Community Support with CatholicCare Parramatta. No cost. 9.30 am to 1.30 pm, Parkroyal Parramatta, 30 Phillip Street, Parramatta. Contact: 02 9933 0222, RSVP by 1 November. Web: <http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/news---events/events/events.aspx/community-forum-on-homelessness.aspx>

8 NOVEMBER. CENTRAL COAST SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB. Speakers: Doug Hewitt, retired teacher, worked with the National Council of

Churches and the NSW Ecumenical Council and has a commitment to the causes of justice and peace, particularly with the Palestinian peoples; Sr Trish Madigan, Chair, Commission for Interfaith Relations, Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay, and Chair, Commission on Living Faiths, NSW Ecumenical Council, foundation member, Women's Interfaith Network Sydney and a Christian representative, Australian National Dialogue of Christian, Jews and Muslims. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, Grange Hotel, corner Renwick Street and Pacific Highway, Wyoming. Contact: 02 4367 2743 or 02 4334 3174. Web: http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=122:central-coast&catid=8:nsw-sip-venues&Itemid=94.

9 NOVEMBER. AFTINET AGM. This year there will be a panel of three who will draw on their experiences of the negotiating rounds and provide the latest updates on: the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (Dr Patricia Ranald); PACER-Plus (Harvey Purse); AMWU Campaign on Manufacturing Jobs and Labour Chapters in Free Trade Agreements (Don Sutherland). 6.00 pm, Room 1, Level 10, PSA House, 160 Clarence Street (between King and Market Streets), Sydney. Contact: 02 9212 7242. Web: <http://aftinet.org.au/cms/get-involved/aftinet-2011-agm>.

10 NOVEMBER. FILM SCREENING: 'NEFARIOUS: MERCHANT OF SOULS'. 'Modern day slavery.' It sounds like a paradox. Hasn't humanity progressed? But with over 27 million enslaved people across the world, human trafficking is still the battlefield of the 21st century. *Nefarious: Merchant of Souls* is a hard-hitting documentary that exposes the disturbing trends in modern sex slavery. There are wonderful heart warming stories of Jesus breaking into lives bringing healing and freedom. Proceeds to Homes of Hope and Exodus Cry. Cost: \$15. 7.00 pm, Randwick Ritz Cinema, 39-47 St Pauls Street, Randwick. Contact: 02 9399 5722. Web: <http://www.nefariousdocumentary.com>.

10 - 11 NOVEMBER. CONFERENCE: 'CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC: LEGAL AND POLICY RESPONSES'. This conference will bring together leading international experts, policymakers, and

government officials from affected countries to discuss what is climate change-related migration and displacement. Speakers: Prof Walter Kälin, University of Bern and former Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons; Prof Graeme Hugo, University of Adelaide; Prof Jon Barnett, University of Melbourne; etc. Organisation: Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law. Cost: \$150. 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, NSW Parliament House. Contact: gtcentre@unsw.edu.au. Register online: <http://www.gtcentre.unsw.edu.au/events/climate-change-and-migration-asia-pacific-legal-and-policy-responses>.

12 NOVEMBER. ST VINCENT DE PAUL FUNDRAISER DINNER AND SHOW: 'SONGS FOR YOU'. St Vincent de Paul Society presents Ashleigh Grace. *Songs for You* CD will be available on the evening. Proceeds from the evening will support Mary Mackillop Outreach and Sydney Night Patrol. Cost: \$50. 7.00 pm, Canada Bay Club, 4 William Street, Five Dock. Contact: 0409 927 939. Web: <http://www.vinnies.org.au/songs-for-you-fundraiser-nsw>.

15 NOVEMBER. EDMUND RICE BUSINESS ETHICS INITIATIVE BREAKFAST: 'ETHICAL LEADERSHIP'. Speaker: Mike Carlton, broadcaster. Mike will reflect on some of the ethical challenges he has faced as a journalist. It is an opportunity to think beyond the usual knee-jerk reactions of more or less regulation, or focusing on bad individuals, but rather of a broader civil commitment to mutually supporting ethical thinking and action. Cost: \$40, concession \$25. 7.30 to 9.00 am, Gilbert + Tobin, 2 Park Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 8762 4200 or reception@erc.org.au. Web: <http://www.erc.org.au>.

17-18 NOVEMBER. ANNUAL BONHOEFFER CONFERENCE: 'PRACTICAL MYSTICISM - DIETRICH BONHOEFFER IN CONVERSATION WITH MARY MACKILLOP'. St Mary Mackillop, like Bonhoeffer, was driven by union with God to contest the moral fortitude of her own church, was punished for her actions and eventually reconciled by becoming a legendary and inspirational figure in that same church. In both cases, the very church that had impelled rejection came to endorse their

actions through sainthood or its equivalent. We will explore the idea of practical mysticism as an authentic Christian pathway, explore the ramifications for insight into the nature of saintliness in Bonhoeffer and St Mary of the Cross, and finally bring these two heroes of the church into conversation with each other. Speakers: Prof Terry Lovat, theology lecturer, University of Newcastle; Dr Kathleen McPhillips, University of Newcastle; Capt Lawrence Caelli, chaplain, Army's School of Infantry; Sr Catherine Thom, Sister of St Joseph; etc. Cost: \$185. 2.00 pm Thursday to lunch Friday; St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre, Kincumber. Contact: 02 4921 7755 or Geoffrey.See@newcastle.edu.au. Web: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/events.html>.

19 NOVEMBER. ANNUAL VATICAN II SEMINAR: 'THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD'. Speaker: Richard Leonard sj on taking the Gospel of Christ out to the world through witness, inculturation and liberation. Cost: \$20, concession \$10. 9.30 am to 3.00 pm, Chevalier College, Bowral. Contact: 02 4253 0899 or jane.edwards@dow.org.au, RSVP essential by 7 November. Web: <http://www.dow.org.au>.

25 NOVEMBER. SYDNEY ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC MINISTRY FORUM: 'DIGNITY AND JUSTICE DENIED? ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM'. Twenty years on from the Report into Aboriginal Deaths in custody the over-representation of Aboriginal people in prisons continues unabated. In NSW Aboriginal people are 13 times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be imprisoned. The number of Aboriginal people in jail is a crisis that should have us all questioning why Aboriginal people are so over-represented in the justice system. Are they being treated with dignity and justice? This forum will explore what is going wrong as well as hear about some wonderful initiatives each of the speakers are involved in and explore how each of us can take action. The forum will end with prayers to remember those who have died in custody. Speakers: Revd Diane Langham, Prison Chaplain; Fr Peter Carroll, Prison Chaplain; and Mr Kevin Torrens (tbc), Balunda Correctional Facility. 6.30 to 9.00 pm, St Mary's Church, 21

Swanson Street, Erskineville. Contact: 02 9698 4265 or acm@sydneycatholic.org.

29 NOVEMBER. AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE 'DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE'. This documentary is a collection of short films shown at the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. They cover topics such as adaptation, impacts and technology - across Africa, Asia and South America. They raise awareness, share ideas, and convey important messages in a creative and engaging way. Facilitator: Michael Rynn, Beyond Zero Emissions. Cost: \$2 or \$5. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, near Flemington Station. Contact: stephanies@erc.org.au or 02 8762 4200. Web: <http://www.erc.org.au>.

30 NOVEMBER. ASYLUM SEEKER CENTRE FUNDRAISER: 'YEAR IN THE REAR'. Year in the Rear is a rip and read thrash-through the big issues of the last twelve months. The big ones that have made the front and back pages, tweeted on twitter and kept the blogosphere ablaze. This hilarious night re-lives the highlights, the lowlights and the rubbish in-between. The host is H.G. Nelson and panellists include: Mikey Robins, *Good News Week*; Amanda Keller, *Talking About Your Generation* and *Breakfast Radio*; and James Valentine, *702 Afternoons*. All funds raised from ticket sales and activities on the night will support the vital work of the Asylum Seekers Centre of NSW (<http://www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au>). Cost: \$48-60. 8.00 pm, Seymour Centre, Sydney University. Book: 02 9351 7940 or online http://sydney.edu.au/seymour/boxoffice/program_yearintherear2011.shtml.

7-8 DECEMBER. CENTRE OF FULL EMPLOYMENT AND EQUITY (COFFEE) CONFERENCE: 'THE WAY FORWARD - AUSTERITY OR STIMULUS?' Speakers: Mr Marshall Auerback, investment management; Professor L. Randall Wray, Senior Research Associate, Center for Full Employment and Price Stability (CFEPS), Missouri-Kansas City; Dr John Falzon, Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia. Cost: \$430, concession \$260. University of Newcastle. Contact: [\[newcastle.edu.au\]\(http://newcastle.edu.au\) or 02 4921 7283. Web: <http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/>.](mailto:coffee@</p></div><div data-bbox=)

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

30 OCTOBER. A STORY SONG FOR CITIZENS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE: 'THE GIFTS OF THE FURIES'. A citizens' chorus of Canberra men and women will bring the mythic scale of the climate change crisis. Based on ancient European wisdom, this Canberra-grown story-song shows what happens when people raise the mortal laws of cities above the immortal laws of nature. Presented as an act of worship by A Chorus of Women and directed by Johanna McBride, this is part of City Church's Caring for Creation program. 10.00 am, Canberra City Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra City. Contact: chorusowomen@incanberra.com.au or 02 6257 4600. Web: <http://www.chorusofwomen.org>.

2 NOVEMBER. KATHY KELLY TOUR: 'THE INVENTIVENESS OF NONVIOLENCE: A GOSPEL PERSPECTIVE'. Kathy helped initiate 'Voices in the Wilderness', a campaign to end the UN/US sanctions against Iraq. She has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize. Kathy has also participated in nonviolent direct actions in Nicaragua, Haiti, Bosnia, Lebanon, Gaza and the Occupied West Bank. 5.30 pm, Signadou Campus Australian Catholic University, Phillip Avenue, Watson. Contact: 02 6288 9191 or doug.hynd@netspeed.com.au. Web: <http://www.kathykellytour.org>.

7 NOVEMBER. AIATSI SEMINAR SERIES: 'ISSUES IN THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL HOUSING FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN URBAN AREAS: EVIDENCE FROM PRACTICE'. Speakers: Vivienne Milligan and Rhonda Phillips. 12.30 to 2.00 pm, Mabo Room, AIATSI Building, Acton Peninsula, Canberra. Contact: 02 6261 4209 or claire.stacey@aiatsis.gov.au. Web: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/seminars.html>.

9 NOVEMBER. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: DEBORRA-LEE FURNESS - 'SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR SOCIETY'. Deborra-Lee Furness is an internationally acclaimed actress as well as a passionate supporter of children and defender of their

human rights across the globe. Deborra-Lee Furness is keen to explore ways in which politicians, media and policy makers can join together to make much needed changes to the way in which support and care is provided for the world's most vulnerable citizens - children. Cost: member \$57, guest \$77. 11.45 am to 1.30 pm, National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: npc@npc.org.au or 02 6121 2199. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingspeakers.html>.

10 NOVEMBER. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM: 'CONSOLIDATION OF COMMONWEALTH ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS'. Attorney-General's Department is holding this forum on the consolidation of Commonwealth anti discrimination laws. The purpose of the forum is to bring together a cross-section of stakeholder groups to discuss the issues raised by the discussion paper released by the Attorney-General and Minister for Finance and Deregulation on 22 September 2011. The discussion paper can be accessed at <http://www.ag.gov.au/antidiscrimination>. 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, Old Parliament House, 18 King George Terrace, Parkes (Members Dining Room 2). Contact: 02 6141 4745 or 02 6141 3424, RSVP by 1 November.

18 NOVEMBER. ANNUAL GERALD WARD LECTURE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE: 'HOW DO WE DESIGN A DIGNIFIED WELFARE SAFETY NET WITHOUT BECOMING A NANNY STATE - LESSONS FROM CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING?' The St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia presents this lecture which will be delivered by Fr Frank Brennan. Fr Brennan is a committed advocate for human rights, having worked tirelessly for others for over 30 years and has won a number of human rights awards. Response by Professor Jon Altman, ARC Australian Professorial Fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the ANU. He has a disciplinary background in economics and anthropology. No cost. 6.30 pm, National Library, Canberra. Contact: 02 6202 1200. Web: <http://www.vinnies.org.au>.

18 NOVEMBER. ACTCOSS DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS: 'ABORIGINAL CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE TRAINING'. Facilitated by Kerry Reed-Gilbert of Kuracca Consultancy.

This workshop for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers provides participants with 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 organisations may improve their practice to respond to the needs of Aboriginal people. Cost: \$59-\$244. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Level 1 meeting room, Weston Community Hub, 1/6 Gritten Street, Weston. Contact: actcoss@actcoss.org.au. Web: <http://www.actcoss.org.au/secdevel/seminars.html>.

19-20 NOVEMBER. OPEN GARDEN. Mel and Brian Smith of Conder will have their garden open again this year to raise funds for the St Vincent de Paul Society. Cost: \$6. 10.00 am to 4.30 pm, 72 Charterisville Avenue, Conder. Web: http://www.opengarden.org.au/regions/nsw_act_calendar.html.

21 NOVEMBER. FILM SCREENING: 'NEFARIOUS: MERCHANT OF SOULS'. 'Modern day slavery.' It sounds like a paradox. Hasn't humanity progressed? But with over 27 million enslaved people across the world, human trafficking is still the battlefield of the 21st century. *Nefarious: Merchant of Souls* is a hard-hitting documentary that exposes the disturbing trends in modern sex slavery. There are wonderful heart warming stories of Jesus breaking into lives bringing healing and freedom. Proceeds to Exodus Cry. Cost: \$10. 7.00 pm, Canberra Christian Life Centre, 46 Lhotsky Street, Charnwood. Contact: jo.haavisto@canberraclc.com or 02 6101 6933. Web: http://www.vision.org.au/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=145&textmode=view&extid=104469&tmpl=component&date=2011-11-21&return_to=L2luZGV4LnBocD9vcHRpb249Y29tX2pjYWxwcm8mYW1wO0l0ZW1pZD0xNDUmYW1wO2RhdGU9MjAxMS0xMS0yMQ==.

23 NOVEMBER. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: PETER DARCH, DR RHONDA GALBALLY AND DR PAUL BROCK AM - 'EVERY AUSTRALIAN COUNTS - NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME FORUM'. Speakers: Peter Darch, named WA Young Person of the Year for 2011; Dr Rhonda Galbally, disability advocate; Dr Paul Brock AM FACE FACEL, Director, Learning and Development Research in the Office of

the Director-General, NSW Department of Education and Communities. Cost: member \$57, guest \$77. 11.45 am to 1.30 pm, National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: npc@npc.org.au or 02 6121 2199. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingspeakers.html>.

23-24 NOVEMBER. AUSTRALIA'S 2011 WELFARE CONFERENCE. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare will launch their flagship report *Australia's welfare 2011*. *Australia's welfare 2011* will present the latest statistics and detailed information on all areas of community services, including aged care, informal care, disabilities, housing, and housing assistance, as well as homelessness and child protection. Speakers: Simon Schrapel, UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide; Thérèse Rein, Ingeus Limited; Robert Fitzgerald AM, Productivity Commissioner; Professor Alan Hayes, Australian Institute of Family Studies; etc. Cost: \$150-\$450. 7.00 pm Wednesday, from 8.00 am Thursday, National Convention Centre, Constitution Avenue, Canberra City. Contact: conference@aihw.gov.au or 02 6244 1032. Web: <http://www.cvent.com/events/australia-s-welfare-2011-conference/event-summary-ef375aad9b2147a280454d239e99bf24.aspx>.

25 NOVEMBER. CHRISTIANS FOR AN ETHICAL SOCIETY (CES) FORUM: 'SUSTAINABLE CITIES'. Speaker: Professor Peter Newman, Director of the Curtin University Sustainability Institute. Cost: donation of \$5 is invited to cover the cost of room hire. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton. Web: <http://www.ces.org.au>.

VICTORIA

2-3 NOVEMBER. DISABILITY SUPPORT WORKER CONFERENCE: 'RESEARCH TO PRACTICE: KEEPING THE PROMISE'. The Victorian branch of ASID is hosting this conference. This conference provides a forum for Disability Support Workers from around Australia and New Zealand to come together, share experiences, listen, discuss and participate in presentations and workshops about the latest in practice, research, and issues in the disability sector.

Speakers: Professor Pat Mirenda, Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology and Special Education, University of British Columbia, Canada; Professor Jim Mansell, Emeritus Professor of Learning Disability in the Tizard Centre, University of Kent, UK and Professor of Disability Studies, School of Social Work and Social Policy at La Trobe University, Melbourne; etc. Melbourne Cricket Ground. Contact: 03 9925 7899 or dswconference@rmit.edu.au. Web: <http://www.asid.asn.au/Conferences/11thDSWMelbourne2011.aspx>.

3, 4, 7 OR 9 NOVEMBER. REFUGEE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (RCOA): 'THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS'. RCOA invites people from across Australia to participate in its annual national consultations on the future of Australia's refugee and humanitarian program. These consultations inform RCOA's annual submission to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on issues the Australian Government should consider in planning the coming year's refugee program. RSVP to melbourne@refugeecouncil.org.au. **3 November:** teleconference, 3.00 to 4.30 pm, a teleconference dial-in number and PIN will be provided to registered participants. **4 November:** 1.30 to 3.00 pm, Community room, Gippsland Multicultural Services, 100-102 Buckley Street, Morwell. **7 November:** 1.00 pm, service providers, Wyndham Humanitarian Network, Wyndham Community and Education Centre, 3 Princes Highway, Werribee. **7 November:** 6.00 to 7.30 pm, communities, Wayaperri House, 106 Duncans Road, Werribee. **9 November:** 1.30 to 3.00 pm, Karen community; 3.30 to 5.00 pm, service providers; Room P2.03, Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE (BRIT), McCrae Street, Bendigo. Contact: 02 9211 9333. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/intakesub.php>.

4-6 NOVEMBER. CONFERENCE: 'CARDIJN IN AUSTRALIA: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE'. The conference will explore the ways in which Cardijn's method might be developed among adults in parishes and elsewhere. Bishop Eugene Hurley of Darwin will give the keynote address, and panellists and speakers will tell

of present-day experiences and initiatives. Cost: \$100, concession \$50. 2.00 pm Friday to 3.00 pm Sunday, Cardinal Knox Centre (Diocesan Centre), and Thomas Carr Centre, East Melbourne. Contact: 03 8392 9540 or conference@cardijn.catholic.edu.au. Web: <http://www.cardijn.catholic.edu.au>.

9, 10 NOVEMBER. KATHY KELLY TOUR: PUBLIC MEETING. Kathy helped initiate 'Voices in the Wilderness', a campaign to end the UN/US sanctions against Iraq. She has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

9 November: 'Prospects for Peace in Israel/Palestine'; cost: \$15, concession \$10; 6.30 pm, Church of All Nations, 180 Palmerston Street, Carlton.

10 November: 'Conversations with Kathy and the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers'; cost: \$15, concession \$10; 7.30 pm, Baptist Church, 174 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Contact: 03 9592 5247 or d.hess@ozemail.com.au. Web: http://www.kathykellytour.org/?page_id=57.

11-13 NOVEMBER. KATHY KELLY TOUR: WEEKEND RETREAT - 'TRANSFORMING THE WORLD, TRANSFORMING OURSELVES'. Kathy helped initiate 'Voices in the Wilderness', a campaign to end the UN/US sanctions against Iraq. Kathy has also participated in nonviolent direct actions in Nicaragua, Haiti, Bosnia, Lebanon, Gaza and the Occupied West Bank. Hakim and Abdulai of the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers will also speak. Cost: \$200, concession: \$150. 6.00 pm Friday to 4.00 pm Sunday, Commonground (near Seymour), Victoria. Contact: 03 9592 5247 or d.hess@ozemail.com.au. Web: http://www.kathykellytour.org/?page_id=541.

14 NOVEMBER. ROUNDTABLE: 'SOCIAL ISOLATION AND OLDER PEOPLE ... WHAT WORKS?' Benetas and 4C Consulting present this National Roundtable. The roundtable will seek to develop a common understanding of the problem and identify key areas for action. The forum will facilitate dialogue between decision makers and service providers while engaging older people in the policy development process. Successful approaches should be identified, supported and replicated.

The forum will have a focus on evidence based best practice and developing ongoing collaborations between participants. Cost: \$190, concession \$140. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, ZINC at Federation Square, Melbourne. Contact: colette@4clivingwell.com or 0412 149 566. Web: <http://www.4clivingwell.com/Agenda.html>.

15 NOVEMBER. JOHN BARRY MEMORIAL LECTURE: 'MORE UPBEAT THAN USUAL: CONSIDERING CRIME RATES IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES'. This lecture explores research investigating what factors might explain why some Indigenous communities have high crime rates and others have low ones. It looks at what works and what doesn't and how this might guide better policy approaches. Speaker: Prof. Larissa Behrendt is a Euleyayi/Kamillaroi woman, Professor of Law and Director of Research, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology, Sydney. No cost. 6.30 to 7.30 pm, Public Lecture Theatre, Old Arts building, University of Melbourne. Contact: 03 8344 8985 or tamsinc@unimelb.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/larissabehrendt>.

19 NOVEMBER. HIROKO SUGIMOTO CHARITY CONCERT. Vocalist Hiroko Sugimoto, with performers Rumiko Saka (Violin) and Tomoe Kawabata (Piano), will perform opera arias, popular songs and traditional Japanese songs. All money raised will be donated to Caritas Australia's urgent East African Appeal for the children of Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Supported by Caritas Australia and the Japanese Catholic Community of Melbourne. Cost: \$10. 4.30 pm, Salvation Army Box Hill, 17-23 Nelson Road, Box Hill. Contact: Staci.Lo@ccam.org.au. Web: http://www.cam.org.au/index.php?view=details&id=360%3Ahiroko-sugimoto-charity-concert&option=com_eventlist&Itemid=338.

25 NOVEMBER. BURKE HALL XAVIER COLLEGE FUNDRAISER: CHRISTMAS NIGHT MARKET. This market will have more than 60 stalls and funds raised will go towards Caritas Australia. 5.00 to 8.00 pm, Garnet Hall, Burke Hall, Kew. Contact: communityfundraising@caritas.org.au. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au>.

org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=What_s_on&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=8972.

2-4 DECEMBER. FAIR@SQUARE FESTIVAL. This festival aims to demonstrate how Australians can take action to create a sustainable future that values and respects all people and the preservation of our planet. The festival showcases goods and services produced by a wide range of ethical producers and offers workshops, talks, market stalls, music, fashion and art, appealing to people from all walks of life. Federation Square, Melbourne. Contact: volunteers@moralfairground.com.au. Web: <http://www.moralfairground.com.au/fairsquare.html>.

30 JANUARY. HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM. Save the Children is continuing their work in Australia by conducting this program over 6 months that will develop skills, knowledge and behaviours required in future humanitarian leaders. The program will incorporate a range of delivery methods such as workshops, lectures, guest speakers, coaching and mentoring, both in-person and via online methods, and will cover specific aspects of disaster management in the Asia Pacific regions. Save the Children are running the Humanitarian Leadership Program in conjunction with partner agencies including CARE, PLAN and Oxfam. No cost. Applications close 10 November 2011. Contact: Freyah. Palkhiwala@savethechildren.org.au. Web: <http://www.savethechildren.org.au/>.

TASMANIA

2, 3 NOVEMBER. 2011 JAMES MARTINEAU MEMORIAL LECTURE: 'THE POWER OF IDENTITY: NAMING ONESELF, RECLAIMING COMMUNITY'. Presented by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mick Gooda. Mick is a descendent of the Gangulu people of central Queensland. He is a senior executive with 25 years experience and a record of attaining high-level goals and leading multi-million dollar service programs and organisational reform. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, University of Tasmania.

2 November: Stanley Burbury Theatre,

University Centre, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay campus.

3 November: Rooms D201-203. Building D, Cradle Coast campus.

Contact: UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au or 03 6226 2521, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.events.utas.edu.au/home/nested-content/events-2011/events/november/2011-martineau-lecture>.

3 NOVEMBER. REFUGEE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (RCOA): 'THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS'. RCOA invites people from across Australia to participate in its annual national consultations on the future of Australia's refugee and humanitarian program. These consultations inform RCOA's annual submission to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on issues the Australian Government should consider in planning the coming year's refugee program. 3.00 to 4.30 pm, a teleconference dial-in number and PIN will be provided to registered participants. RSVP essential to melbourne@refugeecouncil.org.au. Contact: 02 9211 9333. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/intakesub.php>.

3 NOVEMBER. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: 'AWAKENING THE DREAMER'.

This is a global initiative inviting us to participate in a bold vision for the earth to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just human presence on the Earth. This audio-visual presentation with discussion and reflection is a profound enquiry into the pressing issues facing life on this planet. It inspires and presents opportunity for all to engage creatively to bring about a conscious and compassionate world. Presenter: Anne Bliss. Cost: donation. 10.00 am to 2.30 pm, Emmanuel Spirituality Centre, 24 Hopkins Street, Moonah. Contact: 03 6234 7378, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/whatson.html>.

5, 7 NOVEMBER. KATHY KELLY TOUR: PUBLIC MEETINGS. Kathy helped initiate 'Voices in the Wilderness', a campaign to end the UN/US sanctions against Iraq. For bringing medicine to Iraq in open violation of the UN/US sanctions, she and other campaign members were

notified of a proposed \$163,000 penalty for the organisation, and threatened with 12 years in prison. Kathy remained in Baghdad during the 'Shock and Awe' bombing, living alongside Iraqi civilians in an effort to prevent the war. She has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize. Kathy has also participated in nonviolent direct actions in Nicaragua, Haiti, Bosnia, Lebanon, Gaza and the Occupied West Bank.

5 November: 'The Cost of War, the Price of Peace', 7.30 pm, City Baptist Church, 11 Frederick Street, Launceston.

7 November: 6.30 pm, Friends Meeting House, North Hobart.

Contact: jeff@citybaptistchurch.net or 0408 314 105. Web: <http://www.kathykellytour.org>.

23 NOVEMBER. 2011 FAY GALE LECTURE: 'TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INCOME INEQUALITY IN AUSTRALIA'.

Presented by Assoc. Prof. Denise Doiron, School of Economics, Australian School of Business, UNSW. After a decade of stable, even slightly improving income inequality, Australia suffered a sharp widening of its income distribution in the late 2000s. Although this U-turn is not unique to Australia, the change has seemed more extreme with Australia's rank in 30 OECD countries falling from 15 in 2004 to 24 in 2008 in terms of income equality. This lecture reviews these changes and the broad underlying causes. The roles of women and men are discussed; in particular changes in female employment rates are related to the trends in income inequality. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Dechaineaux Theatre, Tasmanian School of Art, Hunter Street, Hobart. Contact: 03 6226 2521 or Events@utas.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.events.utas.edu.au/home/nested-content/events-2011/events/november/2011-fay-gale-lecture-trends-and-recent-developments-in-income-inequality-in-australia>.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

2 NOVEMBER. TRAINING: 'CHANGE THE CONVERSATION - THE TRUTH ABOUT SEEKING ASYLUM'. It's really simple, our research shows community views and fears around so-called 'boat people' are founded on myth, not fact. This campaign doesn't just mobilise

action from those who already want asylum seekers to be treated fairly, but helps inform community views as a whole. Watch the powerful new TV campaign, then share it with friends and family. Once you have seen the ad take part in the training to help develop your conversation skills. This training will help you understand the facts, develop your conversation skills and learn how to handle people's objections. 6.30 to 8.00 pm, Amnesty International Action Centre, 14 Grote Street, Adelaide. Contact: libbey.weber@hotmail.com, RSVP by 1 November. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/home/event/26956/>.

6 NOVEMBER. PALMS AUSTRALIA JUBILEE MASS. Mass to mark the 50th anniversary of PALMS Australia. Celebrant: Vicar General Fr Philip Marshall. 11.00 am, St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide. Web: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/upcoming-events>.

11 NOVEMBER. THE LONG WALK WOMEN'S LUNCHEON. The Long Walk invites you to join Michael Long in celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's achievements over lunch with great entertainment and conversation. Special guests: Terri Janke, Intellectual Property Lawyer and NAIDOC Person of the Year 2011; Karina Lester, Aboriginal Language Worker; Entertainment: Sonya Rankine; and MCs: Shelley Ware and Leila Gurruwiwi, Marngrook Footy Show. Cost: \$150, concession available. 11.30 am to 3.00 pm, Intercontinental Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide. Contact: 03 9230 0300 or info@thelongwalk.com.au. Web: <http://www.thelongwalk.com.au>.

11 NOVEMBER. REMEMBRANCE DAY MASS. In memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. 12.10 pm, St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide. Web: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/upcoming-events>.

14 NOVEMBER. REFUGEE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (RCOA): 'THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS'. RCOA invites people from across Australia to participate in its annual national consultations on the future of Australia's refugee and humanitarian

program. These consultations inform RCOA's annual submission to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on issues the Australian Government should consider in planning the coming year's refugee program. 3.00 to 4.30 pm, for service providers; 5.30 to 7.00 pm, for communities; MRCSA, 59 King William Street, Adelaide. Contact: 02 9211 9333 or info@refugeecouncil.org.au. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/intakesub.php>.

17-20 NOVEMBER. KATHY KELLY TOUR: PROPHET SCHOOL OR PUBLIC LECTURE. Kathy helped initiate 'Voices in the Wilderness', a campaign to end the UN/US sanctions against Iraq. For bringing medicine to Iraq in open violation of the UN/US sanctions, she and other campaign members were notified of a proposed \$163,000 penalty for the organisation, and threatened with 12 years in prison. She has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

17 November: Lecture: 'War, poverty and Justice: our urgent mandate to build a better world', 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Pilgrim Uniting Church, Flinders Street, Adelaide.

18-20 November: Prophet School; cost: \$175, concession \$125; Nunyara, 5 Burnell Drive, Belair. Contact: prophetschoolretreat@gmail.com.

Contact: 0431 032 095 or ben.lohmeyer@gmail.com. Web: http://www.kathykellytour.org/?page_id=63.

17-18 NOVEMBER. THE FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCILS OF AUSTRALIA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE: 'ADVANCING MULTICULTURALISM'. The Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) Biennial Conference is Australia's pre-eminent multicultural conference. Every two years, the issues that relate to Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity are explored through a series of plenary addresses, panel discussions and presentations. Cost: \$280-\$600. Adelaide Convention Centre. Contact: 08 8379 8222 or FECCA2011@plevin.com.au. Web: <http://www.fecca.org.au>.

14-15 DECEMBER. THE EXCESSIVE INCARCERATION OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

CONFERENCE. The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) is concerned about the excessive incarceration of Aboriginal people in South Australia and across the nation. This National conference aims to identify initiatives and present these to Government with the expectation of influencing Government Policy in regards to justice issues within Australia. The conference will involve a range of speakers, including ANTaR National Director Jacqui Philips. Cost: \$259. Hilton Hotel, Adelaide. Web: <http://wired.ivvy.com/event/5MWNTM/>.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2 NOVEMBER. OUT OF THE DARK COMMUNITY FORUM: 'NEITHER HERE NOR THERE: WHY MALAYSIA IS THE WRONG SOLUTION'.

Presented by CARAD and Case for Refugees, this forum will be chaired by former ALP National President Barry Jones with guest speakers including Dr David Corlett and Malaysian barrister Dato' M. Ramachelvam. Cost: tickets from \$25. 6.00 to 8.30 pm, Winthrop Hall, University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley. Book: <http://www.bocs.com.au>.

3, 4 NOVEMBER. REFUGEE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (RCOA): 'THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS'. RCOA invites people from across Australia to participate in its annual national consultations on the future of Australia's refugee and humanitarian program. These consultations inform RCOA's annual submission to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on issues the Australian Government should consider in planning the coming year's refugee program. **3 November:** 2.00 to 4.00 pm, service providers; 5.30 to 7.00 pm, communities; Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre, 1/14 Chesterfield Road, Mirrabooka. **4 November:** 2.00 to 4.00 pm, service providers; 5.30 to 6.00 pm, communities; Communicare, 28 Cecil Avenue, Cannington. Contact: 02 9211 9333 or info@refugeecouncil.org.au. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/intakesub.php>.

5 NOVEMBER. BORONIA PRE RELEASE CENTRE FOR WOMEN GALA DAY. An auction featuring

Aboriginal artwork (by prisoners from across the State) will take place during the day, and stalls include plants, cakes and a number of handmade crafts. This is a great way for the women to give back to the community by working during the year and on the day. All money raised will be donated to the Wirrapunda Foundation, Young Men's Program and the Community Development Justice Link Passport. Project 10.30 am to 2.30 pm, Boronia Pre-Release Centre for Women, 14 Hayman Road, Bentley. Contact: 08 9264 1915 or kim.smee@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au. Web: http://www.correctiveservices.wa.gov.au/_news/Details.aspx?id=886.

15 NOVEMBER. FILM SCREENING 'MOLLY AND MOBARAK'. This film is a love story threatened by deportation as 22 year old Hazara asylum seeker Mobarak Tahiri's temporary visa nears expiration. Directed by Tom Zubrycki, this 2003 Australian documentary weaves the tale of a young refugee from Afghanistan who finds work in a small Australian country town and falls in love with local schoolteacher Molly. Mobarak's happiness quickly turns to despair as, in the wake of the tragedies of 9/11 and the Bali bombings, the town is left divided in opinion over whether Afghan refugees should stay or be pressured to leave. Cost: \$10. 6.30 to 8.30 pm, University of Western Australia, Albany Centre, Stirling Terrace, Albany. Contact: ca.macgregor@activ8.net.

au. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/home/event/27086/>.

21-27 NOVEMBER. KATHY KELLY TOUR. Kathy helped initiate 'Voices in the Wilderness', a campaign to end the UN/US sanctions against Iraq. For bringing medicine to Iraq in open violation of the UN/US sanctions, she and other campaign members were notified of a proposed \$163,000 penalty for the organisation, and threatened with 12 years in prison. She has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

21 November: Light supper and talk. Cost: \$20. 6.30 pm, Christian Centre for Social Action, 879 Albany Highway, Victoria Park. Contact: 08 9472 4227, RSVP essential.

24 November: Lecture and question time. Cost: \$10. 7.00 pm, St George's College, University of WA, Nedlands. Contact: 0417 948 141, RSVP essential.

26 November: Presentations and workshops. Cost: \$50. 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, Gypsy Tapas House, 124 High St, Fremantle. Contact: 0417 948 141.

27 November: Service and Public Forum, Service 9.30 am and Public Forum 10.45 am, Wembley Downs Uniting Church, corner Calais Road and Minbah Street, Wembley Downs. Offering invited. Contact: 0417 948 141 or dongen@westnet.com.au.

Web: http://www.kathykellytour.org/?page_id=67.

News Monitor

Power challenges tax forum participants

Addressing the federal government's tax forum, Bishop Pat Power challenged participants to try and live on the \$35 a day New Start allowance, according to an AAP report in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Hurley hits out over political 'climate of fear'

Bishop of Darwin, Eugene Hurley, said he was angered by national leaders trying to make political gain from the plight of asylum seekers, reported the ABC.

Iranians can't go home, labelled 'troublemakers'

Immigration officials were labelling Iranian Christian asylum-seekers as 'troublemakers', reported the Sydney Morning Herald.

Multicultural policy stresses genuine 'integration'

A document on multicultural policy issued by the Archdiocese of Sydney stressed 'a shared faith and a common mission' for Catholics from all heritages, and the need for genuine 'integration', reported The Catholic Weekly.

Catholic club plans pokies campaign

The Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club in Sydney said it would ask members to remove a constitutional ban on the club taking part in political activities so it can campaign against the Federal Government's planned betting limits on poker machines, Sydney Morning Herald reports.

Myanmar army steps up campaign

More than 20,000 civilians have been displaced as a result of a renewed offensive by the Myanmar government in Kachin state, according to a London-based rights group, reported ucanews.com.

Killer of anti-blasphemy law politician convicted

A Pakistani court sentenced a policeman to death for killing another politician who wanted to reform blasphemy laws, said an AFP report in The West Australian.

Bishop urges 'fair go' for asylum seekers

Bishop Vincent Long, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, appealed for the Australian spirit of a 'fair go to the underdog' to prevail in the issue of asylum seekers, the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne said.

Caritas praises govt Africa aid promise

Caritas Australia applauded a decision by the Federal Government to match funds raised for the East Africa Crisis by aid and development agencies, reported the Catholic Weekly.

Govt must increase housing affordability.

The government must act to increase the Newstart Allowance, improve housing affordability and remove disincentives for people to increase their workforce participation, Catholic Social Services Australia said in a statement in response to the Tax Forum.

Sharia proponents using methods from UK Br

The push to recognise sharia law in Australia has entered an ambitious new phase that draws on the tactics that have handed success to Islamists in Britain, said The Australian.

Asylum seekers who fled from Mass caught

Three Vietnamese asylum seekers who escaped immigration detention after slipping away

during a Mass in Darwin in September were picked up by police about 110 kilometres away, said a report on news.ninemsn.com.au.

Vinnies calls for overhaul of support payment system

The St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia said it would continue its push for a major overhaul of the support payment system during Anti-Poverty Week 2011, the organisation said in a statement.

Vinnies in Canberra warns of cutbacks

St Vincent de Paul was set to cut back on its spending in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn after dipping into its cash reserves by more than \$900,000 in the past year, reported Catholic Voice.

MyPeace TV ads hope to highlight Islamic values

The Muslim organisation behind the 'Jesus is a Prophet of Islam' billboards said it would begin screening a TV commercial espousing Islamic values during some top-rating programs, reported the Daily Telegraph.

Cardinal questions climate price

Cardinal George Pell questioned the morality and cost benefits of imposing heavy financial burdens in the cause of curbing climate change, in an annual lecture to London's controversial Global Warming Policy Foundation, the Australian reports.

Bishop of Broome brands Curtin centre a 'chamber of horrors'

The Bishop of Broome, Christopher Saunders, branded Curtin detention centre a 'chamber of horrors' where detainees were ever more depressed, self-harm was rife and people felt hopeless, the West Australian reported.

Church contraceptive ban not cause of population boom, said UN

The Catholic Church's ban on the use of contraception is not to blame for the population boom that is about to tip the world over the seven billion mark because most Catholics ignore it, said a Reuters report in the West Australian.

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



Social Justice Calendar

- 1 Tue All Saints Day (Solemnity)
- 2 Wed All Souls Day - Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed
- 5 Sat World Community Day
- 6 Sun Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- 8 Tue 1907: Justice Higgins hands down the Harvester case judgment
- 9 Wed 1989: Berlin Wall opened
- 10 Thu 1995: Nine Nigerian environmentalists and human rights activists hanged
- 11 Fri Remembrance (Armistice) Day, commemorating the end of World War 1, 1918
- 12 Sat 1991: Dili Massacre, East Timor
- 13 Sun Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Restorative Justice Week commences
1975: Death of Karen Silkwood, en route to a meeting at which she planned to expose unsafe practices in a US nuclear facility
- 14 Mon World Diabetes Day
- 16 Wed International Day of Tolerance
- 20 Sun Christ the King (Solemnity)
Universal Children's Day
Prisoners Week begins (UK)
1959: Anniversary of Declaration of Rights of the Child
1989: Convention on Rights of the Child
- 21 Mon World Television Day
- 25 Fri International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
1981: Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief
- 27 Sun First Sunday of Advent
1998: Inaugural Sydney Peace Prize
- 29 Tue UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
1980: Death of Dorothy Day, Founder of the Catholic Worker Movement

Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC's Seasons of Social Justice Diary. The cost is \$6.60. To order the 2012 edition go to <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au> 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.