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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,

As we move through the Season of Advent towards Christmas, I would like to thank you for your support of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council throughout the year and to acknowledge your untiring work for social justice in so many areas. Whenever I hear about the initiatives and campaigns of individuals and organisations in our networks, I am reminded of how the commitment and work of social justice is based in the love of God and neighbor.

The politics and circumstances surrounding issues of injustice are invariably complex. So too are the history and application of the principles we use to judge situations as a basis for action. But the work for justice has a simplicity because it is derived from Christ's summary of the entire law and the wisdom of the prophets in the great commandments of love (Mt. 22:37-40).

Earlier this year I met a man called Trevor who told me of how his parish social justice group

was reading and discussing the Church's social doctrine by reading a number of Encyclical Letters. He said that his group was finding it quite hard going because of the complex issues addressed in the Letters and the level of scholarship that may sometimes make the teaching appear to be out of reach on the first reading.

I also remember my first encounter with Catholic social teaching as a young undergraduate in a crowded sociology lecture hall. The professor described Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum* as being 'groundbreaking' and 'a seminal sociology text'. A first read with an eye for the sociological left me feeling lost among the lofty language and deep theology of the encyclical. But I knew that Pope Leo was serious in addressing immediate and critical social threats when he used terms like 'crafty agitators', 'savage barbarity', 'a great crime which cries to the avenging anger of Heaven'. When I read more about the social and economic context in which this encyclical was written, the deeper significance of the document became apparent as well as the enduring nature of the principles it applied.

The importance of *Rerum Novarum*, promulgated 120 years ago, is seen in the release of other Encyclical Letters by later Popes to commemorate its anniversary. In these teaching documents there is a progressive encouragement of lay people to join in the application of the principles of Catholic social teaching to ensure the welfare of all and achieve justice.

This encouragement is perhaps most clearly seen in the 1961 encyclical *Mater et Magistra*. Here we read Pope John XXIII encouraging us to be engaged in a very practical sense in reading the signs of the times through the simple process of the 'see, judge, act' pastoral cycle. Pope John said,

‘We have given principles and directives which we exhort you earnestly to think over, and now, for your part, to put into effect. Your courageous co-operation in this respect will surely help to bring about the realisation of Christ’s Kingdom in this world.’

He called for social teaching to be incorporated into the daily curriculum of Catholic schools, to be taught in seminaries, in the religious instruction programs of parishes and lay associations, and for its promotion in society through ‘every modern means at our disposal’.

Pope John said that ‘Catholic social doctrine is an integral part of the Christian conception of life.’

In May this year the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace invited social justice representatives from around the world to a congress to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Pope John’s encyclical *Mater et Magistra*. The aim of the congress was to consider social and economic disparities related to the current context of globalisation. Part of this aim was also to consider how the task of studying, disseminating, and putting into practice the social doctrine of the Church could be enhanced by re-examining the message Pope John XXIII.

Recognising the emphasis given in *Mater et Magistra* to the study, assimilation and application of the Church’s social doctrine in the life of the local Church and in broader

society, the ACSJC Secretariat decided to develop educational material based around those Papal letters going back to *Rerum Novarum* that share a significant anniversary this year. These resources have now been compiled as a *Catholic Social Justice Series* paper that is being issued this month.

The paper acknowledges some of the key issues raised in each encyclical and the principles of social teaching that were applied to the challenges of their time. In doing so, we can identify the particular historical context in which each document was developed as well as the enduring nature of the principles, which continue to have great relevance.

Of course, not every issue dealt with in the encyclicals is discussed. This is not an exhaustive analysis of the Church’s social doctrine. It is a basic guide or a starting point for people during their first read of the encyclicals.

In this sense I hope it will be useful for students, parish groups, and people like Trevor who are coming for the first time to hear what Catholic teaching has to say about important social issues.

On behalf of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and its Secretariat I wish you and your loved ones a happy and holy Christmas and all the best for year ahead.

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues / Resources

CHILOUT CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Today there are around 150 separated children locked up in detention centres without their Mum, Dad or an adult relative. These kids are aged 6-17. It’s fair to say that in Australia, this time of year is about peace and giving. ChilOut (Children out of immigration detention) doesn’t want to see these kids left out. They want to send care packages to kids on their own in detention, in addition to their ongoing work advocating to get children out of

detention once and for all. Get your gift card that keeps on giving here: <http://content.eneullettersonline.com/21240/55222.html>

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 Oration, Vincent Long Van Nguyen proclaimed

‘unashamedly that the Church is on the side of the poor as God is on their side.’ Video of the Oration, which was responded to by former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser is available for viewing on You Tube or at:

<http://www.cam.org.au/melbourne-news/bishop-vincent-long-gives-rerum-novarum-oration-2011-video.html>

CARITAS AUSTRALIA - WORLD AIDS DAY

On 1 December people across the globe will mark World AIDS Day. The majority of the 40 million people infected with HIV/AIDS live in developing countries. Lack of education and the financial burden of HIV/AIDS continue to drive millions more into poverty. One in four people with HIV/AIDS in the developing world is supported by the Catholic Church, and Caritas Australia alone has over 20 years experience in responding to the crisis. Go to the Caritas Australia website to learn about how it is helping those affected by HIV/AIDS: http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=HIV_AIDS&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=9526

2011 SOCIAL JUSTICE AND NATIVE TITLE REPORTS

Mr Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission, has recently launched the annual Social Justice and Native Title reports. To access the reports, community guides and associated resources, visit: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/index.html

STATEMENT CALLING FOR NEW DIRECTION NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Australian Council for Social Service, with Aboriginal peak bodies, community welfare and public health groups from around the country, are calling for a new direction in policies affecting Aboriginal Australians based on cooperation, not ‘intervention’. The groups raise concerns about the proposed expansion of the SEAM program that withdraws income support payments from parents whose children aren’t attending school. This is a punitive, top-down approach to social problems, according to ACOSS CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie. The statement calls on government to withdraw the current legislation and engage

with communities and their community organisations and peak bodies on whether they want to replace policies such as SEAM and income management that were imposed on them compulsorily, with voluntary or ‘opt in’ income support arrangements and support services tailored to the needs of each community. To access the statement, visit: http://www.acoss.org.au/media/release/cooperation_not_intervention_a_call_for_a_new_direction_in_policies_affecti

CONCERNED AUSTRALIANS REPORT ON CUTS TO WELFARE PAYMENTS

In the report *Cuts to Welfare Payments for School Non-Attendance - Requested or Imposed?*, the group ‘concerned Australians’ say that the Federal Government’s recent report, *Stronger Futures*, is based on the belief that Aboriginal people support the proposal to remove welfare payments in cases where children do not attend school. This paper draws on transcripts of Government community consultations and public meetings that took place in the Northern Territory between June and August 2011. The report shows that in ten of the consultations that were recorded and transcribed there seems to be considerable disquiet about the proposal to cut welfare payments and other aspects of education that are being provided to Aboriginal communities. The report can be accessed at: <http://www.concernedaustralians.com.au/media/Welfare-Cuts-Requested-or-Imposed.pdf>

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 on-going 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://cjpcbrisbane.wordpress.com/2011/10/03/deaths-in-custody-campaign-launched/> Download the factsheet at: <http://cjpcbrisbane.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/deaths-in-custody-launch-fact-sheet11.pdf>

VIDEO - 'EVANGELISATION 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>

JESUIT COMMUNICATIONS FUNDRAISING

Jesuit Communications is running its Christmas Raffle to help in its production of quality publications such as *Eureka Street*. Prizes for the 2010 Christmas Raffle are:

1st - A \$5,000 MYER shopping voucher; 2nd - A \$1,500 MYER voucher; 3rd - A \$500 MYER voucher. The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 13 December 2011 and all winners will be notified. Should you wish to obtain a book of raffle tickets or for further information, visit <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/raffle-xmas-2011.aspx> or contact 1300 728 846, fax (03) 9421 9600 or mail PO Box 553 Richmond Vic 3121 to request a book(s) of raffle tickets.

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; 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>

CALL FOR PAPERS - 'HISTORIES OF VIOLENCE' CONFERENCE

The Humanities Research Institute at the University of Newcastle invites academics from a wide a variety of disciplines - including

anthropology, art, history, international relations, law, literature, psychology, philosophy, political science and sociology - to submit proposals for panels and individual papers at its conference, Histories of Violence, to be held in the city of Newcastle from 21 - 23 August 2012.

The program committee welcomes panels and paper proposals that deal with the history of violence in the broadest sense, in all parts of the world, from the fifteenth century to the present day. To find out more, visit: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/institute/humanities-research/historyofviolence/ViolenceStudiesConference2012.html>

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)

SERIES PAPER - 'READING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES'

To mark the 120th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's social encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, the 50th of Pope John XXIII's *Mater et Magistra* and a number of other encyclicals sharing decade-based anniversaries this year, the ACSJC Secretariat is releasing Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.70, 'Reading the Signs of the Times: A basic introduction to Catholic social teaching'. This paper provides a brief analysis of the context in which the encyclicals were promulgated, some of the key themes of each, and a method for applying the permanent principles of social doctrine to the challenges of today. It is hoped that this will be a valuable resource for people coming to the Church's social teachings for the first time. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

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>

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/>

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

UNTIL 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 look on the website: <http://16dayscswgl.rutgers.edu/>.

QUEENSLAND

3 - 4 DECEMBER. FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS MARKET. The Queensland Fair Trade Collective is holding this market, a culturally global event hosted locally in a new air-conditioned venue. It is an opportunity to buy unique gift items this Christmas for the whole family made by people now receiving a fair wage - thanks to Fair Trade. Home wares, chocolate, coffee, toys, clothing, accessories, jewellery and much more. 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School, 11 Ruthven Street, Corinda, (enter via Harrowby Street). Contact: 0403 850 064. Web: <http://qldfairtrade.org.au/markets/>.

12 - 24 DECEMBER. SUNSHINE COAST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: 'A TIME FOR CHRISTMAS'. The spectacular is back bigger and better than ever, with a musical production performed every night and an animal farm for the children. A number of stalls will be involved including one for Kairos Prison Ministry. 6.00 to 9.30 pm, Maroochy Baptist Centre, 186 Wisers Road, North Buderim. Contact: 07 5443 1582 or christmaslights@maroochybaptist.org. Web: <http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/sitePage.cfm?code=whatson&viewall=1>.

NEW SOUTH WALES

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: Mickey 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.

1 DECEMBER. WORLD AIDS DAY CEREMONY: 'TREE OF HOPE - DARE TO GROW'. You are invited to join us in acknowledging people around the world living with HIV/AIDS by remembering, reflecting and giving thanks. Tree of Hope held a song writing workshop this year and created a CD called *First Songs*. Eight participants worked with Luke Edwards from Art on Air to produce it. The CD will be included in the ceremony. These songs affirm and acknowledge the personal journey and express what it is like to have HIV as part of one's life. 2.00 pm, The Actor's Centre, 241 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 8306 2320 or treeofhope@catholiccare.org, RSVP by 28 November. Web: <http://stanfordhouse.org.au/Site/news/docs/newsletter%202011%20spring.pdf>.

2 DECEMBER. PHOTO EXHIBITION: 'END THE CYCLE'. End the Cycle (of poverty and disability) celebrates the International Day of People with Disabilities. There will be opportunities to meet people with disabilities

from the Solomon Islands and Cambodia. Special guests: Sam Cawthorn, Young Australian of the Year; Dr Tom Shakespeare, disability and Rehabilitation Team, WHO; Tim Harris, Triple J Unearthed Artist; Tralala Blip, smooth electronic performance group made up of people with disabilities; and Canos, folk band. 12.00 to 2.00 pm, Martin Place. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/states/news/end-the-cycle-in-martin-place/>.

2 DECEMBER. PUBLIC FORUM: THE PROFILE OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN WEST PAPUA IN 2011. Indonesian Solidarity is inviting two human rights defenders from West Papua to Australia, including Olga Helena Hamadi, a human rights lawyer, director of Kontras Papua (The Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence) and also one of the lawyers assisting the leaders of Papuan Congress accused of treason. There has been a grassroots movement in West Papua calling for a dialogue between Jakarta and Papua to address social and political issues in the territory. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Amnesty International Australia NSW Action Centre, 79 Myrtle Street, Chippendale. Contact: 02 9217 3874, 0416 809 107 or Indonesian_solidarity@yahoo.com.au. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/27249/>.

3 DECEMBER. EMBRACEABILITY DAY. The event is held to promote an understanding of people with disability and to acknowledge their contributions, skills and achievements in the community. The free family fun day will start at 9.00 am with a Stroll and Roll Walk along the beachfront pathway followed by hours of entertainment and performances from the Star Performers and Twinkle Stars Dance Studio; The Junction House (Disability Band); Sylvantones; Sugar Sun and Side Effect bands; Rugby League passing competition; a jumping castle; tattoos; reptile display; food and craft stalls just to name a few. Organisation of the day is a partnership between disability not for profit organisations brought together by Civic Disability Services. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, Dunningham Park, Cronulla. Contact: 02 9524 3916 or jayneb@civicdisability.org.au. Web: <http://www.facebook.com/EmbraceAbilityDay?sk=info>.

3 DECEMBER. BLUE MOUNTAINS EAST TIMOR SISTERS FUNDRAISER: LAST GARAGE SALE FOR THE YEAR. All funds raised support projects for women and children in East Timor. 9.00 to 3.00 pm, 8a Russell Road, Leura. Contact: 02 4784 1718. Web: <http://www.bmeasttimorsisters.blogspot.com/>.

3 DECEMBER. MANLY FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS MARKET. There will be 35 Fair Trade stalls, selling a huge variety of high quality handmade Fair Trade products from around the world ranging from jewellery to clothing, accessories, toys, chocolate and sports balls. Adding to the excitement and fun of the markets will be a vibrant mix of free all day entertainment. And there will be free children's face painting and Christmas craft activities, too. 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, Manly Council Forecourt (opposite Manly Wharf). Contact: carol.layton@manly.nsw.gov.au or 02 9976 1658. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/693>.

4 DECEMBER. MULTICULTURAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT. A memorable vocal Christmas trip around the world featuring well known local Multi-Cultural and Australian choirs. Compere: Mr Joop de Wit. No cost, collection plate to go around during the service. 7.00 to 9.30 pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hunter Street, Hamilton. Contact: multiculturalchoralsociety@gmail.com, 02 4954 5227 or 0412 67 18 48. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/Multi%20Cultural%20Christmas%20Concert%20Nov%202011.pdf>.

4 DECEMBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MASS. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Brady, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Delegate on Disabilities, and people with disabilities will be involved in the ministries. People with disabilities of all ages, their families, carers and wider support network are especially invited, as is the wider community. Don't DISmyABILITY Ambassador and WYD Madrid Pilgrim Saxon Graham will assist for the Mass and speak at the party. The event is being hosted by the Parishes of Sydney Harbour North, with the support of the Life, Marriage and Family Office of the Archdiocese of

Sydney, CatholicCare, the Catholic Education Office and the Young Order of Malta. 6.00 pm, Sacred Heart Church, Mosman. Contact: secretary@shnparish.org.au or 02 8969 3200. Web: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=217409894991775>.

6 DECEMBER. SEMINAR: 'A NEW APPROACH: BREAKING THE STALEMATE ON REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS'. Speaker: Dr John Menadue, AO. 6.00 pm, Australian Graduate School of Management, UNSW, Botany Street, Randwick. Contact: jeannienewman@unsw.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/seminar-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>.

7 DECEMBER. SEMINAR: 'EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS, DISAPPEARANCES AND THE ROAD TO LASTING PEACE IN THE PHILIPPINES'. The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney and Australian Action for Peace and Development in the Philippines invite you to a public forum to be addressed by Attorney Julius Garcia Matibag, a litigator, in-house counsel, and spokesperson of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL), the largest bar association of human rights lawyers in the Philippines. 6.00 - 7.30 pm, Room 107, Mackie Building, Arundel Street, University of Sydney (opposite Footbridge Theatre along Parramatta Road). For more information, contact arts.cpac@sydney.edu.au; Ph: 9351 7686

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: coffee@newcastle.edu.au or 02 4921 7283. Web: <http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/>.

9 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS 2011. Australian Human Rights Commission's annual Human Rights Awards to celebrate the amazing contributions people have been

making all around the country to protect and promote human rights. Nominees for the Awards compete in ten categories including the Human Rights Medal and the Young People's Medal. The remaining categories include Law, Business, Community (Individual), Community (Organisation), Literature (Non-Fiction), Print and Online Media, Television and Radio Awards. MC: Corinne Grant, Good News Week, 7PM Project and Rove Live comedian. Cost: \$50-100. 12.00 to 3.00 pm, Sydney Sofitel Wentworth, 101 Phillip Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 9284 9779 or hrawards@humanrights.gov.au. Web: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards/tickets.html.

10 DECEMBER. INTERFAITH RETREAT FOR MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS. Led by Fr Herman Roborgh SJ, who has lived for more than 30 years in Indonesia and Pakistan, and has been committed to Christian-Muslim dialogue for many years. Time for reflection, meditation, prayer and discussion on Scriptures from the Bible and the Qur'an. BYO lunch, tea and coffee provided. Cost: gold coin donation, proceeds to Christian-Muslim school in Pakistan. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm, St Francis Xavier Church Hall, Mackenzie Street, Lavender Bay. Contact: rsbrad99@bigpond.net.au. Web: <http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/news---events/events/events.aspx/one-day-interfaith-retreat-for-muslims---christians.aspx>.

14 DECEMBER. ACHIEVE AUSTRALIA MOVIE FUNDRAISING NIGHT. Screening of the new release film 'New Year's Eve' starring Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Biel and Ashton Kutcher. There is also a lucky door prize up for grabs - a \$200 Gold Class Experience voucher. All funds will go towards programs and services for people with disability. Cost: \$35. 6.00 to 9.00 pm, Event Cinemas, Macquarie Centre, North Ryde. Contact: 02 9034 1600 or events@achieveaustralia.org.au. Book: <http://www.achieveaustralia.org.au>.

15 DECEMBER. FUNDRAISER: HANDEL'S MESSIAH. Best-loved highlights performed by an ecumenical combined massed choir. Musical Director, Phillip Linqvist, organist Heather Boyd. Proceeds in aid of Hornsby Homelessness Task Force. Cost: \$30. 8.00 pm, Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 23

Yardley Avenue, Waitara. Ticket bookings: Trybooking.com, then 'Buy tickets' tab and event name: *Handel's Messiah Hornsby Cathedral* or available at the door. Contact: psgilfedder@optusnet.com.au. Web: <http://www.dbb.org.au/ourparishesandpriests/Pages/BulletinDownloads.aspx>.

17 DECEMBER. MARY MACKILLOP EAST TIMOR MISSION DVD LAUNCH: 'TIMOR LESTE WE FORGET'. Outstanding Timor advocate Pat Walsh will launch the DVD on the 70th Anniversary of the landing of the Australian Commandos on Timor. 2.00 pm, Isabel Menton Theatre, 7 Mount Street, North Sydney. Contact: sc@mmiets.org.au or 02 9623 2847, RSVP by 12 December. Web: <http://www.mmiets.org.au>.

17 DECEMBER 2011 - 22 APRIL 2012. EXHIBITION: 'YIWARRA KUJU: THE CANNING STOCK ROUTE'. Discover more than 120 contemporary paintings, cultural objects and remarkable new media work which reclaim the untold Aboriginal history of the Canning Stock Route - the world's longest stock route through the deserts of Western Australia. The exhibition was developed by the National Museum of Australia in partnership with FORM, an independent arts organisation based in Perth, in collaboration with artists, traditional custodians and emerging Aboriginal curators and filmmakers. The exhibition is supported by the National Collecting Institution Touring and Outreach Program. Cost: \$15, concession \$10, child \$7 (includes general Museum entry). 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, Gallery 1 and 2, Ground floor, Australian Museum, corner of College and William Streets, Sydney. Contact: 02 9320 6000. Web: <http://australianmuseum.net.au/Yiwarra-Kuju-The-Canning-Stock-Route>.

VICTORIA

1 DECEMBER. ETHICA ACCESSORIES CHRISTMAS FIESTA. Do your Christmas shopping while you help women living in marginalised areas in Peru. Beautiful unique Fair Trade gifts available. Cost: donation. 12.00 to 7.00 pm, Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Contact: gina.bradley@sosj.org.au or 02 8912 2716. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/735>.

2 - 4 DECEMBER. FAIR@SQUARE FESTIVAL. Aims to demonstrate how we 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>.

18 DECEMBER. FUNDRAISER: RHYTHM, ROCK, REGGAE, RAP, RECYCLE BENEFIT CONCERT. This fundraiser will provide books for libraries and schools in newly independent South Sudan. Performers: The Mystic Trio, Quashani Bahd, Culture Crew, Majak and Deng, Black Orchid String Band, West Papuan Dance Group, Ben Jackson Band, Flybz. Speakers from South Sudan and West Papua. Organised by SSPARC (South Sudanese People in Australia Relief and Care), auspiced by Multicultural Arts Victoria, with thanks to the City of Yarra. Entry fee: Bring a book (new or 2nd hand) to donate to school/university libraries in South Sudan (children's and recent text books welcome) and/or donation to help with rebuilding after years of war. 2.30 - 6.45 pm, Fitzroy Town Hall, 201 Napier Street, Fitzroy. Contact: 0439 555 291 or 0438 702 528. Web: http://www.communitynews.infoxchange.net.au/news/detail.chtml?filename_num=389764.

16 JANUARY - 16 APRIL 2012. ORIENTATION COURSE: 'JOURNEY TOWARDS SURRENDER'. This is a part time course designed to help Young Adults explore the message of Surrender; to follow Jesus to the Margins and to discover life by living his love amongst the poor. Journey towards Surrender is for people who are: passionate about faith and seeing God's Kingdom come; concerned about the state of the world and want to make a difference; and thinking about how faith, justice and a career fit together. Contact: anita@surrender.org.au, RSVP by 16 December. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/states/news/journey-towards-surrender/>.

29 JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2012. LEADERSHIP COURSE FOR INTERFAITH PEACEBUILDERS.

A groundbreaking new 8-day residential program, designed for young people aged 18-30 years from a variety of different faith backgrounds who hold a common passion to lead their generation towards the goal of a world without violence, intolerance and injustice. The program involves two modules in 2012 and includes supporting participants to engage in a community project developed by each participant in his or her individual faith community. Course Dates: module 1 - The Inner and Outer Journey of Nonviolent Leadership, 29 January-3 February; module 2 - The Tool-Kit for Nonviolent Leadership, 11-13 April. Contact: 0408 299 981 or simon.reeves81@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.nonviolentinterfaithleadership.org>.

TASMANIA

2 DECEMBER. TAS. HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK LAUNCH AND AWARDS. Speakers: Greg Barnes, Amony Elder, Fayia Isaiah Lahai. The Human Rights Week Organising Committee acknowledges the support from Hobart Council and the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner. 12.30 to 2.00 pm, Reception Room, Parliament House, Hobart. Contact: Louise.Adams@justice.tas.gov.au or 03 6233 4841, RSVP by 28 November. Web: http://www.afairerworld.org/_Coming_events/.

6 - 7 DECEMBER. MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING. Did you know that one in five Australians is currently experiencing a mental illness? Would you be confident to intervene in a safe and effective way if someone you knew was suicidal, experiencing a panic attack or a psychotic episode? Learn about this, as well as the facts on depression, anxiety, psychosis and substance use problems and how to help those experiencing these difficulties. Trainer: Jamie Berry, Clinical Neuropsychologist. An engaging communicator with a dynamic ability to nurture participation and explain complex concepts in plain English. Cost: \$329. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Hobart Function and Conference Centre, 1 Elizabeth Street Pier, Hobart. Contact: enquiry@neurotraining.net.au. Register: <https://neurotraining.eventarc.com/event/view/5888/mental-health-first-aid-with-a-difference>.

7 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK: MENTAL HEALTH EVENT HYPOTHETICAL: 'CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND COGNITIVE DISABILITY'.

Presented by Australian Lawyers for Human Rights in conjunction with the Social Justice Research Institute. Facilitated by Greg Barnes, Barrister. Join us for a public, Q&A type forum with forensic and disability experts and help to engineer a broader, more supported and therapeutic community-based corrections system for offenders with cognitive incapacity. Panel: Michael Hill, Chief Magistrate, Magistrates Court of Tasmania; Debra Rigby, President, Mental Health Tribunal; Margaret Reynolds, State Manager, National Disability Services; Dr Kay Cuellar, Forensic Psychologist, Dept. Justice; Marita O'Connell, Court Liaison Officer, FMHS; Deborah Byrne, Executive Officer, Brain Injury Association of Tasmania; Nick Baily, Board member, Advocacy Tasmania Inc. 6.30 to 8.00 pm, Reception Room, Parliament House. Contact: 0400 779 809, 0416 742 039 or ogilviem@bigpond.net.au. Web: http://www.afairerworld.org/_Coming_events/.

8 DECEMBER. CHRISTMAS FORUM: 'TO CELEBRATE HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK AND GLOBAL WHISTLEBLOWERS - WHAT CAN CARING WOMEN DO?' The President and members of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Tasmanian Branch are holding this forum. Speakers: Anna Crotty, Tents for Peace; Rosemary Epps: her experience of Afghanistan; and Rosemary Tasker: World Youth Congress, Turkey. Cost: gold coin donation. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, the CWL rooms, above the crèche off Criterion Street. Contact: 03 6234 4932 or hilarym@internode.on.net, RSVP by 1 December. Web: <http://tascoss.org.au/News/eNews/tabid/65/Default.aspx>.

10 DECEMBER. INAUGURAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY LECTURE. Professor Patrick McGorry, 2010 Australian of the Year, will speak about Australia's human rights failure - mental health and mandatory detention. Recent encouraging moves by the government have indicated that there won't be any new processing centres built, plus that the more humane option of community-based processing will be expanded. But both major parties in Australia remain

committed to mandatory, indefinite detention for asylum seekers. How can our government continue justifying locking up some of the world's most vulnerable people for indefinite periods while their health and well being spirals further downhill? 5.00 to 7.00 pm, Centenary Theatre, University of Tasmania, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay. Contact: belinda747@bigpond.com. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/tas/event/27126/>.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

14 - 15 DECEMBER. CONFERENCE: 'THE EXCESSIVE INCARCERATION OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE'. The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (Inc.) (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

12 DECEMBER. FORUM: HOUSING AND AFFORDABLE LIVING. WACOSS and Shelter WA present this Forum. Almost 90,000 households in Western Australia are in housing stress. After paying for housing costs they're at risk of financial hardship and poverty. Come hear about the latest State initiatives to boost the supply of affordable housing. This forum will also integrate the affordable housing challenge into a broader conversation around affordable living. Plus the WA Launch of the Australians for Affordable Housing national campaign. Cost: \$35-\$55. 1.00 to 4.00 pm, City West Lotteries House, Room 7, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth. Contact: katherine@wacoss.org.au or 08 9420 7222. Web: <http://www.wacoss.org.au>.

News Monitor

Wrongly-detained student to be asked to leave

A Catholic social justice group's campaign over six years to help a wrongly-detained overseas student was brought to a possible conclusion by the Australian Human Rights Commission, reported the Catholic Weekly.

Abbott should rethink pokies stance, says Churches gambling group

The Australian Churches Gambling Taskforce urged the federal opposition to rethink its stance that favours extra counselling services and a voluntary pre-commitment scheme, rather than the government's planned poker machine reforms, said an AAP report in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Make more space for asylum seekers, says ACMRO

The case of victims who died off the coast of Indonesia in November "heightens the need to

provide legal pathways and more space within our humanitarian program", the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office said in a statement.

Bishop urges sustainable development and fairer economic system

The Chancellor of Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences called for greater care for the environment, the development of sustainable and a more just economic system, and said a Robin Hood tax made "economic common sense", said a report in the Independent Catholic News.

Columbans join protest against Sth Korean military base

Columban missionaries joined the Catholic solidarity movement in South Korea opposing the construction of a military base on the Korean island of Jeju, reported Independent Catholic News.

Social justice commissioner addresses bishops

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda addressed the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference at their Plenary meeting this week, the bishops said in a statement.

Qld priest blasts 'gay panic' defence

The parish priest of St Mary's Church, Maryborough, Queensland, criticised the use of a "gay panic defence" in a manslaughter case, whose victim was found inside the grounds of the church in July, reported the Fraser Coast Chronicle.

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



Social Justice Calendar

DECEMBER

- | | |
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| 1 Thu | World AIDS Day |
| 2 Fri | International Day for the Abolition of Slavery |
| 3 Sat | UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities
1874: Battle of the Eureka Stockade |
| 4 Sun | Second Sunday of Advent
2000: Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, Final Report |
| 5 Mon | International Volunteer Day for Economic & Social Development |
| 6 Tue | St Nicholas (Santa Claus) |
| 7 Wed | International Civil Aviation Day |
| 8 Thu | 1965: Final Session of Second Vatican Council |
| 9 Fri | International Anti-Corruption Day |
| 10 Sat | Human Rights Day: Adoption of UN Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
1968: Death of Thomas Merton
1992: Redfern Speech by Prime Minister Paul Keating, at launch of International Year of the World's Indigenous People |
| 11 Sun | Third Sunday of Advent
International Mountain Day |
| 18 Sun | Fourth Sunday of Advent
International Migrants Day
1894: South Aust, Parliament the first Australian colony to give women the right to vote |
| 19 Mon | International Day for South-South Cooperation |
| 20 Tue | International Human Solidarity Day |
| 21 Wed | 1991: Dissolution of the USSR and the founding of the Commonwealth of Independent States including Russia
1993: Native Title Bill passed by the Australian Senate |

- 23 Fri 1901: Immigration Restriction Act (White Australia Policy) enacted
1996: Wik High Court decision
- 25 Sun Christmas Day
- 31 Sat 1946: Paid annual leave granted to workers in Australia
- JANUARY**
- 1 Sun Mary, Mother of God (Solemnity)
World Day of Prayer for Peace (Theme: Educating Young People in Justice and Peace)
1901: Foundation of Commonwealth of Australia
1994: Native Title Act commenced operation
- 3 Tue 1977: First loans by the Grameen Bank, founded by Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh
- 8 Sun The Epiphany of Jesus
- 10 Tue 1946: First UN General Assembly opens with 51 nations represented
- 15 Sun Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees
1929: Martin Luther King Jr born in Atlanta USA
- 18 Wed 1788: First Fleet arrives at Botany Bay with 751 convicts to establish NSW as a penal colony
- 22 Sun Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 23 Mon Chinese New Year commences
- 24 Tue Feast of St Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalism
- 25 Wed 1959: Second Vatican Council promulgated by Pope John XXIII
- 26 Thu Australia Day/Survival Day
1788: Governor Phillip raises the British flag at Sydney Cove
1972: Aboriginal Tent Embassy established in Canberra
- 27 Fri UN International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
- 29 Sun Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 30 Mon 1948: Mahatma Gandhi assassinated

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

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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.