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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,

On behalf of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and its Secretariat, I would like to offer all best wishes and blessings to you, your loved ones and families for the coming year.

On the first day of each New Year the Pope issues a Message for the Church's World Day of Peace. This year, the 45th World Day of Peace, the theme of Pope Benedict's Message is *Educating Young People in Justice and Peace*.

The full text of Pope Benedict's World Day of Peace Message is available at the Vatican website (refer: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20111208_xlv-world-day-peace_en.html.)

The communiqué from the Vatican on 1 January comments that the theme chosen by Pope Benedict 'engages an urgent need in the world today: to listen to and enhance

the important role of new generations in the realization of the common good, and in the affirmation of a just and peaceful social order where fundamental human rights can be fully expressed and realized'. It continued: 'Young persons must labour for justice and peace in a complex and globalized world.' (refer: http://press.catholica.va/news_services/bulletin/news/27455.php?index=27455&po_date=19.05.2011&lang=it#TESTO_IN_LINGUA_INGLESE)

'Those who watch for the morning'

Pope Benedict begins his Message with an image from a verse of Psalm 130: 'The Psalmist says that people of faith wait for the Lord "more than those who watch for the morning (v. 6); they wait for him with firm hope because they know that he will bring light, mercy, salvation' (# 1). Pope Benedict urges us to 'look to 2012 with this attitude of confident trust', like the people watching for the dawn whom the Psalmist evokes. At the same time, the Pope acknowledges the crises that the world faces: 'It seems as if a shadow has fallen over our time, preventing us from clearly seeing the light of day' (# 1).

For Pope Benedict, this confident trust is most evident in young people, and that is why he makes them the theme of this year's Message, 'in the conviction that the young, with their enthusiasm and idealism, can offer new hope to the world.' But he is also addressing parents, families and all those involved in education and formation.

Pope Benedict goes on to list many of young people's concerns: the desire for effective education; the difficulties in forming relationships and finding stable employment; and the uncertainty over whether they can really contribute to political, cultural and economic life to create a more humane society.

Education

In the second section of his Message, the Pope turns to the issue of education, which he calls ‘the most interesting and difficult adventure in life’. Today more than ever, Pope Benedict says, ‘we need authentic witnesses, and not simply people who parcel out rules and facts; we need witnesses capable of seeing farther than others because their life is so much broader. A witness is someone who first lives the life that he proposes to others.’

Education first takes place in the family, Pope Benedict reminds us. ‘The family is the primary cell of society’, where children first learn the human and Christian values whereby they can live constructively and peacefully, where they learn ‘solidarity between the generations, respect for rules, forgiveness and how to welcome others.’ The family, he says, ‘is the first school in which we are trained in justice and peace’.

The family, Pope Benedict says, is under threat from a number of forces: working conditions that are frequently incompatible with family life; worries about the future; and the need to move frequently in order to earn an adequate livelihood - or simply to survive. All this, he says, ‘makes it hard to ensure that children receive one of the most precious of treasures: the presence of their parents’. Pope Benedict also addresses educators, urging them to ensure that young people are enabled to discover their own vocations and develop their God-given gifts. ‘Every educational setting can be a place of openness to the transcendent and to others; a place of dialogue, cohesiveness and attentive listening’, he says.

Pope Benedict goes on to urge political leaders to give concrete assistance to families and educational institutions, and addresses the media, which ‘not only inform but also form the minds of their audiences’. Education, he says, ‘takes place through communication, which influences, for better or worse, the formation of the person’.

Truth and freedom, justice and peace

In the third and subsequent sections of his message, Pope Benedict addresses the various ways in which education takes place: in truth and freedom, in justice and in peace.

For Pope Benedict, our fundamental identity is as seekers of truth, made in the image of God. ‘Hence the first step in education is learning to recognize the Creator’s image in man, and consequently learning to have a profound respect for every human being and helping others to live a life consonant with this supreme dignity’, he says. Through education we realise that authentic freedom can never be attained independently of God: man is ‘a relational being, who lives in relationship with others and especially with God’.

In today’s world, the Pope says, human dignity and human rights are seriously threatened by the tendency to see utility, profit and material possessions as the only criteria. Rationalist and individualist economic principles have detached the concept of justice from its transcendent roots and from charity and solidarity. Recalling the Beatitudes in the Gospel of Matthew (5:6), the Pope says that those who ‘hunger and thirst for righteousness’ will be satisfied because their real hunger and thirst is for ‘right relations with God, with themselves, with their brothers and sisters, and with the whole of creation’.

Turning to the idea of education for peace (# 5), Pope Benedict reminds us (using the words of the Catechism) that peace is ‘not merely the absence of war’ or a ‘balance of power between adversaries’. ‘Christ is our true peace’, he says.

‘Peace, however, is not merely a gift to be received: it is also a task to be undertaken’, Pope Benedict says. Being true peacemakers requires us to educate ourselves in compassion, solidarity, working together, fraternity, and activity within the community. We need to raise awareness about national and international issues and the importance of seeking ways to redistribute wealth, promote growth, and cooperate for development and conflict resolution. ‘Peace is the fruit of justice for all’, he says.

Pope Benedict’s Message ends by reminding us: ‘It is not ideologies that save the world, but only a return to the living God.’ The world’s young people, he says, are a precious gift for society: ‘Be confident in your youth and its profound desires for happiness, truth, beauty

and genuine love! Live fully this time in your life so rich and so full of enthusiasm.’ And finally, he reminds us all that ‘peace is not a blessing already attained, but rather a goal to which each and all of us must aspire’.

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

Reading Pope Benedict’s comments in this Message on the importance of the family reminds us that the Catholic bishops’ Social Justice Statement 2012-2013 will discuss the challenges, especially social and economic, faced by the family in the 21st century.

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.newsletteronline.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, Auntie Alex Gater and Auntie 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>

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 evangelization 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 - 'TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES, WALK ON THE GROUND'

February 13, 2012, is the fourth anniversary of the Australian government's Apology to the Stolen Generations, delivered by Prime

Minister Kevin Rudd. To mark this occasion and to stimulate further discussion, the ACSJC will publish a collection of three essays under the title *Take Off Your Shoes, Walk on the Ground: The journey towards reconciliation in Australia* (Catholic Social Justice series paper No. 71). The authors are distinguished writers and thinkers on Indigenous issues: Professor Lyn Henderson-Yates of the University of Notre Dame Australia; Fr Brian McCoy SJ, Senior Research Fellow in Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander Health at La Trobe University; and Melissa Brickell, member of several Catholic and ecumenical commissions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Director of Reconciliation Victoria and Chair of the Stolen Generations Victoria Alliance. (\$6.60 a copy plus postage - postage rates listed below)

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. 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

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference 2011 - 2012 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

QUEENSLAND

5 FEBRUARY. MULTI-FAITH FORUM: 'WHO IS MY GOD?' Roman Catholic Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations and Queensland Jewish Community Services Inc are holding this forum to celebrate UN World Interfaith Harmony Week. The program includes multi-faith prayer and will conclude with refreshments. Presenters from the Baha'i Community and the Pagan Community. 2.00 to 5.00 pm, Multi-faith Centre, Griffith University, 170 Kessels Road, Nathan. Contact: 07 3336 9354 or ecum@bne.catholic.net.au. Web: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11640&cid=7468&id=3554>.

NEW SOUTH WALES

1 FEBRUARY. ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY TRAINING DAY: REFUGEE HOMEWORK TUTORS. This is for people who are interested in volunteering to reach out and assist newly arrived refugee children, and are available one afternoon a week, between Monday to Thursday from 3.00 to 4.30 pm. Location of tutoring: Regents Park, Auburn, Guildford, Parramatta, Pendle Hill, Granville, Old Guildford, Girraween, Liverpool. Training to be held 1 February in Parramatta. Contact: spark@vinnies.org.au or 02 9568 0280. To apply please complete an online application form available from: <http://www.vinnies.org.au/spark>.

8 FEBRUARY. GLEEBOOKS BOOK LAUNCH: 'JUSTICE' BY FIONA SKYRING. *Justice* brings to life the story of the people who built the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, and who continue to advocate for social justice. Fiona Skyring is a historian and worked as an 'in house' expert witness for the Kimberley Land Council in Western Australia on several native title trials in the 2000s. Fiona continues to work for native title organisations, as well as contributing to a range of community history projects and academic publications. No cost. 6.00

pm, gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Contact: 02 9660 2333 or book online https://secure.weblink.com.au/gleebooks/events/booking.asp?event=Fiona_Skyring~Wednesday_February_08_2012_-_6_00_for_6_30pm~gleebooks_49_Glebe_Point_Rd_Glebe. Web: http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/events4_htm.

17 FEBRUARY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM - WHAT IS THE REAL SCORECARD OF THE GILLARD GOVERNMENT?' Speakers: Prof John Dwyer, Emeritus Professor Medicine, Founder Healthcare Reform Alliance; Dr Con Costa, Doctors Reform Society. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, The Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: odl_bradley@pacific.net.au or 02 9692 0005. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au>.

21 - 22 FEBRUARY. CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES NATIONAL HOARDING AND SQUALOR CONFERENCE: 'PATHWAYS THROUGH THE MAZE'. The purpose of the conference is to identify priorities for action and the broad issues which will be covered throughout the two days are: ethics and media, funding for services, improving collaboration, law reform, OHS, principles and practicalities of intervention, research agenda, workforce and professional development. Speakers: Julie McCrossin, MC; Janis Redford, General Manager, Catholic Community Services; The Hon. Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services; etc. SMC Conference and Function Centre, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney. Cost: \$100-650. Contact: info@hoardingsqualorconference.com.au. Web: <http://www.boardsqualorconference.com.au/>.

24 FEBRUARY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'THE GLOBAL OCCUPY MOVEMENT - COMBATING GREED, HOPING FOR JUSTICE'. Speakers: Mark Goodkamp, Occupy spokesperson and organiser; and Michael Kozio, freelance journalist. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, The Gaelic Club,

64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: odl_bradley@pacific.net.au or 02 9692 0005. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au>.

28 FEBRUARY. EDMUND RICE AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE: 'ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE'. Join in discussion of the film *Act On Climate Change*. See how climate change has disproportionately impacted on those who are least able to adapt and least responsible for causing it in the first place. Without urgent action, the earth will be warmer than at any time in the last 10,000 years. Discussion will be facilitated by Sr Kateia Kaikai, SMSM, from Kiribati. Donation \$5 or \$2 depending on ability to pay. 2.00 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, near Flemington Station, Homebush. Contact: stephanies@erc.org.au or Katie_sm2@yahoo.fr.

2 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'PEOPLE SMUGGLERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: INDONESIAN CHILDREN IMPRISONED, INDONESIAN FISHING PEOPLE SCAPEGOATED'. Speakers: John Dowd AO, International Commission of Jurists; and Edwina Lloyd, Human Rights Lawyer. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, The Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: odl_bradley@pacific.net.au or 02 9692 0005. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au>.

2 - 4 MARCH. WEEKEND RETREAT: 'FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THOMAS MERTON'. Donation \$220 (accommodation). Hermitage, Old South Road, Mittagong. Contact: 02 6262 8974 or lorraine.pottershous@virginbroadband.com.au, RSVP by 15 February. Web: http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/list_events.cfm?loadref=18.

7, 8, 10, 11 MARCH. FR BARRON PRESENTATION. This is an opportunity to hear one of the brightest minds of our generation reflect upon our past, our future and the meaning of faith in our global community.
7 March: 8.00 pm, Guardians, St Charbel, 142 Highclere Avenue, Punchbowl.
8 March: 11.00 am, Talk and Public Screening, ACU Strathfield Campus, 25A Barker Road, Strathfield.
10 March: 10.00 am, Talk for priests, religious and educators, ACU Strathfield campus, 25A Barker Road, Strathfield.

11 March: 8.00 pm, Talk and Screening, Our Lady of Lebanon Parish Centre, 40 Alice Street, Harris Park.

Contact: Therese.Nichols@acu.edu.au. Web: http://students.acu.edu.au/student_life/campus_community/faith_on_campus2/upcoming_events/frrobertbarron/.

9 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'ABORIGINAL WELFARE REFORM UNDER THE GILLARD GOVERNMENT - HOUSING, HEALTH EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT - THE REAL RESULTS'. Speakers: Paul Pholeros, Director Health Habitat; and Warren Mundine, Chair, Australian Indigenous Chamber of Commerce. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, The Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: odl_bradley@pacific.net.au or 02 9692 0005. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au>.

9 MARCH. ONE JUST WORLD FORUM. Poverty in Australia is a contentious issue. It raises questions of the definitions of poverty, the distribution of wealth, the difference between developed and developing countries, as well as about the limits to growth, and how we can create a fair and sustainable world. Speakers: Daniel Ben-Ami, Finance and economic journalist, Author of *Ferraris for All*; and Nick Savaidis Founder, Etiko Fair Trade 6.00 pm, Hamilton Public School, Corner Steel and Tudor Streets, Newcastle. No cost. RSVP: <http://www.onejustworld.com.au/Upcoming-Forums#closing-the-poverty-gap>.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

5 FEBRUARY. CANBERRA INTERFAITH FORUM (CIF): 'HOW CAN WE CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS? PERSPECTIVES FROM SPIRITUAL FAITH TRADITIONS'. Representatives from different spiritual faith traditions and the Canberra Indigenous community will give presentations at the symposium. This event is organized by CIF, as part of the Canberra Multicultural Festival, to promote interfaith harmony and peace in Canberra. 2.00 to 5.00 pm, 15 Blackall Street, Barton. Contact: 0425 224 445 or harryo46@hotmail.com, RSVP by 31 January. Web: http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/view_event.cfm?loadref=18&id=978.

18 FEBRUARY - 4 APRIL. PASTORAL CARE TRAINING. Become a Pastoral Carer in your community. Affirm the power of love and care through the Spirit of God in the community. Organised by the Canberra and Region Centre for Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education.

18 February to 27 March: Out of Business Hours Introductory, 2 Saturdays 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, and 6 Tuesday evenings 5.00 to 8.30 pm.

8 March to 4 April: Introductory Course, five Thursdays, 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. Cost: \$300. Canberra Hospital. Contact: 02 6244 226 or lyn.kelly@act.gov.au. Web: <http://www.pastoralcareact.org/cpe/>.

22 FEBRUARY. ST THOMAS MORE FORUM: 'THE FUTURE FOR CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE IN AUSTRALIA WITHIN THE CHARITABLE HEALTH CARE SECTOR IN AUSTRALIA'. Speakers: Andrew Podger, formerly National President of the Institute of Public Administration Australia, Public Service Commissioner and Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care; and Lynne Pezzullo, Director of Deloitte Access Economics and Lead Partner of the Deloitte Health Economics and Social Policy group and former 2008 Telstra ACT, Business Woman of the Year. Cost: \$3-12. 30 White Crescent, Campbell. Contact: info@catholiclife.org.au. Web: <http://www.stthomasmore.org.au/Forum/upcoming-forums.html>.

8 MARCH. CHRISTIANS FOR AN ETHICAL SOCIETY (CES) FORUM: 'WHERE LIES HAPPINESS? THE CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF CONTENTMENT AND COMMUNITY'. Speaker: Reverend Professor James Haire AM KSJ, Executive Director, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, corner Blackall Street and Kings Avenue, Barton. Contact: canberra.admin@ces.org.au. Web: <http://www.ces.org.au/index.htm>.

13 MARCH. FR BARRON PRESENTATION. This is an opportunity to hear one of the brightest minds of our generation reflect upon our past, our future and the meaning of faith in our global community. 6.30 pm, Guinness and God, King O'Malley's Irish Pub, 131 City Walk,

Canberra. Contact: Therese.Nichols@acu.edu.au. Web: http://students.acu.edu.au/student_life/campus_community/faith_on_campus2/upcoming_events/frrobertbarron/.

VICTORIA

4 - 5 FEBRUARY. ANATOLIAN CULTURES AND ARTS FESTIVAL. The festival includes: Live Concerts, Whirling Dervishes, Anatolian Cuisine, Exhibitions, Live Art Demos, Trojan Horse, Grand Bazaar, etc. Proudly presented by Istanbul Culture and Arts Centre and Melbourne International Businessmen Association. Supported by the Australian Intercultural Society. No cost. Federation Square, Melbourne. Web: <http://www.istanbul.org.au/>.

7 FEBRUARY. ONE JUST WORLD FORUM: 'PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN, SAFEGUARDING OUR FUTURE'. All children have a right to a childhood, to be free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. Unfortunately, for millions of children this is not the case. In every country, every culture and at every social level, children face mistreatment, exploitation and violence. How do we protect children, who are the most vulnerable amongst us all? 6.00 pm, BMW Edge Theatre, Federation Square, Melbourne. No cost. RSVP: <http://www.onejustworld.com.au/Upcoming-Forums.aspx>.

10 FEBRUARY. MONASH UNIVERSITY WORKSHOP: 'GAMBLING FROM A PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE - LESSONS FROM TOBACCO CONTROL FOR THE REFORM OF GAMBLING REGULATION'. Professionals in public health and public policy will consider and discuss how to apply lessons from successful public health reforms to gambling reform, and provide participants with ample opportunity to engage with and apply these lessons to the gambling reform process. No cost. 1.30 to 5.00 pm, Centre for Regulatory Studies, Monash Law Chambers, 555 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Contact: Darshini.Ayton@monash.edu or 03 9903 1660. Web: <http://www.monash.edu.au/news/events/show/gambling-from-a-public-health-perspective-lessons-from-tobacco-c>.

10 FEBRUARY. KOORIE NIGHT MARKET. This market is a moveable feast of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, crafts, food, music and dance. Based in Melbourne, the Market moves all round Victoria on a regular basis from Spring through to Autumn, running through the afternoon and into the evening. 4.30 to 8.30 pm, Alfred Deakin Place and Camp Street, Ballarat City. Contact: contact@koorienightmarket.com.au. Web: <http://www.koorienightmarket.com.au/>.

10 - 12 FEBRUARY. MELBOURNE INDIGENOUS ARTS FESTIVAL. Melbourne Indigenous Arts Festival, celebrating Melbourne's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture with three days of Indigenous theatre, music, literature, film, cabaret, dance and more. Join music greats Dan Sultan, Casey Donovan, Archie Roach, Troy Cassar-Daley and more, as they take to the stage over three days of free celebration. More than music, the festival hosts a diversity of arts experiences for all ages. Visit the Koorie Night Market at the Atrium, be moved by theatre and experience traditional and contemporary dance at Birrarung Marr. Watch the best of black screen at ACMI with Blak Nite Cinema, join the conversation at a public forum, take a stroll through the Indigenous Laneway Commissions and visit Melbourne's City Gallery. No cost. Federation Square, 2 Swanston Street, Melbourne Contact: 03 9658 9658. Web: <http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/Whatson/Festivals/ArtsandCulture/Pages/45796b47-647b-4360-b709-32115d7516e3.aspx>.

22 FEBRUARY. BREAKFAST BRIEFING: 'HEALTH INEQUALITY: A JUSTICE CHALLENGE FOR CATHOLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVIDERS'. Catholic Health Australia and Catholic Social Services Victoria are holding this Briefing. Presenter: Fr Frank Brennan SJ, Professor of Law, Public Policy Institute, Australian Catholic University. Cost: \$20. 7.15 to 8.45 am, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Contact: lucia.brick@css.org.au or 03 9287 5566, RSVP by 17 February. Web: <http://www.css.org.au/documents/Flyer22Feb2012.pdf>.

23 FEBRUARY. SEMINAR: 'GETTING TO KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN'. This seminar focuses on sharing experiences for developing human rights education programs tailored to immigrant and refugee women. It will explore effective strategies for human rights strategies including the use of story sharing to make sense of a human rights issues and problems in relation to their day to day lives. Cost: \$88. 9.00 am to 2.00 pm, Suite 207, Level 2 Carringbush Building, 134 Cambridge Street, Collingwood. Contact: 03 9418 0999 or reception@mcwh.com.au, RSVP by 15 February. Web: http://www.mcwh.com.au/downloads/2012/MCWH_Feb12_Seminar_Flyer.pdf.

26 FEBRUARY. LORETO SISTERS SUNDAY CIRCLE REFUGEE CONVERSATIONS. 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. Matthew 25:35. Sr Brigid Arthur csb will guide recent asylum seekers as they share their stories with us. David Manne will discuss the legal position of refugees and asylum seekers in Australia. David acted for asylum seekers in the recent challenge to the Malaysia Solution in the High Court. Questions and discussion will follow. Light refreshments will be served. No cost. 3.00 to 5.30 pm, Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville. Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/BBUD>, Gerardeane.Cosgrave@loreto.org.au or 03 9813 4023, RSVP by 21 February, limited spaces. Web: <http://www.loreto.org.au/Home/News-Media/News/Sunday-Circle-Refugee-Conversations.aspx>.

4, 5, 6 MARCH. FR BARRON PRESENTATION. This is an opportunity to hear one of the brightest minds of our generation reflect upon our past, our future and the meaning of faith in our global community.
4 March: 4.00 pm, Harman Lecture, John Paul II Institute, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne.
4 March: 7.30 pm, Theology in the Pub, Pumphouse Hotel, 128 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy.
5 March: 7.30 pm, Theology lecture, ACU St Patrick's Campus, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy.
6 March: 5.00 pm, Talk and Public Screening,

ACU Aquinas Campus, 1200 Mair Street, Ballarat.

Contact: Therese.Nichols@acu.edu.au. Web: http://students.acu.edu.au/student_life/campus_community/faith_on_campus2/upcoming_events/frrobertbarron/.

TASMANIA

22 FEBRUARY. INTERFAITH SERVICE AND SUPPER. All welcome. Please bring a small plate of food to share at the supper following the service. 7.00 to 10.00 pm, St Patrick's Church, 51 George Street, Scottsdale. Contact: 03 6352 2306. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/media/events/interfaith-service-and-supper-scottsdale>.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

24 - 26 FEBRUARY. SPIRIT FESTIVAL. Australia's premier Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts and Cultural Festival is a family friendly event held in the heart of the city and features the very best music, ceremony, cultural workshops, forums and visual arts. The opening night features Kineman Karma, Zennith and Casey Donovan. Saturday features Glenn Skuthorpe, Eddie Peters, Tony Minniecon and Souled Out, The Casm Soul Band and new comers Beck Gollan and Ellie Lovegrove. Hosted by Kevin Kropinyeri. Saturday night

includes the Spirit Dance Ceremony hosted by Frances Rings (Bangarra). Workshops, forums, visual arts market, and cultural demonstrations throughout the Festival. No cost. Mullawirraburka (Rymill Park), next door to Tandanya, corner Grenfell and East Terrace, Adelaide. Contact: info@thespiritfestival.com. Web: <http://thespiritfestival.com/spirit/>.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

23 & 24 FEBRUARY. ONE JUST WORLD FORUM: 'NOT EVERYONE GETS TO EAT LIKE WE DO'. For most of us, food is available whenever we want. In Australia, good food is readily available, relatively cheap and easy to access. However, there are millions in the world who can't afford food or what they do eat is so inadequate that they are malnourished, which leaves them vulnerable to disease or starvation. So what can Australians do to address the situation that sees half the world as malnourished and the other half as obese?

23 February: 6.30 pm, Quality Hotel Lord Forrest, 20 Symmons Street, Bunbury.

24 February: 6.00 pm, Winthrop Hall, University of Western Australia, Mounts Bay Road, Perth.

No cost. RSVP: <http://www.onejustworld.com.au/Upcoming-Forums#not-everyone-gets-to-eat-like-we-do>.

Archbishop says Myanmar reform is still 'work in progress'

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to Myanmar signalled significant change in the country, said Archbishop Charles Bo of Yangon, but the government still needed to prove that democratic reform was real and lasting, reported ucanews.com.

Vatican envoy to meet Suu Kyi at cathedral centenary

A Vatican envoy to Myanmar, visiting the country on the occasion of the centenary of Yangon's Cathedral, met opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, according to Vatican Insider.

Focus on money is 'destroying the environment': Caritas cardinal

Excessive focus on money is destroying the environment and dehumanising people, said Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, president of Caritas Internationalis, according to a report in the Catholic News Service.

Good Sam sister honoured for anti-slavery work

Brisbane-based Good Samaritan Sister, Pauline Coll, has received a national award for her distinctive contribution and commitment to the fight against human trafficking, slavery and forced labour, said a report in The Good Oil.

Humanity must strive toward 'integral human development': Pope

Pope Benedict welcomed 12 new ambassadors to the Holy See, urging them to see that humanity's growing interdependence in the era of globalisation means "we are all responsible for everything", reported Vatican Radio.

Catholic bodies call for humanitarian migrant response

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) and the Edmund Rice Centre expressed sorrow over the news of the deaths of a possible 160 people, mostly thought to be asylum seekers from Afghanistan and Iran, both organisations said in separate media statements.

Cardinal Pell calls for offshore processing of asylum-seekers

Cardinal George Pell spoke in favour of offshore processing of asylum-seekers, urging the government and opposition to work together to avert further deaths of boatpeople at sea, reported the Australian.

Church to launch global initiative to safeguard vulnerable

Clergy from across the world will gather in Rome in February for the launch of the Church's global initiative on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, said a report in the Independent Catholic News.

Bishops call for humane approach toward asylum seekers

The Catholic Bishops Commission for Justice, Ecology and Development called on political parties to mark Australia Day by working towards a common approach to asylum seekers - and put a limit to their time in detention, the bishops said in a statement.

ACU VC says proposed racial discrimination clause could backfire

Conservative constitutional scholar and Vice-Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University, Greg Craven, says a proposal to insert a ban on racial discrimination in the constitution would be a "gift" to those who oppose recognition of indigenous people in the nation's founding document, reported the Sydney Morning Herald.

Archbishop calls for govt response on children's welfare

Archbishop Barry Hickey of Perth has highlighted a recent report, detailing the dramatic deterioration in the past 10 years of Australian children's welfare, in a weekly broadcast series by the archdiocese's Faith Centre, said a media release from his office.

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



Social Justice Calendar

2 Thu	Presentation of Jesus (Feast) World Wetlands Day		2005: Murder of Sr Dorothy Stang SND in Brazil
5 Sun	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life 1996: Cape York Peninsula Heads of Agreement signed	13 Mon	2008: Apology to Stolen Generations by Australian Government
		19 Sun	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
6 Mon	Waitangi Day, Aotearoa New Zealand	20 Mon	UN World Day of Social Justice
		21 Tue	UN International Mother Language Day
11 Sat	World Day of Prayer for the Sick 1990: Nelson Mandela released from prison		
		22 Wed	Ash Wednesday Project Compassion begins
12 Sun	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1965: Commencement of the Freedom Ride through NSW towns	26 Sun	First Sunday of Lent

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

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL PO Box 7246, Alexandria NSW 2015. Tel: (02) 8306 3499, Fax: (02) 8306 3498, Email: admin@acsjc.org.au Website: <http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>. ACSJC Briefing is sent by email at the beginning of each month (except January). To subscribe or unsubscribe, go to the front page of the website Comments and contributions are also welcome.