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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

In September, Australia's Catholic bishops will release their Social Justice Statement for 2012-2013, titled *The Gift of Family in Difficult Times: The social and economic challenges facing families today*. The Statement coincides with the Year of Grace - a time 'to heal relationships, deepen our unity and forge a future full of life in Jesus Christ'.

The Church has always spoken out strongly in support of the family, emphasising it as the basic unit of society, and the place where the most basic lessons in love, charity and understanding are imparted. Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, the first of the papal encyclicals concerned with social justice, called for just wages for working people precisely so that they could support and educate their families. In Australia one of the bishops' earliest Social Justice Statements - in 1944 - concerned the family. It too emphasised the central importance of the family in the structure of society and the importance of income and housing that would enable a family to live in decent circumstances.

We are not merely 'economic units', the 1944 Statement said, 'not merely men and women, not merely producers and consumers - above all, we are fathers or mothers, husbands or wives or children.'

In 1993 the Australian bishops issued a Statement titled *Families, Our Hidden Treasure*. This was issued for the International Year of the Family in 1994. Once more, they addressed the economic pressures on family life in Australia and the central concern for families as the foundation of society. They wrote:

'Economic pressures are a constant source of threat to the well-being of Australia's families, and when the cost of housing, health care and education become oppressive burdens on lower-income families it is the responsibility of the government to assist these families.'

Much has changed in the more than 120 years since *Rerum Novarum*, and since the Statements in 1944 and 1993. Yet it isn't hard to see some continuing themes.

In this year's Statement, the bishops re-emphasise that the family is at the heart of the Church and the basis on which our society is built. Many of the challenges to the family are the same as the bishops spoke of in 1944: decent work, wages that will keep a family out of poverty, access to affordable housing. But in many cases, those challenges appear in different forms.

Workplaces have undergone radical restructure, and family life has not always benefited. Australia's rate of casual and irregular work is among the highest of the industrialised countries: up to one-quarter of Australian workers are in casual employment. Similarly, around one-quarter of workers find themselves required to work weekends.

That irregular work makes sometimes serious demands on family time and parents' ability to be with and care for families.

Australian workers' hours, whether casual or permanent, are among the longest in the developed world, with about two billion hours of unpaid overtime worked each year. Since 1985, average weekly hours have increased by almost three hours for males and over two hours for females.

Financial pressures, too, are placing great stress on Australian families. Housing prices have risen steeply over recent decades. House prices rose by 147 per cent over the last ten years, but household incomes grew by only 57 per cent. Rental accommodation can also be exorbitant. Nearly 700,000 households are spending more than 30 per cent of their weekly income on rent or mortgage repayments. These households are home to more than 800,000 children. Housing costs are spiralling not only in major cities but also in many regional areas.

In considering these facts, we need to ask what sections of our community are feeling the pressure most. We think in particular of five groups.

The first is Indigenous families, devastated by serious health problems, mortality rates and justice challenges. On average, Indigenous men live 11.5 years less and Indigenous women 10 years less than other Australians. Incarceration rates for young Indigenous people are 23 times higher than for non-Indigenous juveniles. Their homelessness rate is three and a half times that for non-Indigenous people. These factors place enormous stress on the capacity of parents to nurture and nourish their families.

Next, Australia's policies towards asylum seekers have disastrous effects on families. Children in detention have limited access to schooling and normal community life, and prolonged detention is a major cause of mental illness both for vulnerable young people and their parents. Depression, self-harm and even suicide are frequent occurrences in detention centres.

A third group of great concern is families in poverty. The Newstart allowance has been falling in relation to the minimum wage for many years. Single parents can find themselves obliged to seek work of any sort in order to get off social security. And even when a member is employed, many households still find themselves below the poverty line. More and more families are turning to charities for assistance with essential costs, even where a member is in paid work.

Homelessness has remained an intractable problem in Australian society: more than 100,000 Australians are homeless and almost 220,000 people were being supported by homelessness services.

Finally, there are families that support members with disabilities. Almost 1.3 million Australians have a disability so severe that they need the support of a carer. Over 2.5 million provide informal care to people who are ageing or have a disability. Forty-five per cent of people with a disability live in poverty or near it. Carers are often the youngest or the oldest in our community. For them, the implementation of a National Disability Insurance Scheme is of vital importance. All Australians and their elected representatives at all levels of government should be promoting such a scheme, not as some kind of gratuity or 'hand out', but as a fundamental right of citizenship.

The greatest model for family life - Jesus' own family - knew poverty, the refugee experience, a life of hard work, and finally injustice and bereavement. Yet their example shows us the true nature of the gift of family. So, inspired by their life and example, there are three areas in which we can work to strengthen family life.

First, we can rediscover the importance of the Sabbath, setting aside time for worship, looking beyond the social and economic structures that dehumanise and compartmentalise us, and cherishing and nourishing family life. Second, we can have a special concern for the poor, supporting Catholic organisations that help those in need and making a welcoming place in our parishes

and our communities for the marginalised. Finally, we can share the love of God, sharing in the Sacrament of love of God and neighbour.

In this Year of Grace, as we think about our mission to support and strengthen families, we remember that 'the love of Christ urges us on' (2 Corinthians 5:14).

Social Justice Sunday falls on 30 September. The 2012-13 Statement *The Gift of Family in Difficult Times* will be accompanied by prayer cards, a 'ten steps' leaflet, and a PowerPoint

presentation that can be downloaded from the ACSJC website.

Any assistance you can give in spreading the word about Social Justice Sunday and the bishops' Statement would be greatly appreciated.

Visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website for order forms and details about Social Justice Sunday: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>.



Current Issues / Resources

PETITION: 'SAVE SISTERS INSIDE'

The Courier Mail reports that the Queensland Government has axed \$120,000 funding for a service offering support to some of that state's most disadvantaged women. *Sisters Inside* is an outreach service was set up 18 months ago to provide counselling and support services to women prisoners at the Townsville Correctional Centre, many of them Indigenous. Chief executive officer Debbie Kilroy said she was shocked when new Communities director-general Margaret Allison delivered the news during a meeting on 9 May. Criminalised women have the highest rate of sexual and physical abuse perpetrated against them in our community. Due to this horrendous abuse women turn to self medication with illegal drugs and/or alcohol. *Sisters Inside* reduces crime in communities, breaking the cycle of imprisonment which saves the Queensland Government and taxpayers' money and keeps families together. To sign the petition calling on Queensland's Communities Minister Tracy Davis to urgently reinstate the funding for *Sisters Inside*, which provides critical support services and counselling for criminalised women pre and post release, visit: <http://www.communityrun.org/petitions/save-sisters-inside>

NATSICC ASSEMBLY: 'CULTURALLY ENRICHED THROUGH THE GOSPEL'

The 2012 National Assembly of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic

Council will be held in Melbourne on 1-4 October. The theme of the event is 'Culturally enriched through the Gospel'. A strong emphasis has been placed on the incorporation of Catholic faith into the lives of Indigenous people. NATSICC Assemblies occur only once every three years and hold an important place on the Indigenous Catholic Calendar. For further information and to register, visit: http://www.natsicc.org.au/assembly_2012.html

ANTaR RESOURCES ON CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

The Australian Constitution is currently silent on the existence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our Constitution even permits laws that prevent people from voting, owning property or working in certain professions on the basis of race. Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation have produced helpful material supporting the movement in every State and Territory, in communities across the country, calling for Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Resources include Event hints and tips, a factsheet, information on how to take action, and a PowerPoint presentation. Visit: <http://www.antar.org.au/>

CARITAS 'WALK AS ONE CAMPAIGN'

There are more than 370 million Indigenous peoples living in some 90 countries around the world today. They are custodians of

some of the world's most biologically diverse territories; are responsible for a great deal of the world's cultural and linguistic diversity; and their traditional knowledge is an invaluable resource in many sectors, such as medicine and agriculture. Although Indigenous Peoples make up roughly 5 percent of the global population, they constitute up to 15 percent of the world's poor, and over a third of the world's extremely poor rural population. The majority are living within Australia's own region, Asia. Join the Walk As One campaign to seek solutions to these challenges, calling on our government to improve Australia's foreign aid programme and policies as they relate to Indigenous Peoples, and seeking change in communities and businesses, promoting positive engagement with Indigenous led initiatives and organisations. To find out more about this campaign and the Walk As One Inaugural Forum on 25-26 August in Sydney, visit: <http://www.caritas.org.au/act/walk-as-one-indigenous-peoples-campaign>

ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE: MYTH BUSTERS

The ASRC has a collection of helpful information that informs about all the issues facing asylum seekers and challenges the current asylum seeker debate in Australia. The 'learn more' section provides resources for the general community, students, concerned citizens, the media, refugee advocates, health professionals and for people seeking asylum. Very helpful are the range of 'mythbuster' fact sheets on various aspects of the asylum seekers debate. Visit: <http://www.asrc.org.au/media/documents/offshore-processing-mythbuster-2012.pdf>

ANTI-RACISM REPORT

The Australian Human Rights Commission report on racism has been released by Race Discrimination Commissioner Dr Helen Szoke. The National Anti-Racism Partnership will deliver a comprehensive strategy that has been directly shaped by the views of Australians from all parts of the country, to prevent and respond to racism. Dr Szoke says, 'The development of this Strategy was informed by what people have told us about how racism impacts the community and their thoughts on the best approaches for preventing and responding to racism ... Three areas that

emerged as priorities from the consultation process for the National Anti-Racism Strategy were; education, media and employment.' The Consultation report is available at: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/antiracism/consultation.html>

REPORT INTO DETENTION OF INDONESIAN CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA

The Human Rights Commission has released a report into Australia's treatment of suspected people smugglers who said that they were children. The President of the Commission, Catherine Branson QC, says that Australia's actions have breached international human rights law and raised serious questions about the resilience of our criminal justice system. She refers to 'contraventions of fundamental rights; not just rights recognised under international human rights law but in some cases rights also recognised at common law, such as the right to a fair trial'. The report makes a number of recommendations that will help to ensure that the rights of young Indonesians suspected of people smuggling are respected and protected. The report is available at: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/ageassessment/report>

NEW RESEARCH: 'ALL THE LONELY PEOPLE'

A new paper from the Australia Institute by David Baker finds that more Australians are experiencing loneliness now than in the early 2000s, men are lonelier than women, the risk of loneliness increases if you're raising kids, but where you live or how much you earn are not key determinants. Loneliness is the disconnect felt between desired interpersonal relationships and those that one perceives they currently have. While the subjective nature of this experience makes measuring loneliness difficult, understanding loneliness is important for the development of a range of social policies. The availability of longitudinal Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey data now makes it possible to track loneliness in Australia over the past decade. To access this research paper, visit: <https://www.tai.org.au/index.php?q=node%2F19&pubid=1015&act=display>

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK 2012

Anti-poverty week 2012 begins on Sunday 14 October. The United Nations has designated

Wednesday 17 October as International Anti-Poverty Day. This year, Anti-Poverty Week is 10 years old. The Week is concerned with poverty around the world, especially in the poorest countries, but also in wealthier countries such as Australia. The main aims of the Week are to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty, and to encourage research, discussion and action to address the issues. For further information and ideas on how you can participate, visit: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au>

‘WAY AHEAD’ DATABASE & ‘MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS’ AWARDS

The Information Service of the Mental Health Association of NSW is preparing for the launch of its ‘Way Ahead’ database in late August. This online resource will provide service users, carers, families, professionals and other members of the community people in NSW and interstate with an invaluable means to locate appropriate mental health related services. The online database will be accessible at <http://www.wayahead.asn.au>

The Mental Health Matters Awards recognise the achievements of individuals and organisations who have worked to improve understanding, awareness, service provision and the general mental health. For further information or to make a nomination by 10 August, visit: <http://www.mentalhealth.asn.au/wellbeing/mental-health-matters-awards.html>

YOUNG CATHOLIC WOMEN’S INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP 2013

A project of the Council for Australian Catholic Women, the Interfaith Fellowship ran in

2006, 2007 and 2009 with 27 young Catholic women graduating from the course. In 2013 the fourth group of young women will come together from February 2013 through the Broken Bay Institute, and over two years, will study a Graduate Certificate in Theology. The academic program will be supplemented by short gatherings at the beginning of each semester for prayer, meditation, reflection and personal growth at the Mount St Benedict Centre in Pennant Hills. Women between the ages of 25 and 35 are encouraged to apply for the Young Catholic Women’s Interfaith Fellowship by downloading the application and referee forms at www.opw.catholic.org.au. Applications close Friday 7 September 2012.

RELAUNCH: ‘SIMPLY SHARING’

This is an ecumenical initiative of several of the nation’s most prominent Christian aid and development organisations - Caritas Australia, Anglican Board of Mission, UnitingWorld, Anglican Overseas Aid and Act for Peace. The relaunched ‘Simply Sharing’ - with a new App and online resource centre - is an interactive and informative resource about the role of peace and the improvement of livelihoods for impoverished communities around the globe. The resource will help Australians in parish and school communities to understand that conflict is often about inequality, peace is not just about an absence of violence, effective development can address some of the causes of conflict and reinforce peace, and that peace-building is an active process that we can engage in. For further information, visit: <http://simplysharing.org.au/>

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/OrderFormPublications.pdf>)

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2012-2013 - ORDER NOW!

This year’s Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement is entitled ‘The Gift of Family in Difficult Times: The

social and economic challenges facing families today'. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form, letter from the President of the Bishops Conference and summary material are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

PASTORAL LETTER - FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2012

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker for 2012 is entitled 'The Dignity of Work - More than a casual concern'. It is available for download in regular and 'three-column' versions at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SERIES PAPER - 'TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES, WALK ON THE GROUND'

The ACSJC has published 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: 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'

The ACSJC Secretariat has released 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 a number of papal encyclicals on social justice, the context in which they 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. (\$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 SEPTEMBER. RED CROSS HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING SESSIONS. The Red Cross is providing free community awareness-raising training on Human Trafficking. Sessions are being held across Australia. The 2-3 hour introductory level workshops are designed for frontline staff, caseworkers, volunteers or people involved in community service organisations. Contact: training_stpp@redcross.org.au. Location of training: <http://awava.org.au/2012/05/25/red-cross-human-trafficking-training-sessions/>.

4 AUGUST. ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY: 'OUR CHILDREN, OUR CULTURE, OUR WAY'. National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NAICD) is a celebration of children. NAICD was first observed by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander

Child Care (SNAICC) in 1988. For resources: <http://www.snaicc.asn.au/news-events/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=58>.

6 - 12 AUGUST. HOMELESS PERSONS WEEK: 'HOMING IN ON THE REAL ISSUES OF HOMELESSNESS'. The main reason clients give for seeking assistance are related to domestic and family violence, followed by the housing crisis and financial difficulties. Contact: info@homelessnessaustralia.org.au. Events and resources: <http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/site/HPW%202012.php>.

QUEENSLAND

1 AUGUST. UNITED NATIONS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY. Activities for the family. Organised by Centacare Mount Isa and Sheltering the Isa. 3.00 to 5.00pm, Centacare Family Service, 80 Short Street, Mount Isa.

Contact: northqld@qcross.org.au , 0488 082 631 or 07 4749 8100. Web: <http://www.qcross.org.au/celebrating-united-nations-2012-indigenous-peoples-day>.

3 AUGUST. TRAINING: 'STEP UP AND SPEAK OUT - CHANGE THE CONVERSATION ABOUT REFUGEES'. This training informs and develops conversation skills, to enable easy discussion about asylum seekers so that they are treated fairly. 12.00 to 2.00 pm, Amnesty International Queensland Action Centre, 1/354 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley. Contact: tracey.foley@amnesty.org.au. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/qld/event/29269/>.

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 AUGUST. SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL. Thought-provoking films screened on Friday nights in August. The aim is to encourage letter writing for Australia to give 0.7% of GDP to foreign aid; increase awareness of Fairtrade products; support for Stop the Traffik; support for the Deadly Ears Programme; and support for Milpera State High School, Chelmer.

3 August: Money - *Inside Job* (PG)

10 August: Trade - *Black Gold* (G)

17 August: Human traffic - *The Jammed* (MA)

24 August: Aboriginal - *Samson & Delilah* (MA)

31 August: Refugees - *Go Back To Where You Came From* (M)

No cost. 6:45 pm. Contact: angprswd@tpg.com.au or 07 3379 3437. Web: http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/assets/pdf/Sherwood_Social_Justice_Film_Festival_flyer.pdf.

6 - 9 AUGUST. MY LANGUAGE CONFERENCE: 'CONNECTING, COLLABORATING, CREATING'. This conference aims to explore digital futures for multicultural Australia especially ways of connecting communities and creating digital opportunities. Cost: \$429-715. Queensland State Library, Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank. Web: <http://www.mylanguage.gov.au/conference.html>.

12 AUGUST. TOOWOOMBA LANGUAGES AND CULTURES FESTIVAL. This year's festival brings together community organisations, schools, service clubs, government and non-government agencies and music and dance performances to highlight our diverse community. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Queens

Park, Toowoomba. Contact: 07 4688 6300 or Roberto.Garcia@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au. Web: <http://www.eccq.com.au/event/2012-toowoomba-languages-and-cultures-festival>.

23 - 25 AUGUST. AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION (AIJA) CONFERENCE: 'DOING JUSTICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION'. The presence of young people in courts and tribunals provides challenges for judicial administration, for government and non-government agencies involved in work with young people, for law enforcement authorities and for legal practitioners. Cost: various. The Sebel and Citigate Hotel, Brisbane. Contact: 03 9372 7182 or aija12@ammp.com.au, RSVP by 10 August. Web: <http://www.ammp.com.au/aija12/>.

26 AUGUST. ARCHDIOCESAN MULTICULTURAL MASS. 2.30 pm, Cathedral of St Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane. Contact: 07 3336 9111. Web: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11634&cid=7462&id=3746>.

30 AUGUST. DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: 'GO BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM'. The documentary 'Go Back to Where You Came From' saw six ordinary Australians challenge their preconceived notions about refugees and asylum seekers on a confronting journey that traced in reverse the journeys that refugees have taken to reach Australia. This is the next instalment of the documentary. 7.00 to 10.00 pm, 12 Jeays Street, Bowen Hills. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/qld/event/29271/>.

30 - 31 AUGUST. CONFERENCE: 'RACISMS IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER: REALITIES OF CULTURE, COLOUR AND IDENTITY'. The conference provides an opportunity to share information on the experiences of racism in a national and global context. It aims to create an impetus for change and innovative programs for combating racism. Organised by Cairns Institute, James Cook University, in partnership with the Australian Human Rights Commission. Cost: \$490. Pacific International Hotel, Cairns. Web: <http://www.jcu.edu.au/racisms2012/>.

5 SEPTEMBER. 'PEACE WITH PEOPLE,

PEACE WITH OUR PLANET: A FRANCISCAN PERSPECTIVE'. Presented by Joseph Rozansky OFM, Director, Secretariat for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC), Rome. He co-ordinates activities in JPIC around the globe and animates Franciscans and others in JPIC. Joseph led the Franciscan group at the Rio +20 Summit this year. 3.00 to 4.30 pm, Padua College Auditorium, 80 Turner Road, Kedron. Contact: 02 9369 9309 or jplic@franciscans.org.au.

NEW SOUTH WALES

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 AUGUST. RECONCILIATION FOR WESTERN SYDNEY PRESENTATIONS: 'BUILDING BRIDGES'. A wonderful way of learning from Aboriginal presenters what has happened, is happening now and can be done to achieve justice for Indigenous people and spread understanding and action for reconciliation. No cost. 7.30 to 9.30 pm, Parramatta Town Hall, Jubilee Room. Contact: 02 9687 2072, RSVP essential. Web: <http://reconciliation4westernsydney.org/index.php/building-bridges-2012>.

2 AUGUST. MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY FAIR TRADE FESTIVAL. This is an interactive community event that aims to raise awareness of fair trade, promote Fairtrade businesses in NSW and celebrate Macquarie University's efforts which made Macquarie together with RMIT one of the first Fairtrade certified universities in Australia. The market aims to provide a large variety of fairly traded products that will demonstrate the diversity of fair trade products. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, Macquarie University, Central Courtyard, North Ryde. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/828>.

2 AUGUST. SYDNEY UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION: 'ISRAEL / PALESTINE IN TRANSITION: A POST-ZIONIST FUTURE?' The Israel/Palestine peace process has failed and the occupation has never been more pervasive. The prospect of a two-state solution, a position advocated by all Western countries, is increasingly criticised as being at odds with the realities of the conflict. Speakers: Antony Loewenstein, journalist; Associate Professor Jake Lynch, Centre of Peace and Conflict Studies. No cost. 6.30 to 8.00 pm, Law School

LT 024, Law School Annex, Eastern Avenue, the University of Sydney. Web: http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2012/loewenstein_lynch_israel_palestine_transition.shtml.

2 AUGUST. EDMUND RICE AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE: 'PERMACULTURE: CULTIVATING SUSTAINABLE DESIGN'. A documentary on two people's journey to perfect an abundant, sustainable way of living. Facilitator: Jill Finnane. Cost: \$2-5. 2.00 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, near Flemington Station, Homebush West. Contact: eco.justice@erc.org.au or 02 8762 4200.

2 - 3 AUGUST. TREEHOUSE THEATRE PERFORMANCE: TREE OF LIFE: 'STORIES OF REFUGEE EXPERIENCE'. The performance is a sharing of the joys, sorrows, terrors, relief and humour of young refugees. Cost: \$20, concession \$12, school group \$2 each. Casula Powerhouse, 1 Casula Road, Casula. Contact: 02 9824 1121. Book: <http://www.casulapowerhouse.com/booknow/>.

3 AUGUST. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'SRI LANKA - DISAPPEARANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SURVIVAL OF THE TAMILS'. Speakers: Dr Sam Pari, Human Rights Spokesperson Tamil Community; and Brami Jegan, media co-ordinator for Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

4 AUGUST. 'CLIMATE CHANGE - DESPAIR AND EMPOWERMENT'. Speaker: John Seed. John enables people of all backgrounds to free energies for greater effectiveness and cooperation in making the necessary personal and collective changes required of us today. Cost: \$100 (or what you can afford), all given as donations to climate change groups. 8.30 am to 6.00 pm, Lake Parramatta, 28 Bourke Street, North Parramatta. Contact: 0410 688 499 or ling300ppm@gmail.com. Web: <http://transitionsydney.org.au/tsgroup/transition-parramatta>.

4 AUGUST. SDC PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP: 'BUILDING PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PICTURES'.

Veteran photographer Claude Ho, who has travelled the world shooting for Médecins Sans Frontières, will give a brief introduction of digital photography. He will explore how to improve one's photographic skills in the field. Cost: \$10. 9.15 am to 12.00 pm, UTS Broadway campus, Building 10, Level 5, Room 580, Broadway. Contact: 0411 743 015 or zulu@zulucommunications.com.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://sdc.groupsite.com/calendar/event/2012/8/4/336110>.

4, 11 AND 18 AUGUST. WORKSHOPS: PACE EBENE 'NONVIOLENT PEACEMAKING IN YOUR COMMUNITY, IN YOUR WORLD'. This is a small-group learning process in personal and social transformation. Cost: \$127. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, Homebush West. Contact: gill@ozburrows.com. Web: <http://www.paceebene.org.au/>.

5 AUGUST. EPHPHETA SUNDAY. Father Cyril Axelrod will say Mass for Ephpheta Sunday, a celebration for Catholic Deaf Communities all around the world. 10.30 am, Chapel of St Francis de Sales, 4 Turner Street, Punchbowl. Lunch follows at Ephpheta Centre. Cost: \$10, under 12 years \$5, under 5 years free. Contact: office@ephpheta.org.au, RSVP by 30 July. Web: <http://www.ephpheta.org.au/>.

5 AUGUST. SYDNEY HIROSHIMA DAY RALLY. Speakers: Colonel Valery Yarynich, retired Russian Colonel; MP Jamie Parker, NSW Greens uranium spokesperson; Rita Mallia, NSW President, Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union; Denis Doherty, Anti Bases Campaign. Performance: Rindou (Taiko drum) and hokkai Soran (dance). 12 noon, Hyde Park North, Sydney. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/sydney-hiroshima-day-rally>.

6 AUGUST. HIROSHIMA DAY DAWN SERVICE. Commemorate 6 August 1945, the day an atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. All welcome to join this time of reflection followed by a light breakfast at the cathedral. 6.45 am, grounds of Christ Church Cathedral, Church Street, Newcastle. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/Hiroshima%20Day%20Poster%20Aug%2011.pdf>.

6 AUGUST. FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: 'CREATIVITY, MEDIA AND ACTIVISM: DRIVERS OF CHANGE FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS'. Screening of *Our Generation*, followed by panel discussion on how creativity, media and activism can drive change for Indigenous Australians. Panellists: Amy McGuire, editor, Tracker; Jason De Santolo, researcher, UTS Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning; Paddy Gibson, Stop the Intervention Collective. Cost: \$5. 5.45 to 8.00 pm, UTS Broadway, 235 Jones Street, Building 10, Level 6, Room 440, Broadway. Contact: 0414 345 114 or maanagnos@gmail.com. Web: <http://sdc.groupsite.com/calendar/event/2012/8/6/338444>.

6 AUGUST. HIROSHIMA DAY FORUM. Speakers: Paul Ham, author of *Hiroshima and Nagasaki*; Valery Yarynich, Retired Russian Colonel; John Hallam, People of Nuclear Disarmament. Cost: donation. 6.00 pm, Teachers Federation, 23 - 33 Mary Street, Surry Hills. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/hiroshima-day-forum>.

7 AUGUST. CENTRAL COAST SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'BECOMING WHOLE, SEEKING MEANING'. Speakers: Ralph Kershler, teacher, Youth Ministry Coordinator; and a senior student from St Leo's College. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, Grange Hotel, corner Renwick Street and Pacific Highway, Wyoming. Contact: 02 4325 3627 or 02 4369 1586. 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.

7 AUGUST. PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE (PIAC) COURSE: 'INTRODUCTION TO ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNING'. This training course provides an introduction to advocacy, and how you can advocate for your issues to government. Participants will have the opportunity to plan an advocacy campaign around a real issue from their work. Cost: \$225, concession \$112.50. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Sydney. Contact: 02 8898 6503. Register: <http://www.piac.asn.au/trainingevent/introduction-advocacy-and-campaigning-2>.

7 - 11 AUGUST. AGENT ORANGE JUSTICE ART EXHIBITION: 'BEAUTIFUL ART FOR INNOCENT CHILDREN'. This exhibition is held to raise awareness of the continuing problems from Agent Orange in Vietnam and to raise funds to support victims. An impressive array of Vietnamese and Australian artists have contributed works. Opening 7 August 6.00 pm. DVDs will be screened at 6.00 pm Wednesday to Friday. Mori Gallery, 168 Day Street, Sydney. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/beautiful-art-innocent-children>.

8 AUGUST. SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SEMINAR: 'HOW SAFE IS YOUR FUTURE? THE URGENT NEED TO TAKE 2,000 NUCLEAR WEAPONS OFF HIGH ALERT'. Speaker: Colonel Valery Yarynich, 30-year veteran, Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces. Colonel Valery helped to design and bring into operation the 'Perimitr' or 'Dead Hand' 'doomsday machine'. Now he is part of the worldwide campaign to lift the threat of 2,000 nuclear weapons on 'high alert', ready to launch within minutes. 4.00 to 6.00 pm, Seminar Room 030, New Law School Building, Sydney University. Contact: arts.cpac@sydney.edu.au or 02 9351 7686. Web: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/peace_conflict/news/events.shtml.

9 AUGUST. MARY MACKILLOP FOUNDATION GALA DINNER. All donations from the dinner will go toward small life-changing projects in Australia. Cost: \$250. 7.00 pm, Sergeants' Mess, Chowder Bay. Contact: 02 8912 2714 or events@mackillopfoundation.org.au. Web: <http://www.mackillopfoundation.org.au/index.php?section=events&type=future&eventID=61>

9 AUGUST. AUSTRALASIAN HOUSING INSTITUTE AND HOMELESSNESS NSW PRACTITIONER FORUM: 'DIFFERENT MODELS OF COLLABORATION IN HOUSING AND SUPPORT PROVISION'. This forum will explore dynamic models of collaboration between homelessness and housing providers. Speakers: Gary Moore, CEO, Homelessness NSW; Nada Nasser, Director, Homelessness Service Reform, Family and Community Services; Andrew McAnulty, Chief Executive, MA Housing; etc. Cost: \$120. 11.30 am to 4.00 pm, Redfern Community Centre, 29-53 Hugo

Street, Redfern. Web: <http://housinginstitute.learningsource.com.au/au/courses/32-ahi-homeless-persons-week-practitioner-forum>.

9 AUGUST. NSWCCJ LUNCHEON - 'ECHOES OF THE HOLOCAUST'. Speaker: Mr Marcel Weyland OAM, translator *Echoes of the Holocaust*. Refreshments: Kosher sandwich lunch. Cost: \$5. 12.30 to 2.00 pm, Great Synagogue Auditorium, 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Contact: interfaith.asst@sydneycatholic.org or 02 9390 5168, RSVP by 3 August. Web: <http://lightoftorah.net/files/Ads/Echoes.pdf>.

9 - 10 AUGUST. FAMILY ADVOCACY ODYSSEY CONFERENCE: 'CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS AND CHANGE'. This conference, celebrating achievements, progress and change, will again bring together local, national and international speakers who have information and stories to share about people with disability having a good life. Speakers: Dr Michael Kendrick, independent consultant in human services; Dr Patrick Schwarz, professor, author; etc. Cost: \$260-500. Parkroyal Parramatta, 30 Phillip Street, Parramatta. Contact: 02 9869 0866 or conference@family-advocacy.com, RSVP by 24 July. Web: <http://www.family-advocacy.com/conference-2012.html>.

9 - 11 AUGUST. ACBC PROCLAIM CONFERENCE. This conference on the New Evangelisation is organised on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference by the National Office for Evangelisation and Catholic Mission. Speakers: Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella, President, Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization; Martha Fernández-Sardina, Director, Office for Evangelization, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas. Cost: \$95-396. 409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. Contact: 1300 432 484 or contact@proclaimconference.com.au. Web: <http://www.proclaimconference.com.au/>.

10 AUGUST. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND LITURGY WORKSHOP: 'BRANCH OUT: ECHOING SEEDS OF JUSTICE'. A combination of speakers, social justice expo, small group workshops, music and ritual experiences, all nurturing the connection between living justly and

worshipping with honesty. This event is for Year 9-11 students, Religious Education Coordinators, teachers, Music Coordinators, Social Justice groups, Parish volunteers, etc. Cost: \$40, concession \$30. 9.30 am to 3.00 pm, St Augustine's College, Alfred Road, Brookvale. Web: http://www.bethebestwecanbe.com.au/main/page_social_justice__liturgy_workshop.html.

10 AUGUST. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'BRITISH GOVERNMENT AS BIG BROTHER - NEW LAW TO ACCESS THE INTERNET OF ALL ITS CITIZENS - PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS FOR AUSTRALIA'.

Speakers: John Dowd AO, International Commission of Jurists; Stephen Blanks, Council Civil Liberties. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9552 3599 or winchilds@bigpond.com. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

10 - 11 AUGUST. NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK: INDIGENOUS SCIENCE EXPERIENCE. Macquarie University, the Australian Museum, Aboriginal elders and communities from around Australia present an exciting program as part of National Science Week, sharing knowledge, skills, ideas and enthusiasm. Aboriginal knowledge remains important for managing farmland and reserves. 9.00 am to 4.00 pm daily, Australian Museum, 6 College Street, East Sydney. Web: <http://www.pr.mq.edu.au/events/index.asp?itemID=4954>.

10 - 13 AUGUST. FESTIVAL: 'THRIVE: BE THE BEST WE CAN BE'. This festival for parishes and schools offering music and song, ritual and prayer, creative arts, workshops, resources, multimedia and conversation centred on whole community catechesis through effective youth and family ministry. St Augustine's College, Sydney. Contact: 0412 850 883 or thrive@bethebestwecanbe.com.au. Web: <http://www.bethebestwecanbe.com.au/>.

11 AUGUST. ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY CARERS RETREAT DAY. Everyone who provides care to a person who is elderly or with a disability, mental illness, chronic condition or terminal illness, is welcome at this guided retreat day, including talks, prayer, meals and Mass. Speakers: Bishop Terry Brady; Sister Antonine, Missionaries of Charity. Cost: \$10.

10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Contact: 02 9390 5283 or LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org. Web: <http://www.lifemarriagefamily.org.au/>.

11, 18, 25 AUGUST, 1, 8 SEPTEMBER.

COURSE: 'FACILITATION SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABILITY'. This course will give those involved with community groups the participatory skills to engage others, create effective projects or events and better deal with the challenges of group cohesion and effectiveness. Facilitated by Richard and Maria Maguire, organised by Fiona Campbell, Sustainability Officer, Randwick City Council. No cost. 1.00 to 5.00 pm, Randwick Community Centre, 27 Munda Street, Randwick. Contact: 02 9315 7244. Register: 02 9387 7400. Web: <http://www.cityeastcc.com.au/course/partsf>.

12 AUGUST. MAG-NET (MERCY ACTION GROUP NETWORK). MAG-net women come together to share and plan actions for living out compassion and justice in their lives. They share a meal, share ideas, listen to occasional guest speakers, plan actions for Mercy initiatives, and reflect and pray. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, The Gathering Space, 15 Charles Street, Ryde. Contact: thegatheringspace@mercy.org.au. Web: <http://www.xt3.com/event/view.php?id=1854>.

12 AUGUST. DOCUMENTARY: 'BIMBLEBOX'. A documentary on Australia's battle against coal and gas expansion. This is a disturbing rendition of what is happening across the country and how local people are taking action to prevent further devastation of the land and water. Organised by Parramatta Climate Action Network. No cost, donations appreciated. 3.00 to 5.00 pm, Parramatta Town Hall, Jubilee Room, Parramatta. Contact: 0425 265 170. Web: <http://www.parracan.org/>.

12 AUGUST. MANLY DEAF MASS (MASS DEAF WAY). Special guest: Fr Cyril Axelrod, deaf and blind priest. After Mass: Bistro lunch at Hotel Steyne, you have to pay for your lunch. 12.00 pm, Mary Immaculate and St Athanasius, 6 Ragan Street, Manly. Contact: office@ephpheta.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.ephpheta.org.au/index.shtml>.

12 AUGUST. BYRON BAY BDS CONFERENCE: 'WHY PALESTINE MATTERS'. The conference coincides with the anniversary of the formal adoption of the Geneva conventions on 12 August 2012. It is aimed at promoting awareness of the moral justification for Palestinian civil society's call for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel due to her government's continued breach of international law, covenants and UN resolutions. Speaker: Samah Sabawi, Palestinian writer, political analyst, commentator. Presented by Byron Friends of Palestine. Cost: \$10 donation. Ewingsdale Hall. Web: <http://byronbaycommunitymarket.com/byron-bay-bds-conference-2012-why-palestine-matters-sunday-august-12th-ewingsdale-hall>.

15 AUGUST. SUTHERLAND SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'WHAT IF WE RECOGNIZED OUR AFFLUENCE AND THE NEEDS OF THOSE LESS FORTUNATE?' Speakers: Yvonne McDonald; Fr Chris Middleton. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, Sutherland United Services Club, East Parade, Sutherland. Contact: 02 9548 2475. Web: http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=129:sutherland-shire&catid=8:nsw-sip-venues&Itemid=94.

17 AUGUST. STARTTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP: 'CORE CONCEPTS IN WORKING WITH PEOPLE FROM REFUGEE BACKGROUNDS'. This workshop focuses on understanding the link between what refugees have been through, the sorts of issues and behaviours refugees may present with, and how to work in a way that promotes recovery and minimises the risk of retraumatisation. Cost: \$149, concession \$99. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Morotai Room, Orange Ex-Service's Club, 231-243 Anson Street, Orange. Register: www.startts.org.au/default.aspx?id=473.

17 AUGUST. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'CORPORATE THUGGERY CONTESTING AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - TOBACCO, MINING'. Speakers: Pat Randal, ACTU; Tony Maher, National President CFMEU. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9552 3599 or winchilds@bigpond.com. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

17 - 19 AUGUST. CHARITY ART SHOW. Opening: 7.00 pm, 17 August; exhibition 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, 18 - 19 August. St Benedict's School Hall, Main Road, Edgeworth. Contact: roseansell@optusnet.com.au or 02 4953 7276. Web: http://www.societyofartistsnewcastle.com/uploads/1/0/9/1/10918959/st_benedicts_school_exhibition_july_2012.pdf.

18 AUGUST. COURSE: 'ABORIGINAL HISTORY AND CULTURE - JOURNEYS INTO UNDERSTANDING'. This course for teachers and individuals will be presented by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. It will cover local culture and language, explanation of special days including NAIDOC and 'Sorry Day', Sydney Basin rock art etc. Presenters: Les Bursill, Aboriginal historian, archaeologist anthropologist; Mary Jacobs, Lecturer in Aboriginal Studies. Organised by Sutherland Shire Citizens for Native Title and Reconciliation; sponsored by Sutherland Shire Council. Cost: \$33. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Jannali Centre, 127-129 Sutherland Road. Register: <http://www.sgsc.edu.au>, Course Code 32706WJ. Web: <http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au/events-1/journeys-into-understanding-1>.

20 AUGUST. CARITAS AUSTRALIA ADDRESS: 'HUNGER FOR JUSTICE'. Navigating a justice path for our young people to a future of hope, global connectedness and sustainable livelihoods in a world in crisis. Speaker: Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez, President of Caritas Internationalis, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. 2.00 to 3.00 pm, Tenison Woods House, Level 16, 8-20 Napier Street, North Sydney. Contact: acuevents@acu.edu.au, RSVP by 10 August. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/act/events/event-detail?eventCode=SFHunger>.

20 AUGUST. FILM SCREENING: 'NEFARIOUS: MERCHANT OF SOULS'. This documentary exposes the disturbing trends in modern sex slavery. It reveals where slaves are sold, where they work, and where they are confined. It includes interviews with real victims and traffickers, along with expert analysis from international humanitarian leaders. Cost: \$15. 7.00 pm, AC Central, 30 Cowper Street,

Parramatta. Contact: 02 8893 9024 or rsvp@acu.edu.au. Web: <http://acu.edu.au/news/general-alphacrucis-news/2012/jul/17/documentary-screening-fundraiser-nefarious-merchan/>.

24 AUGUST. ADDRESS: 'CHANCE OF A LIFETIME'. We are the first generation with the resources, the knowledge and the skills to eliminate poverty. Speaker: Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga SDB, President of Caritas Internationalis, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. 10.30 to 11.30 am, Gleeson Auditorium, Strathfield. Contact: acuevents@acu.edu.au, RSVP by 10 August. Web: http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/news_events/acu_events/strathfield/chance_of_a_lifetime/.

25 AUGUST. YOUTH OFF THE STREETS FUNDRAISER: 'CELEBRATION OF YOUTH DINNER'. The dinner is an opportunity to thank supporters for sharing the vision and helping to achieve outcomes for young people facing disadvantage, homelessness, abuse, neglect or drug and alcohol dependency. MC: Mr David Koch. Cost: \$250. 6.30 pm, Hilton Hotel, Sydney. Contact: 02 9330 3531 or BiancaA@youthoffthestreets.com.au, RSVP by 17 August. Web: <http://www.youthoffthestreets.com.au/support-an-event/w1/i1001897/>.

25 - 26 AUGUST. CARITAS AUSTRALIA FORUM: 'WALK AS ONE'. Over two days, 200 Indigenous and non-Indigenous delegates will come together to build cross-cultural relationships and participate in open and constructive discussions. Cost: \$250. 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, St Aloysius College, 47 Upper Pitt Street, Milsons Point. Contact: bemore@caritas.org.au. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/act/walk-as-one-indigenous-peoples-campaign>.

26 AUGUST. SEMINAR: 'FINDING A PATH THROUGH THE MONEY MAZE: HOW TO CREATE MONEY THAT SERVES THE COMMON GOOD'. Many of our personal and community decisions depend on how much money is available. But many of us do not understand who controls the money supply and how it is created in the first place. Organised by the Search Foundation, facilitated by Richard Maguire, Unfolding Futures. Cost: \$10, concession \$5. 1.30 to 4.30 pm, Ermington

Community Centre, 10 River Road, Ermington. Contact: troyh@search.org.au or 02 9211 4164, RSVP by 20 August.

29 AUGUST. ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE FILM SCREENING: 'BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA'. This documentary explores the circumstances and decisions that lead someone to become a 'boat person.' The screening is followed by a Q&A session with the film's writer and co-producer Jessie Taylor. All profits from the evening will support the Asylum Seekers Centre of NSW. Cost: \$25, concession \$20. 6.30 to 9.00 pm, Ritz Cinema, 45 St Pauls Street, Randwick. Register: <http://www.trybooking.com/28632>. Contact: 02 9367 5606 or fundinter@asylumseekerscentre.org.au. Web: <http://www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au/deepblueseas>.

29 AUGUST. AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (ACU) VOICE SPEAKER EVENT: 'THE ETHICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE'. The issue of climate change calls on us all to make hard ethical judgments. Do we think only about our prosperity and risk climate change affecting the well-being of our grandchildren? Speaker: Clive Hamilton AM, Professor Tim Flannery; Fr Frank Brennan AO. No cost. 5.30 to 8.00 pm, The Australian Museum Theatre, 6 College Street, Sydney. Contact: acuvoice@acu.edu.au or 02 9739 2221, RSVP by 24 August. Web: http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/research/about_us/news_and_events/acuvoice_speaker_series/upcoming_lectures/ethics_of_climate_change/.

29 AUGUST. SPECIAL NEEDS MASS. A Mass for all families of children with special needs and those who support them. Celebrated by Bishop Bill Wright. 7.00 pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West. Contact: 02 4979 1303 or pnf_federation@mn.catholic.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/2012/Special%20needs%20Mass%202012.pdf>.

31 AUGUST. MARIST YOUTH CARE (MYC) FUNDRAISER: '1920'S SOIREE'. The proceeds from this dinner will go towards the AHFL Skills Development Centre, which delivers training courses for young people to provide new pathways for employment. MC: Andrew

O'Keefe. Cost: \$195. 7.00 pm, Hilton Ballroom, Sydney. Contact: 02 9672 9248 or christinem@maristyc.com.au. Web: http://www.maristyc.com.au/MYC/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3.

4 SEPTEMBER. CENTRAL COAST SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'BECOMING WHOLE, SEEKING MEANING'. Speakers: Michael Marston; Lisa Wriley, Kariong Eco Garden, Environment Contact person, Wellspring Community. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, The Grange Hotel, corner Renwick Street and Pacific Highway, Wyoming. Contact: 02 4325 3627 or 02 4369 1586. 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.

5 SEPTEMBER. PADDINGTON SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'ARE WE THERE YET? DESTINATION PRISON'. Speakers: Sr Anne Jordan, Co-ordinator, CANA Communities in conversation with a member of the CANA Community. 7.30 to 9.00pm, Paddington Arms Hotel, 384 Oxford Street, Paddington. Contact: 02 9387 3152 or dfdlaw@infolearn.com.au. Web: http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=127:paddington&catid=8:nsw-sip-venues&Itemid=94.

6 SEPTEMBER. STARTTS WORKSHOP: 'CORE CONCEPTS IN WORKING WITH PEOPLE FROM REFUGEE BACKGROUNDS'. This workshop focuses on understanding the link between what refugees have been through, the sorts of issues and behaviours refugees may present with, and how to work in a way that promotes recovery and minimises the risk of re-traumatisation. Cost: \$149, concession \$99. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, STARTTS, 152-168 The Horsley Drive, Carramar. Register: <http://www.startts.org.au/default.aspx?id=388>.

7 SEPTEMBER. PEACE WITH PEOPLE, PEACE WITH OUR PLANET: A FRANCISCAN PERSPECTIVE. Presented by Joseph Rozansky OFM, Director of the Secretariat for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC), Rome. He co-ordinates activities in JPIC around the globe and animates Franciscans and others in JPIC. Joseph was the leader of the

Franciscan group at the Rio +20 Summit this year. 6.30 to 8.00 pm, Level 5, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 9390 5319 or jpjac@franciscans.org.au.

10 SEPTEMBER. JAMBEROO SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'ON THE THRESHOLD - RIPPLES OF GOODNESS'. Speakers: Sam Clear, Youth Mission Team Australia; John Wall, SES; and Jacinta Wall, diocesan advocate for people with disabilities. 7.30 pm, Jamberoo Pub. Contact: 02 4232 2735. Web: http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=124:jamberoo&catid=8:nsw-sip-venues&Itemid=94.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

1 AUGUST. PRESENTATION ON DISABILITY. Speaker: Fr Cyril Axelrod, the only deaf and blind priest in the world, and an active lobbyist on the rights of people with a disability. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla. Contact: 0408 561 255 or disability@catholic.org.au. Web: <http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/archives/1207/120717.html>.

1 AUGUST. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: PROFESSOR ALLAN FELS. Professor Allan Fels, AO Chair of the National Mental Health Commission. Professor Fels is a long term advocate of mental health policy reform. He is a carer for his daughter Isabella who has schizophrenia. Cost: \$77. 11.30 am to 1.30 pm, 16 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: npc@npc.org.au or 02 6121 2199. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au/speakers/professor-allan-fels.html>.

6 AUGUST. KIPPAX DISCUSSION GROUP: HIROSHIMA ANNIVERSARY. 6 August signals the 67th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Speaker: Dr Sue Wareham, Medical Association for Prevention of War Australia (MAPW). 11.00 am to 12.00 pm, Kippax Library, Hardwick Crescent, Holt. Contact: 02 6254 8405. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/actsnsw/event/29059/>.

8 AUGUST. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: PETER STRONG - 'WORKPLACE RELATIONS IN THE SMALL WORKPLACE - NOW IS THE TIME TO FOCUS ON THE MAJORITY'. Peter

Strong, Executive Director, Council of Small Businesses of Australia. He will speak on the need for a small business award that is easy to understand and can provide certainty to all people in the small workplace. Cost: \$77. 11.30 am to 1.30 pm. Due to renovations this event will be held at Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia. Contact: npc@npc.org.au or 02 6121 2199. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au/speakers/peter-stong.html>.

10 AUGUST. WORKSHOP: ABORIGINAL CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE TRAINING.

This workshop aims to improve knowledge of Aboriginal culture and dispossession, and explores ways organisations may improve their practice to respond to the needs of Aboriginal peoples. Facilitated by Kerry Reed-Gilbert, Kuracca Consultancy. Cost: \$165-305. 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>.

15 AUGUST. JUSTICE HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA SYMPOSIUM: 'EQUITY IN HEALTH CARE'.

Themes: equivalence of health care for prisoners; mental health and wellbeing of prisoners; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoner health; etc. Speakers: Dr Helen Watchirs OAM: ACT Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner; Prof Tony Butler, Program Head, Justice Health Program, Kirby Institute; Dr Tom Calma, National Coordinator; etc. Cost: \$150. 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, Rydges Capital Hill Hotel, Canberra. Contact: events@phaa.net.au. Web: <http://www.phaa.net.au/2012JusticeHealth.php>.

24 AUGUST. HEALING MASS FOR MOTHERS.

Join in prayer for mothers living and dead. Give thanks for mothers, offer prayers for them in their role as mothers, for their joys and sorrows, and receive God's healing love into the hearts of those whose relationships with their mothers needs His gentle touch. 5.30 pm, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. Web: http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/view_event.cfm?loadref=18&id=1026.

29 AUGUST. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: DR HELEN SZOKE. Dr Helen Szoke, Race Discrimination Commissioner, will look at the

benefits of addressing racism, of realising, promoting and building on our strengths as a country that was developed through migration and that has a rich cultural history defined by our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Cost: \$77. 11.30 am to 1.30 pm. Due to renovations this event will be held at Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia. Contact: npc@npc.org.au or 02 6121 2199. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au/speakers/dr-helen-szoke.html>.

3 SEPTEMBER. KIPPAX DISCUSSION GROUP: ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES.

Speaker: Clare Doube, Director of Companion House, Canberra, which provides support for people from refugee backgrounds who are survivors of torture and trauma. 11.00 am to 12.00 pm, Kippax Library, Hardwick Crescent, Holt. Contact: 02 6254 8405. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/actsnsw/event/29060/>.

VICTORIA

1 AUGUST. FITZROY SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'HUMAN RIGHTS- DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH GET IT?'

The Catholic Church must be transparent in its dealings with people and must be accountable for its actions. Speaker: Hilary Charlesworth, Australian Research Council Federation Fellow, Professor in RegNet and Director of the Centre for International Governance and Justice, ANU. 8.00 pm, Pumphouse Tavern, 128 Nicholson St Fitzroy. Contact: 03 9816 3001. Web: http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=144:fitzroy&catid=9:vic-sip-venues&Itemid=94.

2 AUGUST. MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SOCIAL JUSTICE SEMINAR: 'DISADVANTAGE AND LIFE SATISFACTION'.

Speaker: Ian McDonald, Professor in Economics, University of Melbourne. 1.00 to 2.00 pm, Theatre 1, Ground Floor, Arts West Building, University of Melbourne. Contact: hsaun@unimelb.edu.au or 03 8344 1997. Web: <http://www.socialjustice.unimelb.edu.au/Disadvantage%20and%20life%20satisfaction.pdf>.

5 AUGUST. HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI PEACE CONCERT. Performers: Junko Morimoto, author, *My Hiroshima*; Carmen Warrington,

Tibetan singing bowl; April Maze, Acoustic duo; SKIN, Indigenous choir; etc. Speakers: Robert Tickner, CEO, Australian Red Cross; Dr Peter Karamoskos, Medical Association for Prevention of War. Presented by Japanese for Peace and sponsored by ICAN and the Victorian Multicultural Commission. 3.00 to 5.00 pm, Village Road Show Theatre, State Library of Victoria. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/hiroshima-and-nagasaki-peace-concert>.

6 AUGUST. HIROSHIMA DAY VIGIL. This annual vigil marks the time and date of the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. All welcome. Candles supplied. Organised by MAPW and other peace organisations. 7.00 to 9.00 am, steps of St Paul's Cathedral, corner Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne. Contact: secretary@mapw.org.au or 03 9023 1958. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/hiroshima-day-vigil-2012>.

8 AUGUST. MERENDA SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'TELL US YOUR STORY ... EXPLORING ISLAM'. Speakers: Tim and Ranny Miller. Ranny grew up in Indonesia in a Muslim family. Her husband Tim converted to the Muslim faith as an adult. They both have an interesting and broadminded approach to religion, as well as fascinating observations about faith drawn from their own experience. Cost: \$20, \$3 speaker only. Meal 6.30 pm, speaker 8.00 to 9.30 pm, Growling Frog Golf Course Restaurant, 1910 Donnybrook Road, Yan Yean. Contact: 0419 120 407, RSVP essential. Web: http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=146:mernda&catid=9:vic-sip-venues&Itemid=94.

9 AUGUST. MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF WAR (MAPW) WORKSHOP: 'NUCLEAR RISKS OF AUSTRALIA'S US BASES'. This workshop marks Nagasaki Day, the anniversary of the second atomic bombing of Japan. Speakers: Professor Richard Tanter, Nautilus Institute; Dimity Hawkins, anti-nuclear campaigner. Organised by MAPW, Spirit of Eureka, ICAN, Pax Christi, Philippines Caucus for Peace Philippines Australia Solidarity Association, WILPF. 6.00 to 8.00pm, Meeting Room 1, Trades Hall. Contact: mapw@mapw.org.au or 0431 475 465. Web: <http://>

www.mapw.org.au/events/workshop-nuclear-risks-australias-us-bases.

13 AUGUST. FREILICH FOUNDATION WORKSHOP: 'DECONSTRUCTING THE REFUGEE DEBATE IN THE CLASSROOM'. The workshop will examine the refugee debate in Australian political discourse and attempt to untangle the law and the policy from the rhetoric and the politics, and then develop a strategy for moving the debate to a more positive level both in the classroom and in the general community. This workshop is for school teachers and associated professionals. Speaker: Professor Penelope Mathew, human rights and refugee lawyer. Cost: \$150. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Immigration Museum Melbourne, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Register by 3 August: <http://freilich.anu.edu.au/events/deconstructing-refugee-debate-classroom>.

17 AUGUST. EUREKA STREET EVENT: 'A DISCERNING CONSERVATION WITH ...'. Eureka Street in conjunction with Newman College is holding this event with human rights lawyer, Fr Frank Brennan SJ speaking with a very special guest. No cost, donations accepted. 5.30 to 7.00 pm, Carillo Gantner Theatre, Sydney Myer Asia Centre, 761 Swanston Street, Parkville. Contact: 03 9421 9666 or eureka@eurekastreet.com.au. Book: <http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=26242>.

18 AUGUST. FORUM: ARMS TRADE TREATY. A report on the Arms Trade Treaty Debate at the UN and discussion on how the dire effects of the Arms Trade can be reduced. Speakers from: Amnesty International, Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Bombs, Oxfam, Medical Association for the Prevention of War, National Council of Churches' Act for Peace. Cost: gold coin donation. 2.00 to 5.00 pm, St Luke's Uniting Church, 94 Essex Road, Mt Waverley. Contact: 03 9561 1587, RSVP by 16 August. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/vic/event/29259/>.

19 AUGUST. NEWMAN COLLEGE DOM HELDER CAMARA LECTURE: 'CONNECTING WITH OUR WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'. President Caritas Internationalis in conversation with Frank Brennan SJ. 5.00 pm, The Oratory,

Newman College, 887 Swanston Street, Parkville. Contact: 03 9347 557 or office@newman.unimelb.edu.au. Web: <http://www.newman.unimelb.edu.au/helder-camara-current-lectures>.

23 - 24 AUGUST. IMMIGRATION MUSEUM SYMPOSIUM: 'OWNING RACISM, CAN WE TALK'. This symposium aims to bring together like minded practitioners to share ideas, methodologies, and practice to engender genuine social change in the areas of prejudice and racism. Speakers: Waleed Aly, Millsom Henry Waring, Farida Fozdar, Yin Paradies, James Demetriou, Kim Webster, Helen Szoke, etc. 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, Immigration Museum, East Wing, Melbourne. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/discoverycentre/owning-racism/>.

24 AUGUST. CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VIC (CSSV) ANNUAL DINNER: 'LEADERSHIP FOR MISSION'. This dinner is an opportunity for the broad Catholic social services community to celebrate the work of CSSV, and to strengthen the links between those who are active within this community of service. Speaker: Chris Lowney, author of *Heroic Leadership*. Cost: \$80. 6.45 pm, 'Leonda', 2 Wallen Road, Hawthorn. Book: <http://www.trybooking.com/BLGN>. Contact: lucia.brick@css.org.au or 03 9287 5566. Web: <http://www.css.org.au/>.

31 AUGUST. SEMINAR: 'PEACE WITH PEOPLE, PEACE WITH OUR PLANET A FRANCISCAN PERSPECTIVE'. Speaker: Joe Rozansky OFM, Secretariat for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, Rome. Hosted by Holy Spirit Province and Social Policy Connections. 7.30 to 9.30 pm, Social Policy Connections, Yarra Theological Union, Study Centre, 34 Bedford Street, Box Hill. Contact: 02 9369 9309 or jpic@franciscans.org.au. Web: <http://www.paxchristi.org.au/plugins/events.cgi?all=1&num=10>.

3 SEPTEMBER. FIELD FORUM: 'DISABILITY WORKFORCE LEADERSHIP IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE'. The NDIS will mandate choice and control by people with disabilities. The forum will provide the opportunity to hear the latest developments and learn about best practice workforce development in

self directed approaches. Speakers: Scott Shepherd, Chair of NDS Victoria CEO, UnitingCare Community Options; Carol Peterson, Workforce Change Consultant; Dr George Taleporos, Manager, Youth Disability Advocacy Service; etc. Cost: \$154-407. 9.30am to 4.00 pm, Function Rooms, MCG Melbourne. Contact: 03 9982 0104 or Linda.Budd@field.org.au. Register: <https://www.etouches.com/leadership>.

TASMANIA

2 AUGUST. PINTS OF FAITH: 'CAMINO, KOKODA AND CANCER'. Speaker: Fr Richard Ross, will explore and share some personal reflections on three big and recent events in his own life. 6.30 to 9.00 pm, Hotel Soho (upstairs), Davey Street, Hobart. Contact: 0400 045 368. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/media/events/pints-faith-camino-kokoda-cancer>

15 AUGUST. FILM SCREENING: 'THE HUNGRY TIDE'. A film about Kiribati, a Pacific Nation on the front line of climate change. The screening will be followed by Q & A with Maria Tiimon, Pacific Outreach Officer, Edmund Rice Centre. Presented by the Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission. Cost: \$10. 6.15 to 9.15 pm, State Cinema Hobart, 375 Elizabeth Street, North Hobart. Contact: 03 6208 6271. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/media/events/movie-then-qa-maria-tiimon>.

16 AUGUST. CONVERSATION ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE. Speaker: Maria Tiimon, Pacific Outreach Officer, Edmund Rice Centre. Presented by the Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, Sacred Heart Community Room, Ulverstone. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/media/events/conversation-about-climate-change>.

17 AUGUST. PINTS OF FAITH: 'CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC'. Speaker: Maria Tiimon, Pacific Outreach Officer, Pacific Calling Partnership, Edmund Rice Centre. She will speak about ways in which we can easily work together to help protect and sustain our world and our neighbours in the Pacific. 6.30 to 9.00 pm, Cock N Bull British Pub, 50 Wellington

Street, Launceston. Contact: 0400 045 368.
Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/media/events/pints-faith-1>.

5 SEPTEMBER. UTAS SANDY DUNCANSON SOCIAL JUSTICE LECTURE 'A COMMON PURPOSE - INCHING THE LAW TOWARDS JUSTICE'.

Speaker: Andrea Durbach, Deputy Sex Discrimination Commissioner. The lecture will be followed by a screening of the award-winning new film *A Common Purpose*. 6.00 to 8.30 pm, Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay campus. Contact: UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au or 03 6226 2521. Web: <http://www.events.utas.edu.au/2012/september/2012-sandy-duncanson-social-justice-lecture>.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

7 AUGUST. JEWISH VOICES FOR PEACE.

The Australian Friends of Palestine and the Australian Jewish Democratic Society are bringing two Israeli Peace Activists: one a 'refusenik' who was imprisoned for refusing her mandatory military service, the other a veteran of the Israeli Defence Forces, who co-directs Grassroots Jerusalem, a project that maps social inequalities, justice issues and environment problems together with community projects that address them in and around the Jerusalem area. No cost. 5.30pm, Bradley Forum, UniSA City West campus, Hawke Building, Level 5, 50-55 North Terrace, Adelaide. Web: <http://w3.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2012events/Voices-for-Peace.asp>.

15 AUGUST. MAKE POVERTY HISTORY PHOTO EXHIBITION: 'THE ROAD TO 2015'.

5.00 pm, Mt Baker Community Library, 5 Dumas Street, Mount Barker. Web: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au/events/>.

23 AUGUST. CENTRE FOR WORK + LIFE SEMINAR: 'PUBLIC GOVERNANCE REGIMES IN WELFARE AND WORK - INTERPRETATIONS, INTERSECTIONS, AND INTERCHANGES'.

The seminar will raise the question, what are the consequences of current transformations in the practice of governance for the people that they impact? Supported by the Hawke Research Institute. Speakers: Professor

Mitchell Dean, University of Newcastle; Sally Cowling, UnitingCare Burnside; and Associate Professor Sara Charlesworth, South Australia University. No cost. 2.45 to 6.00 pm, Bradley Forum, Hawke Building, City West campus, South Australia University. Contact: angelique.bletsas@unisa.edu.au or 08 8302 4234. Web: <http://www.unisa.edu.au/Calendar/hawkeinstitute-seminar/>.

26 AUGUST. MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY.

3.00 to 4.00 pm, St Patrick's Church, Grote Street, Adelaide. Web: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/news-and-events/upcoming-events>.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1 AUGUST. NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY: 'THE TASK OF HAPPINESS: HUMAN SUFFERING AND CHRISTIAN JOY'.

Speaker: Fr Paul Murray, Professor of Spirituality, president, Institute of Spirituality, Angelicum, Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas. 7.00 pm, University of Notre Dame Australia, Tannock Hall of Education (ND4), Room 101, corner of Croke and Cliff Streets, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9433 0138 or deborah.tarrant@nd.edu.au. Web: http://www.nd.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/112632/Fr_Paul_Murray.pdf.

19 AUGUST. FUNDRAISING FILM: 'THE SAPPHIRES'.

Fremantle Oxfam Group is holding this special screening of *The Sapphires* to raise money for Oxfam's Indigenous Australia programs. Cost: \$20, concession \$15. 4.50 pm, Windsor Cinema, 98 Stirling Highway, Nedlands. Contact: freooxfam@gmail.com or 08 9339 6452. Web: <https://www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/events-calendar/>.

20 AUGUST - 14 SEPTEMBER. 'WALKING FOR COUNTRY - WALKATJURRA WALKABOUT'.

This is a pilgrimage across Wangkatja country. It is a partnership to share knowledge, culture and environmental awareness in a campaign supporting the sovereign rights of Aboriginal people to protect their lands and support a nuclear free future. All welcome to join for an hour, a day, a few weeks or the whole way. This walk will be led by the Walkatjurra Rangers, in partnership with Footprints for Peace, Western Australian Nuclear Free Alliance, the Anti Nuclear Alliance of WA and

the Conservation Council of WA. Contact: walk4country@gmail.com or 0421 816 846. Web: <http://walkingforcountry.com/>.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

9 AUGUST - 5 OCTOBER: PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION: 'IMAGES OF THE INTERIOR - SEVEN CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN PHOTOGRAPHERS'. An exhibition of 84 images, drawn entirely from the South Australian Museum's collections, that reveal the fragile environment and frontier society of Central Australia during the half-century from the 1890s to the 1940s. Presented by South Australian Museum, SA Government and Charles Darwin University in association with Darwin Festival. No cost. Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, Saturday 11 and 18 August 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, CDU Art Gallery, Chancellery Building Orange 12, University Drive South, Casuarina campus, Darwin. Web: <http://www.darwinfestival.org.au/2012-program/images-of-the-interior/>.

10 - 26 AUGUST. DARWIN FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: 'MANUWANGKU, UNDER THE NUCLEAR CLOUD'. An exhibition by renowned photographer Jagath Dheeraseskara which aims to break down the preconception that an area proposed for a nuclear dump is in the middle of nowhere. An Amnesty International Human Rights Innovation Fund Grant project. Christ Church Cathedral. Web: <http://jd.photoshelter.com/page1>.

27 AUGUST. AUSTIN ASCHE ORATION IN LAW AND GOVERNANCE: 'WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY?' Speaker: The Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG will state the case for a Charter of Rights. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, CDU Casuarina campus, Mal Nairn Auditorium, Building Red 7. Contact: 08 8946 6554 or rsvp@cdu.edu.au, RSVP by 24 August. Web: <http://www.cdu.edu.au/about/events?width=500&height=auto&inline=true#events-vincent>.

News Monitor

Bishops to focus on family hardship in social justice statement

The well-being of families, the impact of social and economic pressures and the stress of global financial crises on them will be the focus of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference statement for Social Justice Sunday, reported *The Catholic Weekly*.

Old students relay in fight against poverty

A group of 18 Queensland school and medical students, and a bank manager, began a 12-day 1200-km relay from Hervey Bay to Townsville to raise money in the fight against poverty, says Caritas Australia in a media statement.

Church agencies back paid paternity leave

Church agencies welcomed the Federal Government's decision to provide fathers with two weeks' paid paternity leave at the rate of the \$606-a-week minimum wage from January next year, reported *The Catholic Weekly*.

ACMRO welcomes seasonal workers

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office encouraged local communities to welcome seasonal workers from the Pacific region into their parishes, it said in a media statement.

- Click on headlines or go to cathnews.com



Social Justice Calendar

- 1 Wed** 2010: Convention on Cluster Munitions comes into effect
- 2 Thu** 1965: First Indo-Chinese refugees allowed to settle in Australia
- 4 Sat** National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day
- 5 Sun** Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
National Vocations Awareness Week
- 6 Mon** National Homeless Persons Week
1945: Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima
- 8 Wed** St Mary MacKillop (Feast)
- 9 Thu** International Day of the World's Indigenous People
1945: Atomic Bomb dropped on Nagasaki
- 12 Sun** Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
International Youth Day
- 15 Wed** Assumption of Mary (Solemnity)
1945: War ends in the Pacific
- 16 Thu** 1975: Wave Hill Station, NT, returned to the Gurindji People
- 18 Sat** Vietnam Veterans Day
- 19 Sun** Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Humanitarian Day
2007: Beginning of protests led by Buddhist monks in Burma
- 26 Sun** Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Refugee and Migrant Sunday
2001: MV Tampa rescues 438 asylum seekers from a sinking vessel. Australian Government refuses entry to its shores and sends troops to prevent disembarkation
- 27 Mon** 1999: Death of Dom Helder Camara
- 29 Wed** International Day Against Nuclear Tests
- 30 Thu** 1999: 78.5% of East Timorese people vote in favour of independence

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.