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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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Dear Friends

The social and economic challenges facing families were at the top of the agenda of the annual national gathering of social justice representatives from 17th to 19th August in Sydney.

They gathered from around the nation, from Darwin to Hobart, Perth to Broken Bay, celebrating the shared work for social justice and preparing for the launch of the Catholic Bishops' 2012-2013 Social Justice Statement later this month. The Statement is entitled: *The Gift of Family in Difficult Times: The social and economic challenges facing families today.*

The accounts of the representatives highlighted how life is getting tougher for more and more families. They confirm what a growing body of research is telling us. Australian families have been thrown into a competition. They are competing for time. They are competing for wealth. And a growing number are falling behind.

Whether it's the impossible task of balancing the needs of the family against the demands

of work, working long hours at jobs that don't pay enough to meet the costs of living, or the consequent loneliness of social isolation or the breakdown of relationships - these are just some of the pressures facing families around Australia.

We live in a prosperous nation and we are told the Australian economy is performing well by international standards. But we don't have to look far to see those who are marginalised or excluded from the mainstream of society. As a nation we are faced with the challenge of supporting family life and showing a special concern for vulnerable families - because families are the basic units of society. As Christians, we are called to take the additional step of recognising in the most vulnerable sister or brother the face of Christ himself.

A prosperous nation has the means not only for compassion but also for generosity.

It is a concern that a growing number of families we would regard as comprising 'middle Australia' are facing greater social and economic pressures. It is an even greater concern, however, that families who have been in dire straits for a long time remain at risk of being forgotten or rejected. The social justice representatives at this meeting highlighted the needs of many Indigenous families, those who are poor or homeless, families with special needs and asylum seeker and refugee families.

In particular and at the moment, we should think of those families around the world who are fleeing violence and persecution to seek asylum in other countries. Of the tens of millions who are displaced or seeking asylum around the world, very few approach Australia for help. Yet these people, who once faced detention for prolonged periods in remote immigration facilities around Australia, now face diversion to Nauru or Manus Island and an indefinite wait for processing.

The announced increase in Australia's resettlement intake to 20,000 annually is to be welcomed. The return to offshore processing is not.

With the means to be generous, Australia has opted once again for the principle of 'no advantage', the policy of deterrence, and now the practice of preventing family reunion. Our prosperity, to the tune of well over a billion each year, is being spent to deter and disadvantage many who are already traumatised by violence, perilous journeys and an uncertain future.

In their 2012 - 2013 Social Justice Statement, the Catholic Bishops of Australia remind us of how the Holy Family was forced by Herod's wrath to become refugees. The Bishops note how, in recent years, Australia has become much less welcoming to those arriving by boat and how the experience of detention has been disastrous for many families and particularly the children of these families.

The Bishops call for Australia to meet its international obligations. They reproach policies that exacerbate the harm already experienced by vulnerable people, particularly practices that damage the family structures that have been the most important protection for people in terrible circumstance.

This year, Social Justice Sunday is celebrated on 30 September. Order forms, associated

resources and information about the Social Justice Statement can be accessed on the ACSJC website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or by calling (02) 8306 3499.

A possible entry in you parish bulletin or school newsletter could be:

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30 September.

The Australian Catholic Bishops 2012 - 2013 Social Justice Statement is titled: The Gift of Family in Difficult Times: The social and economic challenges facing families today.

The Statement celebrates the vital role of family in our society and examines the pressures that threaten its stability. Work demands, living costs and forces of consumerism are some aspects of our society that impact on families. As Christians we are called to be supportive of all families, especially those in crisis and greatest need.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499.

Thank you for your part in promoting this Statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops.

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues / Resources

RESPONSES TO CHANGES TO THE MIGRATION ACT

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO), the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) and the Australian Human Rights Commission have all expressed deep concern at changes to the Migration Act passed by Parliament in August, but have welcomed the increase in Australia's humanitarian intake and the separation of the onshore asylum program and the offshore resettlement

program. ACMRO director Fr Maurizio Pettená and Refugee Council CEO Paul Power both expressed doubts that detention in Nauru and Papua New Guinea will be an effective deterrent to boat arrivals. Fr Pettená criticised the limitations on family reunions for those who come by boat. 'The sanctity of family unity is non-negotiable in Catholic teaching', he said. Mr Power said that the measures would set back efforts to build better regional systems of refugee protection and expressed

concern about the lack of parliamentary scrutiny for the new arrangements. Human Rights Commission president Professor Gillian Triggs said: 'The repeal of human rights protections contained in the Migration Act violates one of the first recommendations of the Expert Panel Report'.

Fr Pettená's response is available at <http://www.cathnews.com/article.aspx?aeid=32859>.

For the Refugee Council's media release, visit http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/n/media/120815_ExpertPanelregional.pdf.

For the Human Rights Commission's media release, visit http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/news/2012/81_12.html.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES: 'GO BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM'

Following the second series of 'Go Back To Where You Came From', Amnesty and the Refugee Council Of Australia are partnering with SBS on a number of community engagement projects tied to the show. There are three main projects: 1. A 'Get Involved' register that will enable people to register their interest in further action like volunteering or making a donation (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dGtNOXdqM1B6ZehjeXVYNDluLXBieVE6MQ>) 2. A School pack - with classroom activities and case studies and posters etc. (http://media.sbs.com.au/goback/upload_media/documents/AMN044_GB2-SchlPack-Broch-d4FINAL.pdf). 3. Community screenings - where people can hold public or private events with their family, friends, neighbours so that the Go Back discussion is spread and strengthened (<http://www.sbs.com.au/goback/getinvolved>)

CAMPAIGN: 'RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME'

The Australian Human Rights Commission has launched a campaign which invites all Australians to reflect on what they can do to counter racism wherever it happens. While cultural diversity is central to our national identity, the reality is that too many Australians experience racism, prejudice and discrimination on a regular basis. Racism locks people out of social and economic opportunities. It costs workplaces and our economy and it works against our goal of building fair, inclusive communities. The campaign aims to ensure more Australians recognise that racism is unacceptable in

our community, give more Australians the tools and resources to take practical action against racism, and empower individuals and organisations to prevent and respond effectively to racism. To find out more, visit: <http://itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au/>

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

SCHOOL KIT: 'RECOGNISING ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE IN THE CONSTITUTION'

The national conversation about recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution is moving into Australian classrooms with the help of a new secondary school kit. It is designed to help students and teachers to understand the current discussion about recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and builds on the education process surrounding a possible referendum. 'Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution: School Learning Guide', is aimed at secondary students in years 10 to 12 and fits within the new Australian Curriculum. This resource has been produced by the group You Me Unity. The complete resource is available for download at www.youmeunity.org.au/be-informed/diy-toolkit.

CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY

9 September is Child Protection Sunday and the Church's National Committee for Professional Standards invites every Catholic in Australia to take an active part in the week and, in particular, follow the liturgy to pray for the safety of our children on Child Protection Sunday. The committee has distributed Australia-wide 5000 information

and suggestion kits for Child Protection Week and has in turn been overwhelmed by the responses and requests for additional material. The kits include suggested Prayers of the Faithful at Mass on Child Protection Sunday, as well as a child protection prayer, a poster about the week to be displayed where it will be most noticed, balloons to display in church and school foyers, expressing the Church's solidarity with the wider society and also setting out points the committee hopes will encourage school staff, families and the connected community to discuss the issue. Refer: [http://www.catholicweekly.com.au/article.php?classID=1&subclassID=2&articleID=10640&class=Latest News&subclass=CW National](http://www.catholicweekly.com.au/article.php?classID=1&subclassID=2&articleID=10640&class=Latest%20News&subclass=CW%20National)

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.

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, visit: <http://www.caritas.org.au/act/walk-as-one-indigenous-peoples-campaign>

REPORT: 'GOING WITHOUT'

A report by the major Church Providers of social services in Australia shows people living on the dole are living in such poverty, that their chances of getting a job are seriously limited. The NATSEM report, 'Going Without: Financial Hardship in Australia', was commissioned by Catholic Social Services Australia, Anglicare Australia, The Salvation Army and UnitingCare Australia. It shows single people living alone and single parents on Newstart or Youth Allowance face much greater financial hardship than other government benefit households and the general population. CSSA Executive Director, Paul O'Callaghan, says there is an urgent need for an increase in the basic allowance and for realistic indexation. 'Far from providing an incentive to find work, the current inadequate level of the payment prevents many people from seeking work and is adding to long-term and intergenerational disadvantage,' he says. To access the report, visit: http://www.anglicare.asn.au/userfiles/file/Going%20Without%20MCP%20Report_Aug%202012.pdf; <http://www.catholicsocialservices.org.au/node/44789>

REPORT: 'HOUSING STRESS IN CANBERRA GOULBURN'

A new kind of poverty is becoming prevalent, the St Vincent de Paul Society says in a report highlighting housing stress in Canberra and Goulburn. The report features more than 20 case studies of housing stress in the Archdiocese to highlight the harmful effect on many vulnerable people. They reflect situations found by St Vincent de Paul conference members on visits to families and individuals. The society calls on state, territory and federal governments to acknowledge access to a basic standard of housing as a human right of all Australians, to build new public housing sufficient to meet the real

needs in the community, and to obtain the most efficient use of existing housing stock to address as much of the need as soon as possible. The society says that, without action now, the problem will only continue to get worse to the disgrace of our nation. To access the report, visit: <http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/uploads/rsfil/04255.pdf>

REPORT: 'HOW AUSTRALIA IS FARING'

The Australian Social Inclusion Board has released the second edition of 'How Australia is faring', the Board's principal research report. Chair of the Board, Ms Hatfield Dodds, says that while Australia is prosperous and faring well compared to other nations, a small but significant group of people are still missing out. 'In the middle of the biggest minerals resources boom we've ever seen we as a nation should be able to ensure that everyone has somewhere safe and secure to sleep, that people can find and keep a decent job, that quality education is available to every Australian, and that we can all expect to get basic supports and services when we need them. But around 640 000 people, or one in twenty working age Australians, experience multiple and entrenched disadvantage that makes it impossible to engage in a way most of us take for granted,' she says. To download the report and other material, visit: <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/news/release-key-social-inclusion-report-how-australia-faring>

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>

WEBSITE: 'TIMOR ARCHIVES'

The Clearing House for Archival Records on Timor Inc. (CHART) was established as an Australian organisation created to ensure long-term preservation and access to documentary records on East Timor history for the period

1974-1999. CHART'S principal work includes: locating archival materials about East Timor in public and private hands; encouraging and assisting private collection owners to preserve their materials for long-term access; and facilitating East Timorese access to Timor archival materials held overseas. A special focus of work is to ensure that important historical records are accessible in Timor-Leste for present and future generations of East Timorese. To find out more, visit: <http://timorarchives.wordpress.com/>

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN SYRIA

On 29 July, Pope Benedict XVI invited us to pray for peace in Syria. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops issued the following Prayer for Peace in Syria and a petition. Please join in prayer for our sisters and brothers in Syria, and for those who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

God of Compassion,
Hear the cries of the people of Syria,
Bring healing to those suffering from the violence,
Bring comfort to those mourning the dead,
Strengthen Syria's neighbours in their care and welcome for refugees,
Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms,
And protect those committed to peace.
God of Hope,
Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence and to seek reconciliation with enemies,
Inspire the Church around the world with compassion for the people of Syria,
And give us hope for a future of peace built on justice for all.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
Prince of Peace and Light of the World,
Amen.

Petition: For the people of Syria, that God may strengthen the resolve of leaders to end the fighting and choose a future of peace.
We pray to the Lord ...
(<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers/prayer-for-peace-in-syria.cfm>)

ANTI-BASES CAMPAIGN: 'LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK'

The Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition has a letter writing campaign to the Minister

of Defence, called 'Let the People Speak on the 2013 Defence White Paper'. This is in response to the Federal Government announcement that it will release a new Defence White Paper in 2013. The Anti-Bases Coalition says this White Paper will be a response to US military aspirations in the region that will expand Australia's role and expenditure. They believe it will also be a response to Government difficulties in paying for massive military expenditures outlined in the 2009 Defence White Paper. The Coalition

has tried to consult with Government and cites Senate Estimates transcripts which show the Defence Department has no intention of holding public consultations, but that it will consult with 'think tanks' and 'industry groups' who are representative of defence industry interests. The Anti-Bases Coalition has produced postcards calling on Government to consult widely with the Australian people. To get copies of this card, call (02) 9698 5617 or email info@anti-bases.org. The website is: <http://www.anti-bases.org>

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 and other information/resources are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps to strengthen and support families.

Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499

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

Ecumenical resource: 'Peace in the Marketplace - So all may live in dignity'.

Download from the National Council of Churches website: <http://www.ncca.org.au/component/content/article/41-sjn-resources/686-social-justice-sunday-2012>

SERIES PAPER - 'CHARITY AND JUSTICE'

The ACSJC has published Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.72, entitled 'Charity

and Justice: St Mary MacKillop and Australian Society'. Author Professor John Warhurst draws on presentations at a conference on the life, work and legacy of Mary MacKillop organised last year by Catholic Social Services Victoria, MacKillop Family Services, the Sisters of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic University and the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, and also on the 2011 CSSA McCosker oration by Sr Anne Derwin RSJ. The paper's principal theme is St Mary's unwavering vision: that a commitment to justice must go hand in hand with a commitment to hard practical work on behalf of people on the margins of society. Catholic Social Teaching was formalised only towards the end of Mary's life - in the 1891 papal social encyclical *Rerum Novarum* - but her approach prefigured this specific Church teaching. The paper illustrates how her life and work is Catholic Social Teaching in action. The life and work of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop is an inspiration for Catholics and Australians of all backgrounds.

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

2-8 SEPTEMBER. NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK. In 2012 NAPCAN (National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) continues to remind Australians that protecting children is everybody's business. This campaign invites you, your family, your workplace and your community to share how you play your part in preventing child abuse and neglect by keeping all children and young people safe. Further information: Go to <http://www.playyourpart.org.au/>.

7 SEPTEMBER. WHITE BALLOON DAY. National child protection advocate 'Bravehearts' is seeking volunteers to take part. There'll be all sorts of initiatives in the lead up to the event, which hopes to raise \$500,000. White Balloon Day coincides with National Child Protection Week as schools, councils and organisations around the country help break the silence on child sexual assault and reduce the statistic that one in five children will be sexually assaulted before their 18th birthday. Individuals and groups wishing to volunteer can register online at <http://www.whiteballoonday.com.au>.

15 SEPTEMBER. WALK TO WATER. Give Christian families in Northern Nigeria access to clean running water. With a population of

158 million, Nigeria is one of Africa's largest countries. Its people make up one seventh of the population of the entire continent. However, Northern Nigeria is also an incredibly dangerous place to live as a Christian. The Islamic government continues to refuse to build boreholes for Christian dominated villages, even after collecting a financial levy from the villagers to do so, so the Christian villagers have to travel long distances or find water where they can - sometimes sharing the same ponds as their livestock. Waterborne diseases are regular problems. Open Doors is going back to Northern Nigeria in 2012 and sinking deep water boreholes in the remote villages of Unguwar Mazadu, Gidan Many, Kankara and Gidan Bakula. To register your group, sponsor a walker, make a donation or watch our DVD, visit <http://walktowater.org.au/>.

24-26 SEPTEMBER. NATIONAL CATHOLIC DEAF PASTORAL WORKERS' CONFERENCE. The National Catholic Deaf Pastoral Workers' Conference is an opportunity for pastoral workers and Deaf Catholics to foster, enrich and investigate pastoral ministry services and supports for Deaf Catholics. It will also offer time to foster spiritual development in Auslan. Presented by the Secretariat for Pastoral Life of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and sponsored by the Australian Catholic

University. Mary MacKillop Place, Mount St North Sydney. Registration by 17 September. Inquiries and assistance: Patricia Mowbray, (02) 6201 9868, deaf@catholic.org.au. Booking form available at <http://www.catholic.org.au>.

5-11 OCTOBER. RIDE TO WORSHIP WEEK.

The third annual Ride to Worship Week runs from Friday 2012. To join in the fun, all you need to do is to cycle, walk, or use another form of environmentally friendly transport to get to and from Mass. You can join in as an individual, a family, or as a whole parish. Check out the Ride to Worship Week clip, read more about Ride to Worship Week, and register your participation at www.arrcc.org.au/ride-to-worship-week-2012. Ride to Worship Week is an initiative of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC).

10 OCTOBER. NATIONAL ECONFERENCE:

‘VATICAN II, AN EVENT OF GRACE’. You can attend this inspirational conference without leaving home. By using the techniques of television production and internet streaming, you can participate in this conference, in the convenience of your own city or town across the country or across the world. Watch the conference at home or gather friends or staff in your parish or community hall. Keynote Educators: Bishop Michael Putney, Sr Maryanne Confoy RSC. No cost. The Year of Grace e-Conference is brought to you by The Broken Bay Institute in partnership with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference as a gift, so there is no charge to participate. Registration: Rhonda Andersen +61 2 9847 0726 or econferences@bbi.catholic.edu.au. Web: <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/fx-view-event.cfm?loadref=132&id=12>

QUEENSLAND

3 SEPTEMBER. FAITH ON TAP: ‘MEANT TO BE MORE - FROM TOP MODEL TO ROLE MODEL’.

America’s Next Top Model contestant Leah Darrow shares her amazing journey of rediscovering her Catholic faith, and the immense freedom, hope and profound purpose, she found along the way. ACU Brisbane Campus, 1.00 - 2.00 pm. Information: mark.lysaght@acu.edu.au or <http://www.facebook.com/events/361428050603585>.

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 jpic@franciscans.org.au.

22 SEPTEMBER. ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL FIESTA.

Hosted by the Ethnic Youth Ministry Council in collaboration with the Ethnic Ministers Group and the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care (CMPC). There will be: live entertainment, lion dance, information stalls, games, magic show, rides, traditional performances, food stalls, network providers, fireworks at 8.30 pm. No cost. 4.00 pm til late, The Vietnamese Catholic Community Centre, 42 Lilac Street, Inala. Contact: 0407 776 851 or ethnicyouthministrycouncil@googlegroups.com. Web: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11635&cid=7463&id=3995>.

27-30 SEPTEMBER. IGNITE CONFERENCE.

The Ignite Conference is a dynamic and contemporary Catholic conference for adults, teenagers and children, and is the largest Catholic event of its kind in Australia for young people. It’s about gathering with other young people from across this corner of the world for a common experience - encountering Jesus Christ and the Church, being equipped for ministry and to live the Christian life, and be empowered to impact the Church and the world. Nightly concert-style rallies with dynamic keynote speakers; Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament;; streams and workshops in areas such as leadership, youth ministry, worship, creative arts, culture, evangelisation, social justice and prayer. Organised and run by Emmanuel Community. Information: www.igniteconference.com.au or email info@igniteconference.com.au, phone (07) 3217 5199.

30 SEPTEMBER. FILM SCREENING: ‘INTO THE CURRENT’. ‘Into the Current’ has been

deemed 'one of the most important films to be made about human rights in Burma in decades'. 1.00 - 3.30 pm, IndigiScapes, 17 Runnymede Rd, Capalaba. Contact: bronwenkippen@bigpond.com. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/qld/events/>.

5-7 OCTOBER. BREAKTHROUGH CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS CONFERENCE. Cairns' annual Breakthrough Catholic Young Adults Conference, open to all those aged 16-30, is in preparation for its third consecutive year in 2012. Leaders: by Charles Di Bella, Anne Chellingworth, Carly Forsyth, Terry Power and the Townsville NET team. Insightful talks and invigorating debate on living life to the full as a young Christian. Venue: St Augustine's College Cairns. Registration forms available soon. For information: 0437 356 377 or email carly.forsyth@hotmail.com.

NEW SOUTH WALES

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 9.00 pm, 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 retraumatisation. 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>.

6 SEPTEMBER. ACU TOUR: 'MEANT TO BE MORE - FROM TOP MODEL TO ROLE MODEL'. America's Next Top Model contestant Leah Darrow, shares her amazing journey of rediscovering her Catholic faith, and the immense freedom, hope and profound purpose, she found along the way. Australian Catholic University Strathfield Campus, 1.00 - 2.00 pm. Information: yvette.nehme@acu.edu.au. Web: http://students.acu.edu.au/student_life/campus_community/faith_on_campus/upcoming_events/leah_darrows_national_acu_tour/.

6 SEPTEMBER AID/WATCH BIRTHDAY PARTY. Twenty years ago, AID/WATCH was formed in a living room in Sydney by a handful of activists concerned that Australia's overseas aid money was making life harder for the very people it was supposed to assist. AID/WATCH is having a birthday party at the Red Rattler in Sydney. Celebrations kick off at 7pm, and include a keynote speech from founding member Lee Rhiannon. Music includes Persian melodies of Ember, French swing meets bohemian jazz of My Sauce Good and incredible international beats from the Rhythm Hunters. Tickets: <http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=31393>. info <http://www.facebook.com/AIDWATCH>.

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. Joseph coordinates activities in JPIC around the globe and animates Franciscans and others in JPIC. He 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 jplic@franciscans.org.au.

9 SEPTEMBER. FUNDRAISING LUNCH FOR TYPHOON VICTIMS IN THE PHILIPPINES. 12.00 to 4.00 pm, Club 55, 1 Mount Druitt Rd, Mt Druitt. \$25.00 - includes buffet lunch and entertainment. Information: 0425 261 545.

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.

11 SEPTEMBER. NSW COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIANS AND JEWS: DR RACHEL KOHN - THE THREE SEPTEMBER 11s. 'For most of us, it is the debris out of which we must rescue interfaith dialogue like a phoenix rising out of the ashes. But another September 11 over a century ago paved the way, while a third September 11 reminds us what is at stake if we do not move forward' (Dr Rachel Kohn). 12.30 pm, St Stephens Uniting Church, 197 Macquarie Street, Sydney. Refreshments: Kosher sandwich lunch. Admission \$5. RSVP: Rev John Queripel or phone (02) 9130 3445 by Friday 7 September 2012.

12 SEPTEMBER. BISHOP WILLIAM MORRIS SPEAKS ON VATICAN II. Bishop William Morris will be the keynote speaker in a forum on Vatican II hosted by WATAC (Women and the Australian Church). 5.00 - 8.00 pm, NSW Parliament House Theatre. Cost: \$28.00 per person (includes light refreshments/beverages). Seating is strictly limited in the theatre: for bookings visit <http://www.watac.net/bishopmorrisevent.php> or phone or fax 02 9520 9409 by 1 September.

16 SEPTEMBER. CRESTWOOD FAIR - GIVE POVERTY THE FLUSH STALL. At this year's Crestwood Fair, there will be a stall promoting awareness of one of the Millennium Development Goals relating to improving sanitation and health of overseas countries. There will be a giant toilet on display with fun activities and information available. Come along to show your support for this important

issue - sign a petition to alert our politicians to this important cause. Organised by TEAR advocacy group. 11.00 am, Crestwood Park, Chapel Lane, Crestwood. Contact: 02 9862 8854. Web: <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/give-poverty-the-flush-event>.

16 SEPTEMBER. PUBLIC LECTURE: PROFESSOR ILAN PAPPÉ - 'THE FORGOTTEN PALESTINIANS'. Ilan Pappé is Professor of History and Director of the European Centre for Palestine Studies at the University of Exeter. His landmark publication, 'The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine', documented the planned removal of 700,000 Palestinians from their lands in 1948. He has also written of 'The Forgotten Palestinians', those who still live within Israel's borders. Hosted by the Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies and the Sydney Peace Foundation, together with Independent Australian Jewish Voices, the Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine and the Leichhardt Friends of Hebron. 4.00 - 5:30 pm, Eastern Avenue Auditorium, University of Sydney (Doors open 3.30pm). Free; donations towards the work of Leichhardt Friends of Hebron welcome. Information: <http://coalitionforpalestine.org/current-events/ilan-pappes-first-sydney-presentation> or email cjpp@coalitionforpalestine.org.

17 SEPTEMBER. PUBLIC LECTURE: PROFESSOR ILAN PAPPÉ: 'THE ETHNIC CLEANSING OF PALESTINE'. Ilan Pappé is Professor of History and Director of the European Centre for Palestine Studies at the University of Exeter. He is one of Israel's New Historians who have been rewriting the history of Israel's creation in 1948 and the expulsion or flight of 700,000 Palestinians in the same year. "The story of the ethnic cleansing of Palestine is a crime against humanity that Israel has wanted to deny and the world has wanted to forget", Pappé writes. He argues that 'a painful journey into the past is the only way forward if we want to create a better future for us all, Israeli and Palestinians alike'. 1.00 - 2.00 pm, Central Lecture Block, Theatre 6, UNSW Kensington Campus Registration not required. Contact: fassevents@unsw.edu.au; phone (02) 9385 8512. Web: www.arts.unsw.edu.au.

18 SEPTEMBER. BATHURST SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'SPIRITUALITY - WHERE DO YOU FIND IT?' Guest speakers: Dr Elsie Heiss & Ms Pat Doolan. Dr. Elsie Heiss is a Wiradjuri lady originally from Cowra. Elsie has represented NSW on the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) since 1999 and is a former Chairperson. Elsie is currently involved in the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry at La Perouse, Sydney. Pat Doolan is a Wiradjuri Elder who was born and raised on the Talbragar Reserve, Dubbo. Pat has worked for the local Lands Council, Dubbo Community Aboriginal Working Party, and many other groups and is a member of the Greater Western Area Health Advisory Council and the Greater Western AHS Human Research Committee. In 2010 Pat was awarded the: Award for Outstanding Aboriginal Leadership. 7.00 - 9.00 pm, Oxford Hotel, 170 William Street, Bathurst. Contact: 02 6331 2440 or 02 6332 6373. Spirituality in the Pub is supported in Bathurst by the Catholic Cathedral Parish of Ss Michael & John & is an initiative of Catalyst for Renewal Incorporated. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au>.

21 SEPTEMBER. INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE. To celebrate International Day of Peace the Representatives from Aboriginal, Bahai, Brahmakumaris, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Jain, Jewish, Mandaean, Sikh, Sufi, Unitarian and Zoroastrian Communities will offer prayers for peace, and there will be time for silent reflection. The church bell will be rung at midday. Light refreshments will follow the service. Main Hall of St David's Uniting Church, 454 Pacific Highway (cnr Provincial Road) Lindfield 2070 at 11.00 am. Contact Rev Dr Manas Ghosh: (02) 9416 2746 or mnghosh@people.net.au. http://www.cimer.org.au/news_events.html.

21-23 SEPTEMBER. AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY CONVENTION. The Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention invites all those involved in ministry with young people from parishes, communities, movements, religious orders, schools and diocese to attend to be formed and inspired for Catholic youth ministry. Campbelltown Catholic Club, 20-22 Camden Rd, Campbelltown NSW 2560. Cost: Full Price: \$360 per person.

Inclusions: Participation in all three days of the Convention and its program elements, including morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner (Friday and Saturday) morning tea, lunch (Sunday). Registration does not include accommodation. Information: www.acymc.org. Information booklet: http://youthministry.catholic.org.au/images/stories/acymc/ACYMC_2012_%20brochure.pdf.

22 SEPTEMBER. HUNTER CITYSERVE DAY: 'TRANSFORMING OUR CITY THROUGH SERVICE'. An opportunity for individuals and church groups to make a tangible difference in the lives of people with genuine needs in our local communities. All day. Venue: Locations of need throughout the region. To find out more about CityServe One Day or to register your group visit the website - <http://www.cityserve.com.au>.

23 SEPTEMBER. ADDRESS BY ILAN PAPPÉ: ISRAEL IS AN APARTHEID STATE. Sydney Opera House Festival of Dangerous Ideas. Given the international condemnation reserved for 'apartheid' states, the comparison of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians to South Africa under apartheid is fiercely contested. Given the reality of checkpoints, distinguishing identity cards, differential access to land and laws that discriminate on the basis of religion or ethnicity, if it is not 'apartheid', what is it? \$25, 2.00 - 3.15 pm, Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. For information and tickets: <http://fodi.sydneyoperahouse.com/#israel-is-an-apartheid-state/>.

24-26 SEPTEMBER. NATIONAL CATHOLIC DEAF PASTORAL WORKERS' CONFERENCE. Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney. See details above under 'National'.

25 SEPTEMBER. DEADLY AWARDS. The Deadly Awards is an annual event held at the Sydney Opera House to recognise the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to their community and to Australian society. The Deadlys showcase the outstanding achievement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and provides identifiable national and local role models to inspire all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and particularly our young people. Voting on nominations

closes on Sunday 9 September with the Deadly Awards being held on Tuesday 25 September. Categories for nominations include Music, Sport, The Arts, Community Awards and the Deadly Hall of Fame. To vote on nominations and to find out more information: http://www.vibe.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&id=4744.

25 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER. ECO RETREAT - 'LISTENING TO THE UNIVERSE: LIVING RESPONSIVELY'. Presented by Colleen O'Sullivan rsj and Kateri Duke rsj. 'Each individual person has the power of participating in the transformation of the whole earth ... the magnitude of the Earth's adventure staggers the human imagination' (Brian Swimme). You are invited to be part of this journey. Sept 25-Oct 2, St Joseph's Kincumber, 8 Humpherys Road, Kincumber South NSW 2251. Enquiries and bookings: bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au.

28 SEPTEMBER. BOOK LAUNCH: 'RETHINKING SOCIAL JUSTICE: FROM PEOPLES TO POPULATIONS'. In the early 1970s, Australian governments began to treat Aborigines and Torres Strait Islander as 'peoples' with capacities for self-government. Forty years later, confidence in Indigenous self-determination has been eroded by accounts of Indigenous pathology, of misplaced policy optimism and of persistent socio-economic 'gaps'. Tim Rowse argues that Australian thinking about the 'Indigenous' is a continuing, unresolvable tussle between the idea of 'people' and the idea of 'population'. Rowse offers snapshots of moments in the last forty years in which we can see these tensions: between honouring the heritage and quantifying the disadvantage, between acknowledging colonisation's destruction and projecting Indigenous recovery from it. No cost. 6.00 for 6.30 pm, Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe. RSVP: 9660 2333. Web: http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/2012/sep/Event-In-Conversation-Tim-Rowse-Rethinking-Social-Justice-From-Peoples-To-Populations_htm.

4, 6 OCTOBER. ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY REFUGEE CHILDREN HOMEWORK TUTORS TRAINING DAY. Interested in volunteering with refugee children? The SPARK program is

offering volunteer training in Parramatta on Thursday 4 October and Saturday 6 October for people to work with children of refugee background through an after-school homework support program for primary school children in Auburn, Regents Park, Pendle Hill, Parramatta, Granville, Guildford, Old Guildford, Girraween and Liverpool. If you are interested in volunteering please contact SPARK! 0900 am, Parramatta. Contact: 02 9568 0280 or spark@vinnies.org.au. Web: <http://www.vinnies.org.au/spark>.

12 OCTOBER. HUNTERS HILL SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'WOMEN - AN UNTAPPED RESOURCE IN THE CHURCH TODAY'. Speaker: Sr Megan Brock rsj PhD. With a background in teaching, she has worked for the last 20 years as a Registered Psychologist in private practice, and in consultancy to Religious Orders, Dioceses and other groups. She has been a member of the Church's NSW and National Committees for Professional Standards. She is currently a member of the Board of Catholic Care, Sydney, and of the Cancer Council of NSW Ethics Committee. Her doctoral work examined the lived experience of Religious Sisters in Australia/New Zealand and its findings have been presented at a number of conferences both nationally and internationally. 7.00 pm, Villa Maria Parish Hall, corner Mary Street and Gladesville Road, Hunters Hill. Cost: \$50, includes two course meal. Reservations essential: RSVP Thursday 4 October. Register: http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=30:dinners&Itemid=114

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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 - 12.00 pm, Kippax Library, Hardwick Crescent, Holt. Contact: 02 6254 8405. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/actsnsw/event/29060/>.

4 SEPTEMBER. GUINNESS AND GOD. Former contestant on America's Next Top Model, Leah Darrow, will share her amazing journey of

faith. 6.30 pm for dinner, talk 7.30 pm, King O'Malley's Irish Pub, Civic. Contact: youth_events@catholiclife.org.au. Web: <http://www.guinnessandgod.com/events/>

13 SEPTEMBER. AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE PRESENTATION: 'HOW FAIR IS A FAIR GO IN AUSTRALIA? THE IMPACT OF TAX AND WELFARE'. Speaker: Professor Peter Whiteford, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University. Peter Whiteford is a professor in the Crawford School of Public Policy at ANU. He came to ANU from the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales where he has worked for various periods, most recently as Director. Peter is an expert in family assistance policies, welfare reform, and other aspects of social policy, particularly ways of supporting the balance between work and family life, and has published extensively on various aspects of the Australian system of income support. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Corner Blackall St and Kings Av, Barton. Web: <http://www.ces.org.au/index.htm>.

17 SEPTEMBER. CALL TO CONNECT FILM SCREENING: 'NEFARIOUS: MERCHANT OF SOULS'. A film which exposes the growing global sex trafficking of women and girls will be screened. Cost \$15. 6.30 to 9.30pm, St Edmund's College. Contact: 0437 329 371, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.calltoconnect.org/>.

17-18 SEPTEMBER. CONFERENCE: PARTICIPATORY JUSTICE AND VICTIMS. This is a ground-breaking conference exploring the practices and politics of participation in justice processes by individuals and communities victimised by violence. It responds to persisting questions about justice that is accessible, attainable, and meaningful. The conference aims to challenge the boundaries between local, national and international spheres of justice. Participatory justice focuses on the concrete involvement in different justice processes of people directly affected by violence. Speakers include: Professor John Braithwaite, Australian Research Council Federation Fellow and founder of RegNet (Regulatory Institutions Network) at ANU; Professor Liz Kelly CBE, , Director of the Child

and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU), London Metropolitan University; Professor Kathleen Daly, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Griffith University; Professor John Dussich, Professor Emeritus of Victimology and Criminology at the California State University, Fresno, and Director of the Tokiwa International Victimology Institute (TIVI) at the Tokiwa University, Mito, Japan. Cost: \$260, concession \$150. Contact: coast@law.anu.edu.au or 02 6125 1096. Manning Clark Centre, Building 26a, Australian National University, Acton. Web: <http://150.203.86.5/coast/events/victims/conf.html>.

18 SEPTEMBER. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ADDRESS: PROFESSOR ILAN PAPPÉ. Ilan Pappé is Professor of History and Director of the European Centre for Palestine Studies at the University of Exeter. Pappé has been described as one of the Israeli 'new historians'. His books include *The Forgotten Palestinians: A History of the Palestinians in Israel* (2011); *Out of the Frame: The Struggle for Academic Freedom in Israel* (2010); *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine* (2006); *The Modern Middle East* (2005), *A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples* (2003), and *Britain and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (1998). 11.30 am to 1.30 pm, Gandel Hall, National Gallery of Australia. Information and bookings: <http://www.npc.org.au/speakers/ilan-pappe.html>.

25-26 SEPTEMBER. ACTCOSS CONFERENCE: 'VISION, VALUES, VOTES'. With the theme of 'Vision, Values, Votes', the 2012 ACT community sector conference will explore how the community sector engages with political discourse and current issues impacting on people experiencing disadvantage. Speakers: Robert Fitzgerald AM, Chair (designate), Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Advisory Board; Debbie Kilroy OAM, Sisters Inside; Helen Watchirs OAM, ACT Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner; others. Cost: \$130-340. Rydges Capital Hill Hotel, Cnr Canberra Avenue & National Circuit, Forrest. Contact: 02 6202 7200 or actcoss@actcoss.org.au. Web: <http://www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/conference2012/confBrochure.pdf>.

27 SEPTEMBER. The Archdiocesan Social

Justice Commission will hold a meet-the-candidates evening for the upcoming ACT Legislative Assembly election in the North Woden Parish Centre, 3 Strangways Street, Curtin at 7.00 for 7.30pm on Thursday. All welcome. Inquiries: Contact the commission, email csjc@cg.catholic.org.au or telephone 6235 5452. Web http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/view_event.cfm?loadref=18&id=1027.

VICTORIA

3 SEPTEMBER. FIELD FORUM: 'DISABILITY WORKFORCE LEADERSHIP IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE'. Chaired by Rhonda Galbally, co-chair, NDIS Disability Workforce and Sector Capacity Expert Group. The National Disability Insurance Scheme (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. 9.30 am - 4.00 pm, Function Rooms, MCG Melbourne. Contact: 03 9982 0104 or Linda. Budd@field.org.au. Register: <https://www.etchouches.com/leadership>.

4 SEPTEMBER. CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA SEMINAR: UNDERSTANDING AND NAVIGATING THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM. Speakers: Erica Myers-Davis, Prahran Mission; Neil Cole, Associate Professor, Mental Health Research Institute; Merilee Cox, Neami; Henrique Van-Denum, Client Advocate; Fr Joe Caddy, CatholicCare. This workshop will be focused on 'face to face practice', distinguishing 'symptoms' and the difference between 'normal' reactions to life events and mental illness. 9.00 am - 1.00 pm, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St East Melbourne. Cost: \$50. Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/BUYB>. Enquiries: (03) 9287 5566 or email: lucia.brick@css.org.au. RSVP: Thursday 30 August 2012.

6 SEPTEMBER. GEELONG FRIENDS OF VIQUEQUE DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR FUNDRAISING DINNER. The Hon Steve

Bracks AC, former Victorian Premier, and Special Advisor to East Timor on governance issues since 2007, will be speaking on economic and political developments in East Timor. The proceeds for this event will fund education programs in Viqueque, East Timor. Cost: \$100. 5.45 to 9.30 pm, Barwon Edge Boathouse Restaurant, 40 Windsor Road, Newtown. Contact: 03 5272 4867 or jzabinkas@geelongcity.vic.gov.au. Web: <http://www.cam.org.au/News-and-Events/Whats-on/ModuleID/3028/ItemID/1239/mctl/EventDetails>.

7 SEPTEMBER. MARY MACKILLOP FOUNDATION MELBOURNE FUNDRAISING DINNER. The Mary MacKillop Foundation invites you to attend their annual Fundraising Dinner, on Friday 7 September at 7.00 pm at Mount St Joseph Girl's College. Tickets are \$40 per person and include entrée, main & dessert (BYO drinks). Silent and Live Auction items. All donations from the dinner to the foundation will go toward small life-changing projects in Australia. For tickets and enquiries, contact the Mary MacKillop Foundation Melbourne Committee on (03) 9926 9300 or email mmhc@sosj.org.au. Mount St Joseph Girls' College, 133 Maidstone St, Altona. Web: <http://www.mackillopfoundation.org.au/index.php?section=events&type=future&eventID=65>.

9 SEPTEMBER. MEANT TO BE MORE: LEAH DARROW. America's Next Top Model contestant Leah Darrow shares her amazing journey of rediscovering her Catholic faith, and the immense freedom, hope and profound purpose, she found along the way. Join us as ACU presents Leah Darrow's Australian tour: 'Meant to be More - From Top Model to Role Model'. Presented by ACU in partnership with Archdiocesan Office for Youth, Life Marriage and Family Office, Theology at the Pub, and Parousia Media. 7.00 pm: live music, 7.30 pm talk with Q&A. Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus, Central Hall, 20 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Contact: Thérèse Nichols therese.nichols@acu.edu.au. Web: http://students.acu.edu.au/student_life/campus_community/faith_on_campus/upcoming_events/.

16 SEPTEMBER. TALK: CIVIL WAR IN SYRIA. Syria: What's Going On? Who is Involved? What

Can We Do? A talk by Dr. Fiona Hill, President of Friends of Syria, Australia. The event is sponsored by Pax Christi. 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm, Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent (between Ormond College and St Hilda's College), Parkville. Further information: email: henry444@inet.net.au. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/talk-civil-war-syria>.

18 SEPTEMBER. PIAC COURSE: 'EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY SKILLS & STRATEGIES'. Learn how to be more effective in your advocacy work in this practical one-day course designed for community workers, advocates and campaigners. The interactive workshop format uses small group problem solving, role-play, and case studies. There are no prerequisites for attending this training. Cost: \$225.00 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Sydney CBD. 02 8898 6503. <http://www.piac.asn.au/trainingevent/effective-advocacy-skills-strategies-0>.

18 SEPTEMBER. MONASH UNIVERISTY COSTELLO LECTURE: 'PROTECTING PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS IN AUSTRALIA FROM FORCED EVICTION: THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF THE HUMAN RIGHT TO HOUSING AND HOME'. Speaker: Justice Kevin Bell. Introduced by Tim Costello AO, CEO, World Vision Australia. The tenure of most public housing tenants in Australia is precarious and can be terminated without cause. There is talk of moving some tenants on, raising the spectre of forced eviction. This lecture examines the fundamental importance of the human right to housing and home. No cost. 6.00 - 7.00 pm, Monash University Law Chambers, 555 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Contact: law-marketing@monash.edu or 03 9906 2630. Web: <http://www.law.monash.edu.au/about-us/events/index.html>.

18 SEPTEMBER. LECTURE - PROFESSOR ILAN PAPPÉ: PALESTINE/ISRAEL: A NEW PARADIGM. Ilan Pappé is Professor of History and Director of the European Centre for Palestine Studies at the University of Exeter. The old paradigm of a 'peace process' between 'equals', which dominates government, media and academia, has been shown to be a total failure and is no longer useful in talking about the long-standing

historical situation. Free. 6.30 pm, Elisabeth Murdoch Theatre, Elisabeth Murdoch Building, 134 Spencer Rd. Information: <http://www.australiansforpalestine.net/67074>.

24-25 SEPTEMBER. YDAS - NATIONAL YOUTH DISABILITY CONFERENCE. Jasper Hotel, Elizabeth St, Melbourne

The National Youth Disability Conference (NYDC) will bring together young people with disabilities, peak bodies, representative organisations, and passionate workers and researchers to identify and develop clear actions, strengthen the voice of young Australians with disabilities, and provide opportunities for service providers, workers, researchers and peak bodies to respond more effectively to the needs of young Australians with disabilities. Keynote speakers: the Hon. Kelly Vincent MLC, Stella Young, Editor of ABC's Ramp Up, The Hon. Peter Garrett, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth (TBC), and The Hon. Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers (TBC). Contact nydc@yacvic.org.au; web: <http://www.field.org.au/>.

1-4 OCTOBER. NATSICC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: 'CULTURALLY ENRICHED THROUGH THE GOSPEL'. NATSICC Assemblies occur only once every three years and hold an important place on the Indigenous Catholic Calendar. We would be thrilled if you were able to attend (even for a day) and participate and we cordially invite you contact us should you need further information. It is very important that we have Indigenous people, Religious, Lay and Clergy from every Diocese at the Assembly so that you can provide input to the direction that NATSICC takes for the next three years. Cost: various. Rydges Bell City. Contact: 08 8363 2963 or 0402 019 536 or 0401 422 309. Web: http://www.natsicc.org.au/v1/assembly_2012/.

TASMANIA

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' which follows Andrea as she returns to South Africa to meet her clients from the landmark Upington 25 trial - one of legal history's biggest death penalty cases and a battle for justice in a country where injustice was entrenched in law. 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>.

30 SEPTEMBER. LAUNCH: SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT. Launched by the Most Rev Archbishop Adriane Doyle. Mass, St. Mary's Cathedral, followed by morning tea. This year's Social Justice Statement is titled: 'The Gift of Family in Difficult Times: The social and economic challenges facing families today'. The Statement celebrates the vital role of family in our society and examines the pressures that threaten its stability. Work demands, living costs and forces of consumerism are some aspects of our society that impact on families. As Christians we are called to be supportive of all families, especially those in crisis and greatest need. 10.00 am - 12.00 pm, St. Mary's Cathedral Hobart, TAS. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/media/events/social-justice-sunday-statement>.

8 OCTOBER. UTAS SIR JAMES PLIMSOLL LECTURE. Presented by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, His Excellency José Ramos-Horta. 6.00 -7.30 pm, Stanley Burbury Lecture Theatre, University Centre, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay campus. Web: <http://www.events.utas.edu.au/2012/september/2012-sir-james-plimsoll-lecture>.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

16 SEPTEMBER. FUNDRAISING WALK: 'AMBLE FOR ARA'

Final registrations: 7th September
Be part of Adelaide's largest fun run at the Sunday Mail City to Bay. This is your chance to get active with 'Team ARA' and help raise funds to help support tomorrow's Australians today. The mission of ARA (Australian Refugee

Association) is to help people from refugee backgrounds become settled and participating citizens of Australia. Run or take a leisurely walk over 12 km, 6 km or 3 km and finish up at Glenelg. Contact: 08 8354 2951 or rebecca.wessels@ausref.net. Web: <http://www.cathoyouthadelaide.org.au/media/files/5118.pdf>.

21-23 SEPTEMBER. ADELAIDE PALESTINE SOLIDARITY WEEKEND. Organised by the Australian Friends of Palestine Association. Events include the third national BDS conference, the Edward Said Memorial Lecture given by Professor Ilan Pappé (see below), a Solidarity dinner, the AGM of the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) and a solidarity concert. Information: www.afopa.com.au or email secretary@afopa.com.au.

22 SEPTEMBER. EDWARD SAID MEMORIAL LECTURE: PROFESSOR ILAN PAPPÉ. Ilan Pappé is Professor of History and Director of the European Centre for Palestine Studies at the University of Exeter. Sponsored by the Australian Friends of Palestine Association (AFOPA). 5.30 pm, Norwood Concert Hall, 175 The Parade, Norwood, SA 5067. Information: secretary@afopa.com.au or esml@adelaide.edu.au. Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=23678>.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

4-12 SEPTEMBER. AICE ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL. The festival will be showing the best of Israeli cinema. The films mirror Israeli society, exploring a myriad of stories from one of the most diverse and multi-racial countries in the world. Tickets can be purchased online or at the box office from July 25. For more information, visit www.palacecinemas.com.au/festivals/ or www.lunapalace.com.au.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

21-23 SEPTEMBER. SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY CONFERENCE: 'PEOPLE AND CONSERVATION IN LAND AND SEA COUNTRY'. Land and sea country are

terms used by Indigenous people in northern Australia to refer to the environments they have managed for millennia. The philosophy underlying land and sea country management of passing on the knowledge and values inherited from ancestors to descendants is widely shared by conservation biologists across the globe. We hope to showcase Indigenous conservation management while highlighting the tools and knowledge now available to all conservation practitioners in caring for land and sea country. However, local practice can only benefit from exposure to global thought and we welcome symposia and workshop suggestions on any topic relevant to conservation biology in the region. Charles Darwin University. Contact: 08 8941 9111 or OceaniaSCB2012@conbio.org. Web: <http://www.cdu.edu.au/about/events>.

UNTIL 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 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/>.

News Monitor

Caritas helps displaced Sri Lankans return home after six years

Caritas negotiated with Sri Lankan authorities to allow villagers to return to their homes after six years of forced displacement, reported UCANEWS.

Action needed to support religious freedom report

While a new report from US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton uses strong rhetoric to back religious liberty, a former diplomat said more action needs to be taken to turn those words into reality, reported the Catholic News Agency.

Nun arrested for vandalism at US nuclear facility

An 82-year old nun will appear in an American court after being arrested for vandalism and trespassing at a nuclear facility in America, reported *The Tablet*.

Minister on right track over homeless, said Vinnies

The St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia welcomed the statement by the Minister for Homelessness, Brendan O'Connor,

recognising the need to give people who are homeless permanent accommodation first and then provide the appropriate services to assist them, according to a statement by St Vincent de Paul.

JP Morgan Catholic ethical investment fund closes

Leading US investment bank JP Morgan announced that its Catholic ethical investment fund will close down in September, less than a year after it started, reported *Vatican Insider*.

Housing remains most pressing need, said Vinnies

Australia should lead the way in providing people on the margins with a place they can call home rather than just a bed for the night, said Dr John Falzon, the St Vincent de Paul Society's national council CEO, reported *The Catholic Weekly*.

Caritas appeals for Manila flood aid

The social action arm of the Catholic bishops' conference today appealed for aid to help victims of floods that have devastated much of Manila and neighbouring provinces this week, reported UCANEWS.

Community care still only option for child refugees: MacKillop Services

While the broader refugee debate continues, MacKillop Family Services is calling for the continuation of community care for the most vulnerable group - children, the group said in a media statement.

Concerns over Panel's proposal to use offshore processing

The proposal by the Federal Government's expert panel on asylum seekers to use Nauru and Manus Island for offshore processing is "a very negative step," the Edmund Rice Centre said in a media release. The ERC response was one of several by Catholic groups who raised concerns at the Panel's proposals.

Pakistani Christian girl with Down's syndrome accused of blasphemy

An 11-year-old girl with Down's syndrome could face the death penalty under Pakistan's blasphemy law, after she was accused of burning sacred Islamic texts, reported *The Tablet*.

Sth African bishops call for inquiry into mine violence

South Africa's bishops have condemned the killings at a platinum mine in Marikana and called for a judicial inquiry into the circumstances that led to the violence, according to a report by the Catholic News Service published in NCR Online.

Inadequate welfare humiliating, said Vinnies chief

The head of St Vincent de Paul said giving inadequate welfare payments to unemployed people is like punishing a person who can't walk up stairs while refusing to build a ramp, reported *The Australian*.

Govt resists church groups' call to raise dole

The Federal Government said it is no plans to increase dole payments despite calls by church groups for them to be indexed to real wage increases, reported Radio Australia.

- For details, click on headlines or go to cathnews.com

A banner for the Social Justice Calendar. It features a blue background with the text "Social Justice Calendar" in large, bold, orange letters. To the left of the text, there are two overlapping blue squares, one slightly behind and to the left of the other, creating a 3D effect.

1 Sat National Wattle Day
Biodiversity Month

2 Sun Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Father's Day
Child Protection Week Begins
1991: Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Act

5 Wed 1997: Death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta

7 Fri National Threatened Species Day
1936: Death in Hobart Zoo of last Tasmanian tiger in captivity

8 Sat Birth of Mary, Mother of Jesus (Feast)
International Literacy Day

9 Sun Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Child Protection Sunday

10 Mon World Suicide Prevention Day

11 Tue 2001: Terrorist attack on New York and Washington DC

- 12 Wed 1977: Death of South African anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko
- 14 Fri 1981: Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Laborem Exercens*
- 15 Sat UN International Day of Democracy
- 1995: Racial Hatred Act, Australia
- 16 Sun Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 18 Tue 1961: Death of UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld
- 21 Fri UN International Day of Peace
- 23 Sun Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1959: Australian Consumers Association launched
- 27 Thu Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul
1988: Aung San Suu Kyi forms National League for Democracy in Burma
- 28 Fri 1983: Death of John Pat in Roeburne Prison, WA, prompting the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody
Green Consumer Day
- 30 Sun Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Social Justice Sunday
World Maritime Day
- 1975: Australia's Racial Discrimination Act proclaimed

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.