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From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

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FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you for your support of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council throughout the year. Each year at this time I find myself reflecting on the major challenges we have faced and the countless works for justice initiated by individuals, parishes, religious congregations, dioceses, and through national agencies and networks. To me they all capture the something of our recent celebration of the Year of Grace, when we were invited to 'contemplate his face' and to 'start afresh from Christ'.

In the most vulnerable people and families we serve, we see the face of Christ. Like those who stood beside Jesus during the most difficult times of his earthly life, we share in his ministry; bringing comfort, standing in solidarity, and speaking out for the oppressed.

Even before he was born, Jesus and his family were threatened. As the bishops said in their Social Justice Statement this year:

'From the beginning, the Holy Family found itself in trouble and danger. The spirit of hope was central to their survival. Mary faced disgrace because she was pregnant out of wedlock (Matthew 1:18-25). Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room for his family at the inn (Luke 2:6-8). The young family were forced by Herod's wrath to become refugees (Matthew 2:13-23).'

That gospel account of the Flight into Egypt and the massacre of the innocents serves as a reminder of the tyrannical regimes that still exist around the world today. It also reminds us of the conditions of deprivation and fear that would cause any family to flee their homeland with little but the hope of some compassion from strangers in another land.

Time to end the detention of children and their families

It is a concern that Australia's response to the desperation of the relatively small number of asylum seekers arriving in Australia's waters has been to excise the whole nation from its migration zone.

Speaking after the recent meeting of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, Bishop Christopher Saunders expressed concern over the detention of children and their families.

'That asylum seekers, including children, have now been sent to Manus should set the alarm bells ringing. Having witnessed first-hand the conditions in Australia's detention centres, and following Amnesty reports of the crisis on Nauru, we hold grave concerns for their wellbeing,' he said.

On their recent visit to Nauru, Amnesty found inappropriate and ill-equipped facilities, overcrowding, leaking tents in monsoon conditions, and detainees suffering from physical and mental ailments. They said the conditions on Nauru are cruel, inhumane and degrading.

The ACSJC holds that the ‘tactical decision’ to excise Australia from its own migration zone does not relieve us of our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the Covenant on the Rights of the Child. The Government may claim the excision removes these asylum seekers from our jurisdiction and relieves us of our obligation under international law. But can a country excise itself from the spirit of the law it signed? Surely it cannot deny the moral commitment it made when it became a signatory to these international treaties.

As stated by Bishop Saunders, ‘No child should be detained indefinitely in any onshore or offshore facility. No person should be detained indefinitely in an environment we know causes long-term harm.

‘It is hard to fathom the Government’s expenditure of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars on indefinite offshore detention. This “no advantage” policy is sure to cause harm but it cannot guarantee its policy objective of deterring desperate people.’

The ACSJC has called on the Australian Government to release all children and their families from immigration detention whether that is on the mainland or in these offshore camps. (refer: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>)

Is Australia a good global citizen?

Earlier in November, the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office reiterated the Church’s grave concern over the proposal to excise the whole Australian territory for asylum seekers who arrive by boat. The policy places boat arrivals in a precarious legal position and denies them the legal right to ask Australia for protection due to their mode of arrival.

ACMRO director, Fr Maurizio Pettená, said, ‘Australia has an exceptionally high level of regulation across our borders. Nonetheless, there will be times when people seeking asylum by boat will challenge this and our level of compassion. We should not give in to these challenges by disregarding our respect for human rights and the Refugee Convention.

‘Australia is not immune to the conflict and persecution affecting those in other parts of the world. We are part of the global community and must act accordingly. The excision policy has disturbing ramifications for all other nations that have signed the Refugee Convention.

‘We need to be cautious of the example we set for the rest of the world. If other nations choose to bypass the Convention then, as humanitarian crises emerge, people will have no place to go for protection and far more will have to travel longer distances to seek asylum.

‘We need to reflect whether these restrictive policies contribute towards achieving justice and peace in the source countries caught up in the trials of war and ethnic violence. The right to emigrate is essential for people caught in humanitarian crises as their survival often depends on their capacity to escape.’

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office maintains that all countries who are signatory to the Refugee Convention must unequivocally uphold the right of people to seek asylum,’ said Fr Pettená. (refer: http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=230&Itemid=2)

Children and families forced to take flight

A recent report by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent highlights the very conditions causing people to flee their homelands.

The ‘World Disasters Report 2012’ shows that a growing number of people are displaced by conflict, violence, persecution and political

upheaval, natural disasters, and large-scale development projects. Last year, 72 million people were living as forced migrants.

Acting CEO of the Australian Red Cross, Michael Raper, said, 'The issue of refugees and asylum seekers tends to cause great debate in Australia but of the tens of millions of people around the world displaced by conflict, persecution, disasters and development last year, less than half of one per cent came to this country.'

'Right now the world is facing a humanitarian crisis of forced migration in Syria where more than 1.2 million people have fled their homes due to the fighting and around 340,000 refugees have crossed into neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey. There is a real risk people fleeing the conflict in Syria will join the 20 million forced migrants worldwide who are living in a state of prolonged displacement.'

Mr Raper says that policies allowing forced migrants, including asylum seekers, to live and work in the community, are far more humane and sustainable than detention. The report notes that the growing resistance of politicians and citizens to supporting people who have been forced to flee their homes is perhaps the main impediment to providing better humanitarian and longer-term support to these highly vulnerable populations. (refer: <http://www.redcross.org.au/72-million-people-displaced-by-conflict-disasters-and-development.aspx>)

Christmas wishes

I am among many Australians fortunate enough to have never faced the conflict, violence or disaster highlighted in this Report. But many of our fellow citizens have - some in recent times and others in earlier generations. As an Australian citizen, I feel proud that this country has provided a new home and the opportunity to start afresh for so many who have sought refuge here. And I feel humbled when I think of all the gifts I have received in return - the gift of new friendships, the sharing of cultures and histories, and the multiculturalism of modern Australia.

Australia's spirit of generosity towards those seeking refuge is written in our history. So is the contribution of generations of migrants who have been just as generous in building up this nation and making it their home. With the good will that characterises the Season of Christmas, we might consider how we can bring that proud history back to life. Think of how the children and families in Australia's detention camps share intimately in the story of the Holy Family. We might pray that the spirit of Christmas will have a transforming influence in the lives of our political leaders - so that they will respond with compassion to individuals and families who now find themselves enduring prolonged indefinite detention on Nauru and Manus Island.

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

John Ferguson



Current Issues / Resources

STATEMENT: BISHOPS SUPPORT ROYAL COMMISSION

On 12 November, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference issued a statement supporting the announcement by Prime Minister Julia Gillard of a royal commission into child sex abuse. 'This is a serious issue not just for the Catholic Church but for the whole community,' the statement says. 'As

Catholic bishops and as individuals we share the feelings of horror and outrage which all decent people feel when they read the reports of sexual abuse and allegations of cover-ups. Over the past 20 years, there have been major developments in the way the Church responds to victims, deals with perpetrators and puts in place preventive measures. In addition, there is a much greater general awareness of the

issue of paedophilia in the broader community. Sexual abuse of children is not confined to the Catholic Church. Tragically, it occurs in families, churches, community groups, schools and other organisations. We believe a royal commission will enable an examination of the issues associated with child abuse nationally, and identify measures for better preventing and responding to child abuse in our society.’ To read the full statement, visit: <http://www.catholic.org.au>

NEW BOOK: ‘A DECISION TO DISCRIMINATE’
The new publication of ‘concerned Australians’ is entitled ‘A Decision to Discriminate - Aboriginal Disempowerment in the Northern Territory’. It provides an important historical record that focuses on the Senate Committee Inquiry into the Stronger Futures legislation. It shows how the Government decision-making process chose to ignore the views and ideas expressed by many Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory communities in much the same way as has happened since colonisation. It uses quotes as a way of recording what the people have said and is an invaluable resource for students of Aboriginal history and human rights law, particularly those with an interest in the continuing struggles of Aboriginal people.
. Cost: \$15 + \$5 packaging and postage. To order, visit <http://www.concernedaustralians.com.au/> or contact info@concernedaustralians.com.au

2013 EVENT: AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL
In December 2013 the Australian Catholic Bishops will host the Australian Catholic Youth Festival from Thursday, 5 to Saturday, 7 December at ACU in East Melbourne. You are invited to begin promoting and preparing for the Festival and supporting young people from your community to attend. The Festival will invite students in the age group from Year 9 to young adults aged 25 years from schools, universities, youth groups, parishes, groups and movements throughout Australia. The Festival aims to celebrate the communion between God and humanity that the Catholic Church signifies and makes present in Australia. It will also be a unique listening opportunity for Church leaders to encounter and engage in constructive dialogue with young

people. For further information, visit the youth festival website at www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au, email youthministry@catholic.org.au or call (07) 3109 6806

CARITAS GLOBAL GIFT
This year you can help build a world where everyone lives in dignity and peace by giving a Caritas Global Gift. At Christmas we are more acutely reminded of God’s love - a love that knows no bounds. It’s a love above all for those who are poor, excluded and marginalised. Through our work in vulnerable communities, Caritas aims to put that love into action. This year you can play your part in our work by offering your family and friends a Caritas gift like clean water or a healthy meal. There are six gifts to choose from, ranging from \$10 to \$200. To find out more and to make a donation, visit <http://www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts>

ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE CHRISTMAS APPEAL
Now is the time to act. The current political climate in Australia is at its toughest and most turbulent for asylum seekers. Your donation to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre’s Christmas Appeal will help provide vital services to asylum seekers. The ASRC provides 25 programs to over 1000 asylum seekers with 33 staff and 740 volunteers. They rely on community donations and philanthropy for 95 per cent of their funding. To donate, visit: <http://www.givenow.com.au/asrcchristmasappeal>

JESUIT COMMUNICATIONS FUNDRAISING
Jesuit Communications is running its Christmas Raffle to help in its production *Eureka Street* and to ensure it remains free of charge. Prizes for the 2012 Christmas Raffle are: 1st - A \$7,000 Coles Myer Gift Card; 2nd - A \$2,000 card; 3rd - A \$1,000 card; 4th - A \$500 card. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 13 December 2012 and all winners will be notified. Should you wish to obtain a book of raffle tickets or for further information, visit <http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=36580>

STATEMENT: WAKE UP CALL ON HOMELESSNESS
The Australian Council of Social Service has

expressed alarm at new Census data showing an increase in the level of homelessness in Australia and called for a concerted national effort to address the worsening problem. The ABS has shown the rate of homelessness in Australia was 49 persons for every 10,000 persons enumerated in the 2011 Census, up 8% from 45 persons in 2006. 'Clearly we are not doing enough to deal with homelessness. The latest figures are a wake-up call that one of the principal ways to deal with homelessness is to take measures to tackle the nations' affordable housing crisis, which is causing so much strain and forcing people into poverty,' said ACOSS CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie. 'It's also a sign of the extent of strain being experienced by community support services, especially those supporting women escaping violence; young people, including those leaving care; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. About three quarters of the increase in the overall homelessness estimate to 2011 was accounted for by people who were born overseas,' she said. To find out more visit: <http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=dc75dd1bc5b82d27349ef82b9&id=bb213bf074&e>

EARTHCARE RESOURCE: 'PURE GIFT'

'Pure Gift' is Catholic Earthcare Australia's new resource, offering a range of prayerful exercises and contemplative reflections based on themes contained within an animated clip. Material is intended to assist the user in the growth and understanding of their emerging ecological consciousness. It is hoped that these exercises might provide moments of insight and transformation to stimulate and sustain the movement for ecological conversion at a personal and communal level. 'Pure Gift' has a flexible design and offers a selection of options for the user within each theme. The material is suited to use by individuals, small groups and for classroom use in the senior secondary context. To access, visit: <http://www.catholicearthcare.org.au/resources.html>

PETITION: END THE DETENTION OF CHILDREN!

Australian Young Christian Students (YCS) are calling on the Prime Minister and Australian Parliament to uphold rights of Child Convention & end the detention of children.

Around 590 Children are currently locked up within Australia in Immigration Detention, and with the recent amendments to the Migration Act their wellbeing is set to get even worse. The Parliament has not ensured that a guardian for the children will be sent offshore, so there is no-one who can advocate for their needs. No legal safeguards have been put in place to ensure their safety and, as high school students of the same age, members of the YCS have serious concerns for their wellbeing. To support them in their call for the rights of vulnerable children and young people, visit the petition website and lend your support: <http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/australian-parliament-uphold-rights-of-child-convention-end-the-detention-of-children>

ROOTS OF PEACE CAMPAIGN AGAINST LANDMINES

Roots of Peace is a humanitarian organisation dedicated to eradicating landmines worldwide and rehabilitating the land to make it productive again. Its roots are in the heart of California's agricultural grape growing region. With the generous support of the entire California wine industry, Roots of Peace aims to turn 'Mines into Vines', which helps innocent farmers and families avoid a lethal harvest of bloodshed for future generations. For a report on the organisation's visit to the Vatican, see <http://www.rootsofpeace.org/events/2011/05/mines-to-vines-on-sacred-sites.html#more>. Their website is at: <http://www.rootsofpeace.org>.

CHILOUT CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR CHILDREN IN DETENTION

Today approximately 664 children are locked in Australian detention centres, some with no parent or relative with them. Some have serious disabilities, and great needs that are not being met in the detention environment. Children detained may not celebrate Christmas, but it's still a time of coming together to share and to think about peace and giving. ChilOut wants to send packages of love to kids who are in detention. Go to <http://www.chilout.org/donate> to make a secure donation. Leave your email address when you donate and we will send you a card to print and pass on to your Christmas friend. Then spread the word - email your friends or tell them on Facebook.

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>)

SERIES PAPER - 'WHERE DO WE STAND? WITH WHOM DO WE STAND?'

Paper no. 73 in the ACSJC's Catholic Social Justice Series is titled 'Where Do We Stand? With Whom Do We Stand? People with disability and the call of Jesus'. In it, authors Patrick McArdle and Patricia Mowbray explore the issue of disability and ask what we as Christians are called to do for our brothers and sisters. Too often, they say, those who live with a disability are ignored or shunned by our society. In fact, the authors argue, we all live in precarious and vulnerable situations and unless we appreciate and confront our own vulnerabilities and are willing to enter into true relationship with those living with disability, we will struggle to recognise them as fully human in the way Jesus did. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

ORDER NOW! - 2013 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2013 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. The Diary provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included. This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. A great Christmas gift. Diaries will be available in November. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

LAUNCH OF THE 2012-2013 SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Addresses delivered at the launch of the 2012-2013 Social Justice Statement by the Dr John Falzon, Executive Officer of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Australia, Dr Lisa Bridle, Senior Consultant at the Community Resource Unit in Brisbane, and Bishop Christopher Saunders are available for download on the ACSJC homepage: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2012-2013 - STILL TAKING ORDERS

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, Audio version of the Statement, Community and Student Resources, PowerPoint Presentation - now 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 that was 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. It also draws on the 2011 CSSA McCosker oration by Sr Anne Derwin RSJ. The paper's principal theme is St Mary's unswerving 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 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 - 25 DECEMBER. CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S ADVENT CALENDAR. Learn, pray and act each day during Advent. There are 3 versions to choose from: online, PowerPoint or an iPhone app. Get your thought for the day on the train or bus - even in the queue at the shops. Featuring inspiring stories, photos and reflections from Caritas' partners and projects around the world, this is a great alternative (or addition!) to the usual chocolate filled calendars. To view the calendar online, or download the PowerPoint or the iPhone app, go to: <http://www.caritas.org.au/advent>.

3 DECEMBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY. This is a United Nations sanctioned day that aims to promote an understanding of people with disability and encourage support for their dignity, rights and well-being. Resources and events: <http://www.idpwd.com.au/>.

4 - 17 JANUARY. EAST TIMOR - SOLIDARITY JOURNEY. The purpose of this journey is to gain insights into the realities of life for our poorest neighbours as well as to witness the work of the Church as it meets the material, pastoral and spiritual needs of the communities served by its presence. The journey will include opportunities to visit church orphanages, schools, health clinics and training centres. A core element of the journey, the immersion experience, will be to travel to the remote and isolated village of Soibada, sister parish of St Mary's Coomera to engage with local people in a village context to experience life as they live it. Contact: info@ggrconnections.com.au or 0400 417 988. Web: <http://www.ggrconnections.com.au/east-timor/>.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

1 DECEMBER. MEN'S BREAKFAST: 'WHY FATHERS MATTER'. Speaker: Kevin Andrews MP, Federal Member for Menzies, Shadow Minister for Families, Housing and Human

Services. An event hosted by The Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community in partnership with CatholicLIFE (Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn), Young Men of God, MenALIVE and Choicez Media. Cost: \$30. 7.30 to 9.30 am, Hotel Kurrajong, 8 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: 0404 805 082 or tim@clonakilla.com.au. Web: http://www.faithresources.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=7.

10 DECEMBER. FILM SCREENING: 'LOVE CRIMES OF KABUL'. Amnesty International, in association with the Kingdom of the Netherlands group, is holding this screening in conjunction with Human Rights Day. The film follows the story of three women who have been jailed for 'moral crimes', such as adultery or fleeing home to escape sexual abuse. 6.00 to 9.00 pm, Canberra Museum and Gallery, corner London Circuit and Civic Square, Canberra. Contact: actaia@amnesty.org.au. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/home/event/30398/>.

NEW SOUTH WALES

1 DECEMBER. WEST PAPUAN INDEPENDENCE DAY PROTEST OUTSIDE INDONESIAN CONSULATE. This protest will be bipartisan and would welcome other groups and political parties to attend. It is organised by the Democratic Labor Party NSW Branch. Due to the area, limited numbers requested, so one or two representative from groups would be great. This will be a peaceful non violent protest. Anyone causing problems will be referred to the NSW Police. 8.30 to 10.00 am, corner of Cooper Street and Maroubra Road, Maroubra. Contact: anthony.june@bigpond.com or 0408 699 615.

1 DECEMBER. SEMINAR: 'DIRECT FROM PALESTINE: GAZA AND BEYOND - HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES'. Speaker: Shawan Jabarin, Human rights advocate from Palestine, Director General of Al-Haq, Ramallah. A rare opportunity to hear an eloquent spokesperson for human rights, and peace with justice,

speak on the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This is the keynote address of a human rights conference presented by Sydney Peace Foundation and the Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine. No cost. 12.30 to 5.00 pm, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, Arundel Street, Glebe, near Parramatta Road footbridge. Contact: events@coalitionforpalestine.org or 0418 978697, RSVP essential. Web: <http://coalitionforpalestine.org/>.

2 DECEMBER. DIOCESAN DISABILITY INCLUSION MASS. The aim of the Mass is to help us to recognise the dignity of each person made in the image and likeness of God and to affirm the importance of welcoming everyone regardless of ability or disability, to recognise the need of everyone to be able to fully take their place in all aspects of parish life and celebration. The presence of people with disability and their families can bring a perspective into parish life that is invaluable. The spirit of Christian hospitality encourages us to invite people with a disability to participate as fully as they wish. This may mean a willingness to 'go a little further', to change or adapt in order ensure that all feel welcome in our parishes. If you would like to take part in this Mass please contact: 0417 279 529. 9.30 am, St Paul's Church, Albion Park. Web: <http://dow.org.au/news/news-and-media/item/disability-inclusion-mass>.

3 DECEMBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY. There will be an Expo, fun activities, inspirational speeches, entertainment, lucky door prizes and a barbecue lunch. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, Maitland Town Hall, High Street, Maitland. Contact: margaret.haskal@maiwel.com.au. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/bulletin-notice>.

3 DECEMBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (IDPWD) CELEBRATION. Free activities will include service information stalls, stage entertainment, short films, and face painting. Break Thru People Solutions will also be putting on a BBQ. 10.00 am to 2.00 pm, Church Street Mall, Parramatta. Contact: 02 9806 5599. Web: <http://www.communitynet>.

tricommm.org.au/index.php/events/community-events/60004-international-day-of-people-with-disability-idpwd-celebration-3-dec-2012-parramatta.

3 DECEMBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (IDPWD) 'LIGHT RHYTHM PLAYS'. A music, sound and interactive media performance. No cost. 9.30 am, Memorial Hall, St Marys Corner Community and Cultural Precinct, corner Mamre Road and Great Western Highway, St Marys. Web: <http://www.communitynet.tricommm.org.au/images/stories/12%20Light%20Play.pdf>.

4 DECEMBER. 'BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA' FILM SCREENING. This awe-inspiring documentary explores the possible answers to this question and promotes awareness of refugee rights by giving a voice to those that are so often silenced. It was produced by young filmmaker and human rights lawyer Jessie Taylor. 6.30 pm, Coffs Harbour Neighbourhood Centre, Earle Street, Coffs Harbour. Contact: amnestycoffscoast@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/30385/>.

4 DECEMBER. ACCESS AND EQUITY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION. All Australians should be able to access Government programs and services equitably, regardless of cultural, linguistic or religious background. FECCA, in conjunction with Auburn Diversity Services Inc., is holding this community consultation to hear about the community's experiences in accessing Government services, for example through Centrelink, Job Services Australia, Medicare and other organisations.

Discussion areas will include: employment; health; education and training; child and family support services and other programs and services. Feedback from the consultation will be provided directly to Australian Government agencies and will also inform FECCA's advocacy work for the coming year. 9.00 am to 12.00 pm, 17 Macquarie Road, Auburn. Contact: katrina@fecca.org.au or 02 6282 5755, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.fecca.org.au/news/upcoming-events/upcoming-events/item/291-access-and-equity-consultation-auburn>.

5 DECEMBER. AUSTRALIA FOR UN REFUGEE AGENCY (UNHCR) CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER: 'RAISE THE ROOF FOR REFUGEES'. This fundraising event to build more homes for refugees in Dollo Ado, Ethiopia, the world's second biggest refugee camp. Includes guest MC, ABC Radio's Adam Spencer and special guests; African drumming and dance; auction and raffle, and lots more. One transitional shelter for a family costs \$800, help to reach the target to build 100 homes! Cost: \$50. 6.00 to 9.00 pm, Barnet Room, Customs House, 31 Alfred Street, Circular Quay. Book: <http://www.eventbrite.com.au/event/4847223175/>. Contact: 1300 361 288. Web: <http://sdc.groupsie.com/calendar/event/2012/12/5/352783>.

5 DECEMBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (IDPWD) EVENT. Showcase of local artists with a disability. Service provider information, including opportunity to discuss person-centred and lifespan approaches, individualised self-managed funding, post-school transition and many more. Photo booth, face painting and airbrush tattooing. Art workshop on ceramics. Artist Demonstration, Glenda Rawlinson, a local artist living with Parkinson's, will create amazing wire sculptures. 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, Bankstown Arts Centre, 5 Olympic Parade, Bankstown. Contact: 02 9707 9464 or deedee.sanjose@bankstown.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.supportservices.org.au/noticeboard/file?id=b2d944ccd2238646d9d84ca6753d9ef6&file=file&sessid=dde69c773c56f7fa61df0a05a2e409aa>.

5 - 9 DECEMBER. GREYSTANES DISABILITY SERVICES ART EXHIBITION: 'HORIZONS - INSPIRED ART'. Greystanes Disability Services is holding its annual art exhibition featuring the works of people with disabilities. This is made possible through the generous support of Katoomba Fine Art, ClubGRANTS funding from the Katoomba RSL, Blue Mountains City Council, Ray White Blackheath, Whirlwind Print, Art Scene and Lotza Signs. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Katoomba Fine Art, 98 Lurline Street, Katoomba. Contact: 02 4784 4541. Web: <http://www.communitynet.tricomm.org.au/index.php/events/community-events/59931-greystanes-disability-services-art-exhibition-5-9-dec-2012-katoomba>.

6 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PUBLIC FORUM. Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory continue to resist the NT Intervention, and the policy framework is in deep crisis. Speakers: Rosalie Kunoth-Monks OAM, Alyawarr elder; Amelia Pangarte Kunoth-Monks, NT youth leader living on the BasicsCard; Jeff McMullen CEO (Honorary) Ian Thorpe's Foundation for Youth. 6.30 pm, Tom Mann Theatre, 136 Chalmers Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 0449 646 593. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/30474/>.

6, 8 DECEMBER. PERFORMANCE: 'TREE OF LIFE: JOURNEY THROUGH THE EYES OF REFUGEE CHILDREN'. You will see true life stories of young refugees from Iran, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Liberia and Sudan currently attending Evans High School, Evans Intensive English Centre, Doonside Technology High School and Chifley College Mt Druitt. The performance represents a journey of healing and recovery for the young cast. For audiences, it is a powerful insight into the refugee experience as told by the young people who experienced it. Cost: \$25; concession \$15; school groups \$5.

6 December: 10.00 am and 12.30 pm.

8 December: 7.30 pm.

Riverside Theatre, corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta. Bookings: 02 8839 3398. Web: <http://www.communitynet.tricomm.org.au/index.php/events/community-events/59834-tree-of-life-journey-through-the-eyes-of-refugee-children-6-a-8-dec-2012-parramatta>.

7 DECEMBER. STRUT THE STREETS FOR AIME (AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MENTORING EXPERIENCE). AIME need 1,087 strutters to bring the world record home to Australia. If AIME raises \$200,000, they will be able to deliver their program in SA and WA in 2013. Help in ensuring the day when Indigenous kids finish school at the same rate as every Australian child. It will finish at Ivy Pool Bar with an after party featuring leading Australian performers, including Bluejuice. 12.00 pm, Martin Place, Sydney Web: <http://aimementoring.com/>.

7 DECEMBER. WORLDCHANGERS FAIR TRADE AND ETHICAL MARKET. WorldChangers market brings together business, organisations

communities around the world break out of the cycle of poverty. Around 35 traders will represent communities from all over the world and there will also be live entertainment, children's activities, an interactive nativity, rides and international food. 5.30 to 9.00 pm, Wollongong Church of Christ, 25 O'Briens Road, Figtree. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/calendar/2012-12-07>.

7 DECEMBER. STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DAY: 'LANTERNS FOR PEACE'. There will be information stalls, kids' activities and swimming, lantern making and floating in remembrance of victims of domestic violence. Show your support and say NO to domestic violence. No cost. 6.00 to 8.30 pm, Mt Druitt Community Pools, Mt Druitt. Contact: 02 9677 1962 or community@washhouse.org.au. Web: <http://www.communitynet.tricomm.org.au/index.php/events/community-events/59796-lanterns-for-peace-stop-domestic-violence-day-7-dec-2012-mt-druitt>.

7 DECEMBER. BRIDGE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER: ART SALE. A special Christmas fundraiser to assist the Foundation continue its work, and to benefit the artists from the Aboriginal Owned Art Centre at Yuendumu in the NT. Featuring a large range of 30x30cm stretched canvas at \$170ea especially selected for the occasion in a wide range of colours and style. Plus Tali will gift 10% of any other purchases to the Foundation. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Tali Gallery, 667 Darling Street, Rozelle. Contact: info@taligallery.com.au. Web: <http://www.communitynet.tricomm.org.au/index.php/events/community-events/59852-bridge-for-asylum-seekers-foundation-christmas-fundraiser-7-dec-2012-rozelle>.

8 DECEMBER. AUSTRALIAN FAIR TRADE AND INVESTMENT NETWORK (AFTINET) FUNDRAISER: 'ROD QUANTOCK LIVE COMEDY NIGHT'. AFTINET presents a special night of comedy to highlight their campaign warning about the secretive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement that has its next round of negotiations in Auckland, New Zealand. Cost: \$25. 7.30 pm, The Red Rattler, Marrickville. Book: <http://aftinet.org.au/cms/>.

9 DECEMBER. SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM

BOOK LAUNCH: 'WILLIAM COOPER: GENTLE WARRIOR'. Aboriginal Elder, William Cooper, stood up for the rights of Indigenous Australians and against the Jewish oppression in Europe in the 1930's. This book, by Barbara Miller, chronicles those times and comes through to the continuing battle for Aboriginal rights and on to the current honouring of William Cooper, both here in Australia and in Israel. Museum tour 12.00 noon. Launch 2.30 to 3.00 pm, Sydney Jewish Museum, 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst. Contact: rsvp@sjm.com.au or 02 9360 7999. Web: <http://www.xt3.com/event/view.php?id=2253>.

10 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS. This will be the 25th annual Human Rights Awards, hosted by the Australian Human Rights Commission. Nominees in ten categories are up for important awards in the fields of law, literature, community, business, young people and more. The host will be television and radio comedian, the chaser's Craig Reucassel. Cost: \$60-150. 12.00 to 3.00 pm, Hilton Hotel, 488 George Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 9284 9779 or hrawards@humanrights.gov.au. Web: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/hrawards/tickets.html>.

13 DECEMBER. EDMUND RICE CENTRE AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE: 'TOPIC: COAL SEAM GAS: A CLEANER FUTURE?' What could be the outcome of ambitious and unrestricted exploration for coal seam gas? Facilitator: Chitra Bedekar. Cost: \$5 or \$2 depending on ability to pay. 3.00 to 5.00 pm Afternoon Tea, 5.30 pm ERC Christmas Party, The Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, near Flemington Station, Homebush West. Contact: eco.justice@erc.org.au or 02 8762 4200.

13 DECEMBER. FECCA ACCESS AND EQUITY CONSULTATION. The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia is seeking feedback on experiences with accessing government services. The feedback gathered will be provided directly to federal government agencies and will help FECCA to actively lobby for change. Consultation topics will include employment, health, education and training, family and child services etc. HUB Youth Centre, 39-41 Vale Street, Cooma. Contact: tanya@fecca.org.au or 02 6282 5755.

Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/n/event.php>.

13 DECEMBER. COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE CENTRE: AGM AND HEALTH PROMOTION FORUM. This evening celebrates Jailbreak's innovative collaborations through radio with prisoners and ex-prisoners in the creation of engaging, peer led health promotion. Artists and speakers: Health Minister Jillian Skinner, Mc Trey, Mc Rafa, Carl Stewart, Kat Armstrong, Robert Barco, Bruce Wright. Hosted By Kate Pinnock, coordinator of the Jailbreak Radio Program. 4.00 pm, Redfern Community Centre, 29-53 Hugo Street, Redfern. Contact: info@crcnsw.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.crcnsw.org.au/images/events/agminvite2012.pdf>.

15 DECEMBER. FAIRTRADE AND FUNDRAISER: TWILIGHT MARKETS. Includes: handmade goods, Fair Trade gifts, pre-loved items, food, drinks and live music. All proceeds go to TEAR Australia to fight poverty and injustice (<http://www.tear.org.au/>). 4.00 to 8.00 pm, Summer Hill Church, corner of Smith and Henson Streets, Summer Hill. Contact: 02 9798 5300 or office@summerhillchurch.org.au. Web: <http://www.summerhillchurch.org.au/>.

16 - 18, 21 - 22 JANUARY. COLUMBAN MISSION INSTITUTE SUMMER SCHOOL INTENSIVE: INTRODUCING ISLAM. Presented by Rev Dr Patrick J McInerney, Columban Missionary Priest, Coordinator, Columban Mission Institute's Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations, member, ACBC's Australian Catholic Council for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations. This course unit will provide an in-depth introduction to Islam including key persons, events and movements in the history of Islam, and central elements of Islamic faith and practice. Muslim guest lecturers. Cost: various. Contact: 02 9352 8002 or patrickmcinerney@columban.org.au, RSVP by 14 December. Web: <http://www.columban.org.au/assets/files/enews/columbans-mission-studies-islam-flyer-course-outline-CIS-2013.pdf>.

25 - 27 JANUARY. WOMEN'S TIME: 'LOOKING FOR MORE IN YOUR LIFE?' A time for coming together with other women to spend time in

sharing, reflection and prayer. Facilitators: Rebecca Devitt, Srs Therese Patterson and Ann Morrison. Cost: \$50 or donation. Williwa Street Lane, Parish Centre, Portland. Contact: 02 6355 5236 or tprsj@bigpond.com. Web: <http://www.bathurst.catholic.org.au/?i=494&diocesan-diary>.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

4 - 5 NOVEMBER. TRAINING: 'ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNING - EFFECTIVE SKILLS AND STRATEGIES'. This workshop will provide an opportunity to plan an effective campaign around issues affecting clients, community or organisation. The training includes campaign planning, knowing the best way to get your issue up in parliament, preparing an advocacy tool kit, writing a media release, negotiating for best outcomes and putting together a lobbying kit. Cost: \$100-200. 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, Darwin. Contact: janine@ntcoss.org.au or 08 8948 2665, RSVP by 30 November. Web: <http://www.ntcoss.org.au/event/advocacy-campaigning-effective-skills-and-strategies>.

QUEENSLAND

1, 2 DECEMBER. FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS MARKET. A culturally global event hosted locally in an air-conditioned venue. An opportunity to buy unique gift items this Christmas for the whole family made by people now receiving a fair wage - thanks to fair trade, including home wares, chocolate, coffee, toys, clothing, accessories, jewellery, etc. 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School, 11 Ruthven Street, Corinda (enter via Harrowby Street). Contact: qldfairtrade@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.qldfairtrade.org.au/markets/>.

1, 8 DECEMBER: 'ARIA ANGELS - NURTURING FAMILY SPIRITUALITY'. Reaching out to families before and after Baptism, this is a special time for children - birth to 5 yrs with parents and grandparents. Fun-filled sessions aim to nurture spirituality in families through the joy of singing games, rhymes, art, dance, stories and prayer.

1 December: 9.00 to 10.30 am, St Matthews Parish, Loganholme, 180 Bryants Road, Cornubia. Contact: 0400 488 221 or

pa.woodridge@bne.catholic.net.au.
8 December: 9.30 to 11.00 am, St Rita's
Parish, 37 Benfer Road, Victoria Point.
Contact: 07 3207 9177 or pa.victoriapoint@
bne.catholic.net.au.
Web: [http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/
index.asp?pgid=11638&cid=7466&id=3490](http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11638&cid=7466&id=3490).

**5 DECEMBER. SUNSHINE COAST
RECONCILIATION GROUP CALOUNDRA
(SCRG) CALOUNDRA FILM SCREENING:
'FANTOME ISLAND'**. This film is the moving
story of Joe Eggmolesse, who at the age of
seven in 1945 was removed from his family
and confined in an Indigenous leper colony on
an island off the coast of North Queensland
where he was incarcerated for the next
ten years. Cost: \$5. 5.00 pm, Kabbarli, 54B
William Street, Caloundra. Contact: jenny.
tony@bigpond.com or 0409 577 812, RSVP by 3
December.

**5 - 7 DECEMBER. NATIONAL INDIGENOUS
HEALTH CONFERENCE: 'MANY PATHWAYS,
ONE OUTCOME'**. This conference is designed
to bring together both government and
non-government agencies who are working
in the field of Indigenous health with the
belief that working together can close the
gap between the state of Indigenous Health
as compared to the health of mainstream
Australians. Speakers include representatives
of the Kotahitanga Whanau Ora Collective - a
network of Maori Health, Social Services and
Education providers which provide services to
more than 20,000 people and has embarked
on a challenging journey to transform the way
it delivers services to families through a new
family-centred model of care. Cost: various.
Watermark Hotel, Gold Coast. Contact:
admin@indigenoushealth.net. Web: [http://
www.indigenoushealth.net/](http://www.indigenoushealth.net/).

**12 DECEMBER. BOOK LAUNCH: 'A DECISION
TO DISCRIMINATE'**. Graeme Mundine invites
you to the Brisbane launch of 'A Decision to
Discriminate.' This 116 page book relates
to Aboriginal Disempowerment in the
Northern Territory and presents a wide range
of statements on the Northern Territory
intervention and the subsequent Stronger
Futures legislation. Guests: Aunty Lilla Watson,
outstanding leader, teacher and advocate;

Les Malezer, Co-Chair National Congress of
Australia's First Peoples; etc. Sponsored
by Amnesty International QLD and ANTaR
Queensland. 5.30 pm, Kuril Dhagan, State
Library of Queensland, Grey Street, South
Brisbane. Contact: 0408 701 906, RSVP by 11
December. Web: [http://www.amnesty.org.au/
qld/event/30572/](http://www.amnesty.org.au/qld/event/30572/).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1 DECEMBER. WORLD AIDS DAY MASS.
Principal Celebrant: Archbishop Philip Wilson.
There are about 20,000 people in Australia
infected with HIV - 1,000 in SA. 5.45 to 7.00
pm. St Francis Xavier Cathedral. Web: [http://
www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/news-and-
events/events](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/news-and-events/events).

**2 DECEMBER. FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT
CELEBRATING THE TRUE MEANING OF
CHRISTMAS: 'CELEBRATE EMMANUEL'**.
Entertainment includes: Burundi Choir,
Matthew Baluyot, Tyndale Children's choir,
Influencers Church Band, Black Candy
Christian Band, Voice for Christ (Mater Christi
Parish), Children's nativity scene, Santa,
Clowns and free Christmas gift bags. 12.00
to 3.00 pm, corner Gawler Place and Rundle
Mall, Adelaide. Contact Catholic School of
Evangelisation: 08 8382 7257 or 08 8339 2573.
Web: [http://www.cathoyouthadelaide.org.au/
media/files/5180.pdf](http://www.cathoyouthadelaide.org.au/media/files/5180.pdf).

**7 DECEMBER. FORUM: 'DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR WOMEN'**. This
forum will consider the gender implications
of insecure employment in relation to equal
opportunity objectives and relevant public
policies including education and social welfare,
industrial relations, and the representation
of women in insecure work within the union
movement and other organisations. Presented
by Economic Security4Women. No cost. 12.30
to 4.00 pm, Public Schools Club, 207 East
Terrace, Adelaide. Contact: policyadvisor@
security4women.org.au or 0423 198 567,
RSVP by 4 December. Web: [http://www.
security4women.org.au/news/events/forum-
on-gender-pay-and-workforce-equity](http://www.security4women.org.au/news/events/forum-on-gender-pay-and-workforce-equity).

**9 DECEMBER. CONCERNED AUSTRALIANS
BOOK LAUNCH: 'A DECISION**

TO DISCRIMINATE, ABORIGINAL DISEMPOWERMENT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY’. This will be held on International Human Rights Day. Speakers: Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra OAM; and Rosalie Kunoth Monks OAM. The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) with individual donors and in conjunction with SA Unions, the Josephite Sisters Reconciliation Circle, Pilgrim Uniting Church, Mission Resourcing SA, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress SA and the United Nations Association Australia will be launching the book. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Pilgrim Hall, 12 Flinders Street, Adelaide CBD. Contact: gilbeysue@hotmail.com or 0431 112 898. Web: <http://www.concernedaustralians.com.au>.

TASMANIA

2 DECEMBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (IDPWD) FAMILY FUN DAY. Live music by local band Secret Agent , free BBQ, children’s train rides, performances, roving entertainers, face painters and much more family friendly fun! This event is being held to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the International Day of People with Disability and also to mark the conclusion of National Social Inclusion week. This event is held by Tascare Society for Children in partnership with Hobart, Clarence, Glenorchy and Kingborough City Councils. No cost. Long Point Reserve, Long Point Road, Sandy Bay. Contact: 03 6272 8265 or eo@tascare.asn.au. Web: <http://ultra106five.com/index.php/ultra106five/comdiary/C19>.

3 DECEMBER. UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA ORATION: ‘DIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA TODAY - A CONVERSATION WITH WALEED ALY’. What does ‘diversity’ really mean within the Australian community? Is the understanding of the concept changing and what are the ‘pressure points’ that influence opinions both broadly and within decision making mechanisms? What is the role of humanitarian organisations, such as Australian Red Cross, in contributing to a positive dialogue? Speaker: Waleed Aly, ABC presenter, journalist, author, lawyer and academic. 7.30 pm, University Centre Foyer, celebrating diversity with music, dance and refreshments, 8.00 pm, Stanley

Burbury Theatre, a conversation with Waleed Aly. University of Tasmania, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay. Web: <http://www.events.utas.edu.au/2012/december/2012-red-cross-oration>.

4 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK DISABILITY SUCCESS SHOWCASE. Focus will centre on individuals in the local community with ‘Ability’, who despite the limitations of their disability, have managed to operate successfully and find meaningful ways to participate and contribute to the local economy. Entertainment is designed to both celebrate International Disability Day and to provide a stage for people with disability to voice their stories. The aim is to raise local awareness around the impending growth of this sector and how many living with disability actually aim to contribute to a sustainable local economy. 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, Glenorchy Civic Centre. Contact: 0400 779 809 or jwhi8895@bigpond.net.au. Web: http://www.afairerworld.org/_Coming_events/Disability_Success_Showcase.pdf.

5 DECEMBER. ADULT FAITH FORMATION DAY: ‘SOUL SORTING IN THE SILLY SEASON’. Reflecting on life as experienced in the light of Christian Advent and Christmas. Presenter: Virginia Bourke rsj. BYO lunch. Cost: donation. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, The Emmanuel Centre, 123 Abbott Street, Newstead. Contact: 03 6334 1082. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/media/events/soul-sorting-silly-season>.

6 DECEMBER. WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM FORUM: WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE - ‘THERE ARE BETTER SOLUTIONS TO CONFLICT’. This will include presentations from guest speakers, a light lunch, a live performance; and a short video. Cost: gold coin donation. 12.30 to 2.30 pm, CWL rooms, above the crèche off Criterion Street, Hobart. Contact: mgr70303@bigpond.net.au or 03 6234 6672, RSVP by 29 November. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/tas/event/30100/>.

6 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK FILM SCREENING: ‘BONSAI PEOPLE- THE VISION OF MUHAMMAD YUNUS’. The documentary by Holly Mosher explores the power of microcredit and social business to unleash

human potential in Bangladesh. In 2006, Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank won the Nobel Peace Prize for giving microcredit loans to women. Microcredit is defined as a small financial loan given to impoverished people to help them become self employed. 'Poor people are bonsai people, there is nothing wrong with their seed - society never allowed them the space to grow.' Muhammad Yunus. Cost: \$10. 6.30 pm, UTAS Law Theatre, Sandy Bay. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/tas/event/30558/>.

12 DECEMBER. PREPARING FOR ADVENT.

Take time out from the Christmas busyness to prepare your heart and celebrate the mystery of Emmanuel, "God with Us". Cost: donation. 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, Emmanuel Spirituality Centre, 24 Hopkins Street, Moonah. Contact: 03 6273 2183. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/media/events/preparing-advent>.

VICTORIA

UNTIL 2 DECEMBER. FAIR@SQUARE FESTIVAL.

Fair@Square offers the chance to purchase products with a conscience from more than 80 fair trade and ethical stall holders. There is also an ethical fashion show, live cooking demonstrations with renowned chef of the European Ian Curley, discussions about ethical and sustainable issues, a play tent, beauty tent and living tent - where you can see how recycled items are used in the home. Free entry. 11.00 am to 6.00 pm, Federation Square, Melbourne. Contact: info@moralfairground.com.au. Web: <http://moralfairground.com.au/>.

1 DECEMBER. WOMEN LEADING CHANGE: 'MODELS OF ACTION FOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND PEACE-BUILDING'.

The Humanitarian Crisis Hub warmly invites you to join women from community organisations across Melbourne to share your successes, meet other women taking action and see how women around the world have contributed to peace. Includes a screening of *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. 1.30 to 6.30 pm, Hayden Raysmith Room, 4th Floor, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Contact: communityengagement@crisishub.org.au, RSVP

by 21 November. Web: <http://crisishub.org.au/current-events>.

4 DECEMBER. CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES BREAKFAST BRIEFING: 'THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS - FOUNDATION FOR A JUST SOCIETY?' Speaker:

Dr Mary Ann Glendon, Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard University, and former US Ambassador to the Holy See. International Human Rights is among her many research interests. Cost: \$20. 7.15 to 8.45 am, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/CDKY>, RSVP by 29 November. Contact: lucia.brick@css.org.au or 03 9287 5566. Web: http://www.css.org.au/documents/BreakfastBriefing_HumanRights_000.pdf.

5 DECEMBER. LUNCH PRESENTATION: 'WOMEN OF FAITH AND GRACE THE UNIQUE ROLE OF WOMEN IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY'. Speaker: Professor Mary Ann

Glendon, Learned Hand Professor of Law, Harvard University, former President, Pontifical Academy of the Social Sciences. Cost: \$50. 12.00 pm, Treacy College, 126 The Avenue, Parkville. Contact: 03 9926 5761 or evangelisation@cam.org.au, RSVP by 23 November. Web: http://www.opw.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1337&Itemid=36.

5 DECEMBER. ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN AUSTRALIA SYMPOSIUM: 'THE AFTERSHOCK OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT'. In association with

the Department of Economics, University of Melbourne. This symposium brings together a distinguished team of interdisciplinary specialists to report on the effects of the global economic downturn the prospects for markets, family households and the well-being of children, with special emphasis on Australia. Speakers: Professor Timothy Smeeding, Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs, La Follette School of Public Affairs and Director, Institute for Research on Poverty; Professor Bob Gregory, Australian National University; Professor John Quiggin, ARC Federation Fellow and Professor of Economics, University of Queensland; etc. No cost. 9.30 am to 5.15 pm, Old Arts Theatre B, Main Parkville Campus,

University of Melbourne. Register: http://www.economics.unimelb.edu.au/events/Academy_of_Social_Sciences_in_Australia_Symposium/home.html, by 2 December. Contact: suzie.collins@unimelb.edu.au or 03 8344 3913.

5 DECEMBER. ALBANIANS CONNECT PRESENTATION AND PANEL DISCUSSION. This event focuses on Albanian / Kosovar history and the injustices befallen on the Albanian people. Speaker: Dr. Nusret Pllana, the head Archivist for the Kosova government and author. He will be presenting two books, as well as partaking in a panel discussion with Erik Lloga OAM and Professor Peter Morgan. No cost. 6.30 pm, RMIT Kaleide Theatre, 360 Swanston Street, Melbourne. Contact: info@albaniansconnect.com, 0402 812 627 or 0417 558 510, RSVP by 29 November. Web: <http://www.albaniansconnect.com>.

6 DECEMBER. AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY LECTURE: 'HUMAN RIGHTS AND CHINA TODAY'. Speaker: Professor Mary Ann Glendon, Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, and former United States Ambassador to the Vatican. 11.00 am to 12.00 pm, Daniel Mannix Building Lecture Theatre, entrance via Young Street (off 115 Victoria Parade), Melbourne. Register: http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/our_university/events/melbourne/human_rights_and_china_today_-_professor_mary_ann_glendon/.

6 - 7 DECEMBER. CONFERENCE ON THE PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: 'I HAVE HEARD THEM CRYING OUT' (EXODUS 3:7). The conference is designed to shed light on the forces driving asylum seekers from their homes, their journey to Australia, and their reception once they arrive. This conference is organised on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference through the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office. Cost: \$110-385. St Patrick's Campus, ACU, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy. Contact: 02 6201 9848. Web: <http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au>.

7 DECEMBER. CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE HELDER CAMARA LECTURE SERIES AND DINNER. Catholic professionals are

invited to a dinner to honour Professor Mary Ann Glendon, Learned Hand Professor, Harvard University USA, first female President of the Roman Catholic Church's Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. With an after dinner address entitled: 'Religious Freedom: A Second Class Right?' 7.15 pm, Newman College, 887 Swanston Street, Parkville. Cost: \$125. Contact: 03 9926 5761 or suzanne.hermon@cam.org. Web: <http://www.cam.org.au/Portals/7/Glendon%20flyer%20dinner.pdf>.

7 DECEMBER. VOCATIONS IN AID CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION: 'PATHWAYS IN HUMANITARIAN AID AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT'. Discover potential pathways in international aid. Hear vocational stories from experienced aid workers, volunteers and local staff. Find out about competencies that are valuable in international aid work as well as recruitment, application and selection processes. Interact with and ask questions of experienced aid workers and volunteers through peer learning and mentoring sessions. Cost: \$71.50, concession: \$55. 8.45 am to 5.15 pm, William Angliss Institute Building A, Level 5 555 La Trobe Street, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9005 0808 or expo@mandalafoundation.org.au. Web: <http://www.mandalafoundation.org.au/index.php?page=via2012>.

10 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS DAY VIGIL. From dusk on Human Rights Day, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is planning a candle vigil to draw attention to the catastrophic human consequences of a nuclear war. Vigil 8.45 pm, Argyle Square, Carlton. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/human-rights-day-vigil>.

12 - 14 DECEMBER. AUSTRALASIAN BUSINESS ETHICS NETWORK CONFERENCE. This conference will examine ethical issues as they pertain to a wide range of issues, topics, and contexts including business ethics, education, employment, the Fairtrade movement, sustainability, leadership, human rights, law, corruption, corporate governance, global supply chains, ethical theory, and the future of ethics. Supported by The Bowater Trust, Deakin University. Cost: \$380, Concession \$280. Metropole Hotel, Conference Centre, 44 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Contact: enquire@

deakin.edu.au or 1300 334 733. Book: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/buslaw/management-marketing/aben/index.php>, RSVP by 1 December.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

UNTIL 25 JANUARY 2013. TJANPI DESERT WEAVERS EXHIBITION: 'DESERTS AND RIVERS'.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers is a not-for-profit social enterprise of Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council, an Aboriginal governed and directed Corporation. Out of a need for meaningful and appropriate employment, NPY members created Tjanpi to enable women on the lands to earn a regular income from selling their fibre art. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday; 10.00 am to 5.00 pm Saturday, FORM Gallery, 357 Murray Street, Perth. Web: <http://www.tjanpi.com.au/Exhibitions/Exhibitions/2012ExhibitionsUpcomingEvents.aspx>.

2 DECEMBER. FAIR TRADE CORNER AT GEORGE STREET FESTIVAL. Find Fair Trade jewellery, presents, toys, clothes, accessories and Christmas decorations. Get informed about

Fair Trade news whilst the kids are entertained through a Fair Trade quiz and other kid's activities. Come and do your Christmas shopping the ethical way this year! 12.00 to 8.00 pm, George Street, East Fremantle. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/calendar/2012-12-02>.

3 - 4 DECEMBER. INDIGENOUS BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATIONS (IBEC) CONFERENCE. Indigenous leaders, business people and researchers from across Australia will explore the exciting opportunities being opened up by Indigenous business, enterprise and corporations. Speakers: Peter Collier, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, WA Government; Ben Wyatt, Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Native Title; Jody Broun, Co-Chair, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples; Marcia Langton, Chair, Australian Indigenous Studies, University of Melbourne; etc. Cost: various. The University of Western Australia Business School, Perth. Contact: 08 6488 8561 or csi-conf-business@uwa.edu.au. Web: <http://www.business.uwa.edu.au/ibecconference>.

News Monitor

Migration excision policy 'shames us as Australians'

Two leading Catholic social justice groups condemned the Federal government's new changes to excise the Australian mainland for asylum seekers who arrive by boat. The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office said it was "gravely concerned", and the Josephite Justice Office said the changes "shame us as Australians".

NSW premier accused of putting gas revenue ahead of people

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell effectively shut people out of the democratic process by fast-tracking AGL's application to mine coal seam gas across a wide area of suburban Sydney and transferring the project to new legislation which wipes out any right of appeal, according to Discalced Carmelite Friar, Father Greg

Burke OCD, reports the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

Josephites, Vinnies plead for humanity over asylum seekers

Prominent Catholic social justice groups called on the federal government to place human life, human rights and compassion ahead of political expediency, in response to measures enacted this week to discriminate further against people fleeing to Australia for refuge.

Bono thanks Vatican for helping with debt forgiveness

U2 singer Bono travelled to the Vatican to thank the Church for its work to free the world's least developed countries from their foreign debt, enabling them to invest in education.

Asylum seeker policy change signals Panel's failure: ERC

The Edmund Rice Centre questioned the changes to asylum policy announced by the Federal Government, naming them as running in direct contradiction to what Australia is asking of other nations in our region, it said in a media statement.

Asylum seeker policy chaotic and inhumane, says priest

The coordinator of the Marist Asylum Seeker and Refugee Services said the United Nations' alarm that conditions on Nauru for asylum seekers have become "unbearable" was well founded, reported the Archdiocese of Sydney Catholic Communications.

For details click on headlines or go to cathnews.com



DECEMBER 2012

1 Sat World AIDS Day

2 Sun First Sunday of Advent
International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

3 Mon UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities
1874: Battle of the Eureka Stockade

5 Wed International Volunteer Day for Economic & Social Development

6 Thu St Nicholas (Santa Claus)

7 Fri International Civil Aviation Day
1965: Vatican II Document *Gaudium et Spes*

8 Sat 1965: Final session of Second Vatican Council

9 Sun Second Sunday of Advent
International Anti-Corruption Day

10 Mon Human Rights Day
1948: Adoption of United Nations Declaration of Human Rights
1968: Death of Thomas Merton
1992: Redfern Speech by Prime Minister Paul Keating, at launch of International Year of the World's Indigenous People

11 Tue International Mountain Day

16 Sun Third Sunday of Advent

18 Tue International Migrants Day
1894: South Australian Parliament becomes the first in Australia to give women the right to vote

19 Wed International Day for South-South Cooperation

20 Thu International Human Solidarity Day

21 Fri 1991: Dissolution of the USSR and the founding of the Commonwealth of Independent States including Russia

1993: Native Title Bill passed by the Australian Senate

23 Sun Fourth Sunday of Advent

1901: Immigration Restriction Act (White Australia Policy) enacted

1996: Wik High Court decision

25 Tue Christmas Day

30 Sun Feast of the Holy Family

1987: Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*

JANUARY 2013

1 Tue Mary, Mother of God

World Day of Prayer for Peace. Theme: 'Blessed are the peacemakers'

1901: Foundation of Commonwealth of Australia

1994: Native Title Act commenced operation

3 Thu 1977: First loans by Grameen Bank, founded by Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh

6 Sun The Epiphany of Jesus

10 Thu 1946: First UN General Assembly opens with 51 nations represented

15 Tue 1842: Mary MacKillop born in Fitzroy, Victoria

1929: Martin Luther King Jr born in Atlanta USA

20 Sun Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees

24 Thu Feast of St Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalism

25 Fri 1959: Pope John XXIII announces his intention to convoke the Second Vatican Council

26 Sat Australia Day / Survival Day

1972: Aboriginal Tent Embassy established in Canberra

27 Sun Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

UN International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

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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