



## No. 142 – February 2013

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

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

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### FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear friends,

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

Normally these briefings come from the desk of John Ferguson, the ACSJC's National Executive Officer. John is on leave at the moment and is visiting the UK. I know you will join me in wishing him an enjoyable and rewarding time - and in hoping that he copes with the severe weather that Britain is experiencing just now.

I should also let you know that the ACSJC is in the process of commissioning a new website - more on this in the Issues and Resources section of this Briefing. If all goes well, we hope to have the new site in place by the end of February.

#### **Pope Benedict's World Day of Peace Message**

On the first day of each New Year the Pope issues a Message for the Church's World Day of Peace. This year, the 46<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace,

the theme of Pope Benedict's Message is *Blessed are the Peacemakers*.

The full text of Pope Benedict's World Day of Peace Message is available at the Vatican website (refer: [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/messages/peace/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_mes\\_20121208\\_xlvi-world-day-peace\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20121208_xlvi-world-day-peace_en.html).)

The communiqué from the Vatican comments that Pope Benedict's message 'will encourage everyone to take responsibility with regard to peace-building'. (refer: [http://www.vis.va/vissolr/index.php?vi=en&dl=9e0a3f5e-ca19-460a-94b2-500400e08786&dl\\_t=text/xml&dl\\_a=y&ul=1&ev=1](http://www.vis.va/vissolr/index.php?vi=en&dl=9e0a3f5e-ca19-460a-94b2-500400e08786&dl_t=text/xml&dl_a=y&ul=1&ev=1))

#### **'Blessed Are the Peacemakers'**

This year's message reminds us that our commitment and our ability to pursue peace flow from the inner peace we experience through our relationship with Christ. This inner peace impels us to go beyond ourselves to put into practice our belief in the dignity of every person, created in God's image and endowed with fundamental rights and responsibilities.

*In every person the desire for peace is an essential aspiration which coincides in a certain way with the desire for a full, happy and successful human life. (#1)*

The Pope notes that in these times, marked by globalisation and ongoing violent conflicts and threats of war, there is need for a shared commitment to work for the common good and holistic development of all people. He affirms the many different efforts at peacemaking around the world and points to these as testament to all people's desire for peace, and our need of the peace which is God's gift.

*All of this led me to draw inspiration for this Message from the words of Jesus Christ: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Mt 5:9). (#1)*

## Context

Pope Benedict links this year's message to two significant events whose 50th anniversaries occur this year. One is the Second Vatican Council:

*Fifty years after the beginning of the Second Vatican Council, which helped to strengthen the Church's mission in the world, it is heartening to realize that Christians, as the People of God in fellowship with him and sojourning among mankind, are committed within history to sharing humanity's joys and hopes, grief and anguish, as they proclaim the salvation of Christ and promote peace for all. (#1)*

The second anniversary is of Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, which urged all people to help build a world that respects human dignity and is directed toward the common good. That message is still needed today as selfishness and injustice give rise to inequality and conflict.

*It is alarming to see hotbeds of tension and conflict caused by growing instances of inequality between rich and poor, by the prevalence of a selfish and individualistic mindset which also finds expression in an unregulated financial capitalism. (#1)*

## Gospel Beatitude

Several times the Pope refers to peace as a gift of God and the result of human effort.

*Jesus' beatitude tells us that peace is both a messianic gift and the fruit of human effort. In effect, peace presupposes a humanism open to transcendence. (#2)*

The beatitudes proclaimed by Jesus (Mt 5:3-12 and Lk 6:20-23) are not just moral exhortations:

*Rather, the blessedness of which the beatitudes speak consists in the fulfilment of a promise made to all those who allow themselves to be guided by the requirements of truth, justice and love. (#2)*

Continuing this theme, the Pope refers to *Pacem in Terris* to emphasise this important point.

*Peace concerns the human person as a whole, and it involves complete commitment. It is peace with God through a life lived according to his will. It is interior peace with oneself, and exterior peace with our neighbours and all creation. Above all, as Blessed John XXIII wrote ... it entails the building up of a coexistence based on truth, freedom, love and justice. (#3)*

Peace is possible when we are aware of and work with the spiritual call to peace and put it into practice by working to build a better world.

*Peace is not a dream or something utopian; it is possible. Our gaze needs to go deeper, beneath superficial appearances and phenomena, to discern a positive reality which exists in human hearts, since every man and woman has been created in the image of God and is called to grow and contribute to the building of a new world. (#3)*

## Peacemakers love, defend and promote life in its fullness

The Pope names all people who respect life as peacemakers.

*True peacemakers, then, are those who love, defend and promote human life in all its dimensions, personal, communitarian and transcendent. Life in its fullness is the height of peace. (#4)*

This includes those who protect life from its beginnings, in its relationships and in the social structures created to further the development of all people. 'How could one claim to bring about peace', he asks, 'without defending the life of those who are weakest, beginning with the unborn?'

Pope Benedict also affirms several fundamental human rights. One is the right to religious freedom - not only freedom *from* restrictions on religious practice but also freedom *for* bearing witness to one's religion. Another is the right to work, increasingly under threat from a concept of development that 'is thought to depend principally on completely free markets'.

## **A new model of development economics**

On a global scale, building peace necessitates creating a new model of economic development. The Pope gives an outline of what this new economic model might look like.

*... peacemakers are those who establish bonds of fairness and reciprocity with their colleagues, workers, clients and consumers. They engage in economic activity for the sake of the common good and they experience this commitment as something transcending their self-interest, for the benefit of present and future generations. Thus they work not only for themselves, but also to ensure for others a future and a dignified employment. (#5)*

The Pope also signals the importance of food security and the role humans play in managing its production and distribution.

*The issue of food security is once more central to the international political agenda, as a result of interrelated crises, including sudden shifts in the price of basic foodstuffs, irresponsible behaviour by some economic actors and insufficient control on the part of governments and the international community. (#5)*

## **Education for a culture of peace: the role of family and institutions**

In calling for ongoing education of future peacemakers the Pope again draws together work for peace and concern for the common good.

*I wish to reaffirm forcefully that the various peacemakers are called to cultivate a passion for the common good of the family and for*

*social justice, and a commitment to effective social education. (#6)*

## **A pedagogy for peacemakers**

Finally the Pope calls for the development of 'a pedagogy of peace'.

*This calls for a rich interior life, clear and valid moral points of reference, and appropriate attitudes and lifestyles. Acts of peacemaking converge for the achievement of the common good; they create interest in peace and cultivate peace. (#7)*

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

Pope Benedict's comments in this Message on the need for a new model of development economics, based on the concept of the common good, reminds us that the Catholic bishops' Social Justice Statement 2013-2014 will discuss the issues of world development and the alleviation of poverty and inequality around the world. One way to put the Pope's Message into action is to support Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, helping to open doors into education, sustainable livelihoods, affordable healthcare and supportive, safe environments. For more information, see the RESOURCES section of this briefing.

David Brennan  
Acting National Executive Officer



## **Current Issues / Resources**

### **WATCH FOR THE ACSJC'S NEW WEBSITE!**

We are commissioning a new design for our website and hope that it will be online in the second half of February.

The site will give better access to our resources and incorporate features that will

make it easier to use. Our thanks to the Sydney Archdiocese's Catholic Communications for their hard work and creativity in developing the site.

The web address will remain the same: [www.socialjustice.catholic.org](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org).

## **PROJECT COMPASSION: 'OPEN DOORS INTO THE FUTURE'**

In 2013, Project Compassion carries the message 'Open doors into the future', which is taken from Pope Benedict XVI's 2007 encyclical *Spe Salvi*: 'We work towards a brighter and more humane world so as to open doors into the future' (n 35).

This year's Project Compassion stories are about children, young people and the communities who support them. Caritas Australia's partners around the world are helping to open doors into education, sustainable livelihoods, affordable healthcare and supportive, safe environments. As a result, more children and young people now have hope for the future.

In 2013, we are sharing stories from people in Mozambique, Bolivia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indigenous Australia and Papua New Guinea. Their stories humble and inspire us, and show how your contributions to Project Compassion help people build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. To find out more, visit: <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion>.

## **STATEMENT: BISHOPS SUPPORT ROYAL COMMISSION**

CEO of the Catholic Church's newly-formed Truth, Justice and Healing Council Francis Sullivan spoke on the terms of reference for the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse announced by Prime Minister Julia Gillard. 'We welcome the appointment of the six commissioners named by the Prime Minister today ... Once again, we commit to fully cooperate and engage with the Royal Commission and its deliberations,' he said. 'At its heart, the Royal Commission needs to let the full truth come out and ensure that the dignity of those who have been damaged by these atrocities is preserved, that they are supported, and not subject to a retraumatizing of their experiences. It is essential that the Commission's process contribute to the healing of the victims, and that institutions develop best-practice processes to address child sexual abuse. The Church stands ready and willing to assist.'

To read the full statement, visit: <http://www.catholic.org.au>.

## **REFUGEE SERVICE NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY**

The Asylum Seekers Resource Centre (ASRC) has launched two initiatives to help support asylum seekers and refugees.

1. The directory of Asylum Seeker and Refugee Service Providers gives details of agencies that provide material aid (food, housing needs) and services (counselling, advice) to refugees, detainees and asylum seekers on Bridging Visas in the community. Web: <http://www.asrc.org.au/media/documents/asrc-resource-directory.pdf>.
2. The Asylum Seeker Service for Employment and Training (ASSET) website is a portal and aims to provide information about access to employment and training for employers, for course providers, asylum seekers and for community agencies working with asylum seekers. To visit the new ASSET website go to [www.asset.asrc.org.au](http://www.asset.asrc.org.au).

## **CARITAS ANTI-POVERTY CAMPAIGN: FINISH THE RACE**

With the 2015 goal line for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) fast approaching, Australia has an opportunity to save and improve the lives of millions of the world's poorest people. Caritas is calling on our Australian Government to finish what we started when we committed to achieving these goals 12 years ago. Visit the website to find out why we should help and how to act: <http://www.caritas.org.au/act/finish-the-race>.

## **ACOSS NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Registrations are now open for the ACOSS annual conference, a community sector event bringing together key decision makers, practitioners, researchers and the people at the front line of social policy and services. The theme for next year's conference is 'Community: The Heart of the Economy'. It will focus on the importance of putting social outcomes at the centre of economic decision making. In 2013, with both the Federal Budget and election to follow, you can expect the latest ideas and directions on policy and practice affecting people experiencing poverty and inequality and those who work with them. The conference will be held on 25-26 March at the National Wine Centre, Adelaide. <http://conference.acoss.org.au>.

## **STATEMENT: NEWSTART IS INADEQUATE**

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) has called on the Federal Government to heed the findings of the Senate Committee for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Report to increase the level of Newstart allowance. 'The Committee found that Newstart is inadequate. Labor's own Senators recommended an increase while the Greens went further to suggest an increase of \$50 to the single rate of Newstart. This assessment confirms advice to the Government from many sources and shows that an increased allowance level needs to be put in place,' said Mr Paul O'Callaghan, CSSA's Executive Director. 'It is a reflection of Newstart's inadequacy that Centrelink social workers regularly refer jobseekers to community services for emergency relief, material aid or financial counselling/support services.' See: <http://www.cathnews.com/uploads/doc/2012/11/Cath%20Social%20Services%20%20says%20increase%20Newstart.PDF>.

## **BROKEN BAY INSTITUTE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE JUSTICE AND PEACE COURSES**

The Broken Bay Institute and The University of Newcastle have partnered to deliver two comprehensive theological education programs. Each runs for one semester and is available in 2013. They are: 'Augustinian Spirituality for Social Justice' and 'Social Teaching of the Church'. These are postgraduate courses delivered online and can be credited towards a Theology degree subject to conditions. For more information see: <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/fx-view-event.cfm?loadref=132&id=18>.

## **MENTAL HEALTH REPORT: 'A CONTRIBUTING LIFE: THE 2012 NATIONAL REPORT CARD ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION'**

The first annual report card of the National Mental Health Commission was published at the end of last year. Its findings and recommendations include: mental health must be a high priority for all governments; and we need to analyse where the gaps and barriers are to achieve a contributing life and agree on Australia's direction. For a full copy of the report: <http://www.mentalhealth.asn.au/>.

## **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 and 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. To support YCS 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-childconvention-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-sacredsites.html#more>. Their website is at: <http://www.rootsofpeace.org>.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: 'SOMETHING IN COMMON'**

The Australian Human Rights Commission has launched the **Something in Common** website. It features first-person accounts of ordinary people's experiences of human rights in Australia. It's about celebrating ordinary Australians doing extraordinary things and the issues that affect us all. Do you have Something In Common that you want to share? Are you taking extraordinary human rights action? Share your story and inspire others! Visit: <http://somethingincommon.gov.au>

(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>)

## **DISCUSSION GUIDE: 2013 WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE**

The theme for the 46<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace Message from Pope Benedict XVI is *Blessed Are the Peacemakers*. Pope Benedict's 2013 Message reminds us that we all have a role to play in building peace in our communities and the world. The Message focuses on human dignity, rights and responsibilities, as well as the fiftieth anniversaries of Pope John XXIII's *Pacem in Terris* and of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council. The ACSJC has prepared a Discussion Guide for Pope Benedict's Message, which is available on our website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## **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>

**Social Justice Statement Summary, Audio version of the Statement, Community and Student Resources, PowerPoint Presentation** - now available at: [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://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

#### **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN: 'THE GREAT GRACE: RECEIVING VATICAN II TODAY'.**

Registration is now open for the Archdiocese of Sydney's forthcoming conference *The Great Grace: Receiving Vatican II Today*, 20-23 May 2013. Various venues. Cost: \$450 (Earlybird - closes 15 March 2013); standard \$600; student \$350; single day \$250. For information and registration visit: <http://www.thegreatgrace.org.au>

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

#### **13 FEBRUARY. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION FORUM**

- 'RECOGNITION: WHY IT'S RIGHT'. A big moment in history beckons - to vote at a referendum so the first Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, are recognised in our Constitution. The change to our Constitution would also ensure our founding document no longer tolerates discrimination - like the section that still lets the States ban people from voting based on their race. Speakers: Tanya Hosch, Deputy Campaign Director, *Recognise*; and Jason Glanville, Wiradjuri man, Chief Executive, National Centre of Indigenous Excellence. Cost: \$59-79. 11.30 to 1.30 pm, National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: 02 6121 2199 or [npc@npc.org.au](mailto:npc@npc.org.au). Web: <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingspeakers.html>.

**1 MARCH. ACTCOSS APPRECIATION OF TORRES STRAIT CULTURE AWARENESS TRAINING.** This training for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers aims to assist participants in developing a better understanding of the cultural perspectives of Torres Strait Islander people in Australia. The training will explore ways for organisations to develop a better understanding of some key issues such as culture, kinship and community. Facilitated by Benny Hodges of Wis-Wei Consulting. Cost: \$165-305. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Level 1 meeting room, Weston Community Hub, 1/6 Gritten Street, Weston. Contact: [actcoss@actcoss.org.au](mailto:actcoss@actcoss.org.au). Web: <http://www.actcoss.org.au/secdevel/seminars.html>.

### NEW SOUTH WALES

#### **4 - 14 FEBRUARY. NSW DISABILITY SERVICES ACT REVIEW CONSULTATION SESSIONS.**

Under the plan for disability services, 'Stronger Together 2', the NSW Government is committed to a person centred disability system, one that meets the individual needs and goals of people with disability and supports them to realise their potential. These sessions give an opportunity for people with disability, their families and carers, service providers and advocates to have their say. 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. Consultation sessions are being held at: Bankstown, Gosford, Baulkham Hills, Coffs Harbour, Orange, Albury, Wagga Wagga, Armidale, Moruya, Goulburn, and Wollongong. Contact: 1300 550 913. Web: [http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about\\_us/legislation\\_agreements\\_partnerships/nsw\\_disability\\_services\\_act\\_review](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about_us/legislation_agreements_partnerships/nsw_disability_services_act_review).

**8 FEBRUARY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'GAZA AND BEYOND -- HELLFIRE OR RESOLUTION?'**

Speakers: Professor Stuart Rees, Director, Sydney Peace Foundation; Cathy Peters, Human Rights Activist, Radio Producer. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, The Gaelic Club, 1/64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9489 0530 or [jnagy@froggy.com.au](mailto:jnagy@froggy.com.au). Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

**11 - 26 FEBRUARY. OPEN DOORS FILM SERIES: 'UNDERCOVER'**

This documentary was filmed live, and takes us on a journey among the suffering church in Bangladesh and India. Find out how you can help persecuted Christians through the ministry of Open Doors. Admission is free. An offering for the Persecuted Church will be taken at each meeting. Books and DVDs will be for sale. Contact: [odaustralia@od.org](mailto:odaustralia@od.org) or 02 9451 2999.

11 February: 7.30 pm, Bowral Church of Christ, 56 Wingecarribee Street, Bowral.

12 February: 7.30 pm, Wollongong Baptist Church, 69 Smith Street, Wollongong.

13 February: 7.30 pm, Nowra Baptist Church, 194 Old Southern Road, Nowra.

14 February: 7.30 pm, Batemans Bay Baptist Church, 1 Tallgums Way, Surf Beach.

26 February: 7.30 pm, Goulburn Baptist Church, 164 Bourke Street, Goulburn.

Web: <http://www.opendoors.org.au/comeingevents/undercoverfeb2013>.

**14 FEBRUARY. NSW COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIANS AND JEWS (NSWCCJ) LUNCHEON: 'GENESIS AND THE CREATION STORIES: CHRISTIAN AND JEWISH PERSPECTIVES'**

Senior Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence, of the Great Synagogue Sydney, will be in conversation with Dr Peter Jensen, Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, focusing on the Christian and Jewish understandings of the opening chapters of Genesis. Refreshments: Kosher sandwich lunch, admission \$5. 12.30 to 2.30 pm, The Great Synagogue, 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Contact: [dacymarianne@yahoo.com.au](mailto:dacymarianne@yahoo.com.au) or 02 9351 4162, RSVP by 11 February. Web: <http://www.aceir.org.au/events/icalrepeat.detail/2013/02/14/261/-/a-conversation-with-senior-rabbi-jeremy-lawrence-and-dr-peter-jensen-anglican-archbishop-of-sydney>.

**15 FEBRUARY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'NAURU - AUSTRALIA'S SHAME - NO RIGHTS, NO HOPE, WHAT MUST BE DONE?'**

Speakers: Professor Louise Newman, Psychiatry, Monash University; Alex Pagliaro, Amnesty Refugee Program, Nauru visitor. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, The Gaelic Club, 1/64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9489 0530 or [jnagy@froggy.com.au](mailto:jnagy@froggy.com.au). Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

**20 FEBRUARY. ILLAWARRA SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM.**

Are you concerned about social justice issues being faced by people in the Illawarra region and wider world? Would you like support in working proactively to care for creation? The aim of this forum is to develop ways in which we can support each other in the work for social justice in this region. 5.00 to 6.30 pm, Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong. Contact: [darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au](mailto:darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au) or 02 4222 2463, RSVP by 15 February. Web: <http://www.dow.org.au/>.

**27 - 28 FEBRUARY. APPLIED RESEARCH IN CRIME AND JUSTICE CONFERENCE.**

The conference will showcase high quality Australian and international research in the areas of policing, offender rehabilitation, situational crime prevention, corrections, early-intervention and criminal justice administration. The event is intended for both researchers and policy makers. Cost: \$330-690. Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. Contact: 02 9231 9190 or [bocsar\\_seminars@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bocsar_seminars@agd.nsw.gov.au). Web: <http://www.cvent.com/events/the-applied-research-in-crime-and-justice-conference-2013/event-summary-05c4107d0bbf47718d0ff7aa6b55f90d.aspx>.

**6 MARCH. SYDNEY DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE'S (SDC) INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SALUTE TO WOMEN WORKING IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

Theme: 'Inspirational Women: Ideas Worth Sharing'. Speakers: Gemma Sisia, the Australian-born founder of St Jude's School in Tanzania; Naomi Steer, founding National Director of Australia for UNHCR. 6.00 to 8.30 pm, Macquarie University, The Hub, Level 3. Contact: 0417 272 101. Web: <http://sdc.groupsite.com/calendar/event/2013/3/6/357172>.

**11 - 12 MARCH. NSW COMMUNITY HOUSING CONFERENCE: 'MAKING A DIFFERENCE, SHAPING THE FUTURE'.** Building on the success of previous years, the concurrent sessions and master classes will be highly practical and hands on, with significant practitioner input from the sector exploring the latest and most innovative approaches to addressing issues such as: governance and growth of organisations; building communities; development; homelessness; workforce; and Aboriginal housing. Cost: \$144-500. Menzies, 14 Carrington Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 9414 4970 or [isabella@hotelnetwork.com.au](mailto:isabella@hotelnetwork.com.au). Web: <https://secure.hotelnetwork.com.au/NSWCHC/program>.

**15 - 17 MARCH. WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER.** Take time out of your busy schedule to invest in a most precious asset ... your marriage! This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again. Cost: \$55+donation. Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Contact: 02 4283 3435 or [wsharpe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wsharpe@bigpond.net.au). Web: <http://www.wwme.org.au>.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

**4 - 5 MARCH. ABORIGINAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID.** The Aboriginal Mental Health Course has been amended by Aboriginal people to reflect the differences in mental health for Aboriginal People, and is highly recommended for people who work in human relations areas such as teachers, community services, emergency services etc, who regularly engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is delivered by Aboriginal people. Cost: \$350. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. Darwin CBD. Contact: [info@dancingbrolga.com](mailto:info@dancingbrolga.com) or 0417 374 844. Web: <http://www.ntcoss.org.au/event/aboriginal-mental-health-first-aid-2>.

## QUEENSLAND

**2 FEBRUARY. RALLY FOR LIFE BRISBANE.** This year's rally will include the Roby Curtis band. Speakers: Geoffrey Bullock, Family Voice Australia; Anthony Banfield; and Veronica

Hayes. Cost: donation. 1.00 pm, Queen's Park, corners William, Elizabeth and George Streets, Brisbane. Contact: [teresa@cherishlife.org.au](mailto:teresa@cherishlife.org.au) or 07 3871 2445. Web: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11640&cid=7468&id=4117>.

**16 - 17 FEBRUARY. FILM FESTIVAL: 'YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE JEWISH!'** Come and celebrate Jewish culture and identity at this film festival. Nine films will screen including Raymond Ley's *Eichmann's End*, Ismael Ferroukhi's *Free Men*, *Pizza in Auschwitz*, *Jealous of the Birds*, *After the Silence*, and *The Courage of Strangers*. Festival highlight is the back-to-back screenings of the Philippe Mora's Mosaic trilogy of films - *Gertrude Stein Mystery or Some Like It Art*, *German Sons* and *Continuity*. Mora will attend the festival and conduct a master class on 'gonzo' filmmaking in Australia in the 1970s. Presented by State Library of Queensland and the Jewish Film Foundation of Australia. Cost: various. Auditorium 1, Level 2, State Library of Queensland, Stanley Place, South Brisbane. Contact: 07 3840 7768 or [info@slq.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@slq.qld.gov.au). Web: <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on/calevents/general/films/jewish-film-fest>.

**9 MARCH. HOPE FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER: MARKETS OF HOPE.** A community event to support Hope Foundation and local artisans. Hope Foundation exists to bring hope, help and healing to the hurting people of the nation, based in Brisbane, primarily women in the areas of addiction and those caught in the sex industry - both those involved and their loved ones. There will be stalls with home-made, hand-made, fair trade items and live local music. Free entry. 2.00 to 6.00 pm, St Bartholomew's Church Hall, 1349 Logan Road, Mt Gravatt. Contact: 0433 170 263 or [bronwen@hopefoundation.org.au](mailto:bronwen@hopefoundation.org.au). Web: <http://www.96five.com/event/markets-of-hope-3/>.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**5 - 7 FEBRUARY. NATIONAL PASTORS AND PASTORAL ASSOCIATES CONFERENCE: 'AN ECHO IN THEIR HEARTS'.** The conference takes its theme from the Second Vatican

Council. 2012 is the 50th Anniversary of the commencement of Vatican II and this Conference aims to revisit several of the key themes from the documents. Our goal for this important event is for these words to 'echo' in all of our hearts, as we look both theologically and practically at our Church and the work we are doing in our parishes, schools and communities. There will be also be sharing of wisdom and practice in the workshops that reflect the work of Pastors and Pastoral Associates including prison chaplaincy, mental health, receptive ecumenism, family centered church, etc. Cost: \$460-506. Hilton Hotel, Victoria Square, Adelaide. Contact: 08 8210 8110 or [jgarforth@adelaide.catholic.org.au](mailto:jgarforth@adelaide.catholic.org.au). Web: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au>.

## TASMANIA

**16 - 24 FEBRUARY. OPEN DOORS FILM SERIES: 'UNDERCOVER'**. This documentary was filmed live, and takes us on a journey among the suffering church in Bangladesh and India. Find out how you can help persecuted Christians through the ministry of Open Doors. Admission is free. An offering for the Persecuted Church will be taken at each meeting. Books and DVDs will be for sale. Books and DVDs will be for sale. Contact: [odaustralia@od.org](mailto:odaustralia@od.org) or 02 9451 2999.

**16 February:** 4.30 pm, Punchbowl Christian Centre, 100 Punchbowl Road, Launceston.

**17 February:** 7.00 pm, Ulverstone Baptist Church, 60 Alexandra Road, Ulverstone.

**18 February:** 7.30 pm, Devonport Salvation Army, 166 William Street, Devonport.

**19 February:** 7.30 pm, Christian Reformed Church, 53 Frederick Street, Launceston.

**20 February:** 7.30 pm, Dreambuilders Church, 31 Brittons Road, Smithton.

**21 February:** 7.30 pm, City Life Centre, 30 Main Road, Wivenhoe.

**22 February:** 7.30 pm, RiverCity Christian Church, 5 Lefroy Street, North Hobart.

**23 February:** 7.30 pm, Hobart City Church of Christ, 203 Liverpool Street, Hobart, (entry from Goulburn Street).

**24 February:** 6.00 pm, Kingborough Family Church, 11 Glory Place, Huntingfield.

Web: <http://www.opendoors.org.au/comeingevents/undercoverfeb2013>.

**19 OR 20 FEBRUARY. TASCROSS WORKSHOP: 'DEVELOP YOUR SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY SKILLS'**. This practical course will be delivered by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, NSW. Cost: \$80-100. 19 February: Hobart; 20 February: Launceston. Contact: 03 6231 0755 or [admin@tascross.org.au](mailto:admin@tascross.org.au), RSVP by 11 February. Web: <http://tascross.org.au/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>.

## VICTORIA

**6 - 8 FEBRUARY. HAVING A SAY CONFERENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: 'MY COMMUNITY: CHOICES, CHALLENGES, CONTRIBUTIONS'**. Features will include: presentations and performances by people with disabilities; Conference Expo; Red Faces Talent Show; VALID Advocacy Stream; dinner and disco; 'Come and Try' Activities. Cost: \$160-200. Deakin University, Waterfront Campus, Geelong. Contact: 03 9416 4003 or [havingasay@valid.org.au](mailto:havingasay@valid.org.au). Web: <http://www.valid.org.au/conference/>.

**27 FEBRUARY. SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE CITY: 'TALES FROM THE BISCUIT TIN: SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE SOCIETY TODAY'**. Speaker Anne Tuohey has over 15 years of experience in social policy and research roles with the community sector. Hosted by Francis Conference Melbourne which is a part of the St Vincent de Paul Society. 12.00 to 1.00 pm, St Francis Pastoral Centre, MacKillop Room, St Francis Church annex, 326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9895 5800 or [paulas@svdp-vic.org.au](mailto:paulas@svdp-vic.org.au). Web: <http://www.cam.org.au/News-and-Events/Whats-on/ModuleID/3028/ItemID/2055/mctl/EventDetails>.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**2 FEBRUARY. THE GLOBAL POVERTY WALK LAUNCH.** Join Make Poverty History ambassadors Matt and Wendy Napier for this launch. Hear Matt talk about his inspirational work and how we can all put an end to global poverty. The walk will commence at 10.00 am, attendees are invited to show their support by walking alongside Matt as he sets off on

his extraordinary journey. 9.00 to 10.00 am, Murray Street Mall, Perth CBD. Contact: carly@makepovertyhistory.com.au. Web: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au/events/105/the-global-poverty-walk-launch-event/>.

### **12 FEBRUARY. WACOSS COURSE: 'WORKING WITH CLIENTS FROM CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS (CALD)'**

Topics covered include: introduction to cultural competency; contemporary context of diversity in Australia; settlement process and programs; and rationale behind some behaviours. Cost: \$176-253. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre, 1/14 Chesterfield Road, Mirrabooka. Contact: [training@wacoss.org.au](mailto:training@wacoss.org.au) or 08 9420 7222. Web: <http://www.wacoss.org.au/services/>

[eventsbookingDetails/12-12-20/Working\\_with\\_Clients\\_from\\_Culturally\\_and\\_Linguistically\\_Diverse\\_Backgrounds\\_CaLD\\_-\\_Tues\\_12th\\_Feb\\_2013.aspx](http://eventsbookingDetails/12-12-20/Working_with_Clients_from_Culturally_and_Linguistically_Diverse_Backgrounds_CaLD_-_Tues_12th_Feb_2013.aspx).

**22 FEBRUARY. NATIONAL DISABILITY SERVICES (NDS) 'EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY'**. This workshop will cover everything you need to know about access standards, guidelines and legislation. Presenter: Sonya Horsman, Senior Occupational Therapist, NDS WA. Cost: \$60-85. 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, Board Room, National Disability Services WA, Unit 1, 59 Walters Drive, Osborne Park, (parking available at Super A-mart car park). Contact: 08 9208 9876 or [pd@nds.org.au](mailto:pd@nds.org.au). Web: <http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/events/2013/01/everything-you-want-know-about-accessibility>.

## **News Monitor**

### **ERC calls for more urgency in UN climate talks**

Pacific climate advocate Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang called for stronger ambition and a greater sense of urgency from the international community in UN climate talks taking place in Doha, Qatar, the Edmund Rice Centre said in a media statement.

### **Sri Lankan bishop warns of harassment for repatriated Tamils**

A Sri Lankan Catholic bishop appealed to the Australian government to halt the deportation of Tamil asylum-seekers from the still war-ravaged north and east of the country, warning that returnees face intimidation and harassment by security forces, reported *The Australian*.

### **Increase Newstart allowance, says Catholic Social Services**

Catholic Social Services Australia called on the Federal Government to heed the findings of the Senate Committee for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Report to increase the level of Newstart allowance, especially for single people, it said in a statement.

### **Govt diversion of foreign aid rejected by Caritas and ERC**

The Australian Government's plans to divert much needed overseas aid money to fund rising refugee support costs domestically were criticised and rejected by Caritas and the Edmund Rice Centre.

### **Innovative uni course for disadvantaged brings savings**

A groundbreaking university course for students with multiple disadvantage found a potential saving of nearly \$15,000 a year to the community for every student who participated - nearly three times what it costs to deliver the program, according to a statement from the universities and community groups behind an analysis of the course.

### **Charities aim major hunger appeal at multinationals and governments**

More than 100 other British-based charities have launched a campaign to tackle global hunger which takes aim at tax avoidance and land-grabs by multinationals, reported *The Tablet*.

### **Catholic bishops defend right to discriminate**

The body representing Catholic Bishops defended its right to discriminate against

gay people within its education and health institutions, reported the ABC.

religious freedom is a fundamental human right, Bishops' Conference General Secretary Fr Brian Lucas told a Senate hearing.

**Governments obliged to ensure freedom of religion, says ACBC**

The Catholic Church says the draft anti-discrimination laws fail by not recognising

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## Social Justice Calendar

- 2 Sat Presentation of Jesus  
World Wetlands Day
  
- 3 Sun Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life  
1788: First Christian service in Australia
  
- 5 Tue 1996: Cape York Peninsula Heads of Agreement signed
  
- 6 Wed Waitangi Day, Aotearoa New Zealand
  
- 10 Sun Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
  
- 11 Mon World Day of Prayer for the Sick  
1990: Nelson Mandela released from prison
  
- 12 Tue 1965: The Freedom Ride commenced in Australia  
2005: Death of Sr Dorothy Stang, murdered in Brazil
  
- 13 Wed Ash Wednesday  
2008: Apology to Stolen Generations by Australian Government
  
- 17 Sun First Sunday of Lent
  
- 20 Wed UN World Day of Social Justice
  
- 21 Thu UN International Mother Language Day
  
- 24 Sun Second Sunday of Lent

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

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