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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,

As we journey through Holy Week, we follow the journey of Jesus Christ - condemned by the authorities and many of those who had hailed him a King, enduring the ridicule and suffering of the Passion, but overcoming death to appear before us as the risen Christ, our Savior offering the hope of Easter.

Celebrating Palm Sunday, Pope Francis has spoken of this journey:

‘We waved our palms, our olive branches. We too welcomed Jesus; we too expressed our joy at accompanying him, at knowing him to be close, present in us and among us as a friend, a brother, and also as a King: that is, a shining beacon for our lives. Jesus has awakened great hopes, especially in the hearts of the simple, the humble, the poor, the forgotten, those who do not matter in the eyes of the world ...

‘Jesus is God, but he lowered himself to walk with us. He is our friend, our brother. He illumines our path here. And in this way

we have welcomed him today. And here the first word that I wish to say to you: joy! Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but from having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst; it is born from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life's journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable, and there are so many of them!’ (http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20130324_palme_en.html)

From the first days of his pontificate, Pope Francis has been reminding us of the plight of people who are poor.

He spoke with representatives of world media about how he came to choose his name:

‘Francis of Assisi. For me, he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation; these days we do not have a very good relationship with creation, do we? He is the man who gives us this spirit of peace, the poor man ... How I would like a Church which is poor and for the poor!’ (http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/speeches/2013/march/documents/papa-francesco_20130316_rappresentanti-media_en.html)

At an ecumenical and inter-faith gathering he highlighted the role of all faiths to address human need and the causes of poverty and hardship, apparent in myopia of modern ideologies such as consumerism:

‘There is much that we can do to benefit the poor, the needy and those who suffer, and to favour justice, promote reconciliation and build peace. But before all else we need to keep alive in our world the thirst for the

absolute, and to counter the dominance of a one-dimensional vision of the human person, a vision which reduces human beings to what they produce and to what they consume: this is one of the most insidious temptations of our time.'

He spoke of the need to pursue higher values of truth and goodness, and particularly an openness to the transcendent in the face of a materialism that seeks to eliminate God from the human story.

(http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/speeches/2013/march/documents/papa-francesco_20130320_delegati-fraterni_en.html)

And addressing diplomats from around the world he highlighted the commitment of the Church to work of justice:

'How many poor people there still are in the world! And what great suffering they have to endure! After the example of Francis of Assisi, the Church in every corner of the globe has always tried to care for and look after those who suffer from want, and I think that in many of your countries you can attest to the generous activity of Christians who dedicate themselves to helping the sick, orphans, the homeless and all the marginalized, thus striving to make society more humane and more just.'

He has called on all countries to join in this work of justice:

'My wish is that the dialogue between us should help to build bridges connecting all people, in such a way that everyone can

see in the other not an enemy, not a rival, but a brother or sister to be welcomed and embraced! ...

'Fighting poverty, both material and spiritual, building peace and constructing bridges: these, as it were, are the reference points for a journey that I want to invite each of the countries here represented to take up.' (http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/speeches/2013/march/documents/papa-francesco_20130322_corpo-diplomatico_en.html)

As we travel this journey of Holy Week together, we are called to remember our brothers and sisters who shoulder the cross of poverty and suffering. To Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who endure poverty in a land of plenty; vulnerable asylum seekers languishing in immigration detention facilities; the 20% of the world's poor near us in East and South East Asia and the Pacific. In the plight of all who are poor, devalued or in any way distressed, we recognise the structures and systems of the world that cause and perpetuate human suffering. As Pope Francis says, how we respond by fighting poverty, peacebuilding and creating solidarity will be the 'reference points for a journey'. Our shared work for justice is based on the hope of Easter - God's love for us we see in the ultimate sacrifice of Christ and his victory over the obstacles and sufferings of this world.

The members and staff of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council wish you the joy of Easter and the hope of the risen Lord.

John Ferguson



Current Issues / Resources

POLITICIANS GIVEN BLUEPRINT FOR MEANINGFUL HEALTH REFORM

Hundreds of thousands of Australians are suffering from ill health because health reforms implemented in recent years aren't having an impact on their lives.

Catholic Health Australia CEO Martin Laverty

says it's time for political parties to get serious about improving the health of all Australians. Catholic Health Australia (CHA) released its *Health Blueprint*, which outlines six key priorities for how ongoing health reform can be effective and reach those seemingly untouched by previous reforms. Read the report at www.cha.org.au.

WAKE UP CALL FOR THE NATION: MORE THAN 620,000 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY LIVING IN POVERTY

The Australian Council of Social Service has today released new figures showing 620,600 people with disability in Australia are living below the conservative, internationally accepted poverty line used to measure financial hardship in wealthy countries. The new research forms part of the Poverty in Australia report released in October 2012 that showed that 2,265,000 people are living in poverty in Australia. 'We need urgent action to address the inadequacy of income support payments for people with disability, including the single rate of Newstart Allowance, onto which more people will be reliant into the future.' said ACOSS CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie. Read the Poverty Report at https://www.dropbox.com/s/vct3ymj7gjb3ux1/ACOSS%20Poverty%20Report%202012_DRAFT_20032013.pdf.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL LAUNCHES TWENTY STORIES

Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO launched the *Twenty years, Twenty Stories* Project at Admiralty House in Sydney. It was an evening showcasing the twenty inspiring stories that were told on film as part of celebrating twenty years of the Disability Discrimination Act. Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes thanked all the people who contributed to the passage of the landmark legislation in 1993. 'We celebrate a journey in which people have used a law to change their lives, and the lives of many others. Those who have lodged complaints have been in the front line, but many of you – and many others – have stood behind us, providing incredible support,' Mr Innes said. Watch the twenty stories at www.humanrights.gov.au/twentystories.

LET THE SON SHINE - 2013 EDITION

Columban Father Charles Rue argues that church people can be powerful players in Climate Change, and that all Catholics have an 'ecological vocation' at this historic time to serve the human enterprise. He updates his 2009 work with new climate issues, faith reflections and saintly examples of action. This paper explores two major ways to address Catholic thinking and acting on climate change in the light of faith: prayer at every stage of a Catholic missionary response to climate change; and systematic response, using the see-judge-act model. Download

your copy: www.columban.org.au/Archives/features/2013/let-the-son-shine-2013-edition.

PALMS ENCOUNTER TIMOR-LESTE 30 JUNE-13 JULY

Encounters are small groups of 8-10 who will travel with a Palms staff member to visit Palms' volunteers in a country and learn about their work. This is a unique opportunity for those interested in social justice and development, and will provide an opportunity to witness first-hand how communities can work in solidarity to reduce poverty. Contact: sarah@palms.org.au or 02 9518 9551. More information: www.palms.org.au/encounters.

PROJECT COMPASSION: 'OPEN DOORS INTO THE FUTURE'

'Open doors into the future' 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. To find out more, visit: www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.

OUT OF SIGHT, IN OUR MINDS

Out of Sight is a collaboration between GetUp and ChilOut to raise public awareness about the plight of child and adult asylum seekers who are detained on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea under Australia's watch. The campaign calls for no children in detention and for an end to offshore processing. With a total media ban and severe restrictions on NGO visits, it is near impossible for Australian public to really know what's going on in overseas detention facilities. The detainees feel isolated and unsure of their futures. As Australians we have the power to change this dire situation. Through this campaign we can bring the stories of the children and adults on Manus Island into the public eye and build public pressure on both parties towards a fairer asylum policy. Find out more: www.outofsight.org.au.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY ART COMPETITION

This year the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is holding their art contest with the aim of drawing attention to refugee issues and promoting

a culture of respect and tolerance toward the refugee population. They are inviting Australian and New Zealand school children to create works of art illustrating the individual refugee story. Winning entries will be selected and used by UNHCR in its 2014 desk calendar. This art contest will be part of UNHCR's global '1 Campaign', which is based around the simple statement, '1 family torn apart by war is too many.' We hope people will reflect on this statement and think about what they can do to help refugees and their families to rebuild their lives. Entry details are at http://unhcr.org.au/unhcr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=286:world-refugee-day-2013-art-competition&catid=35:news-a-media&Itemid=63.

REPORT ON AUSTRALIA'S REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM

The Refugee Council of Australia has completed its annual submission on Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program. Some of RCOA's recommendations include: reconsideration of the removal of eligibility to the Special Humanitarian Program for refugees who arrive by boat; ending the numerical link between the onshore and offshore components of the program; progress through the Bali Process to build regional refugee protection in the Asia-Pacific region; abandonment of offshore processing of asylum seekers; using detention as a last resort for children in detention and; better support for asylum seekers to secure work. The full submission is available at <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/isub.php>

RCOA has also released a statistical snapshot of key international and national statistics on refugee needs. Drawn from information in the submission, the snapshot provides data on global refugee movements, asylum trends, resettlement and immigration detention. It is available at <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/isub/2013-14-IntakeSub-stat-snapshot.pdf>

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-child-convention-end-the-detention-of-children>.

HEAR OUR VOICES - FORMERLY DETAINED CHILDREN AT THE UN

'Hear our Voices' is a creative presentation delivered by six youngsters with immigration detention experience in front of States, UN agencies and NGOs at the Day of General Discussion which was held last year. During the Day, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child underlined that article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which also applies in migration situations and is legally binding for its 193 States parties, explicitly states that 'no child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily' and the 'arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.' The script of the presentation is made up of the actual words of the participating youth with detention experience, which ranges from six weeks to six years. To view the podcast, visit: <https://vimeo.com/55099054>. To find out more about the Global Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children, visit: www.idcoalition.org.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR CENTRE OF FULL EMPLOYMENT AND EQUITY (COFFEE): PATH TO FULL EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

The Conference will seek to explore the apparent contradictions of the policy stances that are now entrenched and causing the prolonged global unemployment crisis. Papers in any area of labour market analysis will be of interest. Guidelines for Submission: Abstracts should be a maximum of 150 words. Deadline for abstracts has been extended: 26 July. The conference date has been changed to 4 - 5 December and is now to be held in Newcastle. Web: <http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/>.

(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 46th World Day of Peace Message from Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI is *Blessed Are the Peacemakers*. This 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. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2012-2013 - STILL TAKING ORDERS

The 2012-2013 Social Justice Statement is entitled 'The Gift of Family in Difficult Times: The social and economic challenges facing families today'. The ACSJC is still taking orders for the Statement. An order form and other information/resources are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

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>

(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

4 APRIL. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MINE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION.

Wars should end when the fighting stops - yet landmines, cluster munitions and unexploded remnants of war remain buried and forgotten in at least 80 countries. They continue to maim and kill indiscriminately, making no distinction between a soldier, a farmer, an aid worker or a child. The 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, signed by 162 states, comprehensively bans the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of antipersonnel mines, and requires states to destroy their stockpiles within four years and to clear all mined areas within 10 years. Progress has been made to free the world of landmines and unexploded remnants of war, but more needs to be done to support communities that continue to suffer. Web: www.un.org/en/events/mineawarenessday.

10 APRIL. YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY. This day is raising awareness for the 26,000 young people who have no place to go by asking everyday people to give up their bed for the night. Stay at a friend's place, sleep on the porch, crash on the couch or snooze in the office. Events near you: www.youthhomelessnessmatters.net.

4 - 18 MAY. CATHOLIC MISSION'S GETTING INVOLVED GLOBALLY (GIG) ETHIOPIA IMMERSION. A once in a lifetime opportunity to share and experience some of the oldest Christian communities in the world. Facilitated in-country by Sr Maureen Elliott FMM, an Australian who has devoted her life to Jesus' mission around the world, including over a decade in Ethiopia. Immersion is a powerful strategy to help us understand and involve ourselves in Jesus' mission in today's world. It helps form the whole person, their empathy, humanity, faith and responsibility. Immersion is first and foremost a 'being with' others. For more information: www.catholicmission.org.au/educationformation/gig.

15 MAY. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES: 'ADVANCING SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY'. The United Nations states that 'this annual observance reflects the importance which

the international community attaches to families as basic units of society as well as its concern regarding their situation around the world. The day can become a powerful mobilising factor on behalf of families in all countries, which avail themselves of this opportunity and demonstrate support of family issues appropriate to each society.' Web: <http://social.un.org/index/Family/InternationalObservances/InternationalDayofFamilies.aspx>.

15 - 21 MAY. NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK: 'FAMILIES WORKING TOGETHER: GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT'. The aim of National Families Week is to celebrate the vital role that families play. This week calls to mind the need to take time to work together to get the best balance in all life's activities. When families work together, everyone benefits. National Families Week is a time to celebrate with the immediate family, make contact with extended family and friends and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community. Web: www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/index.htm.

16 MAY. THE GOSPEL OF ST MARK ECONFERENCE: 'A CRUCIFIED AND RISEN MESSIAH'. By using the techniques of television production and internet streaming, you can participate in this conference, in the convenience of your own city or town across the country or across the world. Watch the conference at home or gather friends or staff in your parish or community hall. Speakers: Fr Francis Moloney sdb; and Dr Michele Connolly rsj. No cost. Contact: 02 9847 0726 or econferences@bbi.catholic.edu.au. Book: www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/fx-view-event.cfm?loadref=132&id=19.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

5 APRIL. ABORIGINAL CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE TRAINING. This workshop for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers provides participants with a general introduction into the recent history of Aboriginal people in Australia. It aims to improve knowledge of Aboriginal culture and dispossession, and explores ways organisations may improve their

practice to respond to the needs of Aboriginal peoples. Facilitator: Kerry Reed-Gilbert, Kuracca Consultancy. Cost: \$165-305. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Level 1 meeting room, Weston Community Hub, 1/6 Gritten St, Weston. Contact: actcoss@actcoss.org.au. Book: www.actcoss.org.au/secdevel/seminars.html.

11 APRIL. ST THOMAS MORE FORUM: 'THE CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTION TO CANBERRA OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS'. Speaker: Bishop Pat Power. Cost: \$5-14. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, St Thomas More Hall, 30 White Cres, Campbell. Contact: 02 6163 4300. Book: www.stthomasmore.org.au/Forum/upcoming-forums.html.

15 - 16 APRIL. NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMPLEX NEEDS CONFERENCE. Speakers: Tom Calma AO, Aboriginal elder, former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission; Lin Hatfield Dodds, National Director of UnitingCare Australia; Christine Boyce, general practitioner working in mainstream practice and refugee health for over ten years in Hobart; etc. Cost: \$250-750. Hotel Realm, 18 National Cct, Barton. Contact: events@phaa.net.au. Web: www.phaa.net.au/Complex_Needs_Conference.php.

16 APRIL. ACU SEMINAR AND LAUNCH OF IDENTITY AND MEANING FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE PROJECT. Debbie Noble-Carr, Research Associate at the Institute of Child Protection Studies will present the findings from this qualitative study which aimed to explore the role and potency that concepts such as identity, and a search for meaning, have in the lives of vulnerable young people. Cost: \$15. 2.00 to 4.30 pm, Australian Catholic University Canberra Campus, 223 Antill St, Watson. Contact: erin.barry@acu.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/our_university/events/canberra/seminar_and_launch_of_identity_and_meaning_for_vulnerable_young_people_project.

18 APRIL. ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN COMMISSION FOR WOMEN PRESENTATION: THE SPIRITUALITY OF AGEING. Speaker: Rev Prof Elizabeth Mackinlay

AM, Anglican priest, Professor of Theology, Charles Sturt, Director of the Centre for Ageing and Pastoral Studies, a registered nurse, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing Australia. She pursues scholarship in quality of life issues for older people, within the context of meaning and well-being in life. Cost: \$5. 10.00 am, The Pines, Tuross Head. Contact: 02 6291 8113 or 0437 329 371. Web: www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/archives/1303/130312.html.

18 APRIL. CHRISTIANS FOR AN ETHICAL SOCIETY (CES) FORUM: 'ETHICS AND REFUGEES, A DEPLORABLY IMPOVERISHED AND CYNICAL DISCOURSE'. Part of the CES Series 'Political and economic conventional wisdom: As immoral as it is unintelligent'. The experiences of refugees confront us in ethical, not simply political terms. Considerations of legality, reciprocity and the very nature of international society provide complementary underpinnings for the duties we owe them. Speaker: Professor William Maley, Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy, Australian National University, Vice-President, Refugee Council of Australia, Barrister of the High Court Australia. Cost: \$5 donation. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, corner Blackall St and Kings Ave, Barton. Contact: 02 6291 4537. Web: www.ces.org.au/index.htm.

22 APRIL. DISCUSSING NAURU. The evening will begin with the screening of the documentary *Freedom or Death*, which tells the story of refugees who were detained at the Nauru detention centre in the early part of this century. It will be followed by a discussion including refugee advocate Marion Le, and an update on the current operation of the detention centre at Nauru, which was reopened last year and visited by representatives of Amnesty International Australia in November. No cost. 6.00 pm, Australian National University, Manning Clark Centre room T4, Barry Dr, Acton. Web: www.amnesty.org.au/actsnsw/event/31356/.

27 - 28 APRIL. NATIONAL CORROBOREE. First Nations gathering. Bringing our warriors together, uniting our strength, asserting our sovereignty, stepping up the fight, all welcome. Workshops, men's circle, women's

circle, youth circle. Aboriginal Tent Embassy, Canberra. Contact: 0408 064 900 or 0447 097 659. Web: <http://nationalunitygovernment.org/images/2013/gatherings/corroboree.jpg>.

NEW SOUTH WALES

5 APRIL. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'GILLARD GOVERNMENT'S URANIUM DEAL WITH INDIA - WHY IT IS SO DANGEROUS?' Speakers: Professor Richard Broinowsky, former Ambassador Asian Countries, author *Fact or Fission - The Truth about Australia's Nuclear Ambitions*; Dave Sweeney, Nuclear Free Campaigner ACF. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, 1/64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9489 0530 or jnagy@froggy.com.au. Web: www.politicsinthepub.org.au/.

6 APRIL. A21 CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER: THE FREEDOM SALE. Huge charity sale of new and pre-loved clothing, accessories, toys and more to create awareness and raise money for the A21 Campaign. Come and bag a bargain and help support the prevention, rescue and rehabilitation of victims of forced labour and sex trafficking around the world. 10.00 am to 2.00 pm, Fontenoy Park, Fontenoy Rd, Macquarie Park. Contact: 0425 253 395 or curac80@gmail.com. Web: www.facebook.com/TheFreedomSale.

8 APRIL. MEANINGFUL MOVIES: 'THE SECRET COUNTRY - THE FIRST AUSTRALIANS FIGHT BACK'. Amnesty NSW and the Demand Dignity Network are holding a screening of John Pilger's documentary. No cost. 6.00 to 8.30 pm, NSW Action Centre, Level 1, 79 Myrtle St, Chippendale. Contact: aiansw@amnesty.org.au or 02 8396 7658. Web: www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/31334/.

10 APRIL. PREMIER'S HARMONY DINNER. Hosts: the Hon Victor Dominello MP, Minister for Citizenship and Communities; and the Hon Barry O'Farrell MP, Premier of New South Wales. This event will celebrate cultural diversity with an array of cultural performances and presentations to significant members of the multicultural community, and will provide valuable networking opportunities. MC: ABC journalist Jeremy Fernandez. Cost: \$85. 6.30 to 10.30 pm, Doltone House, Darling

Island Wharf, 48 Pirrama Rd, Pyrmont. Book: <http://www.multiculturalnsw.com.au/13/premier-s-harmony-dinner/>.

10 APRIL. 'UNDERSTANDING THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: JEWISH-CHRISTIAN CONVERSATIONS: 'ADAM AND EVE IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS - WHAT WAS AT STAKE?' Presenters: Rabbi Gad Krebs, Masada Synagogue, St Ives; and Dr Antoinette Collins, Christian Scripture scholar. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Caroline Chisholm Centre, Building 2, 423 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills. Contact: trish.madigan@dbb.org.au, RSVP by 3 April. Web: www.cimer.org.au/news_events.html.

13 APRIL. FAITH AND GRACE IN EVERYDAY LIFE: A CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL LEUNIG & FR DAVID RANSON. Listen to Michael unpack several cartoons and prayerful poetry that speak of the presence of God in the midst of the busyness of life. A sausage sizzle after the event with all proceeds going to support the good works of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Speakers: Michael Leunig, Australian cartoonist, poet and writer; and Rev Dr David Ranson, senior lecturer, Sydney College of Divinity. No cost. 10.00 am to 12.30 pm, The Light of Christ Centre, end of Yardley Ave, Waitara. Book: www.trybooking.com/40300, RSVP by 5 April. Contact: 02 9847 0518.

13 APRIL. RIDE FOR REFUGEES. In 2011 there were 42 million refugees around the world. That is about one in every 1 in every 160 people displaced. Ride for Refugees Australia is a non-competitive, family-friendly cycling event designed to raise awareness and funds for refugee ministries. 8.00 am to 3.00 pm, Sydney Equestrian Centre, Saxony Rd, Horsley Park. Contact: 0431 918 445 or r4australia@iteams.org. Web: www.rideforrefugees.com.au.

16 APRIL. SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE SEMINAR: 'MISSING SOMETHING - CAN THE CARBON MARKETS DELIVER A SOCIAL GOOD?' Help in untangling the true effects comes from examples of what a market mechanism for carbon offsets means for three very different communities: rainforest dwelling peoples of Indonesia and PNG, and the pastoral farming

communities of Australia. Construction of any policy in isolation greatly increases risk. And it may be that social consequences, especially for environmental policy, will either cause policy failure or be blamed for it. Speakers: Dr J Mark Dangerfield, Principal, Allopurus Environmental, environmental scientist, ecologist, entrepreneur, and author. 12.30 to 1.30 pm, Room 221/223 John Goodsell Building, UNSW Kensington. Book: www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/events/.

17 APRIL. THE SHOAH MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Christians and all people of good will who, for the sake of the present, do not forget the past, are invited to gather ... to reflect ... to pray ... as we remember the destruction of six million Jews in the Holocaust. Speaker: Mr Irving Wallach, Director of the Human and Civil Rights Organisation, the New Israel Fund Australia. Musical accompaniment to be provided by Karen Finch (singing in Yiddish) and David Angell (viola). 6.00 pm, St Mary's Cathedral Crypt, Sydney. Contact: interfaith.asst@sydneycatholic.org. Web: www.cimer.org.au/news_events.html.

17 APRIL. SUTHERLAND SHIRE SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'HOW IS AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY CHANGING?'

Speakers: Patty Fawkner and Peter Hancock. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, Sutherland United Services Club, East Pde, Sutherland. Contact: 02 9520 0617 or 02 9548 2475. Web: www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au.

17 APRIL. 'AFGHAN STAR' FILM SCREENING.

Amnesty International Australia is hosting a film screening of third documentary, which follows the stories of four contestants as they risk it all to become Afghanistan's idol. After 30 years of war and Taliban rule, pop idol has come to Afghanistan. Millions are watching the TV series 'Afghan Star' and voting for their favourite singers by mobile phone. But this is more than just a television show, because in Afghanistan, you risk your life to sing. For many, this is their first encounter with democracy. Will the contestants attain the freedom they hope for in this vulnerable and traditional nation? 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Australian Catholic University, North Sydney. Contact: nswccintern@amnesty.org.au. Web: www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/31347/.

18 APRIL. ACU VOICE: MEDIA & MORALS. Does the media have a responsibility to operate under ethical and moral standards, or do they have the right to push the boundaries for the sake of a good story and to capture the attention of their audience? Should there be a clearer distinction between journalism and entertainment within the media? Speakers: Jonathon Holmes, ABC's Media Watch; and Jennifer McNeill, General Manager, Content, Consumer and Citizen, Australian Communications and Media Authority. No cost. 5.30 to 8.00 pm, The Australian Museum Theatre, 6 College St, Sydney (entry via William St). Contact: 02 9739 2221 or acuvoice@acu.edu.au. Web: www.acu.edu.au/research/news_and_events/acuvoice_speaker_series/upcoming_lectures/media_and_morals_-_can_they_coexist.

18 APRIL. AUSTRALIA PALESTINE ADVOCACY NETWORK (APAN) FUNDRAISING DINNER.

Speaker: The Hon Tim Fischer. The Hon Tim Fischer AC started life as a farmer, before rising to become Deputy Prime Minister to John Howard. In 2009 Kevin Rudd appointed him to be Australia's Ambassador to the Vatican. He is an author and is active in a number of organisations and charities. Fundraiser for Bethlehem University. APAN is very proud to be partnering with the Beecroft Forum. Cost: \$60. 7.00 pm, Pennant Hills Golf Club. Contact: hayes.janet@hotmail.com, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.miat.org.au/beecroft-forum-dinners.php>.

23 APRIL. NATIONAL REFUGEE TEAM VIDEOCONFERENCE ON REFUGEE PROCESSING.

The government labels asylum seekers who have been rejected by the Department of Immigration and the Refugee Review Tribunal as 'failed' asylum seekers. Yet again and again, such refugees are finally found to have been genuine, often after years in detention. Speakers: Sister Brigid Arthur, Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project; and Kate Gauthier, National Director of A Just Australia, Chair, ChilOut - Children Out of Immigration Detention. 6.45 to 8.00 pm, NSW Amnesty Office, 79 Myrtle St, Chippendale. Web: www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/31333/.

29 APRIL - 1 MAY. CONFERENCE: 'MISSION: ONE HEART, MANY VOICES'. Speakers: Dr Jose Ramos Horta, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Fr Stephen Bevans svd, leading Missiologist; Dr Gemma Tulud Cruz, expert theologian on migration; etc. The conference offers an opportunity to listen, discuss and experience the diverse voices and graces of living and leading mission in Australia and globally. Conference convenors, Catholic Religious Australia and Catholic Mission, invite all those passionate about mission and in leadership roles in parishes, communities, organisations and agencies to come together and join the conversation that will enable us all to live and lead mission better. Cost: \$95-450. Sydney Congress Hall, 140 Elizabeth St, Sydney. Contact: 1800 257 296. Web: www.mohmv.com.au.

29 APRIL - 31 MAY. NOTRE DAME SYDNEY INTENSIVE: THE MORAL, POLITICAL AND LEGAL THEORY OF SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS. This course aims to provide a careful introduction to the work of Aquinas, especially his work in moral, political and social philosophy considered as matters accessible to natural reason prior to revelation and faith. Speaker: John Finnis, Emeritus Professor of Law and Legal Philosophy, University College, Oxford. Contact: 02 8204 4175 or sharon.mccrindle@nd.edu.au, RSVP by 26 April. Web: www.nd.edu.au/events/sydney.

30 APRIL. HOUSING FORUM: 'BEHAVING BADLY OR BRAIN INJURY?' This forum will reveal how brain injury influences behaviour and help support workers manage and develop strategies to provide an optimal outcome for the individual. It is co-hosted by the Mercy Foundation and the Haymarket Foundation. Cost: \$25. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Mercy Foundation, 40 Rocklands Rd, Crows Nest. Contact: events@mercyfoundation.com.au. Web: www.mercyfoundation.com.au.

2 MAY. ONE JUST WORLD FORUM: 'OVERCOMING POVERTY IN THE CLASSROOM'. We know one of the best ways to overcome poverty is with education. Education transforms lives and has the power to lift children, their families and entire communities out of poverty. But as the 2015 deadline for

the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education looms large, it's becoming clear this may be out of reach. So what are the barriers preventing children getting the education they deserve? 6.00 to 7.30 pm, Albury. Web: www.onejustworld.com.au/Upcoming-Forums.

2 MAY. PALMS AUSTRALIA WORKSHOP: 'SOLIDARITY VOLUNTEERING: STRONG RELATIONSHIPS, MUTUAL DEVELOPMENT'. Palms Australia is seeking volunteers willing to participate in an authentic cross-cultural experience in countries across Asia, Africa or the Pacific. Positions exist in education, health, administration, agriculture/farming, trades and other skilled areas. Attend this information session to find out more. No cost. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, Aquinas Academy, 141 Harrington St, The Rocks. Contact: 02 9518 9551 or sarah@palms.org.au. Web: www.palms.org.au.

2 MAY, 24 - 25 MAY, 3 - 6 JULY. BROKEN BAY INSTITUTE (BBI) INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER SERIES. Three internationally acclaimed scholars presenting on issues of real importance in our Church and in our world today.

2 May, 'Vatican II: The Big Council': Fr Stephen Bevans SVD, CTU, Chicago, cost: \$250, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm.

24 - 25 May, 'Community-in-Mission: A Contemporary Theology of the Church': Fr Richard Lennan, Boston College, cost: \$250, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm.

3 - 6 July, 'Strangers, Migrants and Refugees in the Bible': Fr van Thanh Nguyen SVD, CTU, Chicago, cost: \$500, 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills. Contact: 02 9847 0030 or bbi@bbi.catholic.edu.au. Web: www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=347.

3 MAY. COMMEMORATION OF RECONCILIATION. Holroyd City Council is holding this commemoration. In 1805, a group of Aboriginal women together with a young free settler facilitated a meeting between local Aboriginal leaders and European settlers at Prospect Hill. This meeting led to the eventual end of the ongoing conflict in Parramatta and Prospect and is the first

recorded act of attempted reconciliation between the Darug Aboriginal people and European settlers in NSW. 10.00 am, top of Prospect Hill (entry via Clunies Ross St), Pemulwuy. Contact: 02 9840 9694. Web: www.communitynet.tricomm.org.au/index.php/events/community-events/60657-commemoration-of-reconciliation-3-may-2013-pemulwuy.

3 - 4 MAY. 'PossABLE' IDEAS EXPO. As the biggest disabilities based event in Australia, this expo will provide all people with disabilities and aged related disabilities, their families, carers and supporters the opportunity to come along to see, engage and experience about products and services available to assist them make informed decisions about their daily lives. No cost. 3 May - 10.00 am to 5.00 pm; 4 May - 9.30 am to 4.00 pm, Newcastle Entertainment Centre. Contact: 1800 029 904. Book: <http://2013possibleideasexpo.com.au/>.

8 MAY. AUSTRALIANS FAIR TRADE AND INVESTMENT NETWORK (AFTINET) TRADE JUSTICE DINNER: 'FREE TRADE OR FAIR TRADE?' Speaker: Senator Doug Cameron, former National Secretary, Australian Manufacturing Workers Union. This will be an entertaining evening of fine food and interesting discussion at the annual fundraising dinner with auction and raffle prizes. All proceeds go to fund AFTINET's trade justice work. Cost: \$60. 6.30 pm, Hellenic Restaurant, 251 Elizabeth St, Sydney, (between Liverpool and Bathurst Sts). Contact: 02 9699 3686 or campaign@aftinet.org.au, RSVP by 10 April. Web: <http://aftinet.org.au/cms/>.

15 - 18 MAY. WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES. This congress will explore how business, government, education, law, healthcare and the media can strengthen families. Speakers: Bradford Wilcox, Director, National Marriage Project, University of Virginia, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia; Dr Janice Shaw Crouse, PhD, Senior Fellow, Beverly LaHaye Institute; Bishop Peter Elliott; etc. Cost: \$85-575. Australian Technology Park, 2 Locomotive St, Eveleigh. Contact: 02 8251 0045 or wcf@thinkbusinessevents.com.au. Web: <http://wcf-sydney2013.org.au/>.

17 - 19 MAY. ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC MINISTRY RETREAT: 'BEYOND RECONCILIATION'.

Through prayer, quiet personal reflection time and group work this retreat will take us deep into the landscape of relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous people. We will examine our shared histories, identify common ground and challenge barriers to reconciliation. Together we will explore our visions for reconciled futures. Cost: \$430-475. St Joseph's Centre for Reflective Living, 64 MacKillop Dr, Baulkham Hills. Contact: gabrielle.russellmundine@sydneycatholic.org or 02 9698 4265. Web: www.aboriginal.sydneycatholic.org/events.

18 MAY. NSWCCJ LUNCHEON CLUB: 'JESUS THE MISUNDERSTOOD JEW'. Speaker: Dr Amy-Jill Levine, Orthodox Jew, Professor of New Testament Studies, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Department of Religious Studies, and Graduate Department of Religion. She has held office in the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Association, and the Association for Jewish Studies. Her book helps Christians and Jews understand the 'Jewishness' of Jesus so that their appreciation of him deepens and a greater interfaith dialogue can take place. Cost: \$15. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Emanuel Synagogue, 7 Ocean St, Woollahra. Contact: dacymarianne@yahoo.com.au or 02 9390 5168, RSVP by 14 May. Web: <http://www.aceir.org.au/events/current-events/year.listevents/2013/03/18/->.

20 - 23 MAY. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN: 'THE GREAT GRACE: RECEIVING VATICAN II TODAY'. In 2012, the 50th anniversary of the commencement of the Second Vatican Council was commemorated. To celebrate this, Archdiocese of Sydney is holding this conference, which will feature highly acclaimed international and national speakers, along with a number of themed and specialised streams, and a strong focus on lay leadership. Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop of Sydney; Cardinal Marc Ouellet PSS, Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, Rome; Professor Anthony Kelly Csr, Australian Catholic University; etc. Cost: \$250-600. Various Sydney CBD venues. Web: www.thegreatgrace.org.au.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

21 - 22 APRIL. CHARLES DARWIN SYMPOSIUM: INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES IN A CHANGING WORLD. Charles Darwin University (CDU) and the NT Government both have a long history of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities. This symposium will mark the opening of the new Australian Centre of Indigenous Knowledge and Education with a showcasing and celebration of successful collaborations between Indigenous knowledge and culture authorities, government, industry and the university. CDU, Casuarina campus, Ellengowan Dr, Brinkin. Contact: 08 8946 6082 or marissa.briston@cdu.edu.au. Web: www.cdu.edu.au/cdss2013.

30 APRIL - 2 MAY. INDIGENOUS FORCES AT WORK CONFERENCE. The conference will begin with a day of field trip visits to local Indigenous enterprises. The program will feature workshops which will examine the practical implications of soon to be introduced Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP). The conference will also explore current trends and best practice models in areas including Indigenous business development, recruitment and retention strategies and engaging employers in Indigenous workforce planning and development. It will continue the highly successful storyteller program highlighting the practical implementation of programs on people. Host: Jobs Australia. Cost: \$480-790. Holiday Inn, 122 Esplanade, Darwin. Contact: 03 9349 3699 or dbatty@ja.com.au. Book: <http://ja.com.au/events/indigenous-forces-at-work-conference-2013>.

2 MAY. WORKSHOP: 'A JOURNEY INTO THE DEAF DEAF WORLD'. In everyday life, people who are deaf try to overcome barriers to communicate in an environment that is designed to meet the needs of hearing people. This interactive workshop will be the opposite. You have to experience what it is like to be in a Deaf world. This workshop is run by Deaf people and Auslan signers. Cost: \$85. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Carers NT, 59 Bayview Dr, Bayview. Contact: enrolments@deafau.org.au or 07 3357 8266. Web: www.ntcoss.org.au/event/journey-deaf-deaf-world.

QUEENSLAND

18 APRIL. ONE JUST WORLD FORUM: INFLUENTIAL WOMEN. As the saying goes 'Help one woman out of poverty, she will bring four others with her'. So why aren't there more women participating in global governance? What needs to happen to ensure that talented and intelligent women are recognised, have their input valued and their leadership respected? Speakers: Khadija Gbla, Peer Educator, Advocate for Equality, Cross Cultural Consultant; and Julie McKay, Executive Director, National Committee for UN Women Australia. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, State Library of Queensland. Contact: 07 3735 5322 or n.vary@griffith.edu.au, RSVP by 8 April. Web: www.onejustworld.com.au/Upcoming-Forums.

4 MAY. ACL QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE: PRESERVATION OF OUR PUBLIC SPACES. This conference promises to deliver a packed day of information, of challenges and of opportunities to have questions answered. Every Christian who is interested in influencing public policy for godliness should attend this conference. Speakers: Shayne Neumann MP, Federal Labor Member for Blair; Senator Eric Abetz (Liberal, Tas); Fiona Simpson MP, Speaker, QLD House of Assembly; Prof Scott Prasser, Executive Director of the Public Policy Institute, Australian Catholic University; etc. Cost: \$65, concession \$55. 8.30 am to 3.30 pm, Ashgrove Baptist Church facility, 7 Firhill St, Ashgrove. Book: www.acl.org.au/2013/02/acl-queensland-conference-2013.

11 MAY. RATION SHED TOUR. Listen to Aunty Honor and Aunty Faye retell some of their own stories of their experiences growing up (as well as a laugh or two) on the way to the Cherbourg Ration Shed for a cultural tour and talk of the historic precinct of Cherbourg. Visit Moffatdale Winery for a relaxing lunch and wine tasting. Great opportunity for professional development for staff and teachers. Cost: \$70. 7.30 am to 6.00 pm, Ettamogah Pub. Contact: Sarah.Larsen@dete.qld.gov.au. Web: <http://rationshed.com.au/>.

18 MAY. TEAR CONFERENCE: 'HEART FOR THE POOR'. This conference is an opportunity to explore issues of justice and compassion

in the light of Jesus' teaching. Be informed, challenged, empowered and equipped to make better responses to the suffering and oppressed peoples of the world. A time to be reinvigorated in the mission Jesus has given us. Speakers: Phil Lindsay; and Dr. Charles Ringma. Cost: \$40, concession \$30. North Pine Baptist Church Hall, Ogg Rd, Murrumba Downs. Contact: 07 3888 0571 or qld@tear.org.au. Web: www.tear.org.au/news/heart-for-the-poor-one-day-conference.

28 - 31 MAY. NATIONAL PASTORAL PLANNERS NETWORK CONFERENCE - 'ONE IN BAPTISM: SHARING THE RESPONSIBILITY FLOWING FROM CHRIST'S MISSION'. In this Year of Faith and responsive to the call of Emeritus Pope Benedict's call to a new evangelisation, the Conference will provide an opportunity for bishops, clergy and those involved in pastoral planning to reflect, discuss and share the gifts and challenges of the Church's missionary activity and pastoral life. As well as including a field trip to the Surfers Paradise Parish, there is also a series of workshops with a variety of presenters and topics. Speakers: Archbishop Mark Coleridge; Bishop Eugene Hurley; Rev Dr Richard Lennan; etc. Cost: \$360. Mantra Legends Hotel, Surfers Paradise. Contact: smorley@sale.catholic.org.au or 03 5622 6677. Web: www.nppn.net.au.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

9 APRIL. FLINDERS UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONALS LECTURE SERIES: 'FAIR GO? INEQUALITY AMONG CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA'. In this lecture Gerry Redmond will present evidence on inequality in children's outcomes in Australia, look at some of the factors that drive it, and propose practical solutions about what can be done to reduce it. Speaker: Associate Professor Gerry Redmond, Director, Flinders Institute of Public Policy and Management, School of Social and Policy Studies. No cost. 4.00 to 6.00 pm, Flinders University, Victoria Square Campus, Level 1, Room 1, 182 Victoria Square, Adelaide. Contact: madelene.henriksgaard@flinders.edu.au or 08 7221 8672. Book: www.flinders.edu.au/events/show/event/professionals-lecture-series.

10 APRIL. TEAR FOOD AND JUSTICE STUDY SESSIONS. Is our food production and distribution sustainable and just? Are we complicit in environmental destruction and human degradation? Hear stories of TEAR's partners as they strive for sustainability and food security, and spend time in your pantry learning how to research your foods origins and possible social and environmental impacts. Bring two food items from your kitchen that you regularly use to help get the journey started. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, 16 Inverell Ave, Sturt. Contact: ben.clarke@tear.org.au, RSVP by 6 April. Web: www.tear.org.au/news/food-and-justice.

TASMANIA

UNTIL 10 MAY. ART EXHIBITION: 'LITTLE (BIG) WORLD: EXPLORING CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN TASMANIA'. The work expresses the way in which grade 10 students understand cultural diversity and the role that understanding cultural differences can promote positive relationships at a personal and community level. This project is a joint initiative of the NEW Gallery, the Pro-Vice Chancellor's office and the Faculty of Education Global Education program. No cost. Mon - Fri, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, New Gallery 1 & 2, UTAS, Newnham Dr, Newnham. Web: www.events.utas.edu.au/2013/march/little-big-world-exploring-cultural-diversity-in-tasmania.

10 APRIL. SPIRITUALITY OVER SUPPER: 'REACHING OUT FOR CULTURAL COMPREHENSION THROUGH STORY TELLING'. A meaningful culture to culture experience. Learn about Jane and Naima's courageous journey from war torn Southern Sudan to create a new life in Tasmania. Be inspired by their music and traditional clothes. Presenters: Jane Oraisio and Naima Nekeniah. Cost: \$20. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Emmanuel Pastoral and Spirituality Centre, 123 Abbott St, Newstead. Contact: 03 6334 1082. Web: www.hobart.catholic.org.au/media/events/spirituality-over-supper.

VICTORIA

UNTIL 28 JULY. AFGHANISTAN EXHIBITION: HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, KABUL. This exhibition, with more

than 230 priceless treasures, some thousands of years old, offers a rare opportunity to discover the extraordinarily rich culture that is Afghanistan. Cost: \$24, concession \$16. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson St, Carlton. Contact: 13 11 02. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whatson/coming-soon/afghanistan>.

7 APRIL. MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY LECTURE: 'CHALLENGING INJUSTICE: THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE'. How does a just society evolve in the way it punishes those who commit terrible crimes? Does the incarceration rate in a country reflect the quality of life, commitment to freedom or justice in that society? What does a commitment to human rights require in the criminal justice context? After nearly 30 years representing people who have been condemned to death, incarcerated or subjected to extreme punishment, Professor Bryan Stevenson will offer reflections on these questions and the challenges they post to all who seek to contribute to a just society. Speaker: Bryan Stevenson, Professor of Clinical Law, New York University. No cost. 7.00 to 8.00 pm, Theatre GM15, Melbourne Law School, building 106, 185 Pelham St, Carlton. Contact: 03 9035 1111 or law-events@unimelb.edu.au. Book: <http://events.unimelb.edu.au/events/2880-challenging-injustice-the-american-experience>.

11 APRIL. BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE SEMINAR: 'COMPARATIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION THROUGH TIME: INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND SOCIAL POLICY IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND SINCE 1890'. This presentation will compare Australia and New Zealand on the relationship between industrial relations and social policy since the formal beginnings of social protection in the 1890s. Speaker: Gaby Ramia, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Government, University of Sydney. 12.00 to 1.00 pm, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Father Tucker's Room, 67 Brunswick St, Fitzroy. Contact: jdouglas@bsl.org.au or 03 9483 1364. Web: www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on.aspx?id=744&dt=11/04/2013.

11 APRIL. AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY - THE SIR PAUL HASLUCK FOUNDATION

ANNUAL LECTURE: 'SHALL OUR KIDS HAVE BULLETS OR BEANS - AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE SECURITY'. Speakers: General Peter Cosgrove AC MC. No cost. 6.30 to 7.30 pm, Philippa Brazill Lecture Theatre, Daniel Mannix Building, Melbourne. Contact: acuevents@acu.edu.au or 03 9953 3657, RSVP by 2 April. Web: www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/our_university/events/melbourne/the_sir_paul_hasluck_foundation_annual_lecture_by_general_peter_cosgrove_ac_mc.

12 APRIL. OUR GENERATION: MOVIE AND SPEAKER NIGHT. *Our Generation* is a groundbreaking new documentary on indigenous Australian rights. 6.30 to 8.30 pm, Mornington Library, Vancouver St, Mornington. Web: www.amnesty.org.au/vic/event/31294/.

17 APRIL. SPC FORUMS: 'WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE CHURCHES AND PUBLIC POLICY'. Speaker: Emeritus Bishop Pat Power, Canberra Goulburn diocese. 7.30 pm, Study Centre, Yarra Theological Union, 34 Bedford St, Box Hill. Web: www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/?p=6029.

18 APRIL. SHOAH MEMORIAL SERVICE. Christians and all people of good will are invited to reflect, to pray, to remember the destruction of six million Jews in the Holocaust. An ecumenical initiative of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, the Sub-Committee for Jewish Relations of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Working Group on Christian-Jewish Relations. 7.30 pm, St Michael's Uniting Church, 120 Collins St, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9532 4663 or lotten@netspace.net.au. Web: <http://www.cam.org.au/News-and-Events/>.

1 MAY - 3 JULY. MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS EDUCATION (MIRE) COURSE: 'AUSTRALIA IN THE ASIAN CENTURY?' Presenter: Professor Joe Camilleri. Speakers: Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister; and Gareth Evans, former Foreign Minister. Cost: \$375-1190. St Michael's Uniting Church, 120 Collins St, Melbourne. Contact: dialogue@latrobe.edu.au or 03 9479 2479, RSVP by 18 April. Web: www.mire.org.au.

11 MAY. PALMS AUSTRALIA WORKSHOP: ‘SOLIDARITY VOLUNTEERING: STRONG RELATIONSHIPS, MUTUAL DEVELOPMENT’. Palms Australia is seeking volunteers willing to participate in an authentic cross-cultural experience in countries across Asia, Africa or the Pacific. Positions exist in education, health, administration, agriculture, trades and other skilled areas. Attend this information session to find out more. No cost. 10.00 am, Ross House, Ground Floor Room 1, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Contact: 02 9518 9551 or sarah@palms.org.au. Web: www.palms.org.au.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

7 APRIL. LAWN BOWLS FOR AFGHANISTAN. Afghanistan is one of the most dangerous places in the world for women. Support Associations for the Women of Afghanistan’s aim is to assist projects dedicated to the advancement of the rights of Afghanistan’s women in all areas. Their projects include orphanages, schools, adult education, health services and income generation for women.

Cost: \$10. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, East Fremantle Bowling Club, Fletcher St, East Fremantle. Contact: Chilla.bulbeck@adelaide.edu.au or 0407 165 753, RSVP by 1 April. Web: www.amnesty.org.au/wa/event/31342/.

26 - 28 APRIL. YONGAH HILL DETENTION CENTRE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL. The Refugee Rights Action Network has organised a national convergence which aims to mobilise and build community support for the rights of refugees and to demand the end of mandatory detention. The Refugee Rights Action Network will be holding workshops and protest activities throughout the weekend to bring community and media attention to the reality and impact of mandatory detention for people who arrived in Australia to seek asylum. Come and listen to them share their stories and support the rights of refugees in detention centres across Australia. 9.00 am 26 April to 5.00 pm 28 April, Yongah Hill Detention Centre, Northam. Contact: waaia@amnesty.org.au. Web: www.amnesty.org.au/wa/event/31107.

News Monitor

ACRATH victories in trafficking battle

International Women’s Day became particularly memorable for the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) with two significant victories in the lead up to this celebration, reported Catholic Religious Australia.

Pope Francis wishes for a ‘poor church’

Pope Francis called for “a poor church for the poor”, saying he chose his papal name because St Francis of Assisi was “a man of poverty and a man of peace”, reported the ABC.

Pope tells Argentines to stay home and give air fare to poor

Pope Francis issued a message to the faithful in his homeland saying that he did not want them to travel to Rome for his inauguration and instead they should give the money they would have spent to charity, reported *The Tablet*.

Australian Catholic religious reach out to women at risk of slavery

Australia’s first multi-language anti-trafficking radio awareness project was launched in a bid to create awareness about the risk of sexual and labour exploitation in Australia, reported the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans in a media statement.

Don’t judge all asylum seekers by the actions of one, says ACMRO

The serious allegations against one asylum seeker should not be grounds to treat all asylum seekers as criminals, said Father Maurizio Pettenà, Director of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO), reported the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

Swiss nun fights to save women branded as witches in PNG

The shout went up from a posse of children as they raced past the health clinic in a valley

deep in the Papua New Guinean highlands. Inside, Swiss-born nurse and nun Sister Gaudentia Meier – 40-something years and a world away from the ordered alps of her homeland – was getting on with her daily

routine, patching the wounds and treating the sicknesses of an otherwise woefully neglected population, reported The Global Mail.

– Details at <http://cathnews.com>



Social Justice Calendar

- 1 Mon Easter Monday
1999: International Treaty to Ban Landmines becomes effective

- 2 Tue UN World Autism Awareness Day
2005: Death of Pope John Paul II

- 4 Thu International Day for Mine Awareness

- 7 Sun Second Sunday of Easter
World Health Day
Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwandan Genocide

- 8 Mon The Annunciation
Yom ha-Shoah, Holocaust Memorial Day

- 10 Wed 1972: 120 nations sign treaty banning biological warfare

- 11 Thu 1963: Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Pacem in Terris*

- 14 Sun Third Sunday of Easter
2002: Xanana Gusmao elected as first President of East Timor

- 15 Mon 1991: Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Royal Commission Final Report signed

- 18 Thu World Heritage Day
1955: Death of Albert Einstein

- 19 Fri 2005: Pope Benedict XVI elected

- 21 Sun Fourth Sunday of Easter
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

- 22 Mon International Mother Earth Day

- 23 Tue World Book and Copyright Day

- 24 Wed 1945: First United Nations Conference opens with 45 nations attending

- 25 Thu Anzac Day

- 26 Fri 1998: Bishop Gerardi murdered in Guatemala

- 28 Sun Fifth Sunday of Easter
1841: St Peter Chanel, first martyr from Oceania, killed in the New Hebrides

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

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Website: <http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>. ACSJC Briefing is sent by email at the
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front page of the website Comments and contributions are also welcome.