



No. 145 – May 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>

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- From the Secretariat
- Current Issues/Resources
- Latest Publications
- This Month's Notices
- News Monitor
- Social Justice Calendar

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

Below is the text of a Pastoral Letter issued to mark the Feast of St Joseph the Worker (1st May), which I invite you to circulate in your parish and local communities. The formatted letter can be downloaded from: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Time for a New Start - a call to increase allowance payments

Fifty years ago, Pope John XXIII issued his last social encyclical *Peace on Earth*. The scope of his call for world peace was wide-ranging - encompassing all aspects of society, from the relationships between individual citizens to the interaction of nation states on the world stage.

Pope John provided a blueprint for a peaceful society based on the human rights of each citizen and the good of society as a whole. He emphasised the primary responsibility of governments to ensure the 'right to

live' through entitlement to 'the means necessary for the proper development of life, particularly food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest, and finally, the necessary social services'. The standard of governance could be judged in terms of the support offered when people faced crises like ill health, disability, enforced unemployment and deprivation.¹

Adequately addressing the needs of vulnerable individuals and families is a particular requirement of good government. While the primary focus must be the common good of all - 'without favouring any citizen or category of citizen' - Pope John raised a vital qualification:

'... considerations of justice and equity can at times demand that those in power pay more attention to the weaker members of society, since these are at a disadvantage when it comes to defending their own rights and asserting their legitimate interests.'²

In 1963, Pope John foresaw social and economic challenges relating to technology and changed production methods that would require social security that ensures vulnerable members of society a decent standard of living.³ Two decades later, as the impact of global economic recessions and industrial restructuring had taken hold, Pope John Paul II added emphasis to the obligation on government to provide adequate income support:

'[it] is a duty springing from the fundamental principle of the moral order ... namely the principle of the common use of goods or, to put it another and still simpler way, the right to life and subsistence.'⁴

On this Feast Day of St Joseph the Worker, let us consider the circumstances of those who are seeking work but are forced to rely on income support Allowances that drive individuals and families into poverty.

Poverty level payments

Over 800,000 Australians struggle to survive on employment-related Allowance payments. The majority receive the Newstart Allowance. The single rate of payment is less than \$250 per week, or \$35 a day. The Australian Council of Social Service estimates that people who are unemployed are five times more likely than other Australians to be in poverty. This is partly a result of the low levels of Allowance, which for single adults is well below the poverty line.⁵

Up to 80 per cent of Allowance recipients each year experience three or more indicators of financial stress, such as lacking finances for emergencies, being unable to pay utility bills, or going further into debt.⁶ Around 17 per cent of households reliant on Allowances are going without meals just to make ends meet, and some agencies report that as many as half the recipients they assist are going without food.⁷ Increasingly it is Australia's charities that have been picking up the pieces for a social security system that is now failing the fundamental test of getting food on the table.

The system fails in two ways. Allowances have failed to keep pace with community living standards and have become less adequate over time as the growth in average wages has outpaced consumer price increases. Newstart has not been increased since 1994 and is indexed to the Consumer Price Index. Pensions received a substantial increase in 2009 and are more favourably indexed to average weekly earnings. In effect, the value of the Allowance has been frozen for two decades and the single rate is now \$150 per week lower than the pension.⁸

The second failure relates to the nature of the payment. It was designed at a time when full employment was the norm and periods of unemployment were brief. Long term unemployment is now a significant feature of the labour market and, in a high-employment environment, those remaining on benefits for long periods tend to experience higher levels of disadvantage. Over 60 per cent of Newstart recipients have been on the payment for more than one year and 20 per cent for five years or

more.⁹ The payment was designed to tide 'job-ready' people over brief spells between jobs, but it is now woefully inadequate.

Growing ranks of desperation

It is a concern, therefore, that successive governments have been shifting increasing numbers of pensioners onto lower paying Allowances. Following the introduction of the *Welfare to Work* policy of 2006, there has been an emphasis on transferring parents with young children and people with disabilities onto Newstart. There is nothing wrong with encouraging people into the labour market if real opportunities exist that will improve social and economic wellbeing. What *is* wrong is the inadequacy of the payment.

There are 100,000 people with disabilities who have been assessed as having a partial capacity to work. With tougher impairment tables for the assessment of eligibility for Disability Support Pension, people who have disabilities now represent 20 per cent of all Newstart recipients.¹⁰ In a labour market where jobseekers living with disabilities have only half the chance of their non-disabled counterparts of finding employment,¹¹ it is likely a significant number will languish on Newstart for long periods.

Increasing numbers of parents with young children have also been forced onto Newstart. As part of the *Welfare to Work* policy, around 45,000 parents have already been moved from Parenting Payment to the Allowance. The decision last year to shift all single parents off Parenting Payment when their youngest child turns eight means, from January 2013, an additional 80,000 are moving to the lower rate and facing cuts of between \$60 to \$110 per week.¹²

Those drafting the 2012 Fair Incentives to Work Bill maintained that the human rights of these recipients would not be infringed, since they could apply for alternative payments such as Newstart.¹³ But Parliament's own Joint Committee on Human Rights and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights have voiced concerns that the treatment of single parents

could contravene the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - particularly the rights to social security (article 9) and an adequate standard of living (article 11).

These concerns relate not just to the treatment of a particular category of client. They call into question the very capacity of Allowance payments to meet basic living costs related to essential health care, basic shelter, utilities and food.¹⁴

Time for a New Start

It has long been the position of policy-makers that the low rate of Newstart is consistent with community expectations and is functioning as an incentive for labour market participation.¹⁵ This rationale suggests that, beyond any worthwhile assistance gained through labour market and training programs, the low payment, flanked by a tough compliance regime, will create a strong work incentive.

This logic is being challenged by charities and community services, trade unions, labour market economists and business leaders. Far from being an incentive, it has become a barrier to work. For many, the payment does not cover significant costs related to job search and circumstances of financial stress regularly detract from seeking employment and preparing for interviews. As stated by the Chief Executive of the Business Council of Australia:

‘The point that I, and other employers, have tried to make is that entrenching people into poverty by expecting them to live on \$35 a day is not a pathway back into employment.’¹⁶

The Newstart Allowance is set so low that even an increase of \$50 per week would only raise its value to half the minimum wage - hardly a disincentive to finding work.

The government can introduce a whole range of incentives and programs to encourage people into the labour market, but the immediate priority must be an increase in payments. It is time for a ‘new start’ - one

that focuses first on the adequacy of Newstart and other Allowance payments before there is any consideration of the ‘incentivisation’ of recipients.

Over the past two decades, agencies like Catholic Social Services Australia and St Vincent de Paul have seen the value of Allowance payments fall. They have been at the forefront of efforts to convince parliamentarians on both sides of politics of the need to treat our disadvantaged brothers and sisters more fairly. They are advocating for:

- an increase to the base rate of Newstart and other Allowances by \$50 per week.
- the indexation of Allowance payments to average wages.
- the establishment of an independent commission to set benchmarks of adequacy related to a standard of living below which no citizen should fall.

Remember those words of Blessed Pope John XXIII - ‘considerations of justice and equity can at times demand that those in power pay more attention to the weaker members of society’.

For the welfare of citizens enduring great hardship and for the common good, now is such a time.

Most Rev. Christopher Saunders, DD
Bishop of Broome
Chairman, Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

Notes

1. Pope John XXIII (1963), *Pacem in Terris*, Encyclical Letter, n. 11
2. Ibid., n. 56
3. Ibid., n. 64
4. Pope John Paul II (1981), *Laborem Exercens*, Encyclical Letter, n. 18
5. Australian Council of Social Service (2012), *Poverty in Australia*, pp. 23 , 31f
6. Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) (2012), *Adequate income support payments for jobless Australians*, Submission to Senate Standing Committee on Education,

Employment and Workplace Relations, p. 9

7. National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (2012), *Going Without: Financial Hardship in Australia*, Report prepared for CSSA et. al. p. 15; Salvation Army Australia (2012), Submission to the Senate Standing Committee, p. 5; Anglicare Sydney (2012), Submission to Senate Standing Committee, p. 8

8. ACOSS (25 March 2013), 'United call for Newstart increase at ACOSS National Conference', media statement.

9. National Welfare Rights Network (2012), Submission to the Senate Standing Committee, p. 9

10. ACOSS, (7 March 2013), 'Not an either-or: Newstart must be lifted to ease worsening poverty in Australia', joint media statement.

11. PricewaterhouseCoopers (2011), *Disability Expectations: Investing in a better life, a stronger Australia*, p. 42

12. ACOSS, (2 December 2012), 'New Year must bring a better safety net for single parents and people looking for work' & (21 March 2013), 'Evidence is in: Government must now reverse single parent cuts and lift Newstart', media

statements.

13. Social Security Legislation Amendment (Fair Incentives to Work) Bill 2012, Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights.

14. Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights (2012), *Examination of Amendment (Fair Incentives to Work) Bill 2012*, p. 3; ACOSS (5 October 2012), Communication to UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights; UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights and UN Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice (19 October 2012), Communication to Australian Government.

15. Departments: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Human Services, Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (2012), Submission to the Senate Standing Committee, pp. 11f

16. Jennifer Westacott (23 January 2012), 'We Need to Talk about Refurbishing All Our Safety Nets', *The Australian*.



Current Issues / Resources

MEDIA RELEASE - 'A NEW START FOR NEWSTART'

Issuing the annual Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker (1 May), Bishop Saunders said, 'Over 800,000 Australians struggle to survive on employment-related payments. The majority receive the Newstart Allowance, which at the single rate is less than \$250 per week, or \$35 a day. Allowances have not been increased since 1994. They have not kept pace with costs of living'. The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council supports calls for a \$50 per week increase to the base rate of Allowance. Payments should be indexed to average wages to close the gap between Allowance and Pension rates. And an independent commission should be established to set benchmarks of adequacy related to a standard of living below which no citizen should fall. (refer: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>)

ACOSS: RAISE NEWSTART FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS

The Australian Council of Social Service says raising the single rate of Newstart Allowance could be the greatest legacy of the 43rd Parliament if the Federal Government takes the courageous step for

the first time in 20 years. Speaking at the launch of the peak community welfare body's 2013 Budget submission, Dr Cassandra Goldie said, 'Increasing the abysmally low base rate of Allowance payments by \$50 a week is the single most important thing this government could do in the immediate term to lift more than one million people out of worsening poverty in Australia.' To find out more about the '\$35 a day is not enough!' campaign, visit: http://www.acoss.org.au/take_action/allowances_statement_2012-02/

NCCA: ATTACKS ON THE COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH CONDEMNED

'The safety of Coptic Christians is of increasing concern', said the general secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia, following attacks on Christians in Cairo. Reverend Tara Curlewis said 'These latest attacks have taken place inside the St Marks Cathedral Complex which also contains the Papal residence of Pope Tawadros II. These attacks strike people when they are most vulnerable and at the place where they should feel safest. ... President Morsi has a responsibility to protect all citizens of Egypt and uphold the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which his country is a signatory.’ Refer: <http://www.ncca.org.au/home/media-releases/725-tensions-reach-new-climax-in-egypt>

STATEMENT ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF *PACEM IN TERRIS*

On 11 April, the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane issued a statement commemorating the anniversary of ‘Peace on Earth’. ‘On this fiftieth anniversary of Blessed Pope John XXIII’s encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*, we wish to reach out in love and solidarity to all people on our planet, especially those who live with conflict, violence and any form of oppression’, the statement says. To view a recording of the Statement, visit: <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/25337935/cjpc-compiled.wmv>

FEATURE WEBSITE - ‘MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER’

‘Moving Forward Together’ is a social initiative by various community groups committed to creating a better understanding amongst all sectors of the community for a vision of living in harmony. It is based on the philosophy of a decent society and caters to all people regardless of colour, origin, culture or religion. It stands for a decent society, and invites other groups with similar concerns to work together with them. Many ‘Harmony’ events are promoted for Harmony Day on 21 March and throughout the year. To find out more, visit: <http://www.movingforwardtogether.com.au/>

PARISH RESOURCE FOR WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Communications Office has released an eBook and parish resource to coincide with the celebration of the 47th World Communications Day, which takes place in Australia on Sunday, May 5. In one of his final acts as Pope, Benedict XVI authored the statement “Social Networks: portals of truth and faith; new spaces for evangelization”, recognising the gifts of social networking in sharing the message of Christ.

In response to the Holy Father’s message, the Communications Office commissioned 30 Catholic Media Professionals from around Australia to contribute chapters to an eBook entitled “Word Made Flesh and ‘Shared’ Among Us.” The eBook is available now for free download to iPads, iPhones and Android devices at www.catholic.org.au and can be read in iBooks and a range of eReader apps. It can also be downloaded at www.amazon.com for \$1.99.

PUBLICATION: ‘HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS FOR IMMIGRATION DETENTION’

The Australian Human Rights Commission has published a set of human rights based standards to guide the monitoring of immigration detention facilities by independent monitoring bodies. Jointly funded by the Commission, the Commonwealth Ombudsman and the federal Attorney General’s Department, the standards have also been developed in consultation with a range of key stakeholders including the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. To access the document, visit: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/human-rights-standards-immigration-detention>

CAMPAIGN: ‘DETENTION4DETENTION’

As part of their involvement in the international Coalition- ‘End Child Detention’, the Young Christian Students Movement is inviting schools to undertake a ‘Detention4Detention’ - doing voluntary lunchtime detention with other high school students all around Australia to provide asylum seekers with a message of hope, and a welcome to our country. They are asking students to take action by signing a petition and taking photos in support. YCS will be meeting politicians from around the country in the coming months to let them know about this action the support for change in local communities engaged in this campaign. Visit the website to access the material: <http://www.cathoyouthadelaide.org.au/media/files/5290.pdf>

PUBLICATION: ‘ASYLUM SEEKERS AND THE RIGHT TO WORK’

As part of its ‘Right to Work’ campaign, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre has released a policy position paper entitled ‘Asylum seekers and the right to work’. The paper calls on the Minister for Immigration & Citizenship to immediately extend the right to work to all asylum seekers released into the community on bridging visas, regardless of mode or date of arrival or stage in the refugee determination process, and that the right to work is accompanied by the provision of basic employment support services. To find out more about the campaign and to access the policy paper, visit: <http://righttowork.com.au/resources/>

ON-LINE RESOURCE: ‘ROAD TO REFUGE’

Searching for safety and protection, refugees and asylum seekers embark on many different and difficult journeys. The decision to leave behind family and friends, and the life you have built for yourself, is never easy. Take a Road to Refuge

journey and challenge yourself - what would you do if you were in the shoes of a refugee? How hard would you fight for your safety and the safety of the ones you love? Visit: <http://www.roadtorefuge.com/>

ON-LINE RESOURCE: 'REFUGEE FACTS'

'Refugee Facts' has been designed to provide quick facts and comprehensive background information on asylum seekers in Australia, in the interest of ethical and accurate reporting. Authors John Menadue AO, Arja Keski-Nummi and Kate Gauthier have compiled this manual, which provides key information and statistics for journalists, editors and advocates on asylum seeker issues. It has been designed to provide quick facts and accessible background information on asylum seekers in Australia in the interest of accurate reporting. Visit: <http://refugeefacts.cpd.org.au/>

CAMPAIGN: '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.

CALL FOR PAPERS - ACHIEVING ETHICAL EXCELLENCE

The Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics (AAPAE) is calling for papers for its 20th Annual Conference, which will be held at Notre Dame University in Fremantle from 27 - 30 June 2013. Papers around the theme 'Achieving Ethical Excellence' will be considered in the areas of bioethics, moral philosophy, political philosophy, public policy, and media, police, business, medical, social work, military, legal and sporting ethics. Papers and abstracts are due by Friday, 10 May 2013. Submit papers and abstracts to the conference convenor: Kristi.Giselsson@utas.edu.au. For more information about the conference, visit: www.aapae2013conference.com.au

DISABILITY RESOURCE ON 'AGENCY TRANSFORMATION'

In October 2012, Brisbane's Community Resource Unit (CRU) partnered with the Workforce Council's Disability Sector Training Fund to run 'Agency Transformation' events. These events were designed to assist managers and other key decision makers think through the core requirements for authentic service transformation so that services would be individually tailored and designed to assist people with a disability to live better lives. Aoife O'Toole, the Service Quality Manager for Cheshire Ireland (a disability service provider) shared her experiences of individualising service for 17 individuals. To watch the interviews, visit the CRU website at: http://www.cru.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=157:u-tube-videos-agency-tranformation&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=84

Latest Publications

(Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from the ACSJC website that can be faxed to (02) 8306 3498: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/OrderFormPublications.pdf>)

PASTORAL LETTER - FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2013

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker for 2013 is entitled 'Time for a New Start - a call to increase allowance payments'. It is available for download in

regular and 'three-column' versions at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

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 at 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>

(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 - 19 MAY. FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT. Fair Trade Fortnight is an annual campaign organised by members and activists of the Fair Trade Movement. Fair trade members, organisations and the public participate in events and festivities which celebrate the fair trade journey and raise awareness of the campaign across the globe. Events will be held across Australia and New Zealand - events will be updated on this calendar: www.fta.org.au/news-events?mini=calendar/2013-05.

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.

19 MAY. JUBILEE SUNDAY. ‘Send forth your spirit and renew the face of the earth’ (Psalm 104). Jubilee Sunday is a time to listen to the voices of the poor, the oppressed and the powerless, to deepen your understanding of the structural causes of global poverty and injustice, to pray for long-term solutions to the global poverty crisis, and collect a special offering to support the work of Jubilee Australia. Worship and education resources: <http://www.jubileeaustralia.org/page/about/faith>.

3 - 13 JUNE. CATHOLIC MISSION’S GETTING INVOLVED GLOBALLY (GIG) PROGRAM: TIMOR LESTE IMMERSION. Immersion is first and foremost a ‘being with’ others. Experience the hospitality of our nearest Asian neighbour in this mission encounter in communities in Timor Leste. Led by experienced facilitators, communities in the Majority/Developing World will host participants. Facilitator: Luke Keighery. Contact: 1800 257 296. Web: www.catholicmission.org.au/educationformation/gig.

30 JUNE - 13 JULY. PALMS ENCOUNTER TIMOR-LESTE. Encounters provide opportunities for people to learn about the work of Palms development volunteers on mission overseas. Encounters are small groups of 8-10 who will travel with a Palms staff member to visit Palms’ volunteers in 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. Web: www.palms.org.au/encounters/.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

6 & 13 MAY. TALK: VARIETIES OF ISLAM. Speaker: Pambula administrator Fr John Parsons, who was a member of the Archdiocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission and taught in a Lebanon university. Hosted by the Archdiocesan Commission for Women. Cost: \$5 donation. Contact: 02 6231 0664 or 0417 418 838. Web: www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/index.cfm?loadref=16.

6 May: 7.30 pm, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla.

13 May: 4.00 pm, St Mary’s Parish Centre, Young.

NEW SOUTH WALES

1 - 31 MAY. BLANKET AND BEANIE APPEAL. The purpose is to collect blankets and beanies for the homeless people in Sydney, Parramatta and other metropolitan areas. Donations by arrangement to Baulkham Hills Baptist Church. There will also be a table specifically set up for people to drop off donated items on 10 May from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm at Stockland Shopping centre, Baulkham Hills. Baulkham Hills Baptist Church, 39-41 Sarah Cres, Baulkham Hills. Contact: 02 9639 1981 or baptist_church@optusnet.com.au. Web: www.baulkobaps.com.

2 MAY. FUNDRAISER: ‘SAIL IN SOLIDARITY’. The NSW Parliamentary Friends of Palestine is holding this event aboard the Mari Nawi to raise funds for Gaza’s Ark and show international solidarity with the people of Gaza and show international solidarity with the people of Gaza and this local job-creating project. Cost: \$75. 6.00 to 9.30 pm, Circular Quay. Contact: 02 9230 3030 or nswparlyfriendsofpalestine@gmail.com. Book: www.trybooking.com/CRHH.

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 Entertainment Centre, Swift St, 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. EDMUND RICE CENTRE AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE: 'WHOSE RIGHTS? COAL SEAM GAS - ENGAGING WITH THE CONCERNS'. An opportunity to experience and reflect on a Simulation Game that raises questions about the complex issues related to coal seam gas exploration and mining. Participants are able to 'walk in the shoes of another person' experiencing something of that person's situation with feelings, dilemmas and conflicts. Facilitator: Jill Finnane. Cost: \$2 or \$5 donation. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, 15 Henley Rd, near Flemington Station, Homebush West. Contact: eco.justice@erc.org.au or 02 8762 4200.

2 - 25 MAY. ART EXHIBITION: 'GIFTS OF THE ARTISTS'. A rare collection of Indigenous art from the Warmun community in the East Kimberley, featuring precious works from some of Australia's best-known Indigenous artists. The works include spectacular paintings and landscapes, as well as striking sculptures and digging sticks. This collection highlights the crossover between the cultural folklore of the Gija people and Catholic teachings which they have melded into their own unique spiritual tradition. McGlade Gallery, 25a Barker Rd, Strathfield. Web: http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/our_university/events/strathfield/gifts_of_the_artists.

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/>.

3 - 5 MAY. THERE IS A TIME FOR PEACE WEEKEND. The weekend will include reflective activities, silence, music and conversation. Facilitator: Andrea Dean, Future Matters. Cost: \$400, covering all meals and two nights' accommodation in a single room with ensuite. 5.00 pm, The Hermitage, Mittagong. Contact: 0487 388 873 or admin@futurematters.net.au. Book: <http://heron.directrouter.co.uk/~zpzaroiip/programs/>.

4 MAY. SCREENING: 'BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA'. This documentary looks at the circumstances and decisions that can lead to someone having to become a 'boat person'. The screening will be preceded by a Fair Trade mini market and followed by a panel discussion with Najeeba Wazefadost (President, Hazara Women of Australia), Rev Dr John Jegasothy, Johnny Sharpe and Sally Irwin. Cost: \$10-15. 5.00 pm, St Stephens Anglican Church, 16 Lockwood Ave, Belrose. Web: <http://www.ststephens.net.au/calendar.aspx?event=45&date=%222013-05-04T00%3A00%3A00%22>.

4 - 19 MAY. FAIR TRADE POP UP SHOP IN PADDINGTON. As part of the Fair Trade fortnight, Ethica Accessories will be participating in a new 'pop up' shop in Paddington. You can buy wonderful Ethica

products - alpaca sweaters, beanies, tea cozies and more. Also, you can purchase from Afri Beads, Aware.. the social design project, Bozy, East Timor Woven Art, Every Little Girl, Import Ants, Kaleidoscope, Myadashi, My EcoFriend, Oxfam, Repp, Sanna Afrika, Serendipity, and Weft Shop. Come in and see the lovely range of products. There will be something to suit everyone's budget. 10.30 am to 5.30 pm, 394 Oxford St, Paddington, (across the street from Paddington Public School). Web: www.ethica.org.au.

5 MAY. EREMOS WORKSHOP: 'GOD, SELF AND SOCIETY: THE CHALLENGE OF RENÉ GIRARD'. Converted from atheism, the 89 year-old polymath Rene Girard is today a devout member of the Catholic church. He has written extensively on violence and religion, arguing that humanity, its cultures and its archaic gods/God are intrinsically violent, and that the murder of Jesus exposed violent religion for what it is. But how are we to respond to the spiritual vacuum left in the wake of our dead myths? Speaker: Bishop Bruce Wilson. Cost: \$15-30. 2.00 to 5.00 pm, Drummoyne Community Centre, 10 Cometrowe St, Drummoyne. Contact: events@eremos.org.au. Book: <http://www.eremos.org.au/news/god-self-and-society-with-bruce-wilson-may-5-2013>, RSVP by 2 May.

6 MAY. SURRY HILLS FILM NIGHT. THE CLEAN BIN PROJECT. The AHRCentre and the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre are bringing films to the Sydney community on a monthly basis covering a wide range of human rights issues. This film explores the question of whether, in our 'throw-away society', we can live completely waste free. Speaker from Oz Harvest to follow. No cost. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, 1st floor, 405 Crown St, Surry Hills. Book: www.shnc.org.

6 MAY. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT ON CONSTITUTIONALISM AND THE RULE OF LAW IN SOUTH AFRICA'. The AHRCentre, Human Rights Law Centre and NSW Young Lawyers Human Rights Committee are holding this lecture. Speaker: Justice Edwin Cameron. Described by former South African President Nelson Mandela as one of South Africa's 'modern heroes', Justice Edwin Cameron

became a lawyer in the early 1980s during apartheid and has had a significant impact on the evolution of human rights law in South Africa and beyond. No cost. 1.00 to 2.00 pm, Staff Common Room, Faculty of Law, UNSW (level 2, Law Building). Book: <http://justiceedwincameron.eventbrite.com.au/#>.

6 MAY. SYDNEY DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE (SDC) EVENT: 'REDWATCH: MONITORING GOVERNMENT AND AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY VOICES IN REDFERN WATERLOO'. Come along and gain an understanding of an organisation in our backyard that is keeping government honest and is involved in community development. Share and learn tips on maximising community engagement. Presenter: Geoff Turnbull, REDWatch, a group that for the last 10 years has monitored government involvement in Redfern and Waterloo and worked to ensure that the diverse range of community voices in the area are listened to in decisions being made about the area. Their work has included supporting Aboriginal housing on the block, preservation of railway heritage, getting greater human service integration and trying to get a range of public housing issues addressed. Cost: \$5. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, UTS Broadway campus, 235 Jones St, Building 10, Level 6, Training Room 440 (CB10.06.440). Contact: 0417 272 101 or 0414 345 114. Web: <http://sdc.groupsites.com/calendar/event/2013/5/6/368151>.

7 MAY. BAHÁ'I FORUM: 'FIVE YEARS TOO MANY'. A national forum calling for the immediate release of seven Baha'i leaders imprisoned in Iran for the past five years. Their 20-year sentences are the longest given to any current prisoners of conscience in Iran. Their harshness reflects the Government's resolve to oppress completely the Iranian Baha'i community, which faces a systematic, 'cradle-to-grave' persecution that is among the most serious examples of state-sponsored religious persecution in the world today. The program will include a keynote address, prayers by representatives of Sydney's religious communities and presentations by Australian relatives of the seven leaders. 12.30 to 2.00 pm, The Theatre, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney. Contact: opi@bahai.org.au or 02 9998 9222. Web: www.bic.org/fiveyears.

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: campaign@aftinet.org.au. Web: <http://aftinet.org.au/cms/>.

13 MAY. BOOK LAUNCH: 'A DECISION TO DISCRIMINATE'. The event 'An update on NT Intervention' is part of the Guringai Festival and will include a presentation of the book. Speakers: Jeff McMullen, Graeme Mundine. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale. Contact: 02 9999 3045. Web: www.concernedaustralians.com.au/ADTD_booklaunches.html#Geelong.

15 - 18 MAY. WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES: 'HAPPY FAMILIES - HEALTHY ECONOMY'. 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@thinkbusinesssevents.com.au. Web: <http://wcf-sydney2013.org.au/>.

16 MAY. WORKSHOP: 'CLIMATE JUSTICE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC'. The workshop will be an informative and interesting evening at which people can hear from Meredith Burgmann, the President of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) about her recent trip to Kiribati, and from Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang, a Kiribati woman, and the Pacific Outreach Officer at the Pacific Calling Partnership - to put a human face on climate change, its effects on the developing countries of the

Pacific and the need for climate justice. No cost. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Carlsaw Tutorial Room 360, Eastern Ave, near the City Rd entrance, University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus. Web: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pacific-Calling-Partnership/231635313518526>.

17 MAY. ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER. Roll up, roll up!! The Asylum Seekers Centre Annual Quiz Night is back in town! Join host HG Nelson for a magical journey under the Big Top. Clowns, acrobats, magicians, circus performers and the Pat Capocci Combo will stun you with their skills in the greatest show on earth! All funds raised will support the vital work of the Asylum Seekers Centre. Theme and dress: Circus Soiree. Cost: \$640 per table. 7.00 to 11.00 pm, Norths Leagues Club, Cammeray. Contact: 02 9361 5606 or fundraising@asylumseekerscentre.org.au. Book: <http://www.trybooking.com/44498>.

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.

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/>.

19 MAY. TIMOR-LESTE PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY. Local photographer Conor Ashleigh is presenting a solo exhibition showcasing his work in Timor-Leste between 2009 and 2013. The exhibition is titled *Timor-Leste: Moving Forward, Looking Back*. 3.00 pm opening, various other times, Art Est. Art School and Gallery, Studio 4, 67-69 Lords Rd, Leichhardt. Web: www.conorashleigh.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/conorflyer-webres.jpg.

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 CSSR, Australian Catholic University; etc. Cost: \$250-600. Various Sydney CBD venues. Contact: 02 9281 0284. Web: www.thegreatgrace.org.au.

22 MAY. COALITION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN PALESTINE NAKBA COMMEMORATION LECTURE. Al Nakba: In May 1948, following the partition of Palestine, more than 750,000 Palestinians, a majority of the population, were driven by force from their homes and lands by the creation of the State of Israel. Palestinians call this the Nakba and May 2013 marks 65 years since this tragic event. Speaker: Dr Mona el-Farra, Vice President and Health Chair, Red Crescent Society for Gaza Strip and Gaza Director, Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA). Dr el-Farra has a particular interest in women's rights and the welfare of children in the Gaza Strip of Occupied Palestine. 6.00 pm, Auburn Town Hall. Web: <http://coalitionforpalestine.org/current-events/nakba2013/>.

23 MAY. ACROSS POST BUDGET LUNCH WITH THE TREASURER. The Hon Wayne Swan MP, Federal Treasurer and Deputy Prime Minister, will deliver his Post Budget Address to the community sector, talking about what the Budget means for people facing poverty and inequality, the community sector and the Australian public more generally. The Address will include an opportunity for questions and discussion with the Treasurer. This will be followed by a panel discussion for further analysis of the Budget, from a range of community sector perspectives. Cost: \$75-187. 12.00 to 2.30 pm, Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf, Accenture Building, Ground Floor, 48 Pirrama Rd, Pyrmont. Contact: 02 9310 6200 or info@acoss.org.au. Book: <http://acoss.org.au/events/view/1275/>.

23 MAY. ETHICA SPECIAL WINTER CELEBRATION. This year's winter celebration will be a bit different. It is a sit down affair with program that includes a fashion show, music, Peruvian dancers - and a presentation about each group of women Ethica supports. You will be served finger food and wine - and as always you are invited to purchase from Ethica's new range of products. Cost: \$25. 6.00 pm, Isabel Menton Auditorium, 7 Mount Street, North Sydney. Contact: gina.bradley@sosj.org.au or 02 8912 2716, RSVP essential. Web: www.ethica.org.au.

24 MAY. WORKSHOP: 'BECOMING A CULTURALLY COMPETENT ORGANISATION'. With the fifth anniversary this year of the apology to stolen generations, it is a time to review our work with the Aboriginal community, and what it means to be a culturally competent organisation. This interactive workshop will provide community service practitioners and managers with the skills and resources needed to work respectfully with Aboriginal organizations and engage with Aboriginal clients. Cost: \$85. 9.30 am to 1.00 pm, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne. Contact: 03 9287 5566 or lucia.brick@css.org.au. Book: <http://www.trybooking.com/CQJP>, RSVP by 21 May.

26 MAY. CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND COMMUNITY ORGANISING. UK journalist and commentator Austen Ivereigh is a well-known voice on church affairs. Here he will reflect on

London Citizens, thousands of Catholics who have worked with other people of goodwill to win concrete improvements for the people of London. 2.30 to 4.00 pm, Mount St Benedict College, 449 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills. Contact: 02 9390 5935 or christine.drozario@sydneycatholic.org, RSVP by 17 May. Web: www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/332670/Austen%20Ivereigh_flyer.pdf.

28 MAY. PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE (PIAC) WORKSHOP: NEGOTIATION SKILLS FOR ADVOCATES. This practical workshop covers the basics of ‘principled’ or ‘interest-based’ negotiation approach from the work of the Harvard Negotiation Project. You will learn to strengthen your bargaining position through thoughtful planning, developing effective skills, strategies and techniques, and discovering how you can identify your own value and power in any negotiation. Cost: \$240. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Sydney CBD. Contact: 02 8898 6503. Book: www.piac.asn.au/trainingevent/negotiation-skills-advocates-1.

29 MAY. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION. Changing the Australian Constitution to recognise the First Peoples. Presenters: Janny Ely, Leo Dynevor and Deborah Squires. Come along and put your views forward. Lunch provided. 10.30 am to 1.00 pm, Campbelltown Civic Hall, 91 Queen St, Campbelltown. Contact: leo.dynevor@murunangamai.org.au or 0448 375 653, RSVP by 22 May. For transport needs: contact Gandangara Transport Services, 02 9608 0968. Web: www.communitynet.tricomm.org.au/index.php/events/meetings-a-forums/61192-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-public-consultation-on-australian-constitution-29-may-2013-campbelltown.

1 JUNE. FAITH IN ACTION: THROUGH THE JESUIT SPIRITUALITY OF POPE FRANCIS. Hear renowned national speaker Sandie Cornish as she helps to unpack Catholic Social Teaching through the Jesuit spirituality of Pope Francis. Learn the basic tools to move from faith into action in your everyday life. Through prayer, reflection, sharing and input we will identify issues facing us today, discover the riches

of Scripture and Church Social Teaching and explore ways of beginning to develop our understanding and response to these issues. Cost: \$10. 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, Xavier Centre Conference Rooms, 38 Harbour St, Wollongong. Contact: darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au or 02 4222 2463, RSVP by 24 May. Web: http://dow.org.au/diocese/resources/doc_download/651-faith-in-action-through-the-jesuit-spirituality-of-pope-francis.

11 JUNE. BOOK LAUNCH: ‘A DECISION TO DISCRIMINATE’. This event is part of the Guringai Festival and includes a screening of the film ‘Our Generation’. Launched by Graeme Mundine. 6.30 to 9.00 pm, Ryde Library, 1 Pope St, Ryde. Contact: 02 9869 1737 or darryl_drake@optusnet.com.au. Web: www.concernedaustralians.com.au/ADTD_booklaunches.html#Geelong.

12 JUNE. BROKEN BAY INSTITUTE: UNDERSTANDING THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES JEWISH-CHRISTIAN CONVERSATIONS. The topic will be ‘Exodus and Passover: The Relationship to Christian Traditions of Eucharist’. Speakers: Rabbi Gad Krebs, Masada Synagogue, St Ives; and Dr Antoinette Collins, Lecturer in Theology, The Broken Bay Institute and University of Newcastle. No cost. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Caroline Chisholm Centre, Father Harris Davis Room - Level 8, 423 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills (enter via City View Rd). Contact: trish.madigan@dbb.org.au or 02 9847 0428. Web: <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-and-events/fx-view-event.cfm?loadref=132&id=38>.

3 - 6 JULY. BROKEN BAY INSTITUTE (BBI) INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER SERIES: ‘STRANGERS, MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN THE BIBLE’. Whether for professional or personal development, this event is not to be missed by anyone who cares about refugees and wishes to gain new perspectives and practical insights that will help you make a difference. 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.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

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.

1 JUNE. DARWIN WATERFRONT HARMONY SOIREE. This event provides an opportunity for multicultural community groups to showcase their culture and talent to the wider community. It will include food, entertainment, come and try activities and a lantern flotilla. From 4.00 pm, Darwin Waterfront Precinct. Web: http://www.dcm.nt.gov.au/strong_community/multicultural_affairs/harmony_soiree_2013.

3 - 5 JUNE. NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE: 'SHAPING THE FUTURE'. The Conference is an opportunity for a diverse range of native title stakeholders from across the country to come together to discuss and highlight the future of native title practice, policy and law. It is the leading annual professional development event for staff of native title representative bodies/ service providers and relevant government agencies, as well as independent native title practitioners and academics. The Conference program includes keynotes and plenary speeches, dialogue forums, technical workshops, topical workshops and Indigenous talking circles. Cost: \$550-990. Alice Springs Convention Centre. Register: www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru/ntc13.html.

7 - 10 JUNE. BARUNGA FESTIVAL. The Barunga Festival is a premiere celebration of Indigenous culture, music and sport in the Top End. This festival brings together the musical, artistic, cultural and sporting talents of the Katherine region as well as the Top End and Desert regions. Over the festival weekend,

visitors are invited to be part of dancing ceremonies, share traditional bush tucker, make their own didgeridoo or woven basket to take home, listen to dreaming stories and enjoy the many cultural activities on offer. Cost: \$30, concession \$10. Book: <http://www.moshtix.com.au/v2/event/barunga-music-sports-and-cultural-festival/63656>.

QUEENSLAND

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.

5 MAY. 'ONE WORLD - ONE DAY' PEACE FESTIVAL. This event will feature football action from migrant and local teams, multicultural food and craft stalls, children's tent with crafts and games, music and dance performances, workshops for young and old, circus skills, musical performances, drumming workshop with the Samba Blisstas Brazilian-style troupe, agency stalls and a harmony walk. Queens Park, Warwick. Web: www.peacefestival.org.au.

9 MAY. QLD UNIVERSITY SEMINAR: 'HOUSING RIGHTS' AND 'RIGHTS TO HOUSING': EXPLORING MORAL AND LEGAL DISCOURSES IN AN ERA OF GROWING WELFARE CONDITIONALITY IN THE UK. This presentation will explore the complexity of the concept of 'rights' within the housing arena, emphasising the critical distinction to be maintained between 'moral' and 'legal' rights, at both global and national levels. Within England, growing conditionality is evident with respect to both 'housing rights' and 'rights to housing'.

Welfare reform - notably national benefit caps and the housing benefit 'bedroom tax' - is undermining the de facto housing security of large numbers of low-income households. Speaker: Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Research Professorship in Housing and Social Policy, Heriot-Watt University. 12.00 to 1.15 pm, Room 442, GPN3 (Building 39a), University of Qld. Web: <http://www.issr.uq.edu.au/event/seminar-%E2%80%98housing-rights%E2%80%99-and-%E2%80%98rights-housing%E2%80%99-exploring-moral-and-legal-discourses-era-growing>.

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.

25 MAY. RIDE FOR REFUGEES. An initiative of International Teams, RIDE for Refugees Australia is a non-competitive, family-friendly cycling event designed to raise awareness and funds for refugee ministries both in Australia and around the world. Cost: 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, Albert Bishop Park Criterium Cir (enter from Hedley Ave), Nundah. Register: <https://rideforrefugees.com.au/brisbane>.

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.

4 - 6 JUNE. SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & ISLANDER CHILD CARE (SNAICC) NATIONAL CONFERENCE: 'FOR OUR CHILDREN: LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER'. SNAICC is the national non-government peak body in Australia representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. The SNAICC National conference is the largest conference of its type in the southern hemisphere and provides the opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, policy makers, researchers, government representatives, other non-government organisations and industry representatives to gather and make renewed commitments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Cost: \$550-1100. Cairns Convention Centre. Book: www.snaicc.org.au/news-events/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=67, RSVP by 17 May.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

2 MAY. EDMUND RICE PUBLIC ADDRESS: 'WOULD YOU WAIT A LIFETIME?' Melbourne barrister and asylum seeker advocate Jessie Taylor will explore the difficulties surrounding Australia's refugee policy and the important questions we need to be asking our politicians in this election year. The event takes as its theme the situation of registered refugees in Indonesia, who currently face a 40-60 year

wait for resettlement to Australia. Cost: gold coin donation. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Hetzel Lecture Theatre, State Library of South Australia, North Tce, Adelaide. Contact: 08 8354 2100 or lahack@edmundrice.org. Web: www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org/index.php/94-website/content/news-a-views/whats-on/1015-would-you-wait-a-lifetime.

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.

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>.

2 MAY. MULTICULTURALISM CONFERENCE: STRENGTHENING DIVERSITY. The conference will examine how multiculturalism can be misunderstood, how service providers need to prepare to work in a more competitive environment and government commitments relating to ethnic communities in Australia. Cost: \$55-195. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm, Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, corner Bell St and St Georges Rd, Preston. Web: www.amcservices.org.au.

3 MAY. HUMAN RIGHTS DINNER. The annual Human Rights Dinner raises funds for the Human Rights Law Centre and Public Interest Law Clearing House. Speaker: Justice Edwin Cameron, Constitutional Court of South Africa. Cost: \$170, concession \$100. 6.30 pm, Sofitel Melbourne On Collins, 25 Collins St, Melbourne. Book: <https://register.pilch.org.au/civicrm/event/register?cid=0&reset=1&id=8>.

3 MAY. BOOK LAUNCH: 'A DECISION TO DISCRIMINATE'. Speakers: Auntie Betty Pike, Elder Aboriginal Catholic Ministry; Michele Harris, 'concerned Australians'. 2.00 pm, Narana Creations, 410 Torquay Road, Geelong. Contact: 03 5241 5700. Web: www.concernedaustralians.com.au/ADTD_booklaunches.html#Geelong.

9 MAY. BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE SEMINAR: 'COMPLEX DISADVANTAGE: DOES COLLECTIVE IMPACT HAVE APPLICATION HERE IN AUSTRALIA?' In Australia, we have a tradition of caring for those facing economic and social disadvantage. We also have a strong record of tackling public health challenges such as workplace injury, smoking and drink driving. But there are some challenges we simply have been unable to overcome despite billions of dollars and many outstanding programs. If we are successful at solving some social challenges, why is it we have limited success in solving the complex ones? And by complex ones we mean challenges such as homelessness, mental illness, obesity and other social disadvantage. 12.00 to 1.00 pm, Father Tucker's Room, 67 Brunswick St, Fitzroy. Contact: jdouglas@bsl.org.au or 03 9483 1364. Web: <http://www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on.aspx?id=752>.

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.

11 - 18 MAY. VICTORIAN FAIR TRADE FESTIVAL. The Victorian Fair Trade Festival celebrates the annual Fair Trade Fortnight in Melbourne with exciting events including a corporate morning break, markets, art exhibition, talks and forums, and fun for the kids, showing that 'Every Choice Matters'. Organisation: Moral Fairground. No cost. Federation Square, City Square and NAB Forecourt Harbour Esplanade Docklands. Contact: susanna@moralfairground.com.au or 0409 943 254. Web: <http://moralfairground.com.au/vichighlights.html>.

13 MAY. PRESENTATION: 'HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY'. Find out more about the situation of the Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory under the continuation of the Intervention, now called Stronger Futures. The presentation includes video clips and opportunities for questions. Speaker: Michele Harris OAM, 'concerned Australians'. 7.15 to 9.30 pm, St John's Parish, Coglean Centre, 494 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham, enter via Elizabeth St. Contact: 03 9887 3096 or howardtankey@iprimus.com.au, RSVP by 10 May. Web: www.concernedaustralians.com.au.

14 MAY. MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF WAR (MAPW) MEETING AND DINNER. Speakers: ICANi Director Tim Wright will speak on the international conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, held in Oslo in March. Michael Hamel-Green, Dean of and Professor in the Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development at Victoria University, will speak on the proposed Middle East Nuclear Free Zone. Cost: \$35, concession \$20. 6.30 pm, La Notte, 140 Lygon St, Carlton. Web: www.mapw.org.au.

14 MAY. CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA BREAKFAST BRIEFING: 'THE CHANGING COMPOSITION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES'. Speaker: Dr Bob Dixon, Director, Pastoral Planning Office, Australian Bishops Conference. Dr Dixon is a leading researcher on the sociology and demographics of the Catholic Church in Australia. Cost: \$20. 7.15 am to 8.45 am, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne (cnr Lansdowne St).

Contact: 03 9287 5566 or lucia.brick@css.org.au. Book: www.trybooking.com/CQCN.

15 MAY. MARY WARD JUSTICE LECTURE: INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION. Speaker: Fr Frank Brennan SJ, AO. Cost: \$15, concession \$5. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak. Contact: 03 9823 8167 or natasha.bartlett@loretotoorak.vic.edu.au. Book: www.easybookings.com.au/event/maryward.

19 MAY. FUNDRAISER: SONGS FOR PEACE. Artists: Sweet Nothings, Polly Christie and Andy Rigby. Cost: \$40, concession \$30. 3.00 to 6.00 pm, Seasons Bistro, Station St, Riddells Creek. Contact: jenny.grounds@mapw.org.au or 0407 287 684. Web: <http://mapw.org.au>.

21 MAY. WESTERN SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'LIVING SPIRITUALLY ... IN TODAY'S WORLD, CAN I LIVE THE SIMPLICITY AND POVERTY OF ST FRANCIS AND POPE FRANCIS?' Speaker: Fr Terry O'Neill, who spent 32 years working in PNG. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, Victoria on Hyde, Yarraville. Contact: 03 9312 3595 or sdrc@netspace.net.au. Web: http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=148:western&catid=9:vic-sip-venues&Itemid=94.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

6 MAY. FUNDRAISER FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE. Enjoy a delicious meal by the Swan River with guests Senator Scott Ludlam, Nuclear Free Campaigner, Dave Sweeney and the cast from the sell-out show '50 shades of black' Karla Hart and Della Ray Morrison. 6.30 pm, Annalakshmi Restaurant, Jetty 4, Barrack Square, Perth. Contact: mia.pepper@ccwa.org.au or 08 9420 7272. Web: www.mapw.org.au.

11 MAY. FUNDRAISER PLAY: 'MY BELOVED MOTHER'. This is a story of the betrayal of a devoted, ailing and vulnerable mother by her own family. Proceeds will go to a charity that supports women refugees who don't have access to medical care or accommodation. The cast is from a diverse cultural background. There will also be music, poetry and food available. Cost: \$16.50. 6.10 to 9.10 pm, Don Russell Performing Arts Centre, Murdoch Rd, Perth. Book: www.stickytickets.com.au/10957/my_beloved_mother_play_.aspx.

News Monitor

Vietnamese church leader killed in custody

A church leader died in police custody in Vietnam, according to the rights organisation Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW).

Tutu wins Templeton Prize

Desmond Tutu, the former Anglican archbishop of Cape Town, was awarded the 2013 Templeton Prize for his life-long work in advancing spiritual principles such as love and forgiveness which has helped to liberate people around the world.

'Suspended coffee' coming to Australia

Australian cafes are looking to introduce "suspended coffees" where you order and pay for your own coffee and a "suspended" coffee

for someone who can't afford to buy one for themselves.

Canadian bishops call for urgent environmental action

The Canadian Catholic bishops' justice and peace commission issued a call to lay people to take urgent action on environmental issues.

British bishops critical of Thatcher legacy

Britain is a more selfish place as a result of Margaret Thatcher's political and economic policies, according to a northern UK bishop.

– For details click on headlines to go to cath-news.com

Social Justice Calendar

- 1 Wed St Joseph the Worker
International Workers Day
1991: Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Centesimus Annus*
- 3 Fri World Press Freedom Day
- 4 Sat Fair Trade Fortnight begins
- 5 Sun Sixth Sunday of Easter
Blessed Edmund Rice
- 6 Mon 1992: Introduction of mandatory detention for asylum seekers in Australia
- 8 Wed World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day
1945: War ends in Europe
1970: First Moratorium March against the Vietnam War in Australian cities
- 9 Thu The Ascension
- 10 Fri 1994: Nelson Mandela's Inaugural Address as President of South Africa
- 11 Sat World Fair Trade Day
- 12 Sun Seventh Sunday of Easter
International Nurses' Day
Mothers Day
- 13 Mon International Conscientious Objectors Day

- 14 Tue 1971: Pope Paul VI's Apostolic Letter Octogesima Adveniens
- 15 Wed UN International Day of Families
 1891: Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum*
 1931: Pope Pius XI's encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*
 1961: Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Mater et Magistra*
- 16 Thu World Debt Day
- 17 Fri World Telecommunications and Information Society Day
 2005: Death of Fr Ted Kennedy
- 19 Sun Pentecost Sunday
 Jubilee Sunday
- 21 Tue World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 22 Wed International Day for Biological Diversity
- 24 Fri Mary Help of Christians, Patron of Australia
 1948: Foundation of World Council of Churches
- 25 Sat Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories commences
 Africa Day
- 26 Sun Trinity Sunday
 1997: *Bringing Them Home* Report tabled in Parliament
 National Sorry Day
- 27 Mon National Reconciliation Week begins
 Week of Prayer for Reconciliation begins
 1967: Referendum changes articles in the Australian Constitution that discriminated
 against Indigenous people
- 29 Wed International Day of UN Peacekeepers
 1992: Torres Strait Islander flag launched
- 31 Fri World No Tobacco Day

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.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL PO Box 7246, Alexandria NSW 2015. Tel: (02) 8306 3499, Fax: (02) 8306 3498, Email: 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.