

# ACSJC Monthly Briefing June 2015 No 168



## From the Secretariat June 2015

Dear friends,

As May ends and June begins, it is a good time to reflect on the situation of the First Peoples of Australia. National Sorry Day was on 26 May and Reconciliation Week runs from 27 May to 3 June. We remember the members of the Stolen Generations and their families – the harm done to them and the ongoing need for healing and national reconciliation.

June marks a number of significant anniversaries: the High Court's Mabo decision (1992) on 3 June; the Myall Creek Massacre (1838) on 10 June; the election of Neville Bonner as our first Indigenous federal parliamentarian (1971) on 11 June; and the presentation of the Barunga Statement to Prime Minister Bob Hawke (1988) on 12 June ([Barunga Statement](#)).

And 5 July marks National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, which this year carries the theme: *We All Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect & Celebrate*. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Commission has just released liturgy resources that can be downloaded from the [NATSICC website](#). This Sunday also marks the beginning of NAIDOC Week.

This is a time to think hard about issues that affect our Indigenous brothers and sisters. This year the theme of Reconciliation Week is *It's time to change it up*. It's time and past time to change up our responses to many challenges facing the First Peoples of Australia.

One important question that all Australians will need to decide soon is that of constitutional recognition for Indigenous people. RECOGNISE – Reconciliation Australia's movement for constitutional recognition of Indigenous people – commissioned a [survey](#) to find out the likely responses of Australians to a referendum on this issue. The results are impressive. Seventy-five per cent of all Australians and 87 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people say they would vote yes if such a referendum were held now, and it would gain a majority of people in a majority of states.

So there is a great store of good will towards a proposal to recognise Indigenous people in the Constitution. This is a step that Australia must take if we are to incorporate some measure of justice towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our foundational document. The time is now, and if we miss this opportunity, it will be some time before we have another.

But recognition is a hollow act if we do not work for practical change also. One change that is desperately needed is the rate at which we send Indigenous people to prison.

For decades, Australia's Catholic Bishops have spoken loud and clear about the rank injustice underlying the imprisonment rates of Indigenous people. In 1988 they raised it in an ecumenical Social Justice Statement on prisons and the justice system. In 2011 they issued another [Statement](#) in which they said:

'The great Australian shame is that Indigenous Australians are being imprisoned at a far higher rate than non-Indigenous people, and the rate is increasing rapidly.'

Sadly the call of the Bishops has remained unheard and the rate of imprisonment has risen consistently since 2011. The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison rose by 88 per cent between 2004 and 2014.

The [Change the Record campaign](#) is calling for an end to the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system within a generation.

Co-Chair of the National Justice Coalition, Shane Duffy, points out that Australia is 'spending more and more on prisons and not enough on initiatives that can prevent crime in the first place'. ([Change the Record media release](#)) He says, 'The tragic statistics show that we need a commitment to justice targets in the Government's Closing the Gap Strategy and plans on how these targets will be achieved.

'We are also asking everyday Australians to stand with us in this effort. We know the issues and we know the solutions. We all want to live in safe and strong communities. Work with us, support us and together we can Change the Record.'

Situations like these can only have a devastating effect on the wellbeing and morale of Indigenous people. Another challenge recently emerged for some Aboriginal people: the possibility that withdrawal of government funding would mean that remote communities in Western Australia might close and that those living there will be forced off ancestral land and into towns where there is an increased likelihood of poverty, alienation, violence and substance abuse.

The Bishop of Broome and recent Chairman of the ACSJC, Bishop Christopher Saunders, said in the latest [Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker](#):

'It is disheartening ... to hear our Prime Minister describe remote Indigenous communities as economically unviable and people's traditional connection to the land as mere "lifestyle choices". In my pastoral visits, I have witnessed the uncertainty caused by the reluctance of governments to provide relatively meagre funding for essential municipal services, threatening community closure.'

Les Malezer, Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, puts it this way: 'The rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to survive within their country are fundamental and inherent.'

A 'fundamental and inherent' right is far from being a 'lifestyle choice'.

Mr Malezer continues: 'These rights must be protected by the national government as a matter of national and international obligation. The connection of our communities to traditional country, including vital Indigenous characteristics of knowledges, ancestral ties and spiritual bonds must not be broken by forced relocations.' ([National Congress article](#))

At the same time the nation is talking constitutional recognition, many individuals and communities continue to endure great social and economic disadvantage – some are struggling to survive.

Over the coming months, we have an opportunity to support organisations and events working towards recognition and justice for the Indigenous peoples of Australia. Here are just a few:

[The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council](#)

[The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples](#)

[Reconciliation Australia](#)

## [RECOGNISE](#)

### [NAIDOC](#)

### [Australians for Native Title and Recognition](#)

### [Concerned Australians](#)

We can spread the word about such groups – by talking to friends at work or in your parish, through social media, or by writing to media and our elected representatives. Let’s do everything we can to bring about justice for our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

It is important that respect for Elders past and present, acknowledgement of the dignity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and heritage and promotion of the wellbeing of Indigenous peoples now and for future generations occurs both in word and deed.

John Ferguson

National Executive Officer



## **Current Issues/Resources June 2015**

### **PUBLICATION: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE REFERENDUM TO RECOGNISE INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS**

This book details how our Constitution was drafted, and shows how Aboriginal peoples came to be excluded from the new political settlement. It explains what the 1967 referendum – in which over 90 per cent of Australians voted to delete discriminatory references to Aboriginal people from the Constitution – achieved and why discriminatory racial references remain. With clarity and authority the book shows the symbolic and legal power of such a change and how we might get there. Concise and clear, it is written by two of the best-known experts in the country on matters legal, Indigenous and constitutional. This is essential reading on what should be a watershed occasion for our nation. Authors: Megan Davis and George Williams. [LINK](#)

### **DVD RESOURCE: EXPLORING PERSPECTIVES**

The Women’s Reconciliation Network ran a forum on constitution recognition at Ashfield Town Hall in Sydney in March 2014. A recording of the forum is now available in the DVD ‘Exploring Perspectives: Conversations on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People’. The Women’s Reconciliation Network invites you to share this valuable resource in schools, tertiary institutions, community groups and learning circles. The 27-minute DVD includes presentations by: Kirsten Grey, Kamilaroi/Muruwari Woman, CEO NSW Reconciliation Council; George Williams AM, Professor of Constitutional Law UNSW; Nicole Watson, Birri Gubba Woman, Researcher, Jumbunna House of Learning UTS; and Jeff McMullen AM, Journalist and Film Maker. The DVD costs \$10. To purchase copies, contact Sr Helen Kearins at the ACSJC on (02) 8306 3499 or [admin@acsjc.org.au](mailto:admin@acsjc.org.au)

### **RESOURCES: ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY**

July 5 is a time where Catholics from all over Australia come together to celebrate and acknowledge the gifts that Indigenous people bring to the Catholic Church in Australia. The theme this year is ‘We all stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate’. This is a time to reflect on our own relationships

with Australia's first people. NATSICC has compiled resources including liturgy, slideshow, youth activities, poster, etc to assist in planning for the day. Download resources [here](#).

### **CARITAS AUSTRALIA: NEPAL EARTHQUAKE APPEAL**

Caritas Australia is working with its Caritas Nepal team to coordinate rescue efforts and an immediate emergency response. A 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal between Kathmandu and Pokhara. A 7.3 magnitude second earthquake hit Nepal on 12 May and has only added to the damage and anxiety. The devastation is immense, and communities across India and Bangladesh as well as on Mount Everest have also been affected. The death toll is increasing by the hour, but more than 3,300 deaths have already been reported. With extensive damage to buildings and continuing aftershocks in the region, many people are sleeping outside and require shelter and protection from the cold and rain. Your donation will allow Caritas Australia to respond to immediate needs such as food, shelter, clean water and non-food items such as cooking kits, while also supporting long-term recovery and development in Nepal and the wider region. Please [donate](#).

### **CAMPAIGN: #FREE THE CHILDREN**

The Australian Coalition to End Immigration Detention of Children (ACEIDC) also known as End Child Detention Australia was formed in 2012 to advocate for the release of children being held in immigration detention facilities. It currently consists of 8 partners from secular, faith-based and non-government organisations, representing over 500 organisations. #Free The Children is a social action coordinated by the ACEIDC taking place all over Australia. On June 15 they are co-ordinating a National Day of Action – an installation will be on the lawns of Parliament House, Canberra asking members of the public to come and symbolically free a child. Nationwide, they will be running a coordinated social media campaign using and inviting others to run their own version of this installation. If you would like to run the action in your community, you can access the DIY kit and other resources [here](#).

### **PUBLICATION: REFUGEES: WHY SEEKING ASYLUM IS LEGAL AND AUSTRALIA'S POLICIES ARE NOT**

This book rejects spin and panic to provide a straightforward and balanced account of Australia's asylum policies in light of international law. Written for a general audience, it explains who asylum seekers and refugees are, what the law is, and what policies like offshore processing, mandatory detention and turning back boats mean in practice. Using real-life examples, this book reminds us of the human impact of Australia's policies. Authors: Jane McAdam (Professor of Law at UNSW) and Fiona Chong (UNSW). [LINK](#)

### **APPEAL – REFUGEE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA**

The Australian Government has stripped the Refugee Council of Australia of its core funding in the latest Federal Budget. When Scott Morrison was Immigration Minister, he blocked the funding allocated to the Refugee Council but, this year, Immigration Minister Dutton has permanently removed it. The Refugee Council is determined not to be silenced. Just last week the Council was in the media calling the Government to account on its appalling approach to the Rohingya asylum seekers floating with limited food and water in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. They also spoke out against the policy to send vulnerable refugees to Cambodia. In the same Budget in which the Government crowed about saving \$140,000 in funding to the Refugee Council, it allocated another \$3.2 billion to detention and compliance policies for asylum seekers who arrived by boat. Speaking out on these issues is not easy,

but it is important organisations like the Refugee Council are there to stand up for what is right and just. If you are able, please help the Refugee Council of Australia to bring the voice of refugees and asylum seekers to decision makers by supporting the Council financially – every donation makes a huge difference to a small organisation like this. To donate, visit [here](#).

### **KEEP EUREKA STREET FREE**

[Eureka Street](#) is not just an online magazine. It's a locality – a community – and for 24 years has been the destination of choice for Australians who enjoy conversations about politics, religion and current events with a hefty dose of ethical thinking. There is no cover charge, no paywalls. Eureka Street is free and open to all, compliments of the Australian Jesuits. The team of wonderful writers includes Andy Hamilton SJ, Frank Brennan SJ, Moira Rayner, and around 70 more. They are currently running their Winter raffle to be drawn on 2 July 2015. [Click here](#) and you will be taken directly to the raffle site.

### **APPEAL – THE ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE'S EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND**

Five years ago, \$78,000 was sufficient to finance ASC Emergency Assistance Fund. This year they expect to need over \$400,000. Because of continuing insufficient support by the government and the extended waiting times, in the coming year they expect this to increase to \$460,000. Your vital contribution will enable ASC to provide all services including food, financial support, healthcare and job-hunting assistance to asylum seekers desperate to start rebuilding their lives. Your donation is even more valuable as there are two donors willing to match your dollar amount, up to the sum of \$180,000. Donate [here](#).

### **JOINT STATEMENT – REFUGEE COUNCIL CALLS FOR MORATORIUM ON OFFSHORE TRANSFERS**

The Refugee Council of Australia has called for an immediate moratorium on asylum seeker transfers to Nauru following the tragic example of a five-year-old girl who has attempted suicide following her prolonged detention there. More than 100 Australian organisations and community groups have joined the call to cease the transfer of asylum seekers back to harm. CEO of the Refugee Council of Australia, Paul Power, said, 'An innocent young girl of just five years old has been driven to attempting suicide because of the Australian Government's inability to provide a satisfactory duty of care on Nauru. No child should be sent there and certainly not sent to a situation while the environment remains so dangerous.' The recent Immigration Department-commissioned independent investigations – the Moss Review into the failures of protection for children and women on Nauru, and the Cornall Report into the ruinous conditions on Manus Island – illustrate the inappropriate levels of protection and security inherent in the current system. [LINK](#)

### **MEDIA RELEASE: CATHOLIC CHURCH LAUNCHES EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON THREAT OF EUTHANASIA**

Catholics across Australia are being urged to learn more about the nature of euthanasia and the dangers it poses to society, with the launch of a new pamphlet exploring the truth and the myths of this life and death debate. A pamphlet, called [Real care, love and compassion – the alternative to euthanasia](#), has been released by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Bishops are responding to a fact sheet released by the National Church Life Survey late last year, which found 22 per cent of church-going Catholics are neutral or unsure what they think about euthanasia. Read the media release [here](#).

## **NEW PUBLICATION: TWEET OTHERS AS YOU WOULD WISH TO BE TWEETED**

*Tweet others as you would wish to be tweeted* is a scripture based guide to social media for the Church. Written by Catholic journalist Beth Doherty, it takes the command from Luke's Gospel to do unto others as you would have them do unto you, and applies it to social media. Order a copy [here](#).

## **WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY RESOURCES: BOOK, PARISH KIT AND PRAYER CARD**

World Communications Day, an annual celebration promoted by the Holy See has the theme this year, *Communicating the Family: A privileged place of encounter with the gift of love*. A letter from the Holy Father Pope Francis focuses on communication within families and the work of the extraordinary Synod. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference communications office has developed new resources for use in parishes, including prayer cards, a book, Parish Kit etc. The resources which can be used throughout the year in schools, parishes and agencies can be downloaded [here](#).

## **NEW HANDBOOK: GOOD WORKS - THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AS AN EMPLOYER IN AUSTRALIA**

The Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations (ACCER) published a handbook today for Catholic employers and employees, entitled *Good Works: the Catholic Church as an employer in Australia*. The Catholic Church is one of Australia's largest employers with over 180,000 employees spread across a range of dioceses, congregations and agencies, employing two percent of the Australian workforce. The book includes a section about the importance of work, work-life balance, the principles underpinning the Church's social teaching on work and the employment relationship. You can download a copy of the book [here](#).

## **NEW RESOURCE: COME AND SEE - SPIRITUALITY FOR EVERYDAY LIVING**

*Come and See: Spirituality: Spirituality for Everyday Living* is a resource for all those in schools, home groups and parishes who wish to develop further their own spiritual journeys. Although there has been a decline in church affiliation in Western countries, there is evidence of a growing interest in spirituality. In a culture driven by consumerism, people are searching for a spirituality which gives them deep meaning in their lives. While acknowledging the universal scope of spirituality, especially in the great religious traditions, the focus of this book is Christian spirituality. To purchase a copy, contact the author Kevin Treston by email [kevintreston@gmail.com](mailto:kevintreston@gmail.com).

## **ANGLICARE 2015 RENTAL AFFORDABILITY SNAPSHOT**

In its sixth year, the 2015 Anglicare Australia Rental Affordability Snapshot reports shows that affordable housing is still very much out of reach for people living on low incomes. The Snapshot shows that of the more than 65,500 properties assessed for suitability there were less than 1 per cent available for people living on allowances. A new household was also included this year – a couple household where one parent earns the minimum wage and the other is in receipt of the parenting payment – which would have access to 6.9 per cent of rental properties. Download the report [here](#).

## **PIEN OPPOSES THE SALE OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENT GOODS IN AUSTRALIA**

'Enough is enough. No more words without deeds. It's time for action.' These words were issued nearly eight years ago as part of a statement by a World Council of Churches gathering, and affirmed recently by a meeting of senior Palestinian Christians and their supporters in the Kairos Palestine 5th Anniversary

statement, which noted that things have become worse, not better, for Palestinians since then. The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN) has decided that PIEN will join others in responding with more than words, and this year will focus their efforts on campaigning for businesses in Australia to stop selling settlement goods, beginning with dates. Download campaign materials [here](#).

## **PEACE AND CORRUPTION REPORT**

The latest research from the Institute for Economics and Peace uncovers the sticky relationship between peace and corruption. The *Peace and Corruption Report* demonstrates how tackling corruption can have a transformative impact on peace. The relationship between peace and corruption is statistically significant, as corruption is a leading indicator of peace. Interestingly, while corruption has an instrumental impact on a level of peace and violence, peace does not appear to impact levels of corruption in the short term. [Download](#) the Report.

## **NEWS RELEASE: ASIAN PEASANT COALITION - NO TO OIL PALM PLANTATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES!**

The palm oil industry is promoted as a 'sunshine industry' among the Philippine government's priorities. Palm oil is one of the most highly-traded commodities at the global level. Oil palm is touted as a "tree of peace" with its promises of livelihood and development, food security, poverty alleviation and economic stability. The reality however, speaks differently. Thirty years of the palm oil industry only proved broken promises of development, livelihood, and food security. The people's access to food and ownership and control of land has been undermined by massive crop and land use conversion from staple food production to oil palm. Farmers and supposed agrarian reform beneficiaries have been relegated to being landless agricultural workers enduring heavy toil, hazardous working environments and slave wages. [Read](#) the article.

## **FAIRTRADE CAMPAIGN 'STAND WITH MARY' PRODUCES RESULTS**

Mary presented the petition – a visual photo compilation from some of the 13,003 petition signers – in person to Coles and Woolworths. Both retailers responded positively and have said that they will increase their offer of Fairtrade products in future - so watch closely in the lead-up to Easter 2016! 'Coles is proud to work with Fairtrade to source products that ultimately help farming cooperatives,' said Jackie Healing, General Manager Coles Brand and Quality. 'Our customers are choosing Fairtrade and we will continue to increase our offer,' said Armineh Mardrossian, Head of Corporate Responsibility, Woolworths Limited. [Read](#) the article.

## **COMPETITION: WHAT CAN WE DO SO THAT EVERYONE GETS A FAIR GO AT SPORT?**

The Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission invites secondary school and college students to submit a written or multimedia entry on the topic, 'What Can We Do So That Everyone Gets a Fair Go At Sport?' The competition closes on Friday 25 September 2015 and the competition winners will be announced on 20 October. The competition is based on the 2014/2015 Social Justice Statement, *A Crown for Australia: Striving for the Best in Our Sporting Nation*. In the Statement the Australian Catholic Bishops look at the benefits of sport for building community, breaking down barriers and promoting values which form a just and harmonious society. [Read more](#).

## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS AWARDS

The Mental Health Matters Awards recognise the achievements of individuals and organisations large and small who have worked to improve understanding, awareness, service provision and the general mental health of our communities in NSW over the previous year. Nominations for 2015 Mental Health Matters Awards are now open! The awards recognise 10 categories where excellence in service delivery and support have been provided to communities in NSW. Are you or is someone you know doing great work in Mental Health? Nominate them [here](#). The 2015 Mental Health Matters Awards nominations will close 27 July.



### ACSJC Publications June 2015

#### **SERIES PAPER 77 – ‘BEAUTY AND OUR BIBLICAL CALLING TO PEACE, JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY’**

‘At the heart of the Bible is a divine invitation to build and become just and peaceful communities. Throughout the Bible God repeatedly calls us to transform ourselves into communities practicing hospitality to the needy, friendship to the alien, service to the lowly and care to all creation. And in the Bible beauty is at the heart of our divine vocation to build just, peaceful and sustainable communities.’ (Patrick McCormick)

In this paper Professor McCormick explores the Biblical account of the Creation and its vision of a rich and bountiful world in which we are called to live as responsible and loving members of a community, caring for and cherishing our world and all that lives in it. He shows how the teaching and actions of Jesus bring this vision to its culmination to become our Christian mission. Available [here](#).

#### **PASTORAL LETTER – FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2015**

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker for 2015 is entitled *The Dignity of Work – When it matters most*. It is available for download in regular and ‘three-column’ versions [here](#).

#### **SERIES PAPER 76 – ‘I WAS IN PRISON’**

*I Was in Prison: A window into prison ministry*, by Dr Ruth Webber, explores the work of prison chaplains serving prisoners, ex-prisoners and the families of all who are or have been imprisoned. Dr Webber investigates the various ways in which chaplaincy is able to bring comfort to prisoners, meet their spiritual needs and provide practical help. The paper is based on interviews with prison chaplains, prisoners, ex-prisoners and families of prisoners. The paper draws on the 2011–12 Social Justice Statement *Building Bridges, Not Walls* and revisits some of the issues raised in that Statement. Available [here](#).

#### **DISCUSSION GUIDE: 2015 WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE**

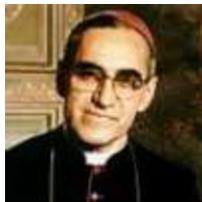
The theme for the 48<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace Message from Pope Francis is *No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters*. The Pope Francis speaks of the Ongoing scourge of human trafficking and the need to act to protect and defend its victims – labourers including children who are exploited by industry, migrants who are exploited during a dangerous journey, women and minors forced into prostitution or sold for

arranged marriages, those trafficked for the sale of organs, for recruitment as soldiers, for illegal activities, for cross-border adoption. He says the effort to address trafficking is an 'immense task, which calls for courage, patience and perseverance, deserves the appreciation of the whole Church and society'. The ACSJC has prepared a Discussion Guide for the papal message, which is available on our website [here](#).

### ***BUILDING BRIDGES***

The book, *Building Bridges: Social Justice Statements from Australia's Bishops 1988 to 2013*, brings the Statements together in an attractive and readable format. The publication is fully indexed, making this an exceptional resource for education and research. It offers an invaluable insight into Catholic social teaching brought to life in an Australian context over the past 26 years. This collection is a vital resource for anyone interested in the Church's teaching on justice. It is of special interest to schools and universities and to parish and diocesan groups.

*Building Bridges* is available from the ACSJC for \$35.00 per copy including postage anywhere in Australia. Order forms are available [here](#). (Catholic Social Justice Series papers: \$7.50 a copy, including postage)



### **News Monitor June 2015**

#### **Catholic Trust uses Brazilian fund to combat inequality**

A Brazilian investment fund is taking to heart the Vatican's endorsement of leveraging capitalism's tools to help address inequality.

#### **Religious leaders urge stronger action from MPs on climate**

Prominent leaders from diverse religious traditions in Australia called on MPs for more ambitious post-2020 emissions reduction targets, ahead of separate debates on each side of the political divide.

#### **Pope urges international action for stranded refugees**

Pope Francis strongly called on the international community to help the scores of migrants trapped after attempting to cross the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.

#### **Romero would have been a Pope like Francis, say supporters**

One constant refrain at the beatification of Oscar Romero was the parallel between the martyred Archbishop and Pope Francis.

#### **Cardinal Parolin offers hints about climate encyclical**

A new development model is needed to combat global warming, one that marries economic growth to combat poverty with a sustainable use of resources, according to Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

#### **Pope Francis speaks of plight of stranded Rohingya migrants**

Pope Francis compared the plight of the stranded Rohingya people from Myanmar with that of victims of persecution in Syria and Iraq.

### [Bishop O'Kelly appointed Chair of Caritas Australia](#)

Caritas Australia CEO, Paul O'Callaghan, welcomed the appointment of a new Chair of Caritas Australia, Bishop of Port Pirie, Greg O'Kelly SJ, and Deputy Chair, Bishop Peter Stasiuk CSsR.

### [Pax Christi and the politics of water](#)

Participants in Pax Christi International's 70th anniversary conference in Bethlehem gathered in the village to see the difference in water availability between Israeli and Palesitnian settlements.

### [Pope creates Palestinian saints, calls Abbas 'angel of peace'](#)

Pope Francis called Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, "an angel of peace" ahead of a canonisation ceremony in St Peter's Square yesterday which created the first Palestinian saints.

### [Activist nun's sabotage conviction overturned](#)

A US Court of Appeals reversed the sabotage convictions of three Catholic peace protestors, including a nun in her mid-80s.

### [World post-industrial but not post-poverty: Gutierrez](#)

"We are in the post-socialist, post-capitalist, post-industrial era. But we are not in the post-poverty era," liberation theologian Fr Gustavo Gutierrez told Caritas International leaders.

### [Little hope in Budget for vulnerable, CSSA fears](#)

This year's Budget offers little hope for those who are homeless, suffer from mental illness or who live in the midst of family violence, according to Catholic Social Services Australia CEO, Marcelle Mogg.

### [Unprecedented pushback against Pope's eco-encyclical](#)

Unlike Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which emerged prior to the era of mass communication, Pope Francis' forthcoming encyclical on the environment is already generating significant push-back.

### [Boston bomber 'genuinely sorry': Sr Helen Prejean](#)

Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev told death-penalty opponent, Sr Helen Prejean, that no-one should suffer as his victims did.

### [Peak Catholic employer body seeks big rise in minimum wage](#)

The Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations (CCER) is pushing for the national minimum wage to be increased by more than double the amount major employer groups argued for.

### [UK Cardinal to celebrate Mass for gay Catholics](#)

UK Cardinal Vincent Nichols was to celebrate a Mass normally attended by the Westminster Diocese's group for gay and lesbian Catholics this coming Sunday.

### [Catholic aid groups criticise EU response to refugees](#)

Catholic aid groups urged a more humanitarian response to the flow of refugees across the Mediterranean Sea, following tough measures announced by the European Union to curb the flow of boats.

**[Vic budget leans towards battlers, says CSSV](#)**

The first budget of the Victorian ALP government reflects priorities and values that lean towards Victorians doing it tough, and is aligned with much of what was presented prior to the election, said Catholic Social Services Victoria.

**[Adelaide women fight for trafficked sex slaves](#)**

Adelaide Catholic youth Maddie Kelly and Elise Ganley walked through the red light district of an Indian slum praying for the hundreds of sex slaves trafficked there on the promise of a better life.

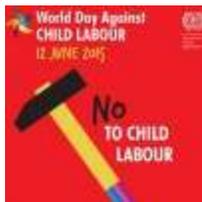
**[Mercy scholarships put truth and love ahead of ugly retribution](#)**

The outpouring of hate over the scholarships that the Australian Catholic University created in memory of Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran was not a surprise according to Greg Craven, Vice-Chancellor of ACU.

**[Economy must deliver dignity of work, says Justice Council](#)**

Society fails its citizens where the economy does not generate sufficient employment and when government does not adequately intervene to promote jobs and maintain basic wages, says the Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

– courtesy [cathnews.com](http://cathnews.com)



**Social Justice Diary June 2015**

June 2015

1	Mon	<u><a href="#">World Communications Day. Theme: Communicating the Family: A Privileged Place of Encounter with the Gift of Love</a></u>
2	Tue	
3	Wed	<u><a href="#">1886: Catholic and Anglican Martyrs of Uganda</a></u> <u><a href="#">1992: High Court hands down decision in Mabo Case</a></u> - ACSJC Resources on <u><a href="#">Justice for Indigenous People</a></u>
4	Thu	<u><a href="#">International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression</a></u> <u><a href="#">1989: Tiananmen Square Massacre</a></u> - ACSJC Resources on <u><a href="#">Peacebuilding</a></u>

5	Fri	<i>World Environment Day - ACSJC Resources on the Environment</i>
6	Sat	
7	Sun	Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ)
8	Mon	<i>World Oceans Day - ACSJC Resources on the Environment</i>
9	Tue	
10	Wed	<u>1838: Myall Creek Massacre</u> - ACSJC Resources on <u>Justice for Indigenous People</u> <u>1935: Alcoholics Anonymous established in New York</u>
11	Thu	<u>1971: Neville Bonner became first Aboriginal Australian to hold a seat in Federal Parliament</u> - ACSJC Resources on <u>Justice for Indigenous People</u> <u>1975: Australia ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</u> - ACSJC Resources on <u>Confronting Racism</u>
12	Fri	<i>World Day Against Child Labour - ACSJC Resources on Trade Justice</i> <b>READ MORE ↓</b> <u>1988: Barunga Statement presented to Prime Minister Bob Hawke by Aboriginal leaders</u> - ACSJC Resources on <u>Justice for Indigenous People</u>
13	Sat	
14	Sun	Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time <u>National Refugee Week begins</u> - ACSJC Resources on <u>Refugees and Asylum Seekers</u> From the website of the Refugee Council of Australia: <b>READ MORE ↓</b>
15	Mon	
16	Tue	<i>International Day of the African Child</i>
17	Wed	<i>World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought - ACSJC Resources on the Environment</i>
18	Thu	Ramadan begins

		<a href="#">READ MORE ↓</a>
19	Fri	<a href="#">1945: Birth of Aung San Suu Kyi</a> <a href="#">1969: Arbitration Commission affirmed principle of equal pay for women performing equal work</a> - ACSJC Resources on <a href="#">Workplace Justice</a>
20	Sat	<i>World Refugee Day</i> - ACSJC Resources on <a href="#">Refugees and Asylum Seekers</a>
21	Sun	Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
22	Mon	
23	Tue	<i>Public Service Day</i>
24	Wed	<a href="#">Nativity of John the Baptist</a>
25	Thu	
26	Fri	<a href="#">International Day in Support of Victims of Torture</a> <a href="#">International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking</a>
27	Sat	
28	Sun	Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
29	Mon	<a href="#">Saints Peter and Paul</a>
30	Tue	<a href="#">1945: Introduction of unemployment benefits in Australia</a> - ACSJC Resources on <a href="#">Workplace Justice</a>