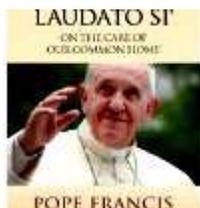


ACSJC Monthly Briefing July 2015 No 169



From the Secretariat July 2015

Dear friends,

Pope Francis' new Encyclical Letter 'On Care for Our Common Home' begins with the words of Saint Francis' canticle – 'Laudato Si', mi' Signore' – 'Praise be to you, my Lord'.

A groundbreaking Encyclical

I, like many others reading Pope Francis' words for the first time, had feelings of praise and thanks. He is not the first Pontiff to raise concerns about the environment. By devoting an entire Encyclical to this important matter, however, he has placed the integrity of creation and care of the natural environment front and centre of the Church's global concern for social justice.

Laudato Si' may be as ground breaking as Pope Leo XIII's 1891 Encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*. Pope Leo addressed the disastrous and unequal impact of the industrial revolution on poor workers and their families. The worst of the economic and technological methods of production of the time funnelled people into the kind of workplaces William Blake called the 'dark Satanic Mills' of industrial Europe. Multitudes of men women and children were exploited, impoverished and had few work rights. Pope Leo said their treatment 'cries to the avenging anger of Heaven'.

As it was in the late 1800s, so it is today. Pope Francis is addressing the great crisis of post- industrial times with his gaze firmly on the most vulnerable individuals. The fundamental question is the dignity and wellbeing of the person which now extends to a greater consideration of the exploitation of the natural environment by similar excesses in technology and industrial production. He calls us to hear '*both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*' (n. 49).

Person and Place

This is a call for the dignity of the person and for the preservation of the beauty of creation. It is about 'person' and 'place' – 'Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live' (n. 139). The person cannot be discarded or regarded as a mere factor of production in the economic process or progress of technology. Nor can the environment be regarded as simply a raw material to be exploited or commodified for consumption. In those instances where person and place are reduced to a mere thing or object to be consumed and discarded, people suffer, the bonds of community unravel, inequity and conflict reign, and our common home becomes characterised by filth – now and for future generations (nn. 46, 82, 161).

Pope Francis makes special mention of the integrity of indigenous cultures and the importance of their identity and values in caring for the land: 'For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space ... they themselves care best for it'. He says that when large resource projects are proposed on traditional land, Indigenous communities should not be pressured to leave but should be the principal dialogue partners (n.146).

The Pope notes how ‘the growth of the past two centuries has not always led to integral development and quality of life’ (n.46). The impact of climate change, seen in extreme weather events, deforestation, depleted resources, the intensive use of fossil fuels etc. has had a disproportionate impact on people in the developing world. The developed world has enjoyed the bounty of technological development and consumption derived from fossil fuel-based methods of production. These nations, therefore, have both the means but also a responsibility to shoulder a greater burden of costs in reducing emissions and transitioning to renewable and sustainable methods. (nn. 25, 48, 52)

Reconsidering traditional notions

The logic of global economic systems premised on the expectation of infinite growth and unlimited material progress is put under the spotlight. Pope Francis says that this expectation has led to the ‘planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit’. He says, for far too long we have had a ‘winner takes all’ approach to the human and natural ecology. The challenge for today’s world is to address the mindset of those who say ‘let us allow the invisible forces of the market to regulate the economy, and consider their impact on society and nature as collateral damage.’ (nn. 78, 82, 106, 123, 190)

The Encyclical questions the market’s promotion of extreme consumerism and a ‘throwaway culture’ in which people ‘easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending’ (n. 203). The Pope calls for an alternative to ‘superdevelopment’; one which acknowledges integral human development, social inclusion and a preferential option for the poor (n.109). At both the personal and structural levels, the Pope calls for a commitment to develop sustainable lifestyles, reduce greenhouse gases, develop clean and renewable energy sources, and improve energy efficiency.

He holds hope that the post-industrial world will not be remembered as ‘one of the most irresponsible in history’ but instead that ‘humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities’(n. 165). The wealthy regions of the world need to reconsider traditional notions of economic growth and progress – ‘the time has come to accept decreased growth in some parts of the world, in order to provide resources for other places to experience healthy growth ... A technological and economic development which does not leave in its wake a better world and an integrally higher quality of life cannot be considered progress’ (nn. 193, 194). An approach that lacks concern for the environment is ‘the same mindset which lacks concern for the most vulnerable members of society’ (n. 196).

Promoting ecological conversion

Citing the words of the Australian Catholic Bishops in their 2002 Social Justice Statement, *A New Earth – The Environmental Challenge*, Pope Francis calls for an ecological conversion, whereby the protection of God’s creation becomes essential to a virtuous life and ‘not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience’ (nn. 217, 218).

The Australian Catholic Bishops have strongly supported this statement. Welcoming the promulgation of *Laudato Si’*, Archbishop Denis Hart, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, said he was pleased to see that the letter critiques our weak response to ecological and social issues. ‘Pope Francis calls on people to seek new ways to understand the economy, condemns our throwaway culture and dependence on technology, and is calling on people to reassess the dignity of humanity and the integrity of creation in finding solutions to the ecological crisis.’

Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia, Jacqui Remond, said Laudato Si' is a game-changer for the Catholic community and it offers us in Australia a powerful moral and spiritual imperative for environmental and social action. 'This encyclical calls on us all to embrace a new lifestyle that respects all of creation, and asks our leaders to commit to effective global agreements. The Pope refers to a broad range of topics including pollution and its effect on the poor, urban chaos, drug trafficking, refugees and human trafficking. Pope Francis points to the "intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, and the conviction that everything in the world is connected" (n.16). He highlights the fact that local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instil a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others and a deep love for the land.'

At this crucial time, the Australian Bishops and Catholic Earthcare Australia invite the Catholic Community and the wider Australian community to address the challenges and opportunities in Laudato Si'.

To access the Encyclical Letter, summaries and a range of information and ideas for action, visit the websites of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Earthcare Australia.

John Ferguson

National Executive Officer



Current Issues/Resources July 2015

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING – FAITH IN A BETTER WORLD

Catholic Social Teaching.org.uk is a livesimply initiative, a network of 60+ charities in the UK who support the radical idea that God calls us to look hard at our lifestyles and live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with poor people at home and overseas. The vision for the livesimply challenge is that by making more explicit the link between faith and action, global social justice will become a mainstream concern for a more diverse range of Catholics. More Catholics will change their attitudes, lifestyles and behaviour in response to the challenge and make a clear and lasting commitment to action for social justice. livesimply encourages people to deepen their faith and discern in prayer what they are called to be and do. People are challenged not only to learn about 'the Church's best kept secret' but then to respond through prayer and liturgy, through campaigning, through local action, and through lifestyle change. CST updates are sent from Progressio and the UK's National Justice and Peace Network. [Visit their website.](#)

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – WEST PAPUA

Amidst intimidation, illegal arrests, disappearances, torture and killings in Tanah Papua (West Papua) resulting from tensions between the Indonesian authorities and the Papuan pro-liberation groups, churches seek justice, peace, dignity and security for the Papuans. The conflict has cost the lives of thousands since the late 1960s. Jan Bastian Rumbrar, ecumenical relations officer at the Evangelical Christian Church in Tanah Papua (GKITP) – a member church of the World Council of Churches (WCC) said, "The GKITP formed in 1958 following over 101 years of mission work laid down by German and Dutch missionaries, was tested with political dispute between Indonesia and the Dutch over the territory called Dutch New Guinea. The human as well as spiritual development of communities at that time met with despair as preparation for an independent church was not followed by political

independence for the Papuans who are the indigenous inhabitants of the territory,” he adds. To support peace initiatives in Tanah Papua, the WCC Executive Committee issued a statement in 2012. The document urges the Indonesian authorities to take necessary steps to “release the political prisoners, to lift the ban on peaceful assembly of Papuans and to demilitarize Tanah Papua” and “enter into dialogue with indigenous Papuan people and to take adequate measures to protect their rights”. [Read the press release](#).

LAND GRABBING: THE FUTURE OF PAPUA IS AT STAKE

Indonesia’s President Joko Widodo took office in 2014 promising to protect the forest and respect the rights of indigenous people. Now – only months later – he wants to hand 1.2 million hectares of rainforest and indigenous land in Papua to Big Agriculture. It would spell the end for a unique ecosystem of rainy and dry forests, wetlands, savannas and mangroves. Remind Widodo of his election promise and call on him to preserve Papua’s nature and respect the human rights of its people. [Sign the Petition](#).

VISION OF HUMANITY RELEASE THE 2015 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

Is the world becoming more peaceful, or are we deteriorating into violence and conflict? What are the main factors that build peace and how can we prevent violence in the future? The interactive Global Peace Index map on Vision of Humanity will be updated with the latest data on the 17th of June. The maps allow you to explore changes in peace over time, discover more about peace at the country level, compare levels of peace between two or more countries and see how the world fares according to each of the 23 indicators of peace. [Visit their website](#).

NEW ACOSS REPORT: ‘A NATION SPLINTERING AMID GROWING INEQUALITY’

ACOSS urged Australian governments to make addressing growing inequality a top policy priority following its new report revealing that income and wealth has become more concentrated in the hands of fewer people over the past two decades across the country. ‘Our findings show that income and wealth are increasingly unequally distributed. For instance, a person in the top 20% income group receives around five times as much income as a person in the bottom 20% ... Inequality should not be seen as inevitable. It is a question of choice by governments. Fortunately the policy solutions are within our grasp. This includes ensuring every individual and organisation pays their fair share of tax, including by reforming tax breaks that are currently skewed in favour of people on higher incomes, and strengthening our social safety net ... In a country as wealthy as ours, all citizens should be included and able to realise their potential. In this way we could proudly pursue a fairer, more inclusive society, to advance the common good,’ ACOSS CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie said. Read the media release and [download the report here](#).

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK: 11 – 17 OCTOBER 2015

Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians. Around the world, more than a billion people are desperately poor. In Anti-Poverty Week, YOU can help fight poverty and hardship! Anti-Poverty Week is a week where all Australians are encouraged to organise or take part in an activity aiming to highlight or overcome issues of poverty and hardship here in Australia or overseas. It was established in Australia as an expansion of the UN’s annual International Anti-Poverty Day on October 17. The main aims are to: strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia; and, encourage research, discussion and action to

address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments. Everyone is encouraged to help reduce poverty and hardship by organising an activity during the Week or taking part in an activity organised by others. To find out more, [visit the website](#).

READ, WATCH OR LISTEN TO THE AHRC'S ANNUAL LECTURE ON DISABILITY RIGHTS

The 2015 Australian Human Rights Centre Annual Lecture Disability Rights – *A Global Agenda for the 21st Century* was held on June 4, 2015. The Annual Lecture brought together in conversation three people who represent some of the key national and international voices articulating the disability rights agenda and each were involved in developing the international legal framework for disability rights: Graeme Innes AM, former Disability Discrimination Commissioner, human rights lawyer and disability advocate and Professor Gerard Quinn, former member of the Irish Human Rights Commission and Vice President of the European Committee on Social Rights were the two panellists and the moderator was Rosemary Kayess, Visiting Fellow at UNSW Law, co-director of the disability and human rights project and human rights lawyer. You can watch the lecture, listen to a podcast or read a description of the photographic exhibition, *Living in chains* on the [Human Rights website](#).

PALMS AUSTRALIA POSITION VACANT ~ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: EXECUTIVE SUPPORT AND EVENTS

Palms Australia's Vision is of people cooperating across cultures in order to achieve a just, sustainable, interdependent and peaceful world free of poverty. This full-time position requires a unique blend of creativity, relationship building and organisational skills to assist organise events for people interested to act on their vision. Tools you will need for the job:

Enthusiasm for the vision, mission, values and development philosophy of Palms Australia

Sound computer skills using a variety of programs – Mostly Microsoft Office

Sound writing and editing skills

Applications with CV outlining qualifications and/or experience for taking on this work should reach Palms by 6 July. Further details: Email roger@palms.org.au Subject: Admin Assistant or phone 02 9518 9551.

BISHOPS COMMISSION FOR RELATIONS WITH ABORIGINES AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS MEDIA RELEASE - SOLIDARITY: ON THE ROAD TO JUSTICE

As the Church prepares to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People on Sunday 5 July 2015, Bishop Saunders calls for the government to find genuine answers for people living in remote areas and questions the need for the poor to pay for any fiscal shortfall. 'Rural Australia is in a depressed state and the Aboriginal people in rural Australia are better off when living on traditional lands, than in exile away from it', Bishop Saunders declared that 'Non-Aboriginal Christians must stand in solidarity with their Aboriginal brothers and sisters, while Aboriginal Christians are called to be determined, not to falter, no matter the obstacles that rise up to make a just way difficult. In faith and through prayer, the energy needed to seek justice, to right what is wrong and to find a new, positive way forward is at hand.' You can read the [media statement](#), download the [ATSI 2015 Statement](#) and download [Parish and school resources](#) from NATSICC.

MEDIA RELEASE: AUSTRALIAN AUTHORS SPEAK OUT ON NT INTERVENTION

June 21 will mark eight years since the introduction of the Northern Territory National Emergency Response package, otherwise known as the NT Intervention. Award-winning and internationally recognised Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian authors have produced the *Intervention Anthology* edited by Rosie Scott and Anita Heiss; A powerful collection of views from Aboriginal Elders, experts, lawyers and some of the nation's finest writers. And an indispensable contribution to the urgent question of the wellbeing and dignity of Aboriginal Australians. As Rosalie Kunoth - Monks puts it 'We are your people and you are our people.' To read the media release, order the book and find a launch near you, [visit this website](#).

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. [For more information visit here](#).

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

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](#).

NEW UNHCR GLOBAL TRENDS

UNHCR's annual Global Trends Report: *World at War*, released on 18 June, reports that worldwide displacement was at the highest level ever recorded. It said the number of people forcibly displaced at the end of 2014 had risen to a staggering 59.5 million compared to 51.2 million a year earlier and 37.5

million a decade ago. The increase represents the biggest leap ever seen in a single year. Moreover, the report said the situation was likely to worsen still further. Read the [media release](#) or download the [full report](#).

CATHOLIC ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM

The Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum, which aims to change hearts and minds in support of the abolition of harsh asylum seeker policies, has been officially launched at the start of World Refugee Week. CAPSA was formed in 2014 to challenge the current inflammatory national debate on asylum seekers and to promote an Australia that welcomes and respects people seeking asylum. It is supported by an advisory group of national representatives that includes the ACSJC, the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office as well as Jesuit Social Services, the Australian Catholic University, Caritas, Catholic Health Australia, Catholic Mission, Catholic Religious Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, Catholics in Coalition for Justice and Peace, the National Catholic Education Commission and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. [Visit their website](#).

BLOCK THE USE OF FORCE BILL

The Government is continuing its push for ever-more punitive, coercive powers against asylum seekers. The Migration Amendment (Maintaining the Good Order of Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2015 currently before Parliament will give detention centre officers essentially unchecked power to use force against asylum seekers in any circumstance they think reasonable, which may include, for example, breaking up a peaceful protest. This is more power to use force than is granted to prison officers. Write to Senators now with the assistance of the [Asylum Seeker Resource Centre website](#).

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](#). Sign their petition to [end child detention here](#).

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 July 2015

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2015–2016 – ORDER NOW!

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement is entitled 'For Those Who've Come Across the Seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers'.

The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form, letter from the President of the Bishops Conference and summary material are available [here](#).

Summary

The Social Justice Statement for 2015–16 challenges Australians to think again about our national response to asylum seekers, especially those who come to Australia by sea. It invites us to recognise the desperation that has driven these people to seek refuge far from their homes.

The title, taken from the words of our National Anthem, is intended to remind all Australians of how this nation has aspired to be a place of welcome and inclusion.

The Bishops address the divisive national debate over asylum seekers, especially those who arrive by boat. They confront Australia's current deterrence-based response and remind us of the needs of the nearly 60 million people who are displaced around the world.

The Statement takes its inspiration from the actions and words of Pope Francis on his 2013 visit to the Italian island of Lampedusa, where he met the survivors of a refugee tragedy and mourned for those who had died. It begins and ends with the Pope's own words and is strongly based on the Scriptures and Catholic teaching.

The Bishops' document traces the experiences of asylum seekers from their flight from persecution and danger, through their perilous journeys, to their experience in Australia of indefinite detention, deprivation and insecurity. It asks why both sides of Australian politics have felt the need to introduce such cruel and self-defeating policies as offshore processing and indefinite detention.

This Social Justice Sunday we are invited to reflect on the call of Jesus to welcome those in most need and to give comfort to those who come to us in flight from fear and suffering.

Complementary Resources

The ACSJC website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) will have resources available for download free of charge before Social Justice Sunday. They will include Social Justice Sunday Liturgy Notes, a PowerPoint presentation and community and education resources.

Prayer Cards and 'Ten Steps' leaflets can be ordered from the ACSJC on (02) 8306 3499 or by email: admin@acsjc.org.au

Promotion

The Bishops would welcome promotion of the Statement in the weeks leading up to Social Justice Sunday. A possible entry in your parish bulletin or newsletter could be:

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 27 September.

This year's Social Justice Statement is titled: 'For Those Who've Come Across the Seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers'.

The Statement addresses the divisive national debate over asylum seekers, especially those who arrive by boat. It reminds all Australians of the need to welcome and comfort those who have fled here from terror and danger, and to live out the example of Jesus, who never turned his back on those who were lost or suffering.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499.

Any assistance you can give in spreading the word about Social Justice Sunday and this Bishops' Statement on refugees and asylum seekers would be greatly appreciated.

SERIES PAPER 77 – 'BEAUTY AND OUR BIBLICAL CALLING TO PEACE, JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY'

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 48th 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](#).

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 July 2015

[Vatican formally recognises Palestine with treaty](#)

The Vatican signed a treaty with the State of Palestine, a development that the Church hopes will lead to improved relations between Israel and the Palestinians.

[European policy on migrants contradictory: Vatican official](#)

The Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva called on European leaders to consider a more farsighted approach to the growing challenge migrants pose to the continent.

[Student inspired by UN human rights conference](#)

Year 12 student Sheneli Meneripityage Dona, from western Sydney, joined delegates from 54 countries in New York for the United Nations Special General Assembly on Youth.

[US activist Sister to stay free after sabotage charge dropped](#)

An 85-year-old religious sister and two fellow Catholic peace activists will probably remain free after US prosecutors told defence attorneys they would not seek to have a sabotage charge reconsidered.

[Pope condemns ‘hypocritical’ Christians linked to arms trade](#)

Christians who manufacture arms or invest in the arms industry are hypocrites, Pope Francis said during his two-day visit to Turin.

[Pope says asylum seekers' plight 'brings tears to one's eyes'](#)

Pope Francis said the plight of asylum seekers hoping for a new life in Europe was enough to make him cry, condemning those who treat them "like merchandise".

[Planet is at breaking point, says Pope Francis](#)

Pope Francis said the planet is "reaching a breaking point" in his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*.

[Australian media: Pope issues urgent plea to halt climate change](#)

In a statement addressed not just to Catholics but "every living person on this planet", the Pope issued an urgent call for humanity to tackle climate change and rebalance its relationship with the planet.

[Hart: We have an obligation to be responsible for the world](#)

Pope Francis is sending a message that "we've got a serious obligation to be responsible for our brothers and sisters, to be responsible for the world," said the President of the ACBC, Archbishop Denis Hart.

[Catholic Mission joins day of action over refugees](#)

The Coalition to End the Immigration Detention of Children, of which Catholic Mission is a member, gathered at Parliament House to send a strong reminder about those dubbed 'the Forgotten Children'.

[Launch of new alliance to support asylum seekers](#)

The Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum, which aims to change hearts and minds in support of the abolition of harsh asylum seeker policies, was officially launched at the start of World Refugee Week.

[Pope to open hostel for homeless near St Peter's](#)

In his latest initiative to help those sleeping rough on Rome's streets, Pope Francis planned to open a hostel for the homeless.

[Francis: Abandoning migrants at sea is an 'attack on life'](#)

Abortion, abandoning migrants at sea, unsafe working conditions, malnutrition, terrorism, and euthanasia are all "attacks on life", said Pope Francis.

[CSSA call on govt over affordable housing](#)

Catholic Social Services Australia wants to review this year's Federal Budget to see where the Coalition Government is planning to allocate resources to housing *services*.

- courtesy *cathnews.com*

Social Justice Diary July 2015



July 2015

1	Wed	2012: Commencement of the Fair Work Amendment (TCF Industry) Act 2011, ensuring fair pay and conditions for outworkers in the garment industry - ACSJC Resources for Workplace Justice Tartan Day (Australasia) - ACSJC Resources for Peacebuilding
2	Thu	
3	Fri	
4	Sat	International Day of Cooperatives
5	Sun	<p>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday - ACSJC Resources on Justice for Indigenous People</p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p> <p>NAIDOC Week begins - ACSJC Resources on Justice for Indigenous People</p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p> <p>1935: Birth of the Dalai Lama in Tibet – awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989</p>
6	Mon	
7	Tue	1945: Blessed Peter To Rot – killed in Papua New Guinea, recognised as a martyr
8	Wed	
9	Thu	
10	Fri	1985: Sinking of Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior in Auckland
11	Sat	World Population Day
12	Sun	<p>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Apostleship of the Sea 1971: Aboriginal Flag first flown in Adelaide - ACSJC Resources on Justice for Indigenous People</p>
13	Mon	

14	Tue	1995: Aboriginal Flag and Torres Strait Islander Flag proclaimed official flags of Australia - ACSJC Resources on Justice for Indigenous People
15	Wed	
16	Thu	1945: First atomic bomb detonated in New Mexico - ACSJC Resources for Peacebuilding
17	Fri	
18	Sat	Eid-al-Fitr – Muslim breaking of the fast 1918: Birth of Nelson Mandela - ACSJC Resources on Confronting Racism
19	Sun	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
20	Mon	1969: First moon landing accomplished by Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin and Michael Collins
21	Tue	
22	Wed	
23	Thu	
24	Fri	Schools Tree Day
25	Sat	
26	Sun	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Bible Sunday National Tree Day - ACSJC Resources on the Environment National Missing Persons Week begins 1833: Emancipation Bill approved, abolishing slavery throughout the British Empire - ACSJC Resources on Trade Justice
27	Mon	
28	Tue	
29	Wed	
30	Thu	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - ACSJC Resources on Trade Justice READ MORE ↓ International Day of Friendship - ACSJC Resources on Peacebuilding
31	Fri	