

ACSJC Monthly Briefing March 2016 No 176



From the Secretariat March 2016

Dear friends

As this is being written, we know that, for the moment at least, the baby 'Asha' and her family will not be sent from her Brisbane hospital back to the detention centre in Nauru. Asha's parents are asylum seekers who were sent to Nauru under the government's policy of offshore detention. The little girl had then come to Australia for treatment for injuries she received in detention on Nauru and has been the subject of public appeals and demonstrations against the possibility of her enforced return. She had become the face of the 267 people, including 72 children, likely to be compelled to return to Nauru following a decision by the High Court in early February.

The pressure brought to bear on the government has been extraordinary. Doctors at the hospital made a conscientious decision not to release the child while she faced return to Nauru because the island could not be considered a safe environment for the child. Churches and religious denominations offered sanctuary to those threatened with forcible return. There was a public vigil outside the hospital and a campaign under the banner 'Let Them Stay' on the streets and in the media opposing the return of the asylum seekers.

One powerful voice was that of the Chairman of the ACSJC, Bishop Vincent Long, speaking as the Bishop Delegate for Migrants and Refugees. Bishop Long [reminded us](#) that the first consideration when dealing with vulnerable people is to respect their human dignity.

'I urge the Australian Government to ensure that no child is subject to an unsafe and harmful environment and that no-one is returned to where they may face physical, psychological and sexual violence and harm,' Bishop Long said.

'The Catholic Church is prepared to collaborate with other community organisations to provide support for asylum seekers,' he said.

Bishop Long's was not the only Catholic voice urging compassion for the asylum seekers.

The Sisters of St Joseph joined with churches and other religious congregations to offer sanctuary to asylum seekers facing deportation to Nauru. For them, remaining silent would 'not be in keeping with the values given us as followers of Mary MacKillop and as members of the human family', as Sr Monica Cavanagh, their congregational leader, said.

St Vincent's Health Australia and Calvary Health Care offered medical help to any asylum seeker seeking church sanctuary. Catholic Social Services and the St Vincent de Paul Society joined with national and international aid agencies to [support the churches](#).

Yet we have to remember that the campaign is not over just because of the Immigration Minister's decision regarding Asha and her family. Most importantly, the minister is [determined](#) that the family will return to Nauru at some time, when 'medical assistance has been provided and the legal issues resolved'. Furthermore, the rest of the 267 asylum seekers, who had come to Australia from Nauru for

reasons including medical treatment and whose cases had been in limbo while awaiting the High Court decision, are also subject to return to Nauru.

That decision by the court went in favour of the government only because of retrospective legislation hustled through Parliament (with the support of both Government and Opposition) in June 2015. We know this because one of the members of the High Court said as much in [his judgment](#).

The government clings to its line: that any sign of humanity on its part will open the floodgates, reinstate the people smuggling business, and irreparably breach Australia's borders. It is an argument that ignores the damage being done to the people Australia so cruelly detains, leaving them without hope and without a future. The government's argument also ignores the damage to the people left without any resource in Indonesia, Malaysia and elsewhere in our region. They too are at risk of disease, despair and death.

We also damage our own reputation as a nation that tries to show leadership in upholding and defending human rights. As the Asia Director of Human Rights Watch, Brad Adams, [said](#): 'Australia needs to seriously rethink its abusive refugee policies and take steps to restore its international standing as a rights-respecting country.'

Mr Adams' deputy, Phil Robertson, put it even more bluntly when he [wrote](#):

'... the human rights principles once a core part of Australia's foreign policy have been undermined by its single-minded determination to stop boats of asylum seekers and migrants "by hook or by crook."

'Australia is rarely pushing for rights-respecting solutions these days – and more than that, is too often part of the problem. Politicians ... frequently fail to recognise that Australia's boat push-back policies, and offshoring asylum seekers into abusive conditions of detention ... are seen as a green-light by Asian governments to do the same: send asylum seekers and refugees back into harm's way or lock them up in indefinite detention.'

So a stubborn adherence to a policy of closing the door and punishing anyone who seeks refuge condemns a group of detainees to lives of despair, madness and even danger of assault. It encourages other governments who would like to behave repressively.

In their Social Justice [Statement](#) for 2015–16, Australia's bishops cut to the heart of the error in this thinking:

'We pretend that the pain and diminishment of one group of people is a justifiable price to pay for sending a message to others. This policy dishonours the human dignity of people who seek protection and denies the truth of their humanity.' (*For Those Who've Come Across the Seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers*, p. 6)

We should give thanks for the people who have stood against this policy of cruelty, who have asked hard questions and have made sacrifices so that the most vulnerable among us might be able to find protection. Many of those people are Catholics, fellow Christians, both religious and lay, who have heard the call of the Gospel and stood up for the downtrodden and oppressed.

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues/Resources March 2016

CARITAS HELPING FIJIANS FOLLOWING CYCLONE WINSTON

The Catholic Church, supported by Caritas Oceania agencies including Caritas Australia and Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, is responding in Fiji, following the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Winston. The cyclone left a trail of destruction in its wake and wreaked havoc in the Tongan islands of Vava'u and Ha'apai before devastating Fijian centres on 20-21 February. "We are encouraging our supporters to raise funds for our current Project Compassion Lenten Appeal which helps vulnerable Pacific communities such as Tonga and Fiji respond to emergencies build back stronger and prepare for future disasters," said Caritas Australia's Pacific Programs Manager, Stephanie Lalor. [Donate today.](#)

MISSY HIGGINS' TRIBUTE TO SYRIA'S REFUGEES

Australian singer-songwriter Missy Higgins has paid tribute to the plight of Syria's refugees with her new song, 'Oh Canada'. 'It was inspired by the photograph of the little three-year-old boy, Aylan Kurdi, who was washed up on a beach in Turkey,' Higgins told 891 ABC Adelaide's mornings host Ali Clarke. 'Like anyone who saw that photograph, I was just devastated. I think I saw my own son.' [Web link.](#)

BRISBANE VIGIL – LOVE MAKES A WAY. LET THEM STAY!

The link below is to a brief film clip from the faith vigil outside Lady Cilento Children's Hospital recently. A toddler faces deportation after hospital treatment in Brisbane, for accidental burns on Nauru. Doctors won't release the child to go back into detention on Nauru, and are asking for a 'suitable' place for the child and parents to go. Neither the Federal Government nor the Federal opposition have supported the Doctors. The local State government has supported the duty of care of the doctors. [Web link.](#)

2015–2016 SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT REPRINT

For those who have missed out or those who would like more, the Social Justice Statement *For Those Who've Come Across the Seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers* has been reprinted and is available to [order here.](#)

REFUGEE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA: THE 'AUSTRALIA SAYS WELCOME' CAMPAIGN

Inspired by the art of Peter Drew, the campaign is all about making refugees feel welcome in Australia. By joining the campaign you are also helping the smooth resettlement of refugees into the Australian community, supporting our work with local refugee organisations and promoting a welcoming and nurturing environment for refugees and asylum seekers in Australia. You can find out how to donate, offer services or find current information, participate on facebook or twitter [here.](#)

CATHOLIC ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM

Australia's treatment of people seeking asylum ought to reflect our collective values of solidarity, compassion, respect for human dignity, and our desire to do good – not harm. When we offer 12,000 Syrians safe haven, we do good and honour our values. When we send people seeking safety to an unsafe environment on Nauru and Manus Island, we do harm. The Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) calls for the government to stop putting people in harm's way. CAPSA calls for better treatment of people in need, and policies that reflect our common values. Join our campaign to bring people on Nauru and Manus Island to safety in Australia by asking your MP to commit to doing better. [Web.](#)

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES REFUGEE TASKFORCE: SANCTUARY FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS CAMPAIGN

Are you a Church or church group wanting to offer Sanctuary to Asylum Seekers? The granting of Sanctuary is a strong and pivotal act of civil disobedience on the part of the church. It derives from the ancient power of the church to give 'Sanctuary' and offer protection from the authorities to those most vulnerable who are in fear of their lives. The granting of Sanctuary was recognised by English law from the fourth to the seventeenth century to provide immunity to arrest. To register your interest [click here](#).

ACRATH: MAKE YOUR EASTER CHOCOLATE SLAVERY FREE!

The Slavery-Free Easter Chocolate Campaign, a coalition of social justice groups, is asking people to buy only chocolate that carries a label (FAIRTRADE, Rainforest Alliance and UTZ certified) showing that the cocoa beans used in the chocolate's production has been sourced ethically, from farmers who engage in good labour practices. School students and parish communities are being urged to eat only slavery-free chocolate this Easter and not buy Easter eggs and chocolate that might have been produced using child labour from West Africa. The International Labor Rights Forum estimates that there are about 1.5 million children working in the cocoa sector in West Africa, many of whom have been enslaved, or forced to work in exploitative conditions. Much of the chocolate we consume in Australia is made with cocoa beans picked by these children. [Find out more](#).

STOP THE TRAFFIK: TRAFFIK FREE EASTER

Children love Easter eggs – except the ones who are forced to make them. Cote d'Ivoire is the biggest producer of cocoa in the world. Its production is labour intensive. Trafficked young people are mostly trafficked through Ghana across the easy border to Cote d'Ivoire. Farmers are not given a high price for their cocoa and so they resort to cheap labour to make an adequate profit. These trafficked young people seldom get any money: only the clothes they wear, food and somewhere to sleep. The work can be dangerous as they are not always taught to use the machetes and the chemicals they are using safely. To find out more and to take action against people trafficking, [click here](#).

PROJECT COMPASSION 2016: 'LEARNING MORE, CREATING CHANGE'

Project Compassion is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of caring supporters, all in the name of justice and peace. Pope Francis has said, 'Education is an act of hope'. This year Project Compassion celebrates the power of learning, and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Throughout Project Compassion 2016, inspiring stories from Malawi, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Cambodia and India will show how education, training and sharing knowledge can empower individual communities to transform their futures and create lasting change. To find out more, visit [Caritas](#).

REPORT: 'HUMAN RIGHTS IN WEST PAPUA 2015'

In its latest report, the International Coalition for Papua brings together the research of 25 organisations and experts from in- and outside West Papua on the situation of human rights, indigenous peoples' rights and the conflict situation there. It details in particular the demographic development and its causes as well as the ongoing violence by security forces that targets indigenous Papuans. The development of the human rights situation in West Papua during 2013 and 2014 shows a deterioration compared to the period covered by the ICP's previous report. The two east Indonesian provinces of

Papua and Papua Barat continues to be one of the regions of Asia most seriously affected by human rights violations and an unresolved long standing political conflict. To access the report, [click here](#).

MERCY CARDS: RESOURCE PACK FOR CATHOLIC PARISHES

These cards offer prayers, scripture, discussion starters, reflective questions, song suggestions, a call to action. For parish meetings and groups, children's catechesis and home activities, school assemblies, classroom and staff. Centred on the Jubilee Year of Mercy focusing on a challenging statement from Pope Francis. Phone: 0412 850 883. Email: info@gpbs.com.au. [Web](#).

TPP VOTE COMING SOON – ASK YOUR MP AND SENATORS TO VOTE NO

This year our MPs and Senators will be asked to vote on the TPP's implementing legislation. If they pass the TPP legislation they will be paving the way for the deal to come into force – meaning we'll be vulnerable to lawsuits from foreign corporations and locked in to high medicine prices. Despite all the downsides of the TPP, there has been no independent assessment done of the costs and the benefits of the deal. Parliament should not vote on this legislation until the economic, health, environment, and labour rights impacts of the TPP have been properly examined. In the absence of a proper, unbiased study to shine a light on this deal, we're calling on MPs and Senators to vote no to the TPP legislation. [Find out more](#).

POSITION VACANT: DIRECTOR, NATIONAL OFFICE FOR EVANGELISATION

The National Office for Evangelisation (NOE) is looking for a committed creative person for a full-time position as Director, National Office for Evangelisation which encompasses the role of Director, Catholic Enquiry Centre in Sydney. NOE is an agency of the Bishops Conference within the Secretariat for Evangelisation. The role of NOE is to promote the mission of evangelisation to non-Catholics and the formation of the faithful. For further information, call 0407 277 222. Applications including three referees to be submitted by 7 March via email to JODonoghue@catholicenquiry.com. [Find out more](#).

MERCY FOUNDATION SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Applications for the Mercy Foundation Small Grants Program are now open. Applications will be accepted until midnight, Monday 28 March, 2016. This grants program is only open to NOT FOR PROFIT organisations in Australia. This program does not fund individuals or for-profit enterprises. Individuals or groups without a legal status may wish to apply using an auspice organisation. Funding under this program would average about \$2,500 per organisation and would never exceed \$5,000. Priority is given to small organisations and those groups that receive no other funding. The Small Grants Program provides seed funding and prioritises those activities and projects which focus on addressing disadvantage in regards to women and children. Funding commences on 1 July 2016. [Find out more](#).

MERCY LENTEN PROGRAM 2016

Continuing the tradition from past years, MERCY is a weekly program produced by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong, primarily for group use, based on the Sunday Scripture readings during Lent. Fr Ken Barker MGL, acclaimed author and Founder of the Missionaries of God's Love and Sr Hilda Scott OSB, Vocations Director, Jamberoo Abbey, to lead the reflections for Lent. Resident artist, Nelson Colo Matoma, is on board again and has painted seven beautiful original acrylic-based artworks for the program. The program is accompanied by a Triple CD resource that includes audio narrations of the Scripture readings by Jude Hennessy (Journey Catholic Radio) and audio narrations of the reflections by Fr Ken and Sr Hilda. The CD resource also contains the Sunday psalms for Lent beautifully put to contemporary music from the Cry Out CD by Tracey Coombes. As a bonus this year, the book and triple

CD resource includes special liturgical resources (including music) for the Year of Mercy compiled by Diocesan Liturgy Coordinator, Paul Mason. Price \$8.80, contact Jennifer Raposio on 02 4222 2411 or [email](#) or [order online](#).

COLUMBAN LENTEN RESOURCE: THE GRACE OF PLACE

The Grace of Place is an online Catholic Lenten Resource that is useful for implementing 'Laudato Si' within your school and parish. It is suitable for Senior School Students, Teachers, Parishes, Religious Congregations, Youth, Social Justice Groups and individuals. This online resource explores having a heightened sense of place in the natural world, enabling us to grow in our reverence for God, and in our care for all creation. It connects the Gospel of each Lenten Sunday in 2016 with different aspects of place using the process of God Revealing (information), God Inspiring (reflection and prayer), and God Challenging (action). [Web](#).



ACSJC Publications March 2016

SERIES PAPER 78 – 'PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST: PASTORAL LETTERS FOR THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2010-2015.'

In the latest Catholic Social Justice Series, the ACSJC has brought together a collection of the Pastoral Letters written by Bishop Christopher Saunders, a long-serving Chairman of the ACSJC, who stood down from that position last year. *Putting People First: Pastoral Letters for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker 2010-2015*, provides an invaluable record of the significant issues relating to work and justice in that five-year period: the global financial crisis; the Northern Territory 'intervention' and the future of remote communities; the Insecure Work inquiry of the ACTU; and the public outcry at the inadequacy of allowances for the unemployed and sole parents. The letters include succinct and accurate summaries of the arguments with sufficient, reliable statistics. Professor Paul Smyth provides an extensive introduction to the series paper. [\[Link\]](#)

DISCUSSION GUIDE: 2016 WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE

The theme for the 49th World Day of Peace Message from Pope Francis is *Overcome Indifference and Win Peace*. Pope Francis' message is a heartfelt plea to us all to engage with the world around us, not to turn our backs on suffering and injustice, and 'not to lose hope in our human ability to conquer evil and to combat resignation and indifference'. He highlights the responsibilities we share, not simply as individuals but as a society. If we are to honour the spirit of this Jubilee of Mercy – and the presence of a God who cares about us and will not abandon us – we need to show genuine and practical concern for the most vulnerable among us. The ACSJC has prepared a Discussion Guide for the papal message, which is available on our [website](#).

ORDER NOW! – 2016 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2016 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: \$7.50 (including postage). To download an order form, [click here](#).

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2015–2016: AVAILABLE AGAIN

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'. Due to overwhelming demand the original print run sold out, but the document has been reprinted and is now available. We have also reprinted the 'Ten Steps' leaflet that accompanies the Statement.

PDF and Word versions of the Statement can be downloaded from the ACSJC website. On the ACSJC website you will also find a range of print and multimedia resources – [available here](#).

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

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](#).

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](#).

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 March 2016

[Catholic aid groups urge support for Fiji after cyclone](#)

23-Feb-2016: Catholic aid groups are working to help Fijians, and urging Australians to reach out, following a category five cyclone that devastated the island nation at the weekend.

[Cricket tragic Sr Brigid goes into bat for refugees](#)

22-Feb-2016: After a long career as a teacher and principal within the Catholic education system, Brigid

Arthur co-founded the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project. But it was cricket and a car accident that got her arrested twice in support of her cause.

[Pope calls for Holy Year suspension of death penalty](#)

22-Feb-2016: Pope Francis has appealed to Catholic leaders around the world to work to stop executions during this year, and said the death penalty should be abolished permanently, reports *CruX*.

[Francis laments 'human tragedy' of immigration](#)

19-Feb-2016: Pope Francis made a politically-charged stop in a Mass at the US-Mexico border on Wednesday to highlight what he called the "human tragedy" faced by migrants, reports *CruX*.

[Francis says Trump 'not Christian' over immigration stance](#)

19-Feb-2016: Pope Francis said US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is "not Christian" because of his views on immigration. Trump later replied that the Pope's remarks were "digraceful," reports the ABC.

[Charity predicts panic when authorities bulldoze Calais camp](#)

18-Feb-2016: Catholic Charity Seeking Sanctuary has condemned plans to bulldoze nearly half the 'Jungle' refugee camp in Calais, including a church and medical and food centres, reports *The Tablet*.

[Francis wants a revolution based on 'vulnerability'](#)

18-Feb-2016: Francis believes the way to bring about peace - in global and family conflict - is by opening up to the possibility of experiencing mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation, and then offering the same to others, writes Robert Mickens.

['I prefer a wounded family to a closed society'](#)

17-Feb-2016: Although families today deeply struggle in a society rife with dysfunction and pain, this fundamental relationship is still essential for our lives and preferable to being alone, the Pope said in Mexico, reports the Catholic News Agency.

[Church supports Vic Premier's offer over asylum-seekers](#)

11-Feb-2016: The Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, has thrown his support behind Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews in a bid to allow 267 asylum-seekers to stay in Australia.

[Br Martin guides indigenous prisoners back into society](#)

08-Feb-2016: Brother Martin McHugh's job can involve anything from attending court or running a men's group to helping prisoners transition back into the community, reports the ABC.

[Healthcare groups' offer to asylum-seekers wanting sanctuary](#)

08-Feb-2016: Two of Australia's largest Catholic healthcare organisations have offered medical support to hundreds of asylum-seekers applying for church sanctuary as they face deportation to Nauru, saying it reflected their "sacred duty" as healing organisations.

[German Cardinal calls for 'reduction' in refugees](#)

08-Feb-2016: The Church in Germany has called for a reduction in the influx of refugees arriving in the country, saying it cannot take in "all the world's needy," according to an interview published on Saturday, reports AFP.

[Bp Long: Church 'ready to collaborate' on sanctuary support](#)

05-Feb-2016: The Catholic Church is ready to collaborate with other community organisations in supporting asylum-seekers, says Bishop Vincent Long OFMConv, the Australian Catholic Bishops spokesman on refugees and a former refugee himself.

[Govt warns churches over sanctuary to asylum-seekers](#)

05-Feb-2016: Immigration Minister Peter Dutton has warned churches and cathedrals offering “sanctuary” to asylum-seekers facing deportation to Nauru that the government expects them to obey the law “no matter who you are”, reports *The Australian*.

[Authorities destroy refugees' church, mosque in Calais jungle](#)

03-Feb-2016: French authorities clearing an area in the Calais refugee camp, home to nearly 6,000 people, have destroyed a makeshift church and mosque, reports AP.

[CRA part of push to stop Pacific trade deal being ratified](#)

03-Feb-2016: Catholic Religious Australia is among nearly 60 community organisations calling for an independent assessment of the Trans-Pacific Partnership before Parliament is asked to vote on ratifying the agreement, reports Fairfax Media.

– courtesy [cathnews.com](#)



Social Justice Diary March 2016

March 2016

1	Tue	<i>International Death Penalty Abolition Day</i> - ACSJC resources on the Death Penalty <i>Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day</i> - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding 1999: International Treaty to Ban Landmines enters into force
2	Wed	
3	Thu	
4	Fri	<i>World Day of Prayer Theme: "Receive Children, Receive Me"</i> READ MORE ↓ 1979: Pope John Paul II's encyclical <i>Redemptor Hominis</i>
5	Sat	1970: International Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding
6	Sun	Fourth Sunday of Lent Clean Up Australia Day - ACSJC resources on the Environment
7	Mon	

8	Tue	<i>International Women's Day</i>
9	Wed	
10	Thu	
11	Fri	2011: Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, devastated by earthquake and tsunami, killing 18,500 people, destroying the nuclear plant and causing widespread contamination
12	Sat	1913: Founding of Canberra as Australia's Capital
13	Sun	Fifth Sunday of Lent
14	Mon	
15	Tue	<i>World Consumer Rights Day</i> READ MORE ↓
16	Wed	
17	Thu	St Patrick
18	Fri	
19	Sat	St Joseph, husband of Mary 1866: Beginning of Sisters of St Joseph at Penola, SA 2003: USA and Allies invade Iraq - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding
20	Sun	Palm Sunday
21	Mon	International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination - ACSJC resources on Confronting Racism International Day of Forests - ACSJC resources on the Environment World Down Syndrome Day World Poetry Day Week of Solidarity with the Peoples struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination - ACSJC resources on Confronting Racism National Harmony Day (Australia)
22	Tue	<i>World Water Day</i> - ACSJC resources on the Environment
23	Wed	<i>World Meteorological Day</i>

24	Thu	<p>Holy Thursday</p> <p><u>International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims</u></p> <p><u>World Tuberculosis Day (WHO)</u></p> <p>1980: Assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero</p>
25	Fri	<p>Good Friday</p> <p><u>International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade</u> - ACSJC resources on <u>Trade Justice</u></p> <p><u>International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing (UN) Staff Members</u></p> <p>1877: <u>Death of Caroline Chisholm</u></p>
26	Sat	<p>1967: Pope Paul VI's encyclical <i>Populorum Progressio</i> (On the Progress of Peoples)</p> <p>1975: <u>Biological Weapons Convention enters into force</u> - ACSJC resources on <u>Peacebuilding</u></p>
27	Sun	Easter Sunday
28	Mon	
29	Tue	<p><u>Neighbour Day</u></p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p>
30	Wed	
31	Thu	