

ACSJC Monthly Briefing November 2016 No 184



From the Secretariat November 2016

Dear Friends,

When it seems as though Australian governments of both persuasions have reached the limits of their inhumane treatment of some of the most vulnerable people on earth, we are again surprised by ever-more draconian policies against refugees and asylum seekers.

On 30 October, the Prime Minister held a [press conference](#) with the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, announcing that the Government will introduce legislation to amend the Migration Act to prevent irregular maritime arrivals taken to a regional processing country since July 2013 from making a valid application for an Australian visa.

He said, ‘...

I repeat, that irregular maritime arrivals who have been sent to a regional processing country, that is Papua New Guinea and Nauru at the present time, will never be settled permanently in Australia.’

This is the latest in the trend of regressive policies that have included: writing most Refugee Convention obligations out of our Migration Act; excising Australia from its own migration zone; returning asylum seekers to countries from which they fled; incarcerating adults and children in offshore facilities; freezing Refugee Status Determination and reducing legal assistance and appeal rights; refusing resettlement places in Australia; and reintroducing temporary protection visas.

The latest proposal should cause us to stop and reflect: Who are we as a nation? Is this what we have become?

Refugee Council of Australia acting CEO Tim O’Connor [said](#), ‘The Minister and the Prime Minister have gone to some lengths to suggest these proposed laws are targeted at the people smuggling trade, yet it is both perverse and cruel that the people who will be ill-targeted are those that have sought our safety and protection.

‘It is clear these laws are an attempt to pave the way for third country resettlement, but they threaten to keep families apart and send a bizarre message to countries like the USA, Canada, Sweden, New Zealand and other countries which are the most likely new homes for these people we have treated so inhumanely.

‘Additionally, we are concerned for the 30,000 people living in our community on bridging, SHEV and temporary visas as to whether they will also be included in this group ...

‘Perhaps the greatest tragedy of these proposed laws is they move Australia further away from engaging in sustainable solutions to manage the global challenge of displacement. The international community must work to tackle the root causes of displacement and Australia’s building of a virtual wall only deals with the symptoms and not ensuring people can flee persecution and live with dignity while they await the appropriate conditions to return home,’ said Mr O’Connor.

As the Catholic Bishops said in their 2015 [Social Justice Statement](#):

‘There must be an alternative. We must recognise our regional responsibility and also acknowledge that the dangers people face are so great that deterrence alone is not an adequate response. ... Australia should be processing asylum seekers’ claims onshore.

‘Australia should be showing leadership in the region, not just in combating people smuggling but in increasing the capacity for protection and resettlement places in South-East Asia. Globally we should be making concrete efforts to engage with source countries to provide in-country support to people who are displaced.

Lifting the veil of secrecy

The Government’s announcement follows a range of reports and documentaries, at least since the Australian Human Rights Commission’s 2014 *The Forgotten Children* report, lifting the veil of operational secrecy to reveal the inhumanity of Australia’s deterrence and offshore detention policies. These policies cost the lives, sanity and health of already traumatised asylum seekers. The policies also come at great financial cost to the Australia taxpayer and also to the reputation of Australia in international circles.

The [latest report](#) from Amnesty International Australia, *Island of Despair*, further highlights the situation on Nauru. ‘On Nauru, the Australian Government runs an open-air prison designed to inflict as much suffering as necessary to stop some of the world’s most vulnerable people from trying to find safety in Australia,’ says Anna Neistat, Amnesty International’s Senior Director for Research. ‘The distressing and heartbreaking accounts of deteriorating mental health, discrimination and violent attacks, sexual violence, inadequate medical care and harassment that I heard from mothers, fathers, adults and children as young as six, paint a picture of people driven to absolute despair.’

Amnesty has [stood by the report](#), after its veracity was attacked by Minister Dutton. The Amnesty statement reads: ‘The fact remains that the Australian Government’s “processing” of refugees and asylum seekers on Nauru is a deliberate and systematic regime of neglect and cruelty, and amounts to torture under international law. If the Australian Government has nothing to hide, as it claims, they should ensure full access to Nauru for independent media, lawyers, human rights organisations and researchers.’

At the same time, ABC’s *Four Corners* aired a [groundbreaking episode](#) by Debbie Whitmont, covering the circumstances and treatment of over 100 refugee children on Nauru and speaking with the children themselves and their former teachers. While both the [Australian](#) and [Nauruan](#) governments attacked the program, the ABC has stood by its content, saying that the interviews and stories ‘were subjected to the program’s usual rigorous fact-checking processes’ and that the program did not seek involvement from the Government of Nauru because it ‘routinely refuses journalists access to report on offshore processing, and charges prohibitive fees for media visas which are not refunded if the applications are refused.’

Bring them here!

On 13 October, the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference highlighted the shame of the expulsion and harsh treatment of the people who have sought Australia’s protection only to be detained on Nauru and Manus Island.

Archbishop Hart [said](#), ‘International agencies have been appalled by the conditions under which they live and the effects on their health, spirits and self-respect. Pope Francis, to whom people detained on

Manus Island have written, has also expressed his deep concern. The human costs on the detainees are mounting by the day.

‘The Australian Catholic Bishops also deplore the detention of our brothers and sisters on Nauru and Manus Island. While recognising the effort of the Government to find a solution, we say that enough is enough. We call on the Government to bring offshore detainees to Australia while awaiting further decisions on their future.

‘We endorse the campaign to “Bring Them Here” to Australia. We pledge the help of our Catholic communities and institutions to welcome and support these refugees when they arrive, including Catholic health, education and social services,’ the Archbishop said.

‘The Australian Catholic Bishops are working with the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) advisory group, which brings together Catholic peak bodies across education, health, welfare, and the broader church along with key national Catholic organisations.

‘CAPSA is ready and willing to lead a coordinated approach to support the men, women and children currently on Nauru and Manus Island as they arrive in Australia. Many parishes and local communities are also ready to assist,’ Archbishop Hart said.

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Australian Catholic Bishops Delegate for Migrants and Refugees added, ‘Australia, often galvanised by popular pressure, rose to the challenge in the past with its generous embrace of migrants and refugees. It proved itself especially courageous during the Indochinese exodus and accepted an unprecedented number of Asian refugees for the first time in its history. Many thousand former Vietnamese boat people and I are living witnesses to this.

‘Australia is a wonderful country but where it is in terms of its treatment of asylum seekers should galvanise us into action. We cannot be his disciples if we ignore the plight of the marginalised and the vulnerable.’

Galvanised into action

Responding to the Bishops’ statement, the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum has offered to lead a coordinated approach of Catholic community organisations to provide support to men, women and children seeking asylum if the Australian Government shows leadership to [#BringThemHere](#).

Chair of CAPSA, Julie Edwards, [welcomed](#) Archbishop Hart’s leadership in publicly calling for the people in detention on Nauru and Manus Island to be brought to Australia.

‘Pope Francis has showed courage and in leadership in promoting compassion for people seeking asylum towards the Catholic community across the globe, and we are heartened by Archbishop Hart joining the calls to bring the people in detention on Nauru and Manus Island to Australia.

‘The Australian Bishops’ annual Social Justice Statement last year called on Australians to reconsider our national response towards people seeking asylum. Right across the world, Catholic communities are uniting to show our leaders that we want more humane approaches towards people fleeing trauma and persecution in search of protection.

CAPSA stands behind the Bishops offering to coordinate the provision of housing, education, health and social services to all of the 1,233 people currently residing on Nauru and Manus Island. There is no way the Federal government can therefore claim that bringing them here is untenable.

If you are able to offer support in the form of housing, education scholarships, social support, health or other services, please to contact CAPSA at info@capsa.org.au. You can also pledge your support [here](#).

Join the Refugee Council of Australia's '[Bring Them Here](#)' campaign and signing the petition, which rightly calls on the government to immediately bring the children, women and men Australia has sent to Nauru to safety in Australia. They are urging the government to conduct an independent judicial inquiry into each of the over 2000 incident reports detailing child abuse, child sexual abuse, threats, self-harm and psychological damage. We must ensure justice is served for all who have suffered in our name.

Following the *Four Corners* episode and Amnesty International's report, the Director of the Edmund Rice Centre and President of the Refugee Council, Phil Glendenning says that this must be the final straw for offshore processing.

'Australia cannot shirk its responsibility to the people on Nauru and Manus Island any longer. It is an utter tragedy and disgrace that our policies have been designed to crush their hopes and spirits to the point that children on Nauru self-harm and contemplate suicide.

'Something needs to be done urgently to end the cruelty and inhumanity of offshore processing. Every politician in the Australian Parliament has a duty to act.

'Once we have brought refugees and people seeking asylum from Manus Island and Nauru to Australia, we must then ensure that this sad chapter in our history is never repeated. In the words of Judith Reen, a former school coordinator with Save the Children who was interviewed on *Four Corners*: 'I just want to make sure it doesn't happen to another generation.'

Edmund Rice Centre is [calling for a bipartisan response](#) to resolve the crisis in Australia's offshore detention system. Please sign their petition calling on Malcolm Turnbull and Bill Shorten to put partisan politics to one side and work together to bring those sent to Nauru and Manus Island to safety in Australia.

Our offshore detention facilities are inhumane, unsustainable and degrading of Australia's proud history welcoming and protecting vulnerable people fleeing persecution and war.

The words of a young woman speaking to *Four Corners* of her experience being trapped on Nauru passes the clearest judgement on Australia's policies:

'We ran away from Burma because of the raping, things that's happening to the girls and burning houses, and stealing, and we came here, we came to Australia, we tried to get to Australia, and now we are here, the same thing happening, raping, stealing, killing.'

Enough is enough. It's time for a better way.

John Ferguson



Current Issues/Resources November 2016

REFUGEE COUNCIL PETITION: 'BRING THEM HERE'

The Refugee Council of Australia has launched a campaign calling for the Government to bring people from Nauru to immediate safety, for an urgent independent investigation into all the incidents of alleged abuse, and for a national summit to provide humane, legal and sustainable alternatives to Australia's treatment of people seeking asylum. On August 10, 2016, The Guardian released the 'Nauru Files' – 2116 incident reports detailing child abuse, child sexual abuse, threats, self-harm and psychological damage. Children feature in over half the incidents reported, despite making up less than 20% of the population of the detention centres. To lend your support, visit the Refugee Council [webpage](#).

ENDING CHILD DETENTION: A FOCUS OF 2016 MIGRANT RIGHTS DAY

This year child detention is going to be the focus theme of International Migrant Day (December 18). The Global Campaign to End Child Detention is working with other NGOs, including the ACSJC, in partnership with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, to start a broad community conversation. What motivates you to support the rights of migrants? How can we change the conversation to be one that promotes rights for migrants worldwide? A social media campaign is being run in the lead up to a webinar on December 16, featuring some of the world's leading experts on migrant rights. This year's webinar will focus on the growing acknowledgement that immigration detention of any child is never in the best interests of the child and constitutes a child rights violation. To find out more and lend your support, visit the 'Talking Migrant Rights' [website](#) See also: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#).

FUNDRAISING: CATHOLIC ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM

The Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) is a national initiative to influence hearts and minds in the Catholic community towards a more just, compassionate and humane welcome of people seeking asylum. CAPSA recognises that our current Australian government policy towards people seeking safety on our shores is in stark contrast to the core Gospel-teachings and recent messages of Pope Francis. The group envisages a community that values the fair and humane treatment of people seeking asylum and for a society where our government welcomes and supports people seeking asylum into our community. CAPSA is currently seeking donations to help expand their work across Australia. Your donation will help us run events in schools, facilitate meetings with politicians, create useful resources and videos, and run workshops with community members. All donations to CAPSA are tax deductible through Jesuit Social Services. To help us continue this important work, please donate via our [website](#).

UNICEF AND SAVE THE CHILDREN REPORT

The full human, economic and strategic costs of Australia's asylum seeker policies have been clouded by successive Governments' claims to secrecy. Now, a major report from UNICEF Australia and Save the Children lays out the true impacts. The report 'At What Cost?' details the human, economic and strategic costs of Australia's policies. Some main points include: Offshore processing costs \$400,000 per-refugee per-year; Ending 'open detention' on Nauru and Manus Island could save \$2 billion by 2020; The boats haven't stopped – they've been turned away to other dangers; and Australia's policies are undermining its global standing. The Report calls for safe and sustainable resettlement options for refugees and asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus Island and for proactive support for the

establishment of a regional protection framework for asylum seeker and refugee children and families across South East Asia. Access the report [here](#).

ABC RADIO – SUNDAY NIGHTS – PANEL ON AGEING

In October, John Ferguson joined Dr Paul Komesaroff of Monash University and Age Discrimination Commissioner Dr Kaye Patterson on *Sunday Nights* to discuss many of the issues of an ageing society as dealt with the Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement, *A Place at the Table*. To hear this interview, which covers issues as diverse as homelessness, longevity, workplace discrimination, aged care and euthanasia, go to the ABC [website](#).

POPE ADDRESSES ELDERLY AND CAREGIVERS

On Saturday 15 October, Pope Francis addressed over 7000 representatives of the elderly, including grandparents and members of the National Association of Elderly Workers and the 'Feder Anziani' Italian Senior Federation. He said that today's world mythicises power and looks, and thus the elderly have a special mission to give witness to what really matters – the values that remain forever. The Holy Father emphasised that the Church looks at elderly people with 'affection, gratitude and great esteem.' He said, 'They are an essential part of the Christian community and of society,' adding, 'I don't know if you heard well: The elderly are an essential part of the Christian community and of society!'. To read Pope Francis' address, visit [here](#).

JOINT REPORT: AGE PENSIONERS IN POVERTY

The report 'The Adequacy of the Age Pension in Australia' has confirmed that the current level of the Age Pension in Australia falls short of allowing an acceptable standard of living, with many pensioners suffering 'substantial deprivation'. The joint report by Per Capita, The Benevolent Society and The Longevity Innovation Hub, finds that almost a third of the 1.5 million older Australians relying solely on the Age Pension are in poverty. Age pensioners, especially older women who rent privately and live solely on the age pension, are most exposed to poverty. The key recommendation of the report is the establishment of an independent Age Pension Tribunal to oversee and determine a just base rate for the pension that enables disadvantaged older Australians to live at a standard consistent with the reasonable expectation of all Australians. Access the report [here](#).

ARTICLE – AGED CARE COMPLAINTS INCREASE

The new Aged Care Complaints Commissioner received 2,153 formal complaints about residential, home and community care, 1 January to 30 June 2016, an increase of 11 per cent compared to the corresponding six month period in 2015 (1,938 complaints). Commissioner Rae Lamb attributes this increase partly to the transition to an independent Commissioner and the public becoming more aware of the office and the support offered. 'It's also important to acknowledge that the number of complaints continues to be very small compared with the hundreds of thousands of people receiving aged care in their own homes and in residential care,' she says. The report shows a 23 per cent increase in the number of people contacting the Complaints Commissioner to make enquiries that do not become complaints. Find out more [here](#).

ACOSS REPORT – 'POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA 2016'

In October 2016, ACOSS released a new report revealing that poverty is growing in Australia, with an estimated 2.9 million people or 13.3 per cent of all people living below the internationally accepted poverty line. The report provides the most up to date picture of poverty in the nation drawing on new data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Income and Expenditure surveys for 2013–14 and

previous years. It found that 731,300 or 17.4 per cent of all children were living in poverty in Australia. To download the report, visit [here](#).

LAW REFORM COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO INCARCERATION

On 27 October, the Attorney-General George Brandis QC and Senator Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, announced that the Turnbull Government will ask the Australian Law Reform Commission to examine the factors leading to the over representation of Indigenous Australians in the prison system, and consider what reforms to the law could ameliorate this tragedy. 'It has been 25 years since the final report of the landmark Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, but Indigenous Australians are stil [sic] overrepresented in Australia's prisons. In 1991, Indigenous Australians made up 14 per cent of our nation's prison population; by 2015, this had increased to 27 per cent,' they [said](#). While welcoming the announcement of the Inquiry, the Change the Record Coalition of Indigenous representative groups have called for the Inquiry to focus on identifying tangible solutions that address the underlying causes of imprisonment. The Coalition's Co-Chair Shane Duffy said, 'This year marks 25 years since the landmark Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, but our people continue to experience imprisonment and violence at crisis rates. The new ALRC inquiry offers an important opportunity to shine a comprehensive light on these issues at a national level, and identify tangible actions for all levels of government.' To find out more visit [here](#).

NEW REPORT: ON THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN OCEANIA

Caritas Australia has joined with Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and Caritas Tonga to produce the *Hungry for Justice, Thirsty for Change: Caritas State of the Environment Report for Oceania 2016*. The report details the significant impacts of climate change across the Pacific region in the past year. Some of the issues the report addresses include widespread thirst and hunger and rising sea levels. The Caritas Australia is asking people to stand in solidarity with our Pacific neighbours and send a letter to their MPs and Senators. To download the report and take further action, go to the [webpage](#).

CALL FOR INDONESIA TO ADDRESS ABUSES IN PAPUA

The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has welcomed the efforts of six Pacific countries raising the subject of human rights violations in Papua in the General Debate of the UN General Assembly's 71st Session, on 26 September 2016. The six Pacific countries are Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Nauru, the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, and Tonga. They called for the Indonesian government to address human rights violations in Papua and they have also called for West Papuan self-determination rights to be respected. The AHRC has called on the government to seriously accept all points raised and recommendations made and for the government to open access for an independent body to monitor human rights protection in Papua. To read more visit [here](#).

MORNING STAR RISING PRAYER RESOURCES

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace of the Archdiocese of Brisbane has prepared resources for prayer and liturgy in support of the people of West Papua. They say, 'Fear and deep concern are widespread in West Papua; yet, their faith in God's abiding love through all their difficulties remains strong. They would appreciate your prayerful support as they endure much pain and oppression. The following resources may be used in whole or in part in public worship or privately.' The resources can be accessed [here](#).

ACSJC Publications November 2016



ORDER NOW! – 2017 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2017 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. A great Christmas gift. Diaries will be available in November. Cost: \$7.50 (including postage). To download an order form, [click here](#).

NEW! SERIES PAPER 79 – ‘Human Trafficking and Slavery: A response from Australian Catholics’

This paper is written by Christine Carolan, Executive Officer of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) and Sr Noelene Simmons SM, NSW Regional Co-ordinator for ACRATH. It describes the forms that slavery and related crimes take in the modern world, the Church’s teaching on and response to slavery and other forms of exploitation, and the international and Australian laws that deal with slavery. It also describes the work of organisations committed to combating slavery and helping its victims – in particular, ACRATH’s efforts to educate Australians, to advocate on behalf of victims, and to work with similar organisations here and overseas to shut down human trafficking and help its victims. [The paper](#) discusses particular problems faced by those who experience trafficking and exploitation, including people who may be subject to forced marriage. It also gives suggestions for people interested in supporting the work of ACRATH and similar organisations.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2016–2017

This year’s Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement is entitled ‘A Place at the Table: Social justice in an ageing society’. PDF and Word versions of the [Statement](#) as well as a range of print and multimedia resources.

DISCUSSION GUIDES: DIGNITY AND WORK 2016

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council has issued three short discussion guides that address critical issues concerning justice for Australia’s most vulnerable workers or for those who confront the reality of unemployment. These vital aspects of work and dignity in our country address: the inadequate levels of income support offered to people who are unemployed; the risk that penalty rates will be cut for vulnerable workers; and the increasing intrusion of work demands into family time and weekends. We encourage you to promote these documents in your networks and publications. We hope that they will be a valuable resource for anyone who wants to be informed about the Church’s commitment to justice and fulfilment in the workplace. The discussion guides can be accessed [here](#).

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

In this series paper, the ACSJC has brought together a collection of the Pastoral Letters issued by Bishop Christopher Saunders. *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. [Click 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 November 2016

[Chaplains asked to deliver message to prisoners](#)

31-Oct-2016

The Australian Catholic Prisoners Pastoral Care Council has asked prison chaplains to deliver a special message next week to prisoners about love and hope, as part of the Jubilee for Prisoners chosen by Pope Francis to be celebrated on November 6.

[Walls aren't answer to people fleeing war, climate change](#)

27-Oct-2016

Closing doors to immigrants and refugees is not the answer. In fact, it only helps encourage the crime of human trafficking, Pope Francis said in his weekly audience yesterday, reports the Catholic News Service.

[CRA calls for an increase in Newstart allowance](#)

27-Oct-2016

Catholic Religious Australia says it supports those welfare groups that have called for an increase in Newstart allowance rather than imposing stricter obligations.

[Student calls for indigenous culture to be on general curriculum](#)

21-Oct-2016

Indigenous high school graduate Sahamar Ruben wants Australia's education curriculum to include studies in indigenous culture for the sake of non-indigenous students, according to *The Catholic Leader*.

[ACU launches public policy think tank](#)

21-Oct-2016

The Australian Catholic University has launched a new public policy think tank which will address issues ranging from the rehousing of Syrian refugees to the role of conscience in medicine and the problems facing human rights in Australia, reports *The Catholic Weekly*.

[Caritas India to recruit transgender people to fight bias](#)

21-Oct-2016

Caritas India has announced plans to recruit transgender people in its bid to fight discrimination, according to the Religion News Service.

[One in five feels the invisible blight of mental illness](#)

20-Oct-2016

"In our wealthy and stable society, the most dispossessed and vulnerable today are the mentally ill," writes Margaret-Mary Flynn. "The ones most needing mercy and care may be sitting in inner despair beside us at Mass, or standing alone at a family barbecue."

[Reports must be 'last straw' for offshore detention: Glendenning](#)

18-Oct-2016

Last night's episode of *Four Corners* and the release of a report by Amnesty International must be the final straw for Australia's offshore processing, says Phil Glendenning, Director of the Edmund Rice Centre and President of the Refugee Council of Australia.

[Bishops urge government to bring offshore detainees to Australia](#)

14-Oct-2016

The Australian Bishops have endorsed the "Bring Them Here" campaign to return offshore detainees to Australia from Manus Island and Nauru, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference said in a statement yesterday.

[New UN Secretary General looms as key ally of the Pope](#)

11-Oct-2016

Assuming he's approved as the new UN Secretary General next week, the background of former Portuguese prime minister Antonio Guterres suggests he could become a key global ally of Pope Francis. *Crux* has the story.

[On our doorstep: Caritas report on climate change in Pacific](#)

11-Oct-2016

A major hospital needs to be relocated, graves are in danger of being washed away, and many millions of people have struggled with hunger and thirst, according to a new report released by Caritas Australia.

[Haitians go to church despite devastation, as aid trickles in](#)

11-Oct-2016

Haitian survivors of Hurricane Matthew put on their Sunday finest and picked their way through downed power lines to sing, praise, and pray in ruined churches, as international rescue efforts began ramping up, reports AP in *The Catholic Herald*.

[Outspoken Jesuit Fr Frank Brennan appointed head of CSSA](#)

10-Oct-2016

Catholic Social Services Australia has announced the appointment of Fr Frank Brennan SJ, a prominent advocate for social justice, as its Chief Executive Officer.

[Rebekah puts her pacifism into practice in Iraq](#)

07-Oct-2016

University student Rebekah Dowling is putting her pacifist beliefs into practice by joining Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) visiting northern Iraq, and spent recent weeks visiting refugee camps and villages close to fighting, according to *The Catholic Leader*.

[Pope, Welby pledge joint action on poverty and environment](#)

06-Oct-2016

Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury have declared they would work together to help the poor and protect the environment despite their unity being blocked by differences over women priests and gay marriage, reports Reuters.

[Philippines Church supports addict rehabilitation program](#)

06-Oct-2016

After a string of casualties in the drug crackdown in The Philippines, the Church has stepped in to tackle the drug problem, reports *Christian Today*.

[Australian orders join global pledge to fossil fuel divestment](#)

05-Oct-2016

Two religious orders have joined a global pledge by seven groups to divest from fossil fuel investments, according to the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change.

[ACU sets up scholarship for indigenous students](#)

04-Oct-2016

A university in Rome has established a scholarship for indigenous Australians in honour of a teenage boy who died in the abbey attached to St Paul's Basilica 163 years ago, reports Fairfax Media.

- courtesy [CathNews](#) from *Church Resources*.



Social Justice Diary November 2016

November 2016

1	Tue	All Saints
2	Wed	All Souls
3	Thu	
4	Fri	Day of prayer for Anglican–Roman Catholic Reconciliation
5	Sat	

6	Sun	Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding International Week for Science and Peace
7	Mon	
8	Tue	1907: Minimum wage judgement handed down by Justice Higgins in Harvester case - ACSJC resources on Workplace Justice 2015: Elections in Burma won overwhelmingly by National League for Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Kyi
9	Wed	1989: Berlin Wall opened - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding
10	Thu	World Science Day for Peace and Development - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding READ MORE ↓ 1995: Nine Nigerian environmentalists and human rights activists hanged
11	Fri	Remembrance Day , commemorating the end of World War I in 1918 - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding 40th Anniversary of the dismissal of the Whitlam government
12	Sat	1991: Dili Massacre, Timor-Leste: more than 271 people killed - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding
13	Sun	Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 2015: Terrorist attacks in Paris: more than 130 killed and 350 injured - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding
14	Mon	World Diabetes Day
15	Tue	
16	Wed	International Day for Tolerance 1989: Six Jesuit priests and two co-workers murdered in El Salvador
17	Thu	World Philosophy Day

18	Fri	
19	Sat	World Toilet Day - ACSJC resources on World Poverty
20	Sun	Christ the King Universal Children's Day 1959: UN adopted Declaration of Rights of the Child
21	Mon	World Television Day
22	Tue	
23	Wed	
24	Thu	1964: Parliament passed the National Service Act
25	Fri	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1981: Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief
26	Sat	
27	Sun	First Sunday of Advent READ MORE ↓ 1998: First Sydney Peace Prize awarded to Muhammad Yunus - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding
28	Mon	
29	Tue	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People READ MORE ↓ 1980: Death of Dorothy Day, Founder of the Catholic Worker Movement
30	Wed	1971: Synod of Bishop's Statement Justicia in Mundo ('Justice in the World')