

ACSJC Monthly Briefing March 2017 No 187



From the Secretariat March 2017

Dear Friends,

As we enter the Season of Lent, Pope Francis has called on us, as individuals and as a community of faith, to embark on a journey of conversion, seeking repentance and renewing the links of deep solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need.

In his [Lenten Message](#), *The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift*, he draws on Christ's parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31), saying 'it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life'.

Of Lazarus, he says, 'this character is not anonymous ... while practically invisible to the rich man, we see and know him as someone familiar. He becomes a face, and as such, a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast.'

Challenging us to open our doors and see in the most vulnerable the face of Christ, the Pope says we need also to consider the actions of the rich man. Opulent, extravagant, in love with money, vain and proud, 'The rich man does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door.'

Only recognising Lazarus in the afterlife, the rich man calls for Lazarus to alleviate his suffering and that he be sent to warn his brothers.

'The rich man's real problem comes to the fore. At the root of all his ills was the failure to heed God's word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbour ... When we close our hearts to the gifts of God's word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.'

Where do we see the faces of the wounded, the poor and the outcast?

Project Compassion

You might remember that the Australian Catholic Bishops made the same parable the central scripture of their [2013 – 14 Social Justice Statement](#), *Lazarus at Our Gate: A critical moment in the fight against world poverty*. The bishops said, 'Australia remains a prosperous nation, despite many marginalised and disadvantaged people in our midst ... We are at a crucial point in the battle against world poverty. This is the moment to hear the call of Jesus.'

The bishops identified those who were starved and malnourished, those hit by disasters, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities and the displaced as the most vulnerable among the world's poor. They were very critical of successive Australian governments' failures to live up to earlier commitments of lifting to international aid and of later making massive cuts to the aid budget. They said, 'In our region, Australia is the rich man and Lazarus is at our gate.'

This Lent, [Project Compassion](#) shares stories from the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Australia, Vietnam and Fiji, to highlight the theme 'Love Your Neighbour'. Caritas Chairman, Bishop Gregory O'Kelly, says, 'The six stories we share with you for the six weeks of Lent reveal some of the ways lives can be transformed when we follow Jesus' instruction to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt. 22:39).

'The call of Jesus shakes us out of preoccupation with ourselves. Christ asks us to acknowledge in our lives that we are all members of the one human family. Each one of us is equally worthy of respect and compassion. ... When mutual respect is fostered, communities become stronger and more resilient. This can only lead to a better future for our world, the world that Pope Francis has recently called "our common home"'.

Unemployed and vulnerable workers

Recently we have witnessed the unfair treatment and further threatened cuts to the entitlements and income of support recipients and low paid casual workers.

The rate of Newstart and related Allowances has not been increased substantially since the mid-1990s, and a majority of recipients experience poverty and hardship. Yet the Government continues to seek billions of dollars worth of savings through cuts to payments and entitlements and by introducing lengthy waiting periods for assistance for young people. During January, the Government's error-prone automated debt recovery program saw well over 150,000 income support recipients issued with notices from Centrelink alleging overpayment and seeking repayment in a three week period with the threat of a ten per cent debt recovery fee.

Last year, the [Australian Catholic Social Justice Council called](#) for the base rate of Allowances to be increased and indexed to average wages: 'This is not the time to "crack down" on people whose right to the dignity of work has already been broken. Increasing punitive requirements or imposing waiting periods is not the way to go....'

Such draconian measures do nothing to improve the dignity and employability of people excluded or on the fringes of the labour market.

Recently the Fair Work Commission ruled that Sunday penalty rates will be reduced significantly for hospitality, retail and fast food workers. This is bad news for many low paid workers who rely on the rates to make ends meet. The [ACSJC has questioned](#) the push for lowering rates: 'It would be unacceptable for already struggling workers to be made to forgo penalty rates that are used to top up low rates of pay. For many, penalty rates comprise more than 30 per cent of their wages.'

There is a real threat to the wellbeing of these workers as well as their families. Already with parents working irregular hours, it is likely that children will see even less of their parents, who will have to seek extra hours of work to lift their pay to previous levels, just to get food on the table.

It is not hard to see the character of Lazarus in the vulnerable of the labour market when the deprivation of the unemployed and working poor are cast against the tax breaks and minimisation enjoyed by high-wealth individuals and businesses.

Royal Commission

And, at the conclusion of case study 50 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, we should remember the victims of child sexual abuse and their families.

Archbishop Denis Hart said, 'I particularly want to acknowledge the bravery of the survivors of child sexual abuse who have given evidence, not just in case studies involving the Catholic Church, but across the more than 50 case studies so far that have examined the many different institutions throughout Australia.

'Over the past three weeks, more than 70 Church leaders and professionals have appeared before the Commissioners sharing expertise, identifying failings and describing best practice for the future of our Church structure, culture and governance. ...

'As the [President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference](#) I make this commitment to the survivors of child sexual abuse, the Catholic and broader community: I will do all within my power to ensure the abuse of the past never happens again, that the reforms my fellow bishops and religious leaders have endorsed over the past years will be implemented. I reiterate that the Catholic Church in Australia will continue to support the survivors of child sexual abuse.'

In [Bishop Vincent Long's Lenten Message](#) to the people of Parramatta, he has called for repentance and a 'change of heart' in the life of the Church.

'More than ever before, the Catholic Church in Australia needs to recognise the dark crimes of sexual abuse against children and vulnerable people under its care, and the untold damage done to them and their loved ones. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has delivered a shameful indictment not simply on the perpetrators and their enablers but the Church's collective and systematic betrayal of the Gospel ...

'May we have the courage and faith to live the paschal rhythm as it unfolds, even through one of the darkest chapters in our history.'

The call to conversion

In the final words of his Lenten Message, Pope Francis prays that we will be led through real conversion this Season.

'May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that binds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organisations in different parts of the world, and thus to favour the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and the poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full joy of Easter.'

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues/Resources March 2017

PROJECT COMPASSION BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of the Catholic congregation and caring supporters throughout Australia to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Project Compassion demonstrates how love for our neighbours can transform lives this year. Starting on Ash Wednesday, 1st March, we are sharing stories from people in Philippines, Timor Leste, Indigenous Australia, Vietnam, and Fiji. Their stories humble and inspire us, and show how your contributions to Project Compassion help people build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. For more information and how to get involved visit Caritas Australia.

POPE FRANCIS' WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2017

This year's Message for the World Day of Peace is the 50th observance since the Blessed Pope Paul VI instituted the World Day of Peace in 1967. The theme Pope Francis has chosen for this year's Message is *Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace*. Pope Francis reflects on a world racked with violence of every kind, and compares our situation with Christ's vision for us when he came into the world. 'To be true followers of Jesus today', he says, 'also includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence'. The ACSJC has prepared a discussion guide, which is [on our website](#) now. You can read the whole of Pope Francis' Message [on the Vatican website](#).

POPE FRANCIS ON THE BALANCE BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

On 15 February Pope Francis met with representatives of Indigenous peoples taking part in the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum, hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). 'I believe the essential problem is how to reconcile the right to development, including social and cultural development, with the protection of the characteristics proper to the natives and their territories,' Pope Francis said, adding: "This is evident especially when economic activities are structured that can interfere with indigenous cultures and their ancestral relation with the earth.' In such circumstances, the Pope said, the right to previous and informed consensus should prevail. 'Only thus, is it possible to ensure a peaceful collaboration between the government authorities and indigenous peoples', he said. For more information see the [Zenit website](#).

REPORT: 'OVERCOMING INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE 2016'

The Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report is produced by the Productivity Commission for the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians involved in its development. The 2016 report is the seventh in the series. It shows some positive trends in the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, but also shows outcomes have stagnated or worsened in some areas. Two years on from the previous report there continues to be improvement in many areas of health, economic participation and aspects of education. But areas such as justice and mental health remain concerning, with increases in imprisonment rates and hospitalisations for self-harm. The report is [available online](#).

ACROSS BUDGET SUBMISSION: 'WE CAN REDUCE POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND THE BUDGET DEFICIT'

The Australian Council of Social Service today called on the Turnbull Government to throw out harsh proposals that have repeatedly failed to pass Parliament and adopt budget policies that are fair and

sustainable. ACOSS CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie says: 'ACOSS proposes a suite of measures that will save \$9.4 billion by 2018–19 in addition to putting \$4 billion into critical social infrastructure to reduce poverty and inequality in Australia'. She says this Government and all political parties 'must acknowledge that the best way to guarantee funding for health, aged care and the NDIS is through structured tax reform and growing the revenue base fairly, steadily and efficiently'. The full release and links to their Budget priorities are [on the ACOSS website](#).

ACOSS AND VINNIES DENOUNCE CENTRELINK DEBT RECOVERY CAMPAIGN

Following widespread reports of inaccurate and threatening assessments from Centrelink to welfare recipients, the Society of St Vincent de Paul and the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) have called on the government to suspend the automated debt recovery campaign and review it. National CEO of the Society of St Vincent de Paul John Falzon said: 'Centrelink should not be used by the government as a blunt weapon to achieve a deficit reduction on the backs of people who already carry the greatest burden of inequality'. Acting ACOSS CEO Peter Davidson said: 'For every million dollars raised, it's likely that hundreds of people are told to repay debts they don't have and hundreds more are needlessly subjected to stress and anxiety'. See the [Vinnies](#) and [ACOSS](#) releases.

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](#).

BOOK: 'HOUSING FIRST: A PATH TO SOCIAL JUSTICE'

'Housing First, a path to social justice' is the story of St Kilda community activism and the Port Phillip Housing Association, written by Anne Tuohey and Tony Lintermans. It tells of the activists who took over St Kilda Council and made history as the first Victorian local government authority to contribute capital funding for affordable housing. As Tim Costello acknowledged in launching the book: 'We are all standing on the shoulders of people who dared to believe things could be different. They were trailblazers. And a key message was that all residents mattered, not only those with a voice.' Copies of 'Housing First, a path to social justice. The story of St Kilda community activism and the Port Phillip Housing Association' are available for \$30 plus postage from PPHA, (03) 9534 5837, 22-28 Fitzroy Street St Kilda.

OPEN LETTER OPPOSING THE TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

The withdrawal of the United States has meant that the Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement (TPP) could not proceed. Despite this, the Turnbull government wanted to pass the implementing legislation for a dead agreement, but AFTINET persuaded the Australian Senate to say no. But now the Australian government and some other governments are trying to resurrect the TPP. They are holding a meeting in Chile on March 14–15 to discuss how to pursue the TPP agenda in other agreements. AFTINET has drafted a short statement to be signed by organisations to explain to trade ministers why they should not pursue the TPP agenda, but instead engage with community organisations to develop alternative trade proposals that can serve the interests of people and the planet. Organisations are requested to

sign on by close of business Monday 6 March. Endorsements are being recorded through a [central website](#).

LENTEN RESOURCE: 'THE GRACE OF THE EARTH'

The Columban Mission Institute has produced an online Lenten resource that consists of six weekly Lenten Reflections related to the Gospel readings which focus on six aspects of Earth's life support systems: Atmosphere, Oceans, Fresh Water, Land, Plant Life, Animal Life. The resource is suitable for schools, youth groups, religious congregations, parish groups, social justice groups, Ecumenical groups and adult discussion groups. The eight-page resource is available at the [Columbans' website](#).

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH WORLD REPORT 2017

World Report 2017 summarises key human rights issues in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide. It reflects investigative work that Human Rights Watch staff undertook in 2016, usually in close partnership with human rights activists in the country in focus. The Report includes a [chapter on Australia's achievements and shortcomings](#). It says: 'Australia is a vibrant multicultural democracy with a strong record of protecting civil and political rights, but serious human rights issues remain'. These issues include asylum seekers and refugees, Indigenous rights, children's rights, counterterrorism laws, disability rights and foreign policy. In his [introductory essay](#), Executive Director Kenneth Roth writes that a new generation of authoritarian populists seeks to overturn the concept of human rights protections, treating rights not as an essential check on official power but as an impediment to the majority will.

BRING THEM HERE CAMPAIGN – EDMUND RICE CENTRE

The Edmund Rice Centre is coordinating a campaign to bring refugees on Manus and Nauru to Australia. The ERC says: 'The ongoing confusion about the future of the Australia-US refugee resettlement arrangement requires urgent leadership from Australia's politicians.' The Centre is urging people to show politicians that the community is on the side of compassion and to urge our MPs to put an end to the political games and work in a bipartisan fashion to bring refugees in Nauru and Manus to safety in Australia. To see details of the Edmund Rice Centre's campaign, go to the [Bring Them Here page](#) on their website.

REFUGEE COUNCIL REPORT – STATE OF THE NATION

The Refugee Council of Australia (RCoA) has just released its first ever *State of the Nation* report. It provides a comprehensive investigation into the experiences of those seeking safety and settling in Australia within the broader context of the global crisis of human displacement. The report critiques our government's insular and often punitive fixation on closing Australia's borders. It also examines the challenges faced by those who have arrived in Australia and are seeking to build new lives. *State of the Nation* is informed by the RCoA's consultations with people across Australia and within their networks in 2015 and 2016. It provides clear actions our governments and communities can take to ensure the fair treatment of refugees and people seeking asylum. To access, visit the [State of the Nation](#) webpage.

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 continue this important work, please donate via [this website](#).



ACSJC Publications March 2017

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 resource 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, go to [our website](#).

DISCUSSION GUIDE: WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2017

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council has issued a discussion guide for the annual Message for the World Day of Peace from Pope Francis. The theme of this year's Message is *Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace*. In it Pope Francis confronts the global violence that amounts to 'a horrifying world war fought piecemeal'. He holds up the example of Jesus himself, who walked the path of nonviolence 'to the very end, to the cross, whereby he became our peace and put an end to hostility'. The Pope also reminds us of the many triumphs of nonviolent activism, including St Teresa of Calcutta and St John Paul II's heroic involvement in the downfall of European Communist regimes. The discussion guide is available in print and online: go to [our website](#).

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. ([Click here](#))

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 – [Click here](#)

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 March 2017

[Melbourne nun becomes UN Global Action Co-ordinator](#)

23-Feb-2017

Mercy Sister Angela Reed is about to take up an important appointment at the United Nations as Global Action Co-ordinator in the field of human trafficking.

[Novak made theological case for capitalism](#)

21-Feb-2017

Michael Novak, a Catholic social philosopher who abandoned liberal politics to make the theological and moral case for capitalism, died on Friday at his home in Washington.

[Reformer Tony Vinson mourned](#)

21-Feb-2017

Tony Vinson, Australia's pre-eminent social justice campaigner, has died at 81.

[Seek Indigenous consent for economic projects: Pope](#)

16-Feb-2017

Pope Francis says economic development projects on lands that have historically belonged to indigenous peoples should be subject to the "prior and informed consent" of those peoples.

[Calais council blocks Caritas migrant aid centre](#)

15-Feb-2017

A furious row has broken out in Calais after the local council used a skip bin to block the entrance to a new Caritas aid centre for UK-bound migrants returning to the French port town.

[Stopping the boats and acting fairly](#)

14-Feb-2017

Proven refugees who are still Australia's responsibility have been languishing in camps on Nauru and Manus Island for well over three years, write Frank Brennan, Tim Costello, Robert Manne and John Menadue at The Guardian.

[Aleppo situation 'post-apocalyptic': Caritas](#)

13-Feb-2017

Caritas International communications chief Patrick Nicholson has described the devastation and humanitarian crisis in Aleppo, Syria, as "beyond human imagination",

[Dorothy Day: Sainly but imperfect parent](#)

10-Feb-2017

A new book, Dorothy Day: The World Will be Saved by Beauty, by Kate Hennessey, her granddaughter, has upended my conception of the woman that Pope Francis singled out as a "great American", writes James Martin, S.J. at America Magazine.

[Muslim community donates \\$3000 to Vinnies](#)

10-Feb-2017

Muslim leaders based in Jimboomba have donated \$3000 to a Catholic charity to support the poor and needy.

[Slavery still exists: Bishop Long](#)

09-Feb-2017

Slavery exists and even flourishes in our midst in the form of forced labour, forced marriage, debt bondage etc. because of society's greed for cheap goods and services, says Parramatta Bishop Vincent Long.

[Fr Frank Brennan becomes CEO of CSSA](#)

08-Feb-2017

The new CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia, Fr Frank Brennan SJ, says he has a clear plan for what he needs to do to change Australia for the better.

[Philippines bishops oppose capital punishment revival](#)

02-Feb-2017

Philippine Catholic bishops have expressed "regret" over moves to revive capital punishment as legislators started to tackle the issue in Congress.

- courtesy cathnews.com



Social Justice Diary March 2017



March 2017

		<p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p>
1	Wed	<p>Zero Discrimination Day</p> <p>Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding</p> <p>1999: International Treaty to Ban Landmines enters into force</p>
2	Thu	
3	Fri	<p>World Wildlife Day</p> <p>World Day of Prayer. Theme: 'Am I being unfair to you?'</p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p>
4	Sat	<p>1979: Pope John Paul II's encyclical Redemptor Hominis</p>
5	Sun	<p>First Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Clean Up Australia Day - ACSJC resources on the Environment</p> <p>1970: International Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding</p>
6	Mon	
7	Tue	
8	Wed	<p>International Women's Day</p>
9	Thu	
10	Fri	

11	Sat	2011: Earthquake and tsunami in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, killing 18,500 people and causing widespread contamination.
12	Sun	Second Sunday of Lent 1913: Founding of Canberra as Australia's Capital
13	Mon	
14	Tue	
15	Wed	
16	Thu	
17	Fri	St Patrick
18	Sat	
19	Sun	Third Sunday of Lent 1866: Beginning of Sisters of St Joseph at Penola, SA 2003: USA and Allies invade Iraq - ACSJC resources on Peacebuilding
20	Mon	
21	Tue	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	Wed	World Water Day - ACSJC Resources on the Environment

23	Thu	<u>World Meteorological Day</u>
24	Fri	<u>International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims</u>
25	Sat	<p>The Annunciation</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>Human trafficking – a global problem</p> <p>READ MORE ↓</p> <p><u>International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing (UN) Staff Members</u></p> <p><u>Earth Hour</u> (8.30 to 9.30 pm local time)</p> <p>1877: <u>Death of Caroline Chisholm</u></p>
26	Sun	<p>Fourth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>1967: 25th Anniversary of Pope Paul VI’s encyclical <u>Populorum Progressio</u> (On the Progress of Peoples)</p> <p>1975: <u>Biological Weapons Convention</u> - ACSJC resources on <u>Peacebuilding</u></p>
27	Mon	
28	Tue	
29	Wed	
30	Thu	
31	Fri	<u>National Youth Week begins</u>