



# ACSJC BRIEFING

No. 48 – July 2004

*From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia - [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)*

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## FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

The ACSJC is now preparing for the launch of the 2004 Social Justice Sunday Statement in September. At the same time, Australia is preparing to go to the polls for the 2004 Federal Election.

In this Monthly Briefing, the ACSJC wishes to draw your attention to these events and some associated resources that are available for order and/or downloading from the ACSJC website.

### **2004 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT**

"Peace be with you – and also with you." As Catholics we hear and say these words every time we go to Mass. But how do we bring this peace to our hearts and to our world?

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement explores that question under the title "Peace be with you – Cultivating a Culture of Peace". Anchoring itself firmly in Christ's gift of Peace to us, the 2004 Statement goes on to ask what Australians can do to cultivate a culture of peace.

It acknowledges that "a culture of peace begins within our own hearts, spreads to our own households and then our communities before it can become an entrenched fact of the larger society's life."

Tragic world events of war and terrorism over recent years have cost the lives of many and caused so much human suffering. Many wonder, "What can I do as one individual to work towards a peaceful world?" In responding to this question, the Statement draws on

the words of Pope John Paul II who has affirmed that peace is not only possible, but is actually a duty.

With courage and hope, we are all invited to start where we can in the work of cultivating a culture of peace.

The Statement highlights important ways in which the gift of peace is shared: through our families; in seeking reconciliation (including National Reconciliation); between religions; in the field of democracy; by spreading democratic and multicultural values; addressing poverty in Australia and overseas; and in the context of national and international security.

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on 26 September. The Social Justice Sunday Statement will be launched in Sydney on Wednesday 22 September.

Parishes, schools and groups can order printed copies (minimum of 10) from the ACSJC. Order form and cost details can be found on the ACSJC website ([http://www.acsjc.org.au/CONTENT/publications/documentation/documentation\\_sjs01.html](http://www.acsjc.org.au/CONTENT/publications/documentation/documentation_sjs01.html)) Orders will be taken until Friday 6 August 2004.

Other resources including Liturgy and Teachers' Notes are available on the website.

### **FEDERAL ELECTION 2004 – VOTE [1] NO MORE POVERTY**

As the Federal Election approaches, a coalition of Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Church agencies has launched a pre-election campaign to get the issue of poverty back on the nation's agenda. The campaign, "Vote [1] No More Poverty", was launched at Parliament House in Canberra on Thursday 24 June.

The agencies promoting this campaign include: the Society of St Vincent de Paul; Anglicare Australia; Catholic Health Australia; Catholic Welfare Australia; UnitingCare Australia; Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes; Jesuit Social Services and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

At the launch, the organisers said, "We are making use of our extensive networks to call on all Australians to take up the challenge and help us to make politicians and political candidates aware of this issue. As such, in the lead-up to the next election we are asking all Australians to take the time to write to them or call them and ask... 'Do you care about poverty in Australia and what will you do to address it?'"

"In the spirit of the letter to the Prime Minister and State and Territory leaders, signed late last year by the leaders of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith communities, we too call on all political leaders to halt the shameful divide between the haves and the have-nots in this wonderful country".

The aims of the campaign are to raise the level of awareness about the extent of poverty in Australia and to raise awareness that governments have a vital role to play in poverty alleviation. Poverty alleviation is an important issue in all elections in Australia.

The campaign has a website that includes a range of information and resources including: proformas for letter writing; a downloadable poster; and a selection of 'scatter' ads relating to child poverty, Australia's poverty levels compared to other developed nations, health issues, and low-income levels.

Please take the time to visit this website. Your promotion of this campaign within your networks would be greatly appreciated. (visit: [www.nomorepoverty.org.au](http://www.nomorepoverty.org.au))

- John Ferguson (National Executive Officer)

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# LATEST PUBLICATIONS

*(orders Tel: 02 9956 5811 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>)*

## **OCCASIONAL PAPER: THE CHURCH AND PUBLIC DEBATE**

Catholic Social Justice Series no.50 – Prof. John Warhurst addresses the implications of the issue in the latest paper, The Church and Public Debate: Reflections on Speaking Out in an Election Year. (Cost \$6.60 plus postage).

## **2004 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT – ORDER NOW!**

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled "Peace be with you – Cultivating a Culture of Peace". The Statement will be launched in September prior to Social Justice Sunday on September 26. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form is available on the ACSJC website: [http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/publications/documentation/documentation\\_sjs01.html](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/publications/documentation/documentation_sjs01.html)

## **FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER: THE HUMAN COSTS BEHIND THE OFFICIAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

Download the Pastoral Letter from the ACSJC website - [http://www.acsjc.org.au/content/issues/the\\_human\\_costs\\_behind\\_the\\_official\\_unemployment\\_rate.html](http://www.acsjc.org.au/content/issues/the_human_costs_behind_the_official_unemployment_rate.html)

## **OCCASIONAL PAPER: FROM ETHICS TO SPIRITUALITY**

Catholic Social Justice Series no.49 – Fr Gerard Gleeson reflects on the links between philosophy, theology and Christian spirituality. (Cost \$6.60 plus postage).

## **2004 SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR**

The 2004 Social Justice Calendar focuses on the theme "Cultivating a Culture of Peace". This coincides with the theme for the 2004 Social Justice Sunday Statement.  
Cost: \$4.40 (inc. GST), plus postage.  
[http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social\\_justice\\_calendar.html](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html)

*(Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1; 2-3 copies \$1.45; 4-5 copies \$2.45)*

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# CURRENT ISSUES

## **ACSJC OCCASIONAL PAPER: "THE CHURCH AND PUBLIC DEBATE"**

This month, the ACSJC releases the 50th edition of the Catholic Social Justice Series in which Professor John Warhurst addresses the role of the Church in public debate and issues concerned with speaking out in an election year.

Warhurst writes that the Church has a long and often controversial history of public involvement in Australian politics. There have often been counter-criticisms, not just of what the Church has said, but of its right to speak out at all.

The Church at times offends parties across the whole range of the political spectrum as it fulfils its right and duty to speak out from a religious, pastoral or ethical perspective. After analysing recent criticism and warnings from politicians, he deals objectively with charges of lack of expertise and partisanship, perhaps the most serious levelled against those who disagree with a particular policy.

Warhurst presents practical guidelines for ethical and effective Church participation in the public debate, and points out the importance of its independence from government that is sometimes lacking in other organisations.

### **PRE-ELECTION FLYER – "A VOTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE"**

The ACSJC has released a pre-election flyer seeking to help people in the lead-up to the federal election by highlighting key social justice issues facing the community and offering some questions that you can raise with all candidates in your electorate. Four particular issues raised are: poverty; just trade relationships; National Reconciliation; and immigration detention. You are invited to circulate this flyer which can be accessed at the ACSJC website (<http://www.acsjc.org.au/index.shtml>)

### **PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT – "HAVING FAITH IN OUR DEMOCRACY"**

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference recently released a pre-election statement "Having Faith in our Democracy: Building a Better Australia". The Statement highlights values and priorities for consideration in the forthcoming federal election. Crucial challenges facing Australia are addressed according to the values of life, love, knowledge, health, care, reconciliation, hospitality, peace and creation. This important document can be accessed at the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website. ([http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/pdf/040602\\_faith.pdf](http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/pdf/040602_faith.pdf))

### **JOINT MEDIA RELEASE – "SAY NO TO POVERTY" – 24 June 2004**

A powerful new alliance of Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Church community service organisations took the fight against poverty to the Federal Parliament. The Christian Community Services Against Poverty launched its pre-election campaign called "Vote [1] No More Poverty". (<http://www.nomorepoverty.org.au/mr24062004.php>)

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## **JULY NOTICES**

**JULY 1: PUBLIC FORUM, "UNMASKING EXPLOITATION IN THE SPORTWEAR INDUSTRY".** Key Note Speakers include a Thai factory worker, and a Thai labour rights worker. Organised by Oxfam Community Aid Abroad, 6.30pm, The Grosvenor Hotel, 339 Hay Street, Perth. (refer: <http://www.active.org.au/perth/calendar/?day=1&month=7>)

**JULY 1: FORUM, "AUSTRALIA'S FIRST BILL OF RIGHTS".** A forum on the national implications of the ACT Human Rights Act 2004; convened by the Centre for International and Public Law and the Gilbert & Tobin Centre of Public Law. Speakers will examine the new Act – is it a landmark development or a negative step in the protection of human rights? 8.30am to 5.00pm, National Museum of Australia, Canberra. (refer: <http://law.anu.edu.au/CIPL/Conferences&Sawerlecture/HRAbrochure.pdf>)

**JULY 3: EVENT, "YOUTH MINISTRY EXPO".** A gathering of youth ministers, pastors and workers who are passionate about young people in a faith context. Sponsored by the Australian Network of Diocesan Youth Ministry Co-ordinators, NCCA Youth Network, and the Broken Bay Institute. 10.00am to 5.00pm OLOR School Hall, 23 Yardley Ave, Waitara, Sydney NSW. Cost \$5. (refer: <http://www.brokenbay.catholic.org.au/youth/Events/events.htm>)

**JULY 3: WORKSHOP, "ACTIVATING HUMAN RIGHTS".** Anne Sorenson in conjunction with the Centre for Human Rights Education presents a full day workshop and presentation considering what role art can have in raising awareness and promoting equality for all. From 9.00am to 4.00pm, Sunroom Community Arts Centre at 134 Whatley Cres., Maylands, Perth. Cost \$20 and lunch will be available for \$7. Please RSVP by June 30th. (refer: <http://www.active.org.au/perth/calendar/?display=zoom&event=383>)

**JULY 4: "ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY"** in Catholic Church. Liturgy Resources available at: [www.natsicc.org.au](http://www.natsicc.org.au)

**JULY 4 - 7, LITERACY CONFERENCE, "Get Real... and all that spiel".** Roseanne Simpkin of Ballarat volunteered to help train teachers in East Timor two years ago. She has brought to Sydney two teachers, Julia and Pedro who will be speaking at the International Literacy Conference in Sydney on 7 July. Day registration fee available. (refer: <http://www.getreal2004.com>)

**JULY 4 – 11: NAIDOC WEEK EVENTS.** NAIDOC week is a way of celebrating and promoting a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our culture. Visit the ATSIC website to see what events are occurring around Australia. (refer: <http://www.atsic.gov.au/events/NAIDOC/default.asp>)

**JULY 5 – 8: COURSE, "MINISTRY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CATHOLIC CONTEXT".** Broken Bay Institute's Centre for Christian Spirituality and Catholic Youth Ministry Broken Bay are making available units in youth ministry that can be taken individually or towards further studies. Follow the following links for location and cost details: [www.ccs.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ccs.catholic.edu.au), [www.brokenbay.catholic.org.au/youth](http://www.brokenbay.catholic.org.au/youth)).

**JULY 5 – 12: EVENT, "OXFAM INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT".** 300 young leaders and activists from across the world will participate in an 8-day program focussing on: sustainable livelihoods; security and safety; equity and representation; diversity and right to an identity; access to basic social services; and global trading systems. Oxfam IYP and its action partners would like to invite you to participate to their actions and therefore help build a better tomorrow. There are many ways to get involved in working with the International Youth Parliament. (refer: <http://www.iyp.oxfam.org/news/iyp2004.asp>)

**JULY 6: BOOK LAUNCH, "REFUGEE AUSTRALIA: AUSTRALIA'S HUMANITARIAN RECORD"** by Klaus Neumann and published by UNSW Press. 6.30pm - 8.00pm, Newcastle Workers Club, corner of King & Union Street, Newcastle. Call: (02) 9310 3900. (refer: [www.ajustaustralia.com/whatshappening\\_events.php](http://www.ajustaustralia.com/whatshappening_events.php))

**JULY 6: PUBLIC FORUM, "UNMASKING EXPLOITATION IN THE SPORTWEAR INDUSTRY".** Key Note Speakers include a Thai factory worker, and a Thai labour rights worker. Organised by Oxfam Community Aid Abroad, 7.00pm, Irish Club, 171 Elizabeth St, Brisbane. (refer: <http://www.active.org.au/brisbane/calendar/?display=zoom&event=233>)

**JULY 7: PUBLIC LECTURE, "PUBLIC REASON, POLITICAL MEANING".** Free lecture by Peter Coghlan, 6.30pm Christ Lecture Theatre, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus (St Patrick's) 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, Melbourne. Contact: (03) 9953 3160 (refer: [http://www.acu.edu.au/acu\\_national/News\\_\\_\\_Events\\_Calendar/Events.cfm](http://www.acu.edu.au/acu_national/News___Events_Calendar/Events.cfm))

**JULY 8: PUBLIC FORUM, "UNMASKING EXPLOITATION IN THE SPORTWEAR INDUSTRY".** Key Note Speakers include a Thai factory worker, and a Thai labour rights worker. Organised by Oxfam Community Aid Abroad, 6.00pm, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney. (refer: <http://www.active.org.au/sydney/calendar/?day=8&month=7>)

**JULY 8: PUBLIC MEETING, "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEETING – CENTRAL COAST NSW".** The convenor of the Central Coast Group of Amnesty International, has invited any ChilOut members in the area to attend AI's meetings. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. 1:30pm at the Uniting Church hall, Donnison St, Gosford. Email John at [jmcfarlane@iprimus.com.au](mailto:jmcfarlane@iprimus.com.au) (refer: <http://www.chilout.org/events/index.html>)

**JULY 8: EVENT, "SOMETHING TO DECLARE".** Actors for Refugees presents this free, large-scale production reflecting on actual testimony and factual accounts of the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers in this country. One of the main stories it follows is

that of a survivor if the SIEV X tragedy in October 2001. 7.00pm, Melbourne Town Hall, cnr Swanston and Collins St, Melbourne city. Contact: mail@actorsforrefugees.org or 0402 627 583 (refer: <http://www.chilout.org/events/index.html>)

**JULY 13: PUBLIC LECTURE, "THE VISION STILL HAS TIME"**. Dr Linda Hogan of Trinity College Dublin addresses the issue of finding our moral compass in a Western pluralist society. 7.30pm, St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Marist Place, Parramatta. Tickets available at the door - \$5 donation suggested. Contact Br Mark O'Connor 0401 222 596 or email: moc@maristmelb.org.au

**JULY 13: FORUM, "AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE ASSOCIATION FORUM – SA"**. This forum will look at issues related to the settlement of the Kurds and Baha'i. The history of the cultures, persecution, difficulties and issues for settlement in Australia and the current situation for these minority groups in Australia and the Middle East will be covered. 7.00pm, Cynthia Poulton Hall, King William Road, North Adelaide. Contact: 08 8354 2951 or at pia.bobadilla@ausref.net (refer: <http://www.ausref.net>)

**JULY 14: PUBLIC LECTURE, "LYING IN POLITICS"**. Free lecture by Robert Manne, 6.30pm Christ Lecture Theatre, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus (St Patrick's) 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, Melbourne. Contact: (03) 9953 3160 (refer: [http://www.acu.edu.au/acu\\_national/News\\_\\_\\_Events\\_Calendar/Events.cfm](http://www.acu.edu.au/acu_national/News___Events_Calendar/Events.cfm))

**JULY 15: SEMINAR, "ETHICS, MORAL VALUES AND THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY PROFESSION in the 21st century"**, Australian War Memorial, Canberra. For further information contact Dr Russell Parkin (02) 6265 9536 e-mail: russell.parkin@defence.gov.au (refer: <http://www.unaa.org.au/fset.html>)

**JULY 17: SEMINAR, "CELEBRATING EXTRA-ORDINARY WOMEN TODAY"**. This seminar will gather women across generations and experience for interaction in telling stories of lives well lived in ordinary and extra-ordinary ways. Facilitated by Monica Brown and Hilary Musgrave rsc at Genazzano College, Kew, Melbourne. Cost \$50 – contact RSC Office, PO Box 176 Glenroy, Vic 3046, ph: (03) 9374 1499

**JULY 17: SCREENING, "THE BOY WHO PLAYS ON THE BUDDHAS OF BAMBIAN"**. Yoga in Daily Life are hosting a movie and dinner benefit night in aid of refugees. The Valhalla Cinema in Glebe, Sydney, will be screening the award-winning film. 6.00-8.00pm. Cost: \$15 (\$12 concession). Bookings or enquiries call 9518 7788, email sydney@yogaindailylife.org.au (refer: <http://www.chilout.org/events/index.html>)

**JULY 19: PUBLIC FORUM: "WHO ARE OUR PROPHETS TODAY?"**. Jenni Winters and Fr Andrew Bullen SJ will address Spirituality in the Pub (Northern Sydney Region). 7.30 – 9.00pm, The Union Hotel, cnr Pacific Hwy & West Street, North Sydney. No charge but donation appreciated.

**JULY 22: SEMINAR: "MARRIAGE AND THE FUTURE"**. Bishop Fisher, Dr Michael Casey and John Murphy MP give their thoughts on the current state of marriage in Australian society and talk about its future as an institution. 7.30pm, Catholic Adult Education Centre, 3 Keating St, Lidcombe, Sydney. Contact: (02) 9643 3660 (refer: <http://www.caec.com.au/events/index.html>)

**JULY 28: PUBLIC FORUM: "RACIAL RESPECT"**. 6.00-7.30pm Federation Room, Havelock House 85 Northbourne Avenue, Turner ACT. Dr Sev Ozdowski of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission on 'A Last Resort? The National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention' also available online at [http://www.humanrights.gov.au/human\\_rights/children\\_detention\\_report/index.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/human_rights/children_detention_report/index.html) .

*(email news of your forthcoming social justice event by the last week of each month to: [admin@acsjc.org.au](mailto:admin@acsjc.org.au))*

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## JULY NEWS MONITOR

**CATHOLIC HEALTH REGRETS LABOR MEDICINES ABOUT FACE:** Catholic Health Australia CEO Francis Sullivan called the ALP about face over charges for prescription medicines an "astonishing decision given Labor's previously strongly held view that the poor and sick would need to be protected from the proposed new charges".

**ASYLUM SEEKER CHILDREN ABANDON LEGAL FIGHT AND NOW FACE DEPORTATION:** The Bakhtiyari asylum seeker children abandoned their legal battle with the Federal Government, choosing life in the community under 24-hour guard over the "anxiety and uncertainty" of another trial.

**LAUNCH OF "NO MORE POVERTY" INITIATIVE:** A new coalition of religious social welfare and justice groups called Christian Community Services Against Poverty mounted a campaign in the lead-up to the Federal Election.

**ACTIVISTS CALL ATTENTION TO THE MISUSE OF WATER AND NEED FOR CONSERVATION:** The Faith and Ecology Network called on all faith communities in Australia to promote among their members a respectful use of water in both rural and urban settings.

**ACLRI URGE CREATIVE WAY THROUGH FEAR:** The Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes resolved to promote a culture of peace and reconciliation in response to a growing culture of fear in our society.

**JESUIT ADVOCATE SAYS THERE'S NO GOOD REASON FOR CHILD DETENTION:** Fr Frank Brennan told a Sydney rally that the only reasons for keeping asylum seekers in detention are bureaucratic convenience and the government's desire for popularity.

**VATICAN OBSERVER ON JOB CREATION'S HUMAN AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ROLE:** The Holy See's permanent observer to the United Nations in Geneva called for a balanced hierarchy of values in the regulation of employment opportunities.

**INDIAN PRIEST HIGHLIGHTS DESTRUCTIVE ROLE OF CALL CENTRES:** A priest in the Indian business hub Mumbai warned against the social cost to India of western countries including Australia outsourcing their call centre work to contractors in India.

**SUDAN CALLED 'WORLD'S WORST HUMANITARIAN DISASTER':** Untold thousands of lives will be lost in the Darfur region of Sudan unless civilians are protected from the brutal Janjaweed militia and inter-ethnic fighting, according to Caritas partner Nils Cartensen after he returned from the area.

**HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH URGES VIETNAM ATROCITIES INVESTIGATION:** New reports that dozens of Christians were killed by government soldiers during peaceful protests in Vietnam's central highlands this Easter have prompted calls for an independent investigation.

**JESUIT SAYS OLYMPIC TORCH SYMBOLISES UNITY, NOT NATIONAL COMPETITION:** The movement of the Olympic Torch through Sydney and Melbourne, then eventually every other continent on earth, was a call to a sense of international unity, not cheap international competition, said Fr Peter Norden.

**TASMANIAN JUSTICE COMMISSION ENTERS FOREST DEBATE:** The inherent hostility and divisive nature of Tasmania's forestry debate makes most Tasmanians reluctant to have their say on the issue, according to Tasmania's Catholic Justice and Peace Commission.

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES UGANDA APPEAL:** Caritas Australia launched a special appeal to help rehabilitate the estimated 14,000 children who have been abducted by the Lord's Republican Army (LRA) and used as soldiers, labourers and sex slaves in Northern Uganda.

**BISHOPS URGE VOTE FOR THE COMMON GOOD:** Australia's Bishops issued a statement ahead of the Federal Election identifying some of the challenges now facing the nation and urging Australians to consider their vote in light of the common good.

**COMMISSION SAYS SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES IS WORKING:** The Executive Officer of Brisbane's Archdiocesan Catholic Justice and Peace Commission has said the its appeals for compassion "are being heard", and that he hoped they would "influence decision makers so that the anxiety suffered by refugees can come to an end".

**PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN DIES AFTER PRISON BEATING:** For the second time in a month, a young Christian in Pakistan died of injuries after being beaten by fundamentalist Muslims, the Fides news service has reported.

**CATHOLIC CALL FOR PROPER ATSIIC REPLACEMENT:** Two major Catholic bodies issued a joint call for all apolitical parties to ensure that an adequate regional and national structure is in place to represent the needs and aspirations of Indigenous people, following the dissolution of ATSIIC.

- *courtesy Church Resources' CathNews, stories in detail at <http://www.cathnews.com/news/407>*

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## **JULY SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR**

### **JULY 4 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER WEEK**

National Aboriginal and Islander Week, otherwise known as NAIDOC Week, is held in the first full week in July.

### **JULY 4 ABORIGINAL SUNDAY**

Aboriginal Sunday is a time for celebration of a unique and beautiful culture and a time to recognize that much still has to happen in our nation for true recognition of that culture and for a real and lasting justice for all people. Within the framework of celebration and our faith, let us bring together all peoples to once again unite in the struggle to recognize affirm and celebrate Australia's Indigenous peoples and culture. We cannot afford to let the efforts of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation fade into the distance before any real and lasting change has been effected, the struggle must continue.

- Vicki Walker, NATSICC Chairperson, Aboriginal Sunday 2003 For more information: [www.natsicc.org.au](http://www.natsicc.org.au)



## **JULY 11      WORLD POPULATION DAY**

Nearly half of all people are under the age of 25. About 20 per cent are adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19. 87 per cent of these adolescents live in developing countries. Their educational and health status, their readiness to take on adult roles and responsibilities, and the support they receive from their families, communities and governments will have profound consequences for the future.

An estimated 238 million youth, almost one in four, face the constraints of extreme poverty. A large percentage survive without their parents, or are marginalized for other reasons, including humanitarian emergencies, migration, disability, poor health or family dissolution. More than 13 million children under age 15 have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Many take on the care of younger siblings or live on the streets.

## **JULY 23      WORLD YOUTH DAY**

Organised by the Catholic Church, World Youth Day began in the mid 1980s when Pope John Paul II invited youth from around the world to gather in prayer for peace and reconciliation. It brings together Catholic youth between the ages of 16 and 35 from many countries. Even though the international gatherings happen about every two years, World Youth Day itself is celebrated each year.

*In my Message to young people for this occasion I ask them, in this time endangered by violence, hatred and war, to endeavour to witness that it is Jesus who can give true peace to human hearts, to families and to the peoples of the earth.*

- Message of John Paul II for World Youth Day 2003

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Website: <http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au> \*\* ACSJC Briefing is sent by email at the beginning of each month (except January). To subscribe or unsubscribe, go to the front page of the website Comments and contributions are also welcome.