



ACSJC BRIEFING

No. 61 – September 2005

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

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FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

An important date in the social justice calendar of the Catholic Church in Australia occurs during September with the celebration of Social Justice Sunday. This year, Social Justice Sunday is celebrated on Sunday 25th September.

The 2005 Social Justice Sunday Statement will be launched on Wednesday 14th September in Sydney.

Entitled "Jesus, Light for the World – Living the Gospel Today", the Statement draws on the Gospel accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus to consider our calling to bring the light of Christ to the world.

Bishop Christopher Saunders introduces the Statement with these words: "The light of the Risen Christ illuminates our lives – transforming the day-to-day realities of our world and bringing hope to situations of human tragedy and seemingly insurmountable despair..."

"This statement brings to each of us the Word of God and reminds us of the baptismal call we share to bring this Good News to the world. We are called, not just to follow the light, but to be the light for others. We are called to bring Christ's light to all people, serving them in their need and celebrating their joys and hopes."

As Social Justice Sunday fast approaches, now is the time to place an order for copies of the Statement. An order form for 10 or more copies is available at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au> or a free electronic version will be available from Wednesday 14th September on the websites of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au>) and ACSJC.

Other Social Justice Sunday resources available on the website include Summary and Liturgy Notes. The Liturgy Notes reflect on the theme of the Social Justice Statement for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Resources for Teachers will soon be available.

The next leaflet in the "Ten Steps" series – Ten Steps Towards Living the Gospel Today – provides practical suggestions that we can take as individuals and in our families, schools, parishes and local communities. The leaflet is accompanied by the Prayer Card. Call the ACSJC on (02) 9956 5811 for further information.

I hope these resources will assist in your reflection and preparations for Social Justice Sunday. Please feel free to distribute this information through your own networks.

- *John Ferguson (National Executive Officer)*

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>)

2005 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT – ORDER NOW!

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled "Jesus, Light for the World – Living the Gospel today". The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form is available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

LEAFLET & PRAYER CARD: TEN STEPS TOWARDS LIVING THE GOSPEL TODAY

Now available. Call (02) 9956 5811

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT SUMMARY AND LITURGY NOTES

Now available at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

ACSJC STATEMENT FOR JUBILEE SUNDAY:

ACSJC Statement for Jubilee Sunday (26 June):

http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/issues/statement_for_jubilee_sun day,_26_june_2005.html

PASTORAL LETTER: THE MINIMUM WAGE IN AN AGE OF PROSPERITY AND WEALTH

The Pastoral Letter issued on the Feast of St Joseph the Worker. Available at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SERIES PAPER: TRADE JUSTICE

Catholic Social Justice Series No. 54 – Sr Suzette Clark rsc and Dr Patricia Ranald. (Cost \$6.60 plus postage) (postage rates listed below)

SERIES PAPER: ENDING HUNGER – HOW FAR CAN WE GO?

Catholic Social Justice Series No.53 – Fr Bruce Duncan CSsR. (Cost \$6.60 plus postage) (postage rates listed below)

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

CURRENT ISSUES/RESOURCES

PUBLICATION – FROM PATRONS TO PARTNERS

A new, extended edition of the History of the Catholic Church in the Kimberley which was first published in 1994. The original edition traced the first hundred years of the interwoven story of the European missionaries and the Aboriginal people of the Kimberley from 1884. For the new book the author, Margaret Zucker, has interviewed people and relatives of "the stolen generation", who were separated from their families as young children and were brought up and educated at the Missions in Beagle Bay and Broome. Their stories, and the stories of the Sisters who looked after them, form a major part of the new section in the second edition. \$29.95 plus postage. Order at:
<http://www.broomediocese.org/Fromptop.htm> or call (08) 9192 1060

NATSICC – MESSAGE STICK

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council is planning to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs by holding its National Assembly in the Red Centre in October 2006. The original visit occurred in 1986 and was the venue for the Pope's important speech, his address to Aboriginal people. In the lead-up to this event, NATSICC's Councillors are sending a Message Stick through Deaneries, Parishes, Schools and communities. This event is a pilgrimage that will bring all of the States together in Alice Springs for the Assembly in 2006. For more information and to see how you can be involved visit: http://www.natsicc.org.au/message_stick_relay.htm

OXFAM – LAND RIGHTS

Jon Altman, Craig Linkhorn and Jennifer Clarke assisted by Bill Fogarty and Kali Napier have produced the Oxfam publication "Land rights and development reform in remote Australia". Recent Indigenous policy debate has centred on whether encouraging private individual land ownership might increase economic development and address acute housing needs in rural and remote Indigenous communities. Proponents suggest it will. Oxfam Australia commissioned the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the ANU to examine this issue. The report confirms deeply entrenched Indigenous disadvantage on NT Aboriginal land, including in housing. Yet it finds no evidence to suggest that individual land ownership is either necessary or sufficient to increase economic development or housing construction. The publication can be downloaded at:
<http://www.oxfam.org.au/campaigns/indigenous/docs/landrights.pdf>

CARITAS – MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

In September 2000, 189 United Nations member states, including Australia, signed the Millennium Declaration that aimed to halve world poverty by 2015. From this declaration came the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs recognise that we are the generation that can "Make Poverty History". We have the knowledge, the resources, the interest and commitment and we are building the political will. Caritas Australia has produced a short film introducing the MDGs and the compelling facts on world poverty. The film invites you to get involved to "Make Poverty History". For a free copy of the film on video or DVD contact Caritas on tel: (02) 9956 5799, email: thereser@caritas.org.au or visit: <http://www.caritas.org.au>

CEA – NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Catholic Earthcare Australia is running a national conference, "Climate Change - Our Responsibility to Sustain God's Earth" from 18 – 20 November in Canberra. It will bring together members of the Church as well as representatives of public bodies, other faith communities, NGOs and international guests. The event aims to establish a dialogue with the wider community on ways to tackle the serious problems which climate change brings and to alert the Church to the reality of this global phenomenon and the need for action. Nobel Laureate Professor Wangari Maathai will open the conference which will be hosted by the bishops of Catholic Earthcare Australia. For further info call (02) 4655 4855 and visit: <http://www.catholicearthcareoz.net/>

ACMRO – "ONE IN JESUS CHRIST"

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office is taking registrations for a national conference on "Pastoral Care in a Culturally Diverse Australia". This conference will be of particular interest to Priests, Religious and Lay people involved in the pastoral care of migrants and refugees. It will be held at the Randwick Racecourse Function Centre in Sydney on 17 – 18 November. For further info contact (02) 6201 9848 and visit <http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/>

HREOC PROJECT – VOICES AUSTRALIA

The National Rugby League (NRL) have joined forces with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to tackle racism head on through their support for 'Voices of Australia' - a project to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Racial Discrimination Act. The aim of 'Voices of Australia' is to encourage greater understanding and friendship between people of different backgrounds through sharing the stories of their experiences. NRL stars from diverse cultural backgrounds share their real life stories. You can read your NRL stars' stories and tell your own by logging onto <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/voices>. Selected stories will be placed online for all to read. Email voices@humanrights.gov.au or call (02) 9284 9829.

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK 2005

Anti-Poverty Week (16 – 22 October) aims to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and within Australia. It also aims to encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments. Everyone who is interested in helping to reduce poverty and hardship here or overseas is encouraged to organise their own activities during the Week or join in some being organised by other people. The activities can

be large or small, and events at the local level are especially welcome. The official Anti-Poverty Week website is <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au> It includes details of events being planned as well as basic fact sheets, promotional material and links to sources of information and ideas about ways of reducing poverty and hardship.

SEPTEMBER NOTICES

SEPTEMBER 1: MASS TO CELEBRATE RELIGIOUS MEN AND WOMEN

(NSW). A special Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney at 5.30pm to celebrate the richness of the life and work of religious. An opportunity for the Catholic Church in Sydney to express gratitude to the religious for their witness and service.

SEPTEMBER 1: PUBLIC FORUM, "WELCOMING REFUGEES" (NSW). Ian Skiller has employed over 50 refugees on his horticultural farm at Tooleybuc. He will talk about the benefits of employing refugees, not only to individual businesses but to local communities. And, of course, to the refugees as well. 7.00 to 9.30pm, Manning Regional Art Gallery, Macquarie Street, Taree, NSW. Call 0265 505 633 or refer:

<http://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org/template.php3?area=news&content=noticeboard>

SEPTEMBER 2: PUBLIC FORUM, "WELCOMING REFUGEES (NSW).

Ian Skiller and David Francis from the House of Welcome in Sydney, will talk about the benefits of employing refugees. 7.00 to 9.00pm, St Bede's Anglican Church Hall, 11 Mimosa Avenue, Saratoga. Call 0423 163360 or refer:

<http://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org/template.php3?area=news&content=noticeboard>

SEPTEMBER 2: PUBLIC LECTURE, "ANNUAL JANINE HAINES LECTURE"

(SA). The annual Janine Hanes Lecture promotes compassion, tolerance and goodness – values she advanced as the first female leader of an Australian political party. Speakers: Sen. Lyn Allison; Sen. Natasha Stott Despoja; Margaret Ann-Williams; Dr Jenny Stock. 6.15pm refreshments for 7.15pm lecture. Australian Education Union Hall, 163 Greenhill Rd Parkside. Cost \$20. Call 8371 1441 or refer: <http://www.fecca.org.au/Calendar/sep2005.html>

SEPTEMBER 6: ANNUAL AQUINAS LECTURE, "AN ARGUMENT FOR OPTIMISM"(Vic).

Martin Flanagan will present the 2005 Annual Aquinas Lecture, raising issues about social justice in the Australian community. He is a distinguished author and journalist, being well known and respected for his weekly sports column in the Age and his regular appearance on radio programs including "The Search for Meaning". 8.00pm, Ballarat Campus (Aquinas), Mulkearns Theatre, 1200 Mair Street, Ballarat. Lecture is free and open to the public. For more information please call Nola Jenkins on 03 5336 5334. Refer:
http://www.acu.edu.au/acu_national/News__Events_Calendar/Events.cfm

SEPTEMBER 7: INTERFAITH PRAYER MEETING, "PAUSE FOR PEACE"

(ACT). A quiet moment in which to join with different faith traditions to pray for peace and unity. 12.20 to 12.55pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture Visitors' Pavilion, 15 Blackall Street, Barton, ACT. For further info call (02) 6273 3615 or (02) 6281 5747.

SEPTEMBER 7: INAUGURAL CONFERENCE ON DIVERSITY, "Integrating Work, Life, Families and Diversity – Challenges and Advantages" (NSW). Conference convened by Diversity Council Australia will explore issues including the work-life balance, workplace bullying, the boundaries between work and life, women and leadership positions. To be convened at the Intercontinental Hotel, Cnr Phillip & Bridge Streets, Sydney. For further information call (02) 9699 5399 or email sydney@dca.org.au Visit:
<http://www.dca.org.au/default.asp?newsID=98498>

SEPTEMBER 8 – 9: CONFERENCE, "HUMAN RIGHTS AND MENTAL HEALTH" (ACT). SAVE Australia is convening the third National Conference on Human Rights and Mental Health – Human Rights and Australia's Mental Health Policy. The conference aims to make a timely contribution to significant contemporary Australian debate on mental health and human rights. Parliament of Australia, Canberra ACT. For further info call 0422 085 222. The confirmed program, detailed speakers list and registration details can be found at:
<http://www.save.org.au/events/Conf2005.pdf>

SEPTEMBER 9: PUBLIC FORUM, "THE PALMER JUDGEMENT – HOLDING RUDDOCK & VANSTONE TO ACCOUNT" (NSW). Julian Burnside QC, Louise Newman, Director NSW Institute of Psychiatry & Kate Gautier of A Just Australia will speak at Politics in the Pub, 6.00 – 7.45pm, the Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills, Sydney. Refer: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org>

SEPTEMBER 10: PUBLIC FORUM, "REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN AUSTRALIA" (NSW). Julian Burnside QC & Dr Louise Newman will reflect on and discuss social justice and mental health issues that affect our refugees and asylum seekers. Event organized by St Brigid's Marrickville & St Mary's Erskineville Social Justice Committees. 4.00 to 6.00 pm, Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Rd. For further details call (02) 9564 2188

SEPTEMBER 10: AWARDS DINNER, "SHINE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS" (NSW). Youth of the Streets 'Shine Day' events culminate in a fantastic ball where award scholarships are given to special young people from Australia to help them achieve their dreams. This year it is being held at the Star City Casino in Sydney. Tickets \$250 each, Tables of 10 \$2500. Live entertainment from sensational Australian performers. To book tickets or for more info please call (02) 8332 5000. Refer: <http://www.youthoffthestreets.com.au/events/index.html>

SEPTEMBER 10 – 11: EVENTS, "MAKE POVERTY HISTORY GLOBAL WHITE BAND DAY" (NSW). Make Poverty History encourages individuals and governments to support the UN Millennium Development Goals to halve world poverty by 2015. Global white arm band day activities will take place at Palm Grove, Darling Harbour in Sydney on 10 September from 12.00 to 2.00pm and will include speeches by politicians, campaign leaders and others involved in the campaign; musicians; and presentations from schools students. Family fun day

on September 11 at the north end of Hyde Park, near St James Station. Bring a picnic and get involved in fun activities from 11.30am Refer:
<http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au>

SEPTEMBER 10 – 11: WORKSHOP, "THE HEART AND SOUL OF NONVIOLENCE... MEN SEEKING PEACE" (WA). Facilitators Brendan McKeague and George E. Trippe are running a weekend workshop for men embarking on a journey of nonviolence and seeking wholeness. 9.00am - 4.30pm each day, LJ Goody Centre, 9 Jugan Street, Glendalough. Cost \$132 (workshop fees include GST). For further info call (08) 9244 8090 or (08) 9275 5966

SEPTEMBER 12: PUBLIC SEMINAR, "COMMUNITY JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION IN RWANDA: Applying Gacaca to Genocide"(NSW). Dr Wendy Lambourne will speak at this event organized by the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney. 12.00pm - 2.00pm, Mackie Building, Room 107, University of Sydney. Refer:
<http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/centres/cpac/seminars.htm>

SEPTEMBER 14: PUBLIC LECTURE, "DEMOCRACY IN THE CHURCH?" (NSW). Andrew Murray SM explores this question using fundamental distinctions from Aristotle's Politics to explore what people might be seeking or avoiding and to open up fresh ways of thinking about life in the Church. 6.00 to 8.00pm, The Crypt of St Patrick's Church in The Rocks, Sydney. (Enter off Grosvenor Street.). Entry by donation of \$10 per person. Refer: http://www.aquinas-academy.com/body_courses.htm

SEPTEMBER 14 – 16: CONFERENCE, "LIGHT TOMORROW FOR TODAY" (ACT). Catholic Women's League of Australia National Biennial Conference. The theme 'Light tomorrow with today' will be reflected in the topics delivered by speakers. The conference will be held at "The Chifley on Northbourne". Call 02 6293 2107 for further details.

SEPTEMBER 15: PUBLIC FORUM, "GENDER EQUITY IN AUSTRALIA: WHICH WAY FORWARD?" (NSW). Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner Pru Goward will be delivering a session at Charles Sturt University (Albury) in Boardroom Thургоона, Albury Wodonga Campus. 10.00am morning tea, 10.30 (sharp) session commences. RSVP by 9 September on (02) 6051 9806 or email: deguthrie@csu.edu.au

SEPTEMBER 16: DINNER EVENT, "FOUR SISTERS – ONE PASSION" (NSW). A gala dinner celebrating the good works of The Sisters of Charity, The Sisters of Mercy, The Little Company of Mary and The Sisters of the Good Samaritan. Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Patron of the Sisters of Charity Foundation, will be the Special Guest Speaker, with Julie McCrossan as MC. Entertainment will be provided by The John Field Band. 7.00 to 7.30pm, Four Seasons Hotel Sydney, 199 George St, The Rocks. For further info call (02) 9955 2155 or 0411 474 845.

SEPTEMBER 16: PUBLIC FORUM, "IRAQ – THE HUMAN COST" (NSW). Dr Gillian Deakin, Medical Association for the Prevention of War and Prof. Stuart Rees, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, USyd will speak at Politics in the

Pub, 6.00 – 7.45pm, the Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills, Sydney. Refer: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org>

SEPTEMBER 21: PUBLIC LECTURE, "MIXING LAW, RELIGION AND POLITICS" (NSW). Frank Brennan SJ is a Professor of Law in the Institute of Legal Studies at ACU National and is a leading advocate for the rights of Indigenous people and asylum seekers. Free lecture, 6.30pm, Leone Ryan Auditorium, North Sydney Campus (MacKillop), 40 Edward Street, North Sydney. Refer: http://www.acu.edu.au/acu_national/News__Events_Calendar/Events.cfm

SEPTEMBER 21: ADDRESS, "THE DICTATORSHIP OF RELATIVISM" (ACT). Cardinal George Pell will be speaking during a luncheon from 12.00 – 2.00pm, National Press Club, 16 National Circuit Barton ACT, Canberra (refer: <http://www.npc.org.au/speakers.htm>)

SEPTEMBER 22: BOOK LAUNCH, "ARCHBISHOP DENIS HURLEY – A Portrait by Friends" (Qld). Paddy Kearney and Editor Anthony Gamley will launch an extraordinary book about the Catholic Church's quiet activist—by 30 friends, including many anti-apartheid heroes from politics, trade unions and churches. A talk on "Overcoming Powerlessness" and book launch – 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, South Brisbane (20 Merivale Street) RSVP and more information: Tel 0422 107723, e-mail: mhelass@ecn.net.au

SEPTEMBER 24: PUBLIC FORUM, "CLIMATE CHANGE" (NSW). Do you want to learn more about global warming and climate change? What is our moral obligation as individuals and as a community to tackle this issue? To learn more come along to a forum hosted by the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. 1.00 to 4.15pm, The Corcoran Centre, James Street Morpeth (next to the Catholic Church). RSVP by Wednesday 21st September to the Chancery Office on (02) 4979 1111 or email chancery@mn.catholic.org.au

SEPTEMBER 25: FORMATION DAY, "DIVING INTO THE DEEP – ENGAGING WITH JUSTICE TODAY" (NSW). An invigorating day of Formation, Shared Reflection and Action. Speakers include Michael Elphick, Julie Morgan and Jim Carty SM. 10am to 3:30 pm, Mary MacKillop Place, 9 Mount Street North Sydney. No charge, but a donation box will be available. Proceeds to the House of Welcome. Please register for catering and seating purposes by Monday 19 September on (02) 8741 2326 or marion.gambin@sosj.org.au

SEPTEMBER 26: PUBLIC LECTURE, "FREER TRADE: THE ROLE OF PUBLIC ENQUIRIES IN DETERMINING TRADE POLICY" (Vic). Prof Peter Lloyd will deliver the Stan Kelly Memorial Lecture. He will examine the role of public enquiries in determining trade policy. He is of the view that there should be better scrutiny of trade agreements before they are enacted. 5.30 to 6.45pm, The Copland Theatre, Economics and Commerce Building, The University of Melbourne. For more info call (03) 8344 5352 or visit: http://events.unimelb.edu.au/eventid_1688.html

SEPTEMBER 27: PUBLIC LECTURE, "LAUGHTER AGAINST THE ODDS" (Qld). Speakers at this Politics in the Pub event bring a comical bent to the things that worry us and explore the role of laughter in the quest for a better life. Presented by the Community Action Network and the New Farm Neighbourhood

Centre. 7.00 to 9.00pm at Brisbane Powerhouse. Entry is free and everyone is welcome. For more information call (07) 3358 5600 or visit:
<http://www.active.org.au/brisbane/calendar/?display=zoom&event=424>

SEPTEMBER 30: PUBLIC FORUM, "BRING DAVID HICKS HOME!" (NSW). John Dowd AO QC, President Australian Section, International Commission of Jurists & Curtis Levy, filmmaker "The President v David Hicks" will speak at Politics in the Pub, 6.00 – 7.45pm, the Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills, Sydney. Refer: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org>

AUGUST NEWS MONITOR

POPE URGES SOLIDARITY IN A GLOBALISED WORLD: Individuals, governments, international organisations and institutions and all members of civil society, must commit themselves to work for a just growth of peoples and nations, for the good of all, according to Pope Benedict XVI.

HOBART ARCHBISHOP DEFENDS RIGHT TO PUBLIC COMMENT: Following an attack on outspoken religious leaders by Tasmanian Liberals Senator, Eric Abetz, Hobart's Archbishop Adrian Doyle has said the Church has the right to comment and is expected to when political issues have a moral dimension.

RUDD SAYS CHURCH MUST INFLUENCE POLITICS: Opposition spokesman for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd, has told a Christians in Media conference that "Jesus cannot be confined to his private life", and that Christians must be allowed to influence the formation of public policy.

'MULTICULTURAL' REFUGEE SUNDAY MESSAGE GOES AGAINST THE TIDE: Ahead of Refugee and Migrant Sunday, Bishop Joseph Grech presented a message originally written by Pope John Paul II, that counters growing calls within the community to return to a policy of assimilating migrants into the dominant culture.

JESUIT SOCIAL ETHICIST LECTURES ON GLOBAL COMMON GOOD: Fr David Hollenbach, social commentator and writer based at Boston College in the USA spoke on the topic on The Global Common Good in a Divided World, at the Australian Catholic University in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

CATHOLIC WELFARE SAYS FAMILY LAW REFORMS RELY ON COMMUNITY GROUPS: Catholic Welfare Australia welcomed a major report into Family Law, but said the law "only takes us so far" and the the community organisations that will to the work on the ground "must formally be engaged in its planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation".

CATHOLIC HEALTH SAYS MEDIBANK SALE PROCEEDS MUST GO TO PATIENTS: Commenting on news of a possible sale of the Government-owned Medibank Private health insurer, Catholic Health Australia's Francis Sullivan said that the proceeds of any such sale should be returned to Australia's chronically ill and elderly.

'CHURCH IN WORLD' FOCUS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council published a summary of this year's Social Justice Statement, to be launched ahead of Social Justice Sunday, which will be marked on 25 September.

ARGENTINE BISHOP SAYS CHURCH SOCIAL DOCTRINE "NOT AN IDEOLOGY": Bishop Carmelo Giaquinta of Argentina has said that the social doctrine of the Church is "not an ideology", but instead "a light that helps us see clearly the nucleus, which is mankind, of all social problems."

REMOTE AREA VOICE SEES PM 'OFF TARGET' ON IR: Broome's Office of Justice, Ecology & Peace has said that Prime Minister John Howard's attempts to silence Church comment on the Government's proposed Industrial Relations reforms shows a lack of understanding of the role of Church leaders and organisations.

CARITAS FUNDS PACIFIC SAFE WATER PROGRAMS: Safe drinking water is now a reality for villagers in rural areas of Samoa and Tonga, following the building of water storage tanks as part of a program supported by Caritas Australia.

PUSH FOR FAIR TRADE CHOICE: Brisbane's Catholic Justice and Peace Commission called on major supermarkets to stock more products made under "fair trade" deals.

COMMISSION ANSWERS PM'S DENIAL OF EXISTENCE OF CATHOLIC POSITION: The CEO of the Australian Catholic Commission for Employment Relations responded yesterday to Prime Minister Howard's assertion at the weekend that there's "no such thing as a Catholic or an Anglican view on anything. It depends on individuals".

VATICAN CALL FOR LANDMINES MORATORIUM: The Holy See's Archbishop Silvano Maria Tomasi cited both international humanitarian law, and the plight of those maimed by antipersonnel landmines, in his call for a moratorium on the production and use of "hidden" weapons.

NUNS CONVERGE ON CANBERRA TO SUPPORT HOMELESS: At the beginning of National Homelessness Week, a delegation of Sisters of St Joseph delivered thousands of signatures that urge the House of Representatives to make the right to a home a priority, by increasing funding for public housing and accompanying support services.

HIROSHIMA NUCLEAR BOMB REMEMBERED: As Japan's Bishops marked the 60th anniversary of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb, the bells of Melbourne's St Patrick's Cathedral rang at the precise moment the bomb was detonated.

KIMBERLEY CATHOLIC WELCOME FOR SENATOR AMANDA VANSTONE:

The Broome Diocese Office of Justice, Ecology & Peace has praised Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs Minister Amanda Vanstone for her decision to take time to visit remote Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley to listen to the views of local people, but questioned the Government's emphasis on Shared Responsibility Agreements.

EAST TIMOR BISHOPS SEEK JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE: Victims of East Timor's violent break from Indonesia will only find justice through an international tribunal, East Timor's two bishops warned, as Indonesia and East Timor pressed ahead with plans for a truth and reconciliation commission.**CATHOLIC WELFARE SAYS LESS TIME IN COURT MAKES HAPPIER****FAMILIES:** Catholic Welfare Australia welcomed the announcement by the Attorney General of locations for the new Family Relationship Centres, saying that they "include areas of real community need".

- courtesy Church Resources' *CathNews*, stories in detail at
<http://www.cathnews.com/news/508>

**SEPTEMBER SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR -
LIVING THE GOSPEL IN TODAY'S SOCIETY**

Many Christians believe that such issues as world hunger, homelessness, the arms trade and war are political, not religious issues. Yet the words of Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching challenge us to live justly in today's society by confronting such issues and working to change the structures that perpetuate injustice.

"My duty is to put Christ in politics. Politics without Christ is the greatest scourge of our nation". - Cardinal Sin, Manila, 2003

SCRIPTURE

*May we always remember what our God asks of us:
that we will do justice
that we will love with constancy and tenderness
and that we will walk humbly with our God.
(Micah 6:8)*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
and he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.
(Luke 4: 18-19)*

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts.

(Vatican Council II, Gaudium et Spes, The Church in the Modern World, 1)

Let each person examine one's conscience, a conscience that conveys a new message for our times. Is each prepared to support out of one's own pocket, works and undertakings organized in favour of the most destitute? Is each ready to pay higher taxes so that the government can do more for development? Is each ready to pay a higher price for imported goods so that the producer may be paid a just wage?

(Paul VI: Populorum Progressio, On the Development of Peoples, 47)

SEPTEMBER 25 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Social Justice Sunday Statement 2005

Theme: Living the Gospel in today's society

To order the Social Justice Sunday Statement 2005 visit

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

PRAYER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war;
For we know that You have made the world in a way
That we must find our own paths to peace
Within ourselves and with our neighbours.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation;
For You have already given us the resources
With which to feed the entire world,
If we would only use them wisely.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice;
For You have already given us eyes
With which to see the good in others,
If we would only use them rightly.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;
For You have already given us the power
To clear away slums and to give hope,
If we would only use our power justly.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;
For You have already given us great minds
With which to search out cures and healings,
If we would only use them constructively.*

*Therefore, we pray to You instead, O God,
For strength, determination, and will power,
To do instead of just to pray,
To become instead of merely to wish,
For Your sake and for ours, speedily and soon,
That our land and world may be safe,
And that our lives may be blessed.*

(A Sabbath Prayer by Jack Riemer from Likrat Shabbat)

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council Leo XIII House, 19 MacKenzie Street,
PO Box 1615, North Sydney NSW 2059. Tel: (02) 9956 5811, Fax: (02) 9954 0056,
Email: admin@acsjc.org.au Website: <http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au> ** ACSJC
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