



ACSJC BRIEFING

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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 *If you cannot read the email version, go to: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/briefing>*

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FROM THE SECRETARIAT

“The progressive development of peoples is an object of deep interest and concern to the Church. This is particularly true in the case of those peoples who are trying to escape the ravages of hunger, poverty, endemic disease and ignorance; of those who are seeking a larger share in the benefits of civilisation and a more active improvement of their human qualities; of those who are consciously striving for fuller growth.”

These words from Pope Paul VI’s Encyclical *Populorum Progressio* (On the Development of Peoples), promulgated 40 years ago, are the starting point for the 2007 Social Justice Sunday Statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops.

‘Who is my neighbour?’ was the question the lawyer asked Jesus in Luke’s Gospel; Jesus’ answer was the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:29–37).

Australia and Australians have a responsibility to be good global citizens. This year’s Social Justice Sunday Statement is a call for us Australians to act more in the interests of people who do not share our prosperity and security and to reconsider the way we live and act as individuals and as a nation.

Globalisation has made us more closely bound to other countries. Our consumer goods and services come more and more from other countries, often developing nations where wages and working conditions are far below those in Australia.

Globalisation is good news, but it is not all good news. It can offer employment and increased skills to developing nations, and efficiency to richer countries, but market forces alone will not ensure equitable and full development of peoples.

The 2007 Social Justice Sunday Statement focuses on five challenges that confront Australians as global citizens. They are:

- Foreign aid and development assistance. We can increase our aid budget to relieve poverty, develop infrastructure and train much-needed professionals from poorer countries.
- Military alliances and interventions. Our military alliances are important to our security, but any proposed military intervention requires our own thorough assessment of the morality of the war and broad international approval.
- The United Nations and international financial institutions. The UN needs reform, but the world would be a much poorer and less secure place without it. The UN and related global institutions should give weaker nations more influence over its activities.
- Climate change and energy policy. Human activity is contributing to climate change that could have profound effects on life on earth. Australia is uniquely positioned to promote alternatives in energy use that can reduce carbon emissions.
- Border protection and refugees. Australia accepts many people in need of humanitarian assistance, including refugees. However, we have harsh border protection policies, including the so-called 'Pacific solution'. Good global citizens should ensure protection for genuine refugees and humane treatment for all who come here.

The ACSJC website (<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>) will soon have the following resources available for download free of charge:

- Social Justice Sunday Liturgy Notes
- Teachers' Resources.

Other resources that are very useful in parishes and schools are the Social Justice Sunday Prayer Card and 'Ten Steps' leaflet. These can be ordered from the ACSJC Secretariat on (02) 9956 5811 or by email: admin@acsjc.org.au.

To Order

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.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

CURRENT ISSUES/RESOURCES

POSITION VACANT – ACSJC

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council is seeking an Administrative Officer for a key role in this national agency based in Sydney. A full-time position providing a range of secretarial and administrative services, including word processing, tracking sales and liaising with customers to support the effective operations of the Council. A position description can be downloaded from the ACSJC website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or by contacting the office on (02) 9956 5811. Written applications which include two referees should be posted to John Ferguson, ACSJC, PO Box 1615, North Sydney NSW 2059, by Wednesday 15 August.

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT SUNDAY – 26th AUGUST

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office has launched Liturgy Notes and Resources for Refugee and Migrant Sunday, with the theme: *The Migrant Family – Unity in Diversity*. In his message for Refugee and Migrant Sunday, Bishop Joseph Grech says, “For the 2007 celebration, I wish to consider the unity in diversity of Australia’s people, and in particular unity in diversity in the Church. We are reminded to thank God for the many different peoples in our Church, which includes peoples from many different countries, with different languages and customs.

“It is therefore essential that we have a national plan for the provision of effective Pastoral Care in a culturally-diverse Catholic Church in Australia. This plan must have the vision to be ‘one in Christ Jesus’ in obedience to the call of the Gospel. This vision must be one:

- That assists all newcomers and their families by welcoming them into the Church and Australian society...
- That helps them to sustain their cultural and religious customs and heritages.
- That integrates their cultural and linguistic gifts, their knowledge, their work and other skills, and their individual talents into the very heart of the Church and nation.
- That creates an Australia that is a harmonious society of justice and peace, welcoming its newcomers.”

The full range of resources is available on the ACMRO website (<http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/news/index.htm>) or call (02) 6201 9848

BISHOPS’ RESPONSE TO GOVT INTERVENTION IN THE NT

In early July, the Catholic Bishops of Australia welcomed the high priority the Federal Government has now accorded to addressing the challenges facing people in remote Northern Territory Aboriginal communities. Echoing the message of their 2006 Social Justice Statement, the Bishops called for the Federal Government’s intervention in the NT to be respectful of Indigenous culture and identity and to be undertaken in full and genuine partnership with communities themselves. The Bishops said, “History clearly demonstrates that effective solutions cannot simply be imposed from above”.

Noting that the high incidence in remote Aboriginal communities of child sexual abuse and other threats to children’s wellbeing has been a matter of growing public concern, the Bishops called for a long-term and comprehensive response – tackling such key causative factors as inadequate social services and infrastructure (including housing), inadequate numeracy and literacy, poor employment opportunities, substance abuse and community breakdown.

“We need much more than a ‘law and order’ response. Children who have been abused and vulnerable families need sympathetic and skilled carers, teachers, medical practitioners and social service practitioners. We need to ensure the full range of culturally appropriate support services to address this issue and foster strong families and communities.

“Recognised Aboriginal community leaders have an important role to play. So too do Church and community organisations working with Aboriginal communities, many of whom have developed strong working relationships over many years of close partnerships,” the Bishops said.

The Bishops also questioned why action to address child abuse in Aboriginal communities requires amendments to land rights and self-government legislation and urged that the obligation to care for children at risk should be applied irrespective of race or location. (refer:

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bishops/confpres/20070705451.htm>)

SR JOAN CHITTISTER'S ADDRESS TO GOOD SAMARITAN SISTERS

On Thursday 19 July, Sr Joan Chittister delivered the keynote address of the sesquicentenary celebrations of the Good Samaritan Sisters in Australia. Around 900 people attended the public lecture in which Sr Chittister questioned the relevance of Benedictine rule in a modern world where self-interest, individualism, competition, aggression and arrogance hold sway. She brought into sharp relief the values St Benedict espoused, their importance in saving Western civilisation in the 6th century and the promise of Benedictine spirituality in terms of an alternative, certainly countercultural, world view that could just save the world. To read about this event and hear the address, visit: http://www.goodsams.org.au/whats_new/whats_new.htm;
<http://www.cathnews.com/news/707/115.php>

US BISHOPS' CONFERENCE LETTER ON IRAQ

On 17th July, Bishops Thomas Wenski, Chairman of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Policy wrote to members of the US Congress expressing deep concern for the dangerous and deteriorating situation in Iraq. "Too many Iraqi and American lives have been lost. Too many Iraqi communities have been shattered. Too many civilians have been driven from their homes. The human and financial costs of the war are staggering," Bishop Wenski said.

"Our Conference is under no illusions regarding Iraq. None of the alternative courses of action are without consequences for human life and dignity. There is no path ahead that leads to an unambiguously good outcome for Iraq, our nation and the world. It was for this very reason that we raised serious moral questions regarding military intervention in Iraq in the first place. Nevertheless, our nation must have the moral courage to change course in Iraq and to break the policy and political stalemate in Washington so that we can walk a difficult path that does the most good and the least damage in human and moral terms," Bishop Wenski said. (refer: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/iraq.shtml>)

PUBLICATION: 'WORKPLACE RELATIONS – A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE'

The Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations has just released a book that examines Catholic social teachings on work and workers' rights and on related economic and social issues. The book has been issued for two main purposes: to explain Catholic social teaching on work and employment-related issues and, on the basis of that teaching, to make a contribution to the national debate about employment law and workplace relations. The book contains a special section on Meeting Plans for parishes and workplaces to further explore the issues raised. The book is now available for order via the ACCER website at a cost of \$5. For further info visit <http://www.accer.asn.au/news/index.html> or call (03) 9663 1775.

IR PROFESSORS INVESTIGATE WORKCHOICES AGREEMENTS

Professors Alison Preston and David Peetz have been investigating the 'WorkChoices' claims that the reforms to be introduced would encourage increased wages, particularly through Australian Workplace Agreements which the policy actively encourages. In their article in Online Opinion, entitled "What do AWAs really pay", the academics find that, overall, AWAs are commonly associated with poorer outcomes for typical employees than registered collective agreements. They find that, while AWAs sometimes attract wage premiums, associated with union avoidance strategies, these mainly affect a small number of industries and some very large organisations. Where union avoidance is not a common issue, for example in small organisations, the negative impact of AWAs on earnings is stark. The impact of AWAs is worst for those people without unique skills, who do not have strong bargaining power in the labour market. (refer: <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=6138>)

FUNDRAISER – YOUTH SKILLS EXCHANGE

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan and The Pacific Calling Group are launching a Youth Skills Exchange and Leadership Training Program, in response to the subject of climate change. This will involve two stages of conducting a seminar in Kiribati from 2 – 9 October and sending delegates to the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change in Bali from 3 – 14 December 2007. The organisers aim to send a delegation of young people to both of these events. All participants will continue education and advocacy work when they return and act as ambassadors to gatherings at various World Youth Day events in Australia and home countries. The organisers are seeking donations to assist in this important cause. For further information contact the Delegate for Social Responsibility of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan on (02) 9552 1381, 0438 465 668 or gkearney@goodsams.org.au (refer: www.goodsams.org.au)

FUNDRAISER – ABORIGINAL CROSS

Theresa Ardler, Muralappi Project Coordinator in Darlington Sydney is producing beautiful Aboriginal Crosses to raise money for Indigenous Kids at risk who she works with on a regular basis. The price of the Aboriginal Cross, decorated with traditional Indigenous art, is \$250.00. The Fund Raising will go towards a trip for the young people she works with to the U.S.A to meet Native American kids at risk and visit their communities in relation to our own Indigenous Communities here in Australia. Here we have two vibrantly rich cultures that are intertwined with tradition. This experience would benefit all who participate and make it a long lasting memory. For further information about the Cross and the good cause of the fundraising, contact Theresa on 0432 522 649.

GM CROPS IN SA, VIC & NSW

The moratoria against the commercial growth of genetically modified (GM) crops in three States (South Australia, Victoria and NSW) will expire between the end of February and April next year. All three States have now announced a review process where people can write a submission about whether they want the moratorium to continue or to end. If you are concerned about GM crops, you can write a letter to the review expressing your concerns as a consumer or producer. The deadline for submissions to the South Australian review is 3 August (refer: http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/home/media_list/ag_wine/gmo/gm_crops_management_act_review_meetings). The deadline for the Victorian review is 17 August (refer: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/nrenfa.nsf/LinkView/5477226A88881F86CA2572E300074EEF89E6C67B468BD2A7CA256FB70001BAB8>). The review panel but not the process has been unveiled in NSW (refer: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/recent-news/agriculture-news-releases/review-gm-crops>)

For more information regarding the GM issue, visit the Columban Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation webpage: http://www.columban.org.au/Our-works/jpic/about_jpic.html

DVD – ‘WE WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR THIS’

Project SafeCom is promoting a new documentary on mandatory immigration detention in Australia. In 2006, a group of young people of different nationalities, backgrounds, attitudes and political views took a trip to the Baxter Detention Centre. The stories of the people they met behind the razor wire surprised, moved and challenged them. The movie also features interviews with former Liberal Prime Minister the Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser, human rights barrister Julian Burnside QC and psychiatrist Patrick McGorrie. Cost: \$30 plus shipping. To review and to order, go to <http://www.safecom.org.au/willberremembered.htm>

DARFUR AUSTRALIA NETWORK - FORGOTTEN PEOPLE PROJECT

On 17th October 2007, The Darfur Australia Network (DAN) will remember the forgotten people of Darfur. Three million knotted squares of material, representing the three million displaced by this crisis, will be incorporated into an art installation. The colourful material was chosen as it symbolises the colourful clothes of Darfuri women. We hope this raises awareness about the scale of the crisis in Darfur, raises funds to help support the victims and advocates to the Australian government to help protect those displaced by the war in Darfur. For more information on how you, your school, parish, workplace or group can be involved, visit <http://www.darfuraustralia.org/action/forgotten>. DAN have also set up a petition for this project which is available online at <http://www.darfuraustralia.org/action/petition>. You can also find out more about the activities of DAN in Sydney and Melbourne by visiting their website www.darfuraustralia.org.au.

CD – ‘NORMAL DAYS’ BY SCATTERED PEOPLE

Following the year 2000 release of the self-titled album ‘Scattered People’ featuring the songs and voices of asylum seekers, refugees and supporters, a new CD ‘Normal Days’ was launched on World Refugee Day, 2007. The album title expresses the overwhelming desire of asylum seekers for normality where skills are valued, safety is assured and access to ordinary life is welcomed. According to Gaby Heuft, coordinator of the Brisbane Refugee Claimant (asylum seeker) Support Centre, ‘the new album is dedicated to those original Scattered People performers who have been forcibly returned to the precarious environments from which they originally escaped. They have not been heard of since’. ‘Normal Days’ is available via record label Sweet Freedom Inc – an independent, not-for-profit record label committed to advancing social justice and human rights while celebrating while celebrating creativity and artistic expression. Profits from the sale of ‘Normal Days’ return directly to the Refugee Claimant Support Centre. Visit: www.sweetfreedom.org or call (07) 3399 3486, (07) 3624 2403 or 0414 904 857.

NATIONAL INITIATIVE – ‘AUSTRALIA FAIR’

In the lead-up to Australia Day 2007, a new national initiative from the Australian Council Of Social Service has highlighted the overwhelming support by Australians of ‘a fair go for all’ and called on Australians to encourage decision makers to make this a reality. *Australia Fair* provides the tools to enable people to get involved in creating a fair go for all Australians. Typing in a postcode on the site takes individuals to links to email their local Member of Parliament, write to their local newspaper editor, start or join a local discussion group or call local talkback radio stations. For more information visit: <http://www.australiafair.org.au/public/Default.aspx>

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

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

2007 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT – ORDER NOW!

This year’s Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled *Who Is My Neighbour? Australia’s role as a global citizen*. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form is available on the ACSJC website:

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

SERIES PAPER: TO EACH AS ANY HAVE NEED: JUSTICE AND HEALTH CARE

Catholic Social Justice Series Paper No.59. Dr Elizabeth Hepburn IBVM highlights critical issues of justice in healthcare in the light of a duty to care for the sick and frail that goes back to the roots of Judaic tradition and to the earliest Christian communities. One of the intolerable aspects of health care in today's world is the fact that privileged sections of society and regions of the globe have access to decent and effective treatment, while the underprivileged do not. Even in a rich country like Australia, our Indigenous sisters and brothers have a life expectancy far shorter than that of the community as a whole. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage – postage rates listed below)

PASTORAL LETTER – FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2007

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, entitled, *Keeping Time – Australian families and the culture of overwork*, considers the pressures experienced by a growing number of workers trying to juggle the demands of the jobs with the needs of their families. Available for download in regular and 'three-column' versions at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

DISCUSSION GUIDE – WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2007

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is *The Human Person, The Heart of Peace*. The ACSJC discussion guide consists of a brief overview of the Pope's message, some points for reflection and prayer. A helpful resource for group and classroom discussion. Download at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SERIES PAPER: CHOICE FOR WHOM? A DISCUSSION OF THE 2005 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LAWS

Catholic Social Justice Series No 58. At a time when Australia's industrial relations laws are undergoing radical change, Dr Tim Battin offers an analysis of the theory underpinning the 2005 industrial relations legislation, and measures that rationale against the precepts of Catholic social teaching. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage – postage rates listed below)

SERIES PAPER: THE CHURCH AND PUBLIC DEBATE

In Catholic Social Justice Series no.50, of 2004, Prof. John Warhurst addressed the place of the Church in public debate during an election year. The series paper is entitled *The Church and Public Debate: Reflections on Speaking Out in an Election Year*. (Cost \$6.60 plus postage).

(\$6.60 a copy, plus postage. Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1; 2-3 copies \$1.45; 4-5 copies \$2.45)

AUGUST NOTICES

30 APRIL – 26 AUGUST. EXHIBITION & TALKS, 'BROKEN LINKS: THE STOLEN GENERATIONS IN QUEENSLAND (QLD). A moving exhibition marking the 10th anniversary of the 'Bringing Them Home' Report. The history of Indigenous child removal is portrayed through the records and documents held in Queensland institutions and the personal stories of five Aboriginal Queenslanders. Hear their stories and discover more about the Stolen Generations. A free talk will be given by Sharon Kinchela at 12.30 – 1.00pm, 3 August in the Philip Bacon Heritage Gallery, level 4, State Library of Queensland, Stanley Place, South Bank. Bookings are free. (refer: <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibit/cur#links>)

1 AUGUST. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB, BRAIDWOOD (NSW). ‘Christianity and Islam’ with Professor Anthony Johns and Mrs Shakira Hussein. Braidwood Servicemen’s Club. For more information 4842 2829.

2 AUGUST 2007. PUBLIC LECTURE, ‘POST-WAR LEBANON’ (VIC). Following the war in July 2006, Lebanon faced a humanitarian crisis, with more than 1000 people killed, more than 4000 injured and around 1 million internally displaced. Dr. Hadia Mukhtar, a member of the Medical Association for the Prevention of War, visited Lebanon in December last year. Dr Mukhtar will be joined by Mounir Kiwan, president of the Australian Lebanese Youth Association, to discuss their first-hand insights into the work of NGOs aiding the relief effort, and the ongoing campaign to outlaw the manufacture and use of cluster bombs. Entry by gold coin donation. 7.00 – 8.00pm, RMIT Building 50, Orr St, off Victoria St, Melbourne. (refer: http://www.melbourne.indymedia.org/calendar/event_display_detail.php?event_id=4524&day=2&month=8&year=2007)

3 AUGUST. INDIGENOUS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP (SA). The National Indigenous Youth Movement of Australia in partnership with Reconciliation Australia invites Indigenous young people between the ages of 18 to 30 years to a satellite Indigenous Youth Engagement Workshop to network and explore relevant issues impacting on Indigenous people. 9:00am – 5:30pm, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, 253 Grenfell St, Adelaide. For further info contact Reconciliation Australia on (02) 6273 9200 and rosie.southwood@reconciliation.org.au

3 – 7 AUGUST. The 9th GARMA FESTIVAL (NT). A celebration of Yolngu Aboriginal people of north east Arnhem Land, the Garma Festival attracts around 20 clan groups from north east Arnhem Land, as well as representatives from clan groups and neighbouring Indigenous peoples throughout Arnhem Land, the Northern Territory and Australia. For further details about the Festival, which will be held at Gulkula, North East Arnhem Land NT, visit: <http://www.garma.telstra.com/>

5 AUGUST. PILGRIM WALK (ACT). Mr Neil Harrigan will lead a walk in preparation for Blessed Mary Mackillop feast day, which is 8th Aug. Leave Archbishop’s House at 9am, walk a selected route to Cathedral for 11am Mass with transport available after Mass back to the Archbishop’s House. Inquiries to Margaret Ryan, (02) 6163 4302 or margaret.ryan@cg.catholic.org.au

7 AUGUST. FORUM, ‘WEST PAPUA PUBLIC FORUM’ (ACT). Indonesian Solidarity in association is with the West Papua Project of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney is hosting a public forum at which Mr Agus Alue Alua, Rev Corinus Berotabui, J. Budi Hernawan OFM and Ms Selfiana Sanggenafa will speak. 5.30 – 7.00pm, Seminar Room A, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies (Coombs Building), Australian National University. For further info contact (02) 6 125 0188 or michael.cookson@anu.edu.au

7 AUGUST. SEMINAR, ‘YOUTH IN BOUGAINVILLE’ (NSW). Yuko Miyazawa will deliver Seminar 1 of the Peace Research and Practice Seminar Series on the subject - Youth in Bougainville: Their Situation, Involvement in Peacebuilding & Images of Peace. Yuko has recently completed an M.Litt treatise on this subject and will explore issues from this treatise and incorporate a discussion of her experiences of field research in Bougainville. 12.30 - 2.00pm, The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Room 107, Mackie Building, Arundel St, The University of Sydney. For further info contact (02) 9351 7686. (refer: <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/centres/cpacs/news/events.shtml>)

8 AUGUST. PUBLIC FORUM, 'AUSTRALIA AT THE CROSSROADS' (QLD). A public forum discussing the direction of Australian public policy. Speakers include, Prof Ian Lowe, Jacqui Katona, Julian Burnside, Sharon Burrow and Helen Caldicott, 6.30 for 7.00 p.m., Brisbane City Hall.

9 – 10 AUGUST. CONFERENCE, 'PATHS TO JUSTICE AND PROSPERITY – WEST PAPUA' (NSW). The conference is being organised by Indonesian Solidarity in association with the West Papua Project of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney and supported by the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Technology. Speakers include Mr Agus Alue Alua, Rev Corinus Berotabui, J. Budi Hernawan OFM and Ms Selfiana Sanggenafa. Entry by donation. 9.30am – 5.00pm each day, The Wool Room, International House, The University of Sydney, 96 City Road, Chippendale, Sydney. For more info contact (02) 9351 6945, (02) 9217 3874 or Indonesian_solidarity@yahoo.com.au (refer: <http://www.asia-pacific-action.org/information/westpapuaconferencesydney.htm>)

10 AUGUST. EVENT, 'THEIR SPIRIT STILL SHINES' (VIC). Come and learn about the landmark '67 Referendum. This event is aimed at raising cultural awareness, to highlight the achievements of the Indigenous community in the last 40 years and to look to the outward journey to achieve social justice for the Indigenous community in the future. Featuring: mock ballot; Indigenous performers and dance, a panel of Elders, educational resources and curriculum resources. 10.00am – 3.00pm, Federation Square: The Atrium and BMW Edge. All enquiries contact (03) 9658 8833 or emily.fien@melbourne.vic.gov.au

11 AUGUST. FORUM, 'SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE WORKPLACE' (QLD). The Brisbane Catholic Justice & Peace Commission is collaborating with members of Burpengary Parish to hold a forum which enables Catholics to learn more about the current industrial relations scene in Australia since the introduction of WorkChoices and the Church's teaching on human work and how it might apply to the current situation in Australia. Guest speakers are Sr Margaret Hinchey, POLMIN & Catholics in Coalition for Justice & Peace, Dr Jim McDonald, Griffith University, Gail Middleton, Welfare Rights Network and Peter Arndt, Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of Brisbane. Afternoon tea will be provided. Free event. 2.00 – 5.00pm St Eugene's Parish Church, Springfield St, Burpengary.

13 AUGUST. SEMINAR, 'THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: THE EVOLUTION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL NORM' (VIC). The Hon Gareth Evans AO QC will discuss the emerging responsibility of states and the global community to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The lecture will be followed by a public discussion with Justice Chris Maxwell. Justice Maxwell is President of the Victorian Court of Appeal and a former adviser to Gareth Evans. Cost: \$20/\$10 conc. 6.00 - 7.45pm, Allens Arthur Robinson, Level 34, 530 Collins St, Melbourne. For further info and to register, contact hrlrc@vicbar.com.au or (03) 9225 6695. (refer: http://www.hrlrc.org.au/html/so2_article/article_view.asp?id=178&nav_cat_id=140&nav_top_id=60)

13 AUGUST. SCREENING, 'TEMPLE OF DREAMS' (ACT). Fadi - young, charismatic and politically ambitious - runs a youth centre in Sydney's west in what was once a Masonic temple. The Centre struggles in the face of council planning regulations and funding shortfalls. He sets out to solve all their problems with the help of three determined young women - Alyah, Amna and Zouhour. This is a story told from the inside revealing Muslim Australians in a way that dispels stereotypes. Screening followed by discussion with filmmaker Tom Zubrzycki. 6.00 for 6.30 pm,

Blackfriars Building Room B10, Australian Catholic University, 127 Phillip Avenue, Watson ACT. RSVP by 7 August to Anne-Marie Fonteyne (02) 6209 1172 and a.fonteyne@signadou.acu.edu.au

15 AUGUST. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ADDRESS (National). The Hon Mal Brough, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs will speak at the NPC from 12.00 to 2.00pm. (refer: <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingSpeakers.html>)

20 AUGUST. ERCSJ INFORMATION NIGHT (WA). The Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice is running an information night on the works of the Centre. This is a good session to attend for intending volunteers as step one of a three step process. Some warm food and hot drinks will be available for those coming from work. 5.30 – 7.30pm at the Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice, 24 High Street, Fremantle WA. Contact (08) 9432 2405, 0413 280 736 or ercdeputy@powerdsl.com (refer: www.ercfremantle.org)

20 AUGUST. SEMINAR, 'RESEARCH IN TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS' (VIC). Established researchers in human trafficking issues will outline their experiences in researching this problem in South East Asia. Speakers include: Prof. Susan Kneebone of the Faculty of Law Monash University; Judy Dixon, Consultant to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime; Assoc. Prof. Sharon Pickering of the School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University; and Marie Segrave, PhD Candidate, School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University. 6.00pm, Monash University Law Chambers, 472 Bourke Street, Melbourne. RSVP to marketing@law.monash.edu.au by 16 August. (refer: <http://www.monash.edu/research/researchmonth/events/20070820-trafficking-persons.html>)

20 AUGUST. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB, NORTH SYDNEY (NSW). 'Human Dignity and Work – Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them' with Gloria Taylor & John Falzon. Union Hotel, Pacific Highway & West Street, North Sydney. For more information call (02) 9958 5963

22 AUGUST. FORUM, 'GLOBALISATION: A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE' (NSW). With the APEC forum coming to Sydney in September, the debate about globalisation continues. Is globalisation the key to a new era of economic efficiency and inter-connectivity? Or does it homogenise cultures, dislocate people and intensify the divide between the rich and poor? What does the Catholic Church teach about globalisation, and how can Catholics help to civilise it? Speakers will include Bishop Kevin Manning, Bishop of Parramatta, Dr Tony Stokes, Lecturer in Economics at the ACU, and Sr Libby Rogerson IBVM, Diocesan Director of Social Justice and Caritas. 7.30 – 9.00pm (Supper to follow) at St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta, Crn Marist Place and Victoria Rd. RSVP by 17 Aug. on (02) 8839 8400.

22 AUGUST. FORUM, 'VOX POPULI, VOX DEI: THE CHURCH AND WORLD DIPLOMACY' (ACT). Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn will deliver this address at the St Thomas More Forum. 7.30 – 9.00pm, St. Thomas More School Hall, 30 White Crescent, Campbell. Bookings essential. For bookings see website to get details or email sttmforum@home.com.au (refer: www.stthomasmores.cg.catholic.edu.au/parishforumsmain.htm)

23 AUGUST. WORKSHOP, 'WORKING WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES' (WA). The Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice is running a workshop considering the specific needs of Aboriginal communities that mainstream organisations often struggle to address. A holistic approach is often required. Questions arise as to how this is done without funding available for this

extra service. Explore best practice, and how better to navigate the cultural context of the client. Cost: \$88 per person. 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact (08) 9432 2405, 0413 280 736 or ercdeputy@powerdsl.com (refer: www.ercfremantle.org)

27 AUGUST. CONFERENCE, 'AUSTRALIA AND THE UN: A REPORT CARD' (VIC). The United Nations Association of Australia national conference will be held from 9.00am – 4.00pm at the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, and includes dinner with Dr Hans Blix, chairman of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission and president of WFUNA, 6.30 for 7.15pm, Mayfair Ballroom, Grand Hyatt Melbourne. Cost: \$150 (\$130 for UNAA members). For further info contact (03) 9670 7878 or events@unaavictoria.org.au. (refer: <http://www.unaa.org.au/praxis.php/category/view/80>)

27 – 29 AUGUST. CONFERENCE, 'DOING THE BUSINESS OF MISSION' (NSW). The 2007 national conference of Catholic Health Australia will focus on the identity and mission of Catholic ministry that shapes the distinct service sector founded on the Gospel. The conference will explore the creative tension that inevitably exists for faith-based services in a commercial world. Keynote speaker: Fr Gerald Arbuckle SM – 'Crafting Catholic Identity in a Postmodern World'. Venue: The Westin, Sydney CBD. For registration and conference details, visit: <http://www.cha.org.au/>

29 AUGUST. SEMINAR, 'ASYLUM: UPHOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS' (NSW). The NSW Ecumenical Council, as part of its Continuing Refugee & Migrant Sunday Celebrations, is holding an evening seminar with speakers, Sir Anthony Mason, Former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, and George Gittoes, Artist, Journalist and Film Maker. Entry donation: \$5. 7.00 – 9.00pm, Uniting Church, 395 Oxford St, Paddington, Sydney. RSVP to kmoroney@ncca.org.au or on (02) 9299 2215 by Thursday, 23 Aug.

31 AUGUST. PUBLIC FORUM, 'ASIA PACIFIC PEOPLE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY (APPEC) – PUTTING PEOPLE INTO APEC!' (NSW). Regional leaders meeting at the APEC forum in September will be pursuing the APEC agenda of zero trade and investment barriers in the Asia Pacific region for developed countries by 2010, and for developing countries by 2020. The "APPEC" Public forum will bring together leading thinkers, community leaders NGOs and other to learn about the narrow focus of APEC, and hear alternatives. Fair trade information stalls and products available. Featuring: Sharan Burrow, ACTU President; Yuri Munsayac of Asia Pacific for Human Development; Don Henry, Executive Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation. MC: Tim Brunero, journalist and writer for ABC's 'The Chaser'. 5.30pm arrival for 6.30pm start, Guthrie Theatre, Design Building (Building 6), Harris St entrance (near the ABC building and overhead footbridge). For more info contact admin@aftinet.org.au and visit www.aftinet.org.au

1 SEPTEMBER. CONFERENCE, 'ASIA PACIFIC PEOPLE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY (APPEC) – PUTTING PEOPLE INTO APEC!' (NSW). A collaborative community space will draw people together for engagement on the topics that APEC fails to address, such as human rights, labour rights and the environment. Panel sessions, workshops, information stalls, art exhibition, doco screenings and activities. Featuring: Richard Broinowski, Adjunct Professor, Sydney University, former Australian Diplomat; Prof. Jane Kelsey, University of Auckland and Action Resource Education Network of Aotearoa (ARENA); John Sutton, National Secretary, Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union. 9.30am – 4.00pm, Guthrie Theatre, Design Building (Building 6), Harris St entrance (near the ABC building). For more info contact admin@aftinet.org.au and visit www.aftinet.org.au

2 – 4 SEPTEMBER. CONFERENCE, 'ACCESS, INCLUSION AND SUCCESS – MUSLIM STUDENTS AT AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES' (NSW). It is in the long-term interest of Australia to keep access to education open to all groups in our society. The University of Western Sydney has a significant student population drawn from the Muslim community in Western Sydney. It is within this context that this conference is being convened. Conference speakers will include a cross-section of key stakeholders and experts. The conference is ideal for government, university and TAFE leaders, student services providers, academics, overseas education providers, education departments as well as school principals. The aim is to develop strategies to advance inclusion and integration of Muslim students into Australian universities and provide materials for utilisation by policy makers and academics across Australia. Costs: \$495.00 and concession \$195.00 for unwaged and community reps. Conference venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Parramatta. Contact: (02) 9852 5222 or visit <http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/corpserv/edc/events>

8 – 12 SEPTEMBER. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SPIRITUALITY RETREAT (WA). The Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice is running this 5-day non-residential retreat that draws on the spirituality and lived experience of L'Arche (www.larche.org.au) and the Gospels. Retreat leaders: Eileen Glass AM, cofounder of L'Arche Australia; John Coleman, national leader and regional coordinator of L'Arche Australia. Cost: \$495 (half-price for students and concession card holders). 9.15 – 5.00pm daily at the Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice, 24 High Street, Fremantle. There will be a closing dinner 6.00 - 8:30pm on Wednesday 12 Sept. Contact: 08 9432 2400 and visit: <http://www.cswan.wa.edu.au/home/erc/events.htm>

JULY NEWS MONITOR

Carbon-conscious Religious aim to reduce eco-footprint

Catholic Religious Australia was aiming to reduce carbon emissions by negotiating a bulk purchase of hybrid motor vehicles as well as by installing solar panels on church facilities.

Bishop believes Corby may be innocent

Bathurst Bishop Patrick Dougherty expressed concern over the continued imprisonment of convicted drug trafficker Schapelle Corby whom he believes may be "entirely innocent and very unjustly suffering".

ACU engages kids from homeless families

ACU was launching a report which calls for more "engagement" with children and young people who are accompanying their parents during periods of homelessness.

Young Christians helping WYD pilgrims get piece of action

The Young Christian Students and Workers movements were launching a new preparation resource for Australian pilgrims to next year's World Youth Day which aims to link faith and action.

Nun seeks reprieve for Georgia's Dead Man Walking

Sr Helen Prejean who gained international fame in the book and film Dead Man Walking launched a last-ditch appeal to spare the life of a black man in Georgia condemned to die tomorrow.

Welfare quarantine useless: Vinnies

Federal Government and Opposition proposals to quarantine welfare payments to "at risk" parents were simplistic and will not prevent truancy or child neglect, the Society of St Vincent de Paul said.

Vatican to tackle homelessness

The Australian bishops nominated Gethsemane Community founder and leader Sr Myree Harris as their representative at a groundbreaking Vatican conference that will study homelessness.

Vatican signs up for a carbon offset forest

The Holy See accepted an offer from a climate solutions company to plant a forest in Hungary which will offset the Vatican's carbon dioxide emissions and make it the "first entirely carbon neutral sovereign state".

Abbott playing the man, not policy: PolMin

The Catholic lobby PolMin said that it had invited Federal Ministers Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey to explain how WorkChoices was consistent with Catholic social teaching but Mr Abbott preferred to publicly attack people who spoke out against those laws.

Abbott lashes Catholic "fellow travellers"

In an address to university students, Federal Minister Tony Abbott slammed "progressive" Catholics who he alleged were campaigning for the Labor Party and questioned whether criticism of WorkChoices by Parramatta Bishop Kevin Manning was based on moral or political grounds.

Revise anti-terror law, bishops tell Philippines Govt

Warning that a new anti-terrorism law could result in "gross injustice", Philippines Catholic bishops called on the government to revise the law saying that the definition of terrorist activities was too broad and that concessions to the nation's military were "practically unlimited".

Bishop comments a bit rough, Minister complains

Responding to criticism by Australia's bishops, Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough said they "missed the point" if they characterise Federal Government plans as "racist or discriminatory" but bishops' president Archbishop Philip Wilson conceded he did not "have all the answers".

Catholic bodies slam "unfair" wage increase

Declaring the \$10.26-a-week minimum wage increase "grossly unfair", St Vincent de Paul Society said it will give its workers a \$30-a-week increase while Australia's Catholic employment body said that the evidence does not support the Fair Pay Commission's findings.

Faith groups issue environmental challenge

An interfaith ecology network was calling on believers to show leadership in tackling climate change by becoming early adopters of environmental technologies and developing partnerships between faith communities in Australia and countries mostly likely to be affected by sea level rise.

Work with Aborigines, bishops say

Recognising the urgency of addressing problems in Australia's Indigenous communities but rejecting a "law and order approach", Australia's bishops said that a long-term partnership approach was needed that respects Aboriginal culture and identity.

Community service trumps salary millions for Melbourne priest

Service to the community provides greater happiness than money, said parish priest Fr Mick Kalka from Bundoora in Melbourne's north, and no one could possibly need the \$30 million plus salary of an investment banker.

Globalise human rights, Vatican says

The globalisation of the economy and communications should be matched by the globalisation of human rights, Holy See representative Archbishop Silvano Tomasi told the United Nations Human Rights Council.

25,000 rural workers live like slaves, Brazil church estimates

After Brazilian authorities raided a sugar plantation where more than 1,000 workers laboured in horrendous conditions, Brazil's Catholic Land Pastoral said that there were currently some 25,000 workers living in slave-like conditions in the nation.

Vic priest slams "continued detention"

Proposed new state laws, which provide for Supreme Court approved "continued detention" of convicted prisoners who completed their jail sentences, reverse 200 years of "fundamental" legal practice, said justice campaigner Jesuit Fr Peter Norden.

Hickey a nuclear convert

Reversing a long held view, Perth Archbishop Barry Hickey said he was now convinced that nuclear power can be safe but green groups were not impressed.

WorkChoices unbalanced, Catholic employment body said

Saying that WorkChoices legislation fails to provide "proper balance" between employer and employee rights, Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations chair Brian Lawrence called for further changes to the law to protect the financial security of families.

- courtesy Church Resources' CathNews, stories in detail at <http://www.cathnews.com/news/707>

AUGUST SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

2 THU First Indo-Chinese refugees allowed to settle in Australia, 1965

4 SAT National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day

5 SUN 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

6 MON The Transfiguration (Solemnity), Hiroshima Day, 1945

8 WED Mary MacKillop (Feast); Atom Bomb dropped on Nagasaki, 1945

9 THU International Day of the World's Indigenous People

12 SUN 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time; International Youth Day

15 WED Assumption of Mary (Solemnity); End of World War II in the Pacific, 1945

16 THU Wave Hill Station, NT, returned to the Gurindji People, 1975

18 SAT Vietnam Veterans Day

19 SUN 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 THU International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

26 SUN 21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time; Refugee & Migrant Sunday; MV Tampa rescues 433 asylum seekers from a sinking vessel. Australian Government refuses entry to its shores and sends troops to prevent disembarkation, 2001

27 MON Dom Helder Camara died, 1999

30 THU East Timor's Independence Ballot, 1999 – 78.5% of East Timorese vote for independence

Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC Social Justice Diary (cost \$6.60, to order go to http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html, or call 02 9956 5811)

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