



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

Social Justice Sunday – 30 September

As Social Justice Sunday approaches, now is the time to place your orders for the Australian Catholic Bishops' Statement. Parishes, schools and groups can order printed copies (minimum of 10) from the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council. The order form can be found on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Bishop Christopher Saunders, Chairman of the ACSJC has called on all Catholics and people of good will to ponder the question posed by the young lawyer to Jesus in the Gospel of St Luke, 'Who is my neighbour?' As individuals and as a nation, we are invited to consider the response Jesus gave in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

In the Chairman's message, Bishop Saunders suggests we take the time to contemplate the diversity of people around the world and the particular circumstances of joy and hardship in their lives.

‘Through this amazing diversity,’ the Bishops says, ‘we are all sisters and brothers of this world – created in the image and likeness of God. The life we share is sacred and our human dignity is to be respected’.

This variety also reflects the importance of multiculturalism in Australia. ‘Our multiculturalism is an aspect of national life that makes Australia great; reflecting our solidarity with all peoples of the world and a generosity of heart in responding to those in need’. The Bishop goes on to ask ‘And what of the circumstances of many of our Indigenous sisters and brothers who continue to endure third-world conditions in this land of plenty?’

He says we are all called to recommit ourselves to our neighbours and to act in the interests of people who do not share our prosperity and security.

2007 Federal Election resources

The Australian Catholic Bishops have urged Catholics to consider the common good when casting their vote in the forthcoming federal election. In their statement ‘A Vote For Us All’ the Bishops raise some key issues for people to consider.

‘Catholic tradition holds that the common good is underpinned by the promotion and protection of human dignity. Implicit in seeking the common good is the desire to serve the poor, the marginalised, the sick and the forgotten in our society,’ the Bishops say.

The issues addressed in the Bishops’ election document include: the sanctity of human life; the needs of refugees and asylum seekers; the rights of working families; access to quality education; the need to achieve lasting dignity and justice for Indigenous peoples; access to quality health care; environmental responsibility; and the promotion of generous overseas aid policies. (refer: <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bishops/confpres/20070806518.htm>)

The ACSJC has produced a leaflet, ‘A Vote for Social Justice’ which highlights some key justice issues and provides an outline of the Australian Catholic Bishops’ priority issues for the federal election.

The leaflet aims to help you think about some important issues that will be decided in this election and offers some questions that you could raise with all candidates in your electorate.

Some of these issues aren’t the ones you will see in headlines or hear about from parties, but they are still crucial in shaping what kind of society we all live in.

Issues are discussed under the headings ‘Justice for Indigenous people’, ‘Justice in the workplace’, ‘Justice for those made poor’, ‘Justice for asylum seekers’ and ‘Climate and the environment’. The leaflet is available for download on the ACSJC website. (refer: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>)

Poverty in Australia

A new report by Australia Fair shows that the number of Australians living in poverty has increased over the past 10 years. Using an international poverty line based on median income, the numbers in poverty increased from 7.6% to 9.9% of the population between 1994 and 2004, or nearly 2 million Australians.

Andrew Johnson, spokesman for Australia Fair says, 'In the current good economic times, with a large budget surplus, it's not fair that 2 million Australians are struggling to access necessities like affordable housing and dental care.'

John Falzon, CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society's National Council says, 'Governments need a comprehensive plan with targets to tackle disadvantage in Australia, which is the approach taken in 22 out of 30 OECD countries.'

The report examines 10 areas such as health, education, housing and work, which were identified by the Australian public as essential to ensure a fair go for all Australians. To download the report, visit: <http://www.australiafair.org.au>

Those with a concern for the many groups who have not fared well during the sustained period of national prosperity will find of interest the report launched earlier this year by Catholic Social Services Australia and Jesuit Social Services.

Professor Tony Vinson is the author of the report 'Dropping off the Edge', which finds that the top three per cent of the most disadvantaged communities in Australia (68 in all) have double the rate of unemployment and two and a half times the rate of long term unemployment of other communities. These communities have almost double the rate of disability support and psychiatric admissions and more than double the rate of criminal convictions and approaching three times the rate of imprisonment.

Their proportion on confirmed child maltreatment cases is more than 3.5 times that of the remaining localities.

The author and commissioning organisations hold that these disparities demand immediate and sustained remedial action and show that the many complex and difficult circumstances are not beyond our influence. The motivation for the research comes from many decades of experience working with young Australian families.

To find out more about this important research and to access maps and other information, visit: <http://www.australiandisadvantage.org.au/>

John Ferguson

National Executive Officer

CURRENT ISSUES/RESOURCES

PRE-ELECTION RESOURCES

Visit the ACSJC website for a range of pre-election information and resources. Included is information about the Australian Catholic Bishops statement 'A Vote for Us All' and the ACSJC leaflet 'A Vote for Social Justice'. (<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>)

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.acer.asn.au/news/index.html> or call (03) 9663 1775

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>

YOUNG CATHOLIC WOMEN'S INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP

Applications for the 2008 Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship are closing soon. Apply now! The 2008 Young Women's Interfaith Fellowship is being held in Canberra at the Signadou Campus of the Australian Catholic University. The program is 15 weeks duration, commencing 1 February and concluding on 18 May 2008. Contact fellowship.opw@catholic.org.au if you have queries. Applications close: Friday 7th September, 2007. An initiative of the Council for Australian Catholic Women. (visit: <http://www.cacw.catholic.org.au/>)

FILM/DVD – LIYARN NGARN

Liyarn Ngarn aims to change peoples' perception and attitude to Indigenous people and to assist with the process of true and lasting reconciliation. It also offers some kind of meaningful epitaph to the Indigenous lives lost through sheer inhumanity... It epitomises a thirty year long mission of Indigenous leader and Yawuru man, Patrick Dodson, to bring about a lasting reconciliation between the original owners and the later settlers and immigrants. This recently released DVD is available from ANTaR. Details are available on the website <http://www.antar.org.au> Secure your copy by emailing shop@antar.com.au

FILM/DVD – KANYINI

This is a story told by an Aboriginal man, Bob Randall, who lives beside the greatest monolith in the world, Uluru in Central Australia. Based on Bob's own personal journey and the wisdom he learnt from the old people living in the bush, Bob tells the tale of why Indigenous people are now struggling in a modern world and what needs to be done for Indigenous people to move forward. A tale of Indigenous wisdom clashing against materialist notions of progress, this is not only a story of one man and his people but the story of the human race. Cost: \$34.95 An order form for mailing can be downloaded on website <http://www.kanyini.com> or the DVD can be purchased online. Mail: Reverb Pty Ltd. 35 Nichols St, Surry Hills NSW 2010 Tel.(02) 9368 1597 Fax: (02) 9368 7857

NEW WEBSITE – YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS

The Australian YCW has a new website www.ycw.org.au Check it out! Featuring this month is: 'Working for a Fair Australia' - FREE federal election kit; 'On Fertile Ground', A FREE preparation and formation resource for parishes, groups, WYD coordinators and anyone heading to World Youth Day 2008; 'Real Life Survey' - The Australian YCW and YCS have developed the Real Life

Survey to help young people think about their lives and what they care about as part of the preparation for World Youth Day; the 'YCW Action Magazine' - winter edition - Maintaining Dignity in Our Work.

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.

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

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>

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps towards Australia becoming a global citizen

Now available. Call (02) 9956 5811

Ecumenical resource: In Whose Interest? Australia as a global citizen

Now available. Call (09) 9956 5811

Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary and Liturgy Notes

Now available at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

SERIES PAPER: TO EACH AS ANY HAVE NEED: JUSTICE AND HEALTHCARE

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. (\$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)

(\$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)

SEPTEMBER NOTICES

31 AUGUST. LECTURE, 'CEASAR'S COIN' (ACT). As part of the Helder Camara Social Justice Series, Archbishop Roland Minnerath, Archbishop of Dijon, France and member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences will consider the question 'How Should Church and State Interact?' The Archbishop's broad cultural and political experience – especially with the European parliament in Strasbourg – has inspired his special concern to promote forms of ethical discourse that can be accessible to religious believers and non-believers alike. 4.30 – 6.00pm, Australian Catholic University – Canberra Campus (Blackfriars Building – Phillip Avenue, Watson). RSVP: 30 August, 2007 on (02) 6209 1146 or a.fonteyne@signadou.acu.edu.au

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; 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

31 AUGUST. FORUM, 'THE WAY FORWARD FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS' (NSW). As part of the Politics in the Pub series, Olga Havnen, Deputy CEO of the Northern Lands Council and former adviser to Clare Martin's Northern Territory Government and Prof Jon Altman of Aboriginal Economics Policy, ANU will discuss options for Indigenous communities. 6.00 – 7.45pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire St., Surry Hills (across from Chalmers St exit and Devonshire St tunnel at Central Station). (refer: <http://www.erc.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

1 SEPTEMBER. FUNDRAISING DINNER (ACT). Kevin and Gwenth Bray on behalf of Australians for Justice and Peace in Palestine are holding a fundraiser. Speaker, Mr Izzat Abdulhadi, Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia. Enjoy the Dinner, Auction, Raffles and Entertainment. Cost: \$28 (concession), \$35 (or \$40 for the AJPP cause). From 7.00pm at the Bollywood Dimensions Indian Restaurant, 33 Mort Street, Braddon. Contact katekita@hotmail.com or 0434 037 179 for tickets.

2 SEPTEMBER. LAUNCH, SIEV X MEMORIAL INSTALLATION (ACT). Experience these beautiful memorial poles in the land, take time to appreciate the beauty and power of the work created by young and old from across Australia, and pay tribute to those who died on the SIEV X. The poles will be standing in Weston Park from September 2nd for seven weeks. Launch speakers are Mr Jon Stanhope, Chief Minister, ACT and Mr Steve Biddulph, project originator. Music from: Mohsen Soltani-Zand, Mohsen Naderloo, and Ali Bakhtiarvandi on traditional instruments; Ant McKenna, from Those Bloody McKennas, featuring the song 'Time and Tide'. 2.00pm, Weston Park, Yarralumla. RSVP on bgibbings@sievxmemorial.com or 0428 622 309 (refer: www.sievxmemorial.com)

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>

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 SEPTEMBER. PROGRAM, 'FOOTBALL UNITED!' (NSW). The Refugee Youth Soccer Development program seeks to assist young refugees in their immigration and integration to Australia by providing a supporting and enjoyable environment through a soccer development program. While the focus is particularly on youth, the program will contain elements designed to contribute to building community cohesion among the different refugee communities, but will also explore potential for bridging across different Australian communities. 10.00 am – 12noon every Saturday at Campbell Park, Richmond Road, Blacktown. Western Sydney. For further info contact (02) 9385 2591, 0407 957 039 or ab.birouste@unsw.edu.au (refer: <http://soccer.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au> or http://www.ajustaustralia.com/whatshappening_events.php)

3 SEPTEMBER. LECTURE, 'CEASAR'S COIN' (NSW). The St Thomas More Society in association with the Helder Camara Lecture Series invites you to this lecture. Archbishop Roland Minnerath, Archbishop of Dijon, France and member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences will consider the question 'How Should Church and State Interact?' 5.30pm, Banco Court, Level 13 - Supreme Court of NSW, Queen's Square, Macquarie Street, Sydney. For further info contact: (02) 9221 7675 or fkunc@selbornechambers.com.au

3 - 17 SEPTEMBER. CHINA HUMAN RIGHTS PANEL DISCUSSIONS (VIC, ACT, NSW, SA, QLD, WA)
Co-authors of the report 'Bloody Harvest, Revised Report into Allegation of Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China' (Jan 2007), Canadian human rights lawyer David Matas and the Hon. David Kilgour former Secretary of State of the Government of Canada for the Asia-Pacific region, will participate in a series of panel discussions across Australia on China, human rights, forced organ harvesting, and the important timeframe leading up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. For event details contact 0403 107 156, info@freechina.org.au. (refer: www.freechina.org.au)

4 SEPTEMBER. PUBLIC LECTURE, 'CAMPAIGNING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS' (VIC).

The second lecture in the University of Melbourne Human Rights Forum Lunchtime Lecture Series. Caroline Lambert, Acting Executive Director for the YWCA Australia, will be speaking about her experiences in campaigning on human rights issues at the United Nations. A must for NGO human rights campaigners. 1.00 – 2.00pm, Room 225, Alice Hoy Building, University of Melbourne. For further info contact (03) 8344 1096 or human-rights@unimelb.edu.au (refer: http://events.unimelb.edu.au/eventid_4148.html)

5 SEPTEMBER. FORUM, 'IT'S ABOUT TIME' (TAS). The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) and the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner are convening a forum on 'It's About Time: Women, men, work and family'. The final paper will be the focus of this forum. 11.00am–1.00pm at Women Tasmania, 140/142 Macquarie Street, Hobart. For further info contact 6233 2208 or toll free 1800 001 377 or wt.admin@dpac.tas.gov.au (refer: <http://www.unaa.org.au/praxis.php/category/view/4>)

5 SEPTEMBER. FUNDRAISER, 'INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY' (National).

Participating booksellers around Australia will donate 5% of their takings to The Fred Hollows Foundation to buy books and other literacy resources for remote Indigenous communities in Northern Territory and New South Wales. In 2007 The Fred Hollows Foundation will work hand in hand with the Jawoyn communities located east of Katherine in the Northern Territory (Barunga, Eva Valley and Wugularr) as well as in Wilcannia in New South Wales. For more information about Indigenous Literacy Day visit <http://www.worldwithoutbooks.org/> To find your nearest participating bookseller visit <http://www.worldwithoutbooks.org/Supporters.htm#Book> (refer: <http://www.antar.org.au/content/blogcategory/0/125/>)

7 SEPTEMBER. FORUM, 'EMISSIONS TRADING' (WA). The Conservation Council of WA with the Anglican Church invites you to a one day forum where speakers from industry, business and the community will address the role of emissions trading as an effective mechanism to combat climate change. Speakers include: Gerry Hueston, President, BP Australasia; Anglican Archbishop Roger Herft; David Harries, Director, Research Institute for Sustainable Energy, Murdoch University; Chris Tallentire, Director, Conservation Council of WA. Cost: Affiliates & Concessions \$50, Corporate/Government \$220. 8:30am – 5.00pm The University Club, UWA Campus, Nedlands. For further info contact (08) 9420 7266 or email clo@conservationwa.asn.au (refer: <http://conservationwa.asn.au/>)

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>

9 SEPTEMBER. CARNIVAL, 'STOMP IT!' (NSW). This carnival in Lismore has the aim of bringing attention to the seriousness of child abuse and neglect as Australia's greatest social problem and to develop relationships: within families, between families, and between families & the wider community as these relationships are the drivers in the successful development of a child friendly community. Proudly Supported by Southern Cross University, Gnibi College of Indigenous

Australian Peoples and NAPCAN. 9.45am – 4.00pm, Southern Cross University Lismore Sports Oval. (refer: <http://www.antar.org.au/content/blogcategory/0/125/>)

11 SEPTEMBER. PUBLIC LECTURE, ‘SEXUAL ATROCITY IN WAR’ (VIC). Prof. Joanna Bourke of Birkbeck College, University of London, will explore both the prevalence of rape in wartime, and also the factors that inhibit such violence. Considering sexual atrocity in war during the 20th century, she investigates not only why some people set out to sexually humiliate and torture others, but also points to a future in which sexual violence can be placed outside the threshold of the human. 6:30 - 07:30pm, Theatre D, Old Arts Building, The University of Melbourne. For further info contact (03) 8344 5497 or mborzi@unimelb.edu.au (refer: http://events.unimelb.edu.au/eventid_3921.html)

12 SEPTEMBER. FORUM, ‘FUTURE OF REFUGEE POLICY IN AUSTRALIA’ (VIC). The Law Institute of Victoria invites you to an event concerning Australia's treatment of refugees and its migration policy. The panel of speakers includes: Dr Mary Crock, Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney; John Gibson - President, Refugee Council of Australia; Dr Bob Birrell, Director, Centre for Population and Urban Research, Monash University. The moderator is David Manne, Co-ordinator of the Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre. Cost: \$20 LIV members \$30 non-members. 6.00 – 8.00pm, State Library of Victoria Conference Centre, Village Roadshow Theatre, Entry 3, Latrobe Street, Melbourne. RSVP by September 5. Contact (03) 9607 9504 or events@liv.asn.au (refer: http://www.liv.asn.au/events/calendar/20070912_refugee.html)

12 SEPTEMBER. FORUM, ‘MARKETS, POWER AND THE BATTLE FOR THE WORLD FOOD SYSTEM’ (NSW). Raj Patel, author of ‘Stuffed & Starved: Markets, Power and the Battle for the World Food System’ will discuss issues from her book including GM crops, history and export issues, rising levels of obesity and other health crises. Rebecca Huntley, Research Director for The Ipsos Mackay Report and author of ‘The World According to Y: inside the new adult generation’ will also be speaking. Cost \$10/\$7conc. 6.30 for 7.00pm, Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe, Sydney. RSVP to Gleebooks on (02) 9660 2333. (http://www.evatt.org.au/events/7_20070814.html)

13 – 14 SEPTEMBER. CONFERENCE, ‘60th ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION - IN INDONESIA’ (ACT). Peace keepers, academics from Australia and overseas, and those writing the official history of peacekeeping will give papers on the changing nature of peacekeeping in the modern world. For further info contact Dr Walter Kudrycz, Military History Section, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, on 02 6243 4334. (refer: <http://www.unaa.org.au/praxis.php/category/view/4>)

16 SEPTEMBER. SUNDAY SEMINAR, ‘SHOULD AUSTRALIA GO NUCLEAR?’ (NSW). Catholics in Coalition for Justice and Peace invite you to this seminar by Dr Sue Wareham, immediate Past President of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW) Australia. She will consider whether Aboriginal land is likely to be used for a nuclear waste dump. Cost: \$10. 9.45am-12noon, 9 Alexandra Ave. Croydon. Event starts with a reflection followed by the guest speaker. For further info contact (02) 9745 0820 (refer: <http://www.ccjpoz.org/Sunday%20Seminars.htm>)

17 SEPTEMBER. EVENT, 'INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE CELEBRATION' (QLD). Griffith University's Multi-Faith Centre and the International Day of Peace Alliance invite you to this celebration for peace. Celebrations include: multi-faith prayer readings and reflections; performances and peace messages by school children and youth; peace chant and multicultural music; peace cake and lunch. RSVP by September 15 on (07) 3735 7052 or mfc@Griffith.edu.au 12.00noon – 1.30pm, Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University, Nathan Campus. (refer: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>)

17 SEPTEMBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB, NORTH SYDNEY (NSW). 'Human Dignity and Refugees – Contribute to the needs of all people; extend hospitality to strangers' with speakers Frank Brennan SJ and Silvia Winton. Union Hotel, Pacific Highway & West Street, North Sydney. For further info call (02) 9958 5963

18 SEPTEMBER. PUBLIC LECTURE, 'AGRICULTURE AND WATER ISSUES IN A CHANGING CLIMATE' (TAS). As part of the Royal Society of Tasmania's Winter Lecture Series, Dr. David Leaman of Leaman Geophysics, Dr. Michael Battaglia of ENSIS and Prof. David McNeil of UTAS will address this issue of climate change. 8.00 – 9.30pm, Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania. (refer: <http://www.tasmedia.org/node/1581>)

19 – 20 SEPTEMBER. RACE RELATIONS SYMPOSIUM, 'OUT OF THE SHADOWS' (QLD). A symposium to respond to the hidden side of race relations between groups of young people from different religious and cultural backgrounds in Brisbane. For further info contact The Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, The University of Queensland, at l.haralampou@uq.edu.au or (07) 3365 1763. (refer: [http://www.barc.org.au/cms/index.php?module=calendar&calendar\[view\]=list](http://www.barc.org.au/cms/index.php?module=calendar&calendar[view]=list))

19 – 21 SEPTEMBER. CONFERENCE, 'SHAPING THE FUTURE' (SA). The Migrant Resource Centre of SA, Regional Multicultural Communities Council, Limestone Coast Multicultural Network and the City of Mount Gambier are bringing together regional and metropolitan communities, service planning personnel, service agencies, resettlement practitioners, academics and researchers from around the country to increase the participation of people from immigrant and refugee backgrounds settling in regional Australia and to identify strategies for future sustainable resettlement and development. Mount Gambier City Hall, Commercial Street East, Mount Gambier. For further info and to register, visit <http://www.fecca.org.au/default.cfm> and click 'events'.

20 SEPTEMBER. PUBLIC MEETING TO OPPOSE LEGALISING BROTHELS (WA). A committee of Christian, women's, family and social justice groups has been formed to fight the WA Government's proposal to decriminalise brothels. Gunilla Ekberg, Co-executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking Women International will be the guest speaker at this event. 7.00 – 8.30pm, The University of Notre Dame Australia, Drill Hall on Mouat Street, Fremantle. For further information contact 0419 956 319 or plawc@yahoo.com.au

21 SEPTEMBER. NETWORK MEETING, 'ABORIGINAL AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S NETWORK (WA). The Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice is running this meeting. You are invited to attend one of the regular gatherings in Perth to yarn and build support networks across the community. For more info contact Deputy Director Tracy Pollett on (08) 9432 2400 or ercdeputy@powerdsl.com.au (refer: www.ercfremantle.org)

22 SEPTEMBER. VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION (WA). People interested in volunteer work with the Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice, Fremantle are invited to attend one information evening followed by one half-day of training designed especially for volunteers. A free half-day training session is being held on 22 September. 1.30 - 5.30 pm at The Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice 24 High St, Fremantle. For further info contact (08) 9432 2400 or erc@powerdsl.com.au (refer: www.ercfremantle.org)

27 SEPTEMBER. PUBLIC LECTURE, 'CHILD SOLDIERS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW' (ACT). The Centre for International and Public Law, ANU College of Law, The Australian National University and IHL Committee, and Australian Red Cross ACT present a public lecture by Assoc. Prof. Steven Freeland of the University of Western Sydney. Since 1977, a number of legal instruments have proposed standards to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. These standards have been too weak. It is necessary not only to 'upgrade' these standards but to use criminal sanctions in an effort to provide a more efficient legal regime to combat the issue. From 5.30pm, Law Theatre, Bldg 5, ANU College of Law, Fellows Road, The Australian National University. RSVP to: cipl@law.anu.edu.au or (02) 6125 0454 (refer: <http://law.anu.edu.au/cipl/events.asp>)

30 SEPTEMBER. PUBLIC ADDRESS, 'CALLING ALL GLOBAL CITIZENS' (NSW). To celebrate Social Justice Sunday, join Graeme Mundine, Larissa Behrendt, Jill Finnane and Jennifer Burn to discuss global realities around Indigenous issues, the environment and trafficking. 10.00am – 4.00pm, Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney. RSVP by 26 September to mariongambin@hotmail.com or (02) 8741 2326

AUGUST NEWS MONITOR

Substantial pension increase needed: Catholic Social Services

Catholic Social Services Australia called on the Federal Government to raise pension levels to substantially more than the current 25% of average male earnings.

Federal Govt resurrected Sir Joh: Brennan claims

Jesuit Professor Frank Brennan compared the new Federal Government policies for Indigenous communities with those promoted thirty years ago by the late Queensland Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen.

Mugabe support "sickening": Sth African bishop

South African Bishop Kevin Dowling said that Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe had "destroyed" the country.

Vatican agency attacks "cruel, unnecessary" death penalty

A report published by the Holy See Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples described the death penalty as "cruel and unnecessary".

Pakistan Christian girls forced to convert to Islam, marry Muslims

Two Christian girls aged 11 and 16 were kidnapped, forcibly converted to Islam, and married off to Muslim strangers.

Social justice emphasis wins ethics prize

The Australian Catholic University's 2007 Eureka Prize for Research in Ethics was awarded to Macquarie University's Dr Catriona Mackenzie.

Sydney Catholic College quits Amnesty

The Jesuit headmaster of Sydney's St Aloysius College confirmed that his school will sever its ties with Amnesty International.

Bishop resigns as Amnesty backs abortion

British Catholic Bishop Michael Evans resigned from Amnesty International after the international human rights organisation approved a new policy affirming the right to abortion under limited circumstances.

Wage decision discriminates against families: ACCER

The Australian Catholic Commission for Employment Relations said the Industrial Relations Commission's decision on the Federal Minimum Wage discriminates against low paid workers with family responsibilities.

Time out needed on Indigenous legislation: Catholic Social Services

Condemning the lack of consultation on the Federal Government's Northern Territory Indigenous legislation, Catholic Social Services Australia chief, Frank Quinlan, insisted on two months of deliberation before passage of the bills presently before Parliament.

Pope exhorts Catholics to fight the "dragon" of materialism

Likening materialist ideologies including consumerism to the red dragon of the biblical Book of Revelation, Pope Benedict reminded his Feast of the Assumption audience that "love is stronger than evil" and God more powerful than the dragon.

No going back to square one on indigenous issues: Caritas chief

Caritas Australia CEO, Jack de Groot, backed the Federal Government's immediate intervention to stop violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities but warns that the Government should not "fall into the trap of going back to square one".

Wilson focuses on politicians' personal qualities

In questions to Australia's political leaders during an Australian Christian Lobby webcast, Australian Bishops president, Archbishop Philip Wilson asked Prime Minister Howard and Opposition leader Rudd to identify the personal qualities required for "authentic leadership".

Index rent assistance: Catholic Social Services

Citing increasing numbers of low income people who are being forced to choose between paying for food, heating and rent, Catholic Social Services called on the Government to index rent assistance for people in the private rental market.

Hasten slowly on Indigenous welfare: Catholic Social Services

At least two months is needed for genuine consultation on draft legislation introduced into Federal Parliament by Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough, said Catholic Social Services chief Frank Quinlan.

Philippines mayor calls on bishop to oppose Aussie mines

Blaming two Australian mining companies for hardships experienced by villagers in several remote Philippines villages, a town mayor called on the local Catholic bishop for backing in his "lonely fight" against the mines.

Maintain GM ban, Columban centre argues

Citing concern that states are set to lift a series of moratoriums on the planting of genetically modified food crops, a Sydney-based Columban justice centre called on Australians to lobby their state parliaments to extend the bans.

Take democracy seriously, Catholic bishops say

In a pre-election statement calling for "fair industrial laws" and an end to Aboriginal child abuse, Australian bishops have urged Catholics to get involved in the political process to promote the "common good" and not just their own individual interests.

Don't forget Papua: Melbourne bishop

A Melbourne bishop well known for his support for Timorese people, Bishop Hilton Deakin, called on Australians to remember the role played by Papuans in assisting Australia during World War II and urged Australia to resist human rights abuses in the region.

Govt to appeal "inadequate" Pine Gap fines

The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions lodged an appeal against a "manifestly inadequate" fine imposed on Pine Gap Four protestors by the NT Supreme Court and is seeking a custodial sentence.

Time to move on environment, lay leader says

The Vatican and religious congregations gave a lead on environmental issues but "now it's time to mobilise the whole church starting with the laity", said MJ Ruben, an Indian lay movement leader.

- courtesy Church Resources' CathNews, stories in detail at <http://www.cathnews.com/news/708>

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

1 SAT National Wattle Day

2 SUN 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Fathers Day; Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Act, 1991

3 MON Declaration of World War II, 1939

5 WED Death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 1997

7 FRI National Threatened Species Day (last Tasmanian tiger in captivity died in Hobart Zoo, 1936)

8 SAT Birth of Mary, Mother of Jesus (Feast); International Literacy Day

9 SUN 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

11 TUE Terrorist attack on New York and Washington DC, 2001

12 WED Death of Steve Biko, 1977

13 THU First day of Ramadan

15 SAT Racial Hatred Act, Australia, 1995

16 SUN 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

18 TUE Death of Dag Hammarskjold, 1961

19 WED Thailand Military Coup, 2006

21 FRI International Day of Peace

23 SUN 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Australian Consumers Association launched, 1959

27 THU Aung San Suu Kyi (Burma) forms National League for Democracy, 1988; World Maritime Day (this week)

28 FRI Death of John Pat in Roeburne Prison WA, 1983, initiated the royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

30 SUN 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Social Justice Sunday; Racial Discrimination Act proclaimed, Australia, 1975

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