



ACSJC BRIEFING

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IN THIS ISSUE

- [From the Secretariat](#)
- [Current Issues/Resources](#)
- [Latest Publications](#)
- [October Notices](#)
- [September News Monitor](#)
- [October Social Justice Calendar](#)

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

The 2007 Social Justice Sunday Statement – “Who Is My Neighbour? Australia’s role as a global citizen” – was launched at the Isabel Menton Theatre at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on Monday, 17th September.

Bishop Christopher Saunders and members of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and its Secretariat are very grateful to all who have been involved in the production, launch and promotion of the Catholic Bishops’ statement.

Dr Michael Fullilove, Director of the Global Issues Program of the Lowy Institute for International Policy, launched the Statement. Professor Frank Brennan SJ, of the Australian Catholic University and the University of Notre Dame Australia, delivered a response. The addresses are available for download from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Mrs Elsie Heiss of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Sydney and Chairwoman of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council, acknowledged the traditional custodians and welcomed all in attendance.

Australia's foreign policy for mainstream debate

In launching the Statement, Dr Michael Fullilove argued that weighty and often sensitive issues of foreign policy should be the subject of detailed and exhaustive public debate.

“Sometimes in my business, in foreign policy, there’s a sense that foreign policy is technical and difficult stuff which should be left to the experts – to the secular clerisy of officials and people like me – rather than being opened up to the laypeople. Sometimes people say foreign policy is too important for domestic political discussion. I believe the exact opposite: foreign policy is too important to be excluded from domestic political discussion.

“There should be an open conversation on international affairs and the Australian people should be invited to participate” Dr Fullilove said.

On the central scriptural text of the Statement, Dr Fullilove said, “The parable of the Good Samaritan makes a bold statement. It provides a very broad definition of our neighbours, and of our duty to them.

“And similarly this Statement makes a bold claim: it says we should consider not just the national interest – which is the mainstay of my field of international relations – but the neighbours’ interest.

“This Statement would be brave at any point in time – but it is particularly brave now, because when it comes to foreign policy, values are out of vogue,” Dr Fullilove said.

Discussing the tension between the “values-based” and the “realist” approaches to matters of foreign policy, Dr Fullilove explored in some detail Australia’s involvement with the US in the unilateral war in Iraq as well as the imposition of the death penalty in other jurisdictions.

“We know more about what is happening to people in other countries. And I think that will increasingly bring these foreign policy issues – these difficult choices – into the Australian mainstream. It is up to each of us to exercise our conscience and work out what our duty to our neighbours demands of us. It is up to each of us to decide what balance we should strike between our neighbours’ interest and our national interest.

“And in order to exercise our conscience we need a broad debate with many participants and lots of well-argued positions. For that reason I’m delighted to report that the Social Justice Sunday Statement 2007 is a very good document indeed – broad, interesting, well-researched, nuanced and accessible. Not everyone will agree with everything in it but it’s important that we hear it.”

The Good Samaritan – a parable not just for the politicians but for all of us

Responding to Dr Fullilove, Professor Frank Brennan SJ, who was involved in the drafting of the Statement, commented on the broad relevance of the Statement in today’s political climate.

“This statement gives heart to those seeking a greater contribution by Australia and Australians to global justice, in part because it is realistic and balanced, grounded in the scriptures and the church tradition, and attentive to political and economic realities. Prepared months before a federal election but for discussion in parishes during an election campaign, it is a clear, strong statement without being partisan or party political.

“The statement is not full of doom and gloom. It acknowledges that one of the blessings of living in a free and confident nation is that we have the opportunity to develop our gifts and contribute to a better world for those without the same gifts or opportunities.

“It is clear in making a call based not on guilt but on responsibility: a call for us Australians, better and more joyfully, to understand and to act more in the interests of our neighbours who do not share our prosperity and security.

“It realistically acknowledges that in a democracy, the government will usually be attentive to the aspirations and concerns of the voters who will insist that the government act in the national interest. The statement does not put all the weight on the politicians or the government, proclaiming incessantly, ‘They oughta ...’ Rather, it acknowledges: ‘A politician’s first instinct must be to act in the interests of her or his constituents, and in the national interest. But over time, constituents can encourage the politician, the political party and the government to act in accordance with values more inclusive’”.

Fr Frank reiterated the call of the bishops to our political leaders and all people alike in this election year: “We would be even more blessed if we lived in an Australia that: matched the best of the developed nations of the world in aid and development assistance; accepted the traditional Catholic doctrine opposing pre-emptive military strikes; included a majority of citizens who voluntarily assisted their offshore neighbours at times of crisis; supported the United Nations (though not uncritically) in efforts to provide the poor and weak nations of the world their due place at the table; consumed the cleanest and safest energy on the planet; provided asylum and humanitarian assistance in Australia to refugees fleeing directly to our shores in fear of persecution; and included parish and school communities that had good neighbourly relations with at least one parish or school community in the Asia-Pacific region.

A challenge that goes to the heart of our faith

Reflecting on the theology of solidarity developed in the encyclicals *Populorum progressio* and *Sollicitudo rei socialis*, Bishop Christopher Saunders said we have two practical and clear directions. “As children of God, we must commit ourselves to the common good of all – because we are all really responsible for all. And the good global citizen will explore the positives and negatives of globalisation from the perspective of those who are not faring well.

“In following Our Lord’s commandment of love, we must have an eye for the common good – for we are all created in the image and likeness of God and have responsibilities for our brothers and sisters. But we are called to go further; to exercise the preferential option – to seek out and assist the stranger, the outcast and even the most despised.”

The Bishop said, “The story of the Good Samaritan is perhaps the most memorable parable. It is an ethic, it underpins many institutions and is encapsulated in cultural values like ‘the fair go’ and ‘sticking up for the underdog’. Our politicians have identified this parable as a motivation in their leadership.

“We aspire always to be the Samaritan, and we associate with the brokenness of the victim lying half dead through eyes of the one who did not ‘pass by on the other side’ but was ‘moved by compassion’.

“The parable is so appealing, but its challenge goes to the heart of our faith. For how often are we, as individuals and as a nation, in the position of the young lawyer who posed the question that prompts Jesus’ parable: ‘Who is my neighbour?’ In effect, the question was one of ‘Who’s in and who’s out?’ or ‘Should my compassion extend beyond my people or my established boundaries?’”

The Bishop identified the dire circumstances that continue to be endured by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians – that these citizens continue to endure third world conditions amid the opulence of an economy that has boomed for well over a decade.

Referring to the many challenges Australia and Australians face at home and abroad, Bishop Saunders posed the question: “Will Australia pass by because the issue is too complex or other demands are too pressing? Will we just impose solutions from above? Or are we in there for the long haul, willing to work together to heal the wounds and address the challenges with all our sisters and brothers who need us?”

“As we approach Social Justice Sunday, it is my hope that this Statement will renew the commitment we share to seek out those in need and bandage the wounds caused by our times,” the Bishop said.

Catholic Bishops’ Statement and associated resources

Social Justice Sunday is celebrated on 30th September. There are many ways the message of the Bishops’ 2007 statement can be celebrated throughout the year and beyond.

The Secretariat still has copies of the Statement for those who would like to place an order. The Statement can be downloaded from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

There are other resources that are ideal for prayer and worship, personal reflection, discussion in classrooms and among groups. Prayers, teachers’ resources, liturgy notes, the Ten-Steps leaflet and prayer card, PowerPoint presentations and addresses delivered at the launch of the Statement can all be accessed via the ACSJC website.

An associated ecumenical resource has been produced through the Social Justice Network of the National Council of Churches of Australia. Details on this important resource, entitled “In Whose Interest? Australia as a global citizen”, are available on the NCCA website: <http://www.ncca.org.au>. Call NCCA (02) 9299 2215 or ACSJC (02) 9956 5811 for more details.

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer

CURRENT ISSUES/RESOURCES

BISHOPS' CONFERENCE 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>)

NETACT ELECTION KIT: 'VOTING FOR OUR VALUES'

For Christians the work of social transformation is not an optional extra. Jesus calls us to engage the society in which we live and to do what we can to transform it in line with the values of the Kingdom which He proclaimed by His words and example. As we prepare for the Federal Election we call to mind the values which will guide us in our voting decision, and the values which we yearn for within leadership. The NetAct Election Kit provides you with information and material for reflection and action in this time of a federal election. NetAct Election Kit: Voting for our values is available at www.scan.org.au/netact.html

QLD SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE: 'REFRESH AUSTRALIA! ADD VALUES TO BUILD PROSPERITY'

The Social Action Office of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, Queensland, has launched a community-based campaign aimed at taking action to add values to the discussions and debates in the current political climate. Three key policy areas are addressed: climate change and renewable energy; the future of Indigenous Australia; and industrial relations and our work/life balance. This campaign will extend well beyond the federal election 2007 as the issues and values implicit in the three agenda areas must be incorporated into ongoing policy development for the future prosperity of this country. To find out more about this campaign, visit the SAO website at: http://sao.clriq.org.au/refresh_australia/index.html

WEBSITE: 'THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION NETWORK'

The Conflict Resolution Network has an amazing website with many resources with practical application for local communities and in the field of social justice. The vision of the Network is to create a conflict-resolving community in a culture of peace and social justice. Conflict resolution builds stronger and more cohesive organisations and more rewarding relationships. The aim is to make conflict resolution skills, strategies and attitudes more readily and universally accessible. Most CRN material can be freely reproduced provided a copyright notice appears on each page. To find out more visit: <http://www.crnhq.org>

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>

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

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 encourages 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 <http://www.darfuraustralia.org>

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>*)*

ORDER NOW! – 2008 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2008 Diary focuses on the theme of poverty and affluence in Australia. It includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days that celebrate particular aspects of social justice and highlight the theme. It provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included.

This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to:

http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html

SERIES PAPER: TRAUMA AND FORGIVENESS: LESSONS FROM EAST TIMOR AND SOUTH AFRICA

Catholic Social Justice Series Paper No.60. Dr Mark Byrne considers the attempts of nations to heal the wounds left by violence by seeking “transitional justice” and setting up truth commissions. Dr Byrne looks at the theory and reality of truth commissions in South Africa and East Timor, and examines the roles of Archbishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa and Xanana Gusmao in Timor-Leste.

The paper questions whether damaged societies must choose between justice and forgiveness. “Justice and forgiveness are not opposites but complementary ways of achieving personal and national healing,” Dr Byrne writes. He acknowledges the difficulties that both nations faced in coming to terms with their past and sketches some ways in which transitional justice can be made more effective. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage – postage rates listed below)

2007 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT

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. A pdf and Word version of the Statement is also available at: <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>

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)

OCTOBER NOTICES

29 SEPTEMBER. WORKSHOP: 'COMING TO GRIPS WITH CLIMATE CHANGE' (ACT). This experiential workshop will offer an opportunity to express and process our responses to climate change and to explore what actions can be taken in our homes and community. Facilitators: Marg Jamieson and Meg Switzer. Crosbie Morrison Building, Australian National Botanic Gardens, 11 am to 4.30 pm. \$55. Bring your own lunch, or order from Hudson's Café. Information: (02) 6281 7010 or email mjamieson@netspeed.com.au. Workshop bookings must be made with the Gardens' Visitors Centre: (02) 6250 9540.

29 SEPTEMBER. THE SECOND FESTIVAL OF SEDITION IN HUSKISSON (NSW). Organised by the Shoalhaven Greens. Festivities start at 10 am; Speakers include Kerry Nettle, Greens Senator; Susan Ryan, AO, Chair of the Human Rights Act for Australia project; Chris Warren, President, Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance; Dr. Michael McKinley, Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Strategy, ANU. Art, music and poetry. Website: www.shoalhaven.nsw.greens.org.au or ring (02) 4465 1285 or 0438 651 287.

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 am – 4 pm, Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney. RSVP by 26 September to mariongambin@hotmail.com or (02) 8741 2326.

2 OCTOBER. PUBLIC LECTURE BY PROF. MICK DODSON: 'THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE' (VIC). Professor Mick Dodson is Director of the Australian National University's National Centre for Indigenous Studies, was Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner with HREOC and participated in the drafting of the text of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the UN. 6 pm – 7:30 pm, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham St, Carlton. Enquiries: (03) 8344 1096 or p.harris@unimelb.edu.au. Web: <http://www.humanrights.unimelb.edu.au>. RSVP: human-rights@unimelb.edu.au.

2 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (KINCUMBER): ‘AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE’ (NSW). Speakers: Mark Friedewald and Belinda Henry. The Kincumber Hotel, Avoca Drive. Info: (02) 4367 2743 or (02) 4334 3174. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

2 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (VERDUN): ‘SPIRITUALITY AND WORK’ (SA). Speakers: Peter Bean and Maurice Corcoran. Stanley Bridge Tavern, Onkaparinga Road, Verdun. Info: (08) 8388 5957. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

2–8 OCTOBER. ‘DEAD MAN WALKING’ – THE OPERA (NSW). Based on the Oscar-winning film and award-winning book by Sister Helen Prejean. State Theatre, Market St, Sydney, 6.30 pm October 2; 8 pm October 3, 4, 5, 6, 8. Information: www.deadmanwalking.com.au. Bookings through Ticketmaster on 136 100 or www.ticketmaster.com.au.

3 OCTOBER. SPEAKERS PANEL: ‘HUMAN RIGHTS AND AUSTRALIAN IDENTITY IN THE AGE OF TERROR’ (NSW). The September 11th terrorist attacks are remembered as ‘the day the world changed’. John Howard claimed that it was an attack on ‘the very values on which this nation is built.’ What are these values? What legal requirements are needed to protect them? Speakers: The Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser, AC CH; The Hon John Dowd AO QC; Professor George Williams; Moderator: Dr Ben Saul. UNSW Kensington Law Theatre 6.30 – 8 pm. (light refreshments served from 6 pm, doors open at 6.20). Cost: Free. http://www.amnesty.unsw.edu.au/upcoming_events.html.

3 October. FORUM ON 2007 SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT (QLD). Griffith University Multi-Faith Centre, Nathan, 7.15 – 9.30 pm. RSVP (07) 3735 7052 or mfc@griffith.edu.au.

3 OCTOBER. WORKSHOP: ‘CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE WORKPLACE’ (ACT). This workshop will offer an opportunity to express and process our responses to the reality of climate change and to explore what actions and strategies can be taken in our work environments. Crosbie Morrison Building, Australian National Botanic Gardens. 9 am to 1 pm. Cost: \$105 per person. Information: phone (02) 6281 7010 or email mjamieson@netspeed.com.au. Workshop bookings need to be made with the Gardens’ Visitors Centre: (02) 6250 9540.

3 October. Seminar: ‘Being sovereign – holding native title: Examining the aspirations for Prescribed Body Corporates’ (ACT). Presented for Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research by Lisa Strelein (Director, Native Title Research Unit, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies). 12.30 to 2 pm, Humanities Conference Room, First Floor, A.D. Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), ANU, Canberra. Enquiries: (02) 6125 0587 or email: admin.caepr@anu.edu.au. Web: <http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/events07.php>.

3 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (PADDINGTON): ‘THE HEART OF THE MATTER: PRAYER’ (NSW). Speakers: Fr Peter McGrath ofm and Sue Emeleus. Bellevue Hotel, 159 Hargrave Street, Paddington. Info: (02) 9387 3152. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

4 OCTOBER. FRIENDS OF DILI FUND-RAISING DINNER (ACT). Guest speaker Tim Fischer: ‘My Vision for East Timor in 2020’. 7 pm, Deakin Sports Club, Grose Street, Deakin ACT. \$60/\$45. RSVP (02) 62 877512 or mobile 0423 931 753.

4 OCTOBER LECTURE: 'TRANSFORMING RIGHTS: THE ROLE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT' (NSW). Australian Human Rights Centre Annual Public Lecture. Professor Sandra Liebenberg, HF Oppenheimer Chairperson in Human Rights Law, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Law Auditorium, Law Building, NSW University, 6.30 pm. Details: (02) 9385 1803. Web: <http://www.ahrcentre.org/>

4 OCTOBER. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'ISLAM, REBELLION AND TERRORISM' (VIC). Speaker: Waleed Aly; presented in association with the International Commission of Jurists Victoria. Mr Waleed Aly will provide an overview of classical Islamic juristic discourses on rebellion and political violence and consider how these might be applied in the modern era to terrorism. 6 pm – 7.30 pm, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton 3053. Enquiries: (03) 8344 1153 or d.costello@unimelb.edu.au. Web: <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au>. RSVP: law-rsvp@unimelb.edu.au.

4–5 OCTOBER. CONFERENCE ON COSMOPOLITAN CIVIL SOCIETIES (NSW). Presented by University of Technology, Sydney. What does cosmopolitanism mean in an age where globalisation is accompanied by the War on Terror and where unprecedented levels of international migration are accompanied by attacks on multiculturalism and heightened 'border security' politics? Building 2, City Campus, UTS. Enquiries: (02) 9514 2904 or email ccs@uts.edu.au. Register online at <https://www.conferenceonline.com/index.cfm?page=booking&object=conference&id=9255&categorykey=170F94C1-3B1F-4649-9532-0A8FAE81AAFB&clear=1>.

7 OCTOBER. WALK AGAINST WANT (QLD) Includes festival and displays. Southbank Cultural Forecourt, South Brisbane. 1 pm – 5 pm. For more information go to <http://groups.google.com/group/oxfamug/web/walk-2007>.

10 OCTOBER. THE LONG WALK WOMEN'S LUNCH (VIC). MC Deborah Cheetham; Musical performance by Christine Anu; auction, door prizes. 12 pm – 3 pm, San Remo Ballroom, Nicholson Street, Carlton. Everyone is welcome. Tickets \$88 each; tables of 10 \$880. For further information and copy of invitation, contact the PR Exchange on (03) 9596 7341. Phone (03) 9686 4344; Fax (03) 9686 4355; Email admin@thelongwalk.com.au.

10 OCTOBER. FORUM: 'DOES AID WORK COME AT A COST?' (VIC). Hosted by the Antares Foundation. The forum will explore the psychological impact of aid work for organisations and individuals. Venue: Yasuko Hiraoko Myer Room, Sydney Myer Asia Centre, Swanston St., University of Melbourne. Details: 8.45 am to 5 pm. Cost: \$120 full, \$60 students. Registration: www.antaresfoundation.org.au.

10 OCTOBER. SEMINAR: 'CONTEMPORARY ABORIGINAL INTELLECTUALS AND THE LANGUAGE OF RIGHTS: LARISSA BEHRENDT' (ACT). Presented for Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research by Katarina Ferro (PhD Scholar, CAEPR). Indigenous intellectuals have often spoken out for Indigenous rights in all areas of Indigenous policy, a fact rarely acknowledged in scholarship. This paper explores Larissa Behrendt's intellectual development and her approach to Indigenous rights. 12.30 to 2 pm, Humanities Conference Room, 1st Floor, AD Hope Bldg 14 (opposite Chifley Library), ANU, Canberra. Enquiries: (02) 6125 0587 or email: admin.caepr@anu.edu.au. Web: <http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/events07.php>.

11 OCTOBER. ADDRESS: ANTHONY LOWENSTEIN (ACT). Presented by Australians for Justice and Peace in Palestine. 6.30 pm, Manning Clarke Theatre 3, Australian National University. Anthony Lowenstein is the author of *My Israel Question*, a board member of Macquarie University's Centre for Middle East and North African Studies and an Honorary Associate at Macquarie University's Department of Politics and International Relations. Contact kevgwen@grapevine.net.au; tel. (02) 6251 2087 or 0409 584 342.

11–14 OCTOBER. LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FORUM (vic). The 4-day forum aims to strengthen international coordination and solidarity with those fighting neoliberalism. Melbourne Trades Hall and Storey Hall, RMIT. Childcare available. Information: info@solidarityforum2007.org. Web: http://www.venezuelasolidarity.org/files/images/LAAPISF_Leaflet_FINAL2.pdf.

12 OCTOBER. JULIE TONGS DELIVERS THE ANNUAL DAVID HUNTER MEMORIAL LECTURE (ACT). Julie Tongs is CEO of Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services. David Hunter was one of the founding members of ANTaR and the Journey of Healing in the ACT. 6.30 – 8.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C) 15 Blackall Street (cnr King's Ave), Barton ACT 2600. No RSVP or registration is required.

12–14 OCTOBER. NATIONAL CONGRESS, AUSTRALIANS FOR NATIVE TITLE AND RECONCILIATION (ANTAR) (ACT). Confirmed speakers include Olga Havnen (Combined NT Aboriginal Organisations), Muriel Bamblett (Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)) and Tom Calma (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner). Enquiries: 1300 738 078 or (02) 9555 6138, or email congress@antar.org.au. Web: <http://www.antar.org.au/congress>.

14–21 OCTOBER. ANTI POVERTY WEEK 2007 (NATIONAL). There are scores of activities of all descriptions in all states for anti-poverty week. For information on activities near you, go to: www.antipovertyweek.org.au. Here are only a few examples:

NSW: Seminar: 'Addressing the Equity Impacts of Climate Change' (Petersham Town Hall, 107 Crystal Street, Petersham, 16 Oct, 9 am – 3 pm).

Seminar: 'Exploring new understandings of poverty and what we can do about it'. (Macquarie Bank Building, Level 22, 20 Bond Street, Sydney 16 Oct 12 pm – 2 pm).

Conference: 'Perspectives on Poverty' (NSW Teachers Federation Auditorium, Surry Hills, 17 Oct 8.30 – 4.30)

VIC: What's Fair @Anti-Poverty Week 2007. Fair trade week: facilitating a discussion about what is fair in relation to trade, work and consumerism.

Information day, Swinburne University (15 Oct, all day).

Forum: 'Housing Stress and Homelessness'. (Balla Balla Community Centre, 65 Berwick Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne, 16 Oct, 9.30 – 3.30).

Screening of 'China Blue' and a discussion with Liz Thompson (Fairwear Victoria) and Michele O'Neil (Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union) on sweatshop labour and workers rights in Australia and Asia. (18 Oct, 6.15 – 8 pm, University of Melbourne, Law School, 185

Pelham Street, Carlton).

ACT: If you have any events or activities in mind (or can dream up and plan one) please contact Gordon Ramsay from Kippax Uniting Church, so that we can include it in the publicity that will be distributed for the week. Posters are also available through Gordon, or through Meredith Hunter at the Youth Coalition Office, 46 Clianthus St O'Connor. Kippax Uniting Church, (02) 6254 1733; gordon@kippax.org.au.

QLD: Concert: 'It's Time You Asked' In aid of Vital Connection Soup Kitchen for homeless persons in the Brisbane CBD. (Brisbane City Hall, Tickets at QTIIX, 14 Oct 6.30 pm)

TAS: Launch: 'The Indicators of Poverty' report – an analysis of poverty in Tasmania (Community Central, Davey Street, Hobart, 14 Oct).

Forum: Life below the line: Poverty, Social Exclusion, and Disadvantage, Featuring Dr Kay Cook, Prof Peter Saunders, and Dr Rowland Atkinson. (Door of Hope Auditorium, Glen Dhu Street, Launceston, 11.30-5 pm, 15 Oct).

Forum: 'Breakfast with Tim Costello' (High Tide Waterfront Restaurant, Devonport, 18 Oct 6 am)

SA: Emergency Relief Conference (Salvation Army Centre, 277 Pirie Street, Adelaide 18 Oct 8.30 – 5)

WA: Free Community Luncheon and display about poverty and the services provided by the Salvation Army and the Gosnells Community Legal Centre. (18 Oct 11.30 am, Salvation Army, Goodall Street, Gosnells)

15 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (NORTH SYDNEY): 'HUMAN DIGNITY AND BUSINESS ETHICS' (NSW). Speakers: Ann Austin and Paul Summerhayes. Info: (02) 9958 5963. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

16 OCTOBER. SEMINAR: 'THE STATUTORY PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND PARLIAMENTARY SOVEREIGNTY – GUIDANCE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM?' (ACT). Adjunct Professor Geoffrey Lindell, presented by the Centre for International and Public Law. 1 pm (sandwiches from 12.45 pm), The Phillipa Weeks Staff Library Level 1, ANU College of Law, Cnr Fellows and East Roads. RSVP: cipl@law.anu.edu.au by 12 October 2007. Web: <http://law.anu.edu.au/cipl/Lectures&Seminars/2007/Lindell%20-%2016%20Oct.pdf>.

17 OCTOBER. CONFERENCE: 'POVERTY AND DIGNITY' (NSW). To mark International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Program Highlights: Professor Mark Peel, Author of 'The Lowest Rung: Voices of Australian Poverty'; Dr John Falzon, social justice advocate and CEO St Vincent de Paul Society National Council. University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown Campus (free parking available) 9 am – 4 pm. Morning tea and lunch included. For information and registration form, contact (02) 4627 9018 or email: animation@svdpwgong.org.au.

17 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (ENGADINE) – 'A PLACE FOR EVERYONE' (NSW). Speakers TBA. Sutherland United Services Club. Info: (02) 9520 0617 or (02) 9548 2475. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

17 OCTOBER. DISCUSSION: 'EXPLORING THE SPIRITUAL LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES' (VIC). With Professor John Swinton (Kings College, Aberdeen University). Presented by Quality of Life and Social Justice Flagship, Australian Catholic University and National Disability Services. 5 pm – 6 pm, Australian Catholic University Christ Lecture Theatre, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy. Refreshments provided at 4.30 pm. Contact: (03) 9953 3221 or (03) 9953 3416; email: rhonda.kinniburgh@acu.edu.au. RSVP: Thursday, 27th September 2007.

17 OCTOBER. FEDERAL ELECTION FORUM (QLD). Co-hosted by the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission and other church bodies. 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm at the Broadwater Road Uniting Church, Mansfield. Enquiries (07) 3336 9173. Email: arndtp@bne.catholic.net.au.

17 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (WAITARA): 'OURS IS A DESTITUTE TIME. WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD FOR RELIGION?' (NSW). Speakers: Margaret Hinchey rsm and John Cogley. The Blue Gum Hotel, Waitara. Info: (02) 9869 1036 a.h. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

17 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (BULLEEN): 'YOUTH PRESENT THEIR PERSPECTIVE ON FAITH, LEADERSHIP, JUSTICE' (VIC). The Veneto Club, Sala Venetia Room. Call (03) 9850 7111 to book; Dinner arrive 6 for 6.30, session 8 – 9.30 pm. Info: 0417 319 556. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

18 OCTOBER. SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM FOR FEDERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES (ACT). Presented by the Centre For an Ethical Society. Election candidates will discuss their parties' views on social justice issues. Speakers: Gary Humphries, Liberal Senator for the ACT; Bob McMullan, ALP member for Fraser; Lyn Allison, Senator for Victoria and Leader of the Australian Democrats; Kerrie Tucker, Green ACT Senate Candidate. 7.30 pm at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton. Chair: Bishop George Browning. Contact (02) 6295 3680 or (02) 6286 8584.

18 OCTOBER. PRESENTATION: 'THE LOTUS AND THE GUM TREE. BUDDHISM IN THE WEST' (ACT). A presentation by Ven. Alex Bruce. Alex Bruce is an ordained Buddhist Monk in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, with a Masters degree in Theology. 7.45 pm at St James Church Centre, 40 Gillies St, Curtin. Entry: \$5.00 (members), \$8.00 (non members). Enquiries: (02) 6281 7419, (02) 6282 3363.

18 OCTOBER. FORUM: 'CALL TO AUSTRALIA: STOP FUELLING NUCLEAR WEAPONS' (NSW). An event of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, with The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, United Nations Association (NSW Branch), Medical Association for Prevention of War, WILPF. Speakers: Stuart Rees (Director, Sydney Peace Foundation, University of Sydney), Jessica Morrison (Australian Director, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN)). 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm, Sydney University, Mackie Building (Room114), Arundel Street, Glebe. Contact 0431 519 577; email jessica@icanw.org.

18 – 19 OCTOBER. CONFERENCE: 'WORKING FOR A FAIR, JUST AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN THE 21ST CENTURY' (NSW). Presented by Public Interest Advocacy Centre to mark its 25th anniversary. Keynote address: 'The participation of civil society in Australian democracy' by Prof Larissa Behrendt, Director, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning, University of Technology Sydney. Wesley Centre, Pitt Street, Sydney. Register at www.piacconference.com.

20 OCTOBER. 'MAKE INDIGENOUS POVERTY HISTORY' – FORUM AND ACTION PLANNING DAY (QLD). Hosted by Churches Together Indigenous Peoples Partnership. 10 am – 5 pm, Aspinall Centre, corner Klumpp & Logan Roads, Upper Mt Gravatt. \$40/\$30; registrations and payments to Queensland Churches Together on (07) 3369 6792 or admin@qct.org.au.

24 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (PENRITH): 'LIVING OUR SPIRITUALITY: A QUESTION FOR YOUNG AND OLD' (NSW). Speakers TBA. Penrith Golf Club. Info: (02) 9760 2324. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

26 OCTOBER. SEMINAR: 'PARTICIPATING TO TRANSFORM' (ACT). A seminar examining women's empowerment and transformation through action, presented by the NSW Ecumenical Council. Keynote speaker: Donna Mulhearn; other presenters: Gabrielle Russell-Mundine, Sr. Trish Madigan. 10 am – 2.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 16 Blackall St, Barton, ACT. Registration: \$20; lunch provided. RSVP to: cloy@ncca.org.au (02) 9299 2215.

27 OCTOBER. GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS TORCH RELAY ARRIVES IN SYDNEY. The Global Human Rights Torch Relay is one of a series of events initiated by the Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (CIPFG) with the message that Olympics and crimes against humanity cannot coexist in China. The Human Rights Torch will be relayed through over 35 countries from August 2007 until August 2008. Information: 0425 752 398. Web: www.humanrightstorch.org.

27 OCTOBER. ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGE AROUND CENTRAL CANBERRA CHURCH SITES (ACT). Join us as we walk, share and pray together in a pilgrimage linking churches and communities. 9 am – 1 pm. Begin St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner Canberra Ave and State Circle, Forrest. Walk to Wesley Uniting Church, Forrest; St Christopher's Cathedral (Roman Catholic), Manuka; St Paul's Anglican, Manuka; Canberra Baptist Church, Kingston; Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton, and back to St Andrew's for lunch. There will be a chance to pray in each church en route. All welcome. Information: (02) 6163 4302 or email margaret.ryan@cg.catholic.org.au.

31 OCTOBER. 2007 MARY WARD JUSTICE LECTURE: 'PUBLIC VIRTUE, PRIVATE VICE' (NSW). Dr Attracta Lagan and Fr Frank Brennan SJ in conversation, facilitated by Dr Simon Longstaff. Loreto Kirribilli Auditorium, 85 Carabella Street, Kirribilli NSW. Light refreshments will be served from 6:30 pm Entry \$10. Limited seating, bookings essential. Contact (02) 9957 4722 or knass@loreto.nsw.edu.au.

7 NOVEMBER. SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE LECTURE (NSW). Delivered by Dr Hans Blix, Swedish diplomat, international human rights lawyer, weapons inspector and disarmament campaigner. Sydney Town Hall, 6.30 pm. Adults \$30, concession \$25. Bookings at Ticketek: 132 849 or www.ticketek.com.au. Web: http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/events.shtml#2006SPP_AwardCeremony

8 NOVEMBER. SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE AWARD AND GALA DINNER (NSW). In honour of Dr Hans Blix. 7 pm, Great Hall, University of Sydney. Contact Sydney Peace Foundation, (02) 9351 4468, email spf@arts.usyd.edu.au. Web: http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/events.shtml#2006SPP_AwardCeremony.

SEPTEMBER NEWS MONITOR

Election to decide Nauru refugees fate: Brennan

Notre Dame Australia Professor Frank Brennan said that the forthcoming election will decide the fate of the 72 proven refugees now waiting on Nauru.

Developed countries have missed plot: Toohey

Wilcannia-Forbes Bishop Chris Toohey told a London conference that developed countries have "missed the plot" on the long-term future of the planet.

Build alliance between man and environment: Benedict

Pope Benedict called for intensified cooperation to build an alliance between man and the environment.

Australia a "global citizen": Social Justice statement

'Australia as a global citizen' was the theme of the Australian Bishops' statement for Social Justice Sunday, which was observed at the end of the month.

No excuses for not feeding people

Answering questions asked by US bishops, the Holy See issued a statement reiterating that the removal of feeding tubes from people in vegetative states is immoral.

Compliance burden a danger to those "who fall between cracks": Power

Canberra Auxiliary Bishop Pat Power warned that compliance burdens imposed by the government, and even the church, could put at risk the many people "who fall between the cracks".

Ncube defiant against "wicked" Zim regime

Outspoken Zimbabwean Archbishop Pius Ncube vowed not to be silenced by President Mugabe's "wicked" regime.

Renters more likely to postpone doctor visits: Catholic Health finds

A Catholic Health Australia survey found that people who rent their homes are three times more likely than home owners to postpone visiting a doctor for reasons of cost.

Go and live in Indigenous communities: Abbott

Federal Health Minister Tony Abbott challenged church workers to go and live in Indigenous communities as a way of living "the preferential option for the poor".

World's "first climate refugees" to visit Australia

Two so-called "climate refugees" visited Australia. They are from Papua New Guinea's Carteret Islands near Bougainville, where people are being displaced by rising sea levels.

No to torture, Benedict emphasises

Pope Benedict said that no form of torture can be condoned.

Vatican approves inclusive language for Canadian lectionary

The Holy See gave approval for the Church in Canada to use a lectionary that incorporates inclusive language.

Climate change, water of "utmost importance": Benedict insists

Pope Benedict delivered a sharp message to a youth congress in Loreto, Italy, concerning the need to defend the environment.

APEC agenda "fluff": Caritas chief

The agenda for the APEC meeting was "fluff" and failed to address major climate change issues including changing weather patterns and water supplies, according to Caritas Australia CEO Jack de Groot.

- courtesy Church Resources' CathNews, stories in detail at <http://www.cathnews.com/news/709>

OCTOBER SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

- 1 MON** International Day of Older Persons; Second Bali bombing - 20 people killed, including 4 Australians, 2005
- 2 TUE** Mahatma Gandhi born, 1869; Shooting in Amish Community, Pennsylvania, USA, 2006
- 3 WED** Day of Jewish and Christian Dialogue
- 4 THU** St Francis of Assisi; World Space Week commences: First space Sputnik launched by the Soviet Union, 1957; World Habitat Day; World Animal Welfare Day
- 5 FRI** UN World Teachers Day
- 7 SUN** 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 9 TUE** World Post Day
- 10 WED** International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction; Treaty on the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, 1967 World Mental Health Day
- 11 THU** Opening Session of Vatican Council II, 1962
- 12 FRI** Bombs explode at Bali's Kuta Beach, 2002: death of 202 people including 88 Australians
- 13 SAT** International Water Week; International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
- 14 SUN** 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 15 MON** World Rural Women's Day

16 TUE World Food Day; Rigoberta Menchu Tum (Guatemala) receives Nobel Peace Prize, 1992, in acknowledgement of her work for human rights of indigenous people – first Indigenous recipient

17 WED International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

19 FRI Beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 2003; Amnesty International Candle Day; Sinking of Siev X, 2001

21 SUN 29 th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Mission Sunday

24 WED United Nations Day; World Development Information Day; Disarmament Week commences

25 THU Universal Children's Day

26 FRI World Teachers Day (Australia); Uluru handed back to traditional owners, the Mutijuli people, 1985

28 SUN 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 Briefing is sent by email at the beginning of each month (except January). To subscribe or unsubscribe, go to the front page of the website Comments and contributions are also welcome.