



## No. 91 – June 2008

*From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council,  
the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia*

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

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### FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends

As we celebrate national reconciliation week (27 May - 3 June), we have the opportunity to acknowledge the rich culture and history of the first Australians. The theme for National Reconciliation Week is 'Reconciliation: it's all our story'. As organisers of the week have said, 'It's the ideal time for all of us to join the reconciliation conversation and to think about how we can help turn around the disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people'. (refer: <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/i-cms.isp?page=97>)

It is about building on the achievements towards National Reconciliation, particularly through the tireless work of Indigenous leaders for justice over many years, and considering how we now proceed on the shared journey of healing.

### 2008 Sydney Peace Prize

It was significant that Patrick Dodson, known by many as 'the father of reconciliation', was recently awarded the 2008 Sydney Peace Prize. The award was made for his 'courageous advocacy of the human rights of Indigenous people, for distinguished leadership of the reconciliation movement and for a lifetime of commitment to peace with justice, through dialogue and many other expressions on non-violence'.

The Sydney Peace Foundation Director, Professor Stuart Rees said, 'The jury was impressed with Patrick's work for reconciliation internationally - in Northern Ireland and in South Africa - as well as by his creative leadership of the Lingiari Foundation and as inaugural chair of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. In the history of this Peace Prize, Patrick is only the second Australian recipient. In 2001, former Governor General Sir William Deane was recognised for his work with Aboriginal Australians and on that occasion he was presented with the Prize by the Reconciliation chair, Patrick Dodson.'

Phil Glendenning of the Edmund Rice Centre has worked closely with Patrick Dodson for many years. Commenting on news of the award Phil said, 'This is a wonderful choice. Patrick is a great communicator, a significant leader, the nearest Australia has to a Nelson Mandela.'

Mr. Dodson said, 'I would be very honoured to receive the Sydney Peace Prize. I thank the jury for considering me and my work worthy of such recognition.' He will give the City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture on 5 November in the concert hall of the Sydney Opera House. On 6 November he will receive the 2008 Sydney Peace Prize at a gala ceremony in the Great Hall of Sydney University. (refer: <http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/prize.shtml>)

## Prayers for Reconciliation

Recognising the significance of Sorry Day, following the recent National Apology to the Stolen Generations and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Catholic Bishops called for all Australians to renew their commitment to reconciliation.

In the lead up to Sorry Day (26 May), the Bishops' Commission for relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders said that the Apology 'was the culmination of many calls to acknowledge the harm done to Australian Indigenous people, not only at the time of white settlement, but through a prolonged lack of respect for Aboriginal people, including the removal of children from their parents - the Stolen Generation.

'Aboriginal and Islander people believe that the truth has finally been acknowledged, allowing them to experience an equality, a dignity and an acceptance in their own land. The hope of all Australians is surely that the Prime Minister's apology and this annual Sorry Day, will translate into a continuing process of cultural respect and acceptance for all the peoples who make up the Australian nation.'

The Bishops' Commission said that, 'For the Christian community, the words of Jesus are a challenge to us all: "by this shall all know that you are my disciples, if you have love, one for another" (Jn 13:35). There is no room for racism or discrimination; there is only a call to harmony through mutual respect and a future based on hope.' (refer: <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bc/atsip/200805241548.htm>)

The following evening, Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue delivered her Reconciliation Week address in St Peter's Anglican Cathedral in Adelaide. In this, her final public address, she called on Christians to continue to work for justice and reconciliation.

Professor O'Donoghue said, 'Reconciliation Week is always, in part, a celebration. It celebrates the belief in the fundamental equality of all human beings. And, stemming from this belief is a world view about how human beings should be treated.

'For me, this is the most simple and yet profound message of Christianity ... I reflect about the consequences when this belief is abandoned. And of course it has been abandoned in the treatment of Aboriginal people.'

Professor O'Donoghue recalled the involvement of the churches in the removal of children under government policy of forced separation. She noted the formal apologies of the churches for their part under the policy.

'Of course, the Australian churches have done much more than just apologise. They have been active partners in the Reconciliation movement.' Noting the work of church agencies in a broad range of areas including welfare, education and advocacy, she said that 'through work like this, the churches and other agencies have recognised that it is now time to move on, beyond Sorry, and to focus on the journey of healing and justice.'

Looking at the many unimplemented recommendations of the 'Bringing The Home' Report, and the need to act on these, she said that the Australian community needs to develop 'a genuine mindset that sees the rights of Aboriginal people as being as important as the rights of anyone else. This means that where rights have been taken away and where damages have been done, reparations need to be made. This is a basic principle of law and yet largely, it has not applied to Aboriginal people generally, or to the Stolen Generations in particular'.

Regarding the programs currently being implemented in remote Indigenous communities, the Professor emphasised that these needed to be 'driven by a human rights perspective'.

'As I have said for many years, it is not about short term programs and quick fixes. It is about sustainable ongoing solutions that are negotiated with each community. And it is about putting in appropriate people and resources for the long haul.' (refer: [http://www.abc.net.au/news/opinion/speeches/files/20080527\\_o'donoghue.pdf](http://www.abc.net.au/news/opinion/speeches/files/20080527_o'donoghue.pdf))

## Call for more respectful intervention

As the annual Social Justice Report was being tabled in Parliament in March, Mr Tom Calma, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, called on Government to maximise protection of children from abuse without racially discriminating against Indigenous people. A 10-point plan to modify the Northern Territory intervention legislation is a major element of the *Social Justice Report 2007*.

'In putting forth this plan, I note that the new Federal Government has emphasised the importance of ensuring that the NT intervention is consistent with Australia's human rights obligations. But the fact is, as long as the NT intervention allows the conduct of racially discriminatory actions it will lack legitimacy among Aboriginal people and communities as well as the broader Australian society.

'Over the last 18 months we've seen sustained media coverage of child abuse and family violence, but we've rarely seen or heard how Indigenous people and communities across Australia are taking positive steps to respond to this violence, abuse and neglect.

'I have provided 19 case studies in the *Social Justice Report 2007* as evidence of what can be achieved in the fight against child abuse and family violence in Indigenous communities when there is true engagement with Indigenous people.' Mr Calma said.

Among the items of the proposed 10-point plan are calls for:

- Reinstating protections against racial discrimination in the operation of the NT intervention legislation;
- Requiring consent to be obtained in the management of Indigenous property and amending the legislation to confirm the guarantee of just-terms compensation;
- Ensuring the effective participation of Indigenous peoples in all aspects of the intervention; and
- Setting a timetable for the transition from an 'emergency' intervention to a community development plan.

Mr Calma said the proposed changes would ensure the protection of children and families, while respecting the human rights of Indigenous people and treating them with dignity.

The *Social Justice Report 2007* and other information can be accessed on the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission website: [www.humanrights.gov.au/social\\_justice/sj\\_report/sjreport07/](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/sj_report/sjreport07/)

Australians know that much more needs to be done to address the conditions of inequity and injustice endured by their Indigenous fellow citizens. As the theme of this year's National Reconciliation week suggests, we all have a role to play in addressing with determination the past hurts and current challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

John Ferguson  
National Executive Officer



## PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW CONTACT DETAILS

For written correspondence and other postage:

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council  
PO Box 7246  
ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015

The street location is: 24 - 32 O'Riordan  
Street, Alexandria

Phone: (02) 8306 3499

Fax: (02) 8306 3498

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY: 5 - 6 July 2008

The Australian Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People has released Liturgy Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. Bishop Brian Heenan says, 'This year, 2008, will go down in the short history of our Australian Nation, as one of great significance for on 13 February 2008, the Prime Minister delivered an apology to Indigenous People for all the injuries that they suffered as a result of the European arrival and settlement in 1788. Aboriginal sisters and brothers have told me that for the first time, they have felt that they have been given their rightful place in Australia. They no longer feel excluded but fully a part of Australian Society.

'We, as a Church, must celebrate this milestone but also ensure that our indigenous sisters and brothers feel welcome in our communities, our parishes and our dioceses. By honouring them in our liturgies or remembering them if they cannot be present, we make a clear statement that we want them to feel they are totally accepted, fully welcome and given the dignity they so richly deserve.'

The Liturgy resources, 'Celebrate the Living Spirit', are available for download on the website of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council: <http://www.natsicc.org.au/>

## WORLD YOUTH DAY COMMITTEE CALL

**FOR VOLUNTEERS.** The organisers of World Youth Day Sydney 2008 (WYD08) are offering volunteers the exciting opportunity to help thousands of pilgrims enjoy the activities of WYD08 as well as help Sydney celebrate the arrival of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. Volunteers will help in many areas including operations and crowd management, customer service, language and translations, staffing, hospitality & catering, accommodation, production, communications, liturgy and evangelisation. Volunteers can either work during the event week, 14 - 20 July, or in roles available preceding WYD08. All volunteers must be over the age of 18. WYD08 is taking applications now. For more information and to apply, visit [www.wyd2008.org/volunteer](http://www.wyd2008.org/volunteer) or call (02) 9390 5997.

## EDMUND RICE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE 'IMMERSION' PROGRAMS.

The Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice in Fremantle runs a series of Immersion programs domestically and internationally, providing the experience of another place and culture, typically among people who are materially poor and generally 'doing it tough'. An Immersion's purpose is to build relationships, and to 'walk a mile in their shoes'. Participants often report life-altering and immensely enriching experiences. The program uses 'experiential learning' principles, based on involvement in an activity, reflection on that, and then using that learning in other activities. The ultimate 'other activity' that is hoped for through the immersion process is a life-long commitment to social justice. Coming Immersions include: Broome and the Kimberly, 5 - 18 July; Perth and Poverty, 30 June - 4 July; Tanzania, 5 - 27 July. To find out more about these amazing Immersion experiences and to make a booking, contact (08) 9432 2400, [admin@erisj.org.au](mailto:admin@erisj.org.au). Web: <http://www.erisj.org.au/immersions.htm>

## INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

Launched in 2007, ICAN is a new campaign initiated by the International Physicians for the Prevention

of Nuclear War - a federation of medical professionals in 60 countries. It is hosted in Australia by the Medical Association for the Prevention of War. ICAN has joined with mayors, civil society groups, non-government organisations, churches and citizens to demand an end to nuclear weapons through a Nuclear Weapons Convention which will make nuclear weapons illegal, banning their development, possession, use and threat of use. ICAN focuses on the roots of the nuclear weapons problem - the continued possession of nuclear weapons by a small minority of countries who risk their use by design, accident, miscalculation or by terrorists, and whose weapons are an incentive to others to also become nuclear armed. It's time to finish the job we started: the total elimination of nuclear weapons. To find out more about ICAN and to support their campaign, visit the website: <http://www.icanw.org>

**POSITION VACANT: FAIRWEAR CAMPAIGN WORKER NSW - SYDNEY.** FairWear is a consumer campaign aimed at stopping the exploitation of outworkers and sweatshop workers in the clothing industry. The campaign involves education of consumers and working creatively to engage retailers and manufacturers to take steps to end the exploitation of outworkers. While the campaign is primarily focused on Australian based clothing production, we have commenced exploring how we might have an impact on international production for the Australian consumer market. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to workers' rights and social change. Hours: 25 per week; salary: \$22.80 per hour (SACS Grade 3); salary packaging available; commencement: July 2008. Applications close Thursday 12th June 2008. For more info contact 0409 841 208 or [fairwear@awatw.org.au](mailto:fairwear@awatw.org.au)

## Latest Publications

### **PASTORAL LETTER - FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2008**

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, entitled, 'Migrant workers in Australia - Our responsibility as a global citizen', considers the rights and protections Australia should ensure for an increasing number of workers who come to this nation to help meet growing skills shortages in the labour market. Available for download in regular and 'three-column' versions at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

### **DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2008**

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is *The Human Family, A Community 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 - 'CONFRONTING THE DEATH PENALTY'.**

The latest paper in the Catholic Social Justice Series consists of four essays by authoritative writers on the moral, legal and personal aspects of the death penalty. It considers capital punishment in the light of the attacks of September 2001, the international 'war on terror' and the moral and political problems thrown up as we see capital punishment rigorously applied in countries close to us. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers and the Social Justice Diary: \$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)

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499, fax (02) 8306 3481 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>



# This Month's Notices

**1 - 7 JUNE. THE NATURAL TEXTURES ART EXHIBITION (ACT).** An exhibition of Yvonna de Jong's nature photography. A percentage of all artwork sales at the exhibition will go to the Close the Gap Campaign, as well as creating community awareness of issues involved in Indigenous Communities. 'The Gallery', Monaro Crescent, Canberra Boys Grammar School, Red Hill. Email: [yvonna@naturescanvas.com.au](mailto:yvonna@naturescanvas.com.au); Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/events/act/>

**1 - 29 JUNE. EXHIBITION, 'A MOSQUITO NET ONCE TOLD ME' (VIC).** An opportunity to gain an insight into life in a mud hut, international development work and southern Sudanese culture. Organised by The Tomorrow Foundation. The organisation was established in 2005 to support Sudanese refugees in their resettlement journey in Australia, in addition to strengthening links between the newly arrived refugee communities and the broader Australian community through awareness raising programs and recreational activities. 8:00am - 5:00pm on Monday to Saturday, and 8:00am - 3pm on Sunday. APTE Café, 538 Heidelberg Rd, Alphington. Web: <http://www.tomorrow.org.au/newsletter.php>

**1 JUNE. AUSTRALIA-EAST TIMOR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION SA ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DINNER (SA).** Guest speakers include Dr Meredith Burgmann, speaking on the topic, 'Our debt to Timor-Leste and How We Can Repay It', and Elisabeth de Araujo, Program Co-ordinator for APHEDA, Dili. Tickets: \$25 members; \$35 non-members. 6:00pm for 6:30pm start, Ming's Palace, 157 Gouger Street, Adelaide. Contact: (08) 8295 6481 or 0422 968 531; Email: [aetfa.sa@gmail.com](mailto:aetfa.sa@gmail.com); Web: <http://www.unaa.org.au/praxis.php/category/view/4>

**2 JUNE. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: FROM IDEA TO NORM - AND ACTION?' (QLD).** Professor Ramesh Thakur will address the Burmese and international response to Cyclone Nargis, a subject that Professor Thakur has written on extensively in the international media. Professor Thakur

is a distinguished fellow at The Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo and was Senior Vice-Rector of the United Nations University (1998-2007). 6:00pm - 7:30pm, The Red Chamber, Old Parliament House, cnr George and Alice Streets, Brisbane. Contact: [naomi.smith@uq.edu.au](mailto:naomi.smith@uq.edu.au); Web: [http://www.uq.edu.au/events/event\\_view.php?event\\_id=4330](http://www.uq.edu.au/events/event_view.php?event_id=4330)

**3 JUNE. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'WHERE IS OUR HOME? SEEKING A HOME IN A TIME OF INSECURITY' (ACT).** Dr Penelope Mathew will discuss the plight of refugees in Australia within the broader context of homelessness. The lecture will begin by exploring Australians' sense of place or home. It will then move to examine the gap between Australia's international human rights obligations (with respect to refugees and to the right to adequate housing, for example) and current practice. 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Conference Room, Old Canberra House, Lennox Crossing, Australian National University. Contact: (02) 6125 4144; Email: [events@anu.edu.au](mailto:events@anu.edu.au); Web: [http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event\\_view.asp?id=27319](http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event_view.asp?id=27319)

**3 JUNE. FILM: 'TIBET: CRY OF THE SNOW LION' (SA).** Literature on Tibet and ideas to become involved in supporting the community will be available at the screening. Drinks will be available for purchase. Entry by donation only. All proceeds to the Gyalten Charity School in Tibet. Organised by the Barossa Buddhist Group and Amnesty International Australia. 7:30pm, Brenton Langbein Theatre, Barossa Arts and Convention Centre, Magnolia Rd, Tanunda. Web: <http://sant.amnesty.org.au/>

**4 JUNE. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'GROWING UP IN A MEDIA WORLD' (NSW).** Speakers include Fr Richard Leonard, Director of the Australian Catholic Film Office and author of 'Movies That Matter: Reading Film Through the Lens of Faith', and Clare Fitzgibbon, the Young Religious Education Co-ordinator at St Francis' Regional Primary School, Paddington. 7:30pm - 9:00pm, The Bellevue Hotel, 159 Hargrave Street, Paddington. Contact: (02)

9387 3152; Web: [http://www.sydneymasa.com.au/index.php?option=com\\_eventlist&Itemid=39&func=details&did=88](http://www.sydneymasa.com.au/index.php?option=com_eventlist&Itemid=39&func=details&did=88)

**4 JUNE. SEMINAR: 'TO RESPECT OR NOT TO RESPECT- ETHICAL DILEMMAS OF INGO DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS' (ACT).**

Most development practitioners would agree respect for local people and their culture is a paramount value that underpins our work. Recent debate has centred on how to strengthen NGO accountability to communities not only to make participation meaningful, but for the achievement of agreed outcomes. What is the ethical basis for NGOs challenging and seeking to change local cultures, belief and practices? Speaker: Conny Lenneberg, Head of International Programs, World Vision Australia. 10:00am - 11:30am, Seminar Room B, Coombs Building, Fellows Rd, Australian National University, Canberra. Contact: (02) 6125 0283; Email: [Barbara.Nelson@anu.edu.au](mailto:Barbara.Nelson@anu.edu.au); Web: [http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event\\_view.asp?id=27702](http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event_view.asp?id=27702)

**5 JUNE. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (NATIONAL).**

World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. The World Environment Day slogan for 2008 is 'Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy'. Recognising that climate change is becoming the defining issue of our era, UNEP is asking countries, companies and communities to focus on greenhouse gas emissions and how to reduce them. A comprehensive list of activities and celebrations in your state can be found at: [http://www.unep.org/wed/2008/english/Around\\_the\\_World/AsiaPacific.asp](http://www.unep.org/wed/2008/english/Around_the_World/AsiaPacific.asp)

**6 - 7 JUNE. FAITH DOING JUSTICE COURSE: 'A PREFERENTIAL LOVE FOR THE POOR' (VIC).**

This one day course will explore the scriptural foundations of the option for the poor, structural change, the place of the option in Church teaching, and Jesuits and the option for the poor. Presented by Sandie Cornish, Loyola Institute. Suggested donation: \$50. Registration essential. 9:00am, Champion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, 99 Studley Park Rd, Kew. Contact: (02) 8918 4152; Email:

[loyola@loyola.org.au](mailto:loyola@loyola.org.au); Web: [http://loyola.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=46&Itemid=71](http://loyola.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=46&Itemid=71)

**6 - 9 JUNE. THE DREAMING FESTIVAL (QLD).**

This three day and four night festival will have performing arts venues, bars, Ceremony grounds, traditional healing, galleries, rituals, campfire story circles and a mass of stalls, workshop avenue and food outlets. Presented by the Queensland Folk Festival, the program will also feature film & literature components, performing arts, New media and Digital technologies, food & wine fair, comedy, ceremony, exhibitions, performance artists, physical theatre, Visual arts, craft workshops, music program, street performers, musicals and a youth program. Camping facilities at the site for the duration of the festival are available. Ticket prices: various. Please check the website for further information. 8:00am - 8:00pm, Woodrow Rd, Woodford. Contact: 07 5496 1066; Email: [info@thedreamingfestival.com](mailto:info@thedreamingfestival.com); Web: <http://thedreamingfestival.com>

**9 JUNE. GLOBAL AFFAIRS DIALOGUES (NSW).**

Dialogues will explore the environmental impact of climate change, war and social strife, and the wide range of political and religious influences that shape our attitudes, values, and subsequently our actions. The object of these meetings is to raise awareness, and stimulate positive responses, which are both creative and feasible. DVDs, in conjunction with group conversations, will be shown at most meetings. 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. Contact: 0431 605 374; Email: [dialogue\\_quest@hotmail.com](mailto:dialogue_quest@hotmail.com); Web: [http://www.sydneymasa.com.au/index.php?option=com\\_eventlist&Itemid=39&func=details&did=57](http://www.sydneymasa.com.au/index.php?option=com_eventlist&Itemid=39&func=details&did=57)

**10 JUNE. LAUNCH OF THE 'WORKING WITH CHINESE COMMUNITIES' RESOURCE GUIDE (VIC).**

This guide will be launched by Councillor Geoff Lake and hosted by the Federation of Chinese Associations (Vic). The resource guide was produced by the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services. Event includes Chinese lunch and entertainment. 10:30am - 12:30pm, 44-48 Monclair Avenue, Glen Waverley. Contact: (03) 9665 4436; Email: [kasvestas@mfb.vic.gov.au](mailto:kasvestas@mfb.vic.gov.au)

Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>

**12 JUNE. UWS OPEN FORUM: 'TIBET AND ITS PEOPLE' (NSW).** This forum will provide an opportunity for the Western Sydney community to hear about the current situation in Tibet, and also to hear the views of a Tibetan refugee living in the Sydney community. Special guest speakers include Senator Andrew Bartlett, Deputy Leader of the Australian Democrats, and Mr. Tenpa Dugdak, Spokesman for the Voice of Tibet Inc. A short film about Tibetans living in Australia, 'I Tibet', will also be screened at the forum. Arrive at 5:30pm for nibbles and a 6:00pm start. University of Western Sydney, Parramatta Campus, Building EA, Lecture Theatre 19, Victoria Rd, Parramatta. RSVP by 10 June to [d.mey@uws.edu.au](mailto:d.mey@uws.edu.au). Enquiries: (02) 4570 1859; Web: [http://pubapps.uws.edu.au/events\\_diary/event.php?id=1058](http://pubapps.uws.edu.au/events_diary/event.php?id=1058)

**12 JUNE. LAUNCH OF REFUGEE MENTORING PROJECT (ACT).** Canberra Refugee Support is launching a project which has been established in partnership with Calvary Health Care ACT and other community organisations, to provide work or study related assistance to individuals with a refugee background. 11:00am, Cavalry Hospital, Bruce. Contact: 0408 283 849 or (02) 6201 6106; Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>

**13 JUNE. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'ZIMBABWE: DEPOTISM OR DEMOCRACY?' (NSW).** Guest speakers include Dr Meredith Burgmann and Peter Murphy, President and Secretary of the Zimbabwe Information Centre. The organisation was established in 1999 to promote democratic practices and the rule of law in Zimbabwe. 6:00pm-7:45pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: (02) 9518 5560; Email: [katebarton3@optusnet.com.au](mailto:katebarton3@optusnet.com.au); Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org>

**14 - 22 JUNE. ELEMENTS INDIGENOUS ART EXHIBITION (QLD).** 'Elements' is more than an exhibition of art; it is a celebration of the amazing diversity and wonderfully unique cultures of Indigenous Australia, and an opportunity to learn more and get involved in practical and symbolic reconciliation. The exhibition brings together art valued at more

than four million dollars by some of Australia's best Indigenous artists. The art will be available for purchase. Presented by Engineers Without Borders. The event coincides with the launch of the EWB Reconciliation Action Plan, as approved and registered by Reconciliation Australia. 10am - 4:30pm daily, Brisbane Room, Brisbane City Hall, St Georges Square, Brisbane. Contact: (03) 9696 9040; Email: [info@ewb.org.au](mailto:info@ewb.org.au); Web: <http://www.ewb.org.au/elements/>

**14 JUNE. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD (SA).** A celebration will be hosted by the youth group of the Liberian Community of SA in partnership with the African Communities Council of SA. 4:00pm till late. Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Rd, Enfield. Contact: 0411 378 408; Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>

**15 - 21 JUNE. AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE WEEK 2008 (NATIONAL)** Australia's Refugee Week theme of 'A Place to Call Home' encourages people to think about the global themes of protection and human rights by focusing on the fundamental right to a secure place to call home. It encourages Australians to think about our common obligations to people who have no secure home, as well as to acknowledge the 700,000 refugees and humanitarian migrants over the past 60 years who have made Australia their home. For further information on events in your state, please contact: (02) 9211 9333 or (03) 9348 2245, or email: [info@refugeecouncil.org.au](mailto:info@refugeecouncil.org.au). Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/refugeeweek.html>

**16 - 20 JUNE. REGISTRATION WEEK FOR CATHOLIC INSTITUTE OF SYDNEY COURSES ON JUSTICE AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE (NSW).** Ms Sandie Cornish of the Loyola Institute will be running the course 'Justice and the Catholic Church's Mission' from 16 - 17 August, 13 - 14 September, and 18 - 19 October. This course will explore what social justice is, what it has to do with evangelisation, the call to justice in Scripture, how the Catholic social justice tradition guides such efforts, and how Church teaching sees the promotion of justice as an essential part of the preaching of the Gospel. Fr Patrick J McInerney of the Columban Mission Institute is running a course on 'Interreligious

Dialogue' from 28 July - 21 November. The course will consider what is the appropriate Christian response to the fact of religious diversity, how dialogue is part of the Church's evangelising mission, what we can learn from believers in other religions, and how we can share with them our convictions. For further info on these courses and to register, contact the Catholic Institute of Sydney on (02) 9752 9500 or email [cisinfo@cis.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cisinfo@cis.catholic.edu.au). Web: [www.cis.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cis.catholic.edu.au)

**17 JUNE. OXFAM WALK OUR TALK EVENT: 'MINES AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA' (QLD)** Film/speaker night and fundraiser for Santulan projects. Share some Indian food, watch a DVD, listen to volunteers who recently visited our partner organisation Santulan, and make a small donation to contribute to Santulan's great projects. Santulan is a voluntary organisation dedicated to promoting the rights and empowerment of socially and economically marginalised communities in Pune, India. Please bring a small donation to help cover the costs of the Indian food, and to support these projects. 6:00pm - 8:00pm, University of Queensland Library Seminar Room, Level 1, SS&H Library, Building 2, St Lucia campus (end of Campbell Road, the continuation of Sir Fred Schonell Drive). Contact: (07) 3365 1671; Email: [jessie.wells@uq.edu.au](mailto:jessie.wells@uq.edu.au); Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/events/qld/>

**18 JUNE. SCREENING OF 'LIYARN NGARN' (NSW).** A compelling and inspiring documentary with music by Archie Roach. Donation: \$5.00, with proceeds to the Lingiari Foundation. Organised by the Aboriginal Support Group, Manly-Warringah. 10:00am, Collaroy Cinema, 109 Pittwater Rd, Collaroy. Contact: (02) 9913 7940; Email: [annadbel@bigpond.net.au](mailto:annadbel@bigpond.net.au); Web: <http://www.asgmwp.net>

**19 - 26 JUNE. AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE FILM FESTIVAL 2008 (NSW/ACT/SA).** Organised by Triumphant! International. Our mission is to open a safe space for refugees to be proud of who they are, both as individuals and as members of Australian society. We aim to create a world where refugees identify themselves as people who are powerful in the face of challenging circumstances, rather than as victims of those circumstances. Screenings and session times:  
June 19<sup>th</sup> (Sydney): 6:00pm, Pitt Street Uniting

Church, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney  
June 20<sup>th</sup> (Sydney): 1:00pm, Hazelhurst Gallery, 782 Kingsway, Gymea  
June 20<sup>th</sup> (Adelaide): 6:00pm, The Mercury Cinema, 13 Morphett Street, Adelaide  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> (Canberra): 6:00pm, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, North Building, 180 London Circuit, Canberra City  
June 26<sup>th</sup> (Sydney): 10:00am, Bankstown Town Hall, cnr Chapel Street and the Mall, Bankstown  
Email: [enquiries@triumphant.org.au](mailto:enquiries@triumphant.org.au) OR [filmfestival@triumphant.org.au](mailto:filmfestival@triumphant.org.au);  
Web: <http://www.triumphant.org.au/>

**20 JUNE. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'YOUTH - BEYOND THE MEDIA HYPE - THE REAL ISSUES' (NSW).** Guest speakers include Colin Stokes, Director, Glebe Youth Service; and Reynato Reodica, Executive Officer, Action and Policy Association (YAPA). 6:00pm-7:45pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: (02) 9518 5560; Email: [katebarton3@optusnet.com.au](mailto:katebarton3@optusnet.com.au); Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org>

**21 JUNE. OXFAM WALK AGAINST WANT: ALBURY-WODONGA (NSW).** Walkers will meet at National Foresters Ground in Lavington where they can enjoy a coffee or grab a sausage from the local rotary club. They then will walk 10.25km to the Watertower in Wodonga where they will be able to enjoy entertainment and relax after the walk. 10:00am, National Foresters Park, Lavington. To register, email: [tristan.williams@vispace.com.au](mailto:tristan.williams@vispace.com.au); Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/walk/wheretowalk/nsw/>

**21 JUNE. JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICES WINTER SOLSTICE BALL (NSW).** Money raised from this year's Jesuit Refugee Service Ball is going to provide educational scholarships refugees in Kenya and help sustain our ongoing asylum seeker homeless shelter in Sydney. Cost: \$150. Black tie dress. 6:30pm for 7pm start, Cockle Bay, Dockside, Darling Harbour. RSVP to [jrsball@gmail.com](mailto:jrsball@gmail.com). Contact: 0435 203 597, 0404 489 147 or 0438 537 714; Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>

**22 JUNE. 5TH BIRTHDAY OF BRIDGE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS FOUNDATION (NSW).** The Mayor of Leichhardt, Councillor Carolyn Allen,

will officially launch the birthday festivities and Hon Tanya Plibersek, Federal Member for Sydney and Minister for Housing, and refugee Prossy Tusabe will speak. Circle Cafe, 344 Darling Street, Balmain. RSVP essential by 12 June to [katemaclurcan@hotmail.com](mailto:katemaclurcan@hotmail.com)  
Contact: (02) 9810 5826; Web: <http://www.asylumseekersfoundation.com/>

**26 JUNE. 'MUSIKI DELI: SONGS FROM SOUTH AFRICA, SUDAN, CONGO AND BURUNDI' (VIC).** Hosted by ABC Music Deli's Paul Petran, this beautiful concert will feature sweet vocal harmonies and acoustic sounds from the African continent featuring Valanga Khoza (South Africa), William Kadima (Congo) and St. Bakhita's Sudanese Community Choir. Free event, but no bookings will be taken. 6:30pm for 7pm start. Iwaki Auditorium, ABC Southbank Centre, Southbank Boulevard, Southbank. Enquiries: (03) 9417 6777; Web: <http://www.multiculturalarts.com.au>

**26 - 27 JUNE. 'MAKING A DIFFERENCE CONFERENCE: SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR NEW AND EMERGING COMMUNITIES' (SA).** Hosted by the Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia, this conference will seek to address the key challenges identified by the Federal Government in the Australian Social Inclusion Agenda 2007, with a particular focus on new and emerging communities. Strategies will be developed for advancing social inclusion through outcomes in housing, health, community empowerment, education, employment and training, and social, cultural and recreational participation. Registration costs vary. Please refer to the website for details. Closing date for registration is June 4. Banquet Room, Adelaide Festival Centre, King Adelaide Rd, Adelaide. For further information, please contact: (08) 8217 9150 or email: [matti@mrcsa.com.au](mailto:matti@mrcsa.com.au); Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/news&events>

**30 JUNE - 3 JULY. 2008 AUSTRALIAN STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT CONFERENCE: 'WHAT IS CHURCH?' (NSW).** Issues that will be examined at the conference include 'Are we more "church" when we do social justice work than when we meet on Sundays', 'Do denominations have any meaning anymore', and 'How can we learn from the early followers of Jesus?' Cost: \$150 waged

or \$100 for students. Registration essential. Download a form on the ASCM website. Waratah Lodge, Katoomba. Contact: 0413 668 916; Email: [conference@ascm.org.au](mailto:conference@ascm.org.au); Web: <http://www.ascm.org.au/>

**30 JUNE - 4 JULY. CONFERENCE, 'GLOBALISATION FOR THE COMMON GOOD' (VIC).** A very significant conference on 'Globalisation for the Common Good: an interfaith perspective' is being held at Trinity College at the University of Melbourne. This conference takes as its theme: 'From the Middle East to Asia Pacific: Arc of Conflict or Dialogue of Cultures & Religions', with many eminent speakers from Australia and overseas. A number of undergraduate scholarships are available. For enquiries and further details contact (03) 9415 8292 or [enquiries@gcgmelbourne2008.info](mailto:enquiries@gcgmelbourne2008.info) Web: <http://www.gcgmelbourne2008.info>.

**2 - 4 JULY. 2008 INDIGENOUS STUDIES & INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE (TAS).** A key purpose of the ISIK Conferences is to draw colleagues from across the field of education and research to discuss and share developments in areas of Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous Studies. In 2008 we want to build on our discussions at previous conferences and also consider the place of Indigenous knowledges within the Rudd Government's policy platform of 'Education Revolution' for Australia. Hosted by Riawunna, Centre for Indigenous Education, University of Tasmania. Full registration: \$440 or Student Registration: \$330. Registration essential. Contact: (03) 6226 2517; Web: <http://www.isik.org.au>

**4 JULY. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'HOUSING AFFORDABILITY STRESS - WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?' (NSW).** Guest speakers include Professor Peter Phibbs, University of Western Sydney; and Michael Lennon, CEO, Housing Choices Australia. 6:00pm-7:45pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: (02) 9518 5560; Email: [katebarton3@optusnet.com.au](mailto:katebarton3@optusnet.com.au); Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org>

**4 - 6 JULY. WORKSHOP, ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE (ACT).** The Alternatives to Violence Project is a network of independent, not-

for-profit, volunteer groups which offer experiential workshops in non-violent problem solving and creative conflict transformation. A basic workshop will stimulate learning through an inclusive, community building environment that clients of your services may gain from, and staff may obtain new professional insights through. Each participant may expect personally to experience non-violence in action. The workshop will be

held from 6.00 pm on Friday night, all day Saturday and concluding at 3.00pm on Sunday at The Gathering Place, 4 Bancroft Street, in Dickson, Canberra. Fees: High income and professional \$160; Middle income \$90; Low income and unwaged participants \$40 or by negotiation. For further info or registration contact (02) 6251 0037, (02) 6251 2942, [davidlance@apex.net.au](mailto:davidlance@apex.net.au) OR [chendo@grapevine.com.au](mailto:chendo@grapevine.com.au) Web: <http://www.avp.org.au>

## News Monitor

### Dominican sisters fail to force Exxon on emission targets

Shareholders of oil company Exxon rejected resolutions submitted by Dominican Sisters in the United States which would required the company to adopt formal greenhouse gas reduction targets.

### Health reform excluding the poor: expert

In a new book, health expert Fr Gerard Arbuckle called for improved access of the poor to Australia's health system.

### No time for indifference to the hungry: Pope

Warning of a growing world hunger problem, Pope Benedict said that Christians who share the Eucharist must not remain indifferent to those who lack their daily bread.

### Homelessness a national disgrace: Rudd

Homelessness is a 'national obscenity' and it would be a disgrace if Australia failed to act on the issue, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said in a speech.

### GM food good: Vatican in policy switch

The Vatican moved from a neutral position in a Europe-US confrontation over GM food and will come down in favour of genetic modification in a major report to be released in June.

### Vatican fulfilling ozone obligations: Holy See envoy

The Holy See fulfilled its obligations under two international conventions to protect the ozone layer, a Vatican official announced.

### Rangoon archbishop in plea for "prompt and robust help"

Rangoon Archbishop Charles Bo issued a plea to the international community to sustain concern for suffering cyclone survivors saying 'Myanmar cannot be forgotten again.'

### US churches offer mortgage help

With US lenders threatening to repossess 650,000 homes in the first quarter of 2008, Catholic parishes are mobilising to offer assistance to mortgage distressed homeowners.

### Swan fires "first arrow" in Robin Hood budget: Falzon

Robin Hood may fired his first arrow, Vinnies head, Dr Paul Falzon said, welcoming a move in Treasurer Wayne Swan's first budget to overhaul a 'punitive Centrelink breaching regime.'

### Quarantine for Indigenous welfare cards undermines responsibility: CSSA

Quarantining welfare payments in indigenous communities fails to address the real issues putting children at risk and undermines people's sense of responsibility, according to Catholic Social Services Australia Executive Director, Frank Quinlan.

### Defend religious freedom: Jesuit calls on Muslims

Muslims must defend religious freedom if dialogue between Christianity and Islam is to progress, said a German Jesuit Islam expert.

### Rudd cites community hub need

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd cited a St Vincent de Paul Society proposal for community hubs in his 2020 Summit summary, Vinnies president Dr John Falzon said.

### Amazon rancher acquitted at Stang murder retrial

A Brazilian rancher been acquitted of the murder of Brazilian environmental activist Sr Dorothy Stang following a retrial.

### Van Nguyen lawyer receives ACU honorary doctorate

Victorian Supreme Court Justice Lex Lasry who defended executed drug courier Van Nguyen received an honorary doctorate from Australian Catholic University.

### Catholic teachers "morally obligated" to join rally: Union

Catholic teachers are 'morally obligated' to join teachers from public schools at a rally in favour of higher salaries, an independent teachers' union official said.

### Macklin in quick response to Isa crisis

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin announced a \$10,000 funding boost for Mt Isa support services after a local Catholic parish reported an influx of homeless people from the Northern Territory to escape government intervention policies.

### May Day focus on migrant workers

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council chair Bishop Christopher Saunders called for greater vigilance over the working conditions of migrant workers who are helping 'fill the gap' in job vacancies but who are often vulnerable.

### Vic agencies' clear path to social inclusion

Victorian Catholic agency, Sacred Heart Mission, launched an innovative three year program which aims to end the vicious cycle of homelessness for adults and open the path to social inclusion.

- *Courtesy CathNews from Church Resources. Click on story titles for more detail, or go to [cathnews.com](http://cathnews.com)*



## Social Justice Calendar

### 1 SUN

9th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 8 SUN

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 3 TUE

Mabo Day - High Court Decision in *Mabo* Case, 1992

Catholic and Anglican Martyrs of Uganda, 1886  
Day of Prayer for Catholic and Anglican Reconciliation

### 10 TUE

Myall Creek Massacre, 1838

Alcoholics Anonymous established in New York, 1935

### 4 WED

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

Tiananmen Square Massacre, 1989

### 11 WED

Assent for *Racial Discrimination Act*, 1975: the Australian Government ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1975 and on this day made it part of Australian law  
Neville Bonner becomes the first Aboriginal Australian to hold a seat in Federal Parliament

### 5 THU

World Environment Day - Focus: *Fostering Low-Carbon Economies*

**12 THU**

World Day Against Child Labour  
Aboriginal Flag first flown in Adelaide, 1971  
Barunga Statement presented to Prime Minister  
Bob Hawke by Aboriginal leaders, 1988

**15 SUN**

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**16 MON**

International Day of the African Child

**17 TUE**

World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought

**19 THU**

Equal pay for women in Australia, 1969

**20 FRI**

UN World Refugee Day

**22 SUN**

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Destruction of the Berlin Wall, 1989

**23 MON**

UN Public Service Day

**26 THU**

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit  
Drug Trafficking  
International Day in Support of Victims of  
Torture

**29 SUN**

Peter and Paul, Apostles (Solemnity)  
Jubilee Sunday

**30 MON**

Closure of ATSIC Regional Councils, 2005  
Introduction of unemployment benefits in  
Australia, 1945

*Notes on the above 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](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html), or call 02 8306 3499)*

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