



No. 92 – July 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>

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- From the Secretariat
- Current Issues/Resources
- Latest Publications
- This Month's Notices
- News Monitor
- Social Justice Calendar

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council is preparing for the launch of the Catholic Bishops' 2008 Social Justice Sunday Statement in September. In this year's Statement, *A Rich Young Nation*, the Bishops reflect on the challenge of affluence and poverty that has remained throughout the long period of economic growth in Australia.

The ACSJC wishes to draw your attention to this event and some associated resources that will be available for order and/or downloading from the ACSJC website.

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on 28 September. The Statement will be launched in the week prior to Social Justice Sunday. Hard copies of the Statement can be ordered through the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

Order forms are available on the ACSJC website.

The challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia

In their the statement, the Bishops reflect on the fact that Australia is a rich country in so many

ways, but there are many who live in spiritual poverty and many who have been bypassed by the economic growth and prosperity and who live in material poverty.

'Australia is a rich country in many ways. It has experienced spectacular economic growth and prosperity in recent years, and increasingly our international economic status has become a symbol of our national identity,' the Bishops say.

However, reflecting on the spiritual malaise caused by affluence and the dire need of some groups in Australia who remain very much in need, the Bishops observe how 'the challenge that Jesus presented to the rich young man (in the Gospel of Mark - 10:17-22) is the same we face in Australia today: will we use our great wealth for the benefit of all and particularly for those who have been denied the benefits of prosperity? Will we act on the challenge that Jesus offers, or will we too go away shocked at the challenge before us?'

The 2008 Social Justice Sunday Statement considers issues of materialism, consumerism and the overall affluence of our nation against the circumstances of vulnerable Australians who have been denied a fair share of the prosperity.

In 1992, towards the end of the last global recession, the Catholic Bishops of Australia warned of higher levels of serious poverty and the emergence of an underclass of gravely disadvantaged people. Now, the Bishops are renewing that call for justice for those afflicted by poverty. Some who are particularly vulnerable include Indigenous families and communities, single-parent families, low-paid workers, refugees, and people who are homeless.

The Bishops say that all Australian have a responsibility to rebuild community relationships that have been damaged by poverty and the division of wealth and opportunity. 'It is important that together we face the reality of poverty and seek ways to address it, however difficult that may be at a personal or societal level.

'As individual citizens, as families, parishes, communities and organisations, we can take the

initiative to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need and be enriched by what follows. For in welcoming the poor, the outcast and the stranger in need, we welcome the living Christ, our God and our Creator into our hearts and our lives,' the Bishops say.

The Statement includes practical suggestions as to how people can be involved in the social justice and charitable works of the Church.

To Order

Parishes, schools and groups can order printed copies (minimum of 10) from the ACSJC. Order form and cost details can be found on the ACSJC website (<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>) or call (02) 8306 3499.

Social Justice Sunday - Complementary Resources

The ACSJC produces a range of complementary resources to assist parish communities, schools and

social justice groups to celebrate Social Justice Sunday.

The following resources will soon be available on the ACSJC website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) and can be downloaded free of charge:

- Social Justice Sunday Statement summary
- Social Justice Sunday Liturgy notes
- Powerpoint presentation
- Teachers' Notes

Resources that are very useful in parishes and schools are the Social Justice Sunday Prayer Card and "Ten Steps" leaflet. These can be ordered from the ACSJC Secretariat on (02) 8306 3499.

Any assistance you can give in spreading the word about Social Justice Sunday would be greatly appreciated.

John Ferguson,
National Executive Officer



WORLD YOUTH DAY

World Youth Day (WYD08) is the largest youth event in the world and will be held in Sydney from Tuesday 15 to Sunday 20 July 2008. WYD08 is a week-long series of events attended by the Pope and hundreds of thousands of young people from all over the globe. It has become the largest single mobilisation of young people in the world. The week culminates in a Final Mass celebrated by the Holy Father on the last day (the actual World Youth Day). Typically, it is the largest event of the week and, overseas, has drawn millions of people.

To find out more about the diverse range of events for WYD08, visit the website: http://www.wyd2008.org/index.php/en/wyd08_events

To provide volunteer assistance or accommodation for pilgrims, go to: http://www.wyd2008.org/index.php/en/volunteers_homestay

FOUR PRINCIPLES THAT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

The Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission has produced a set of brochures boldly titled: 'Four Principles That Can Change the World'. These brochures cover the principles of 'human dignity and human rights', 'subsidiarity', 'the common good' and 'solidarity'. The Church's social teaching helps every Catholic to live a fully just life. The teaching involves a set of principles

which are based on the Gospels, and which have been developed mainly over the last hundred years. This set of brochures outline the basic principles and will give examples of how they can guide our lives and our action in the world. To download the documents, visit the website of the Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (<http://www.tasjustice.org.au>) or call (03) 6208 6271

2006 NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY (NCLS)

The latest snapshot of church life in Australia shows that Mass attenders are on average older, better educated and more likely to be female, married and born overseas than Catholics in general. This is the picture from the 2006 National Church Life Survey (NCLS), based on a random sample of around 70,000 Mass attenders from 229 Catholic parishes from every Australian diocese. The information provided in the survey is part of a comprehensive package of 2006 Census data on the Australian Catholic population obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. An extended profile of Australia's Catholics can be found at <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/org/ppo/20080605608.htm> and also at www.ppo.catholic.org.au. For further details, contact (03) 9953 3456.

RECONNECT

Reconnect - a program of welcome for inactive Catholics has been commissioned by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and written by the National Office for Evangelisation. It is a parish-based, small-group program specifically designed to provide a supportive and welcoming environment into which the many Catholics who are not active in the life of the Church may be invited to share their stories of faith, and in so doing, consider returning to regular worship. It is envisaged that the interest and enthusiasm flowing from World Youth Day will have a particularly significant impact on the parents and grandparents of the young people touched by the Spirit. Reconnect is a practical, easy to use, parish resource for enriching parish life. To find out more visit <http://www.evangeliseaustralia.com/resources/index.php> or call 1300 432 484.

SOCIAL POLICY CONNECTIONS

Social Policy Connections emerged out of discussions among people concerned to bring the social traditions of the churches into engagement with current issues in social policy, particularly to provide a strong voice in social advocacy. SPC does not claim to speak for the churches, but speaks in its own name as an independent organisation inviting serious collaboration among people inspired by Gospel values. In February 2007 SPC opened its office in the St Ignatius Centre behind St Ignatius church in Richmond in Melbourne. SPC has invited paid membership and expanded networking, especially with like-minded groups and social agencies. Web: <http://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au>.

GM PATENTS EXPLOIT THE POOR

In a recent article in *Eureka Street*, Fr Charles Rue, coordinator of Columban Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, says his colleagues in East Asia and Latin America have witnessed the effects of genetically modified (GM) crops on the farmers they work with. Outlining the impact of the GM crops and the global PR machine that promotes them. 'GM companies claim that GM is needed to feed the hungry of the world. The Vatican was almost conned into supporting this PR line and was stopped three years ago by the lobbying of my fellow Columbans and Jesuits from southern Africa. Rumour has it that the PR companies have again lobbied the Vatican for its support of GM on the pretext that it will feed the world. If so, this is blatant lying and must be opposed', Fr Rue says. Web: <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=7288>

It had been reported in May that the Vatican had moved from a neutral position in a Europe-US

confrontation over GM food and would come down in favour of GM in a major report in June. However, the Columban Society's Central Administration contacted the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace which denied the Vatican would be making a statement in June about genetically modified food crops. 'The PR push from a pro-GM USA farm group seems to be a beat-up', said Father Rue

GREENING COMMUNITIES

The *Greening Communities* programme was launched on Wednesday 11 June. Through the programme, Church Resources is bringing together leading not-for-profit and for-profit organisations to help these organisations in a practical way. The program will: provide access to a variety of knowledge to help implement a sustainability plans; leverage the buying power of groups in the purchase of environmental products; create a regional Demand Register for environmental solutions; and, promote communication and sharing of initiatives. For more information contact greeningcommunities@churchresources.com.au or 1300 248 724.

IMMIGRATION DETENTION UNDER REVIEW

The Joint Standing Committee on Migration has announced an inquiry into immigration detention in Australia. Among a range of issues, the Committee will examine: the criteria for determining how long a person should be held in immigration detention; when a person should be released from immigration detention following health and security checks; and options to expand the transparency and visibility of immigration detention centres. Submissions are due on Friday 18 July 2008. For further information, visit www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/detention/index.htm

FAIR TRADING ONLINE SURVEY

Fair Trading is conducting an online survey about consumers experiences with interest free deals. 'No deposit', 'no interest', 'no repayment' deals are increasingly popular with retailers and consumers. The Office of Fair Trading is concerned about the level of information consumers are given before they sign these contracts. Fair Trading's online survey seeks customers' experiences: what they're being told, their satisfaction with the deal and what they wish they'd known before signing up. The survey results will help to develop a targeted campaign to help consumers and traders better understand their rights and responsibilities with interest-free deals. The survey can be found at: <http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au>. Survey closes 21 July.

Latest Publications

(Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from the ACSJC website [that can be faxed to (02) 8306 3498]: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>)

2008 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT - ORDER NOW!

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled "A Rich Young Nation: The challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia". The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form and other information/resources are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

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

14 MAY - 15 AUGUST. EXHIBITION, 'ABORIGINAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS' (NSW). Discover the work of Richard Campbell, an accomplished artist, who has been painting for approximately 30 years. He is recognised as one of many Aboriginal artists who work with both contemporary and traditional mediums and symbols. Richard has created 14 beautiful and symbolic paintings entitled 'Aboriginal Stations of the Cross'. Richard's work is on display at the Australian Museum, Indigenous Australians Exhibition, Level G, 6 College Street, Sydney (opposite Hyde Park). For further info contact (02) 9320 6000 or visit http://www.austmus.gov.au/visiting/whatson/display.cfm?event_id=304

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; 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 Web: <http://www.gcgmelbourne2008.info>.

1 - 4 JULY. CONFERENCE, 'ACTIVATING HUMAN RIGHTS & PEACE: UNIVERSAL RESPONSIBILITY' (NSW). This international conference in Byron Bay, hosted by the Centre for Peace and Social Justice, Southern Cross University, will provide a crucial and critical learning space for activating human rights and peace in relation to the fields of law, justice, culture, humanities, education, politics, spirituality and health. A major focus of the conference is to invite participants to exchange ideas and experiences about human rights, questions of peace and their implications across these fields. Standard registration: \$450; students and unwaged \$250. For further info and to register, visit: http://www.scu.edu.au/research/cpsj/human_rights/index.html

2 - 4 JULY. 2008 INDIGENOUS STUDIES & INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE (TAS). A key purpose of the ISIK Conference 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. It will build on discussions at previous conferences and also consider the place of Indigenous knowledge 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>

3 JULY. PUBLIC LECTURE, 'THE DEATH PENALTY: WHY SHOULD AUSTRALIANS CARE?' (NSW). An expert panel will discuss the questions: 'What does it mean to be an abolitionist country in the Asia-Pacific region today?', 'What are the domestic and foreign policy implications of being an "abolitionist country"?' Panel members include Prof. Andrew Byrnes of the University of New South Wales, Rachel Walsh of Reprieve Australia, Michael Walton of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties, and Shannon Owen, film and documentary maker. Assoc. Prof. Andrea Durbach of UNSW will be the moderator. Free event, 6.30pm, the Sydney University

Law School Assembly Hall, 173-175 Phillip St. Sydney. For more information contact Amnesty International's NSW Community Campaigner on 0431 481 038.

3 JULY. PUBLIC LECTURE, 'FOR BETTER OR WORSE? ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES UNDER THE RUDD GOVERNMENT' (SA). SA Advocacy & Mediation presents a talk with Suzanne Carlton, Migration Agent and Manager of Migration Services at the Australian Refugee Association. 6.00 to 8.00pm, SA Advocacy & Mediation, 255 Angas Street, Adelaide. Cost: \$20. RSVP on (08) 82325773 or info@saadvocacy.com.au. Web: <http://www.saadvocacy.com.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; Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org>

4 JULY. ADDRESS, 'LAUNCH OF CLIMATE CHANGE REVIEW DRAFT REPORT' (ACT). Professor Ross Garnaut will launch the draft report ahead of the Review's Final Report, which is due on 30 September 2008. National Press Club luncheon, \$55 members, \$70 guests. 11.45am - 1.30pm. 16 National Circuit, Canberra. For further details contact (02) 6121 2199 or visit <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingSpeakers.html>

4 JULY. PUBLIC LECTURE, '60 YEARS ON, HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES' (VIC). Prof. Larissa Behrendt, Prof. George Williams, and Zubayra Shamseden will address the subject 'Where to now for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?' in this event hosted by Amnesty International. 6.30pm, Melbourne Town Hall, 120 Swanston Street, Melbourne. Web: <http://vic.amnesty.org.au>

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 or chendo@grapevine.com.au . Web: <http://www.avp.org.au>

5 - 6 JULY. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY (National). 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, '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. Web: <http://www.natsicc.org.au/>

5 - 18 JULY. BROOME & KIMBERLY IMMERSION PROGRAM (WA). 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'. To find out more about the Broome and Kimberley immersion program, visit <http://www.erisj.org.au/immersions.htm> or contact (08) 9432 2400, admin@erisj.org.au.

6 - 13 JULY. NAIDOC WEEK (National). NAIDOC events are held around Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The national theme for 2008 is 'Advance Australia Fair?' The focus city for the week-long celebration is Canberra. The NAIDOC Awards will be held on 12 July at the National Canberra Convention Centre. To find out more about NAIDOC week and the events planned in your area, visit: <http://www.naidoc.org.au>

8 JULY. SEMINAR, HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES: WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT?" (NSW). Prof. Anne Bayefsky of York University in Toronto will speak at the free lunchtime seminar on human rights and humanitarian intervention. The seminar is supported jointly by the Centre for Peace &

Conflict Studies and the Jewish Board of Deputies. 12.30 to 2.00pm, Room 107 Mackie Building, University of Sydney. RSVP by 30 June 2008. For further information contact (02) 9351 7686 or arts.cpacs@usyd.edu.au. Web: <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/centres/cpacs/news/events.shtml>

8 JULY. MEETING, 'NUCLEAR DIPLOMACY UPDATE' (VIC). The Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW) Victoria is holding its bimonthly briefing. Senator Lyn Allison will offer insights on working for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons through the parliamentary system. The recent announcement of the establishment of an international Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Commission makes this meeting very timely. There will be a report on a nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty meeting attended in Geneva in early May. Dinner details: \$30 Thai banquet, will include vegetarian options. From 6.30pm at Lanna Thai Restaurant, 65 Flemington Road, North Melbourne. RSVP now on (03) 8344 1637 or mapw@mapw.org.au. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/npt-report-back>

11 - 18 JULY. COLUMBAN YOUTH THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED (NSW). The Columban Mission Institute is hosting a number of expressive performances by young people from Australia, Brazil and the Philippines to raise consciousness about the exploitation of youth. The dates and locations are: 11 JULY, 6.30-8.30pm Mingara Club, Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi; 16 & 17 JULY, 7.30-9.30pm Sydney Adventist College, 159 Albert Rd, Strathfield; 18 JULY, 8.00-10.00pm Parade Theatre (NIDA), 215 Anzac Pde, Kensington. Bookings preferred: Ph (02) 9352 8000 or email pej.cmi@columban.org.au

12 - 27 JULY. FAITH ON FILM FESTIVAL '08 (National). The Hoyts 'Faith On Film' Festival showcases a variety of films from around the world that express a diversity of style, genre and voice. Hoyts says it is proud to be showcasing these acclaimed faith titles. Visit the Hoyts website for further information, film reviews and screening times. Web: <http://hoyts.ninemsn.com.au/corporate/faithfestival.asp>

15 - 20 JULY. WORLD YOUTH DAY (National). For World Youth Day events in Sydney and throughout the Diocese of Australia ('Days in the Dioceses'), visit the official WYD08 website at http://www.wyd2008.org/index.php/en/wyd08_events

For complementary programmes and events organised by Religious Congregations around Australia, visit the Catholic Religious Australia

website at <http://catholicreligiousaustralia.com/en/335>.

Caritas Australia is running a week-long programme at Customs House at Circular Quay. For more info visit: http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=World_Youth_Day

For events in the MAGiS08 Ignatian program for World Youth Day 2008, visit <http://www.magis08.org/index.cfm?pageID=17>

17 JULY. LAUNCH, 'ANTI-TERRORISM LAWS: ASIO, THE POLICE AND YOU' (NSW). The Australian Muslim Civil Rights Advocacy Network is launching the third edition of the publication which covers new areas of law, including the association offence, sedition, preventative detention and control orders. Supported by the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, the UTS Law Faculty and UTS Students Association. Speakers include: Mr Peter Russo, Defence lawyer of Dr. Mohamed Haneef; Dr Zachariah Matthews, President of Australian Islamic Mission; Ms Marika Dias of the Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic) Inc.; and Mr Geoff Mulherin, Director, Law and Justice Foundation. 10.00am to noon, Lansdowne Room, Bankstown Town Hall, Cnr Chapel & Rickard Rds, Bankstown. RSVP essential by 11 July 2008 to amcran@amcran.org. For more info call (02) 9708 0009 or legalconvenornsw@amcran.org. Web: <http://amcran.org>

17 JULY. PUBLIC LECTURE, 'BEING PEACEMAKERS: TAKING UP JESUS' CALL' (NSW). Pax Christi and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) are holding a forum as part of the Youth Festival component of World Youth Day. Speakers include: Fr Bruce Duncan on Catholic Social Teaching and the history of Christian peacemakers; Maggie Galley on the world-wide witness and life of Pax Christi; Jessica Morrison on the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons; and Donna Mulhearn on being a human shield and aid worker in Iraq. 8.00-10.00pm, Paddington Town Hall (cnr Oxford St. & Oatley Rd.) Paddington. For further information contact jessica@icanw.org, 0431 519 577 or 0403 411 351.

17 JULY. SEMINAR, 'GIVING TEETH TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES' (VIC). Prof. Brian Budekin AO will speak to this subject with reference to commissions, courts and corporations from the practitioner's perspective. The seminar is hosted by the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies. 6.00 to 7.00pm, Room 920, Level 9, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton. RSVP on (03) 8344

1011 or law-cccs@unimelb.edu.au by 15 July. Web: <http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre/events/>

18 JULY. PUBLIC LECTURE, 'CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION' (NSW). Speakers at this WYD08 event hosted by Catholic Earthcare Australia include: Bishop Chris Toohey, Chair of Catholic Earthcare Australia; Erica Spry, a young traditional Owner from Bardi country in the Kimberley; Anne Kajir, CEO of the Environmental Law Centre in Papua New Guinea; and Amanda McKenzie, National Coordinator of the Australia Youth Climate Coalition. The speakers will consider the invitation to all to respond to the call for ecological conversion. 8.00pm, State Theatre, 49 Market St, Sydney (between Pitt & George Sts.) Web: <http://catholicearthcareoz.net/>

18 - 20 JULY. EVENT, 'CRIME & JUSTICE' (VIC). 'Crime and Justice - A festival of literary offerings and judicial debate' is an annual event where the public, writers, commentators, and the legal profession promote contemporary writings in the fields of justice and human rights. Patrons include crime writers Ian Rankin and Kerry Greenwood, and Irish Human Rights Lawyer, Brendan Kilty SC. The 2008 Eureka Street/Reader's Feast Award for Social Justice/Human Rights Writing will be announced during the festival. The event will be at the Abbotsford Convent - 1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford. Cost: \$17, concession \$15. For more information contact Reader's Feast Bookstore on events@readersfeast.com.au or (03) 9662 4699. Web: <http://www.crimeandjusticefestival.com>

24 JULY. EVENT, 'AUSTRALIAN TRAFFICKING FORUM' (NSW). The Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP will open the Australian Trafficking Forum - a forum bringing together community, NGOs, unions, religious, academics and Government and other representative bodies to consult on the progress of anti-trafficking measures in Australia and to define future directions. Event hosted by the Anti-slavery Project and the UTS and the Sydney Community Response Network. 9.30am to 12.30pm at the University of Technology, Sydney. To register your interest please email antislavery@uts.edu.au

25 - 27 JULY. ADVANCED WORKSHOP, ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE (ACT). The Alternatives to Violence Project is running an advanced workshop in non-violent problem solving, conflict transformation and community building. 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. For further info or registration contact (02) 6251 0037, (02) 6251 2942, davidlance@apex.net.au or chendo@grapevine.com.au . Web: <http://www.avp.org.au>

29 JULY. PUBLIC LECTURE, 'BIG BROTHER VERSUS A FAIR GO' (VIC). Dr Graham Sewell will deliver this lecture concerning whether workplace surveillance is coercive or if it guarantees our rights at work. He will trace the intellectual origins of the opposing views. 6.00 to 7.00pm, Theatre 1, Information & Communication Technology Building (bldg 105), The University of Melbourne, Parkville. For further information contact (03) 8344 2603

or antheab@unimelb.edu.au. Web: <http://www.ecom.unimelb.edu.au/faculty/events.html>

3 - 5 AUGUST. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD LABOUR AND CHILD EXPLOITATION (QLD). Children's Rights International is hosting an International Conference in Cairns. The Conference will evaluate the progress and achievements made in relation to the eradication of the worst forms of child labour and will explore the challenges ahead in securing rights for children in the 21st century and meeting the UN Millennium Goals by 2015. Conference fee: \$880. For program and registration details, visit: <http://www.childjustice.org/html/index.htm>

News Monitor

Bishops ready to back Filipino Church on mining: Putney

On a visit to the Philippines, Townsville Bishop Michael Putney said Australia's Catholic bishops are ready to assist Filipino bishops in their campaign against Australian-controlled mining operations.

Glasgow goes fair trade

The Archdiocese of Glasgow received an award as Scotland's first diocese to meet Fairtrade standards for its hot drinks.

Time to get it right on intervention: Josephites

Josephite Sr Noeline Quinane said that on the first anniversary of the Northern Territory Emergency Response the Federal Government should listen to the experience of Aboriginal people living with the Intervention.

CHA lobbies for health ombudsman

Catholic Health Australia CEO Martin Laverty called for the appointment of a health ombudsman to address the growing gap between health services for the rich and the poor.

Southern African church leaders call for Zimbabwe action

The Catholic Church in Southern Africa urged all African states to reject President Robert Mugabe should he be declared winner of Friday's presidential run-off boycotted by the opposition candidate Morgan Tsvangirai.

Christian Brothers moving in new directions

At the first chapter of their newly created Oceania province in June, the Christian Brothers were looking to deepen their spirituality and

commitment to the charism of Edmund Rice as well as studying how to engage more in interfaith relations and with marginalised communities.

Church to export energy

The Catholic Church in Australia will become a net energy producer within 25 years if a project to green church communities is successful.

Quick fix for charity workers

The federal government will introduce last minute legislation next week to prevent low paid Church and charity workers from losing family tax entitlements.

JRS Australia calls for a fairer system of asylum

Jesuit Refugee Service Australia director, Fr David Holdcroft, called on the Federal Government to change a "ludicrous" system which prevents asylum seekers from appealing to the minister until every stage of the assessment process failed.

CRA calls for bold immigration transformation

In a Refugee Week statement, Catholic Religious Australia called for a "bold transformation" of the country's immigration laws.

Deported refugee death reveals serious errors: ERC

Edmund Rice Centre director Phil Glendenning said the suicide of a Chinese man forcibly returned to China by immigration authorities reveals serious errors in Australia's treatment of asylum seekers.

Greening communities initiative launches

Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett launched Greening Communities, a Church

Resources initiative to help church and non-profit organisations to save water and energy.

Vatican releases ten commandments of environment

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace released its Ten Commandments of the Environment emphasising that “nothing in this world exists outside the divine plan of creation and redemption”.

Lift low paid wages: ACCER

Saying parents cannot afford to raise and educate children on \$750 a week, Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations chair Brian Lawrence called for a boost in the federal minimum wage.

Rehabilitate people and restore justice: Doyle

Hobart Archbishop Adrian Doyle called for greater emphasis on rehabilitation of prisoners and adoption of restorative justice practices to reduce recidivism among criminals.

Vatican helps broker cluster bomb ban

The Holy See played a key role in brokering a ban on cluster bombs, the Vatican’s UN observer, Archbishop Silvio Tommasi, said.

Newcastle sisters develop green units

Sisters of St Joseph at Lochinvar near Maitland NSW have developed five eco-friendly units including paths made from recycled tyres as well as large water tanks.

Brennan named to ACU think tank

Australian Catholic University named Jesuit Professor Frank Brennan to a new Canberra based public policy think tank to be launched later this year.

Australians oppose aid for abortion: Caritas head

Most Australians do not believe that government international aid should be used to fund abortions, Caritas Australia CEO Jack de Groot says.

Seek greener holiday pastures: Vatican recommends

On the eve of the northern hemisphere holiday season, the Vatican issued a set of guidelines for tourists on making their vacations more environmentally friendly.

- *courtesy CathNews, for details click on headlines or go to <http://cathnews.com>*



Social Justice Calendar

1 TUE Voluntary Native Title Agreement between the Gunggari People and the Cowley family formalised after 4 years negotiation with State Government for a Nature Refuge Agreement, 2000

5 SAT International Day of Cooperatives

6 SUN 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday
National Aboriginal & Islander Day of Celebration (NAIDOC) Week begins
The Dalai Lama born in Tibet 1935 - awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989

7 MON Blessed Peter To Rot - killed in Papua New Guinea, 1945, and recognised as a martyr

10 THU Sinking of Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* in Auckland, 1985

11 FRI World Population Day

12 SAT Aboriginal Flag first flown in Adelaide, 1971

13 SUN 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 MON Aboriginal Flag and Torres Strait Islander Flag proclaimed official flags of Australia, 1995

15 TUE World Youth Day, Sydney, 15th-20th

16 WED First atomic bomb detonated in New Mexico, 1945

18 FRI Nelson Mandela born, 1918

20 SUN 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Neil Armstrong - first person on the moon, 1969

24 THU Arbor Week commences (some States)

27 SUN 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

28 MON Arbor Day

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, or call 02 8306 3499)

29 TUE Dag Hammarskjöld born in Sweden, 1905

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL PO Box 7246, Alexandria NSW 2015. Tel: (02) 8306 3499, Fax: (02) 8306 3498, Email: admin@acsjc.org.au
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