



## No. 106 – October 2009

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,

On 16 September, the Australian Catholic Bishops' 2009 Social Justice Sunday Statement was launched by Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney.

The Statement, *And You Will Be My Witnesses*, focuses on the place of young people in our society and in our Church, on their strong impulse to work for justice and the many ways in which they themselves are vulnerable to injustice.

The response was given by Rebecca Bromhead, the Youth and Young Adults Coordinator for the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW.

The launch took place at the Barron Memorial Chapel of the Australian Catholic University, Strathfield.

#### Reflecting on the role of the Spirit

As coordinator of World Youth Day 2008, Bishop Fisher was a natural choice to launch

this Statement, since it takes its inspiration from the events of World Youth Day and Pope Benedict's statements during his visit. The title of the Statement comes from the theme the Pope gave to World Youth Day in Sydney:

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you will be my witnesses (Acts 1:8).*

Early in his address, Bishop Fisher pointed out that this is an unusual Statement - that Australia's bishops speak about social justice every year, but they rarely address young people first and foremost. They have certainly done so for this Statement, but they have also produced a Statement for all Catholics - indeed, for all Australians. In Bishop Fisher's words:

*... in this Social Justice Sunday Statement, the Bishops of Australia reflect on the role of the Spirit in the lives of all believers. We draw on the wisdom that our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, offered during those days he spent with us. We acknowledge the voice of young people who are concerned with issues of justice - many of whom were active participants in World Youth Day itself. And we declare ourselves as sharing 'the aspirations that young people hold, in faith, for the future.'*

Bishop Fisher also pointed out that Pentecost, the moment when the Holy Spirit did come upon the disciples, was a moment for young people - for followers of Christ who were themselves young.

In his address, the Bishop referred to 'this beautiful but confused world', enriched by the 'wonders of the natural and human environments in which we live', but also scarred by challenges both ecological and social. He cited the words of Pope Benedict, quoted in the Statement:

*Do we recognise that the innate dignity of every individual rests on his or her deepest identity - as image of the Creator - and therefore that human rights are universal? ... We are led to reflect on what place the poor and elderly, immigrants and the voiceless, have in our societies. How can it be that domestic violence torments so many mothers and children? How can it be that the most wondrous and sacred human space - the womb - has become a place of unutterable violence?*

‘What, must young people do,’ Bishop Fisher asked, ‘to be true witnesses to Christ and his Gospel?’ The Pope and the Bishops, he said, suggest ‘the tried and true formula of see-judge-and-act’.

Referring to the particular justice issues that the Statement raises - Indigenous justice, workplace issues, mental health, protection from abuse, and other global issues such as environmental and development justice - Bishop Fisher said that ‘the Bishops of Australia are more convinced than ever that our young people, empowered by the Holy Spirit, are ready, willing and able to take them on.

‘They will be the bearers of the cross and ambassadors of faith, justice and hope, of charity in truth, in the decades ahead.’

### **‘Be the change we wish to see in the world’**

In response, Rebecca Bromhead thanked the Bishops for ‘a statement that empowers young people, and those young at heart, to work together in our Church and broader communities to, as Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Be the change we wish to see in the world”.’

She pointed out that the Pope and the Australian Bishops had pushed us to connect with the world around us, to engage with the issues that bring pain, suffering and injustice, and to share with those in need the love, joy and hope that our Catholic faith provides.

The Statement also affirms, she said, the work young people are already doing: students who give their time to volunteer on Vinnies night patrol soup vans, Young Christian Workers who advocate for workplace justice, and volunteers with agencies such as Palms, Catholic Mission and Caritas.

‘At the heart of this statement, and indeed at the heart of the notion of justice, is an implicit recognition of the value of each person as a child of God’, Ms Bromhead said.

In that spirit, she invited the audience to turn to each other and offer the sign of peace. ‘Through this simple gesture’, she said, ‘each one of us present has just affirmed for each other that we are equal in the eyes of God, that we walk together in solidarity and that we are God present to each other.’

Expanding on the last of those ideas, Ms Bromhead spoke of moments when she had seen people become God present to their fellows. She quoted St Vincent de Paul:

*When you leave your prayers to serve the poor, you leave God for God.*

She spoke of joining young seminarians visiting homes that hang under the bridges of Manila; of an Australian priest working with a community in Guayaquil, Ecuador; of young Spanish lawyers who defend and advocate for South American immigrants; and of young workers for the Vincent de Paul Society in Johannesburg who ‘often had as little as those they were assisting’. One of her favourite quotes, she said, was by Nelson Mandela: ‘Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice.’ She then continued:

*I return to the Holy Father’s challenge, ‘What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come? ... What difference will you make?’ I know that the young people whose stories I’ve just shared a little of are already building a legacy they can be proud of.*

Concluding, Ms Bromhead expressed the hope that we would

*... live up to the Holy Father’s request that ‘Australians always remain young in spirit and young in hope’. And let us embrace the challenges put to us this Social Justice Sunday and work in solidarity together as witnesses of God’s love and creators of a just world.*

## The strongest fighters and the most vulnerable

In thanking Bishop Fisher and Rebecca Bromhead, the Chairman of the ACSJC, Bishop Christopher Saunders, referred to the words of the Statement: 'Young people are among the strongest fighters in the cause of justice, but at the same time, they can be among the most vulnerable to injustice.' Among the most vulnerable are Australia's Indigenous young people, who are disadvantaged financially and educationally, subject to ill-health and the most likely to be in contact with the justice system. 'It is hard to think of a group of Australians who have a greater claim on the responsibility Jesus lays on us in the Gospel', Bishop Saunders said. But Indigenous youth are also the great source of hope for their communities, he continued, citing figures that show that more than half of Australia's Indigenous people are under the age of 30.

Looking beyond Australia, Bishop Saunders referred to Pope Benedict's latest encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, and its theme that we live in a world that is bound together by our common humanity. He said:

*We can think of many other environmental and other issues that confront the world's young people: access to food and water resources; the degradation of land and water; pollution; and overconsumption of non-renewable*

*resources. Young people are particularly vulnerable to exploitation in the workplace, or in violence and wars around the globe. The struggle continues to ensure that boys and girls have the opportunity to grow up healthy and educated ... We need to keep all these issues, and many more, in our minds and prayers.*

## Catholic Bishops' Statement and associated resources

Social Justice Sunday was celebrated on 27 September. There are many ways the message of the Bishops' 2009 Statement can be promoted 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 also be downloaded from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

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

*John Ferguson (National Executive Officer)*



## Current Issues / Resources

### POSITION VACANT - RESEARCH & PROJECTS OFFICER

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council is the national justice and peace agency of the Catholic Church. After 11 years of wonderful service to the ACSJC, Sr Suzette Clark RSC is moving on. The ACSJC is looking for a Research and Projects Officer to join its Secretariat in Sydney. The position commences mid-January 2010.

**Duties include:** produce social justice education and information resources; prepare and facilitate prayer and reflection and groupwork sessions; undertake research and advocacy; liaise with other church and community groups.

**Essential requirements:** knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching; high level writing skills; group work skills; ability to create and lead prayer and reflection; research and advocacy skills; ability to work as part of a team; computer literate.

**Desirable characteristics:** background in education; relevant tertiary qualifications; familiarity with the social justice networks of the Church; experience in working with and servicing committees; ability to manage multiple priorities and deadlines.

Written applications including three referees should reach John Ferguson, ACSJC, PO Box 7246, ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015, by **23 October**

2009. For the Position Description visit [www.acsjc.org.au](http://www.acsjc.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499.

### **CARITAS AUSTRALIA - PHILIPPINES CRISIS APPEAL**

Caritas Australia is accepting donations to the Philippines Humanitarian Crisis Appeal. Tropical storm Ketsana struck the main island of Luzon, triggering massive floods that have left over 100 dead and displaced 337,000 people. CEO Jack de Groot said, 'With an estimated 80 percent of the [Manila's] 12 million people affected, the need for an efficient and significant response is already apparent ... 'With flood damage we can expect a need for swift assistance for the displaced and immediate steps to combat an influx of water borne diseases. In the acute emergency phase our local partners will be assessing where the greatest need is and focusing our assistance there', he said.

You can support the Caritas Australia Philippines Humanitarian Crisis Appeal by calling 1800 024 413 or online at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

### **E-FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

The Australian Human Rights Commission and the Institute for Cultural Diversity have developed an E-Forum on human rights. The forum provides a new way of finding out about what is happening in culturally diverse Australia - in human rights, the arts, justice, research and among agencies working in government, business and the community. The site is designed to help generate an informed network of people able to contribute to Australia's development as a creative, democratic and productive society. To access the E-Forum, visit: [www.culturaldiversity.net.au](http://www.culturaldiversity.net.au).

### **RESEARCH PAPER - 'THE IMPACT OF THE RECESSION ON WOMEN'**

The Australia Institute's latest research paper details the staggering gender imbalance of those people who want to work, but are not included in the official unemployment statistics. Women account for up to 80 percent of Australia's hidden unemployed.

Not only are child care responsibilities the most common reason why women struggle to rejoin the workforce, but those same responsibilities are a major reason that women are excluded from the official unemployment statistics. Report author, David Richardson, says, 'While official figures suggest women haven't fared as badly in the recession as men, more detailed analysis shows that women face chronic difficulties in the labour market and that those difficulties have been exacerbated by the global financial crisis.' To access the report, visit: <https://www.tai.org.au/index.php?q=node/19&act=browse&type=4>

### **EXHIBITION - 'THE FUTURE IS A FOREIGN COUNTRY'**

An exhibition hosted by 'field' (Furthering Inclusive Learning & Development for people with disabilities) will explore the theme "The future is a foreign country: they do things differently there" - Imagining the lives of people with disability in the world of tomorrow'. Field invites established and emerging artists of all mediums to submit artworks for possible inclusion in a group exhibition. The exhibition will run from 30 November to 20 December, 2009 in The Foyer Gallery at Gasworks Arts Park. There will be an opening celebration on Friday 4 December. Entries are due by 5pm on Friday 30 October, 2009. To download the Entry Form, go to [http://www.field.org.au/events/exhibition/entry\\_form.pdf](http://www.field.org.au/events/exhibition/entry_form.pdf). For further details contact [steph.tout@field.org.au](mailto:steph.tout@field.org.au) or (03) 8686 5621.

### **PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS**

The Parliament of the World's Religions is the world's largest global interreligious event, held once every five years in a different city. The next Parliament will be held in Melbourne from 3 - 9 December 2009. The Melbourne Parliament will bring together more than 8,000 people from around Australia and across the world, including renowned spiritual, religious and political leaders. The theme of the 2009 Parliament, 'Make a World of Difference; Hearing each other, Healing the earth', reflects the urgent need for religious and spiritual communities and all people of goodwill to act on their concerns. For further information, visit: <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org>

# 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/ORDER\\_FORM.pdf](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf))

## **2009 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT - ORDER NOW!**

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled 'And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young people and justice'. The ACSJC is taking orders for the Statement. An order form, summary and other resources are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## **Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps towards being witnesses to the Gospel.**

Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499.

**Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary, Liturgy Notes, Teachers' Notes and Powerpoint presentation** - now available at: [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

## **ACSJC DISCUSSION GUIDE - CARITAS IN VERITATE**

The ACSJC Discussion Guide reviews key themes of Pope Benedict's new Encyclical

*Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), as well as offering questions for reflection, excerpts for discussion, and prayer. Available in html and pdf formats on the ACSJC website: [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

## **SERIES PAPER - 'WORK AND DIGNITY'**

The latest paper in the Catholic Social Justice Series (No. 66) is a collection of the Pastoral Letters for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker that have been issued by the Chairman of the ACSJC each year since 1998. Themes in these letters include the nature of a just wage and the vital link between fair pay and family life; the importance of trade unions in the working life of a society; and the wider significance of work in the community. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

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

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499, fax (02) 8306 3489 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: [http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER\\_FORM.pdf](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf)

# This Month's Notices

**UNTIL 22 NOVEMBER. EXHIBITION: 'HANDING ON THE KEY: PALESTINIANS IN AUSTRALIA' (VIC).** The changing identity of the Palestinian community and the link to their home is explored in a new exhibition at the Immigration Museum. Cost: \$8, children free. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Contact: 131102. Web: <http://www.museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum>.

**1 OCTOBER. TALK: LOUISE STACK OF JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (NSW).** The Inner Sydney Catholic Social Justice Group presents Louise Stack, Project Coordinator with Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia, speaking about the work of JRS and the Church's response to the refugee crisis. Louise runs the JRS Shelter Project, providing support to around 70 asylum seekers and refugees. Meals and refreshment are available at the Café. Cost: gold coin

donation (or more if you can!). 7.00 pm, Fair Trade Café, 33 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe. Contact: 0408 251 849. Web: <http://sites.google.com/site/sydneysocialjustice>.

**1 OCTOBER. PUBLIC LECTURE: LABOUR TRAFFICKING - 'THREAT AND MENACE' (NSW).**

Forced labour is work exacted from the vulnerable under the threat and menace of a penalty. Poverty, fear of deportation, social and economic constraints or reprisals against family members cause many people to fall into labour exploitation. Jennifer Burn, anti-slavery campaigner, will discuss the need for Australia to make forced labour a stand-alone criminal offence. No cost. 6.00 pm, UTS University Hall, 745 Harris Street, Ultimo. Contact: [robert.button@uts.edu.au](mailto:robert.button@uts.edu.au), RSVP by 29 September. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**2 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: SHEKINAH'S FOOTBALL (VIC).**

Dress in your favourite footy team's colours for Shekinah Homeless Services' annual ball. Prizes will be awarded for best dressed. Cost \$25, concession \$10. 7.00 to 11.00 pm, Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street, Collingwood. Contact: 03 9462 3933 or [shekinah@shekinah.org.au](mailto:shekinah@shekinah.org.au). Web: <http://www.shekinah.org.au/shekinah-community-ball/index.php>.

**2 OCTOBER. PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE (NSW).**

The conference will consider the National Human Rights Consultation and provide an update of developments in the Victoria, ACT and NSW human rights law. Cost: \$190, concession \$95. 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Domain Theatre, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery Road, The Domain, Sydney CBD. Contact: 02 9385 2257 or [gtcentre@unsw.edu.au](mailto:gtcentre@unsw.edu.au). Web: <http://www.gtcentre.unsw.edu.au>.

**2 OCTOBER. CARMELITE CHARITY BALL AND AUCTION (VIC).**

The Carmelites will host their Inaugural Charity Ball and Auction to raise funds to establish a safe drinking water system in Zumalai, East Timor. It will feature entertainment by 'Fire & Theft', Pavarotti Live and the Timorese Choir 'La Loran'. Cost: \$120. 6.30 pm, St Kilda Town Hall, corner Brighton Road and Carlisle Street, St Kilda. Book online <http://www.trybooking.com/BHP> or 03 9690

8822. Web: <http://www.cam.org.au/whats-on/carmelite-charity-ball-and-auction.html>.

**2 - 3 OCTOBER. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: 'TOWARDS EDINBURGH 2010' (VIC).**

The International Conference on World Mission, held in Edinburgh in 1910 was a watershed event in modern mission. As the world prepares for the centenary celebrations in Edinburgh in 2010, Australia is making its own unique contribution. People from numerous churches and cultures are gathering to celebrate and reflect on Christian mission and ecumenism in the contemporary Australian context. Friday evening will be an ecumenical celebration and Saturday will include speakers and workshops. Speakers: Rev Dr Ian Breward, Ross Langmead, Graeme Mundine, Jason Kioa. Cost: \$10 donation. 7.00 pm Friday evening, Salvation Army Centre, 17-23 Nelson Road, Box Hill. 9.30 am to 3.30 pm Saturday, Yarra Theological Union, 98 Albion Road, Box Hill. Contact: 03 9650 4511 or [vcc@vcc.org.au](mailto:vcc@vcc.org.au). Web: <http://www.edinburgh2010.org.au/programme.shtml>.

**2 - 4 OCTOBER. PARISHES ON FIRE CONFERENCE (VIC).**

The aim of the Conference is to assist parishioners to share their faith with one another, and to learn how to bring others to faith in Jesus Christ. Bishop Tim Costelloe will open the conference. Speakers: Fr Gerard Kelly and Monica McArdle, members of the Sion Community UK which specialises in evangelising activities in parishes and schools. Parish Hall, St Scholastica's Parish, 348 Burwood Highway, Bennettswood. Contact: [acommade@bigpond.net.au](mailto:acommade@bigpond.net.au), [mfpax7@hotmail.com](mailto:mfpax7@hotmail.com), 03 9808 8483 or 03 9337 2051. Web: <http://www.cam.org.au/whats-on/parishes-on-fire-conference.html>.

**3 - 5 OCTOBER. WORLD MARCH FOR PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE (NSW, QLD, VIC).**

The World March for Peace and Non-Violence is starting in New Zealand and moves to Australia and the rest of the world. Web: <http://www.peacebound.org/>.

**3 - 10 OCTOBER. KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE WEEK (NSW).**

The Australian government has embarked on the biggest military build-up since WWII, including participation in the militarisation of space. Our long-term aim is

to have the international community declare space a global common, a consequence of which would be universal availability of all satellite-enabled information and communication that relates to world security. Co-sponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition (AABCC).

**8 October.** Information Forum: See the documentary 'Arsenals of Hypocrisy', produced by the Global Network for Peace in Space. 6.30 to 9.00 pm, Seminar Room 365, Education Faculty, The University of Sydney, Manning Road, Camperdown.

**9 October.** Space-for-Peace Stall: Sign the petition, get informed, and join the worldwide space-for-peace campaign. 12.30 to 2.00 pm, Town Hall. Contact: 02 9960 2952 or 0418 290 663. Web: <http://www.space4peace.org/>.

**3 - 11 OCTOBER. EXPERIENCE: 'REFUGEE CAMP IN YOUR CITY' (VIC).** Médecins Sans Frontières' (MSF) 1000m<sup>2</sup> replica camp will give people the chance to walk into a camp site modeled on refugee camps in countries such as Chad and Sudan. Experienced field staff will lead tours and tell their stories about camp life and the vulnerability of life for people who have fled their homes. An information night for people interested in working for MSF is on 15 October. No cost. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Treasury Gardens, Wellington Parade, East Melbourne. Contact: 03 9670 8350, [jackie.cooper@redagency.com](mailto:jackie.cooper@redagency.com), 03 9670 8350 or [genevieve.wallis@redagency.com.au](mailto:genevieve.wallis@redagency.com.au). Web: <http://refugeecamp.msf.org.au/>.

**5, 7, 9 OCTOBER. SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOPS (TAS).** The Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission in conjunction with the Catholic Education Office are hosting Sandie Cornish to give workshops. Cost: with lunch \$15; without lunch (bring your own) free of charge. 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.

**5 October:** Stella Maris Catholic Primary School, 24-26 Futuna Ave, Burnie

**7 October:** Larmenier Catholic Primary School, 38 Station Road, St Leonards

**9 October:** Murphy Room, 35 Tower Road, New Town.

Contact: 03 6208 6271 or [tcjpc@aohtas.org.au](mailto:tcjpc@aohtas.org.au). Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/TCJPC.html>.

**6 - 21 OCTOBER. MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION: 'BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER WORLD' (SA).** Caritas Australia and AusAID are exhibiting this display around Australia. It highlights the Millennium Development Goals and the promise of world Governments to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. No cost. The Migrant Resource Centre of SA, Edmund Wright Building, 59 King William Street, Adelaide. Contact: (02) 8306 3457, [evane@caritas.org.au](mailto:evane@caritas.org.au), (02) 8306 3490 or [alanas@caritas.org.au](mailto:alanas@caritas.org.au). Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/exhibition/index.html>.

**6 - 8, 10 - 11 OCTOBER. TRAVELLING PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: INSPIRATIONAL CATHOLIC WOMEN (NSW).** The Exhibition will be shown in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle at Swansea Public Library - 6 to 8 October and Scone Parish Meeting Rooms - 10 and 11 October. Contact: [pabanister@dodo.com.au](mailto:pabanister@dodo.com.au). Web: <http://www.opw.catholic.org.au/index.php>.

**7 OCTOBER. PUBLIC SEMINAR: 'INDIGENOUS SOLUTIONS TO INDIGENOUS PROBLEMS: AN INDIGENOUS METHOD OF INQUIRY AND STRATEGISING FOR NON-INDIGENOUS RESEARCHERS (NSW).** Speaker: Dr Zohl de Ishtar, Research Advisor, Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Queensland, founding coordinator Kapululangu Women's Law and Culture Centre. 12.30 to 1.30 pm, Room M11, Chemical Sciences Building (F10), UNSW. Contact: 02 9385 7805 or [sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au), RSVP by 6 October. Web: <http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au>.

**7 OCTOBER. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: 'SHUT OUT - LIFE FOR AUSTRALIANS WITH A DISABILITY & THEIR FAMILIES' REPORT LAUNCH (ACT).** Speaker: Dr Rhonda Galbally AO, Chair, National People with Disabilities and Carer Council. Cost: \$55 members, \$75 guests. 11.45 am to 1.30 pm, National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: 02 6121 2199 or [npc@npc.org.au](mailto:npc@npc.org.au). Web: <http://www.npc.org.au>.

**7 OCTOBER. SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT LAUNCH BY BISHOP PUTNEY: 'YOUNG PEOPLE AND JUSTICE' (QLD).** Support young people as they discover their call to 'act with justice'; discover how we are called to ensure a just

and secure world for all of our young people and be surprised by the many ways in which our Catholic community takes up the challenge to 'act with justice'. Includes stalls from various social justice agencies. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Ryan Community Centre, Morindo Drive, Kirwan. Web: [http://www.tsv.catholic.org.au/diocese/councils/social\\_justice/did\\_you\\_know\\_.php](http://www.tsv.catholic.org.au/diocese/councils/social_justice/did_you_know_.php).

**7 OCTOBER. DVD SCREENING: 'IT'S ONLY 1/100TH OF ME': CHALLENGING MENTAL ILLNESS STIGMA (NSW).** Mental Health Week 2009 will see NSW Consumer Advisory Group - Mental Health Inc (CAG) - continue its campaign to address stigma and discrimination faced by people who experience mental illness. One of the people on the DVD, Fay Jackson, Director of Vision in Mind, will also talk about her experiences of stigma and discrimination on the evening. The Sydney Street Choir will also be performing on the night. No cost. 6.30 to 8.30 pm, Chauvel Cinema, Paddington Town Hall, corner Oxford Street and Oatley Road, Paddington. Contact: 02 9332 0200 or [jmcdonald@nswcag.org.au](mailto:jmcdonald@nswcag.org.au). Web: <http://www.nswcag.org.au/>.

**7 OCTOBER. MOVIE NIGHT FUNDRAISER: 'MAO'S LAST DANCER' (NSW).** To benefit the Asylum Seeker Centre of New South Wales. Cost: \$20. 8.30 pm, Cremorne Orpheum, 380 Military Road, Cremorne. Contact: 0410 690 246 or [rsbrad99@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rsbrad99@bigpond.net.au), by 3 October. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**7 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'WHO AM I IN A HUNGRY WORLD?' (VIC).** Sr Margaret Fyfe and Shanaka Fernando will provide their insights into how our choices make a difference to people and how or whether they are fed. This forum will be co-sponsored as one of a series of talks leading to one of the World Parliament of Religions. Dinner: 6.00 pm, Session: 8.00 to 9.30 pm, The Veneto Club, Sala Venetia Room, 191 Bulleen Road, Bulleen. Contact: 03 9850 7111 to book (mention Spirituality in the Pub and the date you want). Information: 0417 319 556. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/spirituality%20in%20the%20pub.htm>.

**8 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (TAS).** Speaker: Sandie Cornish. The Duke of Wellington, corner Barrach and Macquarie Streets, Hobart. Contact: 03 6273 8590. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/whatson.html>.

**8 OCTOBER. JUSTICE LITERARY EVENT: 'WORDS, IMAGES, VOICES: LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS - SPEAKING OF JUSTICE' (NSW).** This forum is hosted by the Edmund Rice Centre and the Institute for Advancing Community Engagement at the Australian Catholic University. The authors and advocates presenting this year are: Libby Gleeson AM, Melina Marchetta, Susanne Gervay, Nadia Wheatley, Dr Robin Morrow, Maria Boyd, Lynette Riley, Libby Hathorn, Randa Abdel-Fattah and Mark Raue. All proceeds from the event will support the work of the Edmund Rice Centre. Cost: \$70, students \$40. 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, Santa Sabina College Hall, 90 The Boulevarde, Strathfield. Contact: [marisab@erc.org.au](mailto:marisab@erc.org.au) or 02 8762 4219. Web: <http://www.erc.org.au/>.

**8 OCTOBER. LECTURE: 'WHERE FAITH MEETS THE WORLD' (QLD).** Christian thinker and teacher, Brian McLaren, is on a national speaking tour. He offers a framework through which thinking Christians can explore more critical crises within society: the prosperity, equity, security and spirituality crises. Brian, himself a respected poet and musician, will be supported by Cameron Semmens, a Melbourne-based performance poet with a reputation for challenging his audience while delighting them with his verbal prowess. Cost: \$25. 7.15 to 9.30 pm, Chermiside Kedron Community Church, Chermiside South. Contact: 07 3387 2700. Web: <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11636&cid=7464&id=2705>.

**9 OCTOBER. NATIONAL SPEAKING TOUR: 'IMPORTANCE OF HOMELANDS V NT INTERVENTION' (ACT).** To raise support for the Ampilatwatja walk-off against the NT Intervention. Speakers: Richard Downs, Alyawarr People's Walk-Off, Ampilatwatja NT; and Harry Nelson, Yuendumu Community Spokesperson. 6.00 pm, Manning Clark Lecture Theatre, Australian National University, Canberra. Contact: 0421 795 639. Web: <http://www.wgar.info>.



**9 - 11 OCTOBER. JOSEPH CARDIJN NATIONAL CONFERENCE (SA).** Cardijn Community International - Australia invites you to attend this conference with Keynote Speaker Fr Bruce Duncan CSsR speaking about 'The Rise of Lay Consciousness.' Hear from former and current leaders about the role they see for the Cardijn Mission and method applied to the modern world. Meet and discuss these issues with men and women of all ages from across the country, and international visitors. Cost: \$160, concession \$100. Cardijn College, Honeypot Road, Noarlunga Downs, Adelaide .Contact: 08 8392 9540 or [conference@cardijn.sa.edu.au](mailto:conference@cardijn.sa.edu.au). Web: <http://www.cardijn.sa.edu.au/modules/content/index.php?id=189>.

**9 - 11 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: ART4REFUGEES (NSW).** A charity art show with all proceeds directly supporting the work of SCARF (Strategic Community Assistance for Refugee Families). Opening night includes canapés, drinks and entertainment plus the opportunity to purchase artworks first. Cost: \$20. 7.00 pm Friday; 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Saturday and Sunday, Illawarra Grammar School, Powell Street, West Wollongong. Web: <http://www.art4refugees.org.au>.

**10 OCTOBER. GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK: 'NATIONAL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN' (NATIONAL).** In conjunction with groups such as Oaktree, GHN is organising a peaceful 'flash mob' demonstration across the nation. The aim is to educate the public about the MDGs and pressure the government into donating 0.7% of Gross National Income to International Aid. Adelaide, Canberra, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney. Contact: 02 6270 5435 or [mail@amsa.org.au](mailto:mail@amsa.org.au). Web: <http://www.amsa.org.au>.

**10 OCTOBER. MARCH FOR THE BABIES (VIC).** On October 10, 2008, the Victorian Parliament passed the Abortion Law Reform Act, eliminating all legal protection for Victorian children until the moment of birth. March in this peaceful witness to life, from Fitzroy Gardens to Parliament House, and hear inspirational speakers and music with a message of courage and hope. 11 am, Fitzroy Gardens, corner of Lansdowne Street and Wellington Parade, East Melbourne. Web: <http://www.marchforthebabies.org.au/>.

**10 OCTOBER. DINNER: A MULTICULTURAL EVENING (TAS).** The Multicultural Council of Tasmania is hosting a Multicultural evening at the Hellenic Club, with taverna-style dinner and multicultural performers. Cost: \$35. 7.00 pm, Hellenic Club, Federal Street, North Hobart. Contact: 03 6231 5067 or [mcot@tassie.net.au](mailto:mcot@tassie.net.au), RSVP essential by 2 October. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**11 OCTOBER. YOUTH MINISTRY: 'I-WITNESS: YOUNG PEOPLE AND JUSTICE' (QLD).** A creative, festive, informative, hope filled event, bringing together social justice groups, young people and those who work with young people from across the Brisbane archdiocese in response to this year's Social Justice Sunday Statement. Includes - live music, drama, social justice workshops, displays by local social justice groups, liturgy and culminating in a concert. Free entry. 12 noon and then continuing into the evening, Rosalie Precinct, 61 Fernberg Rd, Paddington. Contact: [youthministry@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:youthministry@bne.catholic.net.au) or 07 3336 9168. Web: <http://www.ycm.org.au>.

**11 OCTOBER. BLUE MOUNTAINS EAST TIMOR SISTERS: DEMOCRACY IN TIMOR LESTE (NSW).** Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters' annual tais (weaving) exhibition and sale with visiting guest Elsa Pinto talking about developing peace and democracy in Timor Leste. 1.00 pm, Youth Hostel, 215 Katoomba St, Katoomba. Contact: 02 4757 4478 or [bmets.mcrn@bigpond.com](mailto:bmets.mcrn@bigpond.com). Web: <http://www.bmets.org.au>.

**11 - 17 OCTOBER. ANTI-POVERTY WEEK (NATIONAL).** The aims of the week are to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and to encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems. Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians. Around the world more than a billion people are desperately poor. Parishes/communities might look to see how they can respond to the opportunities and challenges of Anti-Poverty Week 2009. Contact: [apw@antipovertyweek.org.au](mailto:apw@antipovertyweek.org.au) or 1300 797 290. Resources and information about events are available at <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au>.

**11 OCTOBER. ANTI-POVERTY WEEK OPENING EVENT (SA).** Formal opening event speakers Matt Deighton (Messenger Community News), Lieutenant-Governor Hieu Van Le (South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission), Alan Tidswell (Mining, Energy and Engineering Academy) and Priya Rosario, talking about different perspectives on poverty and its impacts. 2.30 to 4.30 pm, Cynthia Poulton Hall, next to St Peters Cathedral, 27 King William Rd, North Adelaide. Contact: 08 8305 9281 or [jmccann@anglicare-sa.org.au](mailto:jmccann@anglicare-sa.org.au). Web: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au>.

**11 - 13 OCTOBER. IMPACT 2009 CONFERENCE (NSW).** Plenary and workshop sessions on: Transforming Society, Mental Health, Indigenous Partnering, Global Citizenship, Financial Disadvantage, and Local level Engagement. Participants from Salvation Army services across QLD, NSW and ACT but also open to any interested person. Cost: \$300, concession \$150. 8.30 to 4.30 pm, Wesley Centre, Pitt St, Sydney. Contact: 02 9266 9580 or [cecil.woodward@aue.salvationarmy.org](mailto:cecil.woodward@aue.salvationarmy.org). Web: <http://www.salvos.org.au/impact>.

**11 OCTOBER. MOSQUE OPEN DAY (VIC).** The Albanian Australian Islamic Society (AAIS) is pleased to present the AAIS Open Day, commemorating 40 years since its establishment. The AAIS strives to preserve the culture and identity of the Albanian Muslim community and promote mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among other communities in Australia. The event is open to all ages and faiths. 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, 765 Drummond Street, Carlton North. Contact: 03 9347 6505 or [admin@aais.org.au](mailto:admin@aais.org.au). Web: <http://www.aais.org.au>.

**12 - 14 OCTOBER. YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS CONFERENCE (NSW).** This Youth Accommodation Association (YAA) conference provides an important opportunity to consider, prepare and position work in relation to the implementation of The Road Home and NAHA reforms. The conference will also showcase new ideas, new research, and good practice to support / resource organisations and workers opportunities and challenges ahead for work of ending youth homelessness in Australia. Cost: \$300. Twin Towns Resort, Wharf Street, Tweed

Heads. Contact: 02 9698 5833. Web: <http://www.yaa.com.au/>.

**13 OCTOBER. PRIOLETTI CONSULTANTS COURSE: 'CROSS CULTURAL AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION TRAINING' (VIC).** Cultural awareness training can provide an insight into service barriers as well as improve communication and service quality. These short courses aim to provide participants with the awareness and communication skills to work effectively and sensitively with the CALD community. Cost: \$110. 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, Northcote Library Meeting Room, 32-38 Separation Street, Northcote. Contact: [josie@prioletticonsultants.com.au](mailto:josie@prioletticonsultants.com.au), 03 9038 9292 or 0438 846 584. Web: [http://www.field.org.au/infocast09/prioletti/cross\\_cultural/northwest\\_oct.pdf](http://www.field.org.au/infocast09/prioletti/cross_cultural/northwest_oct.pdf).

**13 OCTOBER. SEMINAR: 'STILL DOING IT TOUGH: AN UPDATE ON DEPRIVATION AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION AMONG WELFARE SERVICE CLIENTS' (NSW).** Presented by the Social Policy Research Centre. Speaker: Melissa Wong. 12.30 to 1.30 pm, Level 2, Room 250, The Robert Webster Building, UNSW, Sydney. Contact: [sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au). Web: <http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/seminars/2009s2.html>.

**13 OCTOBER. DOCUMENTARY FILM: 'THE END OF POVERTY?' (NSW).** Jubilee Australia is pleased to invite you to this special event to mark Anti-Poverty Week and Global Week of Action Against Debt, October 11-17 and to raise funds for Jubilee Australia. Directed by Philippe Diaz, narrated by Martin Sheen, this extraordinary documentary will make you think again about poverty. The film will be followed by a panel discussion and refreshments. Cost: \$35, concession \$25. 6.15 pm, Dendy Cinema, Opera Quays, Sydney. Tickets available at <http://www.jubileeaustralia.org/theendofpoverty-event>.

**14 OCTOBER. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: 'THE FINDINGS OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION' (ACT).** Speaker: Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, Chair, National Human Rights Consultation Committee. Cost: \$55 members, \$75 guests. 11.30 am to 1.30 pm, National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: 02 6121 2199 or [npc@npc.org.au](mailto:npc@npc.org.au). Web: <http://www.npc.org.au>.

**15 OCTOBER. DINNER AND DISCUSSION: 'THE POLITICS OF FOOD' (WA).** This dinner hosted by the Bluestocking Institute for Global Peace and Justice will provide a space to explore some of the ethical and political questions surrounding what we eat, how we eat, and how we produce food. Bring a plate to share. Cost: gold coin donation. 6.30 to 8.00 pm, Edmund Rice Social Justice Institute (ERISJ), 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: [bluestocking@bluestockinginstitute.org](mailto:bluestocking@bluestockinginstitute.org) or 0411 595 834. Web: <http://www.bluestockinginstitute.org>.

**15 OCTOBER. PRIOLETTI CONSULTANTS COURSE: 'CROSS CULTURAL AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION TRAINING' (VIC).** Cultural awareness training can provide an insight into service barriers as well as improve communication and service quality. These short courses aim to provide participants with the awareness and communication skills to work effectively and sensitively with the CALD community. Cost: \$110. 1.00 to 4.00 pm, Wheelers Hill Meeting Room, 860 Ferntree Gully Road, Wheelers Hill. Contact: [josie@prioletticonsultants.com.au](mailto:josie@prioletticonsultants.com.au), 03 9038 9292 or 0438 846 584. Web: [http://www.field.org.au/infocast09/prioletti/cross\\_cultural/northwest\\_oct.pdf](http://www.field.org.au/infocast09/prioletti/cross_cultural/northwest_oct.pdf).

**15 OCTOBER. SEMINAR: 'CIVILISING GLOBALISATION: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY' (NSW).** The paper constructs an argument for seeking out and promoting the ways in which the global economy advances the ends of human rights, while at the same time taming undesirable excesses of the global market. Speaker: David Kinley, Chair, Human Rights Law, University of Sydney. 12.30 to 2.00 pm, Seminar Room, Level 2, Law Building, UNSW, Kensington Campus. Contact: [ahrc@unsw.edu.au](mailto:ahrc@unsw.edu.au), RSVP by 12 October. Web: <http://www.ahrcentre.org/content/Activites/AHRCEvents.html>.

**15 - 16 OCTOBER. SEE-CHANGE FAITH GROUPS MEETING (ACT).** SEE-Change members will present a business case for the purchase and installation of photovoltaic panels to feed in electricity to the grid, outlining costs, possible earnings and possible discounts through making a group purchase of panels. Churches are invited to send

one or two representatives to one of these information sessions. SEE-Change is a not-for-profit organisation formed to assist people and groups in Canberra to address challenges that are facing all of us, climate change being one of the most serious. 7.30 pm Thursday; 10.00 am Friday; Majura Community Centre, 2 Rosevear Place, Dickson. Contact: 0409 233 138, 02 6248 8030, or [hpaletorpe@grapevine.net.au](mailto:hpaletorpe@grapevine.net.au) by 6 October. Web: <http://www.see-change.org.au/>.

**16 OCTOBER. NATIONAL SPEAKING TOUR: 'RESISTANCE TO INVASION: THE ABORIGINAL WALK-OFF AND PROTEST AGAINST THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INTERVENTION' (VIC).** To raise support for the Ampilatwatja walk-off against the NT Intervention. Speakers: Richard Downs, Alyawarr People's Walk-Off, Ampilatwatja NT; Harry Nelson, Yuendumu Community Spokesperson; and leading Melbourne Aboriginal activist Robbie Thorpe. 6.00 pm, Melbourne Youth Sport and Recreation centre (MAYSAR), 185 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy. Contact: 0413597315 or 0434127661. Web: <http://interventionwalkoff.wordpress.com/>.

**16 - 18 OCTOBER. STAND UP AGAINST POVERTY! (INTERNATIONAL).** Join with millions of people from around the world on in making a stance against global poverty. Last year more than 200,000 Australians stood up to urge our government to meet its commitments, and to provide more and better aid. STAND UP is staged annually to coincide with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October. Take a stand and help Make Poverty History. Contact: [info@standupagainstopoverty.com.au](mailto:info@standupagainstopoverty.com.au). Web: <http://www.standupagainstopoverty.com.au/> or <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au/>.

**16 - 18 OCTOBER. PALESTINIAN DAYS FILM FESTIVAL (QLD).** The festival is sponsored by Justice for Palestine and the Palestinian Association of QLD. Cost: Sponsorship ticket - entry to all session of festival including opening night: \$50; opening night: \$20, concession \$12; day pass: \$25, concession \$15; each session: \$10, concession \$8. Schonell Theatre, Sir Fred Schonell Drive, University of Queensland, Toowong. Contact: [contact@justiceforpalestinebrisbane.com.au](mailto:contact@justiceforpalestinebrisbane.com.au).

org or 0400 720 757. Web: <http://www.justiceforpalestinebrisbane.org/node/10>.

**16 OCTOBER. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'RUDD'S RESTRUCTURING OF AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH SYSTEM - WHAT WILL IT DELIVER?' (NSW).** Speakers: Prof Stephen Leeder, Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, Sydney University and Steven Childs, Senior Psychologist, D&A Services. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or [odl\\_bradley@pacific.net.au](mailto:odl_bradley@pacific.net.au). Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au>.

**17 OCTOBER. NATIONAL SPEAKING TOUR: 'RESISTANCE TO INVASION: THE ABORIGINAL WALK-OFF AND PROTEST AGAINST THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INTERVENTION' (QLD).** To raise support for the Ampilatwatja walk-off against the NT Intervention. Speakers: Richard Downs, Alyawarr People's Walk-Off, Ampilatwatja NT; Harry Nelson, Yuendumu Community Spokesperson; and Reverend Auntie Alex Gater, Aboriginal Women For Change. 1.30 pm, Kurlipa Hall, 174 Boundary Street, West End. Contact: 0401 227 443 or 07 3891 5385 or [mgillespie3@gmail.com](mailto:mgillespie3@gmail.com). Web: <http://interventionwalkoff.wordpress.com/>.

**17 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: LEE LUCAS CONCERT - 'SPRING LIAISON' (NSW).** A beautifully moving and sensitive journey about the impact of being part of the Stolen Generations, being an 'outsider' and rediscovery of Spirituality and Culture, featuring original music compositions and poetry by local Aboriginal artist, Lee Lucas. Proceeds will go to a Music Scholarship at the Penrith Conservatorium of Music and the Ian Thorpe Young Indigenous Program. Cost: donation. 7.00 pm, John Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, 597 High Street, Penrith. Contact: 02 4723 7604 or 02 4723 7605, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.poetsunion.com/node/394>.

**17 OCTOBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY.** \$2 is less than most of us spend on a cup of coffee, yet that's what more than 2 billion people around the world must survive on every day. Buying Fairtrade is a simple way to help change this. Fairtrade invite everyone to pledge to spend \$2 a day on Fairtrade products (coffee,

chocolate, peanuts, t-shirts...) for two weeks in order to help tackle poverty. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/>.

**18 OCTOBER. LECTURE: 'THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS - ITS EFFECT ON THE POOR' (NSW).** CLRI (NSW) Social Justice Committee and CCJP present Professor Julian Disney, Faculty of Law, UNSW, speaking on the impact of the crisis on poverty in Australia and abroad. Cost: \$10. 10.00 am to 12.30 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 9 Alexandra Street, Croydon. Contact: [clriadmin@ozemail.com.au](mailto:clriadmin@ozemail.com.au), [clrinsw@ozemail.com.au](mailto:clrinsw@ozemail.com.au) or 02 9663 2199, RSVP essential.

**18 OCTOBER. PUBLIC FORUM: 'WHERE TO FOR AFGHANISTAN?' (VIC).** A public forum organised by Pax Christi to debate the issues of Afghanistan's misplaced refugees. 2.00 to 5.00 pm, Centre for Theology and Ministry, 1 Morrison Close (the lane between Ormond and St Hilda's Colleges), Parkville. Contact: [pax@paxchristi.org.au](mailto:pax@paxchristi.org.au). Web: <http://www.paxchristi.org.au/plugins/events.cgi/events/view?event=20181&eventdate=95299>.

**18 OCTOBER. INTER-FAITH FORUM ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: 'GLOBAL PROBLEMS REQUIRED A GLOBAL RESPONSE' (ACT).** Professor Clive Hamilton, Professor of Public Ethics, Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, will challenge faith communities to reflect theologically and spiritually on their responsibility to care for creation. A panel representing the world's different religions will offer their own perspectives and respond to questions from the audience. Cost: \$5 donation. 2.00 to 5.00 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton. Contact: [acc-c@csu.edu.au](mailto:acc-c@csu.edu.au). Web: <http://www.acc-c.org.au/>.

**18 - 24 OCTOBER. CARERS' WEEK (NATIONAL).** There are 2.6 million unpaid family carers in Australia. The demands of caring can make it harder to have a job, go to school, or take time out to relax. We, as the Body of Christ, are invited and encouraged by Jess to joyfully acknowledge and share our journey with carers. Contact: [disability@catholic.org.au](mailto:disability@catholic.org.au) for a Prayer for Carers' Week. Web: <http://www.carersweek.com.au/09/>.

**20 OCTOBER. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND PRACTICE FORUM (VIC).**

The Human Rights Policy and Practice Forum aims to critically explore the human rights policy and practice in Australia in an open and interactive format, allowing for a robust discussion between all participants. Speakers: Right Hon. Malcolm Fraser AC, CH, Former Prime Minister and CARE Australia founding chairman; Geoffrey Robinson QC; Rosslyn Noonan, Chief Commissioner, New Zealand Human Rights Commission; etc. Cost: \$1975. 8.30 am, InterContinental Melbourne, The Rialto, 495 Collins Street, Melbourne. Contact: [registration@liquidlearning.com.au](mailto:registration@liquidlearning.com.au) or 02 9437 1311. Web: <http://www.liquidlearning.com.au>.

**21 OCTOBER. FOENANDER PUBLIC LECTURE: 'WHAT MAKES FOR MEANINGFUL WORK IN THE 21ST CENTURY: TERMS, CONDITIONS AND CONTEXTS' (VIC).**

This lecture will reflect on how the meaning of work varies between jobs and by socio-economic status. It will consider how the terms, conditions and contexts of work add to, or detract from, the meaning of work in our lives. Speaker: Professor Barbara Pocock. No cost. 6.30 to 7.30 pm, Theatre A, Elisabeth Murdoch Building, University of Melbourne. Contact: [foenander-lecture@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:foenander-lecture@unimelb.edu.au). Web: <http://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/FoenanderFinal.pdf>.

**21 OCTOBER. SEMINAR: ABORIGINAL PERSPECTIVES ON THEIR ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENTS: 'WHY DON'T THEY JUST TALK WITH US?' (ACT).** Speaker, Annie Kennedy, uses the voices of Aboriginal people to present findings which shed light on how people in a remote desert environment experience and respond to government initiatives. Aboriginal insights into what could work in remote desert contexts, has resonance in service delivery approaches and research findings emerging from international development experience. 12.30 to 2.00 pm, Humanities Conference Room, First Floor, A.D. Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), The Australian National University, Canberra. Contact: 02 6125 0587 or [admin.caepr@anu.edu.au](mailto:admin.caepr@anu.edu.au). Web: [http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/Seminars/09/2009/21\\_10\\_Seminar.php](http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/Seminars/09/2009/21_10_Seminar.php).

**22 OCTOBER. SEMINAR: INTERNATIONAL PASTORAL CARE DAY (ACT).** Australian Health and Welfare Chaplains Association (AHWCA) is holding this seminar with the theme 'Pastoral Care: A supportive Presence in Community Trauma and Disaster'. Speakers include: Lieut Col Don Woodland OAM, Salvation Army, experience with various emergency services over many years; and Heather Muir, grief and trauma educator and counsellor, experience in Emergency Departments supporting suddenly bereaved families. Cost: \$50 AHWCA members, \$55 non members. 8.30 am to 3.30 pm, Yarralumla Uniting Church, 1 Denman Street, Yarralumla. Contact: 02 6286 6859 or 02 6244 2261. Web: <http://www.pastoralcareact.org/PCweek09.html>.

**22 - 23 OCTOBER. SYDNEY FOOD FAIRNESS ALLIANCE FOOD SUMMIT: 'HUNGRY FOR CHANGE - SHAPING FOOD POLICIES THAT ARE FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE' (NSW).** Day 1: Workshops to discuss issues raised in recent forums and to clarify content for the Declaration. Day 2: Visits to showcase innovative local projects promoting sustainability and access to healthy food; or work in a group to finalise Declaration for NSW Parliament. Cost: \$30 - \$245. Teachers' Federation, Surry Hills. Web: <http://sydneyfoodfairness.org.au/>.

**23 OCTOBER. UN DAY: WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON (NSW).** The Cenotaph and wreath laying ceremony honouring Australia's contribution to UN peace keeping over 62 years includes guest of honour Major-General Tim Ford AO and commences 10.45 am. The luncheon will include speaker Hon Robert Ellicott QC. Luncheon cost: \$79. Luncheon 12.30 pm, NSW Parliament House, Strangers Dining Room, Sydney. Contact: [office@unaansw.org.au](mailto:office@unaansw.org.au) or 02 9212 0998, RSVP by 16 October. Web: <http://unaansw.org.au/29.html>.

**23 - 25 OCTOBER. RETREAT: 'NONVIOLENT PEACEMAKING: IN YOUR COMMUNITY ... IN YOUR WORLD' (NSW).** A weekend retreat for beginners and experienced practitioners in the beautiful surroundings of the Blue Mountains. Learn about the principles power of active non-violence in the tradition of Jesus, Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr; connecting personal

transformation and social change; concrete skills for putting non-violent power into practice. Using materials from 'From Violence to Wholeness and Engage: Exploring Non-violent Living'. Cost: \$100, concession \$70. Friday 7.00 pm to Sunday 5.00 pm, Waratah Lodge, Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba. Contact: 0438 281 017 or [justin\\_whelan@hotmail.com](mailto:justin_whelan@hotmail.com), RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.paceebene.org.au/workshops.html>.

**23 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: MARIST YOUTH CARE ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY (NSW).** Money raised will go towards the Affordable Housing for Life Project - a Social Enterprise which employs at risk Young People to build and maintain houses which provides them with employment, skills training and a permanent place to live. Cost: \$105. 6.45 am, Ashlar Golf Course, Springfield Avenue, Blacktown. Contact: 0417 605 003 or [pauliner@maristyc.com.au](mailto:pauliner@maristyc.com.au), RSVP by 9 October. Web: <http://www.ashlargolfclub.com.au>.

**23 OCTOBER. WA WEEK: 'TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE: CELEBRATING YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN SOCIAL JUSTICE' (WA).** ERISJ is holding a school 'unity and diversity' day with students from Christian Brothers College in Fremantle. The event will bring together youth from diverse social, economic and cultural communities comprising refugees and migrants, indigenous and non indigenous Australians to celebrate their learning and achievement in social justice for a strong and diverse WA. Contact: (08) 9432 2400 or [admin@erisj.org.au](mailto:admin@erisj.org.au). Web: <http://erisj.org.au/event/2009/10/23/day>.

**23 - 25 OCTOBER. CONFERENCE: 'GREEN NEW DEAL: ECOLOGY, ECONOMY, DEMOCRACY' (VIC).** 23 October, public lecture by Senator Bob Brown - 'The Greening of Politics'. Speaker, live via link from the UK, Prof Tim Jackson, author of *Prosperity without Growth*, plus presenters from all over Australia and Indonesia. Participants are invited to organise forums, workshops and activities, exchange experiences, and share a sense of optimism about our ability as a global society to meet the challenges ahead. Cost: \$95 - \$295. Copland Theatre, University of Melbourne, Parkville. Contact: [leanne.minshull@aph.gov](mailto:leanne.minshull@aph.gov).

au. Registration and information: <http://www.greeninstitute.org.au/gnd>.

**24 OCTOBER. EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (ERISJ) INTENSIVE: 'EXEMPLARY SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION: WHAT WORKS AND WHY - 3 CASE STUDIES' (WA).** The Intensive identifies the predictors of effective campaigns. These three case studies share a combination of sustained thinking, sustained action and sustained ethical decency in their ends and means. Speakers: Dr Noel Nannup, Cultural Corridors and the Revival of Aboriginal Western Australia; Professor Linda Briskman, Head of the Australian Council of Heads of Schools of Social Work; and John Waddingham, Timor Information Service. Cost: \$25 - \$150. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: (08) 9432 2400 or [admin@erisj.org.au](mailto:admin@erisj.org.au). Web: [http://erisj.org.au/091024\\_intensive](http://erisj.org.au/091024_intensive).

**26 OCTOBER. FORUM AND EXPO: 'FREE MINDS - DISABILITY AND DISADVANTAGE IN THE CYCLE OF CRIME' (QLD).** Speakers: Dr Jan Hamill, University of QLD; Dianne Pendergast, Adult Guardian, Assistance for People involved with the Criminal Justice System; Barbara Biggs, author; Prof Stephen Smallbone, Griffith University; etc. Cost: \$242. 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Merivale Street, Brisbane. Contact: [mperkins@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mperkins@bigpond.net.au). Web: [http://www.nomoreprisons.com.au/free\\_minds\\_forum\\_01\\_2009.pdf](http://www.nomoreprisons.com.au/free_minds_forum_01_2009.pdf).

**26 - 27 OCTOBER. ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF QLD (ECCQ) MULTICULTURAL SUMMIT: 'FROM REFLECTION TO REJUVENATION' (QLD).** Keynote speakers: Jason Yat Sen Li from Beijing and author, social commentator and radio host Phillip Adams from Sydney. There will also be a panel discussion debating the controversial topic 'Multiculturalism is dead - Long Live Social Inclusion.' Most importantly, all delegates at the Summit will work towards a meaningful Declaration with impact, based on Summit proceedings and delegate involvement. Cost: \$190 - \$490. State Library of Queensland, Stanley Street, South Brisbane. Contact: [summit@eccq.com.au](mailto:summit@eccq.com.au) or 07 3844 9166.

Web: <http://www.eccq.com.au/default.asp?contentID=880>.

**27 OCTOBER. WOMEN FOR BURMA: 'GATHER FOR DEMOCRACY, STAND FOR FREEDOM' (NSW).** Women of Australia are invited to join in support of Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma, by standing united for 15 minutes on the steps of Sydney Opera House. The message is simple 'We stand beside you, behind you, in front of you, and through hardship we will carry you in our hearts and minds'. Hosted by Janelle Saffin, Federal Member for Page. 12.15 to 12.45 pm, The Forecourt, Sydney Opera House. RSVP: <http://www.janellesaffin.com.au>.

**28 OCTOBER. BREAKFAST BRIEFING: 'IMPROVING WELL BEING FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN VICTORIA' (VIC).** Catholic Social Services Victoria presents speaker Bernie Geary, Child Protection Commissioner. 7.30 to 8.45 am, Thomas Carr Centre, Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. Contact: 03 9287 5566 or [esilvius@css.org.au](mailto:esilvius@css.org.au), RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.css.org.au/>.

**28 - 29 OCTOBER. NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: 'WIDEN THE SPACE OF YOUR TENT' (NSW).** Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office are holding this conference. Participants will have an opportunity to acknowledge and affirm all those providing care to migrants, refugees and people on the move in Australia; hear the latest in the Church's teaching on migration; contribute to further development of the national plan for the pastoral care to migrants, refugees and people on the move in Australia; and share what is happening throughout the Church in Australia on the pastoral care to people on the move. Cost: \$350 - \$375. SMC Conference and Function, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney. Contact: [adminassistant@acmro.catholic.org.au](mailto:adminassistant@acmro.catholic.org.au). Web: [http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_view&gid=859&tmpl=component&format=raw&Itemid=185](http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=859&tmpl=component&format=raw&Itemid=185).

**28 - 30 OCTOBER. INDIGENOUS HEALTH DELIVERY FORUM: 'BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND CREATING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE HEALTH DELIVERY SERVICES' (QLD).** Speakers:

Uncle Joe Kirk, Turrubal People; Dion Tatow, Director, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council; Lisa Briggs, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, Indigenous Australia Program, Oxfam; Associate Professor Gail Garvey, Queensland Institute of Medical Research; etc. Cost: \$3298.90. 8.45 am to 5.00 pm, Novotel Brisbane, 200 Creek Street, Brisbane. Contact: 02 9224 6024 or [jordy.bertram@TonkinCorporation.com](mailto:jordy.bertram@TonkinCorporation.com). Web: <http://www.TonkinCorporation.com>.

**28 OCTOBER. SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB 'HUMAN PROGRESS AT THE EXPENSE OF GOD'S CREATION' (NSW).** Speaker: Fr Charles Rue. Penrith Bowling Club, corner Derby and Woodruff Streets, Penrith. Contact: 02 9760 2324. Web: <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/spirituality%20in%20the%20pub.htm>.

**29 - 30 OCTOBER. FECCA 2009 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE (VIC).** This year the conference will explore the twin themes of social inclusion and multiculturalism. It will consider how Australians from migrant and refugee backgrounds fit into the wider social inclusion agenda. Cost: \$110 - \$440. Eastbank Centre, Shepparton, Victoria. Contact: 02 6282 5755 or [bradley@ccem.com.au](mailto:bradley@ccem.com.au). Web: <http://www.fecca.org.au>.

**29 OCTOBER - 26 NOVEMBER. PASTORAL CARE TRAINING (ACT).** The Clinical Pastoral Education Centre is offering two Introductory Units in different modes - Thursdays, 29 October to 26 November or Monday to Friday, 30 November to 4 December. Cost: \$200. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Canberra Hospital. Contact: 02 6244 2261 or [lyn.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:lyn.kelly@act.gov.au). Web: <http://www.pastoralcareact.org/cpe>.

**30 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER. RETREAT: 'CHRISTIANS AND THE QUR'AN' (VIC).** The leader of the retreat, Father Herman Roborgh SJ, has lived and studied among Muslims in Pakistan and India and he says that delving into the Qur'an has deepened and enriched his own faith. Cost: suggested donation \$190 live in or \$160 live out. Campion Centre, 99 Studley Park Road, Kew. Contact: 03 98548110 or [secretary@cis.jesuit.org.au](mailto:secretary@cis.jesuit.org.au). Web: <http://www.cis.jesuit.org.au/CampQuran.html>.

**30 OCTOBER. EDMUND RICE BUSINESS ETHICS INITIATIVE BREAKFAST SEMINAR: 'MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH YOUR INVESTMENTS' (NSW).** Chris Cuffe, former CEO, Colonial First State, current Chair, Social Ventures Australia, will talk about his experiences as a leading investment manager and how he came to see that making a profit and making a difference can go together. Cost: \$40, concession/member \$25. 7.30 to 9.00 am, Gilbert and Tobin, 2 Park Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 8762 4200 or [steved@erc.org.au](mailto:steved@erc.org.au). Web: <http://www.erc.org.au/busethics/forum.shtml>.

**31 OCTOBER. A FEAST OF MULTIFAITH CHORAL MUSIC: 'TOGETHER WE SING, TOGETHER WE TALK' (NSW).** Featuring: Gospel Sounds of the Elementals; Sydney Jewish Choral Society; and Australian Byzantine Choir. Cost: \$20, concession \$15. 8.00 pm, Paddington Uniting Church, 395 Oxford Street, Paddington. Contact: [szeklex@szeklex.com.au](mailto:szeklex@szeklex.com.au), RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.nswec.org.au/events.php?id=72&c=-1>.

**31 OCTOBER. ERISJ INTENSIVE: 'UTOPIA'S SHADOW: JUST SOCIETIES, NEW POSSIBILITIES, OLD PATHOLOGIES' (WA).** Sessions: Why Social Justice Matters, Utopia and Dystopia, Searching for Ways Forward (an interactive afternoon). Speakers: Peter Beilharz, Professor of Sociology, La Trobe University, Melbourne, founding Director of the Thesis Eleven Centre for Cultural Sociology; David Freeman, Director of the Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice, sociologist and political scientist by training. Cost: \$25 - \$150. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: (08) 9432 2400 or [admin@erisj.org.au](mailto:admin@erisj.org.au). Web: [http://erisj.org.au/091031\\_intensive](http://erisj.org.au/091031_intensive).

**31 OCTOBER. CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING: 'TO UNDERSTAND THE PRESENT - WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE PAST' (NSW).** This interactive workshop will be presented by Grant Sarra who spent 26 years of his life working exclusively with Indigenous people in Australia. He developed a detailed understanding of the issues that impact upon Indigenous Australians. The workshop will help participants gain a greater understanding of Indigenous Australians and what it is like to

be an Indigenous Australian. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, NSW Action Centre, Level 1, 79 Myrtle Street, Chippendale. Contact: [courtney.payne@amnesty.org.au](mailto:courtney.payne@amnesty.org.au), RSVP by 23 October. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/21615/>.

**1 NOVEMBER. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'RECONCILIATION OF SPIRIT - THE PATH TO INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE' (QLD).** Public lecture with Dr Gerard Hall, Associate Professor of Theology, sponsored by Sea of Faith in Australia Gold Coast Group. Dr Hall is acknowledged as a leading expert on the theology of religions and principles and practices of interfaith dialogue. He is currently involved with the International Spirit of Religion Project with world renowned theologian Raimon Panikkar, and is an Advisory Board member of the Asia Pacific Centre for Inter-religious dialogue. Cost: \$10 donation. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Bicentennial Community Centre, 833 Southport/Nerang Road, Nerang. Contact: 07 5577 2142. Web: [http://www.acu.edu.au/about\\_acu/news\\_events/events-at-ACU-National/](http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/news_events/events-at-ACU-National/).

**3 NOVEMBER. FUNDRAISER: JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE: MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON (NSW).** A fabulous day out to support JRS in their mission to accompany refugees. Cost: \$105. 11.30 am, Dockside - The Balcony Level, Cockle Bay Wharf, city side of Darling Harbour. Contact: 02 9356 3888. Web: <http://www.jrs.org.au>.

**4 NOVEMBER. SYDNEY PEACE FOUNDATION: AWARD CEREMONY AND GALA DINNER (NSW).** Recipient: John Pilger, world renowned reporter, author and filmmaker. 7.00 pm, MacLaurin Hall, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 4468 or [spf@arts.usyd.edu.au](mailto:spf@arts.usyd.edu.au). Web: <http://www.spf.arts.usyd.edu.au/events.shtml>.

**5 NOVEMBER. CITY OF SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE LECTURE (NSW).** Speaker: John Pilger, world renowned reporter, author and filmmaker. Cost: \$25, concession \$20. 8.00 to 9.30 pm, Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. Contact: 02 9250 7777. Web: <http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com>.



**5 - 6 NOVEMBER. NATIONAL SQUALOR CONFERENCE (NSW).** Catholic Community Services is hosting this Conference on sustainable long term interventions through exploring the experiences of severe domestic squalor within the following themes: Social Isolation, Societal Structures, Sustainable Housing, the Moral Cost, the Collective Impact, the Need for Collaboration, substance dependence, mental health, disability and aged care and evidence.

Speakers: Professor John Snowdon, Psychogeriatrician; Professor William Lauder, University of Stirling UK; Susan Graham, Severe Domestic Squalor Project; Dr Shannon McDermott, Social Policy Research Centre UNSW; etc. Cost: \$540. SMC Conference Centre, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney. Contact: [info@nationalsqualorconference.com.au](mailto:info@nationalsqualorconference.com.au) or 02 9855 2571. Web: <http://www.nationalsqualorconference.com.au/>.

**6 - 8 NOVEMBER. MERCY AND JUSTICE CONFERENCE: 'EMBRACE THE OTHER AND WELCOME DIFFERENCE...' (NSW).** The social justice issues of the needs of the earth, Indigenous communities, refugees and asylum seekers, and the impact of poverty on women will be addressed. Sisters of Mercy will host this conference featuring Australian social justice practitioners, thinkers and advocates. Speakers: Mick Dodson, Director National Centre for Indigenous Studies ANU, 2009 Australian of the Year; Tim Flannery, Scientist, environmentalist, writer, 2007 Australian of the Year; Margot O'Neill, ABC journalist, author; Jan Gray RSM, Theologian; Maryanne Loughry RSM, Psychologist, refugee worker, academic; Madge McGuire, Director Catherine House Inc, women's advocate; and Denise Coghlan RSM, Social justice and refugee advocate. Cost: \$300. Queanbeyan Conference Centre, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan. Contact: 0408 426 876 or [Institute.Justice@mercy.org.au](mailto:Institute.Justice@mercy.org.au). Web: <http://www.mercy.org.au>.

## News Monitor

### Vietnam amnesty for 5000 prisoners, but not priest

Vietnam freed more than 5000 prisoners as part of an annual prison amnesty program to mark the country's National Day this week, but the government wasn't budging on the detention of a dissident priest.

### Rich owe poor trillions in "ecological debt": study

A US \$2.3 trillion "ecological debt" is owed by industrialised nations to poorer countries, said a University of California study, and it should be assessed and penalised by an international court, an ecumenical gathering heard.

### Vinnies call for help on homeless project

Queensland's St Vincent de Paul Society urgently needs donations to complete its \$8 million homeless facility and services centre on the Gold Coast under the organisation's "Families Back on Track" project.

### Petition for Timor-Leste award goes to Parliament

A petition signed by 23,000 people, seeking Federal support for the nomination of Timor Leste for the Companion of the Order of Australia (Honorary) award, was tabled in the House of Representative.

### NATSICC Assembly celebrates youth and elders

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council held its 2009 NATSICC Assembly in Brisbane, seeking to focus on youth and the council's elders.

### More action needed on global poverty and environment

A review commissioned by Make Poverty History and Micah Challenge to examine Australia's progress on Goal 8, Develop a Global Partnership for Development, of the Millenium Development goals, revealed successes and failings.

### **Social Justice Sunday Statement recognises commitment of youth**

The Bishops of Australia pledged their support for young people's commitment to social justice, reasserting last year's World Youth Day central theme of witnessing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Top level commitment needed to end poverty**

The \$9 billion dollars that Australians spend on beer every year, or the annual sum spent globally on perfume, could fuel the fight against global poverty, Caritas Internationalis secretary general Lesley Anne Knight said.

### **Jesuit Superior General points to human toll of Irish asylum process**

Jesuit Superior General Father Adolfo Nicolas expressed his concerns over the long term institutional effects of the asylum process in Ireland, during the launch of the annual report of the country's Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS).

### **Timor church attacks release of accused militia man**

Timor Leste's Catholic Church joined NGOs and the United Nations in condemnation of the release of an Indonesian former militia commander, Martenus Bere, accused of crimes against humanity.

### **Emissions reduction is "moral responsibility": Catholic delegation**

An environmental delegation led by Catholic bishops from Europe, Africa and Latin America at the United Nations Summit on Climate Change on September 22 want a commitment from the US to steeply reduce emissions.

### **ACU launches social work masters**

The Canberra campus of Australian Catholic University will offer a new postgraduate Master of Social Work degree from next year.

### **Edmund Rice Education Australia introduces Youth +**

The Board of Edmund Rice Education Australia announced a new national education and social engagement initiative targeted at Australia's disenfranchised youth, called "Youth +".

### **Kenyan asylum seekers gain wide support**

Independent senator Nick Xenophon joined the Opposition and the Greens in calls for Immigration Minister Chris Evans to intervene and grant protection to Grace Gichuhi, 22, and Teresia Ndikaru Muturi, 21, who face possible genital mutilation at home.

### **Consider "silent" asylum seekers government told**

There were widespread community calls for Immigration Minister Chris Evans to grant immediate protection to a Kenyan woman, who arrived here as a World Youth Day pilgrim, over fears of forced circumcision and marriage if she is deported home.

### **Council denies Catholic charity closure order**

The City of Bayswater in Western Australia denied asking a Church run Shopfront centre to close, saying the organisation needs to apply for a permit to serve food but it may continue its food service to the homeless in the interim.

### **Be like Aldi: Anglican bishop**

The Church of England's Bishop of Reading, the Right Rev Stephen Cottrell, said the church must shed its middle class "Marks & Spencer" image and become more like "Aldi", welcoming to the masses.

### **Church groups to keep "limited discrimination" rights**

Victorian Attorney-General Rob Hulls approved a plan that will allow Church run organisations to refuse employment to anyone who undermines their beliefs.

### **Caritas appeal for Philippines flood victims**

Caritas Australia said its local partners in the Philippines were assessing the needs of Manila's slum dwellers affected by the tropical storm Ketsana that caused massive floods, fatalities and displacement.

### **Same sex rights campaigners ramp up action**

Same sex marriage and rights proponents are planning ramped up campaigns for their cause in 2010, in Perth, Brisbane, Canberra, Lismore, Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney.

- For details click on headlines or visit <http://cathnews.com>



# Social Justice Calendar

**1 THU** International Day of Older Persons  
World Wildlife Week commences  
Second Bali bombing, 2005

**2 FRI** Mahatma Gandhi born, 1869  
Shooting in Amish Community, Pennsylvania, USA, 2006

**3 SAT** Day of Jewish and Christian Dialogue

**4 SUN** 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Feast of St Francis of Assisi (may be transferred)  
World Space Week commences: First space Sputnik launched by the Soviet Union, 1957  
World Animal Welfare Day  
Intergeneration Day: Connecting Generations through Communication, Celebration, and Education

**5 MON** UN World Teachers Day  
World Habitat Day

**9 FRI** World Post Day

**10 SAT** Treaty on the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, 1967  
World Mental Health Day

**11 SUN** 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Opening Session of Vatican Council II, 1962  
National Anti-Poverty Week commences

**12 MON** Bombs explode at Bali's Kuta Beach, 2002

**13 TUE** International Water Week

**14 WED** International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

**15 THU** World Rural Women's Day

**16 FRI** 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 SAT** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

**18 SUN** 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
World Mission Sunday  
One World Week commences

**19 MON** Beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 2003  
Sinking of SIEVX, 2001

**24 SAT** United Nations Day  
World Development Information Day  
Disarmament Week commences

**25 SUN** 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Universal Children's Day (Australia)

**26 MON** International Teachers Day  
Uluru handed back to traditional owners, the Anangu people of Mutujulu, 1985

*Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC's Seasons of Social Justice Diary. The cost is \$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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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.