

JEDO Newsletter

Issue 5 Sept/Oct 15 Catholic Archdiocese of Perth



We welcome your inclusion and participation in our '**call to action**'.

With **Catholic Social Teaching** as our guide, let us walk together as one to make a difference in our communities – to **think globally, but act locally** – within our families, parishes, schools, work, civic and leisure communities, and beyond...

We welcome you on our shared journey:

www.jedo.perthcatholic.org.au

Introduction from the JEDO Director

The **Justice, Ecology and Development Office (JEDO)** within the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, Western Australia (WA), acknowledges the Letter (Bull of Indiction), *Misericordiae Vultus*, from His Holiness, the Bishop of Rome, for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. The Holy Year instigated by Pope Francis opens on the liturgical feast day of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on the 8th of December 2015, with the Jubilee year closing with the liturgical Solemnity of Christ the King on the 20th of November 2016.

Pope Francis states that, "the Church's first truth is the love of Christ. The Church makes herself a servant of this love and mediates it to all people: a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of oneself. Consequently, wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy," (MV # 12).

What a beautiful and yet timely call to action given some of the recent and current atrocities throughout the world – events that are leading some to forget our connectedness as global citizens, as one family: "Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instils in us the courage to look to the future with hope," (MV # 10).



From left: Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB and the State Bishops at the Perth launch of the ACBC Social Justice Statement

Through the international leadership of Pope Francis, we are called to show mercy for all who are displaced globally – to remember our brothers and sisters who are seeking refuge; to find a place of safety. Through the national leadership of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC) Social Justice Statement for 2015-16: "For those who've come across the seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers," we are invited to show our hospitality, and to welcome newcomers to our privileged country.

Pope Francis has also been instrumental in calling us to urgent action through his Encyclical *Laudato Si'* – to care for our common home – for God's good creation, and to show solidarity for our neighbours who are experiencing great hardship due to climate change and other environmental challenges. The Global Catholic Climate Movement has also called for our participation in the

People's Climate March, prior to the Climate talks in Paris (COP21). Pope Francis states (MV # 9) that, "the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year," is, 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy,' (Mt 5:7). Through the lens of mercy, we welcome you on this shared journey.

Carol Mitchell, Director

"The face of mercy is Jesus Christ. Let us keep our gaze upon Him. He who always seeks us, awaits us, forgives us...and may the Virgin Mary help us to be merciful towards others, as Jesus is with us." – Pope Francis

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Social Justice Statement 2015-2016

For those who've come across the seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers

National Gathering of Diocesan Social Justice Agencies

From Friday the 14th to Sunday the 16th of August (inclusive), I attended the national gathering of other Diocesan Social Justice agencies at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney, NSW. This was to prepare for the release of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC) Social Justice Statement for 2015-16: "For those who've come across the seas – Justice for refugees and asylum seekers" (available [here](#)). The gathering was kindly hosted by the staff from the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC), with many guest speakers being present over the weekend to enhance our understandings of the key issues within the Bishops' Statement. ACSJC staff included Helen Kearins rsm (Research and Projects Officer), John Ferguson (provides secretariat support from the ACSJC to the ACBC – Justice, Ecology and Development Commission), and David Brennan (Editing and Publications Officer).



Helen Kearins rsm (ACSJC Research and Projects Officer)



From left: John Ferguson (ACSJC Secretariat) and David Brennan (Editing and Publications Officer)

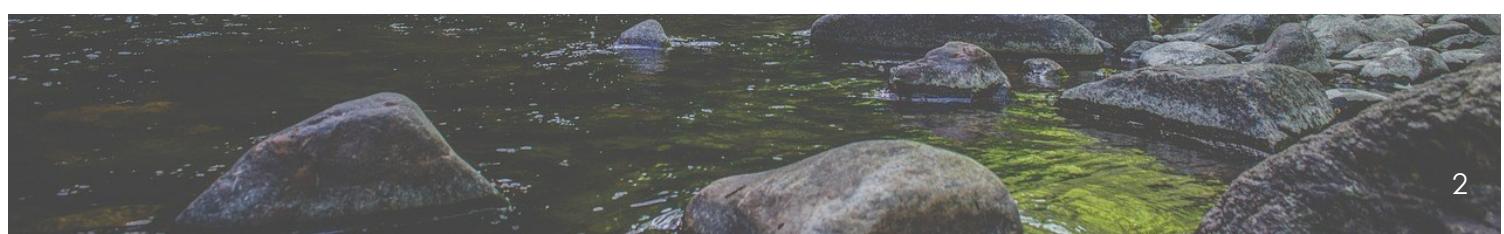
National Launch of the Social Justice Statement

Given it was earlier than in previous years, I was able to attend the national launch of the ACBC Social Justice Statement, which was held at the Auditorium at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney. The national launch of the Statement was held on Wednesday the 9th of September. This was the same day that Bishop Long welcomed the announcement that Australia would accept 12,000 more refugees, coming from Syria and Iraq.

It was a privilege to meet Vincent Long Van Nguyen DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne and Chairman of the ACSJC, at this event. Bishop Long shared his personal account of arriving in Australia by boat as a teenager, following his desperate escape from communist oppression within Vietnam. He comments in the Social Justice Statement, "That personal history was one reason why I chose for my motto as a Bishop the evocative words of Jesus to his disciples, *Duc in Altum* – 'Put out into the deep' (Luke 5:4)." Bishop Long said, "I highly commend this Statement to you and I pray that it will lead us to work for acceptance, justice and dignity for refugees and asylum-seekers."



From left: Carol Mitchell and Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, Vincent Long Van Nguyen DD, Chairman of ACSJC



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Perth Launch of the Social Justice Statement

The Perth launch of the Social Justice Statement was held on Tuesday the 22nd of September at the Parish Centre beneath St Mary's Cathedral in Perth.

Following a Welcome to Country by Aunty Marie Taylor, Fr Greg Donovan shared some of his experiences supporting and welcoming asylum seekers and refugees into his life and his home, highlighting how this experience has been such a privilege. It was humbling and moving to hear many of the challenges lived by Ashraf Mohammad, a Hazara from Afghanistan, as he tried to find a place of safety and refuge – with many Australians, including Fr Greg, having welcomed him whole-heartedly into their lives. It was wonderful to see the State Bishops, led by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB and Bishop Saunders (based in Broome), lead the gathering in the powerful prayer prepared by the ACSJC in support of the ACBC Social Justice Statement.

The Perth launch was just prior to Social Justice Sunday, (always the last Sunday in September), which is just the beginning of a year of focus and action to show our compassion and shared humanity in regards to refugees and asylum seekers: "For those who've come across the seas – we've boundless plains to share – With courage let us all combine to advance Australia fair."



Fr Greg Donovan



Ashraf Mohammad

"We are no longer refugees, we are home now. Thank you for welcoming us."

Earlier this year, JEDO Committee of Management member, Vicky Burrows, wrote about the wedding of her friends, two former refugees, and the incredible people of Shepparton who have welcomed the couple into their community. Read an excerpt from her reflection below, or read it in full [on the JEDO website](#).

Last weekend, at the wedding of Declo and Consolate, I witnessed an example of an Australia of which I am proud to be a part...

Whilst they are a beautiful couple, the thing of which I was most in awe was the way that the African community of Shepparton banded together with little resources to make this day something amazing for both of them, and did so with the support of the wider Shepparton community who have also welcomed refugees and asylum seekers from many different countries over the years...

...As a leader in the African community said in a speech at Declo and Consolate's wedding, "we are no longer refugees, we are home now. Thank you for welcoming us." This community of Shepparton has responded with compassion and love to people who have left terrible circumstances, choosing instead to view these new Australians as people who have a place and a role to play in a modern and multicultural Australia. They are an example of a town embodying the slogan "Real Aussies Say Welcome"...



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JEDO Networking

Governor's Prayer Breakfast

On Friday the 28th of August, the Grand Ballroom at Crown Perth, Burswood was once again the venue for the Governor's Prayer Breakfast that enabled about a thousand like-minded souls to begin their work day centred in prayer. It was wonderful to share this opportunity with JEDO Committee of Management members, Joanna Sadowska (JEDO CoM Chair) and Vicky Burrows, as well as colleague, Nigel Hayward (Catholic Earthcare Australia).



From left: Joanna Sadowska and Vicky Burrows

ACRATH Fundraiser

The Loreto Performing Arts Centre at Loreto Nedlands was the venue for the ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) Fundraising Concert that was held on Sunday the 30th of August. The concert and afternoon tea (provided by the ACRATH members) was enjoyed by all in attendance.



JEDO Advocacy

Welcome to Australia - Walk Together

It was wonderful to see such a joyous welcome expressed to those from many other nations as we danced, then walked, together at the Family Fun Day held at John MacMillan Park on Saturday 31st of October. It was a warm welcome at the Perth event that was hosted by ABC presenter, James McHale; with speakers including 2015 West Australian of the Year, Dr Robert Isaacs, and South Sudanese refugee, Materno Biwott.

Acknowledgement was made of the first-year anniversary of the Town of Victoria Park being recognised as a Refugee Welcome Zone; noting that John MacMillan Park is an appropriate venue for such a welcoming gathering.

It was great to see Fr Greg Donovan and Ashraf Mohammad in attendance with their friend, Essa. They were both guest speakers at the Perth Launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference Social Justice Statement (Tuesday 22nd September), "For those who've come across the seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers." It was also wonderful to see Parishioners Anne and Tom Stephens there, who organised the well-attended Requiem (by Karl Jenkins) held at St Mary's Cathedral (Sunday 11th of October). This event was a reflection on the loss of life among displaced people in our world as they seek asylum.

It was great to be a part of an event that celebrates diversity, compassion, solidarity and unity. Let us continue to walk together on this shared journey.



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Welcome to Australia - Walk Together: Saturday 31st October (John MacMillan Park, Victoria Park)



"Building peace is difficult, but living without peace is a constant torment."
– Pope Francis

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Our Common Ground for Our Common Home: Living the Joy of Laudato Si'

On Sunday the 25th of October the Redemptorist Monastery in North Perth hosted the launch of the *Laudato Si'* course that was offered through the Centre for Faith Enrichment (CFE). The collaboration included the Redemptorists (venue hosts), the Justice, Ecology and Development Office (JEDO), Caritas Australia, Catholic Earthcare Australia, and Catholic Mission.



Introductory Session to the CFE Course, Hosted by the Redemptorists

Fr Bruce Duncan was the guest speaker at the Sunday launch and introductory session for the CFE course that was held at the Retreat Centre at the Redemptorist Monastery in North Perth on the evening of Wednesday 28th of October. Fr Bruce provided a wonderful overview of the journey so far that has led Pope Francis to be moved to action on various social justice issues, and more recently, with the launch of *Laudato Si'* – calling us to care for our common home.



From left: Carol Mitchell, Fr Bruce Duncan, and Nigel Hayward



From left: Fr Bruce Duncan and Fr John Hodgson CSsR



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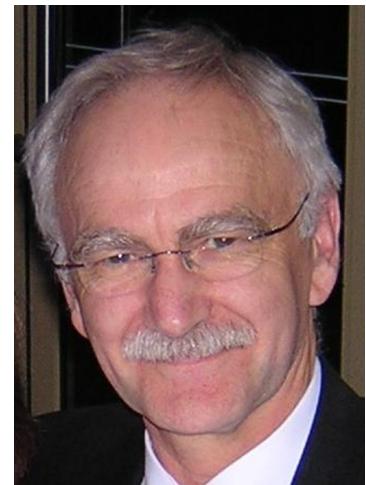
JEDO Committee of Management—News, updates and changes

Meet a JEDO CoM Member: Peter Higgins

Background

I have been a secondary school teacher for over 40 years, originally in Maths and Science in both government and Catholic schools, before focusing on Religious Education. For 14 years I served as the Religious Education Coordinator in three separate appointments, before joining the Religious Education and Faith Formation Team at the Leederville Centre of Catholic Education WA.

I would describe myself as a 'parish Catholic'. This simply means identifying with one parish and taking part in the Church's mission in that parish. St Anthony's Wanneroo has been home base for the last 22 years, and I am currently Chairman of the Parish Council, member of the Parish Finance Committee, Acolyte, etc. etc. I have been a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society for over 35 years, and have had the rewarding role of spiritual director to the Wanneroo branch for the last many years.



My late wife and I raised seven children, and I am now the proud grandfather of six. Keeping contact with a far-flung family is a major spare-time activity. Most of them will be home for Christmas, thank God!

Why did you join JEDO?

I was asked to join the Committee as the Archbishop's representative. At the time I was unaware that the Social Justice Council in WA had undergone 're-branding,' but I have quickly come to appreciate the work being done by Carol and her network of like-minded people.

What are you passionate about?

My most hackneyed saying is, 'God knows we're human - thank God - and God comes to us in ways that we humans can experience.' The mission of the Church, to make Christ known and loved, is most appreciated by those outside the Church through the Social Justice outreach of the Church in all its manifestations. This is because love of our fellow human beings answers the human need to know God cares for them. I want to see the Church fulfil its mission, and I take great joy when the work of the Church is acknowledged and celebrated.

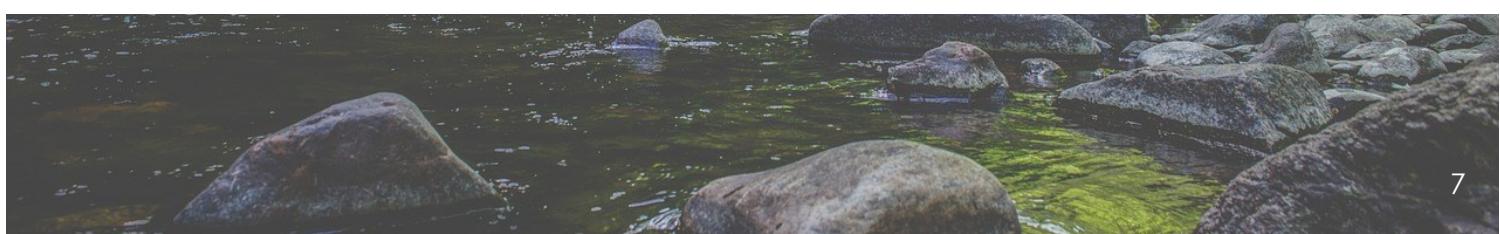
If your friends and family could describe you in THREE words, what would they be?

Irreverent, joking, kindly (in alphabetical order).



From left: JEDO Committee of Management members Fr Peter Daly, Sr Margaret O'Sullivan, and Damian Walsh, at the final meeting for 2015.

The JEDO Committee of Management meets five times a year, on a two-monthly basis.



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JEDO DIARY - AUGUST TO OCTOBER

4 August	Ecumenical Social Justice Roundtable (ESJR) Meeting	Uniting Church Centre, Perth
14 - 16 August	Yearly Gathering of Social Justice Diocesan Contacts	Hosted by the ACSJC, Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney, NSW
17 August	ACRATH Meeting (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans)	Ruah Training Room, West Perth
28 August	Refugee and Asylum Seeker (RAS) Working Group Meeting	Archdiocesan Finance Office (AFO), Perth
30 August	ACRATH Fundraising Concert	Loreto Performing Arts Centre, Loreto Nedlands
2 September	ESJR Meeting	Quakers' House, Mt Lawley
9 September	National Launch of ACBC Social Justice Statement	Auditorium, Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney, NSW
10 September	Liturgical Service for 'The Way Forward'	St Mary's Cathedral, Perth
15 September	Breakfast seminar on Refugees and Asylum Seekers	Banquet Hall South, University Club, UWA
18 September	Agencies Commissioning Mass	St Mary's Cathedral, Perth (JEDO Director one of the readers)
22 September	Perth launch of the Social Justice Statement	Parish Centre, St Mary's Cathedral (beneath Cathedral)
25 September	'Greening Our Faith' Staff PD	St Pius X, Manning (co-facilitated with Francis Leong)
11 October	Requiem (by Karl Jenkins) Fundraising event (for two agencies supporting asylum seekers and refugees)	St Mary's Cathedral, Perth
13 October	Leadership Forum with Sonya Smart, CEO of Catholic Homes Inc.	Catholic Marriage and Fertility Services, NSC, Doubleview
14 October	ESJR Meeting, followed by People's Climate Mobilisation Inter-faith Meeting	JEDO hosted: Boardroom, NSC, Doubleview
15 October	WA Freedom Network (prevention of human trafficking & slavery-like conditions)	Red Cross, East Perth

"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just." – Pope Francis

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JEDO DIARY - OCTOBER

21 October	'Coming Home' event (Catholic Mission, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry & Reconciliation WA)	Retreat Centre, Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth
25 October	Launch of <i>Laudato Si'</i> CFE course (collaboration)	Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth
28 October	Fr Bruce Duncan (Redemptorist) speaking about Pope Francis & <i>Laudato Si'</i> (intro session to course)	Retreat Centre, Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth
31 October	Welcome to Australia: Walk Together	John MacMillan Park, Victoria Park



ACSJC SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

2nd October	International Day of Non-Violence
5th October	World Habitat Day
10th October	World Mental Health Day
16th October	World Food Day
17th October	International Day for Eradication of Poverty
24th October	United Nations Day Disarmament Week begins
6th November	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
10th November	World Science Day for Peace and Development
11th November	Remembrance (Armistice) Day, commemorating the end of World War I in 1918
16th November	International Day for Tolerance
25th November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women



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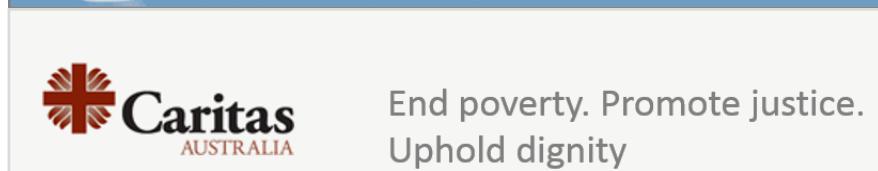
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In our next JEDO Newsletter

- Our Common Ground for Our Common Home
- Global Catholic Climate Movement and People's March
- Peace Promotion and Global Goals
- JEDO Networking, JEDO Advocacy, and more...

“Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilisation.”

– Mahatma Gandhi, “Young India,” Jan. 8, 1925



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