JEDO Newsletter
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Mercy: "large-heartedness"

The Justice, Ecology and Development Office (JEDO) within the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, Western Australia (WA), is grateful for the **Jubilee Year of Mercy** focus that reminded us of the importance of reconciliation and forgiveness. Pope Francis stated: "*Mercy is the divine attitude that embraces; it is God's self-giving that welcomes, that leans down to forgive*". However, it seems timely to ask whether we have demonstrated such mercy in our own lives? Have we fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty? Have we welcomed the stranger and clothed the naked? Have we visited the sick or imprisoned and buried the dead? **Have we cared for our common home?** Have our actions resonated with the call from His Holiness *"to be merciful like the Father"*? The end of a calendar year and more importantly, Advent is a time for such prayerful reflection and discernment.

His Grace, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB stated: "*Mercy… is generous, and gentle, and forgiving, and encouraging and courageous. It is ready to believe that people can change, that they can be better. It is ready to let go of angry judgments, and a desire for payback and a determination to make people suffer for their mistakes… If I had to sum it up in one word I would say that mercy is about being large-hearted*". With such wisdom in mind, it's also worth reflecting on the words of Dorothy Day: *"We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world. We repeat, there is nothing we can do but love, and dear God, please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as our friend*".

Dr Michelle Jones (CFE), Eco-theologian Fr Sean McDonagh SSC and Carol Mitchell (JEDO). On his international speaking tour, Fr Sean shared his insights for "Bringing Laudato Si' to Life" - to care for our common home.

Given these insights, it is important to highlight that a groundbreaking conference on **Non-Violence and Just Peace** was held in Rome this year that included 85 non-violence and peace-making practitioners from around the world. Given it is the 50th anniversary of Pope St John XXIII's encyclical, Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth), this critical shift to **just peace** (as opposed to a 'just war') is very significant. You can read more about the conference here (Just Comment – Vol 19, No 2, 2016). The **2017 World Day of Peace Message** from Pope Francis, *'Non-violence – a style of politics for peace'* (World Day of Peace – 1st January 2017), is available to read at this link.

So during this Holy season, may we be ever grateful for our blessings and share our gifts with others (click here to view a Christmas message from JEDO). Pope Francis stated: "*Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace*". May we not only share – but 'be' this beacon of joyous light. Shalom.

Carol Mitchell, JEDO Director

JEDO

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

"ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS - LET YOUR WORDS TEACH AND YOUR ACTIONS SPEAK"

- **St Anthony of Padua**

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ACBC 2016-17 Social Justice Statement

National Social Justice Agencies Gathering

It was a privilege to re-connect with other national diocesan agency staff members (from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th August) who are also working to promote the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC) Social Justice Statement. We gathered at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney, NSW where we were hosted by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC). This was our first opportunity to see the full Statement before then going forward to promote the message in our own Archdiocese following the national and possibly State launches. This is an important networking and information-sharing opportunity for all of us. Thanks to the ACSJC staff for their ongoing generosity, warmth and friendship.

Carol Mitchell and John Ferguson (ACSJC)

Alma Cottage, Mary MacKillop Place, Nth Sydney, NSW

Sr Helen Kearins (ACSJC) and Carol Mitchell

National Launch of the Social Justice Statement

On Tuesday the 6th of September, the national launch of the 2016 -17 ACBC Social Justice Statement: '*A Place at the Table – Social Justice in an Ageing Society*' was held during the Australasian Catholic Press Association Conference – 'Channels of Mercy'. This was held at Rydges Sydney Central, Surry Hills in NSW. The speakers were Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay; Fr Kevin McGovern and Sr Patty Fawkner SGS.

As an aside, being at the national launch also enabled making contact with Anne Lanyon from the Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice, Columban Mission Institute to briefly discuss the impending visit of eco -theologian, Fr Sean McDonagh to Perth in November to speak about 'Bringing Laudato Si' to Life'.

Sr Patty Fawkner SGS and Anne Lanyon

David Brennan (ACSJC) and Sr Helen Kearins rsm

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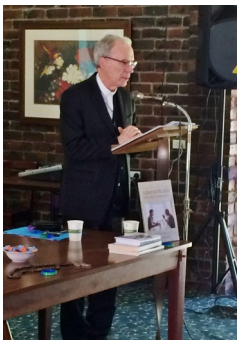
ACBC 2016-17 Social Justice Statement

Perth Launch of the Social Justice Statement - A Place at the Table

The Perth launch of the 2016-17 Social Justice (SJ) Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC), was held at the Retreat Centre at the Redemptorist Monastery in North Perth on Tuesday 20th September. Perth Auxiliary Bishop Don Sproxton generously shared personal reflections on some challenges and yet also opportunities in relation to ageing when he launched the Statement for the Archdiocese. This sharing gave other speakers an opportunity to reflect on how ageing has impacted them on both personal and professional levels. Sheryl Carmody, Executive Director, Mission and Culture at MercyCare facilitated the panel discussion that included Greg Mahney, CEO of Advocare; and Carlo Calogero, Executive Director of MercyCare's Aged Care Services. Although the ageing demographic has been described as *"the great success story of human development"*, the panel enabled broader discussion on some of the social justice issues in our ageing society.



Perth Auxiliary Bishop Don Sproxton

Greg Mahney (Advocare), Carlo Calogero (MercyCare) and Sheryl Carmody (MercyCare)

In the Social Justice Statement, Bishop Long, Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, and the Bishop of Parramatta stated: *"At this time in Australia, we face a threefold challenge: (1) to work for an inclusive society that brings older people into the heart of the community; (2) to ensure the dignity and care of people who are frail and most vulnerable to neglect or abuse; and (3) to foster solidarity among all generations, recognising the special affinity that exists between young and old"*. In the Ten Steps' leaflet that accompanies the Social Justice Statement, the Bishops call for communities of mercy and love – where people reach out and minister to vulnerable older people, where bonds between generations are built up, and where no-one is cast as a burden or as rivals to younger generations. This compassionate approach is further demonstrated in the SJ Statement prayer which has a wonderful intergenerational focus. Jim Smith (formerly from the Catholic Social Justice Council) and Annie Purbrick (Young Christian Students) led this communal prayer at the Perth launch of the Statement.

Fr Peter Toohey SSC, Tom Mitchell and Tom Gannon

'Ten steps to creating a place at the table' offers some practical actions: 1. Give thanks; 2. Get informed; 3. Help your parish include older people in the life of the Church; 4. Visit elderly people in aged care facilities or at home; 5. Assist with activities in retirement facilities or in the community; 6. Older people, volunteer your time; 7. Listen to the stories and life experience of older people; 8. Find out your local Federal and State Members' policies on matters affecting the elderly; 9. Make a plan in case of illness or frailty; and 10. Plan to initiate and join in events over the coming year.

Many Catholic primary schools already celebrate Grandparents Day and have great connections with local aged care facilities – this intergenerational sharing is a gift to be nurtured. I encourage you to read and then promote the 2016-17 Social Justice Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, regarding social justice in an ageing society. May there always be a place at your table.

Read the article that covered the Perth launch in The eRecord here.

JEDO Advocacy

Social Reinvestment WA (SRWA) - Community Call to Action

On a chilly evening on Tuesday the 13th of September, a community call to action event was held at the Reconciliation WA (RWA) premises at Cygnet Hall in Matilda Bay. Social Reinvestment recognises the importance of healthy families, smart justice and safe communities, not only for Aboriginal people, but for everyone.

James Back from RWA introduced Dr Noel Nannup who provided the Welcome to Country and the Co-Chairs of SRWA, Daniel Morrison and Glenda Kickett. They in turn welcomed the guest speakers, His Honour, Judge Denis Reynolds (President, Children's Court of WA) and Michelle Scott (Director, UWA McCusker Centre for Citizenship and former Commissioner for Children and Young People [CCYP]). Sophie Stewart is providing secretariat support to SRWA.

To support this important initiative with their funding goals: www.socialreinvestmentwa.org.au

The Courage of Our Convictions - The International Day of the Girl-Child

On Tuesday 11th October, the International Day of the Girl –Child, the follow-up meeting to the 'Is She Safe?' workshop was held at St Thomas More College (the Catholic residential college for UWA) in Crawley. This event was hosted by Catholic Mission and ACRATH: Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans.

In contrast to the first seminar which was a women/girls only space, this action-focused gathering was for all people of good will. Field workers supporting or advocating for vulnerable, exploited and/or trafficked people provided an overview of many of the working challenges. Two personal stories were also shared about how women and girls are still denied the right and access to education. As mentioned in the 'Is She Safe' workshop, education can help to minimise the risks of such exploitation.

For more information on human trafficking and slavery-like conditions:

- **ACRATH:** https://acrath.org.au
- **Anti-Slavery Australia:** www.antislavery.org.au

Read the article that covered this event in The eRecord here.

JEDO Networking

Multi-Faith Network Gathering - Wednesday 19th October

Opportunities to gather in solidarity with inter-faith peers is always welcome, as this acknowledges our interconnectedness as one human family.

The 'Borderless Gandhi' art exhibition held at the Bell Tower in the city provided this connection and enabled the promotion of peace, non-violence and equality through artistic reflections of the life, work and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.

As so succinctly stated: *"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilisation."* - Mahatma Gandhi.

Anti-Poverty Week Ecumenical Service - Wednesday 19th October

The Anti-Poverty Week Ecumenical Service was held at St George's Cathedral in Perth with a focus on domestic violence as a possible precursor to poverty. Those in attendance were welcomed by the Very Reverend Richard Pengelley, Dean of Perth, St George's Cathedral; and Reverend Lorna Green. Guest speakers included Basil Hanna, the CEO of Parkerville Children and Youth Care; and Victoria Cooke, Family and Domestic Violence Consultant at Anglicare WA; with Debra Zanella from Ruah and Carol Mitchell from JEDO leading some prayers. Thanks to the students from St George's Anglican Grammar School who provided the lovely music. A free lunch was provided following the ecumenical service which enabled some sharing of stories and networking. A new and welcome initiative was the donation of goods to Starick community services for women and children being supported after escaping domestic violence.

Carol Mitchell and the Very Rev. Richard Pengelley, Dean of Perth, St George's Cathedral.

"A church that does not unite itself to the poor… is not truly the Church of Jesus Christ" (Oscar Romero).

"THE LIVING WORD AWAKENED MY SOUL;
GAVE IT LIGHT, HOPE, JOY - SET IT FREE!"
- **Helen Keller**

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JEDO Networking

CEWA Laudato Si' - Network Day

I appreciated being invited to take part in the Catholic Education WA (CEWA) APRE Network Day that was held on Monday 31st October to further explore the treasures of the Papal Encyclical, Laudato Si' – On Care for Our Common Home.

National Director, Catholic Earthcare Australia - Jacqui Rémond

The day was facilitated by National Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia, Jacqui Rémond. She reminded participants that the letter of invitation to ecological conversion and to integral ecology is addressed to all of us. In Laudato Si' – On Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis introduced us to the new Catholic Social Teaching principle of **Integral Ecology**. He stated: "A true ecological approach *always* becomes a social approach; It must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear ***both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"*** *(LS, 2015, # 49)*.

Nigel Hayward, Jacqui Rémond and Carol Mitchell

I welcome the ongoing dialogue for how we can effectively work for the common good by caring for our common home.

Bringing Laudato Si' to Life - Fr Sean McDonagh SSC

On Saturday the 19th of November, the Justice, Ecology and Development Office (JEDO) and the Centre for Faith Enrichment (CFE) were privileged to welcome internationally renowned eco-theologian, Fr Sean McDonagh SSC to Perth. Fr Sean shared his wisdom on the papal encyclical, *'Laudato Si' – On care for our common home'* at the Retreat Centre at the Redemptorist Monastery in North Perth.

Fr Sean McDonagh SSC at the Retreat Centre, Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth, WA

Fr Sean believes that Laudato Si' is one of the most important papal documents in the era of modern Catholic Social Teaching although it calls for immediate action. He believes that education is needed on the challenges identified in the encyclical, such as poverty, climate change, destruction of bio-diversity, pollution and a throw-away culture; and conversely for an awareness of the inherent beauty and worth of all creatures – as noted by St Francis of Assisi. Fr Sean stated that *"if each species has intrinsic value, we humans are challenged to be attentive to them and their habitat, so that humans and all other creatures can thrive on earth."* This is the ongoing balancing act that requires our urgent action. In Laudato Si', Pope Francis asked us to consider: *"What kind of world do we want to leave for those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"* We need to consider how we are caring for our common home – are we bringing Laudato Si' to life?

Read the article that covered the event in The eRecord here.

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JEDO Committee of Management (CoM)

News, updates and changes

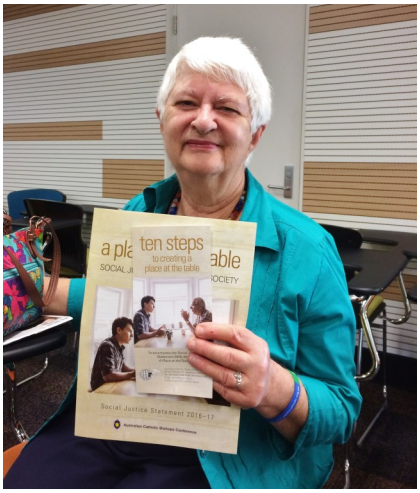
Best Wishes

The current JEDO CoM and agency networks wish Fr John Hodgson CSsR (JEDO CoM member in 2016) every blessing with his busy ministry.

Recently (in November), such generosity enabled the Redemptorist Monastery (in North Perth) to be our venue hosts for a seminar from internationally renowned eco-theologian, Fr Sean McDonagh SSC. This was a year after the initial exploration of 'Laudato Si' that was also hosted at the Retreat Centre, under the Centre for Faith Enrichment (CFE) umbrella. We are grateful for Fr John's contributions to the CoM and to JEDO.

Fr John Hodgson CSsR

A Place at the Table: Social justice in an ageing society

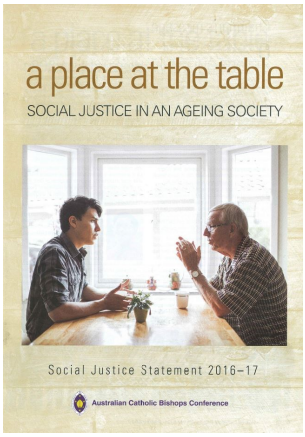


Judy Bartlett with her copy of the Social Justice Statement and Ten-Step Leaflet

Judy Bartlett spoke on Social Justice Sunday at her parish in Maylands about some of the challenges and yet also opportunities in relation to the Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC).

To further explore many of the key messages related to social justice in an ageing society, the combined Catholic churches of Maylands invite broader discussion in the new year (19th February 2017 – flyer available here). The discussion will follow a brief service in the Church (with light refreshments afterwards).

JEDO would love to let others know how *you* (your parish or school) are promoting the 2016-17 Social Justice Statement in future JEDO Newsletters. Brief articles and photos are most welcome: **admin.jedo@perthcatholic.org.au**



Order your copy of the 2016 -17 Social Justice Statement Now

The Social Justice (SJ) Statement resources (SJ Statement; Ten Steps to Creating a Place at the Table; and Prayer Card - with an intergenerational focus) can be obtained from the **Australian Catholic Social Justice Council:** www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

JEDO Diary - July to September

19 July	Ecumenical Social Justice Roundtable (ESJR) Meeting	Hosted by Salvation Army, Perth
20 July	Seminar by Monsignor Roderick Strange (from UK)	Newman Siena Centre (NSC), Doubleview
28 July	Restorative Justice course (PD: Week 1)	Catholic Pastoral Centre (CPC), Highgate
29 July	Refugee and Asylum Seeker (RAS) Catholic Alliance meeting	Griver House, Perth
29 July	Discussion on Catholic Social Teaching with CentreCare managers	CentreCare, Midland
1 August	Mercedes Year 11 Reflection Day (guest storyteller) - justice focus	Perth Town Hall, Perth
1 August	ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) Meeting	Admin Centre, Good Shepherd Sisters, Leederville
4 August	Child Protection Training Workshop (PD) facilitated by Safeguarding Office	CPC, Highgate
11 August	Progress on Royal Commission (PD)	CPC, Highgate
12-14 August	National Social Justice Agencies Gathering (hosted by ACSJC)	Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney, NSW
24 August	ESJR meeting	Hosted by Uniting Church, Perth
25 August	Restorative Justice course (PD: Week 2)	CPC, Highgate
31 August	Extraordinary ACRATH meeting	Admin Centre, Good Shepherd Sisters, Leederville
1 September	God Reality conversation	Emmanuel Centre, Perth
5 September	ACRATH meeting	Admin Centre, Good Shepherd Sisters, Leederville
6 September	National Launch of ACBC Social Justice Statement	Sydney, NSW
13 September	Social Reinvestment WA (SRWA) Community Call to Action	Reconciliation WA, Cygnet Hall, Matilda Bay
20 September	Perth Launch of ACBC Social Justice Statement	Retreat Centre, Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth
22 September	Agencies Commissioning Mass	St Mary's Cathedral, Perth
24 September	170th Anniversary Mass for the Sisters of Mercy on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Mercy	St Mary's Cathedral, Perth
29 September	Restorative Justice course (PD: Week 3)	CPC, Highgate

ACSJC Social Justice Diary - September to December

1 September	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (instigated by Pope Francis in 2015)
1 - 30 September	National Bio-Diversity Month
1 Sept - 4 Oct	Season of Creation
5 September	International Day of Charity
21 September	International Day of Peace
25 September	Social Justice Sunday (last Sunday in September)
26 September	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
1 October	International Day of Older Persons
2 October	International Day of Non-Violence
3 October	World Habitat Day
11 October	International Day of the Girl-Child
16 October	World Mission Sunday
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development
11 November	Remembrance Day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
10 December	Human Rights Day
18 December	International Migrants Day
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day
25 December	Christmas Day
30 December	Feast of the Holy Family

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In our next JEDO Newsletter

- Building Bridges
- Human Rights
- Distributive and Restorative Justice
- JEDO Networking, JEDO Advocacy, and more...

"May we make God's merciful love ever more evident in our world through dialogue, mutual acceptance and fraternal co-operation"

Tweeted by Pope Francis in November 2016 (after the US election)

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF PERTH

WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

ACSJC AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

Caritas AUSTRALIA

End poverty. Promote justice. Uphold dignity

Catholic Earthcare AUSTRALIA

Contact JEDO:

Visit: Newman Siena Centre, 33 Williamstown Road, Doubleview

Tel: (08) 9241 5256 **Email:** admin.jedo@perthcatholic.org.au