

JEDO Newsletter

Issue 10 | Summer 2017 Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

Building bridges

The Justice, Ecology and Development Office (JEDO) within the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, Western Australia (WA) appreciated the message from His Holiness, Pope Francis outlining that hope and trust are strongly required in communications to counter fear-based discourse that can lead to apathy or a perceived inertia. The beginning of a new year is a great time to discern and then act for what is best for our families, communities and for our neighbour – for the ‘common good’. When we ‘read the signs of the times’, we can see that fear of our neighbour – the perceived stranger who is portrayed as ‘other’ to ‘us’ - is being normalised within much media communication.

However, as people of faith, we are also people of hope, so with this in mind - and within our hearts - we are called to personal encounter with our neighbour - to break down walls and barriers so we build bridges of hope, healing and reconciliation. We also need to be able to move forward with confidence and hope following the recent Royal Commission into Institutionalised Abuse (For more information, go to the Truth, Justice and Healing Council website: www.tjhcouncil.org.au). We need to demonstrate our solidarity for compassionate action to enable such healing and reconciliation. As Martin Luther King Jr so succinctly stated: “*Darkness cannot drive out darkness – Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate – Only love can do that*”.



Human rights

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Global Trends Report (2015), and as quoted in the February 2017 Refugee Council of Australia Report – ‘State of the Nation: Refugees and People Seeking Asylum in Australia’ (p 3): “*The past two years have been a dramatic and traumatic period for refugees, both at home and abroad. More people are seeking safety – from persecution, conflict, violence and violations of human rights – than at any time since World War II*”. This is a staggering statement that should make people at the very least, take note; however, increasingly Pope Francis has referred to a “*globalisation of indifference*” in relation to responses to the plight of so many needing to urgently seek refuge or asylum.

We can be the difference though. We can be a part of the positive and transformative action that is taking place in many parishes and communities. [The Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees](#) is just one example of how we can be a part of the ‘good news’ – and be people of hospitality and welcome. Forming or strengthening a **Parish Social Justice Group** is another way you can *be* the difference. Human Rights within Catholic Social Teaching and thought has come a long way – some say [from rejection now to proclamation](#). Yet, we are reminded that the Church and the world, needs both acts of *charity* (such as St Teresa of Calcutta giving bread to those who are hungry) as well as those working for *justice* and human rights (such as Helder Camara – asking why there are poor who are hungry) by changing structures that oppress. We welcome you on our shared journey from discernment to social justice action.

Carol Mitchell, JEDO Director



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

“WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE?
GO HOME AND LOVE YOUR FAMILY.”

- St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

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Charity and Justice: Good Works

Donations: graciously given and gratefully received

Fr Elias Kilzi of the Melkite Catholic Church in Mt Lawley was most grateful for over forty bags of donated goods from the Little Sisters of the Poor in Glendalough. Sr Cecilia (from the Little Sisters of the Poor) was very pleased that their well-timed donation of goods (mainly blankets and doonas) provided toward the end of last year (2016) has assisted the Melkite community to welcome new community members from Syria.



JEDO Networking

Distributive and Restorative Justice

Our Catholic Social Teaching (CST) informs us that privilege comes with responsibilities and obligations. When we consider the *preferential option for the poor*, vulnerable and marginalised, we need to discern (see then judge/assess) and act upon other principles that recognise one's God-given *dignity* and worth; then work together, in *solidarity* for the *common good*.

Our CST and thinking incorporates social justice action and *human rights* principles, such as the *universal destination of goods* as well as *distributive* and *restorative justice*. When we prioritise those whose basic needs are unmet, distributive justice evaluates and allocates income, wealth and power accordingly to address such disparities. The critical need to 'close the gap' in Indigenous disadvantage is just one example of this important social justice issue.

When we work towards healing, reconciling and rebuilding right relationships, taking all parties into account (victim, offender and community), we are using restorative justice principles. Recommendations and actions following the Inquiry into Institutionalised Abuse would benefit from such an approach.

With this point in mind, I was most grateful to participate in the *Discovering Restorative Justice Together* workshops last year. Special thanks must be extended to Barbara Harris and Fr Paul Pitzen for their compassionate leadership on this journey. Read the e-Record article [here](#). '*What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God*' (Micah 6:8).



"CHARITY IS THE CEMENT WHICH BINDS COMMUNITIES
TO GOD AND PERSONS TO ONE ANOTHER..."

- St Vincent de Paul

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JEDO Networking

WACoSS breakfast

The WACoSS New Year Sector Breakfast was held at Mt Eliza House in Kings Park on Friday 20th January 2017.

Given the approaching State Election (held Saturday 11th of March), the community services sector, through WACoSS, took this opportunity to launch a new campaign '*What if it was me?*'. This particular focus is critical given Western Australia has the highest level of income inequality in the country, with entrenched disadvantage resulting in many social problems for many community members.

WACoSS CEO, Louise Giolitto stated: "WA is at a crossroad – we can choose a fairer future. It's just a question of priorities".

To read the WACoSS Media Release about the event, [click here](#).



Carol Mitchell and Maddy March-Anthony at the WACoSS breakfast

Love your neighbour - welcome the stranger

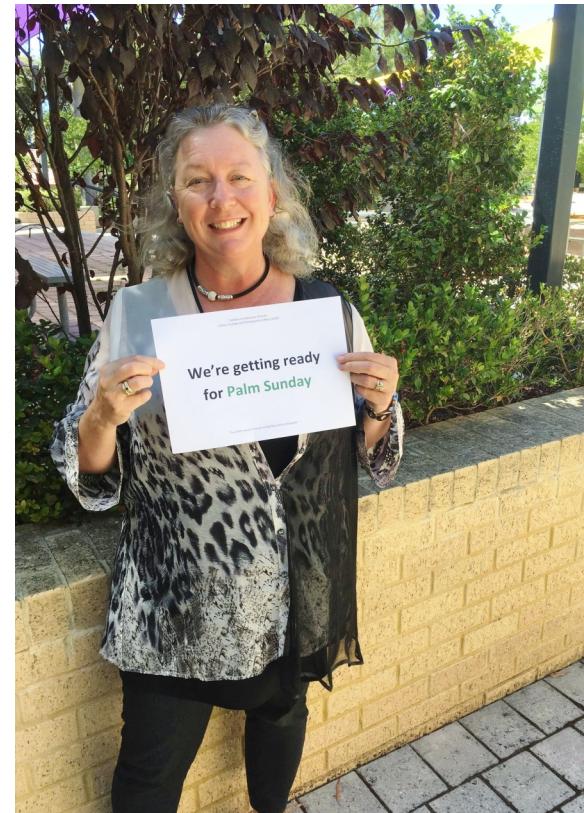
At a time when there is much divisive fear-based language and talk of erecting walls rather than building bridges, it is so heartening to have the 2017 Project Compassion theme from Caritas Australia as [Love Your Neighbour](#).

This focus reminds us of our connectedness as one human family. Pope Francis has called us to not only see our neighbour but to nurture their hopes for a better future: "*I would like to ask you all to see a ray of hope in the eyes and hearts of refugees and those who have been forcibly displaced. A hope that is expressed in expectations for the future, in the desire for friendship, in the wish to participate in the host society. We can and must all nourish this hope.*"

With this call of solidarity in mind, the 2017 **Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees** (and asylum seekers) focuses on the following themes: *Bring them here* – from Manus Island and Nauru; *Safety for all*; and *We can do better*.

These themes are supportive of many statements from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC), including within the 2015-16 Social Justice Statement, '*For those who've come across the seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers.*'

We can and must express our faith through hospitality and welcome to the stranger who comes knocking on our door. Being involved in the peaceful walk through the streets of Perth on Palm Sunday is a good place to start. Don't forget your palm frond! Flyers for the event can be downloaded [here](#).



Promoting the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees



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St Teresa of Calcutta Parish of Baldivis

A place at God's table: 2016-17 Social Justice Statement

Words: Fr. Geoff Aldous

St Teresa of Calcutta ('Mother Teresa') Parish of Baldivis took up the challenge of the 2016 Social Justice Statement, "A Place at the Table."

The Adult Faith Committee facilitated a couple of sessions looking at the document and its implications for us as a parish. Though it was only a small group, it raised the question of how we care for our senior parishioners. We are a new and mainly young parish, but our seniors play an important role in our pastoral ministries.

While we have lots of things for our children and families, we realised that we don't have anything specifically for our 'elders'. We were also aware that our older parishioners thoroughly enjoyed the 'Bethany Meals' that were held area by area throughout the year. So we decided to have a Seniors Morning Tea, and as it was getting towards the end of the year, it had a Christmas theme. It was held after the 9.00am weekday Mass on the 20th December. Sr. Kathleen, a Josephite Sister from Safety Bay, lead us in the third Advent Reflection, then followed the scrumptious morning tea.

The very active Legion of Mary took on the role of visiting with invitations and arranging transport if required. They also helped organise the catering.

About 30 people came along, filling the living area of our Parish House, and a great time was had by all.

Next year we will arrange another one, then invite our seniors to carry on if they wish and organise regular gatherings. The whole idea has been to acknowledge and thank our elders for what they have contributed to the Church and society, but also to encourage and enable them to continue to share their gifts with others.

A Place at the Table: Social justice in an ageing society A Response from the Catholic Community of Maylands

On the afternoon of Sunday 19th February 2017 about sixty Catholic people and clergy met to respond to the 2016-17 Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement.

But this was a meeting with a difference. We were not people who already knew each other from one or two parishes. Rather we came from three different traditions of the Catholic Church: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs and Our Lady Queen of Poland both served by priests from the Polish Franciscan Community, respectively Fr Stanislaw Tomasiak OFM and Fr Tomasz Bujakowski OFM; the St John the Baptist Ukrainian Church with its parish and assistant priests, Fr Ihor Holovko and Fr Richard Charlwood; and the Church of St Ninian and St Chad of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, with their Ordinary Mons Harry Entwistle and local priest Fr Ted Wilson.

The gathering took place in the church and church hall of Our Lady Queen of Poland from 3pm-5pm. The short service beautifully incorporated elements from the traditions represented including Ukrainian singing, and prayers from the English tradition of the Church. Mr Terry Quinn gave a short reflection on the Gospel.

After this we met in the church hall to discuss the Bishops' Statement. Judy Bartlett introduced the content of the Statement. This was followed by small group discussion - a great way for us to meet and know one another. More specifically we were able to share concerns and consider possible ways of responding to the issue of ageing in our society.

The gathering concluded with afternoon tea to which we had all contributed but was beautifully served by ladies from Our Lady Queen of Poland.



Fr Tomasz Bujakowski OFM, Parish Priest of OLQM Maylands outside the newly renovated church hall of Our Lady Queen of Poland

"MAY YOUR CHOICES REFLECT YOUR HOPES
NOT YOUR FEARS."

- Nelson Mandela

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Shining a new light on the Gosnells Parish with the help of Catholic Earthcare Australia

It may not have been the Guiding Star in the East but the Christmas services at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Gosnells were enhanced this year with the replacement of the old lighting in the church with new LED flat panels.

In conjunction with Catholic Earthcare Australia's National Energy Efficiency Network (NEEN), the Gosnells parish undertook a review of its energy consumption some time ago and determined that replacing the ageing and failing church lighting was one of the most sustainable outcomes in response to the challenge of reducing it's energy consumption. While the old lights were not the highest energy consumers in the parish, the NEEN analysis showed that replacing them was the most sustainable outcome from a financial, environmental and social perspective.



The enhanced liturgy space in Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Church Gosnells

an extended lifetime and so require far less replacement which is an onerous task given the suspended ceiling design in the church. Also, being fully dimmable the new lights are expected to enhance the spiritual space of the church and expected to inspire the parishioners to consider their impact on the environment through the simple light globe.

Pope Francis said in the encyclical Laudato Si' that "*There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle. Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us: LS#211*



Gosnells Parish priest Fr Philip Perreau with Nigel Hayward of Catholic Earthcare Australia

The new dimmable LED flat panels replaced the 37-year-old lighting which used 160w mercury vapour globes. The older lights were constantly failing and had been known to explode on occasion during Mass much to the concern of all present at the time, especially the parish priest Fr Perreau who was preaching at the time.

It is estimated that the new lights will cost about 1/8th of the old lights to run annually and saving some 2900kg of CO2 every year. The old mercury vapour lamps were not only expensive to operate but also contain small quantities of Mercury which is a cumulative neuro-toxin and needs to be properly recycled rather than disposed of in landfill.

From a social sustainability perspective, the new LED lights are expected to have



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JEDO Committee of Management (CoM): News, updates and changes

Meet a JEDO CoM Member

Gem Oliveiro

Background

I have always been an active member of parish groups and have participated in community organisations in both paid and voluntary roles. I have tried my best to strive for justice and compassion and to empower the little people on the margins. Amidst these experiences the little daily miracles of joy, love and humour have never ceased to inspire me.

I am also a keen artist, photographer and writer and value visio and lectio divina as central to my artistic and literary practice. In September this year, I hope to travel to Jerusalem to undertake a short course of study at the Centre for Biblical Formation as part of a scholarship I received from The Biblical Foundation.

I work full time in the public service and Geoff and I look forward to celebrating our 25th anniversary in September. We have an adult son Glenn.



Why did you join JEDO?

When Carol approached me to join the JEDO CoM, I saw it as an opportunity to make a contribution to a vision of a just and humane society, which develops in harmony with creation.

What are you passionate about?

I feel I echo spiritual giants who have gone before me when I say with them as I look at our world: I have no words; I have only tears and hope. My prayer is that each of us participates in making God's vision of love, compassion and justice a reality for our world.

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

Creative, reflective, committed.

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

Order your copy of the 2016 -17 Social Justice Statement

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

Tell us how you (your parish or school) are promoting the 2016-17 Social Justice Statement

Brief articles and photos for future issues of the JEDO Newsletter are most welcome.

Please send any submissions or queries to admin.jedo@perthcatholic.org.au

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ACSJC Social Justice Diary - January to March

1 January	World Day of Prayer for Peace - Theme: 'Non-violence: A Style of Politics for Peace'
15 January	World Day of Migrants and Refugees
26 January	Australia Day/Survival Day
27 January	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
1 February	World Interfaith Harmony Week begins
2 February	World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
8 February	St Josephine Bakhita Day/ World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science World Day of Prayer for the Sick
20 February	World Day of Social Justice
21 February	International Mother Language Day
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day
3 March	World Wildlife Day World Day of Prayer - Theme: "Am I being unfair to you?"
5 March	Clean Up Australia Day
8 March	International Women's Day
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination International Day of Forests World Down Syndrome Day National Harmony Day (Australia)
22 March	World Water Day
23 March	World Meteorological Day
24 March	International Day for the Right to Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
25 March	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade Earth Hour

"EDUCATION IS ALL A MATTER OF BUILDING BRIDGES."

- Ralph Ellison

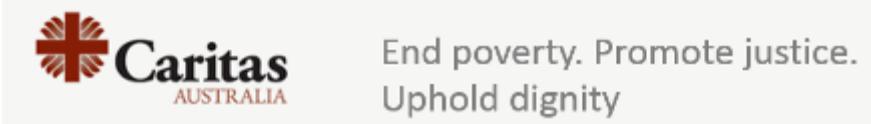
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In our next JEDO Newsletter

- Lenten Journey
- Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees
- Parish Promotions
- JEDO Networking, JEDO Advocacy, and more...

IF YOU ARE MORE FORTUNATE THAN OTHERS, IT IS BETTER TO BUILD A LONGER TABLE THAN A TALLER FENCE.



Contact JEDO:

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

