

# JEDO Newsletter

Issue 13 | Summer 2017-2018 | Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

## Advent Blessings & New Beginnings on the Lenten Journey

The **Justice, Ecology and Development Office (JEDO)** within the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, Western Australia (WA) is supportive of the ongoing call to action from our Catholic Social Teaching (and thinking) to prioritise those who are marginalised and vulnerable through our preferential option for the poor. This is clearly identified within the Papal Document, *Laudato Si' – On care for our common home* (2015); and further supported by and through the current 2017/18 Social Justice Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC), *Everyone's Business – Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy*.

The following points were outlined in relation to economic justice within the Social Justice Statement (pages 12-13):

**1.** People and nature are not mere tools of production; **2.** Economic growth alone cannot ensure inclusive and sustainable development; **3.** Social equity must be built into the heart of the economy; **4.** Businesses must benefit all society, not just shareholders; and **5.** The excluded and vulnerable must be included in decision-making.

It's worth highlighting that within the 1967 Papal document, *Populorum Progressio*, Pope Paul VI stated: 'Development cannot be limited to mere economic growth alone. In order to be authentic, it must be complete: integral, that is, it has to promote the good of every person and the whole person'. Many decades later, within the current Social Justice Statement, the need to restore our moral compass is clearly articulated – particularly following the Global Financial Crisis of 2007-08. Pope Benedict XVI said the crisis presented an opportunity for discernment to shape a new vision: "The current crisis obliges us to re-plan our journey, to set ourselves new rules and to discover new forms of commitment, to build on positive experiences and to reject negative ones" (2017/18 ACBC Social Justice Statement, p 11).

So as we move from Advent, a time of celebration, to the Lenten journey, a time of new beginnings, we call to mind the goals we set last year and are still hoping to achieve. When we judge or assess the signs of the times and ask how can we be more inclusive or sustainable – we consider, what would this look and feel like? When we ask what changes do we need to make now or plan for – we recognise that this is a time for deep listening and discernment – yet also a great time for more collaborative social justice action: Just make a start. Wishing you God's blessings. **Carol Mitchell** (JEDO Director)



Some of the participants at the ASSISI Animators Program held at New Norcia included (L to R in top row of photo) Chris Hawke (Alice Springs NT), Donna Rider (ACM Pastoral Worker), Lyn Odegaard (ACM Volunteer), Carol Mitchell (JEDO Director), Cristina Gomez (Broken Bay NSW), Anne Jennings (Broome), and (L to R in bottom row of photo) Nigel Hayward (CEA WA), Jacqui Remond (National Director CEA), Dr Jennifer Gardner (Christian Life Community), Vicky Burrows (ACM Director), Stuart McClorey (CEWA), Mary-Anne Lumley (CEWA)



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](http://www.jedo.perthcatholic.org.au)

"CHRISTMAS IS BUILT UPON A BEAUTIFUL AND INTENTIONAL PARADOX – THAT THE BIRTH OF THE HOMELESS SHOULD BE CELEBRATED IN EVERY HOME." -  
**G.K. CHESTERTON**

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## World Day of Prayer for Peace:

### Migrants and refugees: Men and women in search of peace

In the [51st World Day of Peace](#) Message for the 1st January 2018, Pope Francis demonstrated his empathy and solidarity through his call to action in support of migrants and refugees: *"In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands. We know that it is not enough to open our hearts to the suffering of others. Much more remains to be done before our brothers and sisters can once again live peacefully in a safe home"*. As we reflect and then discern ways we are personally and collectively being called to act, may we be ever mindful that *'Justice must flow like torrents of water, righteous actions like a stream that never dries up'* (Amos 5:24). May we continue to open doors and build bridges so our neighbours feel welcomed and included. As Pope Francis stated, may we be true to the memory of St Frances Xavier Cabrini, Patroness of Migrants, *"who taught us to welcome, protect, promote and integrate our brothers and sisters"*.

A good place to start is through your participation and broad promotion of the **2018 Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees**. Let us make compassion great again.

[Palm Sunday Flyer](#)

[Personal Statement CM](#) (JEDO Director)

[Personal Statement BYR](#) (JEDO Project/Admin Officer)

## Year of Youth - Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy

In his recent address to young people within the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, Auxiliary Bishop, Don Sproxtton said *"do not be afraid to evangelise as the Holy Spirit is with us"*. This wonderful invitation to spread joy as 'good news' people is further supported through the words of His Holiness, Pope Francis, the Bishop of Rome: *"Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage; a readiness to trade the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. To blaze trails that open up new horizons capable of spreading joy, born of God's love and wells up in your hearts with every act of mercy"*.

On this faith journey of accompaniment in this Year of Youth (from 3rd Dec. 2017 to 25th Nov. 2018) may we collectively **'open new horizons for spreading joy'** within our social justice action. More specific information can be obtained from **Adeline Bock** at the Catholic Youth Ministry: [yearofyouth@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:yearofyouth@perthcatholic.org.au)

[Bishop Sproxtton: 'Do not be afraid to evangelise as the Holy Spirit is with us'](#)



'KEEP ALERT; STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH, BE COURAGEOUS,  
BE STRONG. LET ALL YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE.'

- 1 COR 16: 13-14

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## — JEDO Networking & Advocacy —

### **Anti Poverty Week Service: October 2017**

On Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2017, the JEDO Director joined colleagues from the Ecumenical Social Justice Roundtable (ESJR) and other people of good will at the Wesley Uniting Church in the city for the Anti-Poverty Week Ecumenical Service. Following the Welcome to Country by Mitchell Garlett and the introduction and welcome to Wesley Church by Craig Collas, an opening prayer and then blessing was provided by Alison Atkinson-Phillips (Uniting Church Social Justice Commission Chair) and the Right Reverend Kate Wilmot respectively. Prayer of the People was given by Daniel Viljoen from Uniting Care West with Erica Jones from the Salvation Army giving the Bible Reading. This was followed by the key address by Chief Executive Officer of Uniting Care West, Ms Amanda Hunt, asking those in attendance: 'Can you live on Newstart or Youth Allowance? – Listening to those at the frontline'. It was a privilege to have Desire Mallet then read a poem on behalf of so many who have or are living rough and are struggling to make ends meet. The JEDO Director then read the Social Justice Prayer from the current (2017/18) Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC): *Everyone's Business – Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy*. This focus on economic justice is a call to action for us all.

Before the ecumenical service, a free simple soup lunch was served to those present. Some of the other supporters included Food Rescue, Methodist Ladies College (string quartet) and the Spirit of the Streets Choir.

#### [Anti Poverty Week Flyer](#)

#### [ACSJC Dignity & Work](#)



Hon. Liza Harvey MLA, Renay Grech (Manager Strategy Implementation and Support Catholic Archdiocese of Perth)



ESJR Members (L to R) Geoffrey Bice, Kate Leaney, Simone Micke, Peregrin Campbell -Osgood, Jo Valentine & Nigel Hayward



### [2017-18: A Prayer for Economic Justice](#)

God of Justice and compassion, whose light shines into our hearts and into our nation's halls of power, strengthen our faith as we acknowledge the enormity of the task: to include all in the prosperity of this land.

We pray for your spirit of generosity in challenging greed and neglect. Give us your grace to reach out to the lowest paid workers, families subsisting on meagre incomes, people who are homeless, the dispossessed First Peoples of this land, so that we may achieve change, inspired by the Gospel, that leads to human flourishing.

We pray for your spirit of truth as we place our own economic choices before you, reflecting on our own motives as we strive to give and to keep, to save and to spend, to invest and to speak out in ways that honour every human being.

We pray for your spirit of fierce love and determination as we seek to assist and empower the most vulnerable, to create jobs and opportunities where they are most needed, to build an inclusive economy that enables government and business to champion a society where justice and equity abound.

May we be instruments of your compassion as we take up the needs of the poor; May we be instruments of your mercy as we bring truth to greed and neglect; May we be instruments of your creative spirit as we seek to make our world anew.

In Christ and through the Spirit we pray.

“WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD IS SILENT, EVEN ONE VOICE BECOMES POWERFUL.”

- MALALA YOUSAFZAI

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## ASSISI ANIMATORS PROGRAM - New Norcia

### The Journey of Laudato Si' at New Norcia

**"An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us..." (Laudato Si', Paragraph 225)**

Is it possible to create the conditions for transformative change in people who have just met in just four days? Using Catholic Earthcare Australia's ASSISI model towards Ecological Conversion, a small group from around Australia gathered at New Norcia in October 2017 to test this out. All who attended came away changed no matter where they were on the journey towards the radical change of heart and mind that Pope John Paul II called for as Ecological Conversion. Catholic Earthcare Australia used the ASSISI model (A Strategic, Systems-based Integrated Sustainability Initiative) as a framework in the Laudato Si' Animator Program at New Norcia. The willingness and openness from those participating, the right environment to allow such change and the model that fits unique situations all contributed to the conditions that allowed for transformative change to occur.

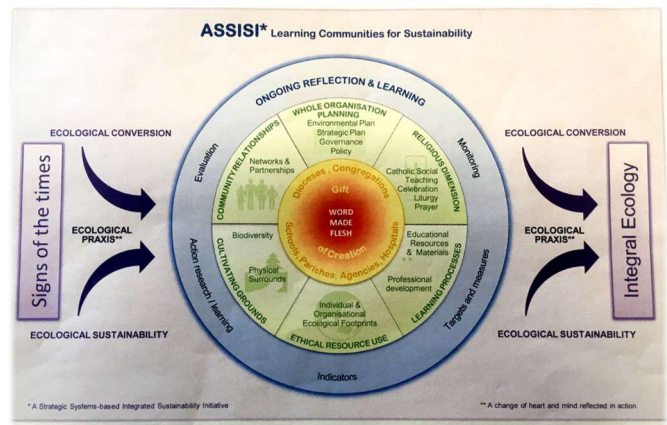
Firstly, each participant was open and willing to share their vulnerabilities and questions with a group that they may not know. This requires a great deal of trust in people that have just met. The program began to build this through dialogue prior to us coming together between Jacqui Remond, who was the Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia at the time, and each participant. This dialogue not only allowed relationships to build but gave the opportunity for the program leaders to customise the content to suit the group. From the moment the program began, those participating trusted all present to provide a safe space to share their vulnerabilities. Those who attended were from a range of backgrounds and experiences but who share the calling to make a difference in our world through the way we lead our lives.

Secondly, the right environment is critical. The peaceful and reflective setting at the New Norcia Benedictine Monastery gave us all time to disconnect from the everyday and be part of the Monastic tradition; at least for a short period while engaged in the program. We also had the added benefit of being generously welcomed by Yued people of the Noongar nation to their country. A number of representatives from Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM: from the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth) were part of the program and could connect us all to their land and families either locally at New Norcia or to other remote parts of Australia. On behalf of those who attended, I would like to thank them for their generosity of spirit and willingness to trust us.

Thirdly the right model. The **ASSISI model** was developed by Catholic Earthcare Australia to provide a framework for sustainable development and fulfilment of a transformative ecological vision for Catholic schools, parishes and church communities, agencies and congregations. The overarching aim of the ASSISI initiative is to provide a foundation for and a pathway toward best practice in achieving ecological sustainability in Catholic schools, parishes, church agencies and organisations across Australia. It is a comprehensive and holistic approach for organisations to develop an integral ecology. Participants were exposed to contemporary ecological theology, scientific understandings of sustainability and transformative social processes that have been successfully implemented within organisations across Australia.

Four days of intensive work led to planning strategies that participants could take back to their workplaces and parishes to build further on the call for Ecological Conversion: *"The problem is not simply economic and technological; it is moral and spiritual. A solution at the economic and technological level can be found only if we undergo, in the most radical way, an inner change of heart, which can lead to a change in lifestyle and of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. A genuine conversion in Christ will enable us to change the way we think and act..."* (John Paul II and Bartholomew I, 2002).

Nigel Hayward  
(WA representative for Catholic Earthcare Australia at the time of the New Norcia retreat held in October 2017)



'AS WATER REFLECTS THE FACE, SO ONE'S LIFE REFLECTS THE HEART.'

- PROVERBS 27:19

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## Parish Promotions and Social Justice Action

### Modelling Collaboration

It was a privilege to connect again with Baldvis Parish after previously supporting their parish-based, Laudato Si' inspired actions to care for creation. Their hosting of a more collaborative parish zone hub (southern part of the Fremantle zone) in mid-December (2017) and then again in mid-January (2018) with Rockingham, Kwinana and Port Kennedy parishes has been/is inspirational. The southern Fremantle zone hub have collectively identified ways to be even more welcoming and inclusive of First Australians, with connections with Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (and others) through a workshop being the next step. As Pope John Paul II said: "It is the Church's task to help Indigenous cultures preserve their identity and maintain their traditions".

It was wonderful to also have Fr Nino Vinciguerra in attendance at the initial conversation. He was able to witness the enthusiasm and shared vision for collective action from the participants and share his plans to support some zone hubs in a more collaborative prayerful discernment process. As Henri Nouwen stated (within 'Making all things new'): "To set our hearts on the Kingdom therefore means to make the life of the Spirit within and among us, the centre of all we think, say or do".



Parish Zone Hub Meeting (hosted by Baldvis Parish)



Fr Geoff Aldous (Baldvis Parish), Fr Pierluigi Vajra (Rockingham Parish)

*"Community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another"*

Henri Nouwen (Bread of the Journey)

### EVERYONE'S BUSINESS: Developing an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy

#### Order your copy of the 2017 - 18 Social Justice Statement

The Social Justice (SJ) Statement resources (SJ Statement; Ten Steps to an Inclusive, Sustainable Economy; and Prayer Card - for Economic Justice) can be obtained from the **Australian Catholic Social Justice Council:**

[www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

*- We would love to hear from you -*

*Tell us how you (your parish or school) are promoting the 2017-18 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](mailto:admin.jedo@perthcatholic.org.au)

"THE GENEROSITY OF YOUR TIME IS THE MOST VALUABLE GIFT YOU CAN GIVE."

- SARA HENDERSON

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## Meet the JEDO Project/Admin Officer

### Background

Beryl Rahman

I am blessed to be a wife of 32 years to my high school sweetheart, mother of two beautiful daughters and a grandmother to three gorgeous granddaughters (who I might add keep me very busy but give me such enormous pleasure).

I am originally from Zimbabwe where I worked in industries focusing on computerised accounts, which led me to the banking industry and later to finance departments of various other industries, finishing off at the end of 1992 with a well known Senior High School (Peterhouse Boys High).

I migrated to the United Kingdom in early 1993 where I started my career abroad within Social Services, working for the Mental Health Team. This gave me insight into some of the prejudice that exists for those that are labelled as having 'mental health issues'. I moved on to Aged Care services where I commenced in Administration, moving on to the Business Support Manager's role within the aged care sector (all the while working with a finance focus). It was in this industry that I found my passion, working closely with the elderly brought me a feeling of 'a job well-done' at the end of each day. There were of course low moments, when clients I had built-up a rapport with passed on, as is expected in this industry.

I migrated to Australia with my family in December of 2005, leaving behind my close extensive family. Homesickness for the second time set in, but we pushed through and we have since made Australia our home. Australia affords me a similar lifestyle and climate to that which I experienced in Africa so many years ago, and I can't imagine living anywhere else at present.

My working life in Australia commenced in the Oil and Gas Industry, moving on to the Mining Sector where I worked as a cost controller. I met some amazing people along the way, and enjoyed the new journey I had commenced, albeit having been in a very high pressured industry. As did with my colleagues, redundancy finally caught up with me, and the second leg of my career journey in Australia commenced.

A position within the Archdiocese became available at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Highgate as an Office Manager, and I was fortunate enough to have been selected for the role. It was there that I cemented new relationships with some wonderful agencies and colleagues. I enjoyed the joint responsibility of taking care of a Heritage Listed Building, as well as being support to the agencies housed in the building. By far the most rewarding role for me at this point in time, was providing secretarial support to Emeritus Archbishop B.J. Hickey (his many typing projects taught me a great deal on my faith journey, and this is what I miss the most).

Always seeking to further develop my faith and learn a little more about the work that takes place within the Archdiocese, I found it advantageous to accept the role which had become available at JEDO. I have always had a passion for working with the vulnerable, and needed to feel that I could make a difference in some way to those who are marginalised. What better place to do that than with JEDO, the very agency who has been mandated for this very purpose.

I am keen to place my small footprint on the JEDO trail, in the hope that I too can make a positive difference in some way to those whose paths I cross.

My main passion is photography, capturing moments that make lifelong memories gives me great pleasure.

### - Best Wishes -

*The current JEDO CoM and agency networks wish **Sr Margaret O'Sullivan IBVM** and **Gem Oliveiro** every blessing in their personal and/or professional ministry. We are grateful for their contributions to the committee and to JEDO.*



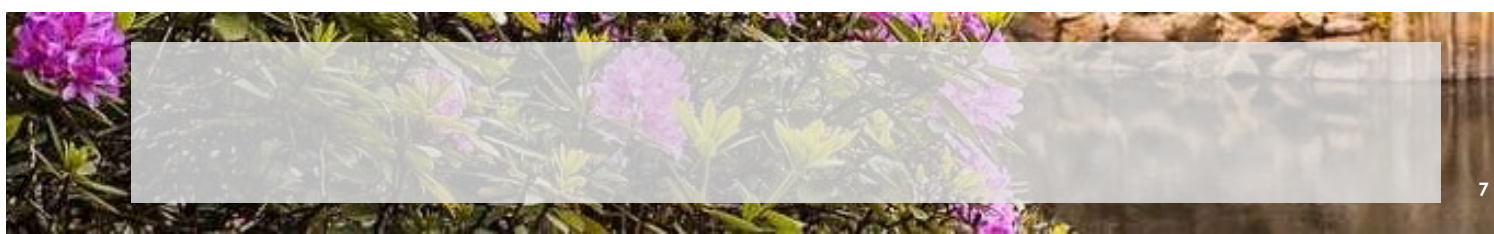
'BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS; DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED OR DISMAYED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.' - JOSHUA 1:9

## ACSJC Social Justice Diary - December to February

1 <sup>st</sup> December 2017	World AIDS Day
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2017	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2017	International Day for Persons with Disabilities
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	International Volunteer Day for Economic & Social Development World Soil Day
9 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	International Genocide Prevention Day
10 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Human Rights Day
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	International Migrants Day
20 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	International Human Solidarity Day
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018	World Day of Prayer for Peace
26 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Australia Day/Survival Day
27 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
28 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	World Leprosy Day



1 <sup>st</sup> February 2018	Beginning of World Interfaith Harmony Week
2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2018	World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
8 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	St Josephine Bakhita – World Day of Prayer, Reflection & Action Against Human Trafficking
11 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Project Compassion Sunday World Day of Prayer for the Sick
14 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Ash Wednesday - Beginning of Project Compassion
20 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	World Day of Social Justice
21 <sup>st</sup> February 2018	International Mother Language Day



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**In our next**

**JEDO Newsletter**

- Palm Sunday - Out of Limbo
- Economic Justice - 'Everyone's Business'
- Parish Promotions and Social Justice Action
- JEDO Networking, JEDO Advocacy, and more...

*“Now is the time for courageous actions and strategies aimed at implementing a ‘culture of care’ and an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded and at the same time protecting nature”*

Pope Francis (2015)



WELCOME TO THE  
**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA**



**ACSJC** AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC  
SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL



End poverty. Promote justice.  
Uphold dignity



**Catholic  
Earthcare**  
AUSTRALIA



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