

JEDO Newsletter

Issue 6 Dec 15/Jan 16 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), welcomes the 2016 Message of Peace from His Holiness, Pope Francis: *Overcome indifference and win peace*. In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are reminded that “*all of us are called to realise how indifference can manifest itself in our lives; and to work concretely to improve the world around us, beginning with our families, neighbours and places of employment.*” This focus is also supported through the Corporal Works of Mercy as “*civil society is likewise called to make specific and courageous gestures of concern for their most vulnerable members, such as prisoners, migrants, the unemployed and the infirm*” (#8).



Interfaith promotion for the People's Climate March

In his Message of Peace, Pope Francis states that “*the first kind of indifference in human society is indifference to God, which then leads to indifference to one's neighbour and to the environment*” (#3). This “*globalisation of indifference*” leads to a focus on what separates us – rather than what unites or connects us. An example of this disconnection is that we fail to welcome the stranger - our neighbour - at our doors or borders. Pope Francis laments the human tragedy of immigration, with many fleeing their country of origin due to poverty and violence. His Holiness stated that “*the human tragedy that is forced migration is a global phenomenon today... This crisis which can be measured in numbers and statistics, we want to instead measure with names, stories, families.*” This call is also supported by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference with the current Social Justice Statement 2015-16: 'For those who've come across the seas – Justice for Refugees and Asylum-seekers.'

His Holiness recently stated that “*a person who thinks only of building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, isn't Christian.*” As

members of “*one human family,*” let us act in ways that demonstrate we are hope-filled in our pursuit of justice and peace. Let us celebrate the wisdom and global call to action in the Papal Encyclical, *Laudato Si' – On the Care of Our Common Home*, that helped motivate many to take part in the People's Climate March – just prior to CoP 21 in Paris last November (2015). Let us celebrate how this collaborative action for the common good brought people of faith (Catholic, ecumenical, and from many other religious traditions) and people of good will together in solidarity. As people of compassion and mercy, and recognising our Catholic Social Teaching for a preferential option for the poor, our peace promotion also needs to be linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, or the Global Goals, as they are sometimes referred to, as this again reminds us of our inter-connectedness – across cultures, classes, creeds and countries. Let our actions speak loudly, supporting our Catholic beliefs, values and teachings; so that what we say we believe matches, or is congruent, to our behaviour or what we do.

Carol Mitchell, Director

“WE WANT TO LIVE THIS JUBILEE YEAR IN LIGHT OF THE LORD'S WORDS: MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER.” – POPE FRANCIS

JEDO Newsletter

Issue 6 Dec 15/Jan 16 Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

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



From left: Carol Mitchell (JEDO), Francis Leong (Catholic Mission), Sr Janet Palafox (Caritas Australia), and Nigel Hayward (Catholic Earthcare Australia)

Following the Centre for Faith Enrichment (CFE) course launch and then introductory session hosted by the Redemptorists at the Monastery in North Perth at the end of October last year, parishioners and other people of good will were invited to further explore the Papal Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. This resulted in consecutive Wednesday evening sessions being held at the Retreat House (at the Redemptorist Monastery in North Perth), examining the Papal document *On the Care of Our Common Home* through the eyes, or lens, of four different Catholic agencies.

The CFE course was a response to a key element of the Papal Letter inviting everyone to dialogue on this critically important issue. This was also supported by the Universal Prayer Intention from Pope Francis for November: *"that we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all,*

even those whose convictions differ from our own." In this Year of Mercy it is also important that we heed the words of Pope Francis: *"Let us be renewed by God's mercy...and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish."*



It was in this spirit that the CFE collaborative course was titled *Our Common Ground for Our Common Home: Living the Joy of Laudato Si'*, with the first session being facilitated by **JEDO, on Wednesday 4th of November**. This session gave an over-arching perspective of the Encyclical, with a focus on Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principles within it, and identified some achievable actions at a local level. In his Papal Letter, Pope Francis mentions that *"the climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked*

to many of the essential conditions for human life" (LS #23), stating also that care for the environment is a matter of *"intergenerational justice."*

The second session was co-facilitated by Sr Janet Palafox and Janeen Murphy from **Caritas Australia, on Wednesday 11th of November**. They highlighted our CST principle of preferential option for the poor, with the specific examples of the poor being hurt the most by climate change. Many of our small island neighbours are currently bearing the brunt of extreme weather conditions leading some to become climate change refugees. This led Pope Francis to state that *"sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering, which is even now taking place throughout our world"* (LS #25).



From left: Sr Janet Palafox and Janeen Murphy (Caritas)



JEDO Newsletter

Issue 6 Dec 15/Jan 16 Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

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

The third session was co-facilitated by Nigel Hayward and Jacqui Rémond from **Catholic Earthcare Australia, on Wednesday 18th of November**. They identified and addressed many of the challenges experienced as a result of our keen focus on technology and business interests, leading to many pollutants and environmental hazards. Pope Francis noted in *Laudato Si'* that some "...problems are closely linked to a throwaway culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish" (LS #22). Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia, Jacqui Rémond, (who co-facilitated the session with Nigel) said at the release of *Laudato Si'* that it is "a game-changer" for the Catholic community and it offers us in Australia a powerful moral and spiritual imperative for environmental and social action.



From left: Jacqui Remond, the Director for Catholic Earthcare Australia with CFE Director, Dr Michelle Jones

The final session was facilitated by Francis Leong from **Catholic Mission on Wednesday the 25th of November**. This session was inviting us to move from our head space to our heart space. In the Encyclical, Pope Francis calls for a revolution of our hearts and minds, for a transformation of our societies and individual lifestyles, to live in harmony with God's creation. It was noted in the Encyclical that 'creation' has a broader meaning than 'nature' in the Judaeo-Christian tradition, for "creation... has to do with God's loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance" (LS #76).

Given the course focus on achievable outcomes and action, all participants were invited and encouraged to gather and then walk in solidarity at the **People's Climate March** that began at Wellington Square in East Perth on **Sunday 29th of November**.

Approximately eight to ten thousand Western Australians joined in this action, showing their support for our common home. Such action was replicated internationally, with 785 thousand (plus) people heeding the call, in over 175 countries. This was a great example of thinking globally, and acting locally. However, our environmental stewardship is an ongoing call to continue to work for the common good.

Thanks to Jim Smith for coordinating the CFE course; Fr John Hodgson for offering the Redemptorist Monastery as our venue and for his involvement; to fellow course facilitators for enabling such a joyous collaboration; and to all of the participants for their involvement and shared wisdom.



From left: Fr John Hodgson CSsR and Jim Smith (CFE Coordinator for the *Laudato Si'* course)



JEDO Newsletter

Issue 6 Dec 15/Jan 16 Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

JEDO Advocacy

People's Climate March (Sunday 29th November 2015)

Following speeches that were held at Wellington Square in East Perth, up to ten thousand people of faith and good will walked through the streets of Perth, demonstrating their support for climate action. For the Catholics gathered, this was also a show of support for the call for action from Pope Francis in *Laudato Si' - On the Care of Our Common Home*; as well as from the Global Catholic Climate Movement. It was a great act of solidarity.



“THE CHURCH IS COMMISSIONED TO ANNOUNCE THE MERCY OF GOD, THE BEATING HEART OF THE GOSPEL, WHICH IN ITS OWN WAY MUST PENETRATE THE HEART AND MIND OF EVERY PERSON.” - POPE FRANCIS (MV #12)

JEDO Newsletter

Issue 6 Dec 15/Jan 16 Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

JEDO Networking

Ecumenical Social Justice Roundtable (ESJR)

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis states that “commitment to ecumenism responds to the prayer of the Lord Jesus that “they may all be one” (Jn 17:21; EG #244), and that “ecumenism can be seen as a contribution to the unity of the human family” (EG #245). With these points in mind, it was a pleasure to gather over lunch on Wednesday, 9th of December in Northbridge to acknowledge our year of ecumenical work together. The 2015 ESJR members included Radhika Roy (Anglican), Frances Hadfield (Council of Churches), Geoff Bice (Uniting Church), Carol Mitchell (Catholic), Kris Halliday and Warren Elliott (Salvation Army), Eira Clapton (Uniting Church), Jo Valentine (Quakers), and Nigel Hayward (Catholic). This ecumenical collaboration continues to be a blessing.



Front row, L to R: Radhika Roy, Frances Hadfield, Geoff Bice
Back row, L to R: Carol Mitchell, Kris Halliday, Warren Elliot, Eira Clapton, Jo Valentine



From left: Warren Elliot, Eira Clapton, Geoff Bice, Frances Hadfield, Jo Valentine, Radhika Roy, Nigel Hayward

CFE - End of Year Eucharist

It was a privilege to attend the End of Year Eucharist and Presentation of Certificates for the Centre for Faith Enrichment (CFE) that was held at St Catherine's Convent Chapel (behind the Newman Siena Centre, Doubleview), on Thursday the 3rd of December. It was lovely to have Bishop Don Sproxtton as the celebrant for this service, which included presenting certificates in Adult Faith Formation to some attendees who had completed six Maranatha/CFE courses on varying themes. The inspirational Centre for Faith Enrichment team includes,



From left: Bishop Don Sproxtton and Carol Mitchell

Director, Dr Michelle Jones; Office Manager, Tracy Stevens; and Rev. Dr Charles Waddell. It has been an enriching experience attending these courses and I recommend such participation to those who are considering broadening or strengthening their own faith journey.



From left: Rev. Dr Charles Waddell, Dr Michelle Jones, and Tracy Stevens



JEDO Newsletter

Issue 6 Dec 15/Jan 16 Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

JEDO Networking

Emmanuel Centre Christmas Carols and Lunch

It was great to re-connect with the dynamic Emmanuel Centre community at their Christmas gathering on Monday the 7th of December. This began with singing Christmas Carols next door at St Francis Xavier Church, before lunch was shared with those present. The community enjoyed having Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB and Emeritus Archbishop Hickey join them in the celebration. Thanks to Emmanuel Centre Coordinator, Barbara Harris, and Fr Paul Pitzen, Chaplain for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, for their hospitality and wonderful leadership of such a diverse community.

You can read more about this event in the eRecord:

[2015 LIFELINK CHRISTMAS APPEAL - Gift of inclusion for people with disabilities prioritised at Emmanuel Centre this Christmas](#)



Emmaus Community Christmas Gathering

It was wonderful to finally get the opportunity to visit the Emmaus community in Queens Park for an Archdiocesan social gathering held over lunch on Friday the 4th of December 2015. Thanks to Br Al and his Emmaus 'family' for making us feel so welcome. I look forward to visiting again in the future.

You can read more about this event in the eRecord:

[Catholic agencies come together for memorable social gathering](#)



Emmaus community members with some Archdiocesan Agency colleagues



From left: Julie Fuge, Br Alan Archer, and Renay Grech



JEDO Newsletter

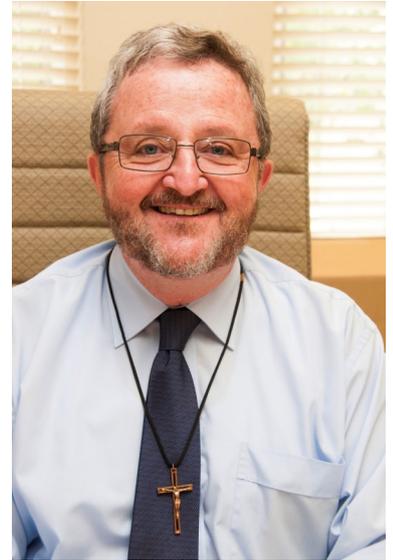
Issue 6 Dec 15/Jan 16 Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

JEDO Committee of Management—News, updates and changes

Meet a former JEDO CoM Member: Fr Peter Daly OMI

Background

I was born and raised in Brisbane. I joined the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and was ordained in 1979. All through my ministry I have been mainly involved in education, mostly in Brisbane and Perth with a couple of brief stints in Melbourne. I finished as Principal of Mazenod College in Lesmurdie at the end of 2015. **I have been appointed Provincial of the Australian Province of the Oblates**, which also includes the China Delegation and Hong Kong. This new position will, among other things, involve a fair amount of travelling to minister to the Oblates in these areas.



Why did you join JEDO?

I have always had a strong interest in matters of Justice. This interest began in my family, and in my teen years in Brisbane I became involved with some indigenous outreach on the streets of Brisbane. As an Oblate, I have been involved with the Oblate Rosies Youth Mission, which involves outreach on the streets, as well as supporting those in Juvenile Detention Centres. The Oblates have been Prison Chaplains in Western Australia since 1894, and presently I celebrate Mass once a month in Casuarina Prison. When I was invited to join JEDO, I was attracted to its mission because of my experiences through ministry.

What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about working with people as they come to an awareness of their own dignity and worth.

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

Passionate, human, and good fun.

- BEST WISHES -

The current JEDO CoM and agency networks wish Father Peter every blessing with his new Provincial role and ministry.

JEDO is pleased to welcome two new members to the Committee of Management for 2016:

- **Bernadette Dell**, a teacher at Mercedes College
- **Fr John Hodgson CSsR**, based at the Redemptorist Monastery in North Perth

We will be sharing more with you about our new members in subsequent JEDO newsletters, so watch this space!



JEDO Newsletter

Issue 6 Dec 15/Jan 16 Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

JEDO DIARY - NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER

4 November	Laudato Si' collaboration: Our Common Ground for Our Common Home (Centre for Faith Enrichment or CFE) - JEDO session	Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth
10 November	Ecumenical Social Justice Roundtable (ESJR) Meeting	Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth
	People's Climate March meeting regarding interfaith mobilisation	Uniting Church Centre, Perth
11 November	Twilight Retreat (Dr Margaret Scharf OP)	Newman Siena Centre, Doubleview
	Laudato Si' collaboration (CFE) - Caritas Australia session	Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth
12 November	Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy planning meeting	Catholic Marriage and Fertility Services (CMFS), Newman Siena Centre, Doubleview
18 November	Jacqui Rémond (Catholic Earthcare Australia): Laudato Si' "Praise Be to You" - On Care for Our Common Home	Newman Siena Centre, Doubleview
	Laudato Si' collaboration (CFE) - Catholic Earthcare Australia session	Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth
23 November	Frank Brennan talk: "Responding to People Seeking Asylum in Australia"	John XXIII College, Mt Claremont
25 November	Laudato Si' collaboration (CFE) - Catholic Mission session	Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth
29 November	People's Climate March	Wellington Square, East Perth
1st December	Leadership Forum Lunch: Sr Marie Therese Ryder RNDM	CMFS, Newman Siena Centre, Doubleview
2nd December	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) workshop	Curtin University, Bentley
3rd December	CFE end of year Eucharist and presentation of certificates	St Catherine's Convent Chapel, Doubleview
8th December	Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy Mass	St Mary's Cathedral, East Perth

"GOD'S JUSTICE IS HIS MERCY GIVEN TO EVERYONE AS A GRACE THAT FLOWS FROM THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST."

– POPE FRANCIS (MV #21)

JEDO Newsletter

Issue 6 Dec 15/Jan 16 Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

ACSJC SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

- 1st January** World Day of Prayer for Peace (Theme: *Overcome indifference and win peace*)
1994: Native Title Act commenced operation
- 10th January** 1946: First UN General Assembly opens with 51 nations represented
- 17th January** World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees
- 26th January** Australia Day/Survival Day
1972: Aboriginal Tent Embassy established in Canberra
- 27th January** International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust



- 1st February** World Interfaith Harmony Week begins
- 2nd February** World Wetlands Day
- 8th February** Feast of St Josephine Bakhita
World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking
- 11th February** World Day of Prayer for the Sick
- 12th February** 1965: Commencement of the Freedom Ride in Australia
- 13th February** 2008: Apology to Stolen Generations by Australian Government
- 20th February** World Day of Social Justice
- 21st February** International Mother Language Day



JEDO Newsletter

Issue 6 Dec 15/Jan 16 Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

In our next

JEDO Newsletter

- Merciful like the Father
- Welcome the 'stranger'
- Lenten reflections
- JEDO Networking, JEDO Advocacy, and more...

“To build a society that is truly human means to put the person and his or her dignity at the centre.” – Pope Francis



**CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF PERTH**



**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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