

This is what God asks of you, only this,
to act justly, to love tenderly,
and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Catholic Social Services Victoria

April 2015



Fr. Daniel O'Leary speaks of the resurrection of the Lord like this: Just as Jesus embraced his darkness and in so doing, became the Light of the World, we too are invited to believe that this transformation is ours for the asking. Because he freely accepted his death, and all the previous little deaths of his life, in a willing sacrifice, but not without much struggle, doubt and effort, an explosion of healing light and love reverberated around the world.

We are asked to believe that such a miracle is waiting to happen in our hearts once we surrender our distress in undisputed solidarity with the death and life of Jesus.

What is important to remember here is that the healing and reconciliation that happened on that fateful weekend in Jerusalem have universal and even cosmic consequences. Salvation was not just for our own broken heart, but for a broken human race, a broken world and a broken creation.

It is of great importance not to confine the once-for-all achievement of the Saviour to the salvation of my individual soul. It was the making whole of everything that is fractured, isolated and alienated in all aspects of life that was secured for ever when Christ was raised on the cross. That is when he drew all things to him, 'all things whether on earth or in heaven'. (Cor 1:20)

News and developments

[March Newsletter for Welcome the Asylum Seeker program](#)

[Toward a positive and inclusive lifepath](#)

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[World Day of Peace: Advocacy to end Slavery](#)

[Parishes called to reach out in service](#)

[A Dark day for Australia as the Children in Immigration Detention report is released](#)

Upcoming Events

[Catholic Social Teaching](#): Next workshop 7 May

[Leadership for Mission](#): A Program of three Forums on Wednesdays: 25 March, 22 April and 27 May 2015.

[Becoming A Culturally Competent Organisation](#): 7 August

Annual Dinner - Friday 4 September 2015 – save the date



A Conference with Catholic Social Services Australia on 25 – 26 February 2016 at the Catholic Leadership Centre - Review, Reimagine, Renew: Mission that makes a difference in a changing world.

Member News and Events

['Solo Catholics' Upcoming Events](#)

[St Vincent de Paul - Social Justice in the City Series](#)

[Supporting Social Enterprises](#)



News and Developments



Victorian Budget needs to sustain community services

Catholic Social Services Victoria's [submission](#) to inform the Victorian 2015-2016 Budget was developed in consultation with member organisations, and draws upon considerable work undertaken in the lead-up to the 2014 Victorian election.



Who will speak for the poor and the broken...

Thanks to all who contributed to our Commissioning Mass and Annual General meeting at MacKillop Family Services on 12 March. Congratulations and thanks to Patrice Scales, who was re-elected as Chair of Council, and to Jan Horsnell, John Blewonski and Cathy Humphrey on their election to Council.

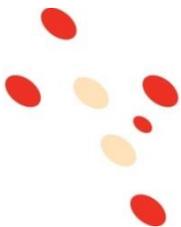
[Read more..](#)



March newsletter for Welcome the Asylum Seeker program

Click [here](#) for the March 2015 newsletter of the [Welcome the Asylum Seeker Parish Support Program](#). Accommodation for asylum seekers remains a pressing need.

[Read more..](#)



Toward a positive and inclusive life path

Our [submission](#) on residential care for younger people with disability argues that it is not acceptable that Australia's Aged Care has become the safety net for people of all ages, who have severe disabilities or complex needs and require physical support or nursing care.... The way forward is a diversity of responses and accommodation options to meet different needs and age groups. [Read more..](#)



Seeking Clemency from Indonesia

Catholic Social Services joins with [Archbishop Denis Hart's](#) plea for clemency for Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran; and we commend the [Mercy Campaign](#).



World Day of Peace: Advocacy to end slavery

Each year the Catholic Church marks 1 January as a World Day of Peace, and each year the Pope issues a major statement to help build peace in the world. Pope Francis' statement for 2015, [No longer slaves, but brothers and sisters](#), focuses on slavery.



Parishes called to reach out in service

Pope Francis has emphasised the central role of parishes in the life of the People of God, including the part parishes have to play in work for those who are poor, disadvantaged or marginalised.

In *The Joy of the Gospel*, the Pope writes that, when it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, the parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, workshop and celebration (para 28). [Click here](#) to read more



The Forgotten Children

National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention

2014



A Dark day for Australia as the Children in Immigration Detention report is released

The report is collated from interviews with 1,129 children and families, 41 witnesses at five public hearings, a total of 239 submissions received from schools, medical service providers and NGOs and observations from internationally recognised medical experts. The findings in this report on children in detention leave no doubt about its credibility.

To see the statement released by the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee office [click here](#).

To get a copy of the Australian Human Rights Commission report [click here](#).



John Paul II Institute - Theology of Psychology and Counselling

The John Paul II Institute now offers Graduate Certificates and Diplomas in Theology of Psychology and Counselling. The purpose of these new courses is to enable professionals in the fields of psychology and counselling to integrate the perspective of faith in their work.

Students will be introduced to the most recent theological developments in the area with reference to the current psychological and counselling theory and practice. They are now accepting enrolments for the second semester. [Click here](#) for further information.

Upcoming Events

Leadership for Mission – Orientation for Leaders and Board members in Catholic social service.

A Program of three Forums on Wednesdays: 25 March, 22 April & 27 May 2015.

Building on the insights of Pope Francis, the Forums will provide a valuable opportunity to reflect deeply on the relationship leaders have with the Gospel and the mission of their own organisation, and its relationship to the broader social services sector. Click [here](#) for details.





Workshops on Catholic Social Teaching 2015

Our **2015 Workshops** are scheduled on the following dates:

- 25 August – morning workshops
- 7 May & 19 November – evening workshops (targeted at leaders and Board members of member organisations).

Please don't hesitate to register interest for these 2015 events with [Lucia Brick](#), or to contact [Peter Hudson](#) for further information about these workshops, or about other aspects of Catholic Social Teaching and how it might assist your organisation.



Becoming A Culturally Competent Organisation

Catholic Social Services Victoria with Melissa Brickell in collaboration with Aboriginal Catholic Ministry invites you to a workshop on becoming a culturally competent organisation.

This Interactive Workshop will provide community service practitioners and managers with an introduction to the skills and resources needed to work respectfully with Aboriginal organisations and engage with Aboriginal clients.

Friday 7 August 2015

9.30 am - 1.00 pm

At the Cardinal Knox Centre East Melbourne

For Further information please contact Peter Hudson on (03) 9287 5570 or phudson@css.org.au

Members news and events



'Solo Catholics' Upcoming Events

Sat 11th April - 7.30pm Dancing at the Whitehorse Club

Sun 12th April - 1.30- 3.30pm High Tea with Music at Buckingham International Hotel

Click [here](#) for more details and further events in April

St Vincent de Paul - Social Justice in the City Series

29 April Catherine Scarth, Chief Executive Officer of AMES.

Topic: *Full Participation for all in a Cohesive and Diverse Society: a Practical Approach for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.* [Download](#) flyer.

27 May Lucy Adams, *Principal Lawyer, Justice Connect* **Topic – TBA**

Lectures are held at the St Francis Pastoral Centre Cnr Lonsdale & Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne on the last Wednesday of the month – February through to November From 12:00 – 1:00pm



For further information please call: Paula – (03) 9895 5800.

Supporting Social Enterprises

A number of not-for-profit organisations provide services on a commercial basis as a way of furthering their social purpose. This can involve the provision of jobs and support for individual staff, and the generation of funds to support programs. Catholic Social Services members that provide such services include: Jesuit Social Services, whose [‘ignite’cafes](#) provide *cafe and catering services*. The [YMCA Bridge Program](#) provides a range of *building and maintenance services*. [Pink Lightning](#) is a social enterprise project conducted by clients with Marist Youth Care Melbourne. It provides *accredited traineeships in Beauty Therapy* to young women.



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