

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)

### Blessed are the peacemakers:

April 11 marks 51 years since Pope John XXIII issued his Encyclical Letter to the world entitled *Peace on Earth*. It was a reasoned plea for peace, at a time when the Cuban missile



crisis had recently threatened the peace of the whole world, and when the demands of peoples emerging from colonialism clashed with the established order.

Pope John stressed the importance of all people playing their part in stemming the arms race, and promoting equitable economic and social development throughout the world, but he also stressed that 'the world will never be the dwelling place of peace, until peace has found a

home in the heart of each and every man...'

Pope John also saw that peace within nations and between nations depended on societies meeting the requirements of truth, justice, willing cooperation, and freedom. Respect for human rights, and of the acceptance of the duties that accompany those rights, formed a key part of this program.

These principles hold good today. They are part of the hope that Easter promises, and they are a challenge to all who work for a better world.

On 27 April this year, a week after Easter Sunday, Pope John, and Pope John Paul II, will be formally recognised by the Catholic Church as Saints. That will be another opportunity to reflect on his call to us to be peacemakers.

### Our news and developments

- [A volatile policy environment](#)
- [12 March Annual Mass and AGM](#)
- [Social Inclusion for people with Disability](#)
- [Suspended Sentences: Abolition fuelling a perfect storm](#)
- [Education Maintenance Allowance](#)
- [The Joy of the Gospel](#)
- [World Day of Peace](#)

### Some events

#### Catholic Social Teaching Workshops

Next workshops are on the evenings of [10 April](#) and 27 November (these are aimed at Board members and other Leaders), and the morning of 30 September.

#### 13 April – [Palm Sunday Walk for Refugees](#)

**Launch of CSSV Conference book on impact of mission and identity** – 5.00pm on Thurs 22 May 2014 - more details to follow

**Annual Dinner - Friday 8 August** 7.00pm at Leonda, Hawthorn.

### Member news and events



## News and developments

### **A volatile policy environment**

Our member organisations are grappling with a large number of policy and practical issues that are critical to the services that they provide to the families and communities they work with. To mention just a few:

**Refugee policy:** Catholic organisations have been active in challenging the humanity of the Federal Government policy on refugees and asylum seekers – see, for example, the principles drafted that the petition organized last year by [Jesuit Social Services](#) and others – and in the provision of support to asylum seekers in our community and in detention. Further initiatives in these areas are under development.

**Housing and homelessness:** Recent Victorian Government reports on [homelessness](#) and [social housing](#) have not faced up to the need for additional affordable housing stock. On 2 April seven peak bodies launched a [joint paper](#) outlining a vision to grow social housing in Victoria, and address the chronic shortage of affordable housing. Our Twitter entries capture some of the developments in this space: [@CathSocServVic](#): *Congrats to all partners @SocialHousingV: great to have a substantial plan for inc #affordablehousing in Vic.* [@VCOSS](#) [@dvvic](#) [@PublicTenants](#).

**Disability policy:** the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the possible budget cuts are currently in the news. The pilot sites have also highlighted many issues that will impact on service providers, and that will have relevance well beyond disability services. A focus on these issues will be a feature of our 2014 Pathways to Partnership workshops, which are currently being finalized.

**Community services sector reform:** The [2013 report](#) by Professor Peter Shergold is one element of a set of reforms and changes that impact on relations between the Department of Human Services and the agencies they fund to deliver services. These changes were key drivers for our [November 2013 forum](#) on cooperation between members, and will feed into our 2014 program.

**Abuse issues:** Hearings of the [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse](#) have been well publicized, as have submissions, reflections, etc from the [Truth, Justice and Healing Council](#), which oversees the Catholic Church's engagement with the Royal Commission. Among other things, we are in the process of organising a workshop for members on implications of the Royal Commission and of the [Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry](#) into the handling of child abuse by Religious and other organisations.



---

### **CSSV Mass and Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 12 March**

Thanks to all who contributed to our Commissioning Mass and Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 12 March, and congratulations to Council members who were re-elected: Patrice Scales, Fr Joe Caddy, Robyn Roberts, and Gerard Jones. Special thanks to Fr Joe Caddy for leading the celebration of the Mass in his All Saints Church in Fitzroy; to Dr John Falzon, CEO of St Vincent de Paul Society National Council - at left - for his inspiring address on the topic 'Left out in the Lucky Country'; and to Kathy Hogarty and her team at St Mary's House of Welcome. Click [here](#) for a copy of our Annual Report, [here](#) to read and [here](#) to view John Falzon's address. A reflection on the meeting, the report to the meeting by the Executive Director, and photos, are on our [website](#).

---



### **Social Inclusion of Victorians with a Disability**

There is much to be done across our society to ensure that all people feel valued, their differences are respected, and their basic needs are met so they can live in dignity.

[Click here](#) for a copy of our 6 March 2014 submission to the Inquiry into Social Inclusion and Victorians with Disability conducted by the Family and Community Development Committee of the Parliament of Victoria.

---

### **Education Maintenance Allowance**

CSSV joins other members of the Education Equity Alliance in calling for the Education Maintenance Allowance to be continued by the Victorian Government. Click [here](#) for an open letter to Education Minister Martin Dixon MP. Click [here](#) for a VCOSS media statement.



### **Suspended Sentences: Abolition fuelling a perfect storm in Victorian Corrections system**

New research released on the 11<sup>th</sup> December by Catholic Social Services Victoria warned that the Victorian government's move to abolish suspended sentences will have a debilitating effect on Victoria's corrections system. The report finds that community safety may well be compromised by the reforms, which will add an extra 5,500 people to Victoria's corrections system each year, effectively doubling the number of people who receive jail sentences or

community orders at a time when the system is under pressure from so many directions. [Read more](#)

---

### **Catholic Social Teaching - next Workshop 10 April 2014**

Catholic Social Services Victoria conducted the first workshop of the Catholic Social Teaching series for 2014 on 27 February. There were 13 participants for the morning program from across 6 of our Victorian member organisations. Feedback on the content and value of the workshop presented was very positive - these workshops are a valuable learning experience and a great networking opportunity for all concerned. This workshop for staff across our member organisations will be repeated on the morning of **Tuesday 30 September 2014**. Similar evening workshops on Catholic Social Teaching for Leaders and Board personnel from member organisations will be conducted on **Thursday 10 April and Thursday 27 November 2014**. [Read more](#)



### **The Joy of the Gospel**

In the immediate afterglow of our recent CSSV Catholic Identity and Mission Conference, the person who was so frequently mentioned at this gathering for his inspiration and example, Pope Francis, has released [The Joy of the Gospel](#), in which his now distinctive style of engagement with people and with the issues of the day is brought to bear on the mission of the Gospel. [Read more..](#)

---



## World Day of Peace



As we approach the centenary of the start of the First World War, we can give thanks that the major conflagrations of the 20th century are behind us, but continued war in Syria, central Africa, Afghanistan and other places, and more than 45 million displaced people worldwide are a constant reminder that peace in the world remains a pressing aspiration. Full article by Denis Fitzgerald available [here](#).

## Member News & Events:



### Slavery-free Easter Chocolate

**Be a Good Egg This Easter** - Presently children as young as 12 years old are picking cocoa in West Africa to make the chocolate we eat. Some of these children are trafficked. Most are forced to pick cocoa from an early age for minimal or no wages, for long hours, in dangerous working conditions, without any possibility of attending school. Most of these children have never tasted chocolate. [Read more](#)



### First People's Lighting Pathways for All-Reconciliation Week Exhibition 13 May - 2 June 2014

A cross-cultural Art Exhibition and Reconciliation Week event presented by Project Dreaming Tracks Inc at St Francis Pastoral Centre, 326 Lonsdale St, Melbourne. If you wish to take part contact (03) 9480 1121 or email [pdtooffice@bigpond.com](mailto:pdtooffice@bigpond.com) [Download](#) flyer.

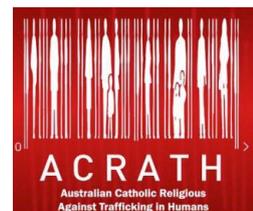


### Oh What a Night! Good Shepherd annual fundraiser-Thursday 15 May

The evening will see us launch the Doyle Scholarship and Mentoring Program. A unique program that not only will provide women undergoing financial stress to access higher education or vocational training but we set them up with full support for the duration of their study via a mentor in the chosen field. The link to accessing your ticket and further information can be found at <http://www.goodshepvic.org.au/events> Click [here](#) for a flyer.

### Catholic Organisation Launches Campaign to Halt Forced Labour

Australia's Catholic anti-trafficking organisation has launched a major labour trafficking awareness campaign through ethnic media outlets in a bid to reach people forced to work in Australia for little or no wages. The RAP (Radio Awareness Project) will also target print media throughout 2014. [read](#) full media release





**Seeking Coordinator of Malvern parish outreach program - [Read more](#)**

**Palm Sunday - Walk for Justice for Refugees - [Read more](#)**

**Solo Catholics - April calendar of events - [Read more](#)**

**Shekinah Homeless Services - Pop Up Op Shop - Donation Drive - [Read more](#)**

**Spirituality for Leadership - Graduate Certificate - [Read more](#)**

**Community Visitors Annual Report 2012-2013 - [Read more](#)**

## Catholic Social Services Victoria

383 Albert St (PO Box 146) East Melbourne Vic 3002

Denis Fitzgerald  
Executive Director

[dfitzgerald@css.org.au](mailto:dfitzgerald@css.org.au)  
9287 5569

Peter Hudson  
Member Support

[phudson@css.org.au](mailto:phudson@css.org.au)  
9287 5570

Helen Burt  
Senior Policy Adviser

[hburt@css.org.au](mailto:hburt@css.org.au)  
9287 5566

Lucia Brick  
Executive Assistant

[Lucia.Brick@css.org.au](mailto:Lucia.Brick@css.org.au)  
9287 5566

If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter please email: [lucia.brick@css.org.au](mailto:lucia.brick@css.org.au)