

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

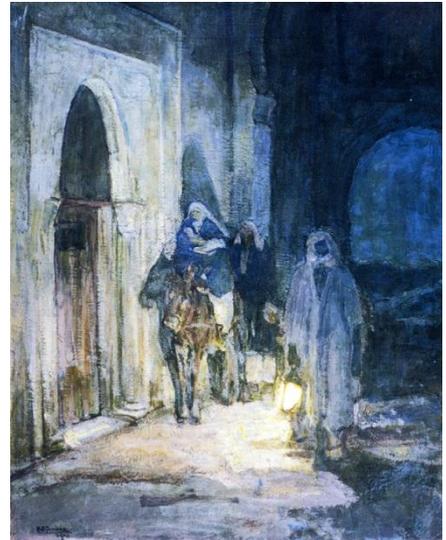
December 2014

Christmas- a time for celebration and renewal

As we draw near to Christmas, we recall that Christians celebrate that our God entered into a new and unique relationship with humankind; that Jesus came to live among us as one of us, to bring the face of God before us in a radically different way.

The spirit of Christmas, then, is very much one of recognising the value of all people, because our God has identified with each of us in a special way; and has told us that we can find him in each other.

This has implications for our personal relations, our service to others and our work for a more just and compassionate society. May the spirit of Christmas renew and strengthen us in these commitments.



News and developments

[Competition Policy must serve needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged](#)

[Restorative Justice](#)

['An Exploration of Catholic Prison Ministry'](#)

[Solidarity with Muslims](#)

[Economic violence in the home Forum for parishes on Asylum Seeker support](#)

[Responding to sexual abuse](#)

Upcoming Events

Annual Mass and AGM - Thursday 12 March; 9.30am at MacKillop Family Services

[Catholic Social Teaching](#): first 2014 workshop on 3 March

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

Annual Dinner - Friday 4 September 2015

Member News and Events

[Congratulations to Vicki Clark](#)

[St Vincent de Paul 2015 Ozanam Lecture](#)

['Solo Catholics' CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

A Conference with Catholic Social Services Australia, on **25, 26 February 2016**, in Melbourne:
Reviewing, Reimagining, Renewing: Mission that makes a difference in a changing world

News and Developments



Competition Policy must serve needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged

[Click here](#) a submission to the review of competition policy being conducted by the Commonwealth Government. Thanks to Vin Martin for his work on this, and to members of the Policy & Advocacy Committee for their input.

Competition policy impacts on the environment in which we work, and in which Government contracts are awarded. There is a significant risk that we will continue to go down a path that is not always in the interests of those that we



serve. In particular, a better analysis of how our members serve the community will avoid the simplistic market assumptions that have informed some recent Government tenders.

A Christian approach to a safer and more just society



The Victorian Interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce has released this [brochure](#) to give a Christian perspective on current issues of punishment, imprisonment and rehabilitation, and to offer effective and just ways to reduce crime and increase community safety.

In a related development, Victorian Church leaders have written to all Members of Parliament, calling for a 'restorative justice' approach to crime and offending, with a focus on prevention of crime, support for victims of crime, diversion from prison, rehabilitation of offenders and suspended sentencing. Click [here](#) for a copy of the letter.

'An Exploration of Catholic Prison Ministry'

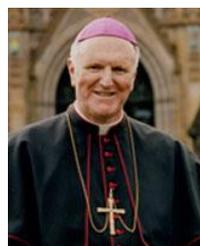


The [report](#) by Professor Ruth Webber: 'I was in prison...An Exploration of Catholic Prison Ministry' was launched on 7 October by Monsignor Greg Bennet, Vicar General, Archdiocese of Melbourne.

This report, commissioned by Catholic Social Services Victoria and CatholicCare - Archdiocese of Melbourne, builds on interviews and literature to explore the operations of Catholic Prison Ministry in Victoria. Dr Ruth Webber is a distinguished sociologist and an honorary Professor at Australian Catholic University.

Click [here](#) for a copy of Ruth's remarks at the launch.

Solidarity with Muslims



Archbishop Denis Hart [wrote](#) in *The Australian* on 26 September about the need for all of us to reach out to the Muslim community; and earlier Catholic Social Services Victoria joined with other member of the Victoria Police Multi-faith Council in [urging](#) a continued opposition to violence and discrimination, and a continued focus on the positive features that have made Australia a place of harmonious diversity

Breakfast Briefing, 11 November, Economic Abuse in the household



Thanks to **Dr Kathy Landvogt**, Acting Director, Growth and Policy, at Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, for her breakfast presentation on 11 November on '**Economic abuse in the household.**' Click [here](#) for the slides that Kathy used, and click [here](#) for the report which Kathy drew on in her talk. Tanya Corrie, who contributed to the report, joined Kathy during discussion.



Welcome the Asylum Seeker – December 2014 Newsletter

As part of Catholic Social Services Victoria, the 'Welcome the Asylum Seeker Parish Support Program' supports Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to reach out to asylum seekers and refugees.

Follow this [link](#) for the December 2014 newsletter for our Welcome the Asylum Seeker Parish Support Program.

This newsletter includes an account of our 21 November forum for parishes on asylum seeker support.

There were a number of items of follow up from the forum.

Parishes that participated gathered new ideas and contacts to assist their reflection on their current contribution, and on further steps they might take.



The project team also has a busy agenda. It will be updating its lists of resources available to parishes, and will include this on the website, and in the next Welcome newsletter.

In the new year, we will be contacting parishes who weren't able to be there on the day to bring them into the network of support, and will be running more activities similar to the November forum in 2015.

For further information about the project, or to find out more about how your parish might assist asylum seekers, please contact us at office@css.org.au, or tel 9287 5566.

Responding to sexual abuse – a submission from Catholic Social Services Victoria

Click [here](#) for our submission to the review of the *Melbourne Response*.

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 and 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:

- 3 March & 25 August – morning workshops
- 7 May & 19 November – evening workshops (targetted 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.

Members news and events



Vicki Clark - A Woman of Influence

Vicki will be known to many for her work at ACM for almost 25 years. The ACM was established in the 1980s by a small but committed group of Aboriginal Catholics, with a dream of belonging, identity, of ownership and of unity of Aboriginal people www.cam.org.au/acnc/invisible-no [more](#) and determination to be visible within the church.

Catholic Social Services Victoria events have been enriched by Vicki's creativity and involvement in welcoming guests and acknowledging traditional owners.

When Vicki first started with ACM in 1990, she soon realised that 'the journey of reconciliation was going to be long and hard.' Twenty four years later ACM has become a well-established and vibrant organisation within the Melbourne Archdiocese and across Victoria. Vicki now says 'Our challenge today is to enshrine all the good work that's been done to achieve true reconciliation.'

We are privileged to walk with Vicki on this journey toward reconciliation.

St Vincent de Paul Annual Ozanam Lecture 2015

The St Vincent de Paul Society invites you to attend the 18th annual Ozanam Lecture

When: Sunday 15 February 2015, 2.00pm

Where: Australian Catholic University Cathedral Hall, 20 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

RSVP: to Reception on phone 03 9895 5935 or rsvp@svdp-vic.org.au

by 9 February 2015

[Click here for the invitation](#)

'Solo Catholics' Calendar of Events

(December 2014 - January 2015)

[Click here for details](#)

Catholic Social Services Victoria

383 Albert St, East Melbourne Vic 3002

Denis Fitzgerald
Executive Director
dfitzgerald@css.org.au
9287 5569

Peter Hudson
Member Support
phudson@css.org.au
9287 5570

Helen Burt
Senior Policy Adviser
hburt@css.org.au
9287 5566

Lucia Brick
Executive Assistant
Lucia.Brick@css.org.au
9287 5566

If you wish to **unsubscribe** from this newsletter please email: lucia.brick@css.org.au