

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

February 2015



We have received encouragement and guidance from [Pope Francis](#) and [Archbishop Hart](#) in how best we can enter into the spirit and challenge of the 2015 Lenten season. Lent is the time for people and organisations to reflect and prepare for the new life of Jesus Christ in Easter. Pope Francis tells us that

flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness? First, we can pray in communion with all other believers; second, we can help by acts of charity in showing concern for others; and third, the suffering of others is a call to conversion, since their need reminds us of the uncertainty of our own lives and our dependence on God and others.

News and developments

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[Annual Mass and AGM](#) - Thursday 12 March; 9.30am at MacKillop Family Services

[Catholic Social Teaching](#): first 2015 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 – save the date

Member News and Events

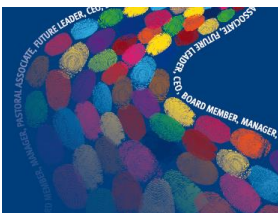
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A Conference with Catholic Social Services Australia on 25 – 26 February 2016 at the Catholic Leadership Centre

Review, Reimagine, Renew: Mission that makes a difference in a changing world.



News and Developments



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

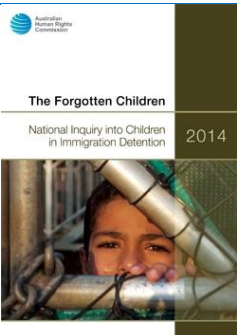
Each year the Catholic Church marks 1 January as a World Day of Peace, and each year the Pope issues a major statement to help build peace in the world. Pope Francis' statement for 2015, ***No longer slaves, but brothers and sisters***, focuses on slavery.



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



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](#).



Nominations open for Victorian Homelessness Achievement Awards 2015

Award categories

There are seven awards in total which recognise both individuals and organisations.

The 2015 Victorian Homelessness Achievement Awards will celebrate the exceptional efforts of specialist homelessness services, consumers and other community members to end homelessness in Victoria. The awards will be presented at CHP's Statewide Homelessness Conference on Thursday 17 September 2015. Nominations must be received by 5pm, Wednesday 15 July, 2015.

[Click here](#) for further details and a Nomination Forum

Upcoming Events



Commissioning Mass and AGM – 12 March 2015

All are welcome to join Council members, staff, leaders, volunteers and friends of Catholic Social Services agencies as we gather to celebrate our mission of justice and service.

9.30am – Commissioning Mass

10.30am – AGM – Guest Speaker: **The Hon Jenny Mikakos MP**, Minister for Families and Children and Minister for Youth Affairs.

11.30am – Light Refreshments in the Heritage Room.

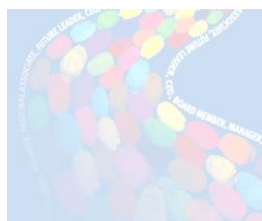
RSVP Friday 6 March – Lucia Brick – t: 9287 5566; e: lucia.brick@css.org.au.

Please advise of any special dietary requirements. [Download](#) flyer.

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

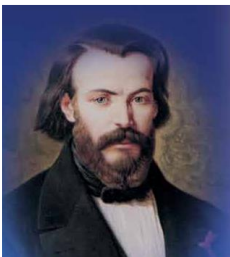


Our **2015 Workshops** are scheduled on the following dates:

- 3 March & 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.

Members news and events



St Vincent de Paul Society 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' Upcoming Events



Sun. 22nd Feb - 10.30am Mass for Solo Catholics - Celebrated by Fr Gerard Dowling

11.30am - Solo Catholics AGM (New Members Welcome)

1.00pm - Lunch at the Glasshouse Restaurant at Caulfield Racecourse

Tue. 17th March - 7.00pm Dinner at the Sandringham Yacht Club

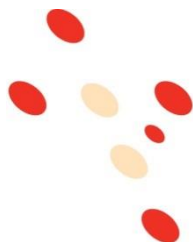
Fri. 27th March-7.00pm Pizza Nite at Shine Café Bar & Lounge (Licenced)

[Click here](#) for further details or [Download](#) Calendar for February – April 2015

St Vincent de Paul - Social Justice in the City Series

27 February - Heather Holst, Chief Executive Officer, HomeGround Services "*HomeGround's Work on the Right to Housing*", and

25 March 2015 - Jacqui Phillips, Director of Policy, ACOSS (Aust. Council of Social Services) "*The Gendered Nature of Poverty in Australia: Challenges and Solutions*". [Click here](#) for further details.



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.



Good Samaritan Inn Screening of The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel 2

The Inn is holding a special pre-release screening of The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

When: Thursday 5th March 2015

6.00 pm for pre film drinks and snacks

Where: Palace Westgarth Cinema

[Click here](#) for more details

New Heading

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