

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)



Easter Blessings to all our members, friends and supporters

Ours are the eyes, the hand and feet of the Easter Jesus

Easter is central to the Christian message: our salvation in Jesus arises from his suffering and death.

This can be un-packed in so many ways. In his [Easter message](#) Archbishop Denis Hart focuses on compassion - we receive the new and risen life of Jesus Christ at Easter and we are called to share this life with others. He draws on St Teresa of Avila (1515 – 1582) for practical inspiration in sharing that compassion of Christ:



Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world.

Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless his people.

NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS

- ❖ Thank you Patrice Scales, welcome Bernie Cronin (pictured) as new **Chair of Council**
- ❖ Our **Commissioning Mass**
- ❖ **Council elections and some constitutional changes** at our AGM
- ❖ **Leadership changes** in our sector
- ❖ **Protecting vulnerable children**
- ❖ Advancing the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**
- ❖ Conference follow up: **#MissionRenew**



DATES FOR DIARY



- ❖ **Mission Inspired Leadership 2016** – three evenings for leaders in April, May, June 2016
- ❖ **Welcome The Asylum Seeker** Parish Support Program - Forum Saturday 16 April 2016
- ❖ **Annual Dinner** – Friday 1 July 2016 – at Leonda in Hawthorn

ALSO OF INTEREST, FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

- ❖ ACRATH: 2016 Easter Campaign: Slavery Free Chocolate
- ❖ St Mary's House of Welcome Trivia Night
- ❖ Loud Fence Movement (pictured)
- ❖ Critical Reflection for practitioners – self and spirituality
- ❖ Solo Catholics' Calendar of Events April 2016
- ❖ Exclusion and Embrace: Disability, Justice and Spirituality: 21-23 August 2016
- ❖ Communities in Control conference: 30 - 31 May 2016





NEWS, DEVELOPMENTS AND EVENTS

Council elections and constitutional changes



Patrice Scales (pictured) was warmly farewelled as Chair of Council at the 17 March Annual General Meeting, and Bernie Cronin was welcomed as her replacement. Anne Astin and Jenny Glare were also welcomed to the Council. Click [here](#) for more information on farewells, and new appointments as well as constitutional changes.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the annual report, and here for information on a farewell dinner on 13 April for Patrice and other outgoing members of council – Gerard Jones, Tony Hollamby and Jan Horsnell.

Our Commissioning Mass



Our 2016 Commissioning Mass was celebrated on 17 March at MacKillop Family Services, South Melbourne, in conjunction with our AGM. Thanks to Bishop Vincent Long, who presided, and to Sr Joan Healy, who delivered a reflection: [Read more](#) about the homily ('we find God in others and we bring him there') and Sr Joan's reflection.

Leadership changes in our sector



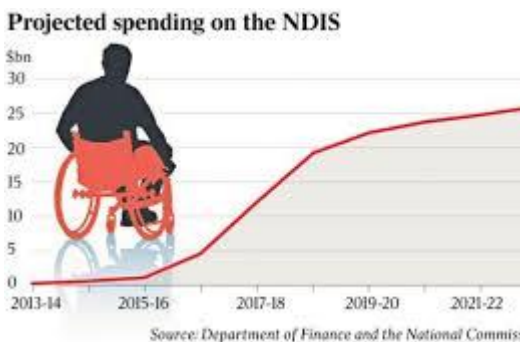
Farewell, with thanks and best wishes to Micaela Cronin at MacKillop Family Services (pictured here with Minister Jenny Mikakos) and Jan Horsnell at Southern Cross Care (Victoria). **A warm welcome** to Dimity Fifer, incoming CEO at Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, and Susan Cattermole who commences soon as CEO at the St Vincent de Paul Society. Click [here](#) for further information.

Protecting vulnerable children



Recent disturbances at the Melbourne Youth Justice Centre highlight the need for alternative arrangements for those in detention who have not been sentenced; and recent changes to legislation that provide for earlier permanent care arrangements need review and oversight to ensure they work in the best interests of children. Click [here](#) for our statements on these pressing issues, addressed to Minister Jenny Mikakos (pictured).

Criticism of NDIS need to be kept in perspective, and informed by facts



March 2016 has seen public statements which could erode the public confidence in both the governance and affordability of the *National Disability Insurance Scheme*. In considering such statements, we need to keep in mind that the National Disability Insurance Scheme will transform the lives of participants and their families. [Read more...](#)





REVIEW, REIMAGINE, RENEW: Mission making a difference in a changing world

Melbourne, 24-26 February 2016

Thanks to the 250+ participants in our February 2016 conference: *Review, Reimagine, Renew: Mission making a difference in a changing world*. Much of the benefit of such gatherings is from the opportunity provided to engage with others there.

Speakers were insightful and challenging, and helped us focus on key issues, including family violence, how we behave as organisations, and our alignment with the Pope's lived narrative of mercy. Resources are being posted to www.css.org.au/MissionRenew as they become available.

A book is in preparation – more later.

DATES FOR DIARIES



Mission Inspired Leadership 2016

Catholic Social Services Victoria invites Executive Leaders and Board Directors to participate in a professional development program.

Forum 1 A Pilgrim People of God – Br Mark O'Connor fms

Tuesday, 19 April 5.30 for 6.00pm start until 8.30pm

Forum 2 Services reflecting Mission – Ms Sandie Cornish

Tuesday, 24 May, 5.30 for 6.00 – 8.30pm

Forum 3 Building a Sustainable Future – Fr Joe Caddy

Tuesday, 21 June, 5.30 for 6.00 – 8.30pm

Venue: Cathedral Room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne

Fee: \$250 for the full program (including resources)

Visit: [Trybooking/Mission Inspired Leadership](#)

Enquiries: Lucia Brick, call 9287 5566

[Click here](#) for more information



Welcome The Asylum Seeker Parish Support Program

Click [here](#) for our March 2016 Newsletter. Our [Facebook page](#) has regular updates to our activities and to the activities of other Asylum Seeker and Refugee agencies.

Strengthening Parish Support for Asylum Seekers - Forum Saturday 16 April 2016

The Forum aims to share information among parishes and agencies about the needs of asylum seekers and the ways that parishes can support them.

Time: 9.30am for 10.00am start; concludes at 4.00pm.

Guest speakers include: Bishop Vincent Long, OFMConv, Sr Brigid Arthur csb and Mr Phil Glendenning. Car parking will be available onsite.

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch and resources). Bookings [online](#) - Enquiries: Lucia Brick: 9287 5566 or Email: lucia.brick@css.org.au

Download [flyer](#) and click [here](#) for draft program



MEMBER NEWS AND OTHER EVENTS



ACRATH: 2016 Easter Campaign: Slavery Free Chocolate

Make Your Easter Chocolate Slavery Free – Please!

ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) as part of a coalition of social justice groups are urging people to eat only slavery-free chocolate this Easter and not buy Easter eggs and chocolate that might have been produced using child labour from West Africa.

Slavery-free chocolate carries one of these three labels - FAIRTRADE, Rainforest Alliance or UTZ certified. This shows that the cocoa beans used in the chocolate’s production have been sourced ethically, from farmers who engage in good labour practices.



To find out more about the campaign and slavery free chocolate please go to www.acrath.org.au.

SAVE THE DATE
St Mary's Trivia Night

Friday 15th April 2016, 7pm



Entry \$30. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information contact Michelle at St Mary's House of Welcome on 9417 7985 or michelle.coates@smhow.org.au

St Mary's House of Welcome Trivia Night

Comedy legend Rod Quantock is back for St Mary's Trivia Night on Friday 15th April.

St Brigid’s Parish Hall, 378 Nicholson Street Fitzroy North.
Arrival from 6pm, trivia questions start at 7pm.
Tickets by presale \$30.

For more information click [here](#) or to book a table, contact Michelle at St Mary’s House of Welcome on 9417 7985 or michelle.coates@smhow.org.au



Loud Fence Movement

MacKillop Family Services (at 237 Cecil Street, South Melbourne) has joined with many other Catholic churches, schools and agencies to support victims and survivors of child abuse by participating in the Loud Fence Movement.

Loud Fence is a movement that encourages individuals to tie brightly-coloured ribbons on the fences of Catholic institutions, as a symbolic act of solidarity with survivors of sexual abuse, their families and communities. There is also a Loud Fence in front of St Patricks Cathedral.



Critical Reflection for practitioners – self and spirituality

Jesuit Social Services is delighted to again invite interested people to a Critical Reflection Series in 2016 that will offer an opportunity for practitioners and supervisors in the health & community services sectors to come together monthly in order to reflect critically upon their professional practice. Critical Reflection will assist participants to examine in depth hidden theory, assumptions or beliefs in order to affirm practice or facilitate change. [Download](#) details.



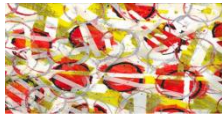
Solo Catholics' Calendar of Events April 2016

Download the [Calendar of Events](#) for April - includes Registration form for membership.





Exclusion and Embrace: Disability, Justice and Spirituality : 21-23 August 2016



A multi-faith Conference, bringing together people who wish to explore the understandings and experiences of disability and spirituality.

When: 21-23 August 2016

Where: Jasper Hotel Melbourne

[Click here for Conference website](#)



Communities in Control
The Conference. The Movement.

Communities in Control: 30-31 May 2016

Thought Leadership for the Not-for-Profit sector
It's the Community, Stupid: Putting people and the planet back in the picture

sponsored by CatholicCare. [Click here for flyer](#)

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