

## mini MICAH – November 2010

*Regular update for members and friends of Catholic Social Services Victoria*

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## Victorian Election

**Your Vote, Your Values** is a Statement by the Catholic Bishops of Victoria to assist voters engage on key issues for the 2010 Victorian election. There are many issues at stake in the election that affect the wellbeing of Victorians, and *Your Vote, Your Values* challenges us to engage with candidates for election on these issues. [Click here](#) for a copy of the statement.

The **Interchurch Criminal Justice Taskforce** has also just released a brochure to consider issues of criminal justice from a broad Christian perspective – [click here for a copy](#). Practical recommendations are made to assist victims and families caught up in the justice system. Ideas are also canvassed in relation to such areas as education, mental health, decent employment and accommodation so as to assist offenders to live a crime-free life. Copies were sent to Catholic parishes throughout Victoria, as well as to the media. For more information contact Denis Fitzgerald, Chair of the Taskforce on 9287 5569 or [dfitzgerald@css.org.au](mailto:dfitzgerald@css.org.au).



On 23 November 2010 CSSV co-hosted a public forum on **'Putting Pokies on the agenda'**. The Forum was addressed by Gaming Minister Tony Robinson MP, Shadow Minister Michael O'Brien MP, and a range of other party and independent candidates with a particular interest in the harm caused by poker machines. Speakers also took questions from a crowd close to 100 concerned Victorians, who registered their concern at the extent of harm being done, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy to improve the situation. The main organiser of the forum was activist Gabi Byrne, who, with CSSV, is a member of the Interchurch Gambling Taskforce.

## CSSV – Upcoming activities

Our next Breakfast Briefing is on **Tuesday 14 December 2010 at 7.30am**

Venue: Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne

**Micaela Cronin - CEO MacKillop Family Services** will speak on **'How can we better support vulnerable children'**.

[Click here for the flyer with further details](#)

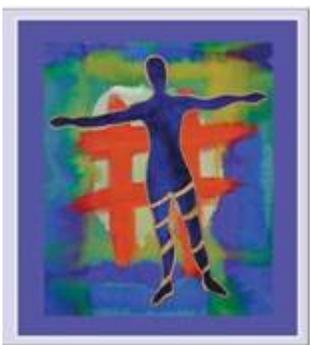
RSVP to Emmy Silvius by 9 December on [esilvius@css.org.au](mailto:esilvius@css.org.au) 9287 5566



## 2011 Program Items

Contact Emmy Silvius ([esilvius@css.org.au](mailto:esilvius@css.org.au) 9287 5566) to register interest or for further information:

-  Initial 2011 **Breakfast Briefing: Thursday 3 March, 7.30 – 8.45 am** with Tony Nicholson from the Brotherhood of St Lawrence.
-  **Commissioning Mass and AGM – Thursday 24 March** commencing at 4.30pm at All Saints, Fitzroy
-  **Annual Dinner – Friday 19 August** at Leonda, Hawthorn
-  **"Rest for your Soul" - Weekend of spiritual renewal for women**



Due to insufficient numbers we have had to postpone the planned retreat for November 2010. We are now aiming for **27 and 28 May 2011**.

Come and take the time to rest from the business of 'doing' to the relaxation of 'being'. This will be special time in which our individual gifts are celebrated as well as exploring what underpins our inspiration for being women of courage and hope.

Please contact Emmy on [esilvius@css.org.au](mailto:esilvius@css.org.au) or tel 9287 5566 if you have any queries or wish to express your interest in attending.



## CSSV – Other recent Activities

The last few months have been a busy period, during which we have slipped behind in our regular updates, so this list is longer than it should be. Please feel free to contact us if you would like further information on any particular item – [dfitzgerald@css.org.au](mailto:dfitzgerald@css.org.au) 9287 5569.

### Recruitment for Mission workshop

On 8 November Robyn Roberts and Julie McQueen from Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services led a practical workshop on how our Catholic identity and ethos can impact on the recruitment of staff and volunteers etc. A range of representatives from member and related organisations attended. The focus of the afternoon was on the practicalities of mission integration, in light of the broader issues that provide the context to this.

Follow up is being planned. Enquires would be welcome: [dfitzgerald@css.org.au](mailto:dfitzgerald@css.org.au) tel 9287 5569.

### Network meeting for those with responsibility for Mission

On Friday 19 November around a dozen people gathered for the initial meeting of this network: the spirit in the room was one of commitment, openness and support. The group decided to continue meeting in the New Year. Again, enquires would be welcome: [dfitzgerald@css.org.au](mailto:dfitzgerald@css.org.au) tel 9287 5569.

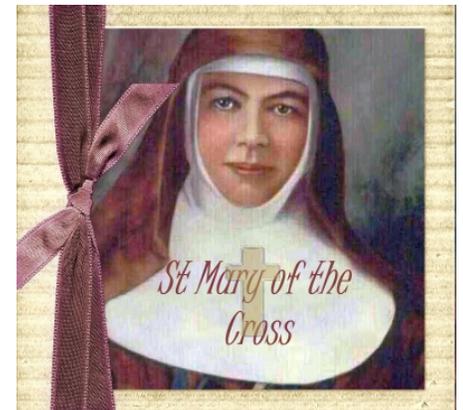
### Contacts with Catholic Parishes

This is an area where we have not been as active as our mandate would indicate. A recent mail-out on criminal justice matters, and a forthcoming postcard campaign on problem gambling, have been steps towards a higher level of engagement with this important sector.

### Canonisation

CSSV joined with many others in the celebration of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop. Among other things, we set up a display as part of a festival that afternoon in the Exhibition Gardens, along with many others, including MacKillop Family Services and other CSSV members.

**A reflection of Mary MacKillop's contribution to Catholic social services today:** Plans are also underway for a conference in October 2011 to reflect on Mary's contribution to Catholic social services and on what impact she might have today on those working for justice and equality. For further information, input, etc – [dfitzgerald@css.org.au](mailto:dfitzgerald@css.org.au) or tel 9287 5569.



### Religious in Catholic Social Services

Thanks to the members of religious congregations and others who gathered on 21 September to celebrate and reflect on their involvement in Catholic social services.

Josephite Sr Joan Healy inspired the gathering with a presentation on calling and vision in an environment that has changed enormously since most of those there had entered religious life. Joan included a reflection on her own work in Australia and then in Cambodia, and each participant added to the richness of the reflection. Sunrise, not sunset, was the prevailing optimistic spirit.

This gathering built on a similar meeting held 12 months ago. There was a strong recognition that it was the current and future leaders of our organisations who need to be the focus of much of our work on Catholic ethos and identity, but that, supplementary to that, continued recognition of the work of individual Religious was valued.



### Seeking Social Inclusion: Equipping Organisations to respond to people experiencing mental illness

Thanks to everyone concerned for making this symposium on 9 September of great value for all participants. [Click here for the slides](#) used by presenters. A report, including a follow up agenda, is forthcoming.



## CSSV Member organisation are being profiled in Kairos

Kairos has started to profile CSSV's member organisations as a regular feature. In their latest edition (Volume 21) Carol Vale of Bethlehem Community and Mark Monahan of Edmund Rice Camps have been interviewed (see pages 16 and 17). Kairos can also be accessed online at <http://www.cam.org.au/kairos-digital-edition>.

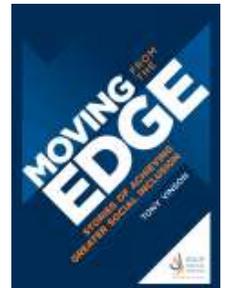
## Lunchtime Dialogue with Fr Mark O'Brien OP

On Tuesday 23 November around thirty people gathered to hear Fr Mark give his insights and reflections on issues of *Justice and Mercy in the Old Testament*. This was followed by discussions - not only in relation to what the people at the time of writing of the texts were experiencing as God's judgment - but also what the text means to us today, for example in relation to criminal justice. Mark also pointed out that a compassionate person is automatically righteous. [Click here for the complete talk](#).

## Around the Sector

### Launch of 'Moving from the Edge', by Tony Vinson, for Jesuit Social Services

*Moving from the Edge* is Jesuit Social Services' new study by Professor Tony Vinson, the author of *Dropping off the edge: the distribution of disadvantage in Australia*, personalises the policies and discussions about social inclusion. [Click here](#) for further details, and for an order form.



### 13 – 14 Feb 2011: 70 years of social work education at Melbourne University

On 13-14th February 2011 a Colloquium will be held at the University of Melbourne to celebrate 70 years of professional social work education at the university. The Colloquium will be a stimulating professional development experience and attendance is not restricted to social work graduates of the University of Melbourne.

The event will open with a welcome reunion on Sunday 13 February from 5.00-7.00pm. On Monday 14 February, the program will include presentations by Professor Marie Connolly, Mr Tom Calma and Professor Dorothy Scott. The event will conclude with a dinner on 14 February and the guest speaker at the dinner will be Professor Patrick McGorry.

For further information about this event, including a copy of the Colloquium Brochure, please visit the Social Work Department's Website at [www.socialwork.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.socialwork.unimelb.edu.au) or contact Ms Jenny Crofts on 0394292310 or at [jennycrofts@ozmail.com.au](mailto:jennycrofts@ozmail.com.au).



### 2 April 2011: Homework, a fundraiser for Bethlehem Community

**HOMEWORK is a fundraising event** which enables Bethlehem Community Inc. to support homeless women in Victoria. Women who come to Bethlehem have experienced long-term homelessness. The community provides accommodation and support to women, many of whom experience disabilities associated with abuse and/or mental ill-health. As a result, the women have lost contact with family and friends.

Date: Saturday 2 April 2011 at 7pm

Venue: Palladium Ballroom, Crown, Whiteman Street, Southbank

Dress: Formal

Price: \$220 single or \$2,090 for table of 10

Information/Bookings: [homework@bethlehem.com.au](mailto:homework@bethlehem.com.au)

## Grampians Mental Health Conference

22 - 23 March 2011 in Ballarat

See [www.gmhc.org.au](http://www.gmhc.org.au) for conference program and registration, or call Kelvin Wilson at Centacare Ballarat on 03 53367900.



## **Food charities thrive on diet of waste not, want not**

*From The Age, 10 November 2010- By Daniella Miletic*

For 20 years Shane Pereira ran the kitchens of five-star hotels in Mumbai, London and Dubai before moving to Melbourne. But he says he'd never experienced the kind of pressure he faced on his first day at charity St Mary's House of Welcome in Fitzroy.

"I was asked to go to a place in Brunswick Street to do a shift because the chef there was not well," recalls Mr Pereira.

Upon arrival, he was given a bag of sausage mince and asked to cook a three-course meal for 100 disadvantaged people. "They threw me into the deep end," he says. "But with help, I sweated it out and did it."

For the past two years, Mr Pereira has run the kitchen at St Mary's with what he describes as a daily "mystery box" of ingredients. Much of the fresh food he cooks with is donated - and his menu is always changing.

"I get extremely excited on the off chance we get expensive olive oils, good vinegars, sometimes even meat. About a year and a half ago we got in, for some strange reason, 40 kilos of wagu beef. It was some exporter that didn't have the paperwork intact and missed the deadline."

Mr Pereira turned it into steaks and beef wellington. "Every bit of it was used, and they all knew what they were getting, so they were quite excited," he recalls.

Yesterday, the charity celebrated the donation of three refrigerated vans to food-rescue charities FareShare and SecondBite, as part of \$2 million in grants from Woolworths supermarkets to support food rescue organisations. Woolworths says it is trying to get to zero food waste by 2015.

The groups will use the vans to help collect fresh food from retailers that would have otherwise been thrown out, then redistribute it to groups such as St Mary's.

According to the University of New South Wales's Centre for Social Impact report, about 1.2 million Australians are unsure of where their next meal will come from. Increases in the cost of food, rent, electricity, water and gas are causing more people to seek charities' help.

Marcus Godinho of FareShare says that while traditionally the elderly and the vulnerable have turned to charity for food, increasingly he is seeing people with jobs and homes seeking help.

He says that each year 370,000 people in Victoria run out of food and can't afford to buy their next meal. So far this year, the group says it has salvaged 413 tonnes of food, helped 130 charities and prepared more than 966,000 meals.

Meanwhile, SecondBite has redistributed 578,000 kilograms of food.

Mr Pereira says his work is challenging but rewarding. "At the end of the day you go home with a spring in your step and with 100 less people hungry on the street."

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/food-charities-thrive-on-diet-of-waste-not-want-not-20101109-17m4u.html>

Accessed 11/11/10

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Mini-MICAH November 2010

## Contact us

Send your news, updates, and any items of interest. Please also let us know of any events, celebrations etc in your agency or program.

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