



Act Justly

Globalising solidarity

In his new encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI calls for morality in economics

The market is not and must not become the place where the strong subdue the weak, Pope Benedict XVI warns in his long-awaited Encyclical: *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth).

Financiers must rediscover ethics and not use sophisticated instruments to betray the interests of savers, the Holy Father says and urges the return of a social conscience and Christian values, Pope Benedict XVI points out that "every economic decision has a moral consequence."

Going even further, the Pontiff calls the establishment of a "true world political authority" with "real teeth" to manage the global economy. Such an authority is urgently needed to end the current worldwide financial crisis and prevent similar crises in the future, he says in his Encyclical on social justice.

Envisaging the authority as a reformed United Nations or a similar body, its role would include "reviving" damaged economies as well as working towards "disarmament, food security and peace" for all and offering protection to the environment and regulating "migration."

"It is a remarkable document," says Dr Michael Costigan, scholar, journalist, Adjunct Professor at the Australian Catholic University (Sydney) and chairperson of the Sydney Archdiocese's Justice and Peace Advisory Council.

"Basically the theme of *Caritas in Veritate*, which, with two years delay, marks



the 40th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's 1967 Encyclical *Populorum Progressio* (The Progress of People), can be summed up in one word: globalisation," he says, adding that in this, Pope Benedict XVI's third Encyclical - and his first on social justice - solidarity also plays an important part. "Not just solidarity between nations but between individuals within each nation. We are still very much our brother or sister's keeper and throughout the Encyclical there is an emphasis on social responsibility and obligation based on love and charity."

"...Pope Benedict... delivers a cautious and nuanced message about the free market, which can be defended only if it operates in a just and compassionate way, without the influence of the kind of greed, self-interest and exploitation which have led to the present world financial crisis and the suffering it is causing for many, especially

those already suffering from poverty and discrimination."

To obtain a full copy of *Caritas in Veritate* log on to www.vatican.va

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The current crisis obliges us to re-plan our journey, to set ourselves new rules and to discover new forms of commitment, to build on positive experiences and to reject negative ones. The crisis thus becomes an opportunity for discernment, in which to shape a new vision for the future.

Caritas in Veritate, 21

Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| PARISH NEWS | 2 |
| BISHOPS SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT | 2 |
| BE MORE CAMPAIGN | 2 |
| ELDER OF THE YEAR | 2 |
| WHAT'S ON AROUND SYDNEY | 3 |

The Justice and Peace Office is an agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. The Office promotes justice, peace, ecology and development through educational, collaborative and advisory activities based on the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Level 12, Polding Centre, 133
Liverpool St, Sydney 2000.

Tel (02) 9390 5319
Fax (02) 9261 5239
japp@sydneycatholic.org

Around the parishes

Holy Family, Menai works for real development

At Holy Family, Menai, parishioners of all ages have been taking action to promote real development.

On Mother's Day parishioners signed over 350 postcards addressed to politicians and urging an increase in aid to improve maternal health in the majority world. This action was organized by the parish youth group and is part of Micah Challenge. On June 21 the Holy Family youth group also began the regular sale of fair trade products after mass.

On June 27 NSW State Coordinator for TEAR Australia, John McKinnon, shared his experience of a recent visit to Cambodia at all masses and with the parish youth group. John highlighted problems associated with extreme poverty, including the trafficking of women and children. 300 people signed postcards to bring this problem to the attention of politicians and a visit to a local MP is planned in the coming months.

St Patrick's, Summer Hill acts for peace

With Hiroshima Day approaching, members of the social justice group at St Patrick's Parish, Summer Hill have been reflecting on the devastating impact of nuclear weapons. Through articles and leaflets they are raising awareness amongst the parish community about the problems of nuclear war. During August parishioners will have a chance to be heard on this issue by participating in an international petition calling for the current stockpile of nuclear weapons to be dismantled.

Studying justice at St Josephs', Rockdale

A committed group of Catholics has made it their mission to understand how justice and charity can be applied to Australia's political and economic future. They have formed a Social Justice Study Group in the St George area to investigate the Church's teachings on good go-

ernance and politics.

In recent months, the group has examined major encyclicals of Pope John Paul II, and they have conducted two meetings on Pope Benedict XVI's *Caritas in Veritate*. Parishioners have been struck by the way in which the new encyclical deals with the world financial crisis, and its provocative treatment of social and economic issues.

Jim Manwaring, a parishioner at St Joseph's, explains: 'Our meetings are dynamic, enjoyable and never boring. Yes, we certainly bring the encyclicals to life. ... You definitely do not need to be an intellectual. If you are interested in the future direction of Australia, please come!'

The Social Justice Study Group meets from 7.15 pm to 9pm on the first and third Mondays of each month in St Joseph's Church Parish Centre, 3 Parker St., Rockdale. For more information contact Jim on 9567 2750, 0414 875 917 or at jfmanwaring@optusnet.com.au.

2009 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT – ORDER NOW!

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled 'And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young people and justice'. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form and other information/resources are available on the ACSJC website: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au



The Be More weekend is an opportunity for you, your family, school, parish and community to come together in solidarity: **to be just** - conscious that our actions impact on all members of the global community **to be green** - knowing that we are all stewards of creation

to be more - by making simple changes to our everyday lives.

There are currently over **3000** people registered and committed to 'be just... be green... be more' for 3 days, and your family, school, workplace, parish or community could be part of it!

Caritas Australia need your help to spread the word. Encourage your family, friends and colleagues to register at www.bemore.org.au/weekend and they will receive a free Be More Board Game along with a resource kit packed with ideas of how they can be more for 3 days!

You can also check out the Springwood community's Be More video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lp9-5vIUWS0>.

Elsie Heiss named Elder of the Year

The National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) has named the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry's Elsie Heiss Female Elder of the Year.

Mrs Heiss, who coordinates the Reconciliation Church at La Perouse and is also a member of the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Advisory Council, described herself as 'over the moon' following the announcement of her selection.

The award was presented on July 10 at the annual NAIDOC ball and recognised Mrs Heiss' life long commitment to indigenous people, which she has expressed through her previous work in indigenous health and her current ministry in the Catholic Church.

What's on around Sydney

31 July Trade, Workers' Rights and Development

Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA, the international solidarity aid arm of the ACTU, and the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET) invite you to discuss the links between trade, workers' rights and development for the world's poorest. Speakers include Bob McMullan (Parliamentary Secretary on International Development Assistance) **7:45am - 8:45am Ground Floor Training Room, Unions NSW, 377-383 Sussex Street, Sydney.** Contact: 9264 9343 or office@apheda.org.au.

August Far to Here Photographic Exhibition

The Darfur Australia Network presents this exhibition which will tell moving stories from the Darfuri community living in Australia. In part one of the exhibition, photojournalist Kabir Dhanji captures the inner strength of those who fled the conflict. In part two, Darfuri youth tell their own story, recording their day-to-day experiences on donated cameras. **Blender Gallery, 16 Elizabeth Street, Paddington, Sydney.** For more info visit www.fartohere.com.

1 August Burma's Future and Australia's Role

Expert panelists will discuss Australia's role in supporting peace, democracy and freedom in Burma and explore avenues the ALP can take to support urgently needed change in Burma. This event, organized by Burma Campaign Australia is part of the fringe program of the ALP national conference. 12:30pm - 2 pm, South Steyne Floating Restaurant and Function Centre, Cockle Bay, Darling Harbour, Sydney. Contact 0416289235 or admin@aucampaignforburma.org.

1 August A Global Response to a Global Crisis

Explore the links between the financial crisis and the crises of global poverty and climate, and identify solutions. Speakers include Professor Ross Buckley, and Dr Elizabeth Thurbon, UNSW; Luke Fletcher, Luke Fletcher, Jubilee Australia. **10am—11:30am, Harbours Edge Event Centre, Harbourside Shopping Centre, Darling Harbour.** Contact 80604404 or rsvp@jubileeaustralia.org.

2 August Hearing Each Other, Healing the Earth

This is Sydney's pre-Parliament of World Religions Event, organized by a broad spectrum of religious groups and facilitated by the NSW Ecumenical Council. Includes the forum, "Food, Faith and the Environment", organized by the Faith Ecology Network. **Cost: \$20. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Lachlan's Garden Marquee, Old Government House, Parramatta Park, Macquarie and Pitt Streets, Parramatta.** Contact: 9299 2215 or kmoroney@ncca.org.au. RSVP essential.

3 August Never About Us Without Us

Streetcare and Homelessness NSW present this forum about involving homeless people in service delivery. This is National Homeless Persons Week event, featuring talks from representatives from Sydney's homeless community. **11am, Ozanam Learning Centre, 99 Forbes St, Woolloomooloo.** RSVP: digby@homelessnessnsw.org.au.

5 August What's spirituality got to do with life in prison?

Join Don Sweetman for this session of Spirituality in the Pub, as he shares his moving experience of being convicted to two years in prison after robbing a supermarket. **7:30pm - 9:00pm, Upstairs Room, The Bellevue Hotel, 159 Hargrave St, Paddington, NSW.** Contact: 93873152.

6 August Hiroshima Never Again

Commemorate Hiroshima Day at this public lecture on nuclear winter. The keynote speaker is Steve Starr, senior scientist with the US branch of International Physicians for Social Responsibility. **6:30pm - 8pm, Teachers' Federation Auditorium, 37 Reservoir St, Surry Hills.** For more info visit www.hiroshimacommittee.org.

7 August John Ogden: Portraits from a Land Without People

This collection of Indigenous Australian portraits spans 1847 to 2008 and was compiled by photojournalist John Ogden. He speaks about his work in this public talk. Cost: \$5 for non-members. **6pm - 7:30pm, Surry Hills Library, Level 1 Community Hall, Surry Hills.** Contact: 8374 6230. RSVP essential.

What's on around Sydney (cont.)

8 August Blessed Mary MacKillop Centenary Mass

The Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal George Pell will celebrate a Mass to commemorate Blessed Mother Mary MacKillop on the centenary of her death at North Sydney's St Mary's Catholic Church. The mass will be broadcast to the public at North Sydney Oval. **11am, North Sydney Oval, Millar St, North Sydney.**

8 August Seminar on the work of Fr Thomas Berry CP

Thomas Berry CP was perhaps the Church's most noted ecological theologian. American Passionist priest Fr John O'Brien CP is conducting this workshop which will introduce participants to the work and thought of Fr Berry. **10am - 4pm, St Brigid's Catholic Church, Marrickville, 392 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville.**

9 August Federal Government Policy on Climate Change and Community Responses

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change and the Al-Ghazzali Centre present this workshop, which will clarify government policy and share faith community actions. **1pm - 4pm, Al-Ghazzali Centre, 1021a Canterbury Rd, Lakemba (entry via Willeroo St).** Contact 0405 293 466 or chair@arrcc.org.au.

11 August Afternoon Tea for the Future: Food

An informal discussion about the topic "A Week's Food for a Family- How much do we really need?" See some wonderful evocative photos that detail the surroundings and a week's food for families in such diverse locations as Germany, USA, Mexico, Ecuador, Chad refugee camp and a number of others. **2pm - 4pm, the Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Street, West Homebush.** Contact: leoniec@erc.org.au

14 August Knowledge and Prejudice

Dr Miranda Fricker, Reader in Philosophy, Birkbeck College, University of London, examines the distinctive forms of injustice arising from prejudice and the ethical and political problems caused by it. Cost: \$22. **5:30pm - 7pm, Dixson Room, State Library of NSW, Macquarie St, Sydney.** Contact: 9273 1770.

19 August Native Title

A performance and discussion about Native Title with lawyers Jason Behrendt and Robynne Quiggin in relation to Ricky Maynard's series *Returning to Places That Name Us*. **2:30pm - 4pm, Museum of Contemporary Art, Circular Quay West, Sydney.** Contact 9245 2484. More info at www.mca.com.au.

20 August Beyond the Economic Crisis: How the economic system can be changed

A talk by Jim Stanford, author of *Economics for Everyone*. **6pm, Eastern Auditorium, University of Sydney, City Rd, Sydney.**

25 August Daring to imagine; willing to risk - keys for social transformation.

Pat Murray ibvm (Ireland) will deliver this, the Mary Ward Justice Lecture for 2009. Pat has worked in social justice and education for change over many years. Writer and performer Josephine O'Reilly will respond. **Loreto Kiribilli, 85 Carabella St, Kiribilli.** More info at www.loreto.org.au/about/mary_ward_003.html.

26 August Barkat Foundation Fundraiser

The Benedict Barkat Foundation is a work of the Newtown Parish and was established to assist students at St Mary's Catholic boarding school in Hafizabad, Pakistan. Enjoy a traditional five course Pakistani dinner and hear from **Fr Patrick McInerney** about his work as a missionary. Fr Patrick McInerney, Columban priest, will speak on his work as a missionary and his connection with late Benedict Barkat in Pakistan. Cost: \$100. **Tandoori Hut, 93 Enmore Road, Newtown.** Contact 95573197.

The initiatives above are organized by a range of Church and non-Church groups throughout Sydney. The Justice and Peace Office does not necessarily endorse the views and perspectives that will be expressed at these events.