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**We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connections to this land and we thank them for the care they have shown to Earth over thousands of years.**

“There is a huge gap between the world we live in and the world we want.” *Salil Shetty*, former director of the UN Millennium Campaign. Through the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations offers an agenda for humanity. Pope Francis reminds us that we cannot remain neutral; we must change from a relentless theology of dominion over creation to a new order of care and harmony.  
*Peta Anne Molloy, Anne Shay*

**World Water Day  
22 March**

Water is an integral part of life and the current climate crisis directly affects our water in ways many don't realize.

**What You Can Do**

- Respect the gift of water as you are using it
- Use less meat and electricity (water is used in the production of these)
- Avoid use of bottled water

*The Cry of the Earth*

*Pope Francis to Activists:*

**Stand with migrants. Do not deny climate change.**

In a recent letter to leaders of grassroots organizations and social movements, Pope Francis said: “Christians must protect the earth, resist the temptation to demonize others and fight against “the invisible tyranny of money that only guarantees the privileges of a few.”

Writing that the world is in the midst of an “historic turning point,” Francis said. “The worsening crisis presents both danger and opportunity. The grave danger is to disown our neighbors. When we do so, we deny their humanity and our own humanity without realizing it; we deny ourselves, and we deny the most important Commandments of Jesus.”  
*Faith Doing Justice 8/3/17*



**Saturday 25 March  
8.30 - 9.30 pm**

**Take time to :**

- Be amazed!**
- Be filled with reverence!**
- Contemplate!**
- Be entranced by the wonder of the Universe!**

*Mary Southard CSJ*

**Climate Change in Papua New Guinea**

Visit this link for what Cardinal John Ribat, Port Moresby has said about the effects of climate change in Papua New Guinea:  
<http://www.cathnews.com/cathnews/28445-climate-change-more-urgent-than-amoris-laetitia-png-cardinal>

**Sustainable Development Goals**

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the UN in September 2015, focus on eradicating poverty and extreme hunger, fighting inequality and tackling climate change, among other global issues. You are invited to reflect on the ministries and actions outlined in this newsletter and identify the Goals Presentation People are working to implement.

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|---|---|
| 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all.     | 10. Reduce inequalities within and among countries.   |
| 4. Ensure inclusive and quality education.                  | 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.  |
| 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. | 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. |
| 6. Ensure clean water and sanitation for all.               |   |

# The Cry of the Poor

## Presentations for Justice

### Ruah Community services

Ruah focuses on the Sustainable Development Goals particularly **Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls** (end violence against women) and **Goal 10: Reduce inequality within countries.**

**Ruah Inside-Out** offers support to women who are pre-release and post-release from prison, providing:

- Transitional Accommodation;
- Re-entry Link Program;
- Lifeskills Group;
- Moorditj Yorgas Yarning Group;
- Housing Support Programme;
- Grief, loss and trauma counselling.

Referrals can be made via another service, or self-referral whilst in prison, or for up to three months post-release. Participation in the program is voluntary.

<http://www.ruah.com.au/services/domestic-violence>

*Lucy Van Kessel pbvm Western Australia*

### Ballina Rallies

The Ballina PPJ group has joined with Ballina Region for Refugees in attending the fortnightly vigil at the traffic lights at the corner of River and Kerr Streets. Several members also took part in the Walk around Lismore to remember the 37 asylum seekers who had died in detention. About 300 people attended this event.

*Anne Shay pbvm Lismore.*



Memorial Walk Lismore

### Papua New Guinea – where standards of health care are worlds apart

For a population of more than 7 million, PNG has fewer than 400 doctors of which only 51 work outside Port Moresby, despite 85% of people living in rural areas. That's one doctor per 17,068 people, compared to one per 302 in Australia. The Sisters and their co-workers face immense challenges:

Some of the most troubling health statistics include:

- ◇ **Maternal mortality:** PNG's maternal mortality ratio is worse than India's, with almost half of all women giving birth without the assistance of a doctor or midwife.
- ◇ **Infant mortality:** 5.5% of babies will die before age 2
- ◇ **Communicable diseases:** Tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases cause 62% of deaths nationwide.
- ◇ **Water-borne diseases:** Only 33% of rural people have access to clean water, a major factor in the 2009 cholera outbreak that affected 14,000 people, whilst diarrhoea is the seventh biggest killer.

*Raingarde Soroga, Korina Kirepe, Ellis Drakore pbvm PNG Justice Committee*



**Mary Kavanagh pbvm** was honoured this year with an Order of Australia Medal for her service to education and to the Presentation Sisters Victoria. Mary was a past student, and Principal of Presentation College Windsor from 1961 to 1970. Her award has been enthusiastically praised by those whose lives she touched.

<http://presentationociety.org.au/>

### Australian Catholic Religious against Trafficking in Humans

Three Presentation Sisters, Lynne Crilly, Rosemary Grundy and Joan Kennedy were present at the recent ACRATH National Conference in Sydney. The theme was 'Act Now to End the Scourge of Human Trafficking'. Guest speakers addressed these issues: the annual fashion industry supply chain report and its effectiveness in working against slavery practices; Human Trafficking in Australia, focusing on pornography production and forced labour. For more information see [www.acrath.org.au](http://www.acrath.org.au)

*Joan Kennedy pbvm Victoria*



Lawrencia Tamalako (nurse) and Elizabeth Sep at the Ningil Health Sub Centre

## The Cry of the Poor

### Logham's story



Photo: Andrew Meares SMH

Logham came to Australia from Iran as a 17 year old with his cousin, Medhi, a dwarf, after their Uncle and cousin were hanged.

They were both sent to Manus and after a year in isolation, Logham was sent to Lae as a refugee. He was robbed and beaten, and tried to get back to Manus to be with his cousin but was refused entry. He was 'settled' again in Port

Moresby but once again was robbed and beaten. He was helped to get to Fiji to seek asylum there but was arrested and returned to Port Moresby where he is awaiting trial. There is an urgent need for Logham to have financial support because he has been refused the small amount of money that is provided under the UNHCR for refugees.

He is now technically stateless, under charge in a foreign country for seeking asylum on a fake passport. The adoption of Logham as someone

in need of genuine and respectful support would be very valuable to him, as his legal team tries to find a solution that works for Logham. We continue to hope for him to be brought to Australia where he should have been 4 years ago when he arrived.

Logham is now 20 years old. He speaks Arabic, Farsi, English and Pidgin. He is a very talented cook and a very loving young man with acquired mental illness due to torture and mistreatment."

*Janet Wilson, Refugee Advocate*

### Action for Logham Sawari

**Write a letter or send a fax before 7 April 2017 to:**

Papua New Guinea Minister for Immigration  
Rimbink Pato  
PO Box 639  
Waigani, Port Moresby  
Papua New Guinea  
Fax: +675 325 5206

**Send a copy of the letter to:**

Renagi R. Lohia, CBE,  
Papua New Guinea High Commissioner to Australia  
High Commission of Papua New Guinea  
P.O. Box E6317  
Kingston ACT 2604  
Fax: (02) 6273 3732

#### Sample Letter

Dear Minister,

re: Logham Sawari

Logham Sawari has been found to be a genuine refugee and to have mental health issues due to his traumatic life experiences.

I am writing to you to plead for justice and understanding for Logham and am asking that:

- ◆ all criminal charges against Logham Sawari be dropped.
- ◆ he receive appropriate medical care and psychological support.
- ◆ his essential needs for food and adequate housing be met.
- ◆ settlement in Australia, where he first sought asylum, or resettlement in an appropriate third country be facilitated. Settlement in Papua New Guinea has been found not viable.

Yours sincerely

### Give people seeking asylum a fair chance

Recently the Federal Government's Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) started sending threatening letters to hundreds of people seeking asylum in our community.

After waiting more than four years to be allowed to apply for asylum, up to 12 000 people in our community seeking asylum were given as little as 30 days to lodge an application, regardless of whether they had access to a lawyer. If they missed the deadline, they could lose income support, Medicare and the right to work. Even worse, they could permanently lose their right to apply for asylum in Australia.

Join us in sending a clear message to the Federal Government right now.

Go to: [https://asrccampaigns.nationbuilder.com/send\\_a\\_letter\\_to\\_pm](https://asrccampaigns.nationbuilder.com/send_a_letter_to_pm)

**Being Aboriginal is not the colour of your skin or how broad your nose is.  
It is a spiritual feeling, an identity you know in your heart.**

Australian Aboriginal Saying <http://indigiquotes.atsinj.com.au/>



Nakkiah Lui

### What does 26 January celebrate?

Nakkiah Lui is a Gamillaroi/Torres Strait Islander woman. An writer and actor, she is a young leader in the Australian Aboriginal community. She explains her view on this issue.

“I’m not writing this from Australia. It’s ironic: I’ve had to leave the country of my birth so as not to feel the emotional toxicity of being an Aboriginal person in Australia on Australia Day.”

For me, being an Aboriginal person, life is about trying to reclaim my freedom – especially on 26 January, when the crime that was colonisation was committed against my people.

We need to change the date of Australia Day. We need to practise empathy as a nation in an honest way. It’s not just that Australia Day is celebrated on 26 January that makes it so difficult, it is people’s insistence that you are wrong for wanting it to be changed, for merely questioning it.

This country is our home, but until the date is changed, we live on the margins of its celebrations. We aren’t included in its heart and centres. Aboriginal people used to literally live on the fringes of towns; we still do, at least symbolically.

I invite every Australian to ask two questions:

- \* **Why do we celebrate Australia Day on a day when a whole race of people became oppressed?**
- \* **Is that our greatest achievement?**

cf Editorial *The Saturday Paper* 28/1/17

**Kambarang Place**, located in Perth, Western Australia, provides accommodation and professional case management services to **sole Aboriginal women** escaping domestic violence, homelessness, or other life crises. It has 8 crisis beds for short-term emergency accommodation. Kambarang Place is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and works with other support services in Perth.

To be eligible, a woman must be a sole Aboriginal woman over 18 years of age who is:

- Escaping any form of violence;
- Homeless, and require safe accommodation;
- Requiring support to access long-term housing;
- Requiring support for any other issue;
- Not requiring 24 hour medical assistance;
- Not requiring wheelchair access.

More information at: <http://www.ruah.com.au/services/justice-and-domestic-violence-services/>



### Referendum Talks Begin

The first regional dialogues consultation meeting was held in December in Hobart. These meetings, to be held in each state and territory, aim to reach a consensus on the process and questions for the proposed referendum to recognise Indigenous Australians in the Constitution. Those attending the Hobart meeting made it clear that the issue of a treaty must be added to the agenda.

Meetings in other cities are scheduled for February, March and April.

See [www.referendumcouncil.org.au/dialogues](http://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/dialogues)

### Social Justice Commissioner Announced



June Oscar will begin as the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner on 3 April.

Ms Oscar, a proud Bunuba woman from Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia, has devoted her career to improving the health and welfare of Indigenous people, particularly those living in remote areas.

Ms Oscar is well known for leading a successful campaign in the Kimberley region to restrict alcohol in a bid to curb Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder as well as violence, crime, injury and death.

### Presentation Society of Australia and Papua New Guinea



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### Reconciliation is ours June Oscar AO

Reconciliation is a process that belongs to all of 'us'. Whether it's an acceptance of an idea, a change in governance structures to incorporate more voices, settling a dispute within a family or community, or a renewed reflection on history, reconciliation is based on relationships. It is formed through interconnections. Reconciliation is never a lone ranger.

The Record Feb. 2017