

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT 2009

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on September 27. This year we are encouraged to witness the commitment of young people to the faith and the passion they bring to their work for justice in the world.

When Pope Benedict XVI visited Australia for World Youth Day last year, he left us with this challenge:

“How are you using the gifts you have been given, the ‘power’ which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you? What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come? What difference will you make?”

Some young people, however, face injustices that prevent them taking up the challenge, leaving them disempowered, excluded and deprived of basic dignity. The Bishops discuss four of these issues in the Statement: the plight of Indigenous youth, those excluded from employment, the issue of mental health and the prevention of abuse.

The international concerns of the environment and global justice and development are also highlighted in this Statement.

The statement will be launched on Wednesday 16 September at the Australian Catholic University Strathfield. Copies of the Statement are enclosed for your community, along with prayers cards and the *Ten Steps towards being Witnesses to the Gospel* flyer.

For further information please refer to the websites of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (www.acbc.catholic.org.au) and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au).

Date to remember:

21 September UN International Day of Peace
