



Together Online

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8th October, 2008

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Death of Abbot Placid Spearritt OSB

Father Abbot Placid Spearritt, of the New Norcia Benedictine Community passed away suddenly on Saturday night, whilst visiting his home community in the UK. Our sympathies to his family and to the Benedictine Community of New Norcia.

Death of Abbot Placid Spearritt OSB

With sadness, the monks of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia advise of the death of Abbot Placid Spearritt OSB, Abbot of New Norcia.

Abbot Placid's death occurred at Ampleforth Monastery in Yorkshire on Saturday, October 4th, in the early afternoon. His death was sudden and unexpected, and has both shocked and saddened his fellow monks.

Abbot Placid had been in Europe and the UK for about four weeks, attending Benedictine meetings and visiting friends and relatives in the UK, including at Ampleforth.

Funeral arrangements are not available at this stage, but will be advised through the West Australian and this website once they are finalised.



CCWA General Meeting

You are invited to the Council of Churches of WA General Meeting

Saturday 18th October
St Peter's and Emmaus Church
Cnr Green St and Banksia St, Joondanna

Registration starts at 8.30am, followed by worship led by the St Peter and Emmaus Church at 9.00am.

Revd John Henderson, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, will speak. It will be John's last visit to WA in his role of General Secretary.

There will be reports from our Ecumenical Chaplaincy work and from the new act for peace project worker. Christmas Bowl material will be available.

The General Meeting is an opportunity for you to meet Christians of other Church traditions than your own, to find out what the Council has been doing and is planning to do this year, and to be inspired for the ecumenical journey.

The meeting will begin directly following the worship and will conclude at approximately 12 noon.

All are welcome. For catering purposes please RSVP by October 15, 2008 on 9274 3888.
This is also a reminder for any delegates to return their response forms to let us know whether they are attending, or appointing a proxy.



The Northern Territory Intervention is a Shame Job

Several hundred people converged yesterday in Alice Springs to demand the roll back of the Northern Territory Intervention. Speakers at the convergence had a clear message - the Intervention has brought shame and humiliation to Aboriginal people across the Territory and has done little or nothing to protect children as it was supposed to do.

Executive Secretary of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission (NATSIEC), Graeme Mundine, who attended the convergence said "we have known all along that this Intervention has serious problems. Any legislation that can only exist if the Racial Discrimination Act is amended has fundamental flaws."

"Today we have heard the same message from Elders from all over the Northern Territory: the Intervention is causing severe



hardship and is curtailing people's rights.

Some of the impacts on every day life that people spoke about include:

- * People are feeling humiliated by the income management system. The system is discriminatory and everybody is subject to it, even if they have no children, or have no reason to be included.

- * An inordinate amount of time is spent trying to get the system sorted out. People have to drive long distances into a town just to spend three hours in a Centrecare queue.

- * Families are struggling to meet their commitments such as burying their dead as their quarantined income does not leave enough to deal with emergencies or other needs such as petrol. Freedom of movement is also therefore curtailed.

- * The alcohol bans are causing social dislocation as people head to towns to avoid the bans. This is placing unreasonable pressure on town camps, which are not being supported to deal with these extra people and the issues they bring with them."

Mr Mundine said "It is heartbreaking to hear people say they have been discarded by Government, yet again. Aborigines feel their rights have been taken away and that gains won through many hard fought battles over the years have been undermined or removed".

"The Federal Government must stop throwing more money at bad policy", said Mr Mundine. "It's time to stop spending millions of dollars on administering flawed policy that does not deliver adequate services where they are needed. Stop flying in Bureaucrats from the South, stop experimenting with Aboriginal people and start listening. Start treating people with the dignity and respect they are entitled to and then maybe we can develop some good policies and programs."

"NATSIEC is calling for urgent action by the Federal Government to:

- * Reinstate the Racial Discrimination Act;
- * Ratify the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People;
- * Rollback and rethink the NT Intervention;
- * Implement the recommendations from the Little Children are Sacred Report.

"The honeymoon is over for the Federal Government, Aboriginal people need action and they need it now," Mr Mundine concluded.

For further comment: Graeme Mundine 0419 238 788

ECUMENICAL SERVICE "ANTI-POVERTY WEEK" "Australia: Rich Young Nation"

To highlight our uniting call of solidarity against poverty.
"Australia: Rich Young Nation"
Keynote address: Bishop Donald Sproxtton, Catholic Auxilliary Bishop of Perth.
Please join us at St Brigid's Catholic Church, cnr Fitzgerald and Aberdeen Sts Northbridge.
Tuesday 14th October at 12.15pm followed by refreshments in the church hall.
The service is a joint venture with:



- * The Catholic Social Justice Council, Archdiocese of Perth
- * Social Responsibilities Commission, Anglican Province of WA
- * Uniting Church in WA, Social Justice Board
- * St George's Cathedral Perth
- * Council of Churches of WA
- * Anglicare WA

RSVP 94227900 reception@highgate-perthcatholic.org.au

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change

The religions of Australia have a shared sense of moral purpose on climate change. The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) is a multi-faith network committed to taking the action on this most pressing issue of our time.

In the face of ecological damage and social injustices, we affirm our love for this planet and its inhabitants and our deep reverence for life. We seek transformation of a world tottering on the brink of disaster, equipping each other to be the change we wish to see.

<http://www.arrcc.org.au/>

Global Financial Crisis and Global Solidarity Crisis

Be under obligation to no one – the only obligation you have is to love one another. Whoever does this has obeyed the Law. The commandments, " Do not commit adultery; do not commit murder; do not steal; do not desire what belongs to someone else" – all these, and any others besides, are summed up in the one command, " Love your neighbour as you love yourself." (Romans 13:8-9)

Everybody, every radio, every newspaper, every TV is talking about the financial crisis. The global market and the national economical impact seem to be the most important subject at the moment. In a supermarket I heard two ladies talking about their financial problems and the latest news. One of them told her friend: "it is amazing that we cannot plan the best moment to buy a new car because of those people(the ones at the centre

of the financial problems in the world) . They have made they own mistakes and we pay for that."

Comments like this give us the opportunity to remember some old philosophical debates. "Is the human race a selfish race?" "So how can we live in community, how can we have solidarity in a selfish group?" Those ideas have been discussed for more than two centuries and yet seem so pertinent today!

When people think about that global crisis, they usually express it as a personal problem, or a local problem or even a national problem. But is a global crisis! Is amazing how an important detail like that can be forgotten! This problem began in a specific country and took on an enormous dimension because of our global economy and in the end may affected everybody in the world.

So, if even the economy seems to have crossed all the frontiers and appears like one: one world economy, impacting everybody's life, why cannot solidarity do the same? When some people here are concerned about their new car, some others just nearby are concerned about whether they will have food.

The United Nations is also worried about the food crisis - they think that the current financial crisis, which is impacting all economies and exacerbating the suffering of millions, is also threatening the efforts to slash poverty, hunger, disease and other socio-economic ills by 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals. That concern brings up the necessity to think about the planet and remember that all around the world there are bigger problems and, as part of a big community, an international community we need to think that those problems usually became worse during economic downturns.

Let's think a little... If problems like the actual economical crisis can cross frontiers and affect everybody in the planet, why cannot poverty do the same, why cannot environmental problems do the same, why cannot conflicts and war do the same? Then, we are not only in the middle of a financial global crisis; we are also in the middle of a solidarity crisis. Because we are together on the same planet, we need to learn how to fight together against common problems, like our global economical crisis. Unfortunately, it is only when the problem affect us, our life, we can understand that we are part of it. Because of that we need do something, we need act..., act against poverty and hunger, act against environmental crimes or economical crisis, act against war, act for peace. Is our challenge, let us try... and we will be obeying God's Law, and we will be really loving each other!

Contact Leticia on 974 3888 or email cwsprojects@churcheswa.com.au to find out how you can act for peace.

Federal A.G. launches crime prevention DVD

'We are Ethnic; we pay taxes and we are committed to achieving a safe and secure society for all Australians' is the theme of The Law of the Land a new crime prevention DVD, produced by ECCWA, and launched by federal Attorney-General Senator Robert McClelland.



The DVD is an opportunity to educate new and emerging communities about the law and justice system of Australia. Some of the subjects addressed are family and domestic violence, identity theft, substance abuse, traffic offences etc. The DVD has been dubbed into 12 languages other than English based on the Dept of Immigration and Citizenship's humanitarian entrants over the last five years as well as the projected destination points next year. This DVD can be used either as a self-education tool or by service agencies for new arrivals. There is no cost for the DVD and anyone dealing with CaLD communities can access them from ECCWA.

'I am very impressed by your work' said Senator McClelland launching the DVD. 'It is estimated that crime costs Australia \$35 billion per year and has tremendous fallout in human misery. The crime prevention message is most effective when specifically targeted. Projects such as this help to improve social inclusion and community engagement, and when we are better connected we are better protected.'

'Organisations like ECCWA have been very vocal in advocating and promoting the rights of minorities, be they women, ethnic, indigenous or people with disabilities' said ECCWA president Ramdas Sankaran at the launch. 'ECCWA has equally been concerned about the obligations of citizenship and this video is an example of our commitment to it. Australia brings in thousands of migrants and refugees each year, many who cannot communicate in English and may not be literate in their own languages. Some of them come from societies which may not consider unlawful; actions which are legally and otherwise unacceptable in Australia. Ignorance as they say is no excuse let alone a legitimate defence for breaking the law of the land; but given the aforementioned factors, we have an obligation to make them aware of the laws of our land and the consequences that flow when they are infringed' added Mr Sankaran.

'As the script writer and with a very lively and supportive steering committee it was an honour to produce the script of "Law of the Land" said Peter Jeffries of CTV. 'However a script is merely words on a page and the extremely professional result of the final DVD could not have come about without the remarkable persistence and inventive efforts of our executive producer Tibor Mezaros. In many respects with it's twelve-language sectional

approach Tibor actually pioneered new techniques in a remarkable economical manner. Let's hope with this accumulated knowledge there are many more multi-lingual productions engendered by ECCWA.'

The Law of the Land was funded by the Federal Attorney General's department and the Law Society of WA's Public Purposes Trust. To order a copy call Nadia Loncar on 9227 5322.

Events for the Heart and Soul

In This Issue:

Jewish-American Scholar Dr Sara Roy; John Pat Memorial Day for Deaths in Custody; A Greener Faith, and the future of Planet Earth; Spirit of the Streets; The Imam and the Pastor; Pace e Bene Australia National Gathering; Activism against Gender Violence; International Day for the Eradication of Poverty; Spiritual Direction Seminars at Vose; Programmes at Wollaston College; Jesus. All About Life bulletin; Perth City Farm Multicultural Festival.



Thursday October 9th the renowned Jewish-American scholar Dr Sara Roy will be visiting Perth on behalf of Friends of Palestine WA (please note change of name from Australian Friends of Palestine Association WA) and the Centre for Muslim States and Societies.

Dr Roy is a senior research scholar at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. She has written extensively on the privations of economic life in Gaza and has just released a new book *Failing Peace: Gaza and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*, copies of which will be available for sale on the night.

Please distribute far and wide in your respective networks. We hope to see you there on the 9th.

WHERE: Social Sciences Lecture Theatre, University of Western Australia

WHEN: Thursday October 9th

TIME: 6.30pm

Entry by donation

Drinks and nibbles will be provided

co-hosted by Friends of Palestine WA and the Centre for Muslim States and Societies

Friday 10th October JOHN PAT MEMORIAL DAY FOR DEATHS IN CUSTODY

Deaths in Custody Watch Committee of WA invite you to the Ceremony of Remembrance for all who have died in police and prison custody, and police pursuits and to join in remembering:

* The brutal death of John Pat at Roebourne on 28 September 1983, recognising that he died after being assaulted by five drunken, off duty police officers;

* Demand justice for all those who have died in custody;

- * Send a clear and strong message to the government that preventing and appropriately responding to deaths in custody is their responsibility;
- * To call for a Public Inquiry into systemic racism in the justice system

SPEAKERS: Professor Richard Harding and Angela Ryder Chairperson, Langford Aboriginal Association

When: Friday, 10 October

WHERE: Fremantle Prison Grounds

TIME: 11.00PM – 12.30PM

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.

The Ceremony of Remembrance will be followed by the Deaths in

Custody Watch Committee AGM – 1.00PM – 2.00PM

If you require any further information phone Marc 0415 074 602 Email: newbone@bigpond.com

Saturday 11th October A GREENER FAITH AND THE FUTURE OF PLANET EARTH

The Progressive Christian Network WA is hosting an eco-theology workshop 'A Greener Faith and the Future of Planet Earth'.

WHEN: Saturday 11 October

TIME: 8:30AM – 3PM

WHERE: Floreat All Saints Uniting Church, 50 Berkeley Cr, FLOREAT.

TICKETS: \$25 (includes lunch)

For more information about the event, including information about the guest speakers and registration, [click here](#) or contact Marie Yuncken 9385 8537, Theo Mackaay 9325 5766, or email clc@westnet.com.au.

Tuesday, 14 October The City of Perth presents 'SPIRIT OF THE STREETS' In Concert

The City of Perth is proud to present the 'Spirit of the Streets' concert, featuring the Spirit of the Streets Choir with the original Perth Male Voice Choir and the Working Voices Choir.

WHEN: Tuesday, 14 October

WHERE: Perth Concert Hall

TIME: 8.00PM

BOCS office bookings 9484 1133 or any BOCS Outlets. For your information, visit website: www.spiritofthestreetschoir.org.au

Saturday, 25 October THE IMAM & THE PASTOR — Hear them speak at UWA

At a time when many in the world are wondering whether friendly relations are possible between those of Muslim and Christian background, Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye are living proof that they are. In recent years, Nigeria has been rocked by ethnic and religious conflicts, with tens of thousands killed and whole communities devastated. In the 1990's, the two men led opposing armed militias, dedicated to defending their respective communities. Now these two men are co-directors of the Muslim-Christian Interfaith Mediation Centre in their city of Kaduna, Northern Nigeria, leading task-forces to resolve conflicts across the country. They have wowed audiences with the story at the United Nations in New York, across North America and Europe. Now they are coming to Australia for the first time to share their experiences.

WHEN: Saturday, 25 October

WHERE: Social Sciences Lecture Theatre, University of Western Australia

TIME: 7.30PM

For more information: contact Lindsay Cartwright on 9448 8542 or

Zarlasht Sarwari – 6488 4554. Email: cmss@uwa.edu.au

Presented by the Centre for Muslim States and Societies at University of Western Australia and Initiatives of Change.

November 6 – 9, 2008 PACE e BENE AUSTRALIA NATIONAL GATHERING – Adelaide,

This is an open invitation to be a part of our National Gathering in Adelaide later this year which seeks to bring together people from around the country to network, share experiences and be further equipped for nonviolent life and action. This gathering place is set in tranquil, picturesque grounds in the Adelaide foothills at 'The Monastery Conference and Function Centre' and is only 10 minutes (5km) from the city centre and 20 minutes from the airport. Costs will be kept to a minimum with scope for some part-scholarships. This is the second such national gathering - the first was at Pallotti College in Millgrove, Victoria in December 2006 - from which Pace e Bene Australia emerged. See http://www.paceebene.org.au/files/peb_gathering2008.pdf for further details and registration

The Pace e Bene AGM will be held on Nov 10th after the Gathering.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE – 25

November to 10 December

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) and Amnesty International Western Australia (WA) invite you to address the human rights challenges women experience around the globe in the 60th Anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Human rights cannot be universal without human rights for women. You can do this by participating in the 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence. For further enquiries as to how you can be involved/host an event, contact the Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services on 9420 7264 or email: training@womenscouncil.com.au.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - 17th October 2008

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

Make Poverty History in Australia is a coalition of over 60 aid agencies, NGOs, community groups and religious organisations, including Amnesty International Australia. Globally, the Make Poverty History coalition involves about 80 countries and is the largest antipoverty movement in history.

STAND UP FOR POVERTY

STAND UP against Poverty is a global call to take action against poverty and inequality. STAND UP will mobilise civil society, schools, businesses and NGOs to call on governments and policy makers to honour their commitment towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Last year, 43.7 million people worldwide participated in STAND UP events, setting a new Guinness World Record for the largest single coordinated movement of people in history of the Guinness World Record. This included over 107,000 Australians.

This year, join millions worldwide as we again STAND UP against Poverty.

For more information see the attached flyers or visit <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au/>

Blog Action Day 2008 - Poverty

Blog Action Day is an annual nonprofit event that aims to unite the world's bloggers, podcasters and videocasters, to post about the same issue on the same day. Our aim is to raise awareness and trigger a global discussion. From the smallest online journals, to huge online magazines, to EU ministers, to professionals and amateurs, Blog Action Day is about mass participation. Anyone is free to join in on Blog Action Day and there is no limit on the number of posts, the type of posts or the direction of thoughts and opinions.

Make sure you check into the Churches WA Website on October 15th to read our post, and go to the Blog Action Day website to see what other websites will be taking part and to read their posts.

Vose Leadership presents Spiritual Direction I and II

Thursday 23 October (I) & Thursday 6 November (II) 9am-3pm

\$55 (incl GST) per seminar

at Vose Seminary, 20 Hayman Road Bentley

Registrations close 16 October

About Spiritual Direction I and II

"The life of faith is a journey from God, in God and to God that transforms us into the likeness of Christ. It is also a journey in and through the world that transforms this world. Any journey needs direction, but particularly so this transformational adventure we are called to. We have the Spirit of God as our encourager, motivator, corrector and guide, we have the Word of God to light and guide our path, we also have fellow travellers who share in the ministry of the Word and the Spirit, and yet each one is also to take personal responsibility for their journey. This interactive day seminar on 'Spiritual Direction' will provide a Gospel and theological framework, as well as practical aids and supports, for travellers on this journey. This guide is suitable for your own transformational journey as well as helping you with the assistance and direction you offer to fellow travellers."

David Michie, presenter

Some of the things we'll explore are:

- * What is spirituality?
- * It's not spiritual if it's not connected
- * It ain't real if it ain't real – earthy spirituality
- * Movement and stillness
- * You can't transform yourself
- * Spiritual direction and saving the planet

For more information or to register contact Katherine:

katherine.smith@vose.com.au or 9361 9962 or visit www.vose.com.au

Tree of Life

Into Great Silence

Led by Father John Herbert OSB

The last in our Saturdays at Wollaston series for the year
Saturday 15th November 9.30am to 3.30pm in the Wollaston College
Chapel

A day to explore together the value of silence, drawing on the monastic
tradition.

The day will be led by Fr John Herbert from New Norcia, who will share
his experience of both Benedictine and Carthusian spirituality, including
reflection on extracts from the recent film 'Into Great Silence'.

Cost: \$40 (Concession \$35) includes lunch

Please register by 7 November

Exploring Men's Spirituality

Who encourages, inspires and challenges you as a man? How are you
that for other men?

Following on our successful gathering last year, we will explore three
male models from Scripture to emulate:

Saturday 25th October at All Saints College, Ewing Avenue, Bull Creek
from 9.30am to 3.30pm, Cost \$40 (Concession \$35) including lunch.

Leaders: Steve Runciman, John Dunnill and Michael Pennington

Benedictine Programmes

Quiet Days, Retreats and other events, in the Benedictine tradition will
be held at various venues during the year. If you wish to receive
information about these programmes please contact:

Paulene Tibbits: ctibbits1@bigpond.com or 9448 8499

Contact Maria Hann Maria Hann 9286 0270

Board of Theological Studies

Wollaston College

Wollaston Road

Jesus All About Life Weekly Bulletin

You are invited to join the multicultural crew of the MV Doulos as they
bring a message of hope through music, dance, word and drama from
around the world.

WHEN: Saturday, October 25

TIME: 7.30pm

WHERE: MV Doulos, Victoria Quay, Berth C, Fremantle

This is a special Jesus all about Life event - an opportunity for a group
from your church to invite some people who have not yet experienced
that message of hope to join you for a great night out on board the
Doulos. Entry to the ship is strictly by ticket. Churches are invited to
obtain your free tickets from jaalwa@biblesocietywa.com.au. Places are
limited so book early.

Perth City Farm multicultural festival

Perth City Farm will be holding a Multicultural Festival on Saturday 29
November, 9.00 am to 3.00 pm.

The Multicultural Festival will be an exciting celebration of the many
cultures that make up the Perth community. City Farm is looking for
groups, organizations and individuals who are interested in participating.
We want to represent as many countries and cultures as possible. The
festival will provide the opportunity for you and your organization to
showcase talents, skills and uniqueness of your culture.

This is a great opportunity for fundraising, making profits for your organization, and to share aspects of your culture.

Perth City Farm is an inner-city Organic and Permaculture demonstration garden and community resource centre. City Farm Perth is working towards environmental and community sustainability through a creative approach to the problems and opportunities of contemporary society.

Perth City Farm is a place and a community for all ages and backgrounds, with a specific focus on the needs of young people and their relationship to the environment, society and one another. Perth City Farm is a branch of Men of The Trees Inc. (MOTT).

We encourage your participation in the Multicultural Festival through:

- * Food Stalls
- * Cooking Demonstrations
- * Arts & Craft Stalls
- * Music Performances
- * Dance Performances
- * Gardening Techniques
- * Other showcases!
- * Use your imagination

For more information or to book a stall contact Lisa Thirer at Perth City Farm Multicultural Festival, 1 City Farm Place East Perth, WA 6004
markets@cityfarmperth.org.au Ph: 9325 7229 Fax: (08) 9325 7210

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