

Social Justice Around the Bay Newsletter

Vol.1, No.1, May 2025



[SJ Around the Bay is a network of parish social justice groups in the Diocese of Broken Bay]

Social Justice Around the Bay can be the vehicle which enables us to help each other. That has become clear through the discovery of the social justice work of many Broken Bay parishes and how we all can benefit and learn from what others are doing. The more we connect with and support each other, the more the potential of our relationship is strengthened!

Slavery Free – Ethical Tea and Coffee- Who is doing the work?

It's important that we are aware of the ethical practices of the brands of tea, chocolate and coffee we purchase.

Sourcing ethical tea and coffee aims to ensure that both tea and coffee production and supply chains are free from slavery, forced labour and exploitation, whilst also promoting fair labour practices and sustainable farming methods. Many certifications such as **FAIR Trade, Be Slavery Free** and others, help to highlight ethical coffee and tea sourcing, which then pressures to implement these ethical standards are in place by producers and companies. We also need to be aware of the chocolate brands we buy to ensure there is transparency in their supply chains. Many popular brands do not.

Have a look at the links below to find out further information.

Useful Links:

<https://www.beslaveryfree.com/ethical-tea>

<https://www.beslaveryfree.com/>

<https://www.chocolatescorecard.com/>

<https://www.choice.com.au/food-and-drink/sweets/chocolate/articles/ethical-easter->

Read about the issue of slavery on page 8 Australia in the Vinnies March 2025

Newsletter <https://socialjustice.vinnies.org.au/news/>



We Are Stronger Together

A reflect by Jo Karaolis from Chatswood Parish.

‘When two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in their midst’. Matthew

18:20. ‘As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’
John 13:34-5

Save the Date: Saturday 21 June 2025

Saturday 21 June Feast for Freedom – Chatswood Parish. A fun night with delicious food, entertainment as we supporting refugees! Chatswood Parish holds an annual fundraising dinner to support refugee families and temporary resident struggling to survive in Sydney. The dinner will be on Saturday 21 June at 5.30 p.m. in Harrington Hall, Ferguson Lane, Chatswood.



Let's pull together to make and invite our parish members to form a table for this evening.

St Vincent De Paul

Join the St Vincent De Paul Social Justice Network and find out how your parish can get involved

<https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/advocacy/join-the-social-justice-network>

Vinnies Van. <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-vans> for where you can volunteer in your area!

Vinnies Vans are outreach services that provide meals and snacks, blankets, toiletries, hot beverages, and, most importantly, companionship and referrals where needed to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Our Vans operate across Greater Sydney and in targeted regional areas, ensuring we reach highly at-risk communities with additional wrap-around supports.



Further reading

ARRCC. - <https://www.arrcc.org.au/>

Jesuit Refugee Service Newsletter <https://aus.jrs.net/en/news/autumn-link-2025-is-out-now/>

Caritas <https://www.caritas.org.au/publications/the-change-report/>

Welcome Michelle Chahine

SJ Around the Bay welcomes the appointment of Michelle Chahine to the role of Justice and Peace Facilitator of the Diocese of Broken Bay and the Diocesan Contact for our parish network. Contact Michelle at 02 8379 1626 or Michelle.Chahine@ppcatholic.org.au

Sydney Alliance and Affordable Housing



The Sydney Alliance brings together diverse community organisations, unions, religious organisations and schools to advance the common good and achieve a fair, just and sustainable city.

<https://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/about>

Sydney, Australia

837 people have gathered in Western Sydney on 14 March to call on the Federal Government to “deliver” for households on cost of living. With the Labor win we need to ensure these promises are kept!

Leaders from across social services, the church, unions and community groups took to the stage with Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen at Westmead on Thursday night, asking him to make a series of commitments to support the community. The Sydney Alliance continues to mobilise communities and urge politicians to commit to transformative reforms that would change the lives of residents.

Among the asks from the Sydney Alliance pushed for were:

- An urgent investment of \$5 billion for home energy upgrades to ensure everyone - no matter where they live or what they earn - can slash their power bills now and for the long term with solar, batteries and energy efficiency upgrades.
- \$3 million commitment to invest in mobile community energy hubs - an information service to help Sydney’s linguistically diverse navigate making the energy switch at home.

Joining Minister Chris Bowen on the night was also Dr Andrew Charlton MP Member for Parramatta, Zali Steggall MP for Warringah and Greens Senator Dr Mehreen Faruqi. We now need to pressure and write letters to ensure the new government to keep these promises!

Catalyst for Renewal- Free Online events



Catalyst for Renewal-Spirituality on the Sofa – **free** online events!

June 4 Consumerism: can Australia move beyond it?

Professor Allan Fels AO; plus, speaker to be confirmed

July 2 NAIDOC Week - The Next Generation:

Strength, Vision, Legacy

July 30 Synodality: a new path for the church?

Dr Austen Ivereigh; Professor Anna Rowlands
(both live from the UK via Zoom)
Speakers to be confirmed

September 3 Misinformation: are we awash?

Susan Connolly rsj; plus speaker to be confirmed

October 1 The Challenge of Science

Dr Bernadette Tobin AO; Dr Dan Fleming

SIP and SOS are programs of Catalyst for Renewal Inc.: Seeking Renewal Through Conversation

<https://catalystforrenewal.org.au/catalyst-for-renewal-in-2025/>

You can also find us on Instagram at [#catalystforrenewalaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/catalystforrenewalaustralia)

- Social Justice Action around our Parishes: SO what's happening in your parish? We'd love to hear from you!
- Join the SJ Around the Bay WhatsApp group: contact Mariza Sollano +61 422 225 960
- Email Helen or Sue on socialjusticeroundthebay@gmail.com
 - Corpus Christi - St Ives
 - Our Lady of Dolours – Chatswood
 - Our Lady of the Way North Sydney
 - Our Lady help of Christians – Epping/Carlingford
 - Frenches Forest Parish
 - Sacred Heart - Pymble
- Please consider joining our WhatsApp community (if you are not already there). Contact us and we will add you to our proactive SJ Group!

Some of the organisations we link with:

'Voice from the Heart Alliance': - <https://voicefromtheheartalliance.com/events/>

Catholic Earthcare Australia: <https://www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/>

Vinnies: vinnies.org.au/nsw/advocacy/join-the-social-justice-network

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC). -<https://www.arrcc.org.au/>

The Tax Justice Network Australia: <https://www.taxjustice.org.au/>

Publish What You Pay: <https://www.pwyp.org.au/>

The Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET): <https://aftinet.org.au/>

The Jubilee Australia Research Centre: <https://www.jubileeaustralia.org/> or <https://www.caritas.org.au/act/turn-debt-into-hope/>