



# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

Dear Friends,

**Re: Social Justice Statement 2017–2018**  
***Everyone's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy***

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated this year on 24 September. I am writing to inform you about the Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement and how you can access this document.

The title of the 2017–2018 Statement is *Everyone's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy*. It is a response to calls by Pope Francis for economic justice and for societies that are founded on justice, offering dignity and inclusion to every person.

Australia has been fortunate to have enjoyed a quarter of a century of continuous growth. Yet not all Australians have experienced the benefits of that good fortune. Inequality has been increasing, especially in recent years. Employment and working conditions have become more insecure for many, and unemployed people have to subsist on incomes well below poverty levels. Housing is becoming less and less affordable for buyers and renters. Our Indigenous people still confront enormous economic and social challenges.

In the Gospel for this year's Social Justice Sunday, Jesus tells the parable of the workers in the vineyard, where all become active contributors and are recognised for their human dignity. Inspired by this, the Statement calls us to build an economy founded on true solidarity with those who are most vulnerable. Justice must be built into the very foundations of our community, and business can work for everybody's benefit, not just for shareholders. The excluded and vulnerable must have a voice in decision-making.

The Statement will be launched in early September. Copies of the Statement can be ordered now from the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council by using the attached order form. Additionally, the Statement will be available for download on the websites of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference ([www.catholic.org.au](http://www.catholic.org.au)) and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council ([www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)) from the week of the launch. In the attached summary sheet there is a suggested entry that can be used by parishes, schools and groups as Social Justice Sunday approaches.

I commend this Statement to you and your contacts and would welcome your part in its promotion.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Denis J Hart  
President

## Summary: Social Justice Statement 2017–2018

### Everybody's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy

Pope Francis has called for an economic system that places men and women at the very centre – one that meets the needs of all people and is just and sustainable. He denounces economic structures that take a purely utilitarian view of human beings, treating them as mere elements of production, to be thrown away if they are not seen as useful or productive.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2017–18 is titled 'Everyone's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy'. The Bishops call for an economy that is founded on justice and offers dignity and inclusion to every person.

The Bishops' Statement is built around the Gospel for Social Justice Sunday, 24 September 2017. Jesus tells the parable of the workers in the vineyard, where all are active contributors and are recognised for their human dignity.

Australia has experienced a quarter of a century of continuous economic growth, but the benefits of this good fortune have not been distributed equally. In our workplaces, conditions and security of employment have been eroded, while those who are unemployed subsist on incomes well below poverty levels. Australia is experiencing a housing crisis. And our Indigenous brothers and sisters struggle with economic and social burdens that most Australians cannot imagine.

In the light of these challenges, the Statement calls us to build an economy founded on true solidarity with those who are most vulnerable. Such a society will reject an 'ideology of the market' that forgets the principles of justice and equity. Justice must be built into the very foundations of our community, and business can work for everybody's benefit, not just for shareholders. The excluded and vulnerable must have a voice in decision-making. God is calling us to use his bounty wisely, for the good of all and of our planet.

#### Bulletin note

The Bishops would welcome promotion of the Statement in the weeks leading up to Social Justice Sunday. A possible entry in your parish bulletin or newsletter could be:

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 24 September. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: 'Everyone's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy'.

The Statement calls for an economy that is founded on justice and offers dignity and inclusion to every person.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website ([www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)) or call (02) 8306 3499.

#### Associated resources

The ACSJC website ([www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/social-justice-statements](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/social-justice-statements)) will have resources available for download free of charge before Social Justice Sunday. They will include Social Justice Sunday Liturgy Notes, a PowerPoint presentation and resources for schools and social justice groups.

Prayer Cards and 'Ten Steps' leaflets can be ordered from the ACSJC on (02) 8306 3499 or by email: [admin@acsjc.org.au](mailto:admin@acsjc.org.au).

# Social Justice Statement 2017-2018



## Everyone's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy

### ORDER FORM

Order by 31 August to ensure delivery for Social Justice Sunday 24 Sept  
Statements are delivered from mid-September

#### Send to:

Organisation

ABN

Contact name

Delivery address

Phone

Email

*(ABN is required if the organisation is a member of Catholic GST Religious Group & no GST is charged)\**

Item	* Price <i>For Catholic GST Religious Group members</i>	Price (inc GST)	Qty	Quantity x Price
10-30 Statements (minimum 10 copies, postage is included)	\$1.00ea	\$1.10ea		\$
To order 31 or more Statements	\$0.73ea	\$0.80ea		\$
Prayer Card and Ten Step Leaflet (pair)	\$0.27ea	\$0.30ea		\$
<b>POSTAGE</b> (only for larger orders: more than 30 statements, or more than 50 prayer cards)	\$9.09	\$10.00		\$
<b>Total</b>				\$

**Payment:** We appreciate your paying at the time of placing your order. Schools and parishes may request a tax invoice if payment before receipt of an invoice is not possible.

Invoice | Cheque (payable to ACSJC) | Credit card (Visa / MasterCard only)

Credit Card:

Name on card:

Signature:

Cardholder's daytime phone number:

Expiry date:

**Phone / fax** (credit card order) - Ph: 02 8306 3499, Fax: 02 8306 3498

**Mail** (cheque / credit card order) - ACSJC, PO Box 7246, ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015

**Email** (EFT order) - send remittance advice to [admin@acsjc.org.au](mailto:admin@acsjc.org.au), direct debit payment to:

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, BSB 062-784, number 29745200; please set reference to  
*Parish/school/organisation/name, including your suburb/postcode*

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[www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

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