

*Caritas Australia runs **Just Leadership Days** to engage students with social justice issues, and to encourage them to be **just** leaders, in their schools and in their communities, for both local and global change.*

*At Caritas Australia, it is the belief that modifying structures that cause poverty requires personal transformation first. Just Leadership Days are one of the core education components. The purpose of Just Leadership Days is to enable students to challenge injustices, and to develop the leadership qualities to encourage others to do the same.*

*<http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/schools/just-leadership-days>*

The **Just Leadership Day** held at the MacKillop Room, Ballarat on Tuesday, February 20 was a wonderful affirmation of our calling in Catholic Schools to be people of justice and mercy. Presenter, Gwen Michener from Caritas Australia, introduced many challenging concepts and schemes for understanding social justice, as well as significant examples or role models for students to aspire.



Damascus College Ballarat students

The excellent and innovative Project Compassion materials, including a YouTube based virtual reality video viewer, were introduced with passion. The processes of the organisation were detailed for the attentive participants. A special guest for the day,

Mr Janak Prasad Sharma, a regional program manager from Nepal, provided a human face to the work of Caritas in central Asia. Janak explained the particular needs of his people which are, by Australian standards, very basic. He could report the recovery from the earthquake in 2015 is well in hand and Caritas Projects have made a significant difference.

The Project Compassion website is a brilliant justice resource as we focus our social concern on the world's poorest this Lent. [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)

*Tony Haintz – Assistant Principal, Damascus College Ballarat*



Participants and leaders at the Just Leadership Day



Damascus College Ballarat students



Students from St Patrick's College and Loreto College



L-R Eleanor Trinchera, Caritas Bangladesh and Nepal, Sue Searls, Diocesan Caritas Director, Gwen Michener from Caritas Australia, Mr Janak Prasad Sharma from Nepal