

Striving for a better world

Make your voice heard, write for SPC, join the conversation on the website or Facebook, hear informed speakers, and meet others with like concerns.



Dear Friend of SPC

Membership renewals 2020-2021, and donation appeal

The extraordinary events of this year so far – the widespread bushfires, the Covid-19 pandemic and shutdown, and now damaging global economic consequences – demonstrate the need for a vehicle like SPC to engage closely in the broad social conversation.

Once again, I express our sincere appreciation for your support for SPC, whether as a financial member, a donor, or a friend and reader. And, once more, we request your continued contribution to this effort.

SPC debates current issues from the perspective of Christian social values. Pope Francis has invited collaboration with all people of goodwill, of all religions and of none, in renewed efforts to address global problems of inequality, poverty, and climate change.

He has recently highlighted yet again the importance of his signature document, *Laudato Si'*, warning of the 'catastrophic' threats of climate change, and urging deep changes in our economic systems to promote equity and social justice. In May 2020, he proposed a special year of reflection and activity on the themes of *Laudato Si'* to abolish hunger and extreme inequalities.

The global impact of the pandemic has dramatised how closely interconnected we are on our precious planet, and how we must learn to love and care for the Earth as our only home. It is no coincidence that Pope Francis spoke to the UN General Assembly in September 2015, immediately before it voted to endorse the Sustainable Development Goals, providing a detailed map to help guide each country to a prosperous and sustainable future.

As we have outlined in recent SPC newsletters, these crises can also provide opportunities for carefully thought-through reforms to reverse growing social inequality, the precariousness of jobs, the exorbitant cost of housing, and the decline in public housing for disadvantaged groups, including Indigenous Australians, recent migrants and refugees, and guest workers.

We must not be 'quiet Australians' or silent observers. We need improved social and economic policies in Australia and beyond, so that our economies truly serve the wellbeing of all our peoples.

The SPC website

In 2019, SPC revamped its website but unexpectedly this halved traffic to our website to about 3000 unique visitors a month, who made a total of 8,000 monthly visits, and opened 350,000 pages over 12 months. We will need help with professional IT and marketing expertise to expand our reach.

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Facebook

SPC continues to make good use of Facebook, relaying important articles from other media on areas of concern.

SPC, the University of Divinity, & social agencies

Because of the difficulties for all concerned during the Covid crisis, SPC was unable to continue conversation with the University of Divinity about collaborating in its commitment to contribute to debates on current social and public issues. We also intend to resume discussions with some church social agencies about collaboration in further developing a public voice.

SPC membership renewal

Meanwhile, please download your membership renewal form for the year 2020-2021. The subscription remains \$40 for individual members, and \$80 for organisations.

Donations

Please also consider making a donation to help consolidate SPC as an independent, ecumenical voice for social justice. SPC still relies on *pro bono* contributions from writers, helpers, and board members, apart from professional services in posting our newsletters.

Finally, our thanks to our contributors and writers for your insights into current affairs for our website. We are, of course, happy to consider unsolicited contributions as articles or book reviews.

Publications

SPC has been involved with the following publications. Most are available from our SPC office.

- *Sufficient for the Day: towards a Sustainable Culture* by Geoff Lacey
- *Towards a Better World* by economist Arthur Gibbs
- *Social Justice: Fuller Life in a Fairer World* by Bruce Duncan
- *Young People, Faith, & Social Justice* by Joan Daw
- *A World United or a World Exploited: Christian Perspectives on Globalisation*
- *Social Justice & the Churches: Challenges & Responsibilities* by John D'Arcy May
- *Working with Disaster: Clergy & Bushfires* by Lisa Jacobson
- *Bonded through Tragedy, United in Hope. The Catholic Church & East Timor's Struggle for Independence* by Therese and Jim D'Orsa
- *Bridging Troubled Waters: Australia & Asylum Seekers* by Tony Ward
- *Of Labour & Liberty: Distributism in Victoria 1891-1966* by Race Mathews
- *An Enabling Life: Fr Kevin Mogg. A Collection of Reminiscences* by Anne Tuohey.

Kind Regards

Bruce Duncan CSsR

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