



Do Justice!!

“Do Justice, Love Kindness and Walk Humbly With Your God” Micah 6:8

A Newsletter on Social Justice Issues

Welcome to the November 2015 edition of Do Justice. This newsletter, prepared by Auckland Diocesan Social Justice Group looks at various Social Justice Issues.

Justin Trudeau, new Canadian Premier

The recent Canadian General Election could have some interesting pointers for New Zealand. Justin Trudeau, the leader of the Canadian Liberal Party – a party that is actually liberal as opposed to the Australian version – managed to win the election with a governing majority despite being the third largest party in the previous parliament.

The Liberal manifesto¹ makes interesting reading, particularly for those commentators that continually say that the only way to get elected in a Westminster style democracy is to move to the centre. Here are some of the more interesting proposals:

- End First Past the Post elections with a fairer system
- Increase taxes on the rich
- Reduce tax for the middle class
- Promote affordable housing
 - Address child poverty
- Invest in Public Transport
- Have fair and balanced Labour Laws
- End Canada’s combat mission in Iraq
- Provide humanitarian support and immediately welcome 25,000 refugees from Syria

Hardly a centralist platform and they won a majority. Trudeau has already acted on the Canadian combat involvement in Iraq and refugees from Syria.

Zero Hour Contracts

The October issue of *Kete Kupu* offers some insights into attitudes towards big issues such as poverty and inequality. Marianne Elliott, of Action Station, articulated that “to get to a point where it can be accepted that the issues [of

poverty and inequality] ‘are not inevitable... they’re alterable,’” requires “a powerful framing for inequality and poverty...backed with big deliberate interventions.”²

What might be described as a step on the path towards reframing poverty and inequality was taken by the Auckland Diocesan Synod this year when it passed a motion on “Income Inequality” which called: *on the New Zealand Government to ban “zero hour contracts” which exclude alternate employment options and require people to work any hours offered.*

As a way of expressing that call, the Auckland Diocesan Social Justice Group’s made a (written and oral) submission on the Employment Standards Legislation Bill. The submission made the following recommendations:

- that there be a minimum threshold for payment for being on call
- that statistics by age, gender and ethnicity be kept on the number of top-ups through the Ministry of Social Development to monitor the trend to zero hour or minimum hour contracts
- that the funding of Labour Inspectors be increased to ensure minimum employment standards are met
- that all work offered to beneficiaries through Winz be quality checked to see that the contract conditions are fair and reasonable
- that there be a review of this legislation in two year's time to see if it's providing protection to workers

The submission concluded: *The Social Justice Group believes providing protection for our most vulnerable workers is a necessary part of building a strong workforce, strong families and strong communities within a resilient and unified society.*

¹ <https://www.liberal.ca/realchange/>

² <http://nzccss.org.nz/publications/kete-kupu/> *Kete Kupu* October, 2015 “Why we need to change the way we talk about poverty and inequality.” *Kete Kupu* is the regular newsletter of the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services.

Upcoming Events

War Remembrance and Reconciliation

Dorothy Brown Memorial Lecture (Friday, 6 November 6, 7.30 pm) and Study Day (Saturday, 7 November, 8.30 am to 5 pm) at War Memorial Museum Auditorium.

Speakers: Revd Dr Allan Davidson (Memorial Lecture), Professor Richard Jackson, Margaret Kawharu, Keith Newman, Negat Kavvas, Revd John Heberton, Jock Philips, Tonga Karena and Cliff Simons.

Arranged by Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, Pax Christi, New Zealand Christian Network, National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and Trust and Auckland Labour History Group and supported by Auckland Museum.

Email bookings@aucklandmuseum.com before 5 November. Charge \$30 including lunch and teas (plus booking fee \$3) \$20 concession. Lecture is free.

PRAYER FOR OUR COMMON HOME

A Combined Church Service to Pray for the COP21 Paris Climate Talks

When: 2pm, Saturday 28 Nov 2015
Where: St Patrick's Cathedral, 43 Wyndham St

We are partnering with other denominations to host an ecumenical prayer service on the eve of the Paris climate talks. All welcome!

If you are interested in climate justice then you might want to sign the ACT (Action by Churches Together for Development) Alliance's³ petition <http://actclimate.org/>

Hikoi for Homes – Everyone Deserves a Home

When: Saturday 21 November

Where: Leaving Glen Innes at 12pm for Orakei Domain. Walk takes between 2-3 hours and there will be other meeting and pick up points along the way for those who can't do the whole walk.

The Hikoi will be run by Child Poverty Action Group with support from many other community members and organisations including the Catholic Justice & Peace Commission in Auckland and the Auckland Anglican Social Justice Group.

For more details, see www.cpag.org.nz



About the Social Justice Group

The Social Justice Group is a diocesan group whose role is to research and communicate justice issues.

We do this by seeking to nurture justice spirituality and imagination, and engage in advocacy in all areas of life, overcoming poverty and transforming violence. We encourage people to think and live "justly;" to understand, debate and act on local, national and global issues. Although we are Anglican, our vision is not so much about being Anglican. It's about living justly. Justice is about how you live your life, and being just where we are. Working together, we can all flourish. Social Justice seeks to encourage the ability of all people to realize their God given potential in the communities that they live in.

If you are interested in learning more, sharing social justice news or issues, or becoming a member, do contact the Convenor, Peter Bargh, at p.bargh@gmail.com

OUR WALK TO FREEDOM

Two events to recall the visit of Nelson Mandela to St Matthew-in-the-City and to reflect on our progress to combat racism and racial prejudice in Aotearoa

event one

Friday
13 November 2015
7pm - 9pm

- a lively celebration
- engaging presentations
- supper and conversation
- speakers: Dame Susan Devoy, Ms Anjum Rahman, Mr Peeni Henare

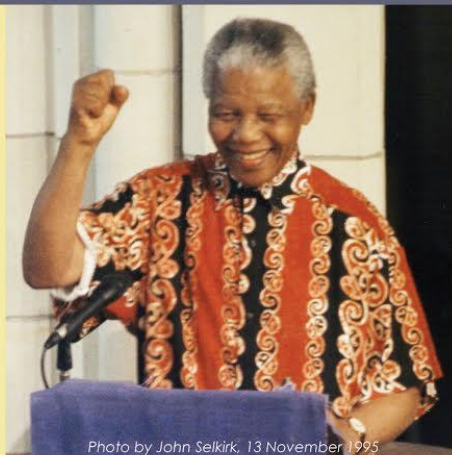


Photo by John Selkirk, 13 November 1995

event two

Saturday
14 November 2015
9.30am - 12.30pm

- workshop meeting
- propose, discuss and plan continuing action to journey beyond racism and prejudice

Both events in St Matthew-in-the-City, Cnr Hobson and Wellesley Streets, Auckland
Note the dates in your diary. For further information contact us on 09 281 4894 or susan@stmatthews.org.nz

³ Christian World Service, the development, justice and aid agency for the NZ Churches is a member of the ACT Alliance.