

## EDITORIAL

### Waiting & Hoping: December 2009

*It is hard to believe that it is already Advent, and even harder to slow down and enter into this period of reflection and anticipation. The liturgical season seems somewhat at odds with the rhythm of Australian life.*

As the end of the year rushes towards us we race to get through all the things we feel pressured to do 'before Christmas'. We have targets, deadlines and KPIs to meet at work. We have presents to select, the makings of Christmas feasts to purchase, travel arrangements to make, and often sensitive family negotiations to navigate. Even the list of people we've agreed to catch up with before Christmas can begin to feel like a burden! How many Christmas Eve's of our lives have we felt like we have fallen over the line like an exhausted athlete?

In contrast, the season of Advent invites us to stop. We wait on God. We prepare the way by doing the one thing necessary. We attend to the presence of God where God has come to meet us.

## WAITING & HOPING

*During this Advent, world leaders will meet in Copenhagen for negotiations that have the potential to affect the fate of the earth.*

We wait. We watch. We hope for an agreement which will ensure effective action. It is a time of anticipation and hope that links our faith season of Advent and our daily lives.

Global collaboration for good stewardship of creation is desperately needed. We know that it is the poor who are already suffering the most from climate change.

The *Catholic Social Teaching* pages of the environment section of our site carry links to a range of Papal and Holy See interventions on

renewable energy, sustainable energy and climate change >. We recommend them to your personal and community reflection at this time.

*Planet Prayer* is an initiative of the ecumenical *Social Justice Roundtable* in Perth. It will circulate daily prayers by email for the Copenhagen Summit between 4 – 18 December. You will find a link to their site on the *prayer and liturgy* page of our site's environment section >.

Our *what's on* page also carries information about a range of environmental and Advent events and resources >.

## SIMPLICITY

*Sustainable development for all will require simpler lifestyles in wealthy countries. As Benedict XVI notes in Caritas in Veritate, the converging energy, food and climate crises are a call to conversion, a call to more ethical economic behaviour.*

How might we take steps to use, and not abuse, the things of creation? The material on the *action* page of the environmental section of our site may help >.

**The Faith Doing Justice team wishes you the joy and hope of Christmas.**

**"Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." Lk 2:10-11**

Sandie Cornish  
Editor