

HOW TO FIND CHURCH STATEMENTS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL STATEMENTS

The Pope

- For statements by the Pope look under the *Holy Father* tab on the Holy See website www.vatican.va or use the *search* function.
- Comment on current issues may appear in the Pope's Angelus Messages, addresses to visitors or conferences, and speeches. Using the *Latest* button on the home page is one way of finding such material.
- You can also find current statements from the Pope on the Zenit news agency site at www.zenit.org/english

Curia of the Holy See

- The Pope is assisted in his work by a number of offices such as Pontifical Councils and Pontifical Commissions, and by officials such as the Holy See's Permanent Observer to the United Nations.
- Major statements by these offices and officials can be found on the Holy See website under the *Roman Curia* button.
- You can use the *Latest* button to find the most current material, or the *search* function to look for material by topic and/or author.
- Zenit also provides coverage of the statements and activities of these bodies at www.zenit.org.au/english

Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace

- The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace is the main social justice body of the Roman Curia. Its website is at http://www.justpax.it/pcgp/eng/home_eng.html
- You will find statements from the Pope and officials of Curia agencies on the site, along with information about their activities.
- As the site develops it will also include statements from national Bishops Conferences around the world.

Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations

- The Holy See has Permanent Observer status at the United Nations and has very active delegations on a range of issues.
- This site reports on Vatican action at the UN and provides transcripts of interventions <http://www.holyseemission.org/index2.html>

Bishops Conferences

- Some national Conferences of Bishops have websites which carry their statements on social justice issues.

AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS

Individual Bishops

- Diocesan websites may carry statements, pastoral letters, speeches or homilies by Bishops.
- If your diocese has a committee, commission or group responsible for social justice activities in the diocese, contact them for advice.
- Contact the Diocesan Office or Communications Office for advice concerning public statements.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

- Check the website of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference www.acbc.catholic.org.au
- Contact the Communications Officer at the Bishops Conference Secretariat for advice Tel 02 6201 9859 Email media@catholic.org.au
- Choose the *public policy* option in the drop down menu from the *home* tab (available on pages other than the home page) for recent public policy interventions by the Bishops and their agencies.
- The Bishops Conference also acts through a number of specialized agencies such as the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office. Contact details for these agencies can be found on the Bishops Conference website under the *organizations* tab.

MORE THAN JUST PULL QUOTES

Have you ever been quoted out of context or heard people using words from Scripture in a literal way to 'prove' a predetermined point?

Finding Church statements on justice issues is just the first step.

Don't just pull out the bits you like. Try to understand the teachings in the context of the broader body of church teaching, and the purpose and audience for which they were intended.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH AGENCIES

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

- The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council is the official social justice and human rights agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Its website is at www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au You can choose to search for material by *issues*, *publications* or *media releases*.
- Subscribe to the free electronic ACSJC Briefing to stay informed of statements and actions by Bishops and Church organizations in Australia.
- Contact the ACSJC Secretariat for assistance in finding statements on particular issues Tel 02 9956 5811 Email admin@acjsc.org.au

Catholic Social Services Australia

- Catholic Social Services Australia is a Commission of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and is the national peak body for social services in the Catholic Church in Australia. Its website is <http://catholicsocialservices.org.au/?q=home>
- Under the *policy tab* you will find media releases and submissions. The *news & media* section contains statements by officials.

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council

- The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council is a representative body of Indigenous Catholics which advises the Bishops.
- Its website is at www.natsicc.org.au

Caritas Australia

- Caritas Australia is the development and aid agency of the Catholic Church in Australia. Its website is www.caritas.org.au
- Under the tab *Be Informed*, you will find the *News Room* section of the site carries statements from Caritas officials, including the Bishop who chairs the agency.

Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office

- This agency of the Bishops Conference has primary responsibility for matters concerning migrants and refugees. Its website is www.acmro.catholic.org.au
- Media releases, policies and papers, and links to relevant Church statements are available from the site.
- ACMRO provides material for the celebration of Migrant & Refugee Sunday each year. The material often includes a copy of the Pope's annual Message for the occasion.

Catholic Earthcare Australia

- Catholic Earthcare Australia advises the Bishops Conference on ecological matters. Its website is <http://www.catholicearthcare.org.au/>
- The *resources* section of the site includes statements by the Australian Bishops on ecological matters. You will also find useful information in the *Podcasts, speeches and media* section.

Catholic Religious Australia

- The religious orders active in Australia are often involved in work for justice.
- Their peak national body has a website at <http://www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org>

COLLECTIONS OF CHURCH DOCUMENTS

- There are several printed collections of the major international Church teaching documents on social justice.
- An up to date collection with a good index may be a helpful starting point for identifying which documents deal with a particular issue.

REFERENCE WORKS

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church

- The *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* was published by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace to provide a summary of the major international teachings of the Church on social justice issues.
- The whole *Compendium* is on line at http://www.vatican.va/archive/compendium_cc/documents/archive_2005_compendium-ccc_en.html
- The printed version has a good index to help you find information by topics.
- The extensive footnotes will help you to identify which of the teaching documents of the Church are the primary sources to consult on particular issues.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

- The Catechism provides a summary of the Church's teachings, including major teachings on social justice, which you will find in *Part Three: Life in Christ*.
- The Catechism is now available online at <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/INDEX.HTM>

NEWS SERVICES

CathNews

- CathNews is a free daily electronic news clipping service provided by Church Resources. It is a convenient way to stay abreast of Church statements and actions.
- Sign up at <http://www.cathnews.com/>

Zenit

- This specialized electronic news service covers the Vatican.
- Sign up or view documents at www.zenit.org