

## The Rising Seas: Climate Change and the Pacific

Recently I joined members of many Religious congregations at the Good Samaritan Centre, Glebe, to welcome and to listen to a passionate appeal by Anote Tong, former President of Kiribati, one of our Pacific Island neighbours. We heard the message loud and clear:

*'Climate Change is impacting NOW on our island neighbours and they need our support.'*

Our compassion was aroused when we learnt how difficult it is for the leaders of these Pacific Islands to prepare their people for the day when they must leave their homes to migrate to other lands because their islands will be uninhabitable.

### IMAGINE !!

- *It is expected that in 12 years from now their homes will be hit by enormous tsunami-like waves which will completely wash over their islands.*
- *Leading up to this time they will not have any fresh groundwater for drinking as the wells will be unusable because of salt water intrusion. Any agricultural production will be halted.*
- *Fish stocks will be affected due to ocean acidification and damage to coral reefs, etc.*

(Gabrielle for JPIC)



**WE PRAY:** *that larger prosperous nations will realise their greed for resources and consumerism is having an impact on these vulnerable Pacific Islands who are powerless to stop the rising sea levels and impact of climate change. May we learn to care for each other in this our ONE WORLD and come to assist each other with adaptation and financial assistance.*

### FOR YOUR CALENDAR: NOVEMBER

- 4 Nov - Day of Prayer for Anglican-Roman Catholic Reconciliation
- 5 Nov - World Tsunami Awareness Day
- 10 Nov – World Science Day for Peace and Development
- 11 Nov – Remembrance Day: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War I (1918)
- 12 Nov – 1991 Dili Massacre, Timor Leste
- 16 Nov – International Day for Tolerance
- 18 Nov – World Day of the Poor
- 20 Nov – Universal Children’s Day – 1959 Adoption by UN of the Declaration of Rights of the Child
- 25 Nov – International Day for elimination of Violence Against women
- 25 Nov – UN Declaration of Elimination of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief
- 28 Nov – Proclamation of Independence Day Timor Leste
- 29 Nov – International Day of solidarity with the Palestinian people

### IMPROVEMENTS AUSTRALIA CAN MAKE ?

- As a rich country that mines and exports coal and that has one of the highest green-house gas emissions per person in the world, it is only fair that Australia contributes much more to funds such as the Green Climate Fund.
- More Australian funding needs to go to adaptation programs in Pacific Islands.
- Australia could integrate climate change strategies across all of its aid programs.
- Support Pacific Island international campaigns to ensure projects and climate finance for Pacific Island nations is more predictable and accessible.

### TO PONDER:

✚ *There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he/she must take it because conscience dictates that it is right.*

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

- ✚ Have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves... live everything. Live the question now. Perhaps then, some day far in the future, you will gradually without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

**Rainer Maria Rilke**