



COLUMBAN MISSION INSTITUTE



Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice

Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!

From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!

No 3, April 2013: "Unlocking the Door of Fear"

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Growing a Culture of Peace Monthly Bulletin

3 Unlocking the Door of Fear

April 7th, 2nd Sunday of Easter. John 20: 19 - 31

Reflection: *"The doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you'."*

The followers of Jesus locked themselves in the room out of fear. We can just imagine how afraid they were of meeting the same fate as their leader. We all know fear – for ourselves, for our family, for our nation. But fear locks us in, paralyses us, and leads us into responses which usually hurt us and others. In a time of crisis in the USA in the 1930's President FD Roosevelt said, "There is nothing to fear except fear itself." It is good to take time out to reflect on what we are afraid of: in ourselves? in our families? in Australia? How is fear changing us? How is it hurting others? Jesus, the embodiment of peace, comes to each one of us with the message, "Peace be with you". He shows us what we have to do to unlock the door of fear and open up to the possibilities of a being a big-hearted nation, open-hearted people.

Fact File: March 19th was the 10th Anniversary of the invasion of Iraq in which Australia took part. Australian, Donna Mulhearn, has recently returned from there where she investigated the effects of depleted uranium used by the USA military. Australia is still involved in war in Afghanistan where depleted uranium is also being used. <http://www.ikvpaxchristi.nl/media/files/in-a-state-of-uncertainty.pdf> . Iraqis and Afghans have been the predominant groups seeking asylum in Australia by boat.

Learn More: Many Australians who support mandatory detention of asylum seekers who come by boat don't think about the causes of the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan which they are fleeing. Find out more about the effects of war on the people there. Read Donna Mulhearn's article "Watching as Iraq Crumbled." <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aid=35523>

Take Action: Support asylum seekers fleeing war and its effects such as depleted uranium. See Refugee Council of Australia. <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/>



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