



COLUMBAN MISSION INSTITUTE



Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice  
Making connections between  
Peace, Ecology and Justice from  
the Gospel perspective

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

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

### No 11, December 2014: Straightening the Paths of Racism

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### Growing a Culture of Peace Monthly Bulletin

No 11, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Mark 1:1-8

#### Straightening the Paths of Racism

**Reflection:** *John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Mark 1: 4,5.*

It's worth reflecting on something Fr Tony Gittins said recently: "You repent, not by feeling bad but by thinking and acting differently." When we are graced with the gift of recognising something in ourselves that hurts others, it's a wonderfully positive thing to see it as an opportunity to think and act into a new way of being. On the recent SBS show "First Contact" it was a wonderfully positive thing to see people who had never met an Aboriginal person but who had preconceived negative notions, start to think and act into a new way of being. How did that happen? By meeting different Aboriginal peoples, listening to them and getting to know them in their differences and their dignity. We can make straight the paths of racist attitudes we may not even know we have if we are open to listening and learning from others.

**Fact File:** 10<sup>th</sup> December is Human Rights Day. Article 2 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights states: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour...". Columban Fr Colin McLean has lived and worked with racism in Fazenda Coutos parish in Salvador where a large number of Afro Brazilian people live in poverty.

**Learn More:** About the manifestations of racism experienced by these descendants of slaves.  
<http://goo.gl/OuYhJt>

**Take Action:** (Locally) Learn more about the need for recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Australian Constitution and tell others about it. [www.recognise.org.au](http://www.recognise.org.au)  
(Globally) Learn more about Fr Colin McLean's parish and how to support it. [www.columban.org.au](http://www.columban.org.au)



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