



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 9, September 2014: "A Month for Peace"

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### Growing a Culture of Peace Monthly Bulletin

#### # 9 "Choose Peace"

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time. Matt 18: 15-20

**Reflection:** "Whatever you bind on Earth, shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

As humans, we are blessed with the gift of choice. Jesus invites us constantly to choose the option for peace. "My peace I leave you," he says: not peace as the absence of war, but peace as the fruit of positive action. In other words, our role as Christians is to be active peacemakers. This seems challenging at the moment in the midst of the evil that is dominating screens. Striking terror in people is not brave. It requires much more courage to respond to violence with active non-violence. Let us learn creative ways of responding to violence without resorting to military weapons.

**Fact File:** According to the Global Peace Index, we are living in the most peaceful century in history. However, in the last seven years there has been a noticeable deterioration. This deterioration is most evident in the rising levels of terrorist activity, the homicide rate, the likelihood of violent demonstrations, levels of organised conflict, perceptions of criminality and weapons exports/imports. [www.visionofhumanity.org](http://www.visionofhumanity.org)

**Learn More:** The Global Peace Index is a measure of national peacefulness. [www.visionofhumanity.org](http://www.visionofhumanity.org)

**Take Action:** The Columban Mission Society is holding a month of prayer and action during September. Please join us. The focus will be Week One: Middle East (Iraq, Gaza, Syria, Pakistan), Week Two: The Americas, Week Three: Asia Pacific, Week Four: Europe.



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