



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!  
#2, March 2016: "Fasting, Hunger and Generosity"**

**Growing a Culture of Peace Monthly Bulletin**

**# 2 "Fasting, Hunger and Generosity".**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 5: 1 – 3, 11-32**

**Reflection:** *"Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found."*

The parable of the Prodigal Son shows the generosity of the Father in celebrating his love for the return of his lost son who had been reduced to eating pig swill because of hunger. I will never forget the generosity of poor rural people in Northern Bangladesh. We were visiting villages where the people mostly struggled to feed their families a decent meal each day. Hunger was a constant companion. Yet they made an extra effort to be generous hosts, offering a boiled egg, fruit or a cup of coffee and a sweet to celebrate our arrival as guests. They showed what it means to be gracious and taught me a valuable lesson about dignity and goodness. I need to remember them as, during Lent, I try to fast from the excesses of the lifestyle to which many in wealthy Australia are accustomed, even as people go hungry.

**Fact File:** : The UN says that more than 10 million people are short of food in Ethiopia as drought has caused crops to fail. In Australia, hunger is a hidden problem as more and more people go without food in order to pay bills.

**Learn More:** About the situation in Ethiopia. <http://goo.gl/4kV4Dg>  
About the situation in Australia. <http://goo.gl/NwBD5s>

**Take Action:** : Can we imitate the generous Father and show our love for our brothers and sisters who are hungry by supporting the work of Caritas through being generous to Project Compassion during Lent?

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