



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Australian Bishops Call for Peace Media Statement 5 August 2014

The Australian Catholic Bishops call on parishioners across the country to pray for peace and an end to the ongoing conflict and tragedy in the Middle East and Iraq.

President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Archbishop Denis Hart said today: "We offer our constant prayers for the innocent victims of the current conflicts and for an end to the continuing loss of life."

"Our Holy Father Pope Francis has appealed for an end to violence in the Middle East, the Australian Catholic Bishops support the Pope's call for peace between Israel and Palestine," Archbishop Hart said.

The Australian Catholic Bishops support our fellow bishops in New Zealand in drawing Pope Francis' attention to the request of Father Raed, the parish priest of Holy Family Parish in Gaza who said: "I launch a humble appeal to Pope Francis: may you convene a vigil of prayer and fasting for peace in the Holy Land, as you did for Syria. All the people who inhabit this land, the land of Jesus, are tired of living in fear and pain".

"We support the New Zealand Catholic Bishops in their request to the Holy See for a global prayer vigil at this time," Archbishop Hart said.

The Australian Catholic Bishops also support the Chaldean Catholic Patriarch of Iraq, His Beatitude Louis Rafael Sako, and the International Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need, who appealed for people to join in a global 'Day of Prayer for Peace', tomorrow 6 August on the Feast of the Transfiguration.

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