



The Catholic Archdiocese of
Canberra and Goulburn

Media Statement

10 September 2015

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

The Syrian Refugee Crisis – Let's Listen and Act

In a crisis, Australians have proved themselves generous and ready to help.

The current refugee crisis in Europe is a tragedy of great proportions facing us today.

Let us join the international community in helping out in any way we can.

The current Syrian refugee crisis is but a part of an international phenomenon of great movements of refugees and migrants fleeing their homelands from persecution and dire circumstances.

Let us listen to their stories, dispel our suspicions and hostilities. As Pope Francis noted, "In such cases, suspicion and prejudice conflict with the biblical commandment of welcoming with respect and solidarity, the stranger in need."

At the end of 2014, along with a delegation of Australian Catholic Bishops, I visited some of the Christian refugee camps in Lebanon and Northern Iraq.

I listened carefully to the horrendous stories of many refugees. Their plea was two fold. First, "Help us return safely to our homelands. Restrain the I.S cowards and their inhumane tactics."

Secondly, "If this cannot be done speedily, then help us find refuge in safe countries."

Let us all respond to their heartfelt pleas with typical "Aussie" generosity.

Let our response be swift, welcoming and on-going in the troubled times ahead. It is Jesus, with Mary and Joseph, the refugees, with a suitcase, tears and desires, seeking our help.

Media Enquiries

Erin Gordon

0419 555 560

02 6163 4314