



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Bishops Conference President offers prayers for Japan earthquake, encourages support of Caritas.

Media Release

12 March, 2011

The President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Archbishop Philip Wilson has remembered today in prayer the victims of the largest earthquake to strike Japan in 140 years.

He called upon all Australians to keep in mind those affected by this disaster, and encouraged Australian people to consider how they might assist through prayer and practical support.

“I was saddened to hear early this morning of the magnitude of this crisis, and humbled by the immense scale of what has taken place. Indeed, many regions of the world are experiencing phenomenal impact from various environmental disasters and I truly pray the Lord’s blessing on all of those affected. We will continue to hold up in prayer at this time all of the people who have perished in this tragedy, and pledge our ongoing prayerful support in the relief effort”, he said.

The Bishops of England and Wales have offered the following prayer for the victims of the earthquake:

God our Father,
You set the earth on its foundation.
Keep us safe from the danger of earthquakes
And let us always feel the presence of your love.
May we be secure in your protection
And serve you with grateful hearts.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.

ICEL: Roman Missal

According to a statement from Caritas Australia, Caritas Japan is already beginning to provide assistance to those affected by the quake.

“In Japan, Caritas has begun to assess the scale of the crisis. With communication networks and vital infrastructure severely damaged by the tsunami, monitoring is its early stages but Caritas has expressed particular concern for the security of those displaced by the tsunami”, said the media release from Caritas.

Caritas Australia’s CEO, Jack de Groot, said: “our prayers and solidarity are with our colleagues at Caritas Japan, and with all those who have been affected by the horror of last night’s tsunami.”

For media enquiries, please contact Beth Doherty on 0407 081 256

