



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office



Media Release

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Head of Pontifical Council for Migrants to visit Australia in May

Archbishop Antonio Vegliò, President of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People and Fr. Gabriele Bentoglio, under-secretary of the same Council will visit Australia in May on the invitation of the late Bishop Joseph Grech (former Bishops Delegate for the Pastoral care of Migrants and Refugees).

The visit will take place from May 2 to May 14, 2011 and is hosted by the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO).

This visit is the first visit of its kind to take place and will aim to encourage migrant chaplains and communities living and working in Australia.

Fr Maurizio Pettenà of the ACMRO hopes that the visit will contribute greatly to sharing Australia's experience of pastoral care to migrants and refugees with the Holy See.

“We wish this visit to be pastoral in nature, to exhibit the wonderful work of migrant chaplains around Australia to these representatives of the Holy See”, said Fr Maurizio.

“We hope that the visit will have an impact on the wider community in Australia to showcase the pastoral care of the Catholic Church to Migrants and Refugees in the broader context of the Church's teaching on this matter”, he said.

Archbishop Vegliò will address the Plenary of the Australian Bishops at Mary MacKillop place on May 11, and will meet with migrant chaplains and pastoral workers in various parts of the country.

It is the hope of Archbishop Vegliò and Fr Bentoglio that they might better understand the system in Australia regarding the provision of pastoral care to migrant and refugees.

This visit will happen just a few months before the Bishops of Australia take part in the Ad Limina visit to the Holy Father and to the heads of the various Dicasteries of the Roman Curia.

During the Ad Limina visit, the Australian Bishops will visit the headquarters of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant people, highlighting the importance the Australian Church places on migrant and refugee issues.

For media enquiries or information about the visit of Archbishop Vegliò and Fr Bentoglio, please contact Beth Doherty 0407 081 256.