



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Media Release

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Christmas Television for 2010 – Papal Mass and Channel 10 Documentary

Christmas Television viewers will be able to celebrate with Pope Benedict XVI's Midnight Mass from St Peter's Basilica airing on the ABC and a documentary "*Celebrate Christmas*", airing on Network 10.

Australians will be able to join with the Holy Father as the ABC telecasts Midnight Mass into homes, hospitals and nursing homes across the country at 11am (Eastern Summer Time) on ABC 1.

The Holy Father will preside at the Mass which will feature the participation of children from around the world. The ABC's telecast will feature English-language commentary.

Meanwhile, the Christian Television Association of Western Australia, the Ecumenical Media Alliance and film-maker Peter Thomas have collaborated to create a documentary "*Celebrate Christmas*" which will also air on Christmas Day at 12pm Eastern Summer Time.

The program "*Celebrate Christmas*" features the story of two Asylum Seekers from Somalia and Chad. Both have been helped by the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project where Sr. Brigid Arthur, who features in the program, supports their legal claims, provides them with shelter and hospitality and offers them a future. (www.brigidineasp.org.au)

Also part of the documentary are the *Melbourne Singers of Gospel* (MSG) led by Musical Director, Darren Wicks. They perform in the style of a mass congregational gospel choir singing traditional and contemporary African-American gospel.

MSG which was originally formed in 2001 has had the pleasure of singing with a wide range of local, national and international artists including an Australia Day concert where their delighted audience was 15,000 strong.

Opera singer and a leading soloist with MSG, Raphael Wong is a highlight of 'Celebrate Christmas' with his stirring rendition of 'A City Called Heaven'. www.msgchoir.com.au

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