



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

**Media release  
December 10, 2004**

### **Catholic Bishop expresses concern at Baxter situation**

Bishop Joseph Grech, Chairman of the Catholic Bishops' Committee for Migrants and Refugees, today expressed sorrow and concern at the current situation at Baxter Immigration Detention Centre in South Australia.

It has been reported that a number of Asylum Seekers at Baxter have climbed onto the roof of the centre to protest at conditions there, and that some have sewn their lips together.

"The Church's concern for refugees in general and asylum seekers in detention in particular is well known," Bishop Grech said.

"Australia's Catholic Bishops have frequently stated that there must be a better way of handling the cases of asylum seekers than the current arrangements.

"I pray for all those suffering at Baxter and I hope that the situation can be resolved with urgency and compassion."

For more information contact Fr John Murphy at the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugees Office on 0418 224 524.