



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office



Bishop Joe Grech memorial lecture to feature Immigration Minister and Catholic Bishop Media Release August 30, 2011

An inaugural memorial lecture entitled “One Human Family Across Borders” will be held in honour of the late Bishop Joe Grech at Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy on 8 September between 7 and 9pm.

The lecture on the ethics of migration will feature Federal Immigration Minister Chris Bowen and the Bishop Christopher Prowse of the Diocese of Sale.

Director of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office Fr Maurizio Pettena CS organised this lecture in conjunction with the ACU as a memorial for Bishop Joe Grech who died suddenly on 28 December, 2010 after a short illness.

Fr Pettena and Bishop Grech had frequently discussed the need for reasoned and compassionate debate and conversation on the ethics of migration in this country and felt that a public lecture would be a good way to raise awareness of some of the issues.

“The purpose for this lecture is two-fold – it is to remember the compassion with which Bishop Joe Grech dealt with issues relating to Migrants and Refugees in his time as the Australian Bishops’ spokesperson on these matters; and to stimulate conversation about the issues effecting people who leave their countries to come to this one”, he said.

The evening will also feature a refugee who will tell her story, putting a human face on the kinds of challenges that millions of people face as they cross borders.

“We want to give the evening a spiritual, practical, ethical and human dimension and also give people an opportunity to view all sides of the debate”, said Fr Pettena.

The evening will be facilitated by SBS presenter Anton Enus and all members of the public are welcome to attend. The event will be available as a live webcast at www.catholic.org.au and on www.acmro.catholic.org.au and will be available to watch following the event.

(The lecture will be held at: Central Hall Melbourne Campus, Australian Catholic University, 24 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Car parking is available at Kings Parking, Young Street, Fitzroy [off Victoria Parade] Tram Routes 109 [Box hill via Victoria Parade] and 112 [West Preston via Brunswick Street] Metro train to Parliament Station.)

For media enquiries please contact Beth Doherty on 0407 081 256 or to RSVP, please contact adminassistant@acmro.catholic.org.au by Friday 2 December.