

## **Archbishop Philip Wilson expresses hope that ceasefire will be the start of a lasting peace in the Middle East**

The President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Philip Wilson, today expressed hope that the ceasefire in the Middle East would hold and allow all parties to work towards a lasting peace in the region.

Archbishop Wilson said he was encouraged by the fact that the Israeli Government, the Lebanese Government and Hezbollah had agreed to a United Nations Security Council resolution on a ceasefire.

“This is an important breakthrough in this terrible conflict, which has taken so many lives and wreaked so much destruction on communities,” Archbishop Wilson said.

“We pray that this ceasefire will provide the space needed to allow work to begin on finding solutions for a just and lasting peace.

“It will also allow much-needed humanitarian assistance to reach those who are suffering so immensely because of this conflict.”

Archbishop Wilson said Caritas Australia, the Catholic Church’s overseas aid agency, was working with its local partners in the Middle East to get humanitarian assistance to those in need.