



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

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ARCHBISHOP DEEPLY SHOCKED BY LOSS OF LIFE; PRAYING FOR SAFETY OF FIREFIGHTERS

The Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart said today that his thoughts and prayers are with the communities suffering under the destructive force of the unprecedented bushfires in Victoria.

'Like all Victorians, I am deeply shocked by the loss of life,' he said.

'My heart goes out to those who have lost loved ones and those victims who are now in our hospitals,' the Archbishop said.

'I hold the greatest admiration for the courage and dedication of all the emergency services personnel, community workers and those in government who have worked so hard to protect the community. I pray for their safety as they work to bring the fires under control.

'I know many in the community feel a sense of powerlessness in the face of this crisis. I encourage the community to give blood and to respond generously to the appeals that have been established to assist fellow Victorians and communities to recover and rebuild their lives.'

The Archbishop said the Church stands in solidarity with the community ready to assist in whatever way it can.

The Archbishop said that he will continue to encourage prayers in all the churches of the archdiocese to honour those who have died and support those who have lost loved ones.

Media Inquiries – Jim O'Farrell 0437 661 030