This document is a media statement with the title "ALP Pledges Increase to Australia’s Humanitarian Intake". It is signed by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, Chairman, Bishops Commission for Social Justice.

The statement welcomes the Australian Labor Party's commitment to increase Australia's annual humanitarian intake of refugees to 27,000 by 2025. It also welcomes the pledge to appoint an independent children's advocate to represent the interests of children seeking asylum and legislate for mandatory reporting of child abuse.

The statement discusses the crisis of millions of asylum-seekers around the world and the lack of a durable solution to their plight. It argues that they should be afforded respect, dignity, and a durable solution because they are part of our human family. We have a responsibility to others, but above all, to that which considers the common good of all.

As millions of people in Australia and all over the world prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the exiled Holy Family of Nazareth, fleeing into Egypt, is the archetype of every refugee family.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are, for all time and all places, the models and protectors of every migrant, pilgrim, and refugee of whatever kind, who are forced to leave their native land, beloved parents and relatives, close friends, and to seek safety and freedom in a foreign soil.

For media enquiries, please contact Gavin Abraham, 02 6201 9859.