

TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of a number of members of St Bede's Parish Braidwood draws to the attention of the House the plight of children in Refugee Detention Centres. We are in solidarity with the words of Bishop Saunders of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council. Bishop Saunders stated that 'no child should be detained indefinitely in any onshore or offshore facility' and that 'no person should be detained indefinitely in an environment which causes long term harm'.

We have particular concern for the children detained on Manus Island where they are at severe risk of contracting malaria and where they will be deprived of community care and support.

We therefore request the House of Representatives to do all in its power to ensure that families be removed promptly from Manus Island and that all children be released from detention centres into the community.