

# LifeLink 2005



\$375,000 appeal  
launched this  
weekend

## Appeal calls for charity

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caring for victims of abuse, and providing a range of counselling services to help people resolve their own problems.

- Cross Roads Community helps more than 5000 people battling addictions.

- Centrecare Employment and Training helps 7000 long-term and disadvantaged clients find work or educational opportunities.

- i.d.entity.wa provides intensive year-round care for over 500 people living with disability.

- Anawim helps over 2,500 women escaping domestic violence and abuse.

The other LifeLink agencies are Natural Fertility Services, the Living Centre (formerly HIV/AIDS Pastoral Care Ministry), Emmanuel Centre, Shopfront, Catholic Migrant Centre, Djooraminda (out-of-home care for Aboriginal children), Samaritan Projects, and the Catholic Association for Deaf and Hearing Impaired People.

The Archbishop's letter includes a gift of prayer cards for children, with a prayer he wrote for them.

Parish priests and LifeLink representatives gathered in the chapel at Mary St, Highgate, on Wednesday of last week for the liturgical launch of the appeal.

In a short reflection on the gospel reading, Bishop Don Sproston urged Catholics to go beyond the sentimentality of Christmas to God's passionate desire to be with us.

The angel told St Joseph 'You shall call his name Jesus and he shall be nicknamed Emmanuel - God with us.'

Christmas represents God's passionate desire to be with us in all our humanity, our disappointments and fractured relationships, our deaths, difficulties and addictions.

Our challenge at Christmas and beyond is to share God's passion and to reach out to those in need and to share what we have with those who need it.

The LifeLink Christmas appeal is an ideal way to join ourselves to the Church's local agencies which seek out and support those whom God himself desires to be with.

Launch: Archbishop Barry Hickey appeals for generosity.

Photo: Ron Tan

### Time to reach out to those in need

The Archbishop's annual LifeLink appeal will be launched in parishes over the next two weekends with the aim of raising more than \$375,000 to support 13 Archdiocesan social service agencies.

Envelopes containing a personal letter from Archbishop Hickey will be distributed in parishes this weekend (Nov 5-6) and by mail, and the collection will be taken up next weekend (Nov 12-13).

However, people will be able to use the envelopes to make their contribution at any time. Donations can also be posted in the envelopes provided.

In his personal letter to parishioners Archbishop Hickey said it was not always easy for individuals to recognise people in need - those struggling to overcome addictions, the challenge of disabilities, the hopelessness felt by women and children in violent or abusive situations, those in financial difficulties, or those feeling isolated, lonely, confused or marginalised.

"Your LifeLink social service

agencies seek them out," he said. "They reach out to more than 57,000 Western Australian families and individuals in need each year, and their loving service is provided to all, regardless of race, creed, colour or circumstance.

"LifeLink is a practical, powerful and positive demonstration of faith in action."

Examples of the work carried out each year by LifeLink agencies included: Centrecare helps 25,000 people, providing emergency housing, helping migrants and refugees,

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