



Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth

"This Christmas,
open your eyes and hearts to those in need...
**...and walk in the footsteps
of the Good Shepherd".**



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Christmas season will soon be upon us and thoughts perhaps turn towards summer holidays, celebrations with family and friends and the giving and receiving of gifts. It is for many people a time of great joy and happiness, a special time of year.

In Churches throughout the Archdiocese, we will gather as one 'Catholic family' to remember the true meaning of Christmas; to celebrate and rejoice the birth of Jesus, who brought to the world the gift of salvation and the greatest gift of all – the message of God's love for us.



We bear witness to this Love through the sacrifices Jesus made, in the words he shared and especially through his actions, when he reached out to care for those in need, who were isolated, abused, sick or persecuted. It is in His example that a fundamental truth can be found – it is not enough to have Faith, we are called on to express our Faith in a very real and tangible way.

**As a people, a Catholic family, we are challenged to
'walk in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd'.**

Is this an achievable goal? I suggest the simple answer is YES. I'm sure that you are already doing so. It will be evident in the love and support you give to your spouse or partner, your children, your family members and friends. It will be witnessed in the kind words and thoughts you share with others. It will be contained in the smile you offer to a stranger.

Of course, we can all do more... do better... try harder. I know it can prove difficult to make that conscious decision, undertake that practical action, of consciously moving focus from 'me and mine' to 'them and theirs'. It may instinctively be that our individual needs and concerns take precedence and we direct our energy inwardly, rather than purposely directing our eyes forward, our focus outwardly, and truly seeing what others need.

Thankfully, on behalf of us all, there are many wonderful social service agencies and organisations supported by the Church which continue a mission of care to those most in need in the community.

In the special newsletter included with my Christmas message this year, you will discover the good news and the good works of one such organisation – Centrecare.

Originally established by the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth in the 1970s, today Centrecare is a functionally independent Incorporated Association which continues to be a modern expression of the Church in today's world, and is thus deserving of our support.

As one of Western Australia's most well established, professional and innovative providers of counselling and specialist social services, Centrecare delivers vital services including: Accommodation & Support; General Counselling; Family Domestic Violence Counselling; Family Relationship Counselling; Gambling Help; Indigenous Specific Mental Health; Migration Advice; Financial Counselling; Youth & Family Counselling and many more.



Each year, Centrecare reaches out to help more than 25,000 Western Australians throughout the Perth metropolitan, Goldfields, Esperance and South West regions of WA.

In our newsletter, I am delighted to share with you...



➤ the heartwarming, and personal story of Robert and Evelyn who after being crushed by years of financial crisis had their burden lifted, thanks to the intervention and assistance of Centrecare's - Financial Counselling Service.



➤ the tragic story of Kashindi from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and how he and his son are now safely in Perth and being helped to rebuild their lives thanks to Centrecare's 'Settlement Services Program'.



➤ the inspirational story of Emma as she chases her dream of starting her own Bakery business, with a lot of help from one of Centrecare's newest initiatives –the Assisted Rental Pathway Pilot Housing Project.

Centrecare is just one of the many wonderful organisations and services which receive funding support through LifeLink. **'Our' LifeLink agencies reach out to provide practical care and professional help to more than 34,000 Western Australian families and individuals each year.**



As I officially launch my Christmas Appeal for LifeLink, I ask that you give generously to my appeal. **Please, help me to raise a minimum of \$650,000 for people in need this Christmas.**

In doing so, you will be giving far more than your financial support. You will be helping make a difference in the lives of **real people, with real needs...** people just like Robert and Evelyn, Emma and Kashindi and his son.



May God bless you, your family and loved ones as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the face of our Father's mercy.

I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Timothy Costelloe SDB

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Please visit our website to make a secure credit card donation

www.lifelink.com.au

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PRIVACY ACT: To access your personal information or to be removed from our mailing list please write to: LifeLink, GPO Box K828 Perth WA 6842.

Yes, I **WILL** open my eyes and heart to people in need this Christmas!

Please accept my donation of (please tick one box only)

\$50 \$75 \$150 \$300 \$500 Other \$ _____

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Thank you and God Bless

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and official receipts will be provided when name and address are supplied.

