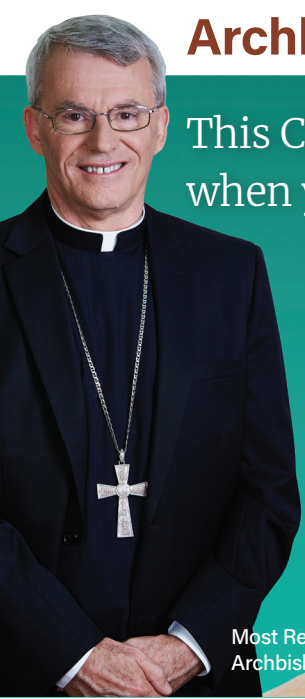


# Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for LifeLink 2020



This Christmas,  
when you reach out your hand to **help someone in need**  
...it is **YOU** who will **receive the gift.**

Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB  
Archbishop of Perth



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The launch of my "Christmas Appeal for LifeLink" coincides with "World Day of the Poor" which Pope Francis will also launch on Sunday 15 November 2020.



Pope Francis' call to Catholics around the world this year is to:

**"Stretch forth your hand to the poor"** (Sir 7:32)

In his message he writes; *"Keeping our gaze fixed on the poor is difficult, but more necessary than ever if we are to give proper direction to our personal life and the life of society. It is not a matter of fine words, but of a concrete commitment inspired by divine charity. Each year, on the World Day of the Poor, I reiterate this basic truth in the life of the Church, for the poor are and always will be with us to help us welcome Christ's presence into our daily lives (cf. Jn 12:8).*

**Encountering the poor and those in need constantly challenges us and forces us to think.** How can we help to eliminate or at least alleviate their marginalization and suffering? How can we help them in their spiritual need? The Christian community is called to be involved in this kind of sharing and to recognize that it cannot be delegated to others. In order to help the poor, we ourselves need to live the experience of evangelical poverty.

**We cannot feel "alright" when any member of the human family is left behind and in the shadows.** The silent cry of so many poor men, women and children should find the people of God at the forefront, always and everywhere, in efforts to give them a voice, to protect and support them in the face of hypocrisy and so many unfulfilled promises, and to invite them to share in the life of the community.

**A hand held out is a sign; a sign that immediately speaks of closeness, solidarity and love."**

Pope Francis beautifully grounds us in the present, when he goes on to say: *"In these months, when the whole world was prey to a virus that brought pain and death, despair and bewilderment, how many outstretched hands have we seen!*

*The outstretched hands of physicians who cared about each patient and tried to find the right cure.  
The outstretched hands of nurses who worked overtime, for hours on end, to look after the sick.  
The outstretched hands of administrators who procured the means to save as many lives as possible.*

*The outstretched hands of pharmacists who at personal risk responded to people's pressing needs.  
The outstretched hands of priests whose hearts broke as they offered a blessing.*

*The outstretched hands of volunteers who helped people living on the streets and those with a home yet nothing to eat.*

*The outstretched hands of men and women who worked to provide essential services and security.*

*This pandemic arrived suddenly and caught us unprepared, sparking a powerful sense of bewilderment and helplessness. **Yet hands never stopped reaching out to the poor.** This has made us all the more aware of the presence of the poor in our midst and their need for help."*



This year, more than **37,000** Western Australian families and individuals, people who are struggling right here at home in our communities, will reach out to LifeLink agencies for help.

**They extend their hands to us** - the homeless, the unemployed, those experiencing desperate financial hardship, women and children escaping domestic violence, people with disabilities or struggling with mental health conditions... **and we respond, as best we can, with love, compassion and understanding through the work of our LifeLink agencies.**

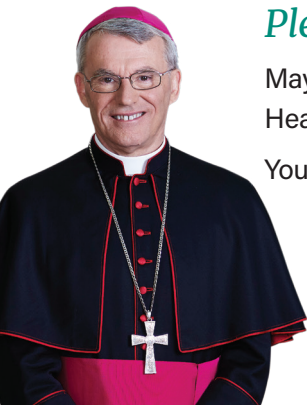


It is in the 'doing', the 'action', the 'selfless response' that we make in response to these outstretched hands, that we profess and experience our faith in a very deep and meaningful way, and truly see reflected in our brothers and sisters who reach out to us for help the face of Jesus.

My Christmas Appeal is the only occasion I take each year to directly ask you - our parishes, parishioners and members of the Western Australian community - to help support the important work of the welfare and social service agencies in this Archdiocese. The Church's investment in providing the new home for **The Shopfront** and for people in need, is a direct outcome of your ongoing and generous support - thank you.



As I officially launch my Christmas Appeal, I ask you to **'stretch forth your hand to the poor'** and help raise **a minimum of \$650,000** so we continue to ease the burdens of those who reach out to us.



*Please give generously.*

May God bless you, your family and loved ones as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the face of our Heavenly Father's mercy. I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

*+ Timothy Costelloe SDB*

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Archbishop of Perth

Please visit our website to make a secure credit card donation  
[www.LifeLink.com.au](http://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** 'stretch forth my hand' to someone in need this Christmas.

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

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

Title    Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr / Sr / Fr / Rev  
Christian Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode         
My Parish is \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my cheque payable to LifeLink  
**OR**  Debit my credit card  
 Visacard     Mastercard     Amex (15 numbers only)

Credit Card Number

Expiry date      /

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you and God Bless**

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

