



Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB  
Archbishop of Perth

This Christmas,  
let's **“roll up our sleeves  
and put our faith into practice”**  
to help our brothers and sisters in need.



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Sunday 13 November 2022 as I officially launch my annual **Christmas Appeal for LifeLink** in this Archdiocese, Pope Francis will launch the Sixth ‘World Day of the Poor’ to Catholics around the world.

The theme of Pope Francis message this year is:

**“Jesus Christ... for your sakes became poor”** (cf. 2 Cor 8:9)

...which comes from the Apostle Paul’s address to the first Christians of Corinth in order to encourage their efforts to show solidarity with their brothers and sisters in need.

Pope Francis includes in his letter, *“During his visit to Jerusalem, Paul met with Peter, James and John, who had urged him not to forget the poor. The community of Jerusalem was experiencing great hardship due to a food shortage in the country. The Apostle immediately set about organising a great collection to aid the poverty-stricken. The Christians of Corinth were very understanding and supportive. At Paul’s request, on every first day of the week they collected what they were able to save, and all proved very generous.”*

*From that time on, every Sunday, during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we have done the same thing, pooling our offerings so that the community can provide for the needs of the poor. It is something that Christians have always done with joy and a sense of responsibility, to ensure that none of our brothers or sisters will lack the necessities of life.*

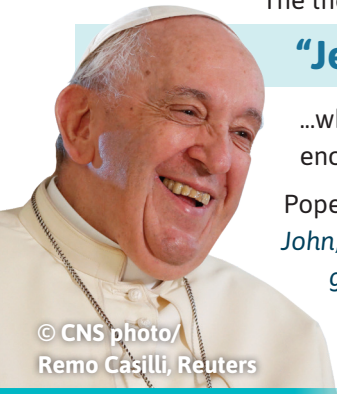
*It is interesting to observe that the Apostle does not desire to oblige Christians to perform works of charity: **“I do not say this as a command”** (2 Cor 8:8). Paul is instead “testing the genuineness of their love” by earnestness of their concern for the poor. Certainly, Paul’s request is prompted by the need for concrete assistance; nonetheless, his desire is much more profound. He asks the Corinthians to take up the collection so that it can be a sign of love, the love shown by Jesus himself.*

*In a word, generosity towards the poor has its most powerful motivation in the example of the Son of God, who chose to become poor. **Where the poor are concerned, it is not talk that matters; what matters is rolling up our sleeves and putting our faith into practice through a direct involvement, one that cannot be delegated.***



*The words of the Apostle chosen as the theme of this year’s World Day of the Poor present this great paradox of our life of faith: **Christ’s poverty makes us rich.** Paul was able to present this teaching, which the Church has spread and borne witness to over the centuries, because God himself, in his Son Jesus, chose to follow this path. Because Christ became poor for our sakes, our own lives are illumined and transformed, and take on a worth that the world does not appreciate and cannot bestow. **Jesus’ treasure is His love, which excludes no one and seeks out everyone, especially the marginalised and those deprived of the necessities of life.”***

*Pope Francis ends his letter with the following wish: “May this 2022 World Day of the Poor be for us a moment of grace. May it enable us to make a personal and communal examination of conscience and to ask ourselves whether the poverty of Jesus Christ is our faithful companion in life.”*



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**“Roll up our sleeves and put our faith into practice.”**

In these few words, Pope Francis simply yet effectively expresses what it takes for us to be generous, and why as an important part of the demonstration of our Faith, we are called to do so.

At a time when most households are experiencing incredible financial pressures resulting from increasing interest rates, ever escalating food and fuel prices, rising inflation and lower wages growth, thinking of the needs of others takes effort, and perhaps sacrifice.

Being generous when times are good is easy. Being called to be generous when we ourselves may be struggling is when we truly are provided an opportunity to ‘walk in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd.’

Our LifeLink agencies, in fact charities throughout Australia, are reporting an unprecedented increase in the number of people seeking support or assistance in one form or another. Many of these calls for help are from those who may never have experienced ‘real need’ before themselves.



Young families unable to provide sufficient food for the family or to pay electricity accounts as wages are swallowed up by increased mortgage or rental costs. Elderly pensioners unable to afford the basic food needs or to buy prescribed medications. People already struggling below the poverty line, falling even further into crisis.



**35,000 Western Australian families and individuals will reach out to a LifeLink agency for help this year.**

My annual Christmas Appeal for LifeLink 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 Church’s welfare and social service agencies in this Archdiocese.

Today, I invite and urge you to join with me. Let us “roll up our sleeves and put our faith into practice” to raise a minimum of **\$650,000 for our brothers and sisters in need this Christmas. Please give generously to my appeal.**



May God bless you, your family and loved ones as we soon 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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**Please visit our website to make a secure credit card donation**  
[www.LifeLink.com.au](http://www.LifeLink.com.au)

**LifeLink Office**

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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 “roll up my sleeves and put my faith into practice” to help people in need this Christmas.**

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

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