Dear Schools and Teachers,

My **"LifeLink Day for Catholic Schools Initiative"** aims to:

- promote **understanding** of the Church's response to **people in need** within the community.

- instil in Catholic students attending Archdiocesan Schools, a sense of **responsibility for caring for those less fortunate.**

- provide **education and information of the work of the Church's social service agencies,** which help many thousands of Western Australians in need each year.

- encourage a **"practical demonstration of Faith"** by asking students, teachers and schools to organise a special fundraising event for LifeLink Day, with the proceeds aiding people in real need within the community.

> **Through your support of LifeLink, you are reaching out with love and compassion to help our brothers and sisters in need, and in doing so, walking in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd."**
>
> – Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB,
> Archbishop of Perth

Important Teacher Notes

1. Students understand that all people are made in the image and likeness of God and the implications of this; they reflect on what happens when others are not treated fairly and do not have the same opportunities due to things that happen in different their lives, in light of this knowledge:

TASK: Familiarise yourself with the LifeLink agencies and their work.

lifelink.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/
LifeLink-Day-2023-Agencies-Information-Contact.pdf
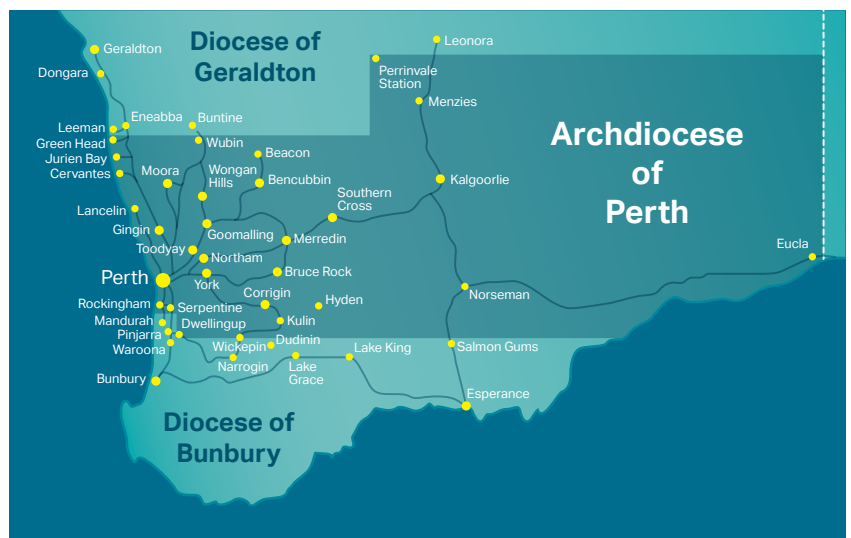
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2. **See the Map of the Perth Archdiocese below.**

TASK: Make students aware of what an Archdiocese is and the size of the Perth Archdiocese.

An **Archdiocese**, from the Greek suffix indicating "head" or "ruler," is a Diocese that includes a larger city or an area with a large Catholic population. An Archdiocese is headed by an **Archbishop**. Archbishops and Bishops are the successors of the Apostles, and their basic duty is to guide the followers of Jesus who are part of the Catholic Church in their area.

Many thousands of Western Australian families and individuals each year depend on LifeLink agencies being there for them at their time of need. These are people that are close to us and where we live.

TASK: Explore the significance of humans being made in the image and likeness of God.

3. Explore with students' their understanding of God's love.

Some sample questions for discussion include:

- What does the Bible say about God's love for us?
- How do we know God loves us? Does God love everyone?

Read to your students: John 13:34-35

"Jesus mentions this specifically,[34] I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.[35] By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."

- What does this tell us about how Jesus wants us to love one another?
- How are we disciples?

TASK: Discuss how Jesus teaches us that God loves all people: Each person is precious, unique and loved by God, because God made us, that means we are all very special, and very important.
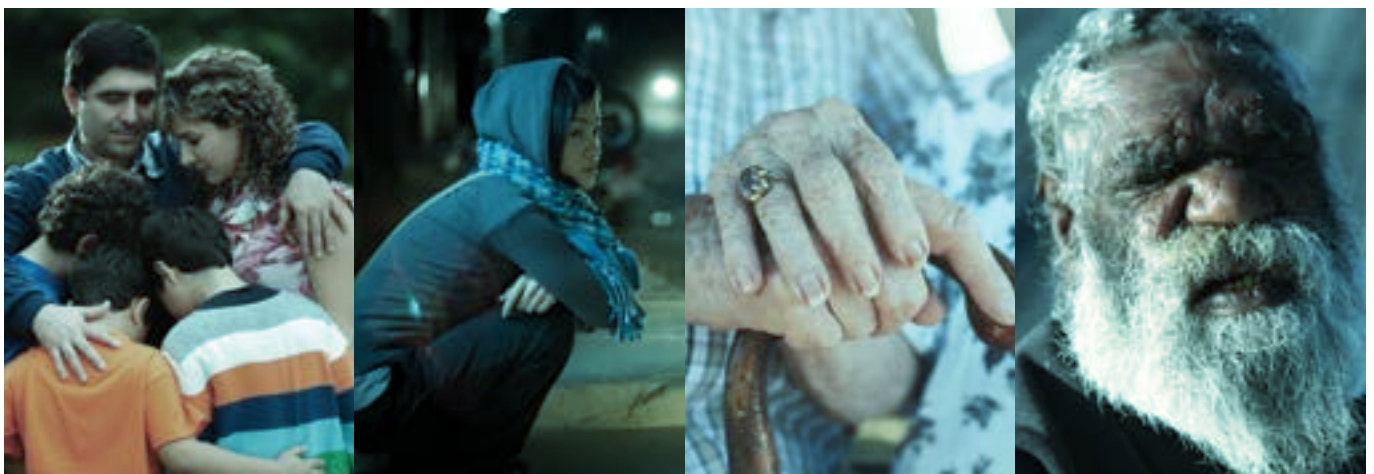
4. Explain to your students that there are some people in the Perth Archdiocese that do not have the things they need to live safe and good lives.

These are the people that the LifeLink agencies support. The agencies work with them because they know how much God loves all people, they believe they need to love people in that same way. God's love is shown when we love and serve others.

Students explore and research the LifeLink agencies website and reflect on why they are important in the Perth Archdiocese.

TASK: Discuss what some of the other things people definitely need to live well in our society today? **As a class, brainstorm a list of the basic things people need to live a life that feels good and secure.** Discuss the difference between needing something and wanting something.

Celebrate that God has created each person uniquely, and therefore each person is infinitely loved. Explore the social implications of this for the LifeLink agencies and the people they serve.

Your 2024 LifeLink Day Activity
Putting your research into action.

In small groups, students are requested to create "paper people".

Discuss how we are joined together as God's family and that God loves everyone equally.

'Template 1: Girl' and 'Template 2: Boy' should be distributed evenly to each group.

Each boy and girl represents a different person supported by a LifeLink agency which students have researched.
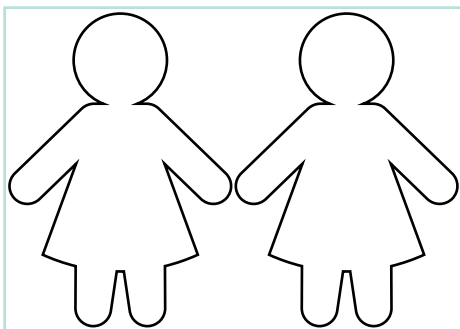
On the front of one paper person...
Write the different needs that are supported by a specific LifeLink agency,
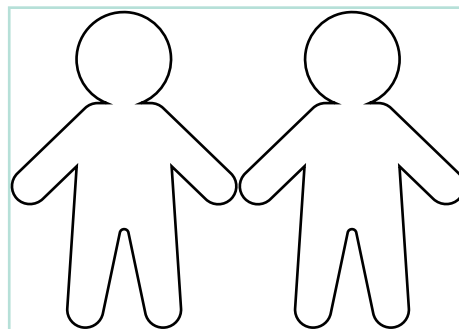name of the agency and how it practically supports people in the Archdiocese.

On the front of the other paper person...
Students to write a prayer or message of hope to someone in need.

Template 1: Girl

Template 2: Boy

When Completed

1. Each groups "Paper People Sheets" should be emailed to: **paperpeople@lifelink.com.au**

   Important: Teachers, please make sure these sheets are sent as high-resolution jpeg images.

2. **The Archbishop's Official Launch of 2024 LifeLink Day for Primary Schools**

   DATE: Wednesday 5 June 2024
   TIME: Commencing at 10.00am
   LOCATION: Newman College Auditorium

SAVE THE DATE - Archbishop's SPECIAL EVENT

The Feast of St Mary of the Cross will be celebrated on Thursday 8 August 2024.

On this date, Archdiocesan Primary Schools will be warmly invited to send representatives from each school to join Bishop Sproxton, Auxiliary Bishop of Perth and Chair, LifeLink Executive, for a special event at St Mary's Cathedral.

This will be a celebration of the compassionate work of St Mary of the Cross for our brothers and sisters in need, and an opportunity to recognise the support and participation of primary schools in LifeLink Day 2024.

We've a **BIG** surprise planned that we are sure you'll enjoy!

More details will be provided in the future, but for now we ask schools to "please save the date". Times are yet to be confirmed however for planning purposes, it is proposed that a Liturgical Service will be held from 6.30pm to 7.00pm. A light supper will be provided for all guests immediately following the service.

Template 1: Girl

Template 2: Boy