

Good morning, boys and girls. Special guests and welcome to Newman College. I would like to formally welcome our community to our community today. The Most Reverend Donald Sproxtton, Auxiliary Bishop of Perth and Chairman of LifeLink. Very, very Reverend Father Vincent Glynn, Vicar General and Episcopal Vicar for Education. Reverend Father, Kazimierz Stuglik, Parish Priest Floreat and Wembley.

Mr. Wayne Bull, executive director of CEWA, Mrs. Therese Temby, former Director of Catholic Education WA. Reverend Mark Powell, Director of Religious Education at CEWA. Mrs. Diana Altieri, Coordinator, Formation for Mission CEWA. Doctor Debra Sayce, Head of Mission Enhancement and Outreach Principals, staff and students of all schools. Today's launch is being filmed. So a special welcome to all the schools and students watching the video from their own schools.

One of the great privileges of being a school leader is the opportunity to be involved in events like this one today. Events where students come together from all over Perth. Making the choice to come together because we all want to be involved in doing good for others. I want you to think about that for a moment. Take the time to look around from where you are, to see just how many young people have gathered here today. Simply for the reason that they want to help and serve others in our community.

There's so many of us. And now imagine for a moment that number again. Once you have all had the chance to return to your schools and share the things that you have heard here today. What a wonderful thing it is to have so many people in our community who want to make a difference for others. It certainly makes me feel that our future is in very safe hands.

My hope for all of you is that you have a wonderful day today. As we extend to you our Marist sense of family spirit, welcoming you all here this morning. We are very proud to welcome you here today into our community and wish you all the best for a day marked by conversation, dialog and perhaps even a chance to make some new friendships.

I would like to call forward our year six student leaders, Evie and Michael, to lead us in the Acknowledgment of Country.

We at Newman College would like to say thank you to the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation for letting us share your land. We promise to look after it. The animals and the people too.

Hello land. Hello sky. Hello me. Hello friends.

Well, good morning everyone. I'm Bishop Don Sproxtton and as you heard I am the Chair of LifeLink. And I've been Chair of LifeLink since I became a bishop in 2002. But LifeLink had been going for about three years, I think, if not more than that time. And so it was really a wonderful, thing to be asked to become the Chair of LifeLink by the Archbishop at the time.

So. Unfortunately, Archbishop Tim Costelloe, can't be with us this morning on this very special anniversary. 25 years of LifeLink. He's at the moment, I think, in Rome. He had to go to England earlier and he's now in Rome, and he's part of a group of bishops and other people who are able to contribute to the development of a very important meeting that is to take place in October in Rome, which we call the Synod.

And he's been asked to contribute by the Holy Father himself. And it is a great honour to him but also an honour to us here in Australia because the Synod is going to be conducted along the same lines as the, the big assembly that we had in Sydney a couple of years ago. So it's a very, very important work that he's doing over there.

So we might think of it and pray for him as he continues to help the Church internationally to prepare for this big meeting in October. But before he left, he said how very disappointed he was that he couldn't be here to celebrate this particular milestone. 25 years. But he asked that I extend his warmest welcome and best wishes to you all.

I'd like to sincerely thank Newman College for hosting the official launch of the LifeLink Day for Primary Schools today and to Mr. Chiera, acting principal of Newman College, for his warm words of welcome. But I'd also like to say thank you to those people, those young ones who greeted us as we arrived. Very grateful for their participation and also their, their helping of us make, make this a very good and very friendly event.

So I think we should begin now by a Prayer and that Prayer will be displayed on the screens now.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. God of mercy and compassion. We praise you for your goodness. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Fill us with the spirit of loving service as we recognise in those we meet the face of Jesus, your son. Through the generous work of our LifeLink welfare agencies,

May burdens be lifted from the shoulders of your people and may they feel the warmth of your kindness and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. So I'd like now to introduce Mr. Wayne Bull, the Executive Director of Catholic Education, Western Australia.

Invite him to come forward and say a few words.

Well good morning, boys and girls. And I certainly want to acknowledge the presence here today of Bishop Sproxton, but also Father Vincent, the Vicar General and Episcopal Vicar for Education, Deacon Mark Powell, my colleague and Director of Religious Education, Diana Altieri, Coordinator of Formation for Mission. Also two very special people who are here today, my two former bosses. Mrs. Therese Temby, who 25 years ago, appointed me to my first principalship,

Therese. So thank you for that opportunity. And also to Doctor Debra Sayce, the former Director of Catholic Education. So wonderful to see both of you today. Also, thank you to Michael Chiera, the acting principal of Newman and also to Evie and Michael who led our welcome. And particularly, to the boys and girls that are here today representing 64 Catholic primary schools within the Archdiocese of Perth.

I'd like to acknowledge that we are gathered on Whadjuk Country. And I pay my respects to the traditional custodians of these lands and to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who work and learn in our Catholic schools across the Archdiocese. As you've perhaps already heard, this year marks the 25th anniversary of LifeLink Day.

It's 25 years of Catholic school students learning about the needs of other people in our community. And how the various Church agencies, through LifeLink, respond to these people's needs. Over these 25 years, students have found creative and inspiring ways to raise funds for this really important cause. They've committed their time and care to fundraising and have been actively encouraged to demonstrate their support and compassion for all those in need.

Catholic schools encourage all students to be committed to the common good and to contribute to society. LifeLink is a very real way in which our students can actually do this, and I'm really delighted and

inspired to see the service that boys and girls in all of our schools undertake to support those who really need it. I also today want to acknowledge the great support, excuse me, and the wonderful mentoring that our teachers and support staff provide in our schools to support you boys and girls in undertaking the important work that you do to support LifeLink.

So we know that Catholic schools are really integral to the Church, and particularly to the Church in our Archdiocese, And it's a great source of pride to think that over the last 25 years, over \$3 million has been raised for Catholic Social Services and LifeLink agencies. And this is a wonderful testament to the power of young people when they're focused on bettering the lives of others.

So I think \$3 million over 25 years, that deserves a round of applause. So give yourselves a clap.

So finally, we know that the work of the LifeLink agencies is a real, true reflection of the teachings of Christ. And by supporting these agencies, students not only give practical support to those in need, but also share the message of hope and love that is central to our faith. So I know that the Archbishop and Bishop hope that this very special 25th year of celebration, that together we'll work on making a target of at least \$120,000 to help those people in our city who are less needy than ourselves.

And I'm really confident that by everyone working together, we can achieve this target. So I wish every one of you, you going back to your schools to spread the news and the information about the launch of LifeLink. That together we'll achieve this target. So I wish you every success in achieving that. So it's now my very great pleasure to introduce the Very Reverend Father Vincent Glynn, the Vicar General and the Episcopal Vicar for Education.

Thank you, Father Vincent.

Thank you, Mr. Bull. Lovely to be here. Good morning everybody. It's nice to see you all coming in school by school, trying to identify school uniforms and where you are from. So it's lovely to have you here and it's a very special day. You're going to hear a lot of, a lot of us older people speaking but you also get some nice food as well

so thanks for coming along. I've been asked to speak just briefly this morning, particularly as we gather for this LifeLink launch. This LifeLink Day that, as you've heard previously from Bishop Don, celebrates 25 years. Well before most of you young students were born. And the LifeLink, after this LifeLink Day for Catholic schools, the initiative for this was officially launched on the first Wednesday in June in 1999.

And here are we in the first Wednesday in June 2024, celebrating this LifeLink launch and this LifeLink Day. So those of you who are good at maths will know it does add up to 25 years. So this initiative, as I say, was launched on this day in 1999, in which, usually we celebrate WA week celebration. So it's clearly linking it to our Western Australian environment and to our state and particularly to the Church, in this time of the year.

Now, how did this LifeLink Day appeal begin? Well, it began with Archbishop Barry Hickey, whom we called the Emeritus Archbishop. He's the archbishop before Archbishop Tim. And he wanted to share the good news of how the Church, which is in West Australia but also particularly in Perth, responds to and cares for the many people who are in need across the Archdiocese of Perth. Through these organisations that in our Archdiocese we call agencies.

And these agencies are responsible in a number of areas for looking after those who have great need. Sometimes those who are poor, sometimes those who are marginalised, sometimes those who are just

finding life very difficult. And he wanted, back in 99, he wanted young people like yourselves in our Catholic schools to have a deeper and better understanding, but also a personal connection, through raising of funds,

with the service and support provided to our brothers and sisters in need in the community. And when we had the LifeLink launch for secondary schools, there are a number of agencies that were present. Aboriginal Catholic Ministry that looks after the indigenous, particularly in hospital visitation. We had Personal Advocacy Service that provides advocacy for intellectually and physically disabled people.

And we have Day Dawn, which provides legal services to those who can't afford legal service. So these are the kind of agencies that your money, that you raise, supports. And they're all people who need help. As a result of Archbishop Hickey's request, a meeting was held with the then Director of Catholic Education West Australia, Ms. Therese Temby,

who was sitting up here on the stage beside me. And delighted to say, as I said, that she is one of our guests here today. So as a cooperation between Archbishop Hickey and Mrs. Therese Temby, where she embraced this idea of the Archbishop, the goals and ideals of LifeLink, and after a great deal of consultation with CEWA, the LifeLink Day came to a reality.

And as I said, 25 years later, here we are. So Therese, we're delighted to have you here today. We would not be celebrating 20 years, 25 years of LifeLink without your leadership, your understanding and support some 25 years ago. And we are delighted that you could be with us for this celebration. And so on behalf of our present Archbishop, Archbishop Costelloe, and all the people involved in LifeLink, I'd like to present this small gift of appreciation to you.

Alright, I'd also like to offer a special thanks and acknowledge three other important people who, they couldn't be here with us today, unfortunately, for this celebration. But we're very mindful that they were very much a part of the beginnings of LifeLink Day back 25 years ago. And as I mentioned, Archbishop Barry Hickey, Emeritus Archbishop, who I heard today has Covid, so we might keep him in our prayers. He's, how old is he, Diana? 80? 88. So he's getting older.

I won't say old, older. So you might keep in. But everyone Senior Michael Keating was the vicar general at the time. And Mr. Jim Thomas, who was the financial administrator of the Archdiocese at the time. So we remember their support, their leadership and support and we might give them a clap in their absence as well.

So in a sense, today, all of us, we are following in their footsteps. There's no doubt, looking back over 25 years, that the Archbishop's LifeLink Day initiative has been and continues to be a resounding success. Of course, we could not be celebrating this 25th anniversary milestone without the ongoing and continuing support and much valued partnership with Catholic Education West Australia.

So we thank Mr. Bull and everyone involved at Catholic Education West Australia for their continuing support. But it's also all of you present in front of me and the students that have gone before you, that we should offer the greatest praise and thanks. Our Archdiocese and school principals, teaching staff and students you have all collectively embraced and enthusiastically taken part in LifeLink Day over the last 25 years.

And as we've heard some, it's been some really important monies raised. Over the past 25 years, thousands of students in our schools have received the good news on the good works of our LifeLink agencies. And you have joined together, demonstrated your love, your care and compassion, generosity

for all our brothers and sisters in need. And that's why you've gathered today, and that's why you will go back to your schools and take part in LifeLink Day once again, to express your enthusiasm and your generosity for those in need.

So all of you here today, but all those over the past 25 years, have clearly shown that the heart of Catholic education is our Catholic faith. At the heart of Catholic education is the mission given to us by Jesus to go out and to love and care for our brothers and sisters. So I thank you all for coming today and I wish you all a very happy LifeLink Day.

And I now invite, Reverend Mark Powell, Director of Religious Education, to come forward and to speak to us as well.

Thank you, Father Vincent, and good morning to you all. LifeLink Day, the day that we're celebrating today is both an educational and a fundraising initiative. Through LifeLink Day, students attending Catholic schools in this Archdiocese are encouraged to learn more about the very real need which exists in the community, and how the Church responds through our LifeLink agencies and on behalf of all of us to this very important need. Schools and students are actively encouraged to demonstrate their support and compassion for our brothers and sisters in need by undertaking or participating in special fundraising events.

Last year, our Archdiocesan primary and secondary schools raised \$107,747.03, \$0.03 are very important, in support of LifeLink Day. So we thank you all for your generosity. So please give yourselves another round of applause.

The generosity and passion students in Catholic schools have for supporting those less fortunate than themselves, really is a sign that Jesus is alive and well in Catholic schools, and that young people want to build a better world. I would like to congratulate you all on your projects this year. There has been so much work and research gone into them.

I hope you all learned something about the work of our LifeLink agencies, and how they support people in need in the Archdiocese. You all are ambassadors for LifeLink. So because of that, I want to encourage you to do a few things. When you go back to your schools, the first thing is when you go back, please thank all your classmates, all the students in your school for their projects and the work that has gone into them.

Remind everyone that although LifeLink Day is officially launched today, schools can hold fundraising activities throughout the school year. And the last thing that I want that I would like you to do, is to remind everyone that to help celebrate and share LifeLink Day in your school. A number of resources have been uploaded to the LifeLink website and this includes posters which have been personalised with each school's name, and these resources are accessible via the school's page on the LifeLink website.

Finally, we need to remember to keep the LifeLink agencies and the people they support in our Prayers. Seeing you all here reassures me of how lucky we are to have such wonderful young people in our schools. All of you offer signs of hope for the future, because by following Jesus and opening your hearts to serve others, you create a better world for all.

So I wish you all a very happy LifeLink Day and hope that you all have an educational, enjoyable and enriching experience. So now I would like to invite Mrs. Diana Altieri, who's the Coordinator of Formation for Mission and Catholic Education WA, to say a few words.

Thank you, Deacon Mark and good morning everyone this morning. So for LifeLink Day each year, the Archbishop invites primary schools and students to participate in a special project. One which builds greater understanding about the work of the LifeLink agencies and to how the Church responds to our brothers and sisters in need in the community. These projects, we hope, also provide an opportunity for you to show your creativity in a fun and imaginative way. In small groups

this year, schools were asked to research the LifeLink agencies via the LifeLink website so that they could learn more about issues people in need face right here in this Archdiocese of Perth, and how LifeLink agencies respond to that need. Students were asked to discuss how we are joined together as one family, one family with God, and that God loves each one of us equally.

Students were asked to create Paper People which are displayed on the screen behind me. Each boy and girl represents a different person supported by the LifeLink agencies that were researched. On one paper person, people asked to write down the different needs that are supported by a specific LifeLink agency. The name of the agency, and how it practically supports people in the Archdiocese.

On the front of the other paper person, students were asked to write a Prayer or a special message of hope to someone in need. And we are delighted to be able to share some of the creations that students developed this year, here this morning. On behalf of Archbishop Timothy, we congratulate you on your outstanding efforts. Let's look at some of your work now.

I think you can all agree, they're truly amazing and we really want to thank and acknowledge the schools for providing the wonderful Paper People creations that the students did for LifeLink Day. Now, not all of them were up there that you've sent in. So be reassured that there will be a presentation prepared that will go on to the LifeLink website in the future, which will have all of them included.

And if you haven't sent in your Paper People yet, there is still time to do so. So please, go back to school and if you haven't sent them in, send them in. Unfortunately, we couldn't include everything that we've received so far in that little presentation because of time. But they will all be in the final presentation that's produced after the launch.

Now, we've also got another announcement to make that this year we're going to have a big event planned to celebrate the 25th anniversary of LifeLink Day. So on the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross McKillop, Thursday the 8th of August 2024, Bishops Sproxtton and the Very Reverend Father Sean Fernandez, Dean of Saint Mary's Cathedral, will host a special liturgy at Saint Mary's Cathedral for representatives of our primary schools.

Saint Mary of the Cross is remembered for her compassion and tireless support for Catholic education, and, of course, for helping our brothers and sisters in need. One of her favourite quotes, which is often repeated, is, 'Never see a need without doing something about it.' So it is appropriate that this event will be held on her Feast Day. Letters of invitation will be sent from the Bishop's office next week, inviting primary school principals and two student representatives from each school to join him for the brief liturgy, which will commence at 6 p.m. in the evening. At approximately 6:30, we will gather outside the cathedral and countdown to a big surprise.

On the exterior of the front of the cathedral, large, colourful images will be projected, celebrating the feast day of Saint Mary of the Cross. The work of the LifeLink agencies, LifeLink Day and importantly, examples of your creative Paper People containing messages of hope for those in need. The visual spectacle will run continuously for one hour and will light up the night around the cathedral and will be displayed each night for three consecutive nights from the 8th to the 10th of August, and will be presented from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

So principals, please make a Save the Date entry in your diaries to assist with coordinating this event. And if you could please RSVP as soon as possible to the Bishop's invitation. There will also be a little light supper serve for guests at the Parish Centre, following the projection.

So now I would like to welcome back to the lectern Bishop Sproxtton, who will officially launch our LifeLink Day. Thank you.

Thank you, Diana.

So the official part is about to occur in which I express my sincere thanks to all the schools and students who have joined us here today and those who may be watching the video of this launch online at a later date. I know the Archbishop will enjoy seeing all your thoughtful and creative and compassionate Paper People and the projects that you have done

when he returns home, as much as we have today. Seeing just a glimpse of them already. So thank you for taking the time to discover more about the work of our LifeLink agencies and for your generous support of our brothers and sisters in need through your fundraising efforts. I'm confident that together, we can and will achieve the Archbishop's goal of raising \$120,000 in this celebration year.

So now, it's my pleasure to officially launch the Archbishop's LifeLink Day 2024 for primary schools and extend to you this Blessing.

And I'll use some of the ideas of Saint Teresa of Avila.

Lord, we are very conscious that you work in the world because of us. It is because of what we think, what we plan and what we do that you become real in the lives of so many people in need.

As Saint Teresa said, ours are the hands, ours are the feet, ours are the bodies that enable the work that you wish to do with the people who are in need. It is through us that this work can be achieved. So Lord, we ask you to send a Blessing on each and every one of us. We can't be there for every person in need ourselves, but we know that there are so many who work for us and who can be that contact with those people and are there because of what we do to support them.

So we pray that what we can do in this year will enable this work to continue and even get bigger and more and more people can be helped because of our generosity and our planning and our doing that will make it possible for this money to be raised. So the Lord be with you. May Almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

So my best wishes and thanks to the principals, the teachers, and the students throughout the Archdiocese as you embark on your LifeLink Day.

There's one last surprise before we finish our launch today and before we have the opportunity of descending upon morning tea. I have a special gift for every school from Archbishop Costelloe. The Archbishop wanted to personally recognise and acknowledge and thank Catholic Education WA and our Archdiocese and schools and students in this milestone year, the 25th anniversary of LifeLink. He commissioned beautiful plaques that are engraved and with an acknowledgment that reads as follows.

In grateful recognition of your generosity and compassion, this special acknowledgment is presented to your school in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Archbishop's LifeLink Day Initiative. Since LifeLink Day was first established in 1999, Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Perth have raised more than \$3 million to help support the work of our LifeLink agencies, which reach out to our brothers and sisters in need in the community.

Let us continue to recognise in those we meet the face of Jesus. With grateful thanks, Most Reverend Timothy Costelloe, Catholic Archbishop of Perth the 5th of June, 2024. I have one with me. I prepared it earlier and I'd like to call for the representatives of Newman College, we're gathered here of course in the college, and I'd like to personally present to the school this plaque.

I guess Mr. Chiera is the obvious candidate to receive it. So I'd like to ask Mr. Chiera to come forward and to receive this acknowledgment.

So, as it's not possible for me to hand one out to every one of us, we will invite all the schools present

today to collect their plaque from the tables at the front as I leave today. So all these plaques here have names on them. So, if one of the teachers can come forward and gather that as you leave, we'd appreciate that very much.

So I think we've come to the end, and this, Brett, I've got to retake my seat. That's right. Thank you.