

Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for LifeLink 2025

"This Christmas, let us share God's gift of



with our brothers and sisters in need"

Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Pope Leo XIV will launch the ninth 'World Day of the Poor' to Catholics around the world on 16 November 2025. This global appeal occurs the week after the launch of my annual Christmas Appeal for LifeLink in this Archdiocese.

Both the World Day of the Poor and our own LifeLink Christmas Appeal offer us a wonderful opportunity to truly embrace and express our faith in a very real and tangible way. As Pope Leo writes, ***"The poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel"***.

The theme of the Holy Father's message this year is: ***"You, O Lord, are my hope"*** (Ps 71:5).

Pope Leo said, *"The celebration of the World Day of the Poor is meant to remind our communities that the poor are at the heart of all our pastoral activity. This is true not only of the Church's charitable work, but also of the message that she celebrates and proclaims."*



Photo: Catholic News Service/Lola Gomez.

God took on their poverty in order to enrich us through their voices, their stories and their faces. Every form of poverty, without exception, calls us to experience the Gospel concretely and to offer effective signs of hope.

The poor can be witnesses to a strong and steadfast hope, precisely because they embody it in the midst of uncertainty, poverty, instability and marginalisation. They cannot rely on the security of power and possessions; on the contrary, they are at their mercy and often victims of them.

Their hope must necessarily be sought elsewhere.

By recognising that God is our first and only hope, we too pass from fleeting hopes to a lasting hope.

Once we desire that God accompanies us on the journey of life, material wealth becomes relativised, for we discover the real treasure that we need. The words that the Lord Jesus spoke to his disciples remain forceful and clear: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Mt 6:19-20)".

This, then, is the invitation extended to us by this Jubilee celebration. It is no coincidence that the World Day of the Poor is celebrated towards the end of this year of grace. Once the Holy Door is closed, we are to cherish and share with others the divine gifts granted us throughout this entire year of prayer, conversion and witness.

The poor are not recipients of our pastoral care, but creative subjects who challenge us to find novel ways of living out the Gospel today.

In the face of new forms of impoverishment, we can risk becoming hardened and resigned. Each day we encounter poor or impoverished people. We too may have less than before and are losing what once seemed secure: a home, sufficient food for each day, access to healthcare and a good education, information, religious freedom and freedom of expression. In this promotion of the common good, our social responsibility is grounded in God's creative act, which gives everyone a share in the goods of the earth. Like those goods, the fruits of human labour should be equally accessible to all.

Helping the poor is a matter of justice before a question of charity.



The Archbishop entering
St Peter's Basilica, Rome.

My annual 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 Church's welfare and social service agencies in this Archdiocese, and respond compassionately to the plight of our brothers and sisters who are struggling in the community.

Every day, our LifeLink agencies respond to so many desperate calls from families and individuals unable to provide sufficient food or pay electricity, water or gas accounts. Our LifeLink agencies respond to increased calls from single parents and victims of domestic violence unable to secure rental accommodation - forced to seek out temporary night by night alternatives or face living in their cars or on the streets. Calls from pensioners unable to meet general life expenses. Far too many calls from people feeling isolated, alone and lonely... without hope.



Seems hard to imagine that here 'at home' in Perth and around Western Australia, such need can exist at all. Thousands of Western Australian families and individuals will reach out to a LifeLink agency for help this year. Our Church agencies will respond positively and immediately to provide professional services and support.

They are able to do so as a direct result of the continuing love, compassion and generosity you provide through your donations to my appeal.

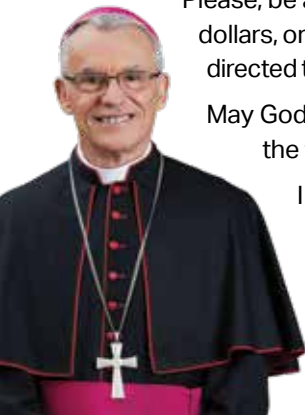
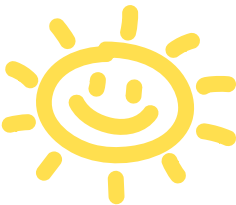


As I officially launch my Christmas Appeal for LifeLink on the weekend of **8 and 9 November 2025**, I ask you to **please give generously to my appeal and help raise a minimum of \$700,000 this Christmas.**

Let us fill rejoice in God's love and give the gift of  HOPE to our brothers and sisters in need.

Please, be as generous as you possibly can. Even if you can only share a single dollar, a few dollars, or a few hundred dollars... every gift is valued and valuable. Every dollar will be wholly directed towards the work of our Lifelink agencies and donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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.

+ Timothy Costelloe SDB

Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth

Please visit our website to make a secure credit card donation online.

www.LifeLink.com.au

LifeLink Office
Griver House, 249 Adelaide Tce, Perth WA 6000 Tel +61 8 6104 3636 Email lifelink@perthcatholic.org.au Website www.lifelink.com.au

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 share God's gift of  HOPE with my brothers and sisters 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.