

LifeLink 2025

St John Bosco College – Piara Waters

“When we reach out with love to our brothers and sisters in need, we are expressing our faith in action, and truly seeing reflected the face of Jesus.” *Archbishop Costelloe*

In 2025, we embraced the Archbishop's call to be "Pilgrims of Hope," and this message resonated throughout the St John Bosco College community.

On LifeLink Day, the work we do as a College community throughout the year is brought into sharp focus. The day provides students with a powerful and meaningful opportunity to demonstrate their compassion and solidarity with those in need, reflecting the teachings of Jesus Christ and living out their Catholic faith.

Sharing the Archbishop's Message

A select group of students from our Primary and Secondary areas represented St John Bosco College proudly at the Archbishop's LifeLink Day Forum. On this day, our students were given the opportunity to listen to and engage with the Archbishop, Bishop and other senior figures from across CEWA and the LifeLink team. Each student came away inspired and full of ideas to share the clear message with the rest of our College community; We are pilgrims of hope, and these chosen charities need our support so that they can reach out to those most in need in our wider community.

On return to the College, full of enthusiasm, our LifeLink leaders shared their ambitions for this year's project through presentations and written pieces in class studios. Each year level in Primary was assigned a LifeLink agency to research and connect with, helping students understand how these organisations supported the most vulnerable in our community.

Primary staff worked with their students to create presentations highlighting their given agency and its connection to the Archbishop's LifeLink Fund; these were shared via social media, promoting awareness and engagement within our Bosco community. We designed brightly coloured Seeds of Hope templates that were shared with staff and students who used them to document their HOPE for 2025, a wish inspired by their learning and compassion. Each hope was gathered to form a beautiful Seeds of Hope display at the heart of our college, on the de Sales Library window. A reminder of our calling to be pilgrims of hope and our commitment to this endeavour.

Alongside the good work happening in our studios, we wanted to incorporate *Celebrating the Year of the Jubilee* into our efforts. Each House participated in a Silver Coin Challenge where Primary students brought in silver coins and placed them in their House's fundraising jar, each labelled with a letter from the word HOPE: H for de Sales, O for Savio, P for MacKillop, and E for Mazzarello. This initiative encouraged generosity and highlighted the message of hope and unity across our College.

St John Bosco parents and families have been engaged in our LifeLink projects through support of their children's research and through donations, as well as their presence and participation in the liturgy. Our Secondary Religious Education classes focused on Catholic Social Teaching, linking it directly to the mission of LifeLink.

As part of their Retreat experience, our Year 10 students under the guidance of our staff prepared over 300 meals for ShopFront, a LifeLink-supported agency that provides food and support to people experiencing hardship. This hands-on act of service allowed students to live out the Gospel call to feed the hungry and care for the vulnerable. It was a deeply formative experience that connected faith with action and left a lasting impact on both the students and those they served.

The Archbishop's message was shared through the College social media platforms, classroom discussions, and a visual display in the de Sales Library, ensuring that every member of our community, students, staff, and families, were inspired by his words.

St John Bosco Birthday Mass and Celebrations

On Friday 15th August, our College community gathered for a special celebration of the Feast of the Assumption and the life of St John Bosco. Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, Archbishop of Perth, joined us to celebrate Mass alongside Father Mark Baumgarten, Parish Priest of St Francis Xavier, and Deacon Patrick Moore, from St Francis Xavier Parish, with students from Kindergarten to Year 12 all present to celebrate Mass together. This was a deeply meaningful occasion, especially as we honoured St John Bosco's birthday, which fell on Saturday 16th August.

Following the Mass, students and staff engaged in Buddy Class activities, where Primary and Secondary classes were paired to learn about and reflect on the legacy of St John Bosco, his dedication to youth, education, and faith and how his mission continues to shape our College's own.

The day concluded with a vibrant College Fete, where each Primary Studio and Secondary Community Hub planned, organised and operated a food or activity stall. The generosity and enthusiasm of our community was palpable, and all donations from the Fete were directed to the Archbishop's LifeLink appeal. This initiative supported the Archbishop's call to care for the most vulnerable in our society and aligned beautifully with our College's ongoing commitment to service and compassion. Through these celebrations and acts of giving, our students and staff truly lived out the theme of *Celebrating the Year of the Jubilee* and being *Pilgrims of Hope*.

Why St John Bosco College Should Receive the Spirit Award

We believe our College exemplifies the values and mission of LifeLink Day. Our ongoing efforts are not just about participation in a project or celebration of one day; they are about transformation. We are continuously building on our culture of compassion, learning, and action that extends beyond the classroom and into the hearts of our College community.

The Spirit Award would be a meaningful recognition of our students' leadership, our staff's dedication, and our families' generosity.

We are proud to be pilgrims of hope, and we are honoured to walk this journey with the Archbishop, the Bishop, and the wider Catholic community.

Mr Andrew Donaldson
Deputy Principal (Catholic Identity and Mission)