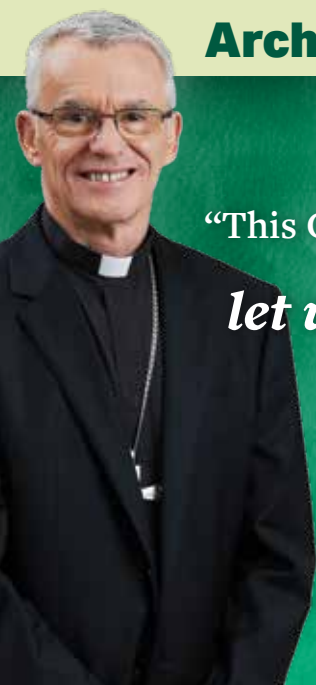




“This Christmas,

let us be refuges for the poor

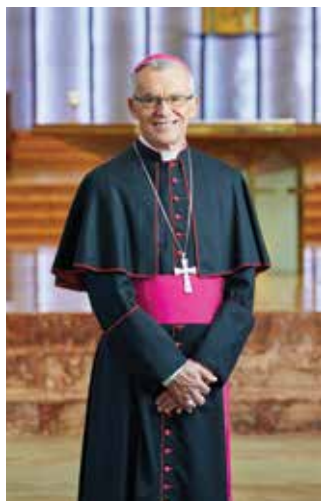
for our brothers and sisters in need”

Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Pope Leo XIV will launch the tenth ‘World Day of the Poor’ to Catholics around the world on 15 November 2026 just a week after the official launch of my own ‘Archbishop’s Christmas Appeal for LifeLink’ in this Archdiocese.



In his special message for World Day of the Poor this year, Pope Leo XIV reflects on God as *“the refuge of the poor,”* urging Christians to rediscover the central place of the poor and examine our commitment to justice, solidarity, and human dignity.

Reflecting on Psalm 14, *“The Lord is the refuge of the poor,”* the Pope notes that the Psalm was written during a dramatic period marked by the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, when the people felt deprived of God’s presence and experienced unprecedented material and moral misery.

The Pope observes that Psalm 14 continues to speak to every generation. The opening verses, he said, points to the contrast between those who live wisely and those who *“go through life as if there were nothing greater than themselves.”*

“Sadly,” he writes, *“we see that even today there is widespread social injustice arising from arrogant corruption, which is as deplorable as it is discriminatory.”*

Do not allow the cry of the poor to be silenced.

Pope Leo XIV writes that *“the consequences often fall first upon the poor, whose numbers continue to grow in many societies. The absence of God no longer places people side by side in mutual respect but places one above the other in a relationship of domination and oppression. The cry of the poor is often silenced through a multitude of increasingly subtle tactics while the digital world can worsen prejudice and reinforce indifference.*



Photo: Catholic News Service/Vatican Media



The poor have no choice but to cry out to God. They entrust themselves to Him, certain that they will be heard because God is faithful and rich in mercy.

The poor are often more capable than others of recognising what is essential because they live on the essentials. For this reason, he says, they are especially able to recognise God as their refuge and place their hope in His justice.

The poor of our day are the forgotten and the marginalised: robbed not only of bread, but also of a voice and a face.

It is Jesus who offers bread and friendship; He brings light and opens a horizon of hope; He calls each person by name and restores dignity to all.”

The Pope goes on to stress that Christians are called not only to seek refuge in God, but also... ***“to be a refuge for the poor.”***

The Christian community cannot remain indifferent to the many who today stand at the door but remain invisible to those who are shut within their own walls.

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 to respond compassionately to the plight of our brothers and sisters who are struggling in the community.



As I officially launch my Christmas Appeal for LifeLink on the weekend of 7 and 8 November 2026, I ask you to **please give generously to my appeal and help raise a minimum of \$700,000 this Christmas.** Let us rejoice in God's love and be refuges for our brothers and sisters in need.

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

My dear friends, in the tradition of the season, I have included a small gift of a prayer card for you this Christmas. I hope you might display this on your Christmas tree or perhaps somewhere prominent within your home as you celebrate Christmas this year. May it serve as a reminder of the Special Year of St Francis of Assisi, which we have just celebrated, and for us to be refuges for the poor, sharing God's love with those who reach out to us.



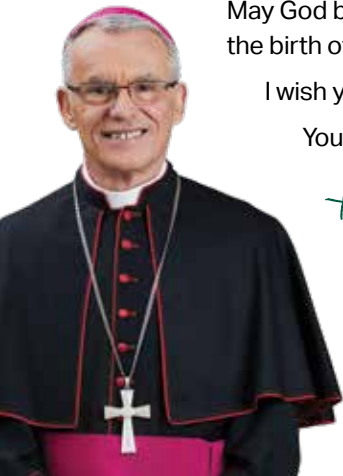
May God bless you, your family and your loved ones as we soon celebrate the birth of Jesus, the face of our Heavenly Father's mercy.

I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

+ Timothy Costelloe SDB

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 be a *refuge for the poor* to 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

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

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.