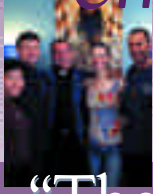
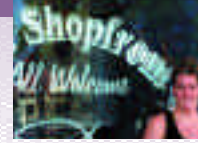


embrace
reach out
accept
demonstrate



“The human touch of Jesus Christ this Christmas”



My Dear Friends

It is usual for me when I launch my annual appeal for LifeLink, to share with you the story of how one of our LifeLink supported agencies has made a positive difference in the life of just one person.

This year, I have a more ‘traditional’ message to present.

You often hear people say, “Oh, we had a traditional Christmas”.

And immediately your own family traditions might spring to mind...Decorating the tree, buying and giving presents, gathering for a special lunch or dinner, perhaps a holiday with the family.

Yet I wonder amongst all this tradition, this celebration, this self-fulfilment, where Jesus Christ fits in today?
Have people forgotten to welcome Christ into their Christmas?

I am dismayed that the wider community's focus appears to be on the “commercial expression” of celebration. How often are we exposed to advertising containing images of Santa, and people giving each other the very latest gadgets?

In businesses and homes you’ll find Christmas trees and decorations, and there is nothing wrong with that - they are a traditional part of our celebrations. Yet count the number of nativity displays that are located around our City.

So let us join together, open our hearts, and welcome Christ into our Christmas. It’s not hard to do, and there is such joy, such sweet rewarding fulfilment in doing so.



Embrace those you love - express why they mean so much to you, cherish and nurture them. Open yourself to receive their love in return.

Reach out to those who are estranged or ostracised from you. Follow Christ’s example by offering them your forgiveness, compassion, and mercy.

Accept God into your life – welcome his love not just at Christmas, but every day - and give thanks.

Demonstrate your faith through positive action - show you care for those who are less fortunate in our community. Help them in whatever way is possible for you to do so.

Your LifeLink funded social service agencies

- Anawim
- Catholic Association for Deaf & Hearing Impaired People (WA)
- i.d.entity.wa
- Catholic Migrant Centre
- Centrecare
- Centacare Employment & Training
- Cross Roads Community
- Djooraminda
- Emmanuel Centre
- HIV/AIDS Pastoral Care
- Natural Fertility Services
- Samaritan Projects
- Shopfront

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Through the work of the LifeLink social service agencies, each and every day we witness “the human touch of Jesus Christ” .

From the man who reached out to the **Shopfront** agency, week after week, never saying a word, just sitting quietly in a chair. One day he suddenly opened up and shared with staff that he had not spoken to a single person in months because he felt so alone, so isolated. It was only with their patience and understanding that he was able to come out of himself.

Through Father Paul at **Cross Roads Community** who embraces men and women fighting the challenge of drugs and other addictions. He provides the practical help and support to assist them get their lives back on track. Fundamental to their healing process is that they open their hearts and accept God’s love.

To the **Anawim** and **Djooraminda** agencies, providing refuge and comfort to women escaping domestic violence and children no longer able to live at home as a result of neglect, abuse or violence within the home.

This year, **over 60,000 West Australian families and individuals** will experience the human touch of Jesus Christ through a LifeLink social service agency. As I officially launch my Christmas Appeal for LifeLink, I urge you to demonstrate your support for people in need, by giving generously to my appeal.

We need to raise \$350,000 this Christmas, which will only be possible with your direct help. Please, complete the donation form at the foot of my letter and mail your gift today. Whether your gift is large or small, help us to make a difference.

In the tradition of the season, and as a token of my appreciation for your ongoing support of LifeLink, I have included a small gift for you and your family that I hope you will place on prominent display in your home this Christmas.

This remembrance decoration includes a special prayer written and blessed especially by Bishop Sproxtton. May it serve as a visual reminder to invite and welcome Christ as a part of your celebrations.

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ,

Credit card donations can now be made at www.lifelink.com.au

The Most Rev Barry J Hickey
Catholic Archbishop of Perth



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Yes, I will reach out to help people in need this Christmas

Please accept my donation of (please tick one box only)

\$250
 \$100
 \$60
 \$30
 \$500
 Other \$ _____

Title Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr / Sr / Fr / Rev

Surname _____

Christian Name _____

Address _____

Postcode

My Parish is _____

Enclosed is my cash gift for LifeLink OR
 Enclosed is my cheque payable to LifeLink OR
 Please debit my credit card

Visacard Mastercard
 Amex Bankcard

Credit Card Number

Expiry date /

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible if a name and address are supplied