



The Most Rev Barry J Hickey  
Archbishop of Perth

# LifeLink

*"Let us love God and love one another"*

Catholic Caring Agencies



LifeLink®  
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My Dear Friends,

## What is happening in our community?

Our newspapers and televisions seem to, almost daily, report on aged men and women being bashed for just a few dollars, someone being seriously injured or killed whilst innocently enjoying a night out or in a recent case which springs to mind, a baby being seriously injured and a mother terrified as a result of a road rage incident.

There seems to be so much anger, violence, disrespect and selfishness growing in our midst. Of more concern is that there also seems to be a growing sense of de-sensitisation to these occurrences.

**Where has Love gone?** My Christmas message this year is drawn from the same important message Jesus gave when asked:

**" Which is the greatest of the commandments"**

Jesus did not pick only one out of the ten. He summed them all up in two:

**... the first was to love God, the second was to love one another.** *Luke Ch 11 Verse 25*

We are called on to love God but we are also called on to actively demonstrate love for every man, woman and child; not only those we know or who are close to us or those we agree with or like or understand...but everyone.

I would like to share with you just a small part of a wonderful address which was given earlier this year.

*"I look back over the 37 years since I started law school at the dramatic increase in crime, in the prison population, in the number of laws passed by our parliament, in the number of lawyers in our community, in the number of courts and in the number of disputes that are brought before our courts. It occurs to me that it is no coincidence that all this has occurred over the same period that there has been a perceptible decrease in morality, ethics and spirituality which has itself coincided with a significant decrease in active participation in religious fellowship and worship.*

*It seems to me to be highly improbable that these things are coincidental, and much more likely that there is a causal connection between the decline in religious participation, and the decline in spirituality and ethical conduct, and the increased need for lawyers and courts. Over the same period, our city has become a series of dormitory suburbs spread over about 80 kilometres connected by freeways. I fear we are in danger of becoming a city without a heart, both physically and metaphorically. And if our city loses its heart, what hope is there for its soul? We must encourage people to come together as a community, to stimulate the respect and mutual obligation which goes with a sense of community."* The Hon Wayne Martin, Chief Justice for the Supreme Court of Western Australia

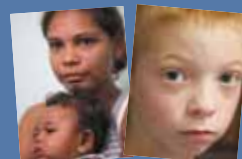
The Chief Justice is speaking of our need to actively participate in change and that the responsibility for building a better community starts with the same principles as those contained in Jesus' message.

What a world it would be if we focussed our energies on loving God and loving one another.



*"Help us recognise in those we meet, the face of Jesus"*

LifeLink Prayer, Archbishop B J Hickey 1999





**This Christmas, my hope and my challenge to you and to everyone in our community is to make an active demonstration of our love for each other.**

We should respond personally by caring for those we know and those we meet. We should respond generously by supporting those who offer care, kindness and practical help to others.

I am of course referring to our LifeLink social service agencies. LifeLink agencies truly do such wonderful work in our community and make such an impact in peoples lives. This year, **over 40,000 Western Australian families and individuals will be assisted and cared for by a LifeLink agency.**

The *Shopfront* agency will continue to distribute emergency relief to the people with serious addictions and social problems who live on our streets.

*Centrecare* will provide thousands of counselling sessions for anger, depression, violence, abuse, addictions. In addition, this agency provides emergency and low cost housing, protects children who may be experiencing violence or abuse in their own homes and remains at the front line to help new refugees and migrants.

**In all, fourteen LifeLink agencies continue their mission of care within our community as a direct result of your generous support.**

As I officially launch my annual Christmas Appeal for LifeLink, I ask you to show your Love for our brothers and sisters in need. **Please, give generously, compassionately and urgently.**

Last year, thanks to your outstanding support, my appeal achieved a simply marvellous result, raising almost \$494,000. **My hope this year is that together we will raise a minimum of \$500,000.**

As is the tradition at this time of year, I have pleasure in providing a small gift for you this Christmas.

This Prayer Wallet, which has been blessed, contains a small medallion and a special prayer for peace. I hope it will serve as a reminder for you to love God, to love one another and to live in peace and harmony as brothers and sisters.

I wish you, your family and loved ones a very safe, happy and Holy Christmas. May God bless and watch over us all and grant us peace in this world.

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ,

The Most Rev Barry J Hickey  
Archbishop of Perth

*A very special thanks to  
**Gatto Christian Shop**  
for generously supporting my  
Christmas gift for you this year.*

*Let it serve as  
a reminder for  
us to love God,  
to love one  
another, and  
to live in peace  
and harmony  
as brothers  
and sisters.*



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

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

\$300   
  \$150   
  \$75   
  \$50   
  \$500   
  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode

My Parish is \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed is my cheque payable to LifeLink OR**

Please debit my credit card

Visacard     Mastercard     Amex

Credit Card Number

Expiry date   /

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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