



**Never see a need...
without doing something about it!**



*Most Rev Barry J Hickey
Archbishop of Perth*

Dear Friends,

I have just returned from Rome after attending the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop - Australia's first acknowledged Saint. As I prepare this message in support of my annual Christmas Appeal for LifeLink, I cannot help but be inspired by the wonderful example of "our own" Saint Mary MacKillop.

What an amazing woman Mary was, guided by an unshakeable love of God and called to the service of the poor and the marginalised across Australia. She faced many challenges and experienced many hardships... and yet she endured.



Pictured: Saint Mary MacKillop.

Her motto: **'never see a need without doing something about it'** became the foundation for her response to need in the community - educating the poor, caring for the sick and providing shelter for women and children.

Saint Mary MacKillop often said:

'We must teach more by example, than by word'.

She tried hard every day to demonstrate respect for the dignity of every person she met, to help in any way she could, whether a friend or colleague, homeless or poor, aged or infirm.

Isn't this an example we should embrace?

God asks us to live our lives filled with love, respect, forgiveness, charity and compassion. There is no question that whilst this seems an "easy" request, it can prove a significant challenge.

I have shared with you before that I try to live my life on the basis that when someone asks for my help, I ask myself what I would do if the person before me was actually Jesus asking for help.

It's why on cold nights, when I am tired or have had a challenging day, that I answer that knock on my door and offer the person a cup of coffee, a sandwich and the option to sleep safely on my verandah for the night.

It is not much, but it is what is needed at that moment, and it is what I can do to help someone in need.

My Christmas wish is that all of us will...

"never see a need without doing something about it!"



Pictured: Archbishop Hickey and friends.

Mary MacKillop's example of love and compassion for people in need is embodied in the work of our LifeLink social service agencies.

Over 35,000 Western Australian families and individuals will be helped by LifeLink agencies this year - people living in Western Australia who need emergency accommodation, food and clothing, financial assistance to pay electricity or gas accounts, mental health services, respite and disability support programs, protection from abuse and assistance finding employment.

As I officially launch my Christmas Appeal for LifeLink, I ask you to please give generously. We must raise a minimum of \$500,000 this Christmas to ensure our LifeLink agencies continue their 'mission of care' to those most in need in our community. *Donations are tax deductible.*

As is the tradition at this special time of year, I have pleasure in providing a small gift for you and your loved ones this Christmas. This prayer card (enclosed) commemorates and celebrates the Canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop and each card has been specially blessed.

I hope you will take a moment to offer your own prayers to Saint Mary, that she may intercede on your behalf to enrich your life with greater love, faith, compassion and understanding.

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 His world.

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ



**Most Rev Barry J Hickey
Archbishop of Perth**



When I could not see my way,
God kept my heart full of trust
to make all come right.

Mary MacKillop 1883

Images of Mary MacKillop used with permission of the Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph. Must not be reproduced without permission of the Trustees.

Please visit our website to
make a secure credit card donation
www.lifelink.com.au

LifeLink Office

61 Fitzgerald Street, Northbridge WA 6003 Tel +61 8 9427 0311 Fax +61 8 9427 0379 Email admin@lifelink.com.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 do something to help people 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

Surname _____

Christian Name _____

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.