

# The Archbishop of Sydney's Winter Appeal

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## Pastoral Letter.

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*(To be read in every Church of the Diocese at both Morning and Evening Prayer on Sundays May 13 and 20, 1934.)*

Brethren in the Lord,

I earnestly desire to draw your attention to the claims of the needy, especially at this season of the year. Several agencies are working by various means to ameliorate the lot of the unemployed and without the efforts these agencies are making, the condition of multitudes of men, women and children would be tragic. The Government of the State is doing much to grapple with and relieve the situation. Philanthropic associations of one kind or another, are supplementing the efforts of the State. The several religious denominations, including our own, are making in the aggregate no inconsiderable contribution towards diminishing distress.

Thankfully aware of all this, I still feel that there is abundant necessity and opportunity for the Church to do still more. My visits to the rural deaneries, and conversations with the clergy and others have made me conscious of the great need that exists.

It is one of the characteristics of the Christian Faith that it is concerned with the needs of men's bodies as well as of their souls. The Master Who fed the hungry and healed the sick surely calls upon us to minister generously, by one means or another, to the needs of our less fortunate brethren, and under no compulsion save that of a sense of Christian duty and love. Already the winter is upon us, and before many more of its days have passed we that are able should, in the name of Christ, do all that we can to bring comfort into the lives and homes of those where ordinary comfort is wanting.

I therefore appeal to all Churchpeople to make a special effort to this end at the earliest possible moment. I commend to your support not only those agencies of our Church which are engaged in a general way in the work of relieving distress, but also the appeals which may be made in the various parishes for work of this character that may be undertaken locally. Many of our agencies are at work all the year round. They have been, and are making heroic and successful efforts, but they stand in need of more and more financial support if they are to remove the residue of distress that is in our midst. On their behalf, and on behalf of such additional efforts as may be necessary, I make this special winter emergency appeal for funds.

In response to this appeal I shall be most grateful to receive gifts of money, earmarked or otherwise, addressed to me personally at the Diocesan Church House, George Street, Sydney. As the matter is urgent, I hope to receive all such contributions on or before June 30. They will be acknowledged in the usual way, and also in the press. The money I receive will be distributed through the general agencies and through the parishes.

In order that Churchpeople may be better acquainted with the needs of the poor in this community, and the efforts which our Church is making to relieve them, I invite you to attend a meeting in the Chapter House, Sydney, on Monday, May 21, at 8 p.m. At this meeting I hope to preside, and we shall have the advantage of having on that occasion addresses by the new Bishop of Goulburn, and by speakers representing our greater Church organisations in the Diocese. I hope it will be a largely-attended gathering.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Your affectionate Father in God,

HOWARD SYDNEY.

May 8th, 1934.