

The Archbishop of Sydney's Winter Appeal.

Pastoral Letter

(To be read in every Church of the Diocese at both Morning and Evening Prayer on Sundays
May 30 and June 6, 1937.)

Brethren in the Lord,

The approach of Winter always adds acuteness to the sufferings of those in distress in our midst, and in a corresponding measure increases greatly the labour and anxiety of the clergy upon whom the calls for emergency relief invariably fall. Workers in the field of Christian charity are constantly being confronted with pathetic cases of need which are beyond the range of our already wide Government relief provisions, and in some instances cannot even be legitimately attended to by the ordinary registered philanthropic organisation. It is such cases particularly that provide an opportunity for the members of the Church to give expression to the love of Christ that is in them by ministering to the necessities of their poorer brethren.

While the needs of the present situation are many and pressing, I am emboldened to hope that by marshalling the forces of Christian charity within the Church we shall be able to excel this year the very fine efforts made in connection with previous Winter Appeals. One of the clergy, who has had a great experience of this class of work in the Diocese, has summed up the position in a manner which I think is very convincing. He declares that no Christian would turn a sore-distressed person away from his door on a cold wet Winter's night—rather would he part with one of his own blankets or go without his own food—and it therefore only remains for the Church member to try and visualise that in subscribing to my Winter Appeal he is in effect giving succour to the sore-distressed stranger at his door.

I am thoroughly satisfied that a full and necessary examination has been made regarding every case of need that has been met from the proceeds of previous appeals, and the grateful letters I have received from those who have been helped, make me realise afresh how necessary was this help; and also how much greater was the distress which we were not able to meet through lack of funds.

All our agencies are making heroic and successful efforts, but they stand in need of more and more financial support. On their behalf and on behalf of our poorer parishes, whose Rectors will be making the distribution, I shall be most grateful to receive gifts of money, earmarked for any special Church undertaking or otherwise, addressed to me personally at the Diocesan Church House, George Street, Sydney.

As the matter is urgent, I hope all such contributions may be sent to me as early as possible, and not later than June 30. They will be acknowledged in the usual way, and also in the Diocesan Magazine.

Your Archbishop and Friend,

HOWARD SYDNEY.