

## We are the Heart on Earth of a Generous, Giving God

### A message from Fr Roger msc

The earth and the universe, our lives, family, friends and community are all gifts from a generous God. These are gifts to be cared for and used, then returned to God. We are stewards of the earth and our own lives and of others. Christmas is the time of giving and presents, and we spend a lot of money and time in the activity. It is a season of high spending and commerce.

There are many in this world who will never receive a present: children who will probably never have a toy or a doll to play with. Many do not have a homeland or land, no fresh water or health facilities, no medicine or medical staff, no school fees or uniforms, whose lands and forests are being exploited and destroyed.

There will be no presents for them!

When we turn on a tap and water comes out, we are gifted; when we are sick and go to the chemist or doctor, we are blessed; when we go to school each day, in uniform, with books, in a good classroom, we are gifted. We are indeed the Lucky Country. With your gifts to the Mission Office we are able to give some of these gifts. Our great thanks for that.

People rejoice and dance when the freshwater flows, children wash, and everyone drinks pure fresh water. Young women can stop spending days bringing water to the families and go to school, as the water is now close. Young people graduate from school and college in smart fresh uniforms, stand up proudly and face a future with hope. Young men get training and expertise in trades and agriculture for their lives and support of

families. Women and youth plant gardens of greens for the family and market; plant fruit trees for food and shade. All this is PURE GIFT.

As a nation we are gifted with the arrival of migrants from other countries who enrich us with their energy, gifts, talents, experience and culture. Many arrive as refugees fleeing war and destruction, oppression and cruelty. They are grateful for a new home where there is peace and stability. They will work hard to integrate and become productive. Our most recent arrivals are the Afgani people many of whom fled for their lives. Through our parish networks our Catholic people, and others of all faiths and persuasions, have been welcoming, friendly and very generous with goods. In this generosity we share in the generous heart of our God, we share our gifts with others. Not only do we help them in a new and strange land, but we will make friends for life.

This Christmas we can continue on the consumerist treadmill, or we can try something different. A small Afghan child in australia will need school fees in the years to come, the family will need a house with furniture and goods, there will be need for airfares to bring other children, or grandparents to reunite in safety and security. As a gift, start a fund/account in your parish/commnity for these future needs.

A very happy and holy Christmas to everyone

**Roger Purcell msc**  
Director

