



Christmas Bowl

Christ the King Sunday The story of the Christmas Bowl

It's been more than 70 years since Reverend Frank Byatt called on his family to share the joy of their Christmas with those in need around the world.

He put a Bowl of Remembrance on the dinner table and asked his loved ones to place a generous gift in it to *'share your good dinner with hungry children in other lands'*.

Frank couldn't have foreseen how his simple act of compassion would grow into the powerful Christmas Bowl tradition we now know. And he couldn't have known how much it would be needed in our world today.

When Frank sat down to his plentiful Christmas dinner in Melbourne in 1949, he knew that millions of people were suffering in Europe after World War II.

As we break bread with our loved ones this Christmas, our thoughts are with our sisters and brothers who are suffering most during the coronavirus pandemic.

For our brothers and sisters in urgent need around the world, the effects of this crisis are catastrophic. Already struggling, vulnerable communities are now being pushed to the brink without the support they need to survive. This Christmas Bowl, we will again come together as the church, and respond with God's love to one of the most urgent crises of our times.

We don't know what Christmas will look like here in Australia, and if we will even be able to meet in person. But we do know that on this one great day of sharing, we can continue to make a powerful difference for those in need.

Through the Christmas Bowl, you will help provide food, medical care and lifesaving support to families around the world. In the face of many threats, you will help people live with the dignity, justice and peace we all deserve.

By sharing God's love through the Christmas Bowl we will stand alongside local communities through this pandemic – and towards a more secure future.



Rev. Ken Day, from St Stephen's Uniting Church speaks at the church's annual Christmas Bowl service.