

# Carmel Contact



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from the Carmelites of Australia  
and Timor-Leste



*Philip Harvey, Librarian with his assistant Anna Welch*

The transformation of the Carmelite Library of Spirituality over the past five years is now complete. We have gone from 2002's temporary accommodation through the period of settling and renovation, and now find ourselves in a delightful space; one that inspires study, retreat, and reading in good company. It is worth the trip just to see the effective upgrades to building and collections.

With an increasing reliance on the internet these days our website has become an essential way to communicate. The Library's attractive website, constructed by Fr Paul Chandler and maintained by Anna Welch and myself, gives access to the catalogue, information about the Carmelite Order, the history of spirituality, and recent news announcements. Do visit the site sometime soon: [www.carmelitelibrary.org](http://www.carmelitelibrary.org)

An important moment in our history occurred in October when the Library officially became the central research resource of the Institute of Christian Spirituality and Pastoral Formation (ICSPF). This is a teaching institution of the Melbourne College of Divinity, offering degrees in particular in the area of spiritual direction; The Library has strong holdings in spiritual direction, a fast-growing area of study in Melbourne and beyond.

## A renaissance in spiritual growth

The church has been actively involved in personal spiritual direction from the earliest times. Today we are seeing a renaissance, concentrating on questions of life journey, personal growth, affirmation of the self, and identification with chosen ways of spiritual life. Recognition of those with a vocation as a spiritual director is now expressed in a practical way through the special courses of ICSPF. As a result, the Library is dedicated to holding every important text, with the objective of having the strongest collection anywhere in spiritual direction.

One of the happy consequences of being a member of the Melbourne College of Divinity is that it can help fund purchases in specialist areas that we otherwise could not buy in widely. In 2006 this meant we were able to purchase the back catalogue of the Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press, the pre-eminent publisher of Orthodox literature in English, based in the United States. We now boast, in a modest way, to having the strongest collection of Orthodox spiritual writings in Melbourne.

Then in 2007 we successfully received support to order works in Christian Iconography, that is works on the symbolic and allegorical meaning of art. The rose windows of the medieval cathedrals, the depiction of saints in paintings and sculptures, the architectural design of churches, all are loaded with meanings that involve interpretation. A varied set of acquisitions of such works, again unique in Melbourne, is a boon to researchers and general readers alike. All part of the Carmelite Library's diverse collection.

Please come and visit the Library soon. We welcome your company and are glad to introduce you to the riches of your Library.

**Philip Harvey**  
Librarian



APPTORSTEN BLACKWOOD

(L-R) Marcelle Hoff, Michael Kirby and Shireen Malamoo are overcome with emotion as they watch Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd deliver an historic apology to Aboriginal people

# Jesus comes to parliament

Aboriginal people have waited a very long time for THE apology to Stolen Generations which occurred on 13 February 2008. The apology by the Federal government would be a moment of truth telling to Australia and the rest of the world of its 'wrong' treatment of Aboriginal people from European settlement to the 1970s. 'I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin. [Psalm 38:18]

As Christians we too have waited for this moment. "Christian people of goodwill are saddened to realize – many of them only recently – for how long a time Aboriginal people were transported from their homelands into small areas or reserves where families were broken up, tribes split apart, children orphaned and people forced to live like exiles in a foreign country." [The late Pope John Paul II, Alice Springs 29 November 1986]

This historical moment acknowledged the true past history of this country and is a huge leap forward in Australian Reconciliation. It was so, for all those gathered in Parliament and around the country as they watched and listened to the 'live' words. It was a moment shared.

The Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd, marked the occasion in a crowded Parliament both inside the chambers and outdoors. In his message he poignantly captured the essence of the apology by saying sorry: not once, not twice, but three times.

'For I wrote to you out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain, but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.' [2 Corinthians 2:4]

Many hearing the word 'Sorry' wept. There was anxious tension in the air, and it was very quiet as we listened to his speech. And at that moment of 'sorry, and as tears fell, the Stolen Generations were freed from the generations of demoralising history which had continued to shackle them to a dehumanising past.

It was a cathartic moment shared between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, men and women, children and adults, politicians and the public, family and friends, between communities and the nation, and most importantly, Australia and the Stolen Generations.

To hear the word 'Sorry' spoken on that day was a moment in history, never to be forgotten which will continue to be celebrated by all Australians. **This significant event is the catalyst needed to support a healing relationship.**

## Melissa Brickell

*An Aboriginal Yorta Yorta and a stolen generation*  
Member of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Melbourne  
Commissioner on National Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Ecumenical Council

# Pilgrimage of spiritual enrichment

Carmelite Fr Paul Gurr, Chaplain of Jamberoo Abbey New South Wales, recently walked a Pilgrimage in northern Spain to the town of Santiago de Compostella. For over 1,000 years people have been making this pilgrimage and in recent years it has again become very popular.

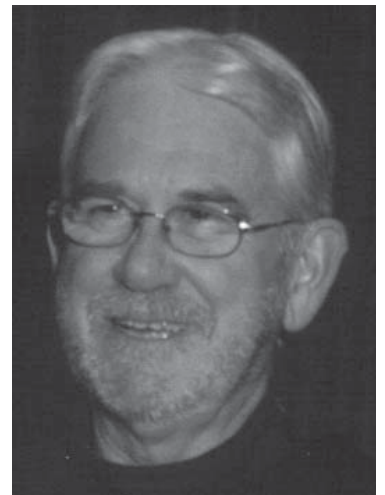
*The following is the first of a three part series of Fr Paul's journey.*

More and more people have now heard of the Pilgrimage walk to Santiago de Compostella, a city in north western Spain, famous for housing the remains of St. James, the 'brother of the Lord.'

As far back as the Middle Ages people would embark on the walk in spiritual reflection and repentance and stepping aside from the hectic pace of everyday life abandoning all to follow 'the poor and humble Christ'. Although the Pilgrimage fell into disuse for some centuries it has been re-discovered and once again many thousands of people walk it every year.

The most commonly used route is from east to west and covers about 700 kilometres commencing in Pamplona, Spain. It is this walk that I undertook over forty days last September to October.

Walking the Camino (common name given to the pilgrimage) can be likened to the experience of an intense retreat. It's about walking, rhythm, trusting and abandoning yourself to God's care. It's about **detachment**, **knowing your limits**, and being open to **new experiences**. It's about **solitude** but also about **company** and in the end, it's about **blessing**. It can be a wonderful way to test your heart, re-discover the God within and to regain your courage.



*The walk involves two parallel experiences:*

Firstly the **physical**, which was all about aching feet, the number of kilometres ahead, the heaviness of my backpack, steep hills up and even steeper ones coming down.

Secondly, the **spiritual**, which was inevitable. No previous experience in any religious tradition was necessary. All that was needed was an open heart and a sense of wonder.

Walking 700 kilometres may seem excessive, but like prayer, each step repeats a mantra, each stretch ahead is like moving through darkness towards light and there's no way to plunge into the unknown without surrendering yourself and entrusting your journey to God. To walk the Camino is like answering a call. A call to move beyond who we normally are because all too often we are out of step with our inner spirit and because we all desire greater harmony in our lives.

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## Reflection

In our lives, we too can become wounded and resentful from relationships which may have gone wrong. Our own stubbornness and pride often prevents us from taking the necessary steps to rebuild relationships. This communication breakdown can leave us distressed and broken hearted.

Those of us who have received the sacrament of Reconciliation are called to exercise that right by

expressing and accepting apologies in our own lives. 'I'm sorry', when heartfelt can be very powerful. It is from this one act that relationships can begin to heal.

May the significance and impact we witnessed of the apology to Aboriginal people from the government provide impetus in each of us to heal the broken relationships in our own lives.

# New Prior General for the Carmelite Order

In September of 2007 the Carmelite Order held a General Chapter in Sassone, Rome to elect the new Prior General and Council of the Order.

**Fr Fernando Millán Romeralá, O.Carm**, was elected as the new Prior General. Fr Millán was born in Madrid, Spain on August 19, 1962. He made his Simple Profession on October 3, 1982 and was ordained priest on January 21, 1989. His parents are deceased. His brother and family live in Madrid.

Fr Fernando studied in Spain and at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and in Ireland. He holds a degree in Philosophy, a license in Dogmatic Theology and a doctorate in Theology. Until his election, he was a professor of Theology at the Pontifical University of Comillas and a member of the Carmelite Institute in Rome. He served as the Provincial Councillor for Formation in his home province of Baetica in southern Spain. He also served on various commissions.

Over the past few months, the new General Council has met in Rome to set out a plan for the next six years, which will implement the decisions made by the General Chapter last September.

In addition to the existing areas of priority which the Council has on its agenda; Communication, Formation, Evangelisation, Justice and Peace, Religious Women and Laity, the Council has created two new areas of responsibility; Carmelite School and Youth.



The following members of the Province of Australia and Timor-Leste have been appointed to various commissions of the General Council.

**Fr Paul Cahill**, Principal of Whitefriars College, Donvale, Melbourne has been appointed to the new General Commission for Schools and Youth.

**Fr Paul Chandler**, presently resident researcher at St Alberts Rome, has been appointed to the Central Committee for the Carmelite Institute.

**Fr Jim De Laurier** has been appointed to the General Commission for Finance.

**Anita Renehan**, a member of the Australian Lay Carmelites, has been appointed as communications person to the Executive Secretariat of the Commission for Carmelite Laity.

We wish the new Prior General and his Council and members of the International Commissions well as they continue to plan for the next six years.

## Mass Celebrations

In 2008 we continue to gather as a Carmelite family and join in unison to celebrate our **Mass of Healing and Anointing and our Mothers Mass.**

If you live in Brisbane or Sydney you are able to join in celebrating these Masses at the following locations and times.

**Coorparoo (Qld)** – Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 312 Cavendish Road,  
Mass of Healing & Anointing – Friday 23 May 9.00am.  
Feast of our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mothers' Mass – Sunday 13 July 9.30am.

**Wentworthville (NSW)** - Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 4 Bennett Street,  
Mass of Healing & Anointing – Friday 9 May 9.00am  
Feast of our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mothers' Mass – Sunday 13 July 10.30am

# Promising Signs

My last visit to East Timor (Timor-Leste) in February 2008 held a surprise for me. Before I left Australia I heard comments based on newspaper reports, ranging from praising me for being brave to being foolish for going to Timor-Leste just after the attempted assassination of its President and Prime Minister.

The surprise came when I landed and saw no military or police presence at the airport or anywhere else in the city of Dili. In fact, of all my previous visits to Timor-Leste, this was the quietest I have seen Dili. Of course there was, and still is, the threat of trouble from remnant of the rebels who to this day seem to be vacillating between surrendering and carrying on the fight. The political situation is still volatile, and with the added danger of very high unemployment, any spark could ignite the fire of rebellion again.

There are still extensive internal refugee camps and many refugees remain sheltered in convents, parishes and seminaries. These are people who have either lost their homes or are afraid to go back to their homes.



*Carmelite students in their second year of study*

In the midst of this difficult situation, Carmelites in Timor-Leste continue to flourish, with forty four students at various stages of formation. My impression is that these are good, solid young men who are in the care of very capable professed Timorese and Indonesian Carmelites and who give great promise for the future of Carmel and the Church in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste is a beautiful country with beautiful people. We must go on praying for and supporting all efforts at bringing about reconciliation and peace to Timor-Leste so that the country can begin to stabilize and develop its full potential.

**Fr Anthony Scerri**

Member of the Wentworthville Community NSW

## ✓ YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF CARMELITES

Find enclosed my donation of:  \$20  \$50  \$100  \$250 Other \$

Payment made by:  Mastercard  Visa  Cheque (payable to Carmelite Friars)

OR  I would like to pledge the above amount to my credit card  Monthly  Quarterly

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is for: (you may wish to choose more than one area)

- East Timor Mission \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Carmelite students from India, Indonesia, East Timor \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Care of aged and sick Carmelites \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Carmelite Ministries in Australia \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ P/Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel AH : \_\_\_\_\_ Tel BH : \_\_\_\_\_

I would like information on making a bequest in my will

Send to: **Society of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 75 Wright Street, Middle Park. VIC 3206**

# News in brief

**Fr Jim Des Laurier** returned home to Australia after six year in Rome as the Bursar General of the Carmelite Order. Stationed at Port Melbourne, Fr Jim has been appointed the new Provincial Delegate for the Lay Carmelites in Australia and Provincial Bursar.

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**Fr Anthony Scerri** has also returned home to Australia after serving twelve years in Rome as General Councillor responsible for Africa, Asia and Australia. He is now living with the Wentworthville Community in NSW.

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**Fr Joseph Chalmers** retired Prior General of the Order returned home to Aylesford, Great Britain, after spending three months in Australia on sabbatical.

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**Br Daryl Moresco**, a member of our province working as Pre-Novitiate director in Chicago USA has recovered well from a bypass operation late last year.

**The Middle Park Stamp Group** wish to thank the many people who send in their used stamps or stamp collections to the group. Last year they were able to raise \$2,050 for our mission in East Timor. Please continue sending in your used stamps, they are gratefully appreciated. Address your package to The Middle Park Stamp Group, 75 Wright Street Middle Park. 3206.

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**Betty Warnock** who recently retired from the Lay Carmelite National Council of Australia on which she served for many years as National Secretary and Treasurer recently passed away after a period of illness with cancer. Betty was well known to Lay Carmelites around the country.

At the family's request those wishing to make a gift in memory of Betty Warnock are asked to support our Carmelite Mission in East Timor. Many thanks to the family.

## Gifts in Memory

You may wish to consider arranging for memorial gifts in honour of a beloved family member to support work of the Carmelites and their missions.

Help us to continue our work with the poorest and those in greatest need in East Timor, and to continue to reach out to people who seek spiritual nourishment.

For more information please contact Nancy Mercurio on 03 9690 8822.



**Flowers bloom and fade away**  
But a gift in memory lives and grows forever