

Nine days with Mary

Intentions for the Novena of Prayer for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

In the Novena we are asking that Mary join her prayer to ours for the various people and needs we mention.

Each day as you begin your time of prayer, sit quietly and ask Mary to be with you as you pray. Read the day's intention and call to mind the people in the intention. Think about what life is like for them.

Pray in your own way and your own words for these people, especially those known to you. Bring your time of prayer to a close using the Novena Prayer:



**Holy One of Israel,
Carmelites have always loved Mary the Mother of your Son.
She is our sister – in humanity and in faith.
With her we ask you to care for those we remember today,
to show them that you walk with them in darkness and in light.
We ask this through Jesus, your beloved Son. Amen.**

July 7 *for people everywhere*

- protection for young people
- strength for families
- care for the elderly
- companionship for single and unpartnered people

July 8 *for our world*

- justice and peace for all people
- respect for culture and religious practice
- deep regard for human rights

July 9 *for those deprived of freedom*

- justice for the oppressed
- friends for the housebound
- peace for the anxious

July 10 *for the homeless and the lonely*

- comfort for the lonely
- shelter for the homeless
- acceptance for refugees

July 11 *for those without work*

- hope for those who cannot find work
- contentment for those who are retired
- courage for those prevented from work by illness, injury or disability

July 12 *for the sick*

- healing for the physically ill
- peace for troubled minds
- mending of broken hearts

July 13 *for all Christians*

- faith and commitment in marriage
- fulfillment for single people
- increase in religious vocations

July 14 *for those in need*

- food for the hungry
- support for those struggling to make ends meet
- hope for those who despair

July 15 *for those who live with violence and abuse*

- healing for those physically harmed
- strength for those emotionally hurt
- courage for those building new lives

Carmel Contact



from the Australian Carmelites
www.carmelites.org.au

Mary – a woman for today

Over the years I have had mixed feelings about Mary. As a child I looked at her standing in a blue robe, with blonde ringlets, eyes cast down, foot planted on the head of a serpent. I knew who she was then – she was the mother of God, a virgin, the one conceived without original sin. She didn't need to be buried! She was assumed into Heaven. Best of all, she was my mother too. She was my intermediary with God.

During my teens and in later years I left Mary on the pedestal. She no longer held my sense of awe and wonder. She was removed from my experiences. She couldn't possibly know what was happening to my body, my emotions, my realizations of what it is to be woman.

Is that Mary's fault? I don't think so. A friend of mine was asked if he prayed to Mary. His reply has caused me to smile wryly to myself many times – "There's no point. She's never home!" Mary's appearances throughout the world have been well documented. We need the woman Mary to be around. Mary was a Jewish mother (with all that that implies). We know that she listened to her dreams, that she had deeply spiritual experiences, that during pregnancy she visited her elderly pregnant cousin, who was so glad to see her that the infant in her womb leapt for joy! She said "Yes" to the voice of an angel and trusted that she would be able to do what was asked from her. We know that she gave birth in poverty, that she was a refugee. We know that she was courageous enough to stand with Jesus when the Apostles had abandoned him in fear. She was Jesus' first disciple. She kept experiences deep in her heart to ponder on them while she went about her chores. Perhaps she too lay awake at night "pon-

dering" while Joseph blissfully snored by her side!

Is Mary the type of woman you would like to imitate? We certainly need women like her in Australia today. Like her, we are the carriers of the Good News. We



are the ones who must show compassionate hospitality to all people – regardless of their nationality or religious beliefs. Because we are the nurturers of gentleness, intuition and creativity we must speak out for those women and children who are incarcerated behind wire or bars. When we hear women labelled in an abusive way we must correct the error – "All women are not like that!" When we see the women of the stolen generation weep for the hurt of the past, we are the ones who must say sorry and weep with them. When we hear of Australians at war we must

remember our women - the ones who went and the ones who stayed home. When we see our young girls starving themselves and being pressured to live and look like media models, we must love them into being themselves (and make sure that we too are not being seduced by the same advertising!) Our love for life must infect those of our young who are in despair, so that they want to live.

Mary was a courageous woman. She stood her ground when the men around her fled. She was wise enough to know when to speak and when to be silent. She anticipated the needs of another and put herself out to meet those needs. She believed in the message of Jesus Christ – the message that is a sign of contradiction to a world where "having" is more important than "being". She walked the road with the men in her life and her feminine difference complemented their masculinity.

Mary would have understood the need for a desert experience. She would have taken time to examine her life and her role in it. She knew who she was as mother, wife, disciple and friend. Perhaps the image of a striding, strong-limbed, goal intent, sensuous woman Mary, must replace that of the untouchable virgin on the pedestal. We may have difficulty being the latter, but the former is the type of woman we need to be to confront our Australian society.

"For behold from this day, all generations shall call you blessed." Mary is the blessed example of woman. May generations also remember each woman as a woman who made a difference. They too are full of grace.

Deirdre Penbale

East Timorese Visit to Australia

THE Australian Carmelite province is hosting four Carmelite priests from East Timor who are seeking help for their devastated parish.

The East Timor Carmelites became part of the order's Australian province last August. They had previously been in the Indonesian province.

Three of the priests are the first East Timorese ordained as Carmelites. They are Fr Augusto Sampaio da Costa, who was ordained on September 14, 2000, and Frs Nelinho Americo Ferreira Soares and Aniceto Maia da Costa, who were both ordained on November 14, 2001.

The fourth priest, Fr Eligius Ipong, is an Indonesian ordained in 1991.

They have responsibility for the parish of Zumalai, which was devastated by the pro-Indonesian militias when East Timorese voted for independence in 1999.

It has no power, no reticulated water and the school is a burnt-out shell.



East Timorese Carmelites : Aniceto, Augusto, Ipong and Nelinho

Australian provincial Fr Wayne Stanhope said that the people of Zumalai had been "brutalised physically and emotionally".

The four priests met parishioners at Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Coorparoo during their stay in Brisbane and the parish pastoral council. The parish plans to help Zumalai in every way it can.

The four priests have also visited Melbourne and Sydney, after celebrating with the Coorparoo community in the presence of St Therese's relics when they

visited the parish on April 26 and 27.

The priests will be returning home after their visit to Sydney.

Thank you to The Catholic Leader for supplying us with the above article.

In Melbourne the four Carmelite priests from East Timor joined with the Australian friars in the annual general meeting of the province as well as visiting the parishes of Middle Park, Port Melbourne and Gladstone Park.

As well as having the joy of meeting our new province members, we learned something of the situation in East Timor, the difficulties that the people face there, and the hopes and plans of the four Carmelites to serve the people of their extensive parish.

There are enormous challenges – spiritual, economic, social and psychological – which they are approaching with optimism and a quiet determination.

Farewell Hilarius



Hilarius Beslon Pandiangan

I still remember when Agung and I first came to Australia. It was 25 January 1998. At the time, although with broken English, Agung was able to communicate, I

could only say "Yes" or "No",

trying to figure out the meaning of every word that had just been spoken. It was a very tiring time for me, and still is even now. However I can still enjoy it because for me every day is always a new experience. Maybe it's like a baby when learning to stand on its own two feet, falling down, getting up and then try and try again...

Most important for me was the feeling of being cared for and understood, although I could not express in words what I wanted or hoped for. So, in other

words, the loving, caring and support I received from all my Carmelite brothers all over Australia, our Lay Carmelite brothers and sisters, the Carmelite Parishes, particularly the Parish of St Anne and St Gerard in Park Orchards, the twin parishes of Middle Park and Port Melbourne, Wentworthville and Coorparoo, made me feel welcome and always happy during my time in Australia.

Time has passed so quickly. Four years and 5 months I've been living here. In June of this year my studies in Australia end and I will prepare to go home where I will start new work and responsibilities in Indonesia. Although I am not sure of what kind of work I will do in Indonesia, I will probably be assigned as a staff member in the area of formation and spiritual guidance for novices.

There are a lot of dreams in my heart of what I would like to do and how to share all my experiences of Australia. I really believe that my time here studying and

living in our Carmelite community has been a very rich experience to be reflected upon and to be shared. My studies in Spirituality were one of the most challenging areas, but living with the Carmelites in a European multicultural life style was most inspiring for me.

So on this particular occasion I would like to express my gratitude to God for giving me such beautiful times travelling overseas and living and studying in Australia. Thank you to all the Carmelites and friends of Carmel for your loving care and lasting support of me and other fellow-Carmelites from Asian countries. I will always remember your love and support for me and for our brothers and sisters in Indonesia, and I shall remember all of you in my prayers. May God bless you all with lasting joy and his abundant love. I hope to see you again here in Australia or maybe on your travels to Indonesia. Once again, thank you very much and God bless!

*Your brother,
Hilarius Beslon Pandiangan, O.Carm.*

Mothering – the centre of Inspiration & Identity

The second year of our infant millennium, 2002, is celebrated as the Year of the Outback. Images of the outback bring to mind the red earth, strange and wondrous formations of ancient rock, ghostly gums, the deep blue of the sky and the fierceness of the heat of the sun. Internationally, these are the images by which our nation is identified. Yet most of our population does not live in the outback and some have never been able to travel beyond the coastline.

It seems we treasure the images of the outback because they are uniquely Australian, and inspire us with a sense of majesty in the vision of unending space and sameness, yet which often surprises us with minute wild life and flora.

Early stories of the outback tell of courage and heroism in the face of extreme isolation. Today, the magnetism of the inland is still balanced by the hardship of isolation: paucity of medical expertise compared to that available to city dwellers, depleted opportunities to shop and the added cost of transport on every item, often the distance from extended family and the time and cost of travel, and for many the uncertainty of an income subject to the unpredictability of weather and the demand of the market.

Living in the outback offers us extremes of experience – magical moments and the possibility of heart-break. This description could also be made about the experience of

motherhood!! For me, as for many women and also for Mary, being a mother meant being the vehicle for the first journey of life for the children with whom God gifted us. But also, mothering, nurturing, giving birth is often the work of those who do not give physical life to others, but rather a reason to live. Like the outback, motherhood is an experience with which others are inspired to identify.

As the earth of the outback provides much more than simply a place to live, being a parent means much more than making a donation of body matter. Parenting is the invitation to offer a gift of the energy of life to those who follow us, in the short span of the human journey which is uniquely ours.

Back in 1844 the Australian bishops dedicated our nation to the motherhood of Mary under the title of Help of Christians. Our knowledge of God and of matters spiritual continues to be enriched. Because of what we know about the inclusive embrace of human mothers, perhaps today we see Mary, in her role as our patron, not only as mother of Christians but as the helper of all Australians in the cities and in the outback, nurturer of those of all faiths and of those with no faith at all.

Pat Mullens

Welcome Carmel



Carmel Dorman

Hi, I'm Carmel Dorman and in January this year I started work as the Provincial Secretary. I was born and raised in Nambour, Queensland and taught by the Good Samaritans at

the local convent school. My working life began in Brisbane and then after a few years I moved to Mount Isa. The majority of my time since then has been spent overseas, primarily London. I'm married to John whose greatest pastime is sending little missives to the letters page of "The Australian" and "The Age" (and they get published).

John and I returned to Australia three years ago, and to our adopted hometown, Melbourne. As we had been away for a number of years I wanted to

work in the community to help re-establish ourselves. I completed an Aged Care course and for a time worked in a Nursing Home as a personal carer. I found it very rewarding but physically demanding. I needed lighter duties!! So, here I am.

I am loving my work and am especially delighted that the Australian Province is responsible for the East Timor Mission. When I left school I was very interested in Mission work but I didn't pursue it. It was wonderful to meet Ipong, Augusto, Aniceto and Nelinho during their recent visit to Melbourne

I'm hoping that my past experience in London, where I assisted in the establishment of personnel and projects in developing countries and my desire to be involved in community life will prove valuable and contribute to the challenging work that lies ahead for the Carmelites in Australia and East Timor.

Carmel Dorman

CARMELITES....



Brothers who:

- Seek the face of the Living God
- In the midst of the people

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