

# Carmel CONTACT

COMMUNITY • PRAYER • ACTION

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## A TIME TO REMEMBER

When a loved one dies we grieve for them. Our sadness can overwhelm us while our grief seems never ending. When someone dies, we can experience sadness, denial, even anger that they are no longer with us. **The sad reality is they leave a gaping hole in our lives.**

As the days and months pass, our grieving changes and while we are eternally sad they are not with us, we carry them deep in our hearts. In time we remember them fondly and smile at the memories of the good times we shared.

For the Carmelite family, we continue to grieve three extraordinary Carmelites. It has now been over two years since the deaths of Frs Noel Kierce, Frank Shortis and Jim De Laurier. All three gave of themselves selflessly and wholeheartedly, to prayer, to service and to community, leaving behind a wonderful legacy. **They live on in our hearts and memories.**

Please join us on Saturday 4 November, 6.00pm at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Middle Park for our Remembrance Mass where we will remember them and all our loved ones who have died. Together let's light a candle in their memory. Let us pray for and remember them taking strength from each other and from the memories they left us with, **knowing they are in God's care.**



The Carmelites  
Australia and Timor-Leste  
community • prayer • action

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# A MESSAGE TO YOU FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

**I am very grateful for the generous support we continue to receive from caring individuals, businesses and community groups. Their philanthropy and kindness is directly contributing to the growth in our Order, to more children attending school in Timor-Leste, and to more Australians receiving spiritual comfort and care.**

**Today I share with you how our Order continues to grow because of the support we receive.**

On Saturday 29 July, Brothers Januario Pinto and Pedro Amaral were ordained priests by Bishop Basilio do Nascimento in their local parish church at Luro, Timor-Leste. An outdoor altar was built by the families of Januario and Pedro for the Ordination mass. Over 1,000 people crammed into every available vantage point around the altar. Celebrations began with a formal welcome of the Bishop and me. The next day, Januario and Pedro, wearing traditional dress, were brought to the Church by their families. Their mothers removed the traditional dress and helped them into their albs and stoles, ready for the Ordination.

**A number of young Carmelite students continue their Carmelite journey...**

Br Martinho Da Cruz Lemos made his Solemn Profession of Vows (life commitment) in the Carmelite Order during Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Middle Park (Vic) on Saturday 15 July. Among those attending were parishioners of the Carmelite Parish, fellow-students from the University of Divinity, members of the East Timorese community in Melbourne and fellow Carmelites.

Br Matthew Tonini renewed his simple (temporary) vows as a Carmelite during Evening Prayer in the Carmelite community, Middle Park (VIC) on Thursday 22 June.

Brs Albino Dos Santos, Marcolino Gomes, Agostinho Dos Santos and Avelino Dos Santos did likewise on Wednesday 19 July.

In addition, seven Carmelite students received the ministries of Lector and Acolyte. Brs Cesaltino, Julião and David received the ministry of Lector while Brs Anacleto, José, Frangelino and Silvestre received the ministry of Acolyte. Lectors proclaim the Word of God in liturgical assemblies, instruct adults and children in the faith and prepare them to receive the sacraments. Acolytes assist the priest during the celebration of the Eucharist, holding the Missal, preparing the altar and the vessels and cleaning them after Communion.

We warmly congratulate all of our young Carmelites on taking their next steps in their Carmelite journey and give them our prayerful support for the rest of their journey.

Lastly, I reflect back on the lives of Frs Noel, Frank and Jim. Every day I remember them and thank God for their inspiration and the love they had for serving God and the community. We are richer for having had them in our Order and in our lives. I hope you will join me at this year's Remembrance Mass where together we can celebrate the lives of all our dearly departed loved ones.

Yours in Carmel,



Fr Paul Cahill O.Carm  
Prior Provincial



# TRANSFORMING LIVES IN TIMOR-LESTE THROUGH EDUCATION

**Education is a precious gift. Learning to read and write can transform a person's life. The Carmelites are transforming people's lives in Timor-Leste through our Scholarship program.**

**Since 2005, the Carmelites have awarded 200 scholarships to children and young adults.**

The Carmelites Scholarship program began by offering scholarships to students in Zumalai. Over the years and with increasing interest from Australian donors keen to transform a child's life, the program has expanded to now include scholarships for those living in Hera, near the capital Dili. Today, the scholarships the Carmelites are able to award include Primary, Junior and Senior High School, Trade School Skill Courses and University Degrees.

**In 2017, twenty seven scholarships were offered across both Zumalai and Hera.**

Earlier this year **Estalita Dos Reis from the Zumalai Scholarship program, graduated and completed her degree.** Estalita attended the Institute of Cience of Religius in Suai studying teaching. She travelled to the Institute every day from Zumalai where she lives and dreams of becoming a Religious Teacher. Today Estalita is a voluntary teacher at the Carmelite Catholic Primary School in Zumalai and also the Parish Secretary. She enjoys her work gaining great joy and happiness from teaching children and contributing in a positive way to her local community.



**The Scholarship program has transformed Estalita's life and can transform many more young people helping them to achieve their hopes and dreams. If you would like to learn more or support more young people like Estalita please contact Nancy Mercurio on 03 9690 8822 or email [nancy@carmelites.org.au](mailto:nancy@carmelites.org.au)**

## ATTENDING SCHOOL BECAUSE OF YOU

The support received from parishes, schools and community groups helps the Carmelites to transform lives in Australia and Timor-Leste. The generosity of the Coorparoo community is one such example.

Since 2015, the Friends of Zumalai, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School and the Parents and Friends Association have together raised over \$39,000 for the building of a new toilet and kitchen block for the Boarding House in Zumalai. Br Antonio has reported that building works commenced in late July and expects they will be completed by end of the year.

These new facilities will benefit the 27 young boys currently living in the Boarding House. These boys come from outlying villages and would not be able to attend school without having a place where they can live. Education is a priority for the Carmelites. The gifts received from communities like Coorparoo ensure more children receive the gift of education. Education not only changes the life of a child but also positively impacts on their family and community.

# AN OPEN DOOR TO THE WORD OF GOD

**In 1996, Fr Ken Petersen O.Carm and Sr Kathleen Murphy O.P. recognised that they could create a welcoming space to help people find freedom and a sense of personal dignity and purpose.**

They founded Sancta Sophia Meditation Community, a place to promote inter religious dialogue through the practice and teaching of meditation, located on a beautiful property known as 'Karith' by the Yarra River in Warburton.

**This year marks a special milestone for Sancta Sophia – 21 years of supporting people on their spiritual journey through mediation, ritual, liturgy and sharing the Word of God.**

Over the years, Fr Ken and Sr Kathleen have created an environment of support and inclusiveness based on two central images.

**The Open Door** – a place open to sharing experiences with others and receiving inspiration and direction from traditions

**The Shared Table** – a place of gathering, meditation, silence and creativity for all

"Sancta Sophia translates to 'Holy Wisdom'. It represents the search for Wisdom as found in the Great traditions of the world", said Fr Ken.

Meditation and contemplation play key roles in providing support for people. The approach to meditation is a holistic one emphasised by the unity of Body, Mind and Spirit. Fr Ken explains that this enables people to listen deeply, be receptive to other people's ideas and world views, and be open to the challenge of change in their lives.

Fr Ken and Sr Kathleen have created a life-giving community where the stranger is always welcomed.

For Sr Kathleen Sancta Sophia has become a place for people to gather. "I have experienced so many people searching for an authentic spirituality. Our ministry has been to encourage the deepening of the spirituality and to introduce practices which will help them to encounter their humanity on their spiritual journey."

Fr Ken says, "We have received many blessings over the past 21 years. We are grateful for everyone's contribution to the success of Sancta Sophia." **Our community is richer for having Sancta Sophia Meditation Community. Here's to the next 21 years.**



# MISSION DAY AT OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Students and staff at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School in Coorparoo, Queensland, have been very busy in August preparing for their annual Mission Day.**

This year's Mission Day provided the Grade Six students with an opportunity to understand what it means to help people less fortunate than themselves. **They chose to raise funds for children in Zumalai, Timor-Leste.**

The students learnt about Catholic Social Teaching and Mission within their Religious Education Curriculum and added fun to their learning by designing activities, such as the Shaving Cream Attack, Haunted House, Laugh Out Loud and Novelty Races, all designed for the Mission Day. Students donated or asked students from other grades to donate items for their activity.

The day began with a Mass celebrated by Fr Wayne Stanhope for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and then all students were involved in the Mission Day activities. Jenna Webb, Religious Education teacher said "we are very proud to be able to donate a total of \$3,688.80 to the children of Zumalai from this event."

**The Carmelites thank the students, teachers and parents of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School for their wonderful support of the people in Zumalai.**



# 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF BL TITUS BRANDSMA

On Thursday 27 July 2017 the Carmelites reflected on the 75th anniversary of the martyrdom of Bl Titus Brandsma. He was a Dutch scholar and writer who was killed in Dachau Concentration Camp because of his stance against Nazism.

Born in The Netherlands in 1881, Titus joined the Carmelite Order as a young man. Ordained in 1905, he brought his deep prayer practice to his studies, his teaching and his writing. In 1923 Titus helped the Dutch Bishops found the Catholic University of Nijmegen where he served as professor of philosophy and of the history of mysticism and, later, as Rector.

Titus was noted for his constant availability to everyone and for his concern for the wellbeing of his students, especially those less well-off for whom he collected food, clothing and blankets. He was a professional journalist and a leading figure in Dutch Catholic Press. In 1935 he was appointed ecclesiastical advisor to Catholic journalists.

Both before and during the Nazi occupation of The Netherlands Titus was an outspoken advocate for the Catholic press and religious freedom. For this he was arrested in January 1942 and sent to a succession of prisons and concentration camps where he brought comfort and peace to his fellow prisoners and even did good to his tormentors.

In 1942, after much suffering and many humiliations, he was killed by lethal injection at Dachau. He was 61 years old. Titus Brandsma was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 3 November 1985. **Today, Titus Brandsma is a source of inspiration for journalists, those who are oppressed, and for those involved in the search for God.**



# ALWAYS REMEMBERING WITH LOVE IN OUR HEARTS

**Pia is a loving wife and mother of three beautiful children - Damian, Martin and Mirella. In July 1998 her world turned upside down. A devout Catholic, Pia drew on her faith in God to see her through one of the most traumatic events any mother or person could ever experience – the death of her child.**

Her son Damian bravely fought leukaemia. However, within two years of his diagnosis he succumbed to the disease, aged 11. Pia shares her story in the hope that what she and her family have gone through may provide strength and hope to another person in a similar situation.

“I believe in God, that He is with us through the good and bad times, and when all seems lost He provides us with the strength we need to keep going.

My eldest son Damian passed away almost 17 years ago. I still feel his presence with me every day. His ashes are in an urn which we keep in our lounge room. Every morning I say “good morning” to him and I say “good night” every evening. Sometimes we feel he is speaking to us and is a part of family events and celebrations.

Damian’s death left a big hole in our lives. Each of us had to overcome our own grief to be able to move on in some way. The illness and everything we went through put a lot of pressure on our family. **I was angry - why us, why Damian?**

I had devoted every minute of my days to caring for Damian while my other children had lost their sense of family. They were not together, each one being with one set of grandparents. Their lives had been turned upside down too.

After some initial grieving I realised that my attitude was driving a wedge between my husband and I. My parents were also urging me to find a way to move forward. They would say “your children need you, you have to do this for them.”

I felt abandoned and in a way how I was dealing with my grief meant that I was abandoning my family as well. I could either let this tragedy destroy our family or I could choose to reunite us, to strengthen our family and find a way to keep Damian a part of our lives moving forward.

My husband buried himself in work so as to keep the family going and earn an income to pay the bills. He was doing the best he could. He believed Damian would get better and there would be time to spend with him when he was well – to do all those things he had been promising.

My beautiful boy Martin had lost his big brother and his best friend. He was an angry little boy for a long time, but slowly he too learnt to readjust to life without Damian. Mirella was only four so once normality returned to the family Mirella adjusted well.

Christmas is a very hard time for all of us because Damian died on 20th December. His birthday is on 30 December. While Christmas will always carry a cloud of sadness for us we have tried to make it a happy occasion.

**Letting go of my anger helped me to feel my beautiful son Damian was once again beside me.**

I had to have faith that we would get through this as a family. I had to believe that God took Damian for a reason. I had to let go of my anger and any negativity I was hanging onto. I had to be there for Mirella, Martin and my husband. My faith in God is always there and I know he is looking after Damian now.

Today 17 years on, each of us carries Damian in our hearts differently. Each of us has adjusted to a new life. We all believe that Damian is our guardian angel who watches over us. Sometimes we feel his presence more than others and we always make sure that he is a part of every moment of our family life.

Damian was a gift to us for a short time. He taught us a lot. Damian will be loved and remembered forever. We will always keep his memory alive. **The best advice I can give anyone is that in letting go of your anger you will feel your loved one with you forever more.”**



# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CARMELITE LIFE

**On Tuesday 22 August this year, Brother Sean Keefe celebrated 50 years of Carmelite life. The Carmelite values of prayer, community and service attracted him to join the Order in 1965 while his years training in Washington made him a keen advocate for social justice.**

Since he made his first profession of vows as a Carmelite in 1967, Br Sean's journey has taken him to many places including Australia and Timor-Leste. It has also seen him do anything and everything from looking after chickens to community involvement along with teaching and student welfare in Carmelite schools.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Br Sean taught at a number of Carmelite schools across the USA, where he involved students in local community and social justice issues. Sean brought his sense of community and justice to Whitefriars College in Donvale, Victoria, where he has been a teacher and chaplain since 2001. He has fostered a strong community and social justice ethos among staff and students, getting students involved with local community initiatives, especially those aimed at isolated and disadvantaged people.

Sean has also become heavily involved both in fundraising and providing practical support for children, families and communities in Timor-Leste since 2004. When he first visited Timor-Leste in 2004 he was struck by the poverty of the people, especially in the rural Carmelite parish of Zumalai. "Most people don't have electricity or running water in their homes," he said. "They live in small, simple houses with barely enough to eat."

His contribution to community involvement was recognised in 2011 when he was named 'Citizen of the Year' by Manningham Council. In 2016 Sean's community service was recognised when he received the Order of Australia Medal. He is the first Carmelite in Australia to receive this honourable award.



*On Sunday 20 August Carmelites and friends gathered at Whitefriars College to celebrate Sean's anniversary Mass. We congratulate Sean on 50 years of Carmelite life!*

## YES! I WILL SUPPORT THE CARMELITES IN THEIR WORK.

Please accept my gift of:

\$30    \$50    \$80    \$200    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
my choice

Please direct my gift to:

- Carmelites in Community  
 Carmelite Students in training  
 Education for children in Timor-Leste  
 Carmelite Library (gifts are tax deductible)

I would like to donate by:

Cheque / Money Order (payable to Carmelite Friars)

**OR** Please debit my:  MasterCard    Visa

✂ \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order the following Prayer Cards:

Card	Qty	Card	Qty
Healing & Peace	___	A Gift of Prayer	___
Spiritual Support	___	Sympathy	___
Special Occasion	___	Mothers Prayer	___
Complete Set			

Each card costs \$5 or buy the complete set for \$25 (save \$5)  
Plus Postage

**My Details:** (please print clearly)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ P/Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Mob: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information on leaving a Bequest in my Will

There are three ways you can donate:

1. Complete and return this form to  
The Carmelites - Australia and Timor-Leste  
Fundraising Development Office  
PO Box 5295, Middle Park, Vic, 3206

2. Contact us  
Tel: 03 9690 8822  
Email: fundraising@carmelites.org.au

3. Donate online  
www.carmelites.org.au/donate



## LOVE CAN ACCOMPLISH ALL THINGS

St Therese of Lisieux once said, *“Things that are most impossible become easy where love is at work.”* Her faith along with her belief in mission to help people in need demonstrate that where there is love there is hope. Her teachings and words are embraced by the Carmelites, guiding us to follow in her footsteps and reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves.

**Our Carmelite Mission Partners are showing their love for those in need.** Their monthly contributions are providing stable and regular financial support required for the Carmelites to help transform and empower people and communities. Their support ensures we can continue to celebrate life milestones such as baptisms, marriages and funerals; to get people back on their feet and become productive members of society once again; and to give comfort and care to those who are vulnerable, traumatised or feeling isolated and alone.

You can become a Carmelite Mission Partner today and pledge a monthly gift to the Carmelites. For more information contact Georgie Ogilvy on 03 9690 8822 or [fundraising@carmelites.org.au](mailto:fundraising@carmelites.org.au)

## COMFORT AND SYMPATHY THROUGH PRAYER

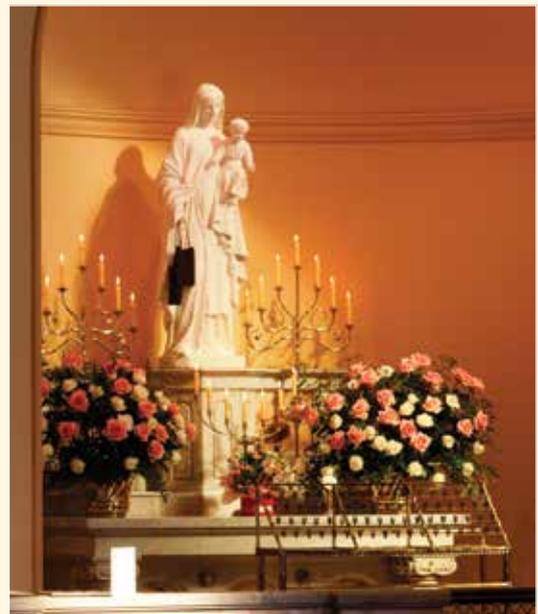
The Carmelites' Sympathy Prayer Card has been designed to provide comfort and support for those experiencing loss and grief. When you send one of our Sympathy Prayer Cards you are letting a person know that the Carmelites will hold them in their prayers during their time of grief and that a Mass will be offered in memory of their loved one.

The Sympathy Prayer card is one of six unique Carmelite Prayer cards marking significant occasions or moments and can be used any time of the year. Each card costs \$5 or purchase the complete set for \$25. **To purchase your Sympathy Prayer Cards complete the form attached, or contact the Fundraising Office on 03 9690 8822 or [fundraising@carmelites.org.au](mailto:fundraising@carmelites.org.au)**



## YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR REMEMBRANCE MASS

On Saturday 4 November at 6pm at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Middle Park, Victoria, we will be holding our Remembrance Mass to remember and commemorate deceased loved ones. Together we will light a candle in their memory, as we stand united in our grief. We will pray for and remember them taking strength from each other and from the memories they left us with.



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