

Carmel CONTACT

COMMUNITY • PRAYER • ACTION

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THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE – THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU

When we are hurting, vulnerable, unwell or living in poverty, it can become difficult to find a way out or to even find peace within ourselves.

For over 200 years the Carmelites have been providing spiritual and practical support to those in need in Australia. Since 2001 the Carmelites have been helping Timorese communities rebuild their lives and give them a sense of hope.

The reality is we would not be able to provide support without the generosity of our wonderful family of donors.

Giving is an extraordinary and selfless act.

It help us provide a new life to those in need, help give them a greater foundation to build a meaningful life, to reach their potential, to transform their lives.

We could not do this without you and thank you for giving people in Australia and Timor-Leste the Gift of New Life. Read on and discover how you are helping transform communities in Australia and Timor-Leste through prayer, community and action.



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

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A MESSAGE TO YOU FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

I hope the year has begun well for you and that, as it unfolds, it will prove to be one of peace and fulfilment. A new year brings us opportunities for new beginnings. As I reflect on the generosity of our caring family of donors I think of the new beginnings they are providing to people in need.

The support we have received has helped 270 children attend school in Zumalai and 116 children go to school in Raimea. My hope is that one day these children will break free from poverty.

Vulnerable and sick Australians are finding companionship from Carmelites working in parishes, schools, seminaries and spirituality ministries and the Carmelite students. Having someone to talk to, to share stories and to pray with, helps provide comfort and peace where there is loneliness and hurt.

And young men are able to continue their Carmelite journey. I am moved by the number of men who continue their studies and inspired by the many more keen to join our Order. I see these young men committed to our values and way of life, and feel comforted to know that our Order will be in good hands in the years to come.

Lastly, but more importantly, I thank you. You are the reason we are able to serve communities and provide spiritual support to those in need. Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together this year.

Yours in Carmel,



Fr Paul Cahill, OCarm
Prior Provincial



OUR GROWING ORDER

The last few months have been very busy for The Carmelites. As the young men continue on their journey to become Carmelites we welcomed more young men committed to serving communities.

In December, 10 young Carmelites made their first profession of vows in the presence of other Carmelites, family and friends. Our Provincial Fr Paul Cahill received the vows during Mass in Hera, Timor-Leste. These young men form the largest group of novices to make their first vows in the history of the Carmelite Province of Australia and Timor-Leste.

In the same month, Fr Paul formally received five young men into the Novitiate at Hera. For the past two years these young men have been preparing to become novices in our community at Fatuhada in Dili. We welcome them as they begin the Novitiate – a special year of learning more about the Carmelite journey of transformation.

In March we will welcome and admit six young men to the pre-novitiate program at Fatuhada. We wish them well in their journey under the direction of Fr Agostinho Exposto.

Congratulations are in order for Brothers Marcolino Gomes, Agostinho Dos Santos and Avelino Dos Santos who graduated to the next level of their English for Pastoral Ministry course. We warmly welcome Fr Roque Soares Da Cruz to Australia who will be doing English language studies in Brisbane this year. Since his Ordination in 2015 Roque has been helping with the formation of our young Carmelites at Hera in Timor-Leste.

We look forward to watching their journey and reporting on their progress to you.



SERVING OUTBACK COMMUNITIES ACROSS FNQ

The Carmelites work with communities in Australia and Timor-Leste helping people to restore their faith, reach their potential and transform their lives. Since 1882 the Carmelites have been serving people and communities across Australia. In 2010, Fr Laurie Timms moved into the ministry of Chaplain at St Augustine's College in Cairns, Far North Queensland. In moving to this region, he also had a desire to serve remote and indigenous communities, providing them with spiritual guidance and practical support. Here is his story:

"Even though my residence is in Cairns, I have pastoral oversight over rather a large area. I hesitate to call it a parish because it is rather big, stretching from Cooktown on the coast 330 km north of Cairns right through to the Queensland/Northern Territory border. It also includes Mornington Island. I share the oversight with a permanent deacon and a Sister of Saint Joseph.

The towns and stations that I regularly visit for Mass and the sacraments are from east to west: Cooktown, Lakeland, Mount Surprise, Georgetown, Forsayth, Croydon, Normanton, Karumba and the cattle station of Gregory Downs. Also Gununu on Mornington Island which is reached by Rex Airlines.

To give you some perspective - Cooktown is 330 km north of Cairns while Gregory Downs is 1075 km west of Cairns. A round trip including Cooktown, which I undertake five times a year is 3,200 km.



Fortunately the roads are sealed except for a small section near Forsayth. Masses are provided in Cooktown and Lakeland every month, all year round. Masses are provided in the Gulf towns from March till December. The wet season makes travel in January and February far too risky.

The congregations are not large and it is not uncommon to have nobody come. Cooktown and Normanton have the biggest numbers - between 12 and 20 people. Often there is no one at Karumba but during the tourism season there can be between 20 and 30 people.

There is only one secondary school in the Gulf, at Normanton, which goes only to Year 10. Most children attend boarding school in Cairns, Charters Towers or Townsville. We have a small number of boarders at Saint Augustine's College where I am Chaplain.

Normanton and Gununu have large indigenous populations. Unfortunately they are subject to many social dysfunctions such as unemployment, domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse and crime. The communities are remote and often feel disconnected geographically and spiritually so it is important to maintain a level of contact with them.

Occasionally I make special trips for funerals and baptisms. To illustrate the tyranny of distance involved - I celebrated the funeral of a young man in Cooktown. This involved a 240 km drive to meet his parents beforehand, then an 80 km drive to Cooktown for the Requiem, followed by a 145 km drive to a small outback town called Laura for the burial, followed by a 310 km drive back to Cairns.

I am happy that as a Carmelite I have the energy and enthusiasm to travel these distances and try and meet whatever **spiritual needs exist in the Outback.**

Fr Laurie Timms"

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK – REPORTING BACK TO YOU

There is a beautiful quote in the Bible:

“I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers”
Ephesians 1:16

The Carmelites give thanks to every individual, business and community group who selflessly supports our work. Their wonderful and generous gifts enable us to serve people and communities in Australia and Timor-Leste.

Last year over 1,300 caring people contributed \$635,177 towards our programs and projects. They donated to our appeals, gave a significant gift, left a Bequest in their Will, purchased Prayer Cards and other merchandise, organised and participated in fundraising efforts through parishes, community support groups and schools. And some provide regular gifts as Carmelite Mission Partners.

I want to share some highlights from 2017 showcasing the impact our wonderful donors.

The Gift of Community

Community is integral to the Carmelite Order. Last year Carmelites celebrated baptisms, marriages and funerals; helped disadvantaged youth get back on their feet; supported Lay Carmelite and other men and women who form part of the broader Carmelite Family to live a reflective life; cared for people at their most vulnerable; guided school and seminary students to become compassionate and involved members of society; and comforted people in their final hours.



The Gift of Education

Over 500 children and young adults are able to go to school in Timor-Leste because of caring Australians. Scholarships are helping young adults continue their studies. Donations have helped complete the building of the Zumalai Boarding House providing children from

remote villages a safe place to stay while they go to school. Teachers have the equipment and teaching aids they need. One day we will see communities rise up from poverty, all thanks to people like you.



The Gift of Tomorrow's Leaders

One of the greatest gifts we receive is the unwavering support of donors towards the journey of young men to become Carmelites. Their support means our Carmelite students continue with their theological and academic studies, while building community with people who are vulnerable. These young men are committed to living the Carmelite values of community, prayer and action.

The Gift of Carmelite Spirituality

The Carmelite Library is a national treasure of theology and spirituality. The support we receive means we can continue to build on its historical valuable collection. Our Library provides resources in Scripture, Spirituality and theology for people looking to nourish and deepen their Christian journey.

You can read more about the impact your giving has made in this issue of Carmel Contact. If you would like to learn more please contact the Fundraising Development Office on 03 9690 8822 or email fundraising@carmelites.org.au

Nancy Mercurio

Fundraising Development Director



A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE FOR THE CARMELITES

This year marks the centenary of The Carmelite Hall in Middle Park, Victoria, and we are inviting you to help us celebrate this significant milestone.

Designed by the highly-regarded architect Augustus Andrew Fritsch (1864 – 1933), the Hall was acknowledged as one of the finest parish halls in Australia at the time. “The Hall contained a spacious stage with adequate scenery for various types of plays, several dressing rooms, space under the stage for a gymnasium, a supper room, cloak rooms, library and club rooms in which the various societies connected with the Church could hold their meetings.”

The Hall was host to many special events including the 1939 Debutante Ball where over 400 guests attended the presentation of 24 debutantes and their partners. It was not unusual to hear locals talking with excitement about attending a Carmelite event at the Hall. Today the Hall is home to the Carmelite Centre and the Carmelite Library.

If you attended a special event or have memories of the Carmelite Hall we would love to hear from you. Contact Fundraising Development Office on 03 9690 8822 or email fundraising@carmelites.org.au



Carmelite Hall 1935. A two-storey brick structure with wooden staircase at the side (c.r.) and a picket fence at front. A tree and a power pole are in front in foreground. Frame verso reads: "Hatherley & Horsfall, decorators, 495 & 497 Burwood Road, Glenferrie. Photo courtesy of State Library of Victoria.

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE GIFT OF BOOKS

When the Carmelites first arrived in Australia in 1881, they brought the nucleus of today's Carmelite Library with them.

Most of the books they brought to Australia were practical guides to their pastoral ministry. Among these treasures were the *Ceremoniale* of 1616, which guided the priest through the intricacies of celebrating Mass according to the Order's ancient Rite of the Holy Sepulchre, dating to the time of the Crusades. There were also the Carmelite Constitutions of 1625 (reprinted 1721), and a number of 18th century liturgical books.

The Library's collection has been built up over many decades. Today, the Carmelite Library is an especially rich collection of books, journals and research materials, particularly in Christian mysticism and spirituality, but also embracing other spiritual traditions.

Originally located in Kew from 1928, the Library then moved to Donvale in 1937. In November 2002, the Carmelites made the decision to relocate it permanently to the more spacious and accessible premises in the heritage Carmelite Hall in Middle Park. **This move has seen the Library become accessible to every person interested in Scripture, theology and spirituality.**

There is nothing quite like the Carmelite Library and its rich catalogue of material anywhere else in Australia. The Carmelites want the library to be for everyone interested in the spiritual journey: for church members, students of spirituality, scholars working on major research projects, members of the community in search of the wisdom the ages, and those seeking understanding between religions. Come and visit the Carmelite Library – all are welcome.

DONATE TODAY AND PRESERVE THIS NATIONAL TREASURE

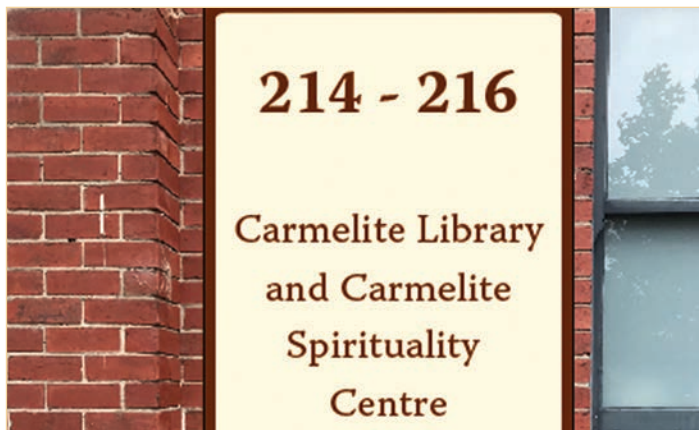
The Carmelite Library truly is a real treasure house of spiritual wisdom and an important centre for spiritual enrichment. However, to maintain such a collection of historical and theological books, the Library relies on donations from individuals, businesses and community groups.

Donations made to the Carmelite Library are tax deductible. If you would like to make a donation and preserve the Carmelite Library's collection of books please contact the Fundraising Development Office on 03 9690 8822 or email fundraising@carmelites.org.au and make your donation today.

OUR BRAND NEW SIGNS LET YOU DISCOVER MORE

If you're visiting Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middle Park, you just might notice our brand new signs. A number of signs have been replaced to help visitors and community members find such hidden gems as The Carmelite Centre, Carmelite Library of Spirituality, even our Provincial Office.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and services of Pumpkin Digital who with utmost professionalism and efficiency designed, printed and installed the signs. Pumpkin Digital provided all their services free of charge. "We see the good work you are doing and it is our way of giving back to the community," said Jayanna, co-owner. **Thank you Jayanna and all at Pumpkin Digital.**



PRAYER, COMFORT & COMPANIONSHIP ALL WELCOME TO OUR 2018 MASSES

The Carmelites offer prayer, comfort and companionship to all through four special Masses at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middle Park, Victoria. Each Mass provides an opportunity for people to come together in prayer to give thanks, to pray for healing from hurt or illness, and to remember loved ones. This year our Masses will be held on:

Sunday 31 March, Easter Vigil Mass

Gift of New Life Mass for healing, prayer or spiritual support

Sunday 15 July, 10:30am

Mothers' Mass for all mothers living and deceased

Saturday 3 November, 6:00pm

Remembrance Mass in memory of deceased loved ones

Monday 24 December, midnight

Christmas Mass for all your needs and intentions for the year ahead

If you are unable to attend our Masses you can send the names of loved ones you would like the Carmelites to pray for. Send your intentions and the names by mail to Fundraising Development Office, 75 Wright Street, Middle Park VIC 3206 or email fundraising@carmelites.org.au

THE GIFT OF HEALING, PRAYER & SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

When loved ones become ill, lose their job, experience a breakdown in relationship or suddenly find themselves alone it can be difficult to know how to help them.

Our Healing Prayer card has been designed to provide comfort, hope and support to those who are hurting, lonely or sick. When you send one of our Healing Prayer cards you are letting your loved one know you are thinking of them in their hour of need.

Our Healing Prayer card will also let them know that they will be prayed for during The Carmelites' Masses and Prayers. The Healing Prayer card is one of six Prayer cards marking significant occasions or moments in a person's life. Our six cards can be used any time of the year. They include:

Healing & Peace for those who are sick
A Gift of Prayer for all occasions

Spiritual Support for those going through physical or emotional struggles

Sympathy for those recently deceased

Special Occasion for birthdays, anniversaries and special moments

Mothers Prayer to celebrate and commemorate all mothers, living and deceased

You can order your Prayer card, or the entire set, by completing the form attached to this newsletter. Or contact the Fundraising Development Office on 03 9690 8822 or fundraising@carmelites.org.au



COMMUNITY GROUPS COME TOGETHER FOR TIMOR-LESTE

A pleasant & unexpected surprise

Fr Sebastian and Mary Immaculate Parish of Bossley Park, NSW raised \$2,447 in support of our Carmelite students. This unexpected yet welcomed gift came about from a conversation between Carmelite Fr Martinho and Fr Sebastian.

The joy of children supporting children

Children in primary and high schools are learning about how different life is for children in Timor-Leste. This is encouraging many of them to create school events and raise funds. We thank the following schools for supporting our **Education = Freedom** program:

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Wentworthville NSW
- Whitefriars College, Donvale VIC
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Coorparoo QLD

Together the schools raised over \$45,000 in 2017.

We thank the schools, teachers and especially the students for their hard work, enthusiasm and their gifts.

Parish & Community Groups forge even stronger relationships

The Port Melbourne and Middle Park Parish (VIC) held a classical music concert at St Joseph's Church in Port Melbourne. Featuring Arias and Ensembles of Italian Operas, the event raised \$1,425 for communities in Zumalai. We thank Marita Molloy for organising this most successful concert. And once again the Parish community came together holding their annual Christmas Giving Tree Appeal which raised \$3,600 towards essential items for people in Timor-Leste.

The Friends of Zumalai, Coorparoo (QLD) held numerous community events in 2017 including their annual Christmas Cake Stall & Raffle. The Friends raised over \$8,000. We give thanks to them as their fundraising efforts have helped complete the Boarding House in Zumalai.

And last but not least, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Wentworthville (NSW) parishioners once again held numerous activities raising over \$6,700 to help more young Timorese and Carmelite Students continue their studies.



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



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A DECISION TODAY... THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME TOMORROW

Leaving a gift in your Will is a significant life decision - a decision that can make a real and lasting difference to people and communities today and tomorrow.

These generous gifts enable the Carmelites to continue to provide spiritual and practical support for people in Australia and Timor-Leste. They help to grow our Order, assist more children to go to school, and provide comfort and companionship to the lonely, frail and sick. These gifts help people through their own life journey.

More importantly, they represent the legacy of a caring person who chose to leave a gift in their Will.

Mrs Frances Ward chose to leave a gift in her Will to the Carmelites. Born in 1922 in County Tipperary, Ireland, Frances was a devout Catholic. Unfortunately, her mother passed away when Frances was just a teenager, so she and her widowed father came to Australia in the early 1950s, joining one of her brothers who had immigrated in the 1940s. A few years later she met her future husband, Clyde.

Originally Frances was part of the Lay Carmelite Middle Park community. She moved to Albury in New South Wales where she started a group of Lay Carmelites who met monthly. Frances was professed as a Lay Carmelite in April 1964. She used to transport most, if not all, of the Lay Carmelite members to meetings and even came to the first two National Conventions held in Melbourne. Right until the end Frances was eager to receive news about the Lay Carmelites and the Carmelite Order.



Frances passed away at aged 94 in 2016. She will be fondly remembered as “the beautiful Irish lady with a wonderful sense of humour.” We thank David and Lynne Dynan along with Anita Renehan who provided invaluable insight into the life of Frances Ward.

Frances and the many caring people who chose to leave a gift will always be treasured by the Carmelites and remembered in our prayers. **If you would like to learn more about leaving a gift in your Will to the Carmelites please contact Nancy Mercurio on 03 9690 8822 or by email nancy@carmelites.org.au**

EDUCATION = FREEDOM THROUGH THE GIFT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Your faith and kindness has provided numerous children in Timor-Leste with the **Gift of Education**. Apart from the more than 500 children who are able to go school and learn, your support has also meant young adults have now graduated from University and are on the path to work and contribute back to their communities.

Ana Maria was one such student who, because of the generosity of caring Australians, has now completed her studies. She graduated from the

University of Dili last November. *“I would like say thank you especially to Sr Rosemary Peterson and Mrs Gabrielle Fogarty for their generosity to support me until I finalised my study. I would also like to thank the donors in Australia for their generosity in supporting me. May God bless you all. Thank you so much.”*

There are many more children and young adults who dream of going to school. Please contact the Fundraising Development Office on 03 9690 8822 or email fundraising@carmelites.org.au



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