

Carmel CONTACT

COMMUNITY • PRAYER • ACTION

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IN THIS ISSUE

OUR ORDER CONTINUES TO GROW BECAUSE OF YOU

IT TAKES A WHOLE COMMUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DEEPENING OUR TIES WITH TIMOR-LESTE

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

A NEW CHURCH FOR THE PEOPLE OF ZUMALAI

OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO YOU

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR REMEMBRANCE MASS

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER

REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOVED

How do you keep alive the memory of those who are now in God's care?

How do you cope with the grief that comes with losing someone so very dear?

How do you get up and keep going when all you feel is utter sadness?

Losing someone we love can fill us with overwhelming sadness. It may be a parent, child, partner or a friend. Even losing a beloved pet can bring deep feelings of sadness. Grief and the process of grieving takes time – time to let the sadness consume us for a while, and to remember with love and joy the wonderful times shared.

The Carmelites deeply understand what it means to lose family members. You are part of our family. We walk with you in your time of sadness. We share your grief. We understand your pain.

Every year we celebrate the lives of those who have died at our Remembrance Mass. It is a graced opportunity to come together as a family, as a community united in grief, to pray for and to remember those we have loved.

This issue is dedicated to remembering those we have loved.



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

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MY MESSAGE TO YOU FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

Since I was a boy I have watched the Carmelites serve community. I grew up in the Carmelite parish of Middle Park in Victoria. Over the months and years, I came to know and admire many of the Carmelite Priests who served there. I also completed my secondary education at the Carmelites' school, Whitefriars College in Donvale, where I got to know and admire other Carmelites.

At both the parish and school, the Carmelites welcomed every parishioner, every member of the local community, every student and family, as members of the Carmelite family. Each Carmelite embodied the spirit of community, prayer and action.

The Carmelites were there during the happy times for my and other families, and they were also by our side in times of struggle and grief.

I never forgot their compassion and their willingness to serve selflessly. In fact, because of them I chose to become a Carmelite, to provide companionship and care to those in our broad Carmelite family, whether here in Australia or in Timor-Leste.

As Prior Provincial, today I see our young men leading the way in serving communities. It is so heartening to know that our Order not only continues to grow but more so is in very good caring hands.

Lastly, I thank you. Your kindness and generosity are helping our young men continue with their journey to becoming Carmelites. Your gifts are helping Timorese children and their families break free from poverty. And your support is helping us continue to serve communities. You are part of the Carmelite family.

Yours in Carmel,



Fr Paul Cahill, OCarm
Prior Provincial



OUR ORDER CONTINUES TO GROW BECAUSE OF YOU

Our Order is flourishing because of the generous support from our parishes, community support groups, Whitefriars College and donors like you.

Our Order in Australia

In September, Fr Ken Petersen celebrated both his 80th birthday and 50th anniversary of Ordination. Family, friends and Carmelites gathered to celebrate with Ken. In his homily at Mass, Fr Paul Cahill (Prior Provincial) said that living in, witnessing to, proclaiming, giving thanks for and inviting others to experience the presence of God has been the hallmark of Ken's life and ministry.

Brs Marcolino, Agostinho and Avelino graduated in their English courses at the English Language School for Pastoral Ministry in Box Hill (VIC). Marco has begun his theological studies at the University of Divinity while Agostinho and Avelino have progressed to the next stage of their English language studies. They also have, along with Brs Albino and Matthew, renewed their vows to live as Carmelites. Brs Matthew, Jose and Francisco also participated in the International Carmelites Student Gathering in the Netherlands and Germany from 22 July to 5 August.

Our Order in Timor

Br Donato De Jesus Marçal who completed his studied in Flores, Indonesian earlier this year, was ordained Deacon on 8th July. After a period of pastoral experience and service as a Deacon in the parish of Oe-cusse, Timor-Leste he will be ordained a priest. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Donato.

Brs Anacleto, José, Frangelino, Silvestre, Narcizio and Amandio renewed their vows to live as Carmelites in a ceremony led by Fr Aniçeto Maia Da Costa, Provincial Delegate for Timor-Leste.



IT TAKES A WHOLE COMMUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Earlier this year, staff and students from Whitefriars College had the opportunity to visit Timor-Leste. While they went there to learn more about the people, and to provide essential healthcare items and sporting equipment to the communities in Zumalai, by the end of the trip it was the students who had benefited the most. This is their story.

“Whitefriars College students felt privileged to be the first boys’ school in Australia involved in the ‘Days for Girls’ program. For months students, staff and parents sewed and collated feminine hygiene kits for Timorese girls and women in Zumalai.

All that hard work saw us successfully distribute 240 kits to grateful girls and women. It was so fulfilling to see the girls’ happy faces, knowing they will no longer have to miss school and can walk around their community with dignity.

Our desire to help the Timorese didn’t stop there. We bought materials and equipment to build a set of soccer goals in Zumalai and a swing set for the Dominican school in the town of Hera. Every child will now be able to play. There was a huge sense of accomplishment to see our hard work result in a tangible finished product for the local children.

Teaching English was challenging, inspiring and memorable. We were surprised at how eager the Timorese children were to learn and felt a strong sense of pride knowing we were making a difference. We lived with the local boys in the Zumalai boarding house, eating with them, praying with them and teaching them in school. **It was rewarding to see the difference we made.**

The Carmelite Brothers made us feel at home as soon as we walked in the door. We enjoyed the chance to spend time with them, furthering our knowledge of the Carmelite ethos. As the end of our trip drew near, we reflected on how Timor-Leste had affected us. We have a renewed sense of gratitude for what we have in Australia and are humbled by a community filled with love, warmth and hope. **The human connection we made with the people in Timor touched our hearts and is something we will remember forever.**

Kelly Hoinville (Staff),
Ronan Oppy & Thomas Griffin (Students)
Whitefriars College

DEEPENING OUR TIES WITH TIMOR-LESTE

We are most excited to introduce you to our new Community Development Ministry Co-ordinator, Mayra Walsh. Mayra commenced her role as Co-ordinator at the end of July.

Mayra is a well-known and well-liked member of the Carmelite family. She was a vital part of our 2016 Chapter where she translated proceedings, facilitating understanding between our Australia and Timorese Carmelites.

She brings to this role not only her bi-lingual expertise in Tetum and Indonesian, but also her knowledge of the Timorese culture after spending nearly 20 years living, travelling and working in Timor. Mayra’s background in research and community development will help the Carmelites build on the foundations and friendships that currently exist in Timor.

Mayra’s role will also be to share the outcomes and impact made possible by our wonderful community of donors. We look forward to Mayra bringing even greater understanding of the Timorese people and their culture to our donors and the broader Carmelite family.



Mayra Walsh



Whitefriars College Student

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

As the Philanthropy Officer, my role is to create compelling reasons for Trusts and Foundations to support The Carmelites, especially the Carmelite students.

To get a deeper insight and understanding into our Carmelite students and their needs, I was fortunate to travel to Timor-Leste with Fundraising Development Director Nancy Mercurio in June this year. It was an incredible opportunity to get a first-hand look at this extraordinary country, its people, and the Timorese Carmelite community.

The differences between Timor's capital Dili and the town of Zumalai are unmistakable.

Dili is a pulsating city with all the hustle and bustle of people, vehicles, scooters, carts, and dogs of every shape and size! It never seems to sleep even late at night when the stores and restaurants are still open and people are busy finishing work or running daily errands. I was amazed by the striking contrast of the dilapidated homes of its residents to the luxury hotels, shopping mall and government buildings in various stages of construction. **Development is happening but there is still so much work to be done.**

In Zumalai, the legacy of occupation and oppression is still evident. Substandard housing, limited access to clean water, severely damaged and unpassable roads and many unemployed young people. **But it has not stifled the hope of the people.**

Of course, work didn't stop for Nancy and I but the spirit of the children was just joyous to see. Nancy and I spent quite some time working on the veranda of the compound. After a few days, the curiosity got the better of the children. At one point, I was surrounded by thirty of them all shouting out the limited English words they knew! A hilarious game of English versus Tetun followed as they tried to teach me their language. It was clear that they were the winners in this competition!

Nancy and I travelled with the Carmelite students from Zumalai to Dili. I can tell you it was a bone-jarring trip to say the least. I often held my breath when I looked out the window and saw nothing but a sheer drop and water on the other side. I was amazed at the hurdles that our incredible driver, Br Silvestre, was able to overcome. Clearly, God was watching over us on that trip!



As with any trip, there were many highlights. The highlight for me was being in the company of the Carmelite friars and students. It was such a pleasure to hear their stories, learn about where they come from, and their dreams and aspirations. It is obvious to me that the future of the Carmelites is in good hands with these young men!

The memories of our 10-day trip, of the sights seen, and the people we met, will never be forgotten.

Rose Thomas

Philanthropy Officer – Trusts and Foundations

A NEW CHURCH FOR THE PEOPLE OF ZUMALAI

Timor-Leste is Asia's most Catholic nation. Among a population of 1.3 million, today there are 1.26 million Catholics in Timor-Leste. Despite the large proportion of Catholics in the country, there are only 220 priests among three dioceses to serve the faithful.

With a population of more than 60,000 and an area encompassing 1,230 km, the people of Zumalai have been in need of a permanent church. They are amongst the most impoverished in Timor-Leste.

While the old church once served the community well, it was built as a temporary fixture. A new and permanent church was needed that could accommodate the needs of the people of Zumalai today and well into the future.

A dream in the making for 20 years and fully funded by the Timorese Government, on 30 August 2018, Bishop Norberto do Amaral (Maliana Diocese) blessed and opened the new Church in our parish at Zumalai.

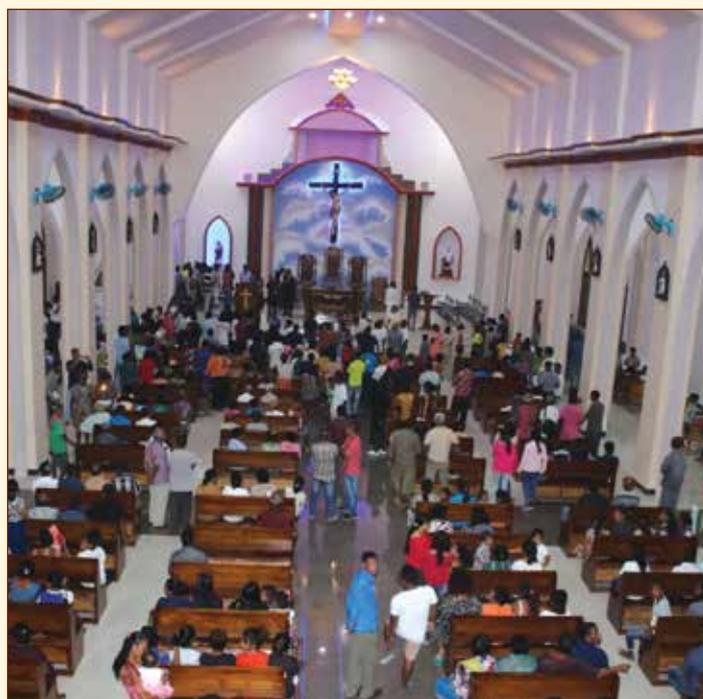
Attended by Fr Paul Cahill, Fr Manuel Almeida Da Costa (Parish Priest), Aniçeto Maia Da Costa (Timor-Leste Delegate), many other Carmelites and Diocesan priests, celebrations lasted for three whole days. Thousands of people from across Zumalai came to see their new Church.

"The whole celebration was carried off with extraordinary colour, enthusiasm and energy from the local community. A warm welcome was extended to all and everyone had a great time," said Fr Paul.

As well as serving the pastoral and spiritual needs of the people, the Church may become an economic boom for Zumalai, bringing potential tourists to see the new Church.

"The people of Zumalai are so very excited to have a new Church. They believe it will bring tourists to what is a very poor region. This could help bring some employment to the area. This Church gives them hope. It is a building for the community to come together, to pray and to make them feel proud."

Br Agedo Bento



OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO YOU

“I received your lovely letter and certificate today thanking me for 10 years of donations to assist with education for boys and girls in Timor-Leste. Thank you so much. It is an honour to help children and families there and I feel privileged to do so. Thank you for being a conduit for that assistance.” A loyal donor of The Carmelites

I have been most privileged to meet quite a few of our wonderful donors over the years. Our donors deeply care about the Carmelites and the work they do in Australia and Timor-Leste.

Many of our donors have been supporting the Carmelites for more than 10 years. In fact, a very large number have been supporting us for over 20 years!

On Thursday 12 July, we launched our Donor Loyalty Program giving thanks to our loyal and long-term donors. **We wanted to show our donors the difference their support has made to those we serve, and in turn provide each one of them with a small gift of appreciation.**

Over 35 donors attended our morning tea. They heard from Fr David Hofman O.Carm how their giving has helped people in Australia and Timor-Leste.

“I want to express the sincere thanks of the Carmelites for your companionship over all these years, for enabling so much to be achieved. Your support has enabled us to continue our ministries here in Australia and has helped us contribute directly to the wellbeing of people in Timor, especially in the parish of Zumalai,” said Fr David.

Every donor was presented with a personalised Certificate of Appreciation and a pin marking the

number of years they had been supporting the Carmelites. Many hundreds more received their Certificates and pins in the mail. It was just wonderful to be contacted by so many donors who shared their thanks for our small gift of appreciation.



“I want to thank you for the Certificate and Pin which arrived on my 52nd Wedding Anniversary. My husband passed away six months prior so receiving the Certificate made me feel special. I very much appreciate the gesture.”

“I loved receiving my pin and certificate. I wasn't even aware I had been giving for 15 years! Thank you.”

“Thank you for my 20 Year loyalty certificate. It gave me an opportunity to share my giving with my children and grandchildren. I like that I can also wear the pin to Lay Carmelite events.”

These were just a few of the lovely comments that I and the Fundraising Development team have received. Thank you all for your compassionate and caring support of The Carmelites and those we serve. We look forward to meeting many more of you in the years to come.

Nancy Mercurio

Director – Fundraising Development Ministry

A SPLENDID TIME HAD AT OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

On the last weekend of July, 84 curious Melbournians braved the cold and rain to see the architectural beauty of the Carmelite Hall, Library and Church, including the National Shrine.

Visitors were warmly greeted by 20 volunteers including Open Day Committee Members, Carmelite students, parishioners, staff, and members of the Fundraising Development team.

Visitors were taken on guided tours where they could also read historical narratives in the form of

storyboards about the Carmelite Hall and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. These boards are now on permanent display in the Carmelite Library and will also feature as part of the Hall's Centenary Celebrations in October.

Many visitors were lucky to witness the organ recitals and the performances of the Timorese choir and band made up of Carmelite students. We look forward to being involved once again with Open House Melbourne in future years. We hope to see you there.

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL CARMELITE FAMILY

Support for the Carmelites and the work we do comes from people from all walks of life. In some instances, the support we receive comes from the other side of the world.

Helping our young Carmelite students on their journey to become priests and brothers is a priority for the Carmelite Province of Australia and Timor-Leste. We extend our deepest gratitude to:

The Koch Foundation (USA) who made a grant of \$10,000 USD earlier this year towards our Carmelite students in Timor-Leste. Carl and Paula Koch established their Foundation in 1979 to fund various evangelisation activities of the Roman Catholic faith.

The Society of the Little Flower (Curia Rome) who provided a generous grant of \$20,000 EUR. Their grant is directly helping Carmelite students cover the costs of their studies.

The Carmelite British Province (UK) who have made a five-year commitment of \$25,000 EUR in 2017 to support Carmelite students with their theological and academic studies in Australia.

The Loyola Foundation (USA) and the **Carmelite Mission Office** (USA) who both provided generous grants of \$20,000 USD each for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Carmelites in Zumalai. Zumalai's treacherous and bumpy terrain has resulted in the current car deteriorating, breaking down and being involved in multiple accidents.

The support we receive from our generous Trusts and Foundations is helping a country still struggling with the challenges of poverty, violence, and unemployment to heal.



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



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR REMEMBRANCE MASS

On Saturday 3 November at 6pm at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Middle Park (VIC), 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.

If you are unable to attend our Remembrance Mass, please send the names of loved ones you would like prayed for with your donation to The Carmelites.

COMFORT IN TIMES OF GRIEF 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



INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBER TO THE FUNDRAISING DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Pam Lake joins The Carmelites following a life commitment to participating in God's mission of making and growing disciples. This mission has taken Pam from nursing in India where she met her husband Andrew, to Indonesia with Church Missionary Society pastoring an expatriate church and serving the local community, and then to Syria pastoring a church and encouraging local Christians.



"Becoming State Director for the Church Missionary Society in Tasmania launched me into the world of fundraising. I see fundraising as a part of ministry that encourages all Christians to participate in God's mission through practical gifts. Having worked with Interserve, the Church Missionary Society and most recently The Leprosy Mission as National Relationship Manager, working with The Carmelites is a natural progression. The contemplative focus and training of a new generation of priests provides impetus to ensure that the future of the Carmelite Order is secure."

Pam is looking forward to meeting our donors and encouraging them to participate in achieving the vision of The Carmelites.



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