

Carmel CONTACT

COMMUNITY • PRAYER • ACTION

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A BEACON OF LIGHT TOWARDS A NEW LIFE

There are times when it seems that life will never be the same again. Times filled with sadness, isolation, hurt, anger, despair.

It is in these times of hurt and hardship that we seek a beacon of light that can provide us with a glimmer of hope towards new beginnings and a new life.

As Easter approaches, we have an opportunity to prayerfully reflect on deepening of our Christian spirit by living a life of joy, without fear and through brand new eyes. With the support of the Carmelites and the Carmelite family we find strength in one another and through this time of reflection and renewal.

**“Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”
2 Corinthians 5:17**

In this issue of **Carmel Contact** you will read uplifting and heart-warming stories of people who bring the hope of a new life to those in need. You will see the difference your giving is making to people in Australia and Timor-Leste. **Thank you for being part of our Carmelite family.**



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

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Serving people to transform their lives is possible because of you.

Last year, you and our Carmelite family raised over \$714,000 through gifts to our appeals, bequests, grants, regular giving, parish and support group events, school fundraising projects and so much more. These gifts help children and young adults continue their schooling, Carmelite students with their higher education and theological studies and people in the community through pastoral and spiritual care.

Your wonderful support helps us continue to be a beacon of light to those in need, to help them transform their lives and reach their potential. Thank you.

Safeguarding children and young adults.

Undoubtedly you would have read or seen the news regarding the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse. **Recently all 49 Carmelites in Timor gathered at Hera for a training day about creating a safe and respectful environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults in our communities and ministries.**

The day began with my leading a reflection on good pastoral care, drawn from the Scriptures and Carmelite and Church documents. A Timorese Safeguarding training group, Forum Tau Matan, led a session on child protection awareness. Further sessions were led by Mayra Walsh, Carmelite Community Development Ministry Coordinator, and Fr David Hofman on responding to child protection issues, risk assessment and the Code of Conduct for Carmelites, employees and volunteers.

We all strongly believe and reaffirm that every child has the right to feel safe and to be protected, whether they are here in Australia or Timor-Leste. **The Provincial Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults will be formally adopted at the Provincial Chapter in June this year.**

Yours in Carmel,



Fr Paul Cahill, OCarm
Prior Provincial



A CUDDLY AUSSIE ICON FOUND IN ZUMALAI

In November last year, donors received our Christmas Thanksgiving Appeal. Together, our wonderful donors raised over \$33,000 so children, young adults and the young men training to become Carmelites, could continue with their education and schooling.

Our appeal had an extra special element for the children of Zumalai - a Christmas card carrying a heartfelt message from donors on one side and a colour-in image of a cuddly koala on the other side. Children gleefully set about colouring in this Australian icon.

Here are a just few of the hundreds of beautiful messages we received from donors and which were passed on to the children with their gift:

"Enjoy your studies! Learning is the key to many positive experiences in life. God bless you!"

"Dear children and students of Timor-Leste. You will be (and are) in my daily Mass prayers for a happy and successful future. Love + Prayers"

"All God's love and grace be with you as you travel through your life. Aim for your goals and never give up. God will always be there for you. You are all special. Best Wishes to you."

The Carmelites thank our donors for supporting this most important appeal. You can help children receive the gift of an education by contacting the Fundraising Development Ministry on 03 9690 8822.



Children happily colour in the cuddly koala sent to them with heartfelt messages from our wonderful donors.

A BEACON OF LIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE OF TIMOR-LESTE

The Carmelite Order continues to grow especially in Timor-Leste. Today there are 49 Carmelites, including 40 students, who serve communities in both cities and remote villages.

With families living on just \$3 a day, Timor-Leste is one of the most impoverished countries, not only in our region, but in the world. Providing spiritual, pastoral and practical support to people, both young and old, is a priority for every member of the Carmelite Order.

A vital part of the Carmelite Student Education program is pastoral experience. Under the guidance of the Carmelites, the Students work in five parishes including Hera, Zumalai and St Francis Xavier parish in Hatolia, along with two parishes in Oecusse.

In Hera, the Students work with a Carmelite Children's group which meets every Sunday and during Lent. They focus on reflections with the children, teaching them how to connect with God. Several Students also teach daily religious classes at the local Catholic primary school. They also visit the primary and secondary schools teaching children the importance of God in their lives.

During Easter and Christmas, the Students travel to the under-resourced parishes of Oecusse and Hatolia to assist with the preparations for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas and New Year. The Brothers also lead liturgies on Sunday when a priest is unavailable (a common occurrence), helping to spread God's message to rural populations.

The Carmelites have created youth programs to expose young people to the teachings of Christ and to address rising concerns such as conflict and violence. Last December, Carmelite Students were involved in a Youth Engagement program with over 500 young people who participated in Sport and Choir competitions designed to raise their awareness of God in daily life.

Today, the Carmelites serve over 97,000 people across Timor-Leste and at least 25,000 people in Australia. They will continue to serve in the midst of the people in Timor-Leste and in Australia.

You can show your support for the Carmelites and their work in Timor-Leste, by completing the form that is attached to this newsletter or calling Fundraising Development Ministry on 03 9690 8822.

Your gift will have the power to do more!

In November last year, The Carmelites received some wonderful news from the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC) that will impact your gift giving in the future. The Australian Taxation Office and the ACNC recognise that a number of our programs have a clear public benefit, including:

1. Education for children and young adults in Timor
2. Higher education for our Carmelite Students
3. Practical support for people and communities in Timor
4. The Carmelite Library

The first three programs above fall under the newly acquired Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) status. While all four program areas are endorsed as Deductible Gift Recipients.

So what does this mean for you and your donations?

Right now, we are working hard to implement the new internal infrastructure to support donations made to our PBI programs. **As we finalise details relating to the PBI, we will be able to offer you tax-deductibility when you give towards these programs later this year.**

Of course, you can still support programs such as the Carmelite Students' theological studies, spiritual and pastoral work undertaken by the Carmelites, and the Carmelite Centre; however, these will continue to be non-tax-deductible.

If you would like to learn more about this important change please contact Nancy Mercurio, Fundraising Development Ministry, on 03 9690 8822 or email nancy@carmelites.org.au



GETTING AROUND ZUMALAI IN OUR NEW 4-WHEEL DRIVE

Zumalai is situated in one of the most remote and mountainous parts of Timor-Leste. During the wet season roads become dangerously slippery, covered in thick mud, and sometimes impacted by landslides or floods.

To provide spiritual and pastoral support to over 13,000 people, many of them in remote and isolated villages, requires a sturdy all-terrain ute. **Thanks to the Loyola Foundation and Mission Office of the Pure Heart of Mary Province the Carmelites now have a brand-new 4-wheel drive so they can continue to serve people near and far.**

Did you know that the Carmelites operate three school campuses in Zumalai? This makes the need for a reliable car even more important. While one school is located in the centre of Zumalai, two schools are in the rural villages of Raimea and Beko.

New School Principal, Br Antonio, uses the ute to travel between the three schools. It is used for school excursions, transporting staff and students to community events and to travel to regional centres such as Suai for meetings at the Department of Education office and Maliana for meetings with the Diocesan Education Foundation.

Br Antonio also used the new ute during the Youth Engagement program last December to attend events, and also to provide transport for young people from remote villages. And he along with the other Carmelites drive through river beds to get to several chapels in the more remote areas of Zumalai, where they conduct weekly services on rotating basis at these chapels.

The ute is providing the Carmelites with not only reliable transport but also the ability to carry bulk items, such as bags of rice or chairs for an event, and to mount a microphone and speaker system in the ute tray to broadcast prayers.

Our deepest gratitude to the Loyola Foundation and Mission Office of the Pure Heart of Mary Province for their most generous support.



"This new ute is great. We use it all the time for many different activities. It has made a big difference. I feel safe travelling in this ute and can even go to remote villages when it is raining and the roads are in bad conditions."

Br Antonio

"I drive this ute several times a week. It is really good to drive, very smooth and a really strong ute. I can go on difficult roads and I feel safe driving this ute because it is so strong." Joao (driver)

OUR ORDER CONTINUES TO GROW

It has been a busy few months for the Carmelites with more joining our ever-growing Order in Timor-Leste. Many young men are also progressing well on their journey to becoming Carmelites. Here is the latest news.

In February, more than 40 Carmelites gathered at Blessed Titus Brandsma community in Fatuhada in Dili to welcome three new candidates into the Pre-Novitiate program, Manuel Xavier Gonzaga, Moises Soares, and Constantino Barreto Amaral.

During the same celebration of Evening Prayer our six first year pre-novices were also admitted to the second year of the pre-novitiate program. Prior Provincial, Fr Paul Cahill presented a small cross and medal to them as a sign of their participation in the program.

Brs José Natalino Freitas and Anacleto Guterres Da Costa are now part of the Carmelite community at Middle Park, VIC. They have begun their English language studies at the English Language School for Pastoral Ministry at Box Hill, VIC, and once completed, will study Theology at the University of Divinity, Melbourne.

Meanwhile, Brs Avelino Dos Santos and Agostinho Dos Santos graduated from their respective English programs last December. We congratulate Avelino on the successful completion of his English language studies and wish Agostinho well as he completes his studies this semester.

Brs Samuel Lopes, João Batista Caunan, Alipio Godinho, Antonio Junias Da Gloria and Lucas Dos Santos Martins made their first profession of vows as Carmelites in the presence of Fr Paul Cahill, other Carmelites, family and friends. **We warmly congratulate them and welcome their commitment to the next stage of their Carmelite journey.**

For the past two years seven young men have been preparing to become novices in our community at Fatuhada in Dili. Last December Prior Provincial Fr Paul Cahill formally received them into the Novitiate at Hera. During the ceremony they received the Carmelite habit and were entrusted into the care of Fr Bruce Clark, Novice Director.

We warmly welcome these brothers as they begin the Novitiate – a special year of learning more about the Carmelite journey of transformation.

CELEBRATING SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

In March this year, Fr Laurie Timms celebrated 47 years since his Solemn Profession. He reflects back on his journey to becoming a Carmelite.



“The 1966 Novitiate was a rather large one, as 12 of us fronted up to Winston Hills to be tested in the crucible of vowed religious life. In those days there was no mention of words like fraternity, friars, community or charism. We were going to be priests.

Peter McAlpine was the novice master and whereas life was routine and regimented and strict, Peter always operated with a high degree of wisdom and humanity. Two of us remain as Carmelites: John Powell and myself. Vin Walsh is a priest in the Sandhurst diocese, still going strong in his 80s.

Daily life in the novitiate was quite routine. Mass was mandated to be celebrated in Latin, a requirement of seminary liturgies in 1966. Peter McAlpine used Latin on weekdays and English on Sundays but on visitation, the Provincial Paul Clery made Sunday Mass mandatory in Latin.

The day was divided into classes in the morning, work or walk in the afternoon. It was a peaceful and uncomplicated year which laid a good foundation.”

Along with Fr Laurie, Fr Ken Petersen celebrated his 53rd anniversary of Solemn Profession, while Fr Pat Harney celebrated his 72nd anniversary of his First Profession and the 69 years since his Solemn Profession. Many blessings and wonderful years ahead for you all.

THE STAR THAT LIGHTS THE WAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF ZUMALAI...

I'm sitting in the shade of a big tree next to the new church in Zumalai, watching Martinho's face light up as he proudly describes his soccer team's recent efforts.

"We trained hard for the competition. We all put in money to buy uniforms. We made a team flag too, based on Barcelona's flag, but we added a star because there is one on the Timorese flag. This star lights our way."

Martinho is the manager of the 18-member Tatisbel soccer team which won first place in a competition run by The Carmelites in December 2018 as part of a new Youth Engagement Program in Zumalai.

Initiated by local community members together with Br Antonio and Fr Manuel, this program responds to a history of youth disengagement, including problems such as fighting, drunken behaviour and conflict between groups.

"Initially some people were concerned about our new program, but the organising committee worked hard to make this program positive, inclusive and strengthening relationships," Br Antonio said.

A total of 358 young people from various villages throughout Zumalai participated in this program

which included soccer, volleyball and singing competitions. Engaging young people in rural communities through sport and cultural activities has a positive impact on social relations, as well as building self-esteem and a healthy lifestyle.

Martinho's eyes shine as he describes to me how three teams from his village, Lour, all won money as a result of their placings in the soccer and volleyball competitions.

"The two soccer teams and the volleyball team all put our money together. We bought new uniforms for all the team members. We bought a sound system, with speakers and a microphone and gave it to the Village Chief. He will use it for community meetings, training sessions and also in the chapel for when we have religious processions."

Being a member of a soccer team, winning a volleyball game or singing in front of an audience for the first time may seem like small things individually. But over time, the result is a stronger sense of connection and confidence in a community who has experienced hardship and struggle.

Mayra Walsh

Community Development Ministry Co-ordinator



CELEBRATING OUR WONDERFUL DONORS

On Thursday 22 November 2018, over 60 caring donors and their guests filled St Joseph's Church and Hall in Port Melbourne to attend the Carmelites' Thank You Mass and High Tea.

This was our opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to our very loyal donors for their generous support over many years.

Assisted by Fr Paul Sireh, Fr Paul Cahill celebrated the Mass. Donors also enjoyed music performed by the Timorese Carmelite students while Community Development Ministry Co-ordinator, Mayra Walsh, talked about the work the Carmelites do in Timor-Leste, focusing on the Scholarship program.

You may be interested to know that there are 26 students, seven of whom graduated from university last year. A video interview of two scholarship students – Luciana and Judith – showed how much impact our caring donors have made on their lives.

Donors were also delighted by Br Matthew Tonini's presentation of his experience in the Carmelite Student Education program and how much the donors have meant to him along his journey.

It is clear the Carmelites are very blessed to have such loyal and compassionate donors!

Gathering together with our wonderful donors, hearing their stories and learning about their personal connections to the Carmelites which often goes back decades, I am in awe of their commitment and faith. It truly was a joy to meet so many of them in one place.

Rose Thomas

Philanthropy Officer – Trusts & Foundations



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: _____

There are two 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



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

Leaving a gift in your Will is a significant life decision. It represents the legacy of a caring person, enabling the Carmelites to continue providing pastoral support to people in need, helping our Order to grow, assisting more children to go to school, and providing comfort and companionship to the lonely, frail and sick.

To learn more about leaving a gift in your Will to the Carmelites, complete the form below and return by mail or call Nancy Mercurio on 03 9690 8822 or email nancy@carmelites.org.au

Yes, I want to learn more about leaving a gift in my Will.

Contact me on _____
(phone) to discuss

OR

please send me further information (my details are below)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____

State: _____ P/Code: _____

Email: _____

Mobile / Phone: _____

Please complete and return by mail to:
Fundraising Development Ministry
The Carmelites – Australia & Timor-Leste
75 Wright Street, MIDDLE PARK VIC 3206

Or call 03 9690 8822 or email
fundraising@carmelites.org.au



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THE GIFT OF PRAYER FOR THOSE YOU LOVE

The Carmelites Prayer cards provide prayer, comfort, hope and support to those who are hurting, lonely or sick, celebrating special occasions, or simply in need of a prayer. There are six beautifully designed cards to choose from which can be used any time of the year.

- 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

Order your Prayer card, or the entire set of six, by completing the form on page 7. Or contact the Fundraising Development Office on 03 9690 8822 or fundraising@carmelites.org.au

JOIN US FOR OUR 2019 MASSES

The Carmelites offer you and your loved ones, prayer, comfort and companionship through four special Masses at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middle Park, Victoria.

- Gift of New Life Mass** for healing, prayer or spiritual support
- Mothers' Mass** for all mothers living and deceased
- Remembrance Mass** in memory of deceased loved ones
- Christmas Mass** for all your needs and intentions for the year ahead



If you are unable to attend, 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 the Fundraising Development Ministry, 75 Wright Street, Middle Park VIC 3206 or email fundraising@carmelites.org.au