

# Carmel CONTACT

COMMUNITY • PRAYER • ACTION

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## EASTER: A JOURNEY INTO GOD'S HEART

At the beginning of Easter, wearing ashes is a symbol of our willingness to change the direction of our hearts – away from all that limits God's love and action in us.

Easter time invites us into conversation, reflection with ourselves and God. It is a time for opening ourselves to a fresh experience of God's healing love which makes us whole and restores us to our rightful place as beloved daughters and sons of God.

Together let us allow the spirit of Easter to enter our hearts and through renewed eyes come together as members of the Carmelite family, with peace in our hearts, in reflection on our life, and with hope for a new beginning.

We invite you and your loved ones to join us in prayer during this Easter season.



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

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## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

**Earlier this year we all witnessed the devastating bushfires across Australia. I reflected then on the communities impacted – the homes and the livelihoods lost. And the great loss of so many of our unique wildlife.**

Today, a new challenge is upon us that can potentially affect every one of us. That challenge is COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus). Outside of the health risks it presents, this virus is having a great impact across society. Supermarket shelves are bare of essential items, and many people are living in fear and isolation, while others must choose between work or looking after their family. At the time of writing my message to you, there is no cure or vaccine.

**But there is hope, prayer and faith.**

It is during these challenging times that the human spirit prevails and shines, where communities come together to help and look after each other with compassion and care. **We saw that spirit of community during the bushfires and we will see it again during this health pandemic.** Challenging times help us become stronger as a community, bonded together by prayer, faith and a deep desire to do good for others. The Carmelites are inspired by the many people who compassionately and selflessly put themselves at the frontline to help those in need.

**At this time, I encourage you to reach out to The Carmelites for their support. You are not alone. You are part of our family.** Together we will pray for calm, healing and an end to these challenging times. Together we can let those we love and those further afield know we are here for them and that we send God's love to them.

On behalf of the Carmelites, I thank you for your faith and trust in us. Thank you for being part of our Carmelite family.

Yours in Carmel,



**Fr Paul Cahill, OCarm**  
Prior Provincial



## ON A MISSION TO BUSK FOR TIMOR-LESTE

**Children can be extraordinarily innovative. Set them a challenge and they'll relish the opportunity to come up with creative ideas. That's what happened when the Grade Six Mission Team from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School in Wentworthville were tasked to come up with a way to raise funds for the communities of Zumalai and Raimea in Timor-Leste during Mission Week.**

*"Every student had the opportunity to show off their extraordinary talents whilst also raising funds for the communities in Zumalai and Raimea. There were performances from dancing, puppet plays, gymnastic displays, guitar playing, magicians, comedians and a drum ensemble, to the school band playing and entertaining us. And for those who didn't want to busk, they had the opportunity to walk around and put money in the boxes of their favourite buskers,"* said Elisha, Gevin and Claudia, members of the Grade Six Mission Team.

Parents came along and donated to the buskers as they moved around the school, enjoying the various performances. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Laus, the Creative Arts teacher at the school, for all the hard work she put into Mission Week.

By end of Mission Week, students had raised just over \$2,000! Elisha, Gevin and Claudia were super-excited with the end result. *"That's about three times the usual amount of money that we would raise if we held our lunch time discos! We had a good time getting involved and knowing we could make a difference to the lives of the people living in Zumalai and Raimea."*

**Thank you Grade Six Mission Team and all the students, teachers and parents at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School.**



# HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE REALISE THEIR DREAMS THROUGH EDUCATION

**The Carmelites Scholarship program assists young people in Timor-Leste to access education at a university level, through vocational training centres and at high schools. This year, the Carmelites will be supporting the education of 27 young students.**

Education is vital to both a person's individual development and their family's overall wellbeing. Together with you, we provide scholarships to young people whose families cannot afford to support their education.

Having an educated population is critical to a nation's stability. In Timor-Leste, just 3% of the population has a university-level education. During a speech at an international conference in 2017, Timorese former President Xanana Gusmao said *"we still have many challenges ahead of us as a nation. We need to provide quality education to our children and young people, and we need to build the capacity of our human resources."*

**Our community development program is working alongside other organisations and the Timor-Leste government to achieve these goals.**

While supporting university degrees remains a priority, our program is also making a shift towards more vocational education and training scholarships in the future.



***The Carmelites are committed to supporting young people to develop skills for their future livelihoods, and sometimes the most practical skills are gained through short courses or institutions such as technical high schools.***



Two young Timorese benefiting from our scholarship program are Ricardo and Andre. The scholarships will help them complete high school at a technical college that specialises in construction. Ricardo and Andre will learn invaluable trade skills such as carpentry, electrical wiring, welding and cementing. Also, this year, Leonora and Liliana will undertake a ten month live-in life skills course run by the Canossian Sisters, where they will learn skills in cooking, sewing, and small business management.

**Through this program each of the scholarship recipients and program graduates are able to improve both their own and their families' futures. Collectively, they represent a wider effort by the Carmelites to make education a priority.**

**Mayra Walsh**  
Community Development Coordinator

# WORLD'S OLDEST CARMELITE TURNS 99 YEARS YOUNG AND HE'S OURS!

**Fr Leo Patrick Harney, fondly known as Fr Pat, is a living Carmelite treasure. For 68 years, Fr Pat has served communities across Australia and New Zealand, in Carmelite and Diocesan parishes and hospitals. And today he is recognised as the oldest living Carmelite in the world.**



Born in 1921 in Elmore (Victoria), Fr Pat was the second of eight children. He remembers his home life filled with daily rosary, private morning prayer and Sunday Mass. As Fr Pat shared, *“our faith was just part of our lives.”*

It was this faith that led Fr Pat to decide to become a priest. *“When I dropped the bombshell to my family, I learnt that it was the prayer of my mother... that half her family would enter religious life.”*

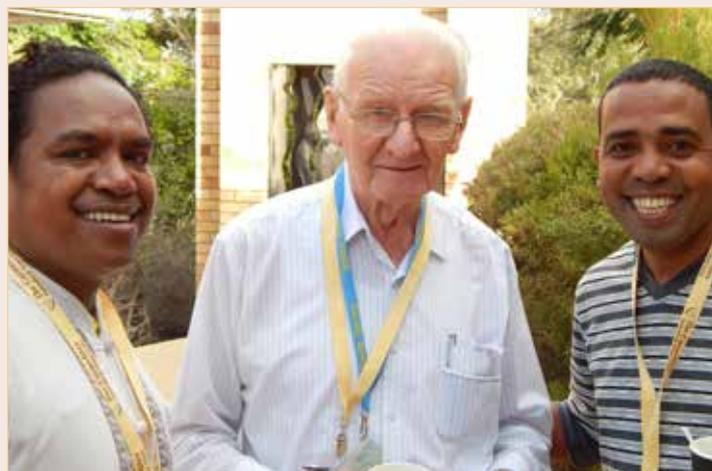
At 25 years of age, Fr Pat started his Novitiate and by January 1952 was ordained by the then Bishop of Sandhurst, the Most Rev. Dr. Stewart in the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo (Victoria).

As a Carmelite, Fr Pat has served communities near and far across Australia and New Zealand. In fact, one of his favourite quotes comes from the well-known song, *“I’ve been everywhere man...”*, having ministered as Pastor, Prior, Assistant Novice Master, Chaplain at Sacred Heart College, Glen Innes, in New Zealand. He also served for 16 years as Chaplain at St Vincent’s Hospital in Melbourne (Victoria).

Fr Pat is not only well-known but much loved by so many people and communities, having served at every parish the Carmelites ever held in Australia and New Zealand and having filled in for priests who were on leave.

Fr Pat’s journey in life is intrinsically connected to his faith and love of God. *“Throughout my life, the hand of God has guided me in a remarkable way and still does.”*

Not one for slowing down even after retiring from active service in 2010, Fr Pat continues to celebrate morning Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middle Park (Victoria).



**The Carmelites congratulate Fr Pat on his 99th birthday in March and thank him for his years of faithful and committed service among us. We rejoice in his gift to our Province, our Order and the Church and pray for God’s continued blessings on him.**

## RELICS OF ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX TOUR AUSTRALIA

**It has been 18 years since the relics of St Thérèse toured Australia. In 2002, over 400,000 people paid their respects to the Carmelite patron. This year, the relics of St Thérèse and her parents Louis and Zélie Martin are travelling to parishes around Australia from February to May 2020.**

Known as the 'Little Flower of Jesus', St Thérèse was born in 1873. She felt an early call to religious life entering the Carmelite order at the very young age of 15 after experiencing what she called her "complete conversion."

Although she died at just 24 years of age, St Thérèse's message continues to resonate today – that message being one of total trust in God's love for us. Her small acts of kindness and love represent the core of Carmelite spirituality.

A much-loved saint, St Thérèse continues to be an inspiration to people around the world. This tour is particularly special as it provides an opportunity for visitors to gain an intimate insight into the relationship St Thérèse had with her parents.

St Thérèse's relics have already visited our Carmelite parishes of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) Coorparoo (Queensland) and OLMC Wentworthville (New South Wales). **Visitors came from near and far to see the relics. Both parishes created a wonderful spirit of community as they warmly welcomed all visitors.**



OLMC Coorparoo held an all-night vigil, a Eucharist, songs, prayers of St Thérèse, a procession of the relics and time for veneration. This gave visitors a unique opportunity to make physical contact with the relics. OLMC Coorparoo's Parish Priest, Fr Wayne Stanhope said, *"We experienced a wonderful contemplative time and managed to offer hospitality to the many people who came from beyond the Parish."*



Visitors at OLMC Wentworthville participated in a day filled with prayer, readings, reflection and celebration of St Thérèse and her parents. Parish priest Fr Denis Andrews reflected on the day saying *"The visitors were earnest and respectful, many using this time for quiet prayer, deep reflection and faithful veneration. Especially pleasing to observe were the children who came to visit with their parents, each leaving with a sense that something significant has just occurred, but not yet understanding the fullness of this experience."*

**This tour provided visitors the opportunity to learn more about St Thérèse and her parents, and to reflect on the theme of love - love of family, each other and of God – which was the essence of St Thérèse.**

**Due to the COVID-19 virus, the current itinerary is in doubt with government restriction closing Church gatherings. For more information call Nancy Mercurio on 03 9690 8822 or email [nancy@carmelites.org.au](mailto:nancy@carmelites.org.au)**

# CARMEL IMPACT: NEW HORIZONS

**Soon the work you have supported as part of the development projects will become tax deductible through our new Charity, Carmel Impact.**

Carmel Impact is part of The Carmelites of Australia and Timor-Leste. For 18 years our organisation has been working in Timor-Leste to create positive change. In that time, we have been a vital support to people in their time of need, assisting them through health, agriculture, sanitation and education programs. Until now we were unable to provide a tax-deductible receipt for your support of this work.

## ***What's changing?***

***From the middle of the year, any donation you make to our development work will attract a tax benefit for you, which means you can claim your donation through your annual tax return.***

Today our development projects focus on education and youth engagement as our highest priority. The Carmelites seek to play a vital role in promoting social change by addressing the low education levels that exist in Timor-Leste. Currently only 35% of the population have either been to school or completed their education. That is why we offer education opportunities to the youth, from primary and secondary education, boarding house accommodations, English training and scholarship opportunities in vocational training and tertiary education at university level.

**We believe education can stop the cycle of poverty and give young people the skills to become tomorrow's leaders. Together we can empower them to reach their potential.**



Through Youth Engagement we are developing programs to combat social exclusion and disenfranchisement among vulnerable youth. The country is defined by its youth with 62% of the population under the age of 25 with a median age of 17. Young people are often found sitting idly by with nothing to do and no hope for employment. Our programs aim is to engage them in social activity, build up their confidence, and enhance their skills so they can make better life choices.

This is what you will be part of when you make your donation to Carmel Impact. You can help transform lives by engaging with communities today and working together to build a brighter future.



**Nancy Mercurio**  
Fundraising Development Director

## **OUR ORDER CONTINUES TO GROW AND SERVE YOU**

The support of our wonderful community of donors is helping the Carmelite Order to grow in Australia and Timor-Leste. In June, Brs Marcolino, Albino and Matthew will be making Solemn Profession in Middle Park (Victoria), while Brs Amandio, Agostinho, Narcizio and Silvestre will make theirs later in the year in Hera (Timor-Leste). **Congratulations are also extended to Br Matthew who will be ordained Deacon by Archbishop Mark Coleridge on Saturday 18 July at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Coorparoo in Queensland.**



# DONATED COMPUTERS HELP TIMORESE LEARN

**The donation of computers has improved the learning experiences of children in Zumalai and Raimea. Children can learn a range of new skills, and work on their schoolwork more efficiently thanks to this wonderful gift of generosity.**

Early last year 20 computers were delivered to a local warehouse in Brisbane. Just a few weeks later, Carmelite Brothers in Timor-Leste sorted and loaded them into vehicles, heading off to various Carmelite destinations.

Paul Mulligan, a parishioner from Our Lady of Mt Carmel (OLMC) Coorparoo Parish, who led this endeavour, was supported by Fr Januario and other parish members. When Rotary International offered space in one of their shipping containers, a big piece of the logistics puzzle fell into place. Along with the parents' association of OLMC school, other parish friends stepped in to cover transport costs, making this project a reality.

Today these computers are being used by communities, schools and students, opening up opportunities in various ways, including:

- A Carmelite Sister is using her computer to search for 'animal activity sheet' for a kindergarten class activity in Zumalai;
- A teacher at our Carmelite Raimea school is typing up this years' school timetable for her students;
- A Carmelite student is able to write an essay for his philosophy degree in Hera; and
- A year 7 student is using a computer for the first time at the boarding house in Zumalai holding onto the mouse and watching carefully as he makes the cursor move around the screen.

It is the power of community that drives such priceless initiatives. Thank you to everyone involved. You have given students and teachers countless opportunities to learn new skills, get their work done more efficiently, and access a resource that in Australia is often taken for granted.



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

Please accept my gift of:

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

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)  
Please add \$5 for Postage & Handling.

**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



# THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL CARMELITE FAMILY



Every year members of the Carmelite family show their generous support in so many different ways. We thank each and every one of you for supporting the Carmelites to continue to serve people in Australia and Timor-Leste.

Here are just a few examples of how our wonderful support groups have contributed to the Carmelite mission:

- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel School (OLMC) in Coorparoo** sent \$11,173 which came as a result of the school's fundraising throughout the year. **The Parents and Friends of OLMC** also donated \$9,255 to The Carmelites work in Timor.
- **The Friends of Zumalai Coorparoo**, raised \$2,549 from their recent Christmas stall and raffle.
- The **Wentworthville Parish Support Group** raised \$4,837 to support the Student Scholarship Program and another \$2,620 to support the Carmelite Students Formation Program.
- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Wentworthville**, saw students donate sharpeners which were then sent to the Carmelite School in Zumalai. The sharpeners were put into 'resource tubs' with other learning tools bought from donations made by the teachers. Today, each classroom at the Carmelite School in Zumalai has a resource tub for learning.
- **Parish of Port Melbourne and Middle Park** raised \$6,226 from the end of year Christmas giving for Timor..
- And **Whitefriars College, Donvale** held a school walkathon which raised \$10,500 for our Timor work.

**We cannot serve communities without you and your support. Thank you for transforming lives and helping people reach their potential through community, prayer and action.**



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

The Carmelites – Australia & Timor-Leste  
75 Wright Street, MIDDLE PARK VIC 3206

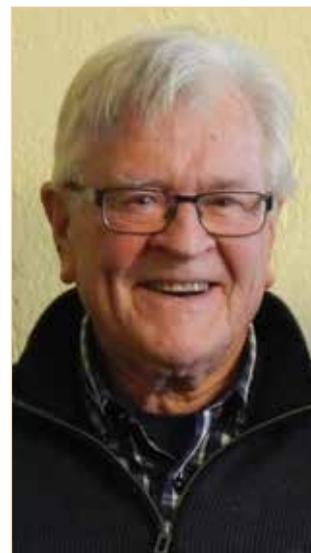
Or call 03 9690 8822 or email  
fundraising@carmelites.org.au



# A DEEP CONNECTION, A LIFE- CHANGING DECISION

Since John O'Connor was a young boy, the Carmelites have been a vibrant part of his family life. Those childhood connections have today formed a deep bond. John's faith and trust in the Carmelites has led him to leave one of the most precious gifts – a gift in his Will. This is his story.

*"From when I was young, the Carmelites have always been a steady presence in my family's life. My father went to the Carmelite school. We used to attend the Annual Marian Festival at the Carmelite House of Studies at Donvale. My grandmother, her two daughters, and my cousins were parishioners at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It was those associations that formed my deep connection to the Carmelites."*



A man of his own word, John has supported the work of the Carmelites as he believes that *"what the Carmelites do, in their mission and growing the Order, along with their hopes for the future, illuminates for me an awe-inspiring mosaic of the Gospel mission in action."*

John's hope is that he can help the young men on their journey to become Carmelites. *"The Carmelites offer a unique way of life for people wanting to do more. One cannot help but be drawn into the Australian Province's commitment to mission, and the Carmelite Student Education Program."*

**The words of Mother Mary – "let it be done according to your word" – have guided him in his support of the Carmelites today and importantly beyond his own lifetime by leaving a gift in his Will.**

You can join John and many other wonderful donors by leaving a Gift in your Will. Your legacy gift will ensure we can continue our work of serving communities here in Australia and Timor-Leste. It will also help the next generation of Carmelites become tomorrow's community leaders.

**To learn more about leaving a Gift in your Will contact Nancy Mercurio by phone on 03 9690 8822 or email nancy@carmelites.org.au**