

Carmel CONTACT

COMMUNITY • PRAYER • ACTION

October 2020 Issue No. 112



LET'S LIGHT A CANDLE IN MEMORY OF THE ONES WE LOVE

In the midst of the global pandemic, of lockdowns and self-isolation, life has continued, albeit in a “new normal” way.

Expectant mothers have continued to give birth and families have found new ways to adapt to work and school life. Shopping for groceries, running errands and attending to household chores are still being managed even with restrictions.

Although we're learning to adapt to this “new normal”, we're also deeply grieving.

Many are dealing with the grief of loneliness, unable to receive comfort and family support. For those in aged care or nursing homes, visits have been restricted or not permitted, causing a great deal of stress and anguish to residents and their loved ones. While others have received the devastating news that they have a life-threatening illness or disease.

And unfortunately for many of us, we are grieving the death of someone we love. Losing someone we love is heart-breaking. We can become overwhelmed with the emotions that come from grief. But where there's grief, there is a light that slowly pierces through the darkness.

The warm light emanating from a lit candle reminds us of our love for the person we remember, and of God's love for us all.

REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOVE IN A SPECIAL WAY THIS NOVEMBER

Although this year's Remembrance Mass is not open to the public, we will be remembering all who died on Saturday 7 November and throughout the month, in a very special way.

Light a candle in their memory in your own home, take a photo of your lit candle and send it along with the names of everyone you would like the Carmelites to pray for. **During November, we will be uploading the photos we receive from you to form a special Remembrance display.**



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

A: 75 Wright Street, Middle Park, 3206 | **T:** 03 9690 8822
E: fundraising@carmelites.org.au | **W:** www.carmelites.org.au

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

This has been a difficult year for every member of our Carmelite family. Each one of us has had to dig deep to find inner strength to keep going during the long periods of lockdown and isolation.

While some of us have been fortunate to live with loved ones, many within our Carmelite family have been alone for the best part of this year. The emotional and mental toll this isolation is causing will be felt for many months if not years to come.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only impacted our quality of life but it has also created a silent grief. Grief in being unable to spend time with those we love, being unable to go out, or to even attend Church.

Please remember you do not need to endure this alone. You are part of our Carmelite family. **Together through prayer we can support, comfort and strengthen each other.** I encourage you to let the Carmelites know if you are needing pastoral care.

Although the pandemic has consumed our daily lives, life continues to go on, including the sad fact that people we love have died. Earlier this year two inspiring Carmelites died. Both Fr Pat Harney and Fr Ken Petersen were much-loved by people across Australia and New Zealand. They will be very greatly missed.

Lastly, I thank every one of you for continuing to show your support for the people we serve during these difficult months. Your generosity and kindness make a real difference. It allows children and young adults including our Carmelite students to continue their education. And it provides Australians who are alone or facing difficulties with comfort and companionship.

We are deeply grateful for you.



Fr Paul Cahill, OCarm
Prior Provincial



PASTORAL CARE FOR AUSTRALIANS

Since the beginning of the pandemic and with our churches remaining closed, the Carmelites have been providing Australians with prayer and pastoral care. This included a phone campaign to check with donors how COVID-19 has impacted them, and a pastoral prayer card sent in the mail.

"I appreciate so much what The Carmelites are doing to support us through this challenging time. I keep my prayer card on my bedside table and use it to remind me of God's love and pray for our world. Thank you. What you are doing is so needed in today's world." - a grateful donor.



We encourage you to get in touch with The Carmelites by sending us an email to carmelcare@carmelites.org.au or call 03 9690 8822 and allow us to support you at this time.



"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

— Dr. Felice Leonardo Buscagli

IN LOVING MEMORY OF TWO INSPIRING CARMELITES

Earlier this year the Carmelites mourned the deaths of two of our brothers – Fr Ken Petersen and Fr Pat Harney. Widely respected and much-loved, both men served communities with a deep passion and commitment. We pay tribute to them as we reflect on the lives of those they touched.

RECOGNISED AS THE WORLD'S OLDEST CARMELITE



Months shy of his 100th birthday, Fr Pat died with the distinction of being the world's oldest Carmelite on Friday 17 July. He had been a Carmelite for 73 years and a Priest for 68 years.

Born in 1921 in Elmore (Victoria), Pat was the second youngest of eight children. He remembered his home life as filled with daily rosary, morning prayer and Sunday Mass. *"Our faith was just part of our lives"*. This led Fr Pat to decide to become a priest.

"I've been everywhere, man!" he loved to quote when asked about his many places of ministry. Fr Pat served at every Carmelite parish, as Pastor, Prior and Assistant Novice Master in Australia and New Zealand, and as a relieving priest in many country diocesan parishes for priests who were on leave. He also served as Chaplain at Sacred Heart College, Glen Innes, New Zealand and for 16 years as Chaplain at St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne (Vic).

Fr Pat's journey in life was 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."* After retiring from active service in 2010, Fr Pat continued to celebrate morning Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Middle Park (Vic) until early this year.

A LIFE DEDICATED TO PEACE AND JUSTICE



Fr Ken had served in the parishes of Coorparoo (QLD), Hilton (WA) and Middle Park (Vic), in formation ministry, as Lay Carmelite National Chaplain and as Prior Provincial. But one of his greatest achievements was Sancta Sophia Meditation Community which he established with Sr Kathleen Murphy OP at Warburton (Vic) in 1996.

Sancta Sophia was founded to promote Inter Religious Dialogue, social justice and human dignity through the practice and teaching of meditation, days of prayer, retreats and spiritual counselling. Both Fr Ken and Sr Kathleen saw Sancta Sophia as a *"life-giving community where the stranger would be welcomed."*


Throughout his life, Ken rejoiced in and generously shared his experience of God's spirit at work in his own life and helped others recognize it at work in theirs.

Ken died on Saturday 13 June in the same peaceful manner as he had lived his last days, completing a life dedicated to peace and justice. He had been a Carmelite for 58 years and a priest for almost 52 years.



WE ARE RICHER FOR HAVING HAD FR PAT AND FR KEN
IN OUR ORDER AND IN OUR LIVES. MAY THEY NOW FLOURISH
IN THE ETERNAL EMBRACE OF GOD'S LOVE.





Education = Hopes, Dreams and Freedom

Since 2006 the Carmelites have helped Timorese children and young adults pursue their hopes and dreams through the precious gift of an education. Fourteen years on, hundreds of children have been able to go to school while dozens of young adults have received scholarships to tertiary education. **This has been possible because of our caring Carmelite family – that means YOU.**

The Carmelites recognise that education empowers people to transform their lives. From the very beginning our goal was to provide financial assistance to teachers working as volunteers in Zumalai and students in Zumalai to attend high school.

Over time our **Education = Freedom** program was expanded so many more children and young adults can go to school and one day realise their hopes and dreams. **Today our goals support:**

1. Children to access basic primary and high-school education so they gain essential skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic

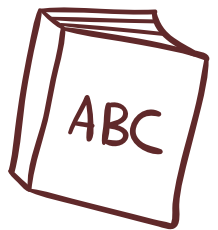


EAGER CHILDREN ARE AT SCHOOL BECAUSE OF YOU

2. Youth to develop skills for their future livelihoods including vocational training and university degrees
3. Scholarship recipients' personal development through crucial peer activities such as annual retreats and student groups
4. Volunteer teachers so they can continue to teach and receive a subsidy to help them provide for themselves and their families



OUR BOARDING HOUSE STUDENTS THANK YOU



**YOU CAN KEEP CHILDREN'S HOPES AND DREAMS ALIVE.
BECOME A CARMELITE MISSION PARTNER.**



Education transforms lives and allows children and young adults to dream of a future for themselves and their families. For \$30 a month you can support children and young adults to stay in school. Your monthly gifts will help transform lives.

ONE STEP CLOSER TO REALISING HER DREAM BECAUSE OF YOU



Elisa dreams of guiding tourists around her beautiful country, showcasing its diverse environment, rich heritage and cultural landmarks.



"I really like learning languages and being able to communicate with people from around the world. I love my country and I want to show it to visitors so they can experience how wonderful all the places are here."

EDUCATING YOUNG ADULTS OUT OF POVERTY THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

Timorese children and young adults are given scholarships when they meet any one of our three criteria - they are from a family experiencing high-level poverty; they are from a family with no parents or a single parent; or they have a disability.

This year there are 27 young people with a scholarship, including 15 young men and 12 young women. These students are undertaking study at a range of levels with 9 at high school, 2 at vocational training centres and 16 at university.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE



MAKE THE PLEDGE AND BECOME A CARMELITE MISSION PARTNER TODAY.

Visit

carmelite-pledge-partner.raisely.com
to sign up to monthly giving or call
03 9690 8822.

For many young adults like Elisa, being able to stay in school can be nothing more than just a dream. With Timor-Leste being the poorest country in our region, poverty and the lack of a stable income can put an end to pursuing an education. When Elisa was very young her mother died. Soon after, her father moved to Indonesia leaving her to be raised by her grandparents, aunt and uncle.

The generous support of the Carmelite family has provided Elisa with an invaluable scholarship.

Today Elisa is in her third year of a five-year Tourism and Travel Management Course at Dili Institute of Technology.

"My favourite subject is Tourism Geography because we study about the municipalities, culture, and the environment. We look at which places are good to visit, the natural places that are beautiful like waterfalls. This subject is about our own country."

Receiving an annual scholarship is helping Elisa realise her dreams of becoming a tourist guide and showcasing the natural beauty of Timor-Leste to an international audience.

"I'm so grateful that I can study and have all these experiences. When I was in high school, I didn't know what I would do next, but now the Carmelites are supporting me and so I'm working hard for my future and for my country's future."

OUR ORDER CONTINUES TO GROW BECAUSE OF YOU

This has been a difficult year for our Carmelite family, including our Carmelite students in Australia and Timor-Leste. Yet our students have continued their commitment to one day serve community through prayer and action.

Young Carmelites renew their vows



On the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (16 July) Brs José and Anacleto renewed their vows for another year while Brs Albino, Marcolino and Matthew made their Solemn Profession (life-long commitment) as Carmelites.

A few days later, 19 July, Brs Amandio, Narcizio, Silvestre, Agostinho and Frangelino renewed their vows during Mass in Hera, Timor-Leste. Fr Carlito (Provincial Delegate for Timor-Leste) received the vows on behalf of Fr Paul who was unable to be present due to coronavirus restrictions.

Matthew ordained deacon



On Saturday 26 September, Matthew was ordained deacon by Archbishop Mark Coleridge in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Coorparoo (QLD). While Matthew's parents were unable to attend, his aunt

and uncle were present and vested Matthew in his diaconal robes.

Fr Donato ordained

Early August saw Fr Donato ordained as priest at St James Church in Hera. The ceremony and feast afterwards were attended by over 1,000 people. The Archbishop of Dili was the celebrant while Fr Carlito represented the Provincial. For the past year Donato was a member of our community at Coorparoo (QLD). He is now serving as an Assistant Priest in the parish of Zumalai.

Newest Aussie Carmelite

On 17 June Fr Paul Sireh became an Australian Citizen. Originally from Manus Island, Paul joined the Carmelites in 2000. Since his ordination in 2005, Paul has served in the Carmelite parishes of Wentworthville (NSW) and Coorparoo (QLD) before taking up his present ministry as Chaplain at Whitefriars College, Donvale (VIC).

Celebrating anniversaries in Timor-Leste



Lastly congratulations to Fr Bruce Clark who celebrated 40 years since his first profession and Frs Aniceto and Nelinho's who celebrated their 25th anniversaries. The Archbishop of Dili was the principal celebrant at the Mass in Hera. More than 2,000 people attended the celebration.

We thank YOU for your faith and support. You are helping our young men become the next generation of Carmelites. We will continue to update you on their journey.

You can support our Carmelite students today. Visit carmelitesttogetherwithyou.raisesly.com or call 03 9690 8822 to make your gift.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBOURS DURING COVID-19

At the height of the global pandemic lockdown, the Carmelites were providing practical support to keep communities safe and prepare schools to reopen.

During government lockdown, many Timorese found themselves unable to provide for their families. Over 40 families received vital food parcels, containing staples such as rice, noodles, cooking oil and other daily essentials from the Carmelites in Hera and Fatuhada.

Carmelite Boarding School students, Genivio, Elias, Celiano and Ricardo, along with Br Antonio, were busily sewing face masks to distribute to neighbours, the Police Force and anyone who needed one in Zumalai, Timor-Leste.



So our schools could reopen, Br Antonio set up additional handwashing stations at the school in Zumalai, along with buying bins, taps and soap for the schools in Raimea and Beco. Together with the few Boarding House students unable to go back to their homes, Br Antonio helped disinfect the House so it was safe for all Boarding House students to return.

COMFORT IN TIME OF 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. A Mass is also offered for the deceased person. Each card costs \$5 or purchase a set of 5 for \$20 (add \$7.50 postage to your order).



Order your Sympathy Prayer Cards today. Complete the adjacent form, call 03 9690 8822 or email fundraising@carmelites.org.au.

YES! I WILL SUPPORT THE CARMELITES IN THEIR WORK.

 Please accept my one-off gift of:

☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$80 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$_____ my choice

OR I wish to make a monthly gift of \$_____ Please deduct my credit card below or send me information on other ways to donate monthly.

I would like to donate by:

☐ Cheque / Money Order (payable to Carmelite Friars)

OR Please debit my: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

No. _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry Date: ____/____ Sign: _____

I would like to order the following Cards:

Card	Cost per Card / Pack	Add Postage	Qty	Cost
Sympathy Prayer Card x 1	\$5 for 1 \$20 for 5	\$7.50 (express post)		
Religious Christmas Card Pack (12)	\$10 per pack	\$12.50 (express post)		
Timor Christmas Card Pack (12)	\$10 per pack	\$12.50 (express post)		
Christmas "Gift of Hope" Mass Cards	\$3.50 each	1-5 cards = Free 6+ = \$12.50 (express post)		
Total Cost + 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 Ministry
PO Box 5295, Middle Park, Vic, 3206

2. Donate securely online
Visit together-as-family.raisely.com

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

CHRISTMAS IS NEARLY HERE! TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS

*As this extraordinary year slowly
comes to a close,
let's spread some Christmas cheer to
those we know.
Send them a message of love and hope,
For a new season filled with joy and
goodwill to all.
Christmas is a time to say goodbye to
this challenging year of fear,
And to wish the ones we love a most
blessed and happy new year.*

Choose from our **Religious or Timor themed Christmas card** packs (each pack costs \$10 and has 12 cards). Add \$12.50 postage. Or order our **Christmas 'Gift of Hope' Mass Card** for loved ones and provide the names of those you would like prayed for at our Christmas Midnight Mass. Each card costs \$3.50. Order 6 or more cards and add \$7.50 postage.



**Complete the form overleaf and return to
the Carmelites, call 03 9690 8822 or email
fundraising@carmelites.org.au today.**

SUPPORTING OUR TIMORESE STUDENTS FROM AFAR

Educating young men to become Carmelites and helping young adults continue with their education is possible because of the generosity of people from all over the world. This includes the United States of America, where two philanthropic organisations showed their generous support of our education programs.

In March, the **Koch Foundation** granted US\$10,000 to support the Carmelite students in Timor-Leste. This is the third consecutive year in which we have been awarded a grant by the Koch Foundation which is a wonderful testimony to the great work of our program. Our students will continue to fulfil their core mission of serving in the midst of the people and to help their communities grow in their Catholic Faith.

The **Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission** of the U.S. Carmelite province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary (Chicago) gave two grants totalling US\$20,000. One grant will support our scholarship program in Timor. This is the first time we have received a grant in support of this invaluable program. The second grant will help teachers at the Zumalai schools be trained in the Carmelites' Safeguarding Policy.

*"Our Lord does not look so much at
the greatness of our actions,
or even at their difficulty, as at the
love with which we do them."*

St Therese of Lisieux



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

A: 75 Wright Street, Middle Park, 3206
T: 03 9690 8822 | **E:** fundraising@carmelites.org.au
W: www.carmelites.org.au