

## The love of family can help us grieve

Every one of us is experiencing some form of grief right now. It may be that we are grieving the death of someone we love. Or that we are grieving being unable to see our family, catch up with friends, and no longer feeling safe when we go to the shops.

**Grieving comes in many forms; it is a sense of loss, intense sorrow and cause of great distress.**

Our children are grieving that they are unable to go to school, to be with their friends, to feel a sense of structure and normality in their daily lives. Their education and studies disrupted, having to adapt to home-based learning, many are falling behind. Many parents worry as to whether they will be able to pay the mortgage, rent or bills. And the loving embrace and support of grandparents, aunts and uncles are becoming a distant memory.

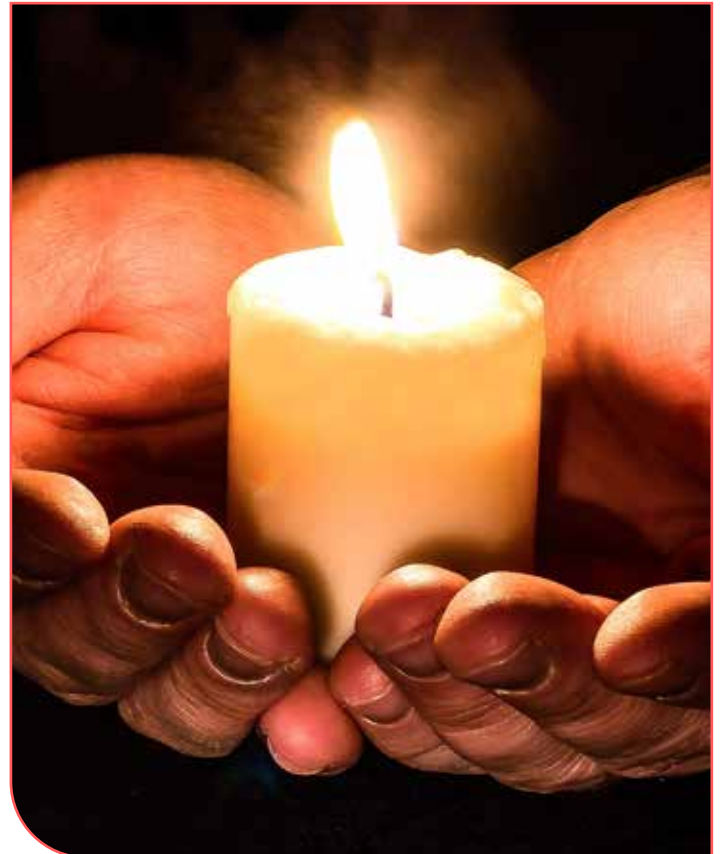
While last year was challenging, there was a sense of we were in this together. This year feels even more challenging with many parts of Australia experiencing lengthy lockdowns and restrictions. Melbourne, where many members of our Carmelite family live, became the city in the world with the most number of days in lockdown.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has continued to disrupt our lives. It has continued to keep us all separated and isolated from each other. It has continued to limit our abilities to be part of community.

**Yet, these are the times when a broader sense of family becomes so very important in our lives. These are the times the Carmelites want you to know that you are not alone. You are part of our family. And as family, we are here to support you, to provide you with pastoral care and spiritual nourishment, to give you comfort in your time of sadness and grief.**

### Remembering those we love in a special way this November

Although this year's Remembrance Mass will not be open to the public, during November we will be commemorating all who have died. We encourage you to send us the names of those you would like us to pray for. They may be people who have died, or those needing prayers to comfort them in their time of need. And as we pray for them, we ask that you light a candle in your home to remember them and to send those grieving the strength they need. **The warm light emanating from a lit candle reminds us of our love for the deceased person, for those we are unable to be with, and of God's love for us all.**



# A Message from the Prior Provincial

As we near the end of another year, I reflect on how challenging it has been. The COVID-19 pandemic and government-issued lockdowns and restrictions continue to keep us apart. They continue to disrupt lives and routines and they continue to create stress, isolation and fear.

**We are here for you and every member of our Carmelite family. We are here to provide you with the strength you need to help you through this most challenging and difficult time. You are not alone, for you are part of our family.**

Our Carmelite family demonstrated great generosity over this past year. The launch of Carmel Impact has been well received, with loyal and new donors responding positively to our appeals to provide education to children and young adults in Timor. We were also humbled by the outpouring of love and generosity for the Timorese affected by the Easter floods.

Your support has been helping young men continue their studies to become Carmelites. Although COVID disrupted their education this year, many have taken the next important step in their journey. On 16 July, the Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Brs José and Anacleto renewed their Vows committing to their Carmelite formation journey for another year.

Our Donor Loyalty program keeps growing with a further 129 wonderful donors reaching giving milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years or more. Your kindness and generosity are helping us continue to serve those in need. You can read more about our Donor Loyalty program on page 6.

As the leader of The Carmelites – Australia & Timor-Leste, I had the opportunity to participate in the 1st Assembly of the Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia. For the first time in 80 years members of the Catholic Church met together in an Assembly of this kind. Composed of lay people, religious, priests and bishops, the Assembly reflected on the question, “What is God asking of us in Australia today?” Many ideas were generated and discussed, which will now be the subject of further reflection and discernment. From all that has been discerned, propositions will be formulated for vocation at the 2nd Assembly, scheduled for July 2022.

Yours in Carmel,

Fr Paul Cahill O.Carm  
**Prior Provincial**



## We need YOUR ideas to save the Carmelite Library

Since 1881, the Carmelite Library has been an oasis for many people, welcoming all who walk through its doors and the only Library of its kind to be open to the general public. The Library is a go-to place for theological and spiritual books, for reading, study, spiritual refreshment, conversation, and other services and events.

Over the years, the Library has built an impressive collection of over 55,000 volumes including an internationally significant collection in Carmelitana, Spirituality & Mysticism, Mariology, carefully curated sub-collections in areas such as Australian Aboriginal spirituality, inter-religious dialogue, monastic and religious life, popular devotions, and spiritual development, as well as over 800 pre-1800 books.

Today, the Library is ranked fourth in the world for Carmelite spiritual tradition collection and holds the most significant Christian spirituality and

mysticism collection in our region, if not the Southern Hemisphere. **This is an important institution that needs your help.**

### Can you help us with expertise, ideas or contacts?

Unfortunately, the Carmelites can no longer afford to maintain this 140-year-old Library. Its current governors (the Provincial Council) believe that, unless an external source of funding is secured, or the Library's collections can form part of a larger repository managed by another body, the Library must close at the end of 2022.

Keeping the Library open will require finding major external philanthropic funding. The Carmelites are seeking to explore every possibility to avoid closure. **We're seeking expertise, ideas, or contacts to approach. If you are able to help, please contact Fr Paul Cahill O. Carm by email [paulcahill@outlook.com](mailto:paulcahill@outlook.com) or call 0419 136 030.**

# Celebrating 20 years together with Timor (2001 – 2021)

**On 15 August, on the day of the Solemnity of the Assumption, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Australian Carmelites taking responsibility for the East Timor Mission and Timorese Carmelites.**

The Indonesian Carmelites who founded the mission in 1999 asked the Australian Carmelites to take responsibility for the Timor-Leste mission and the Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Zumalai in 2001. Their request was made in light of the changing political circumstances in Timor-Leste and the struggle for independence from Indonesia.

In his report to the 2001 Provincial Chapter, Frank Shortis said, *“In February this year Father Heribertus Purwanto, Prior Provincial in Indonesia, came to Melbourne to evaluate the progress of the post graduate students from his Province and to discuss the future of the East Timorese who want to become Carmelites. He explained to us the resolution passed at the Provincial Chapter of his Province last year which proposed that our Province should take responsibility for a Mission in East Timor.”*

**On Tuesday 8 May 2001 the 26 members of the Australian Provincial Chapter voted unanimously to accept responsibility for the East Timor Mission and the Timorese Carmelites.**

In August that year, Wayne Stanhope (Prior Provincial) and David Hofman (Provincial Councillor) travelled to East Timor, joined by Fr Heribertus Purwanto.

As David recalls, *“In Zumalai, we were met by a huge crowd. Many young people on motorbikes had accompanied our car all the way from Lepo to Zumalai, about 25km, tooting their horns and yelling out. People lined both sides of the road, waving and cheering. At the gate to the Carmelite compound a small choir sang, ‘Welcome to the Family’ to us and the local king gave a long speech of welcome. Then dancers led us in procession to the main house where there were more speeches and refreshments.”*

Late in the afternoon of 15 August an open-air Mass was celebrated at the church during which Heribertus formally entrusted the East Timor Mission to the care of the Australian Province. Wayne formally accepted this responsibility on behalf of the Australia Province.

As Prior Provincial, Fr Paul Cahill sees that *“...my vision is to facilitate the development of the Province of Australia and Timor-Leste into a strong, vibrant and united province that finds new and relevant ways of serving people”.* **That remains the hope of us all as we celebrate this anniversary and look to the future.**



**LEFT:**  
Then Prior Provincial,  
Fr Wayne, visiting Timorese  
communities in 2001.



# Immediate relief, practical help and rebuilding communities thanks to YOU

Over the Easter weekend in April, Cyclone Seroja lashed Timor, causing extensive damage in its wake. With raging storms and river levels rising, many thousands of people lost their belongings and homes, while infrastructure such as roads and water pipes were destroyed due to floods. While Dili and its surrounding areas were worst hit, the Carmelite schools in the sub-district of Zumalai were also damaged.

**As news broke of the floods, supporters from across the world sprang into action donating more than \$141,000 in support of the victims of the floods. This generosity is helping to:**

## 1. Provide immediate relief & long-term practical help to flood-affected families

The Carmelite Brothers in Hera and Dili have provided immediate emergency relief to around 500 families (over 2,000 people) in the aftermath of the floods. This included distributing food, water, sanitation items, clothes and cooking utensils, as well as visiting some very remote flood-affected communities in the mountains around Hera. The Brothers also identified 23 families who have received building materials such as cement, gravel, steel poles, tin sheets for roofing, and tools to assist them as they rebuild parts of their homes while an additional 30 families have received furniture & building materials.

## 2. Fix washed away roads and infrastructure

In Dili, Brothers observed that the drains running along the street in Fatuhada were blocked and in general disrepair, making it difficult for flood water to subside and roads unsafe to travel on. In Hera, part of the road leading to the Carmelite compound was washed away. In both locations, the Brothers worked with local community volunteers, making this vital infrastructure functional again.

## 3. Rebuild a community's water supply

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## 4. Repair damaged schools

Torrential rains and high winds damaged the tin roofing on two of the Carmelite primary schools in Zumalai sub-district, causing water leaks which damaged ceilings, walls and verandas. Work is underway to replace and repair the damage. Labourers and several teachers from the school have joined the Carmelites, volunteering their time to replace the roofs, repair and paint walls, and replace ceilings so the schools are back in order.

**Visit [timor-floods-thank-you.raisely.com](http://timor-floods-thank-you.raisely.com) to learn more about how the Carmelites are helping communities affected by the floods.**



# We have an important presence in the world.

Fr Pedro Amaral was born in 1985 in Lospalos, located in the eastern part of Timor. One of eight children, Pedro grew up with Fr Januario (Janu) Pinto sharing the same grandparents on their fathers' side of the family. Shaped by life-changing events, Pedro knew he wanted to become a priest and help the people of Timor. This is his story.

"I'm the fifth child in my family. There are 5 boys and 3 girls. My oldest brother lives with my dad. My other brother is a teacher and the youngest is in the Timorese Army based in Hera. He has been to Australia for training. My three sisters are all married now. In our Lospalos culture, when a woman marries, she joins her husband's family, so they have left our family now.

**My dad is a farmer as was my mum. They planted rice, corn, potatoes, mangoes and cassava.** As our farm was far from the market, my dad made traditional wine and whisky from palm trees to provide for our family. It's hard work. You have to keep tapping the trees to get the juice out. You can't leave, otherwise the tree will go dry. You collect the juice every day, morning and night, and then cook it to turn it into wine. My father carried lots of wood to cook the wine and make 10 litres in one day.

**My mum died in 2016, two months before my ordination.** She was only in her 50s. At that time, I was studying in Flores, Indonesia. Eventually I was able to go home, but she had already died. I got there in time for the funeral, but I couldn't see her because they had already closed her coffin and prepared it for burial.

I did all my schooling with Janu. At first, we were educated by the Indonesian military. There were around 70 students at our school. I then went to Catholic schools from Grade 4 until Year 12. I used to leave home at 6am as it took about 1 hour to walk to school. **In 1999, I was finishing Year 7 when everything was burnt down after the vote for independence.** School was held in the bushes. I had a rock as a chair and my knees as a desk.

**Before joining the Carmelites, I had only gone to church a few times a year.** I didn't know anything about them but since Year 12, I knew I wanted to be a priest. I did a test to join the Carmelite seminary. As soon as I passed, I was on a bus to Zumalai where the Carmelites had a small community. It was so basic back then. Just long grass. I remember when we went into the house where we lived in Zumalai we had to chase a pig out. We had to clean it all up.

**Today, I am Assistant Parish Priest and Assistant Director of the Boarding House in Zumalai.**

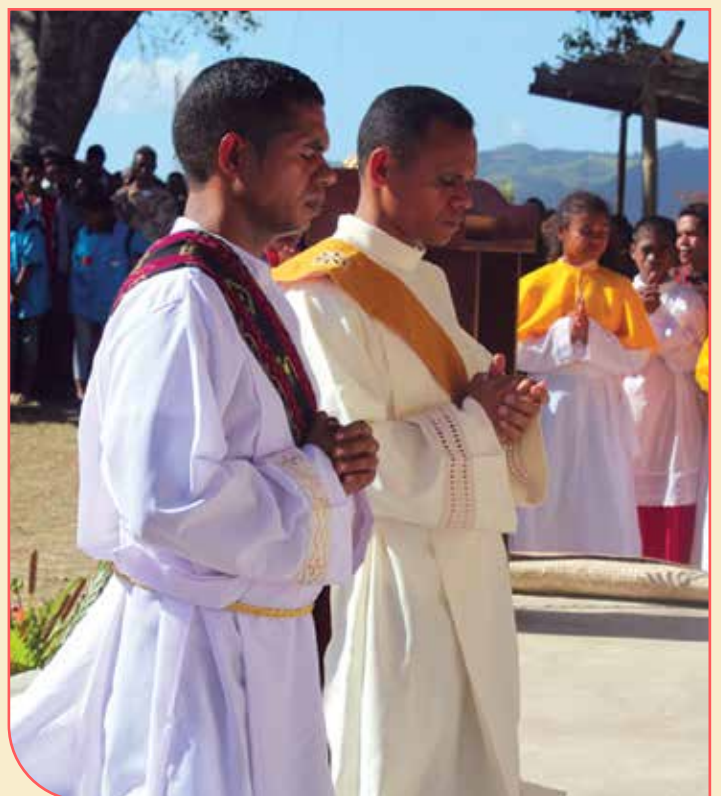


We do Mass twice a day – once at the central parish and once with the Carmelite sisters in Belaco. If it's closer to Christmas or Easter, I am the one who organizes the timetable for all of us to hold Mass at all the different parishes in the villages around Zumalai.

Recently I have helped to establish Carmelite Youth groups in Zumalai. There are over 60 young people involved in our youth group called Jokar – which stands for Joven Karmelita (Carmelite Youth). Parishes in other villages are asking us to set up youth groups for them because they see the success of Jokar.

Lastly, I want to thank our donors for supporting our younger Brothers who are still studying. Thank you for helping to pay their schooling and education, because the future of the Carmelite order is in their hands. **We really do have an important presence in the world."**

**You can show your support for the Carmelite students. Visit [carmelitestogetherwithyou.raisely.com](http://carmelitestogetherwithyou.raisely.com) to donate online or call 03 9690 8822.**





# Giving thanks to YOU for your loyalty and love

In 2018, the Carmelites launched our Donor Loyalty Program, recognising our loyal and long-term donors' commitment and continuing support for those we serve. Many of our donors have been supporting the Carmelites for more than 5 years, with many more celebrating significant milestones of 20, 25 years and 30 years.

Over the past three years more than 500 donors reached a significant giving milestone. This year, an additional 129 donors have joined this wonderful group of compassionate, caring and loving donors. This includes 15 donors who by end of last year, have been giving for 30 years or more becoming part of our 'Carmelite Lifetime Partners'.

All of our loyal donors receive a personalised certificate, a Donor Loyalty pin representing their giving milestone. These small tokens are our way of saying Thank You – two words that we hold deep in our hearts for having you by our side.

As one of our Loyal Donors said, *"I was delighted to receive my certificate and pin. It's been a great pleasure for me to support the Carmelites for over 30 years. I wear my beautiful pin with pride when I go out and I often get people asking me what my pin is for. I love telling them about the wonderful work you do and how proud I am to be associated with the Carmelites."*

**To every one of you who has been by our side we thank you. You are absolutely wonderful.**

**We are eternally grateful for your support.**



## Exciting News: Our first Carmel Impact Annual Report has been launched

When we empower young people through education, youth engagement, and leadership development, we are effecting lasting change transforming present and future generations in Timor-Leste. This is what Carmel Impact strives to achieve with the generous support of our Carmelite family – *transforming lives and building communities together.*

Our Report is full of wonderful stories that demonstrate the impact our Carmelite family has made to the youth of Timor-Leste.

If you would like to download a copy of our Annual Report, visit [carmel-impact-annual-report.raisely.com](http://carmel-impact-annual-report.raisely.com) or if you prefer to receive a hard copy contact Nancy by phone 03 9690 8822 or email [director@carmelimpact.org.au](mailto:director@carmelimpact.org.au)



# Where COVID prevents, technology permits

The Carmelite Provincial Assembly is usually held one year before the Provincial Chapter for ongoing formation and to focus on emerging issues. Usually, members of the Province would gather in Melbourne (VIC) for the Assembly. However, government-issued lockdowns and travel restrictions prevented the Carmelites from Australia and Timor-Leste gathering together in the one place. Instead, it was decided to hold the Assembly in 2 sessions, one in each country. More than 20 Carmelites across Australia met together for the first ever online Provincial Assembly, while Carmelites in Timor-Leste were able to gather face-to-face in Hera.

The first day Fr Míceál O’Neill (Prior General) shared his reflections on Pope Francis’ Encyclical, Fratelli Tutti via video. The next two days were spent looking towards the future of the Province in terms of finances, present and new ministry projects and an increasing number of young Carmelites becoming available for ministry in the next few years.

## Order your Christmas Cards today

Our Timor-themed Christmas cards are now available for purchase. A pack of 12 cards costs just \$10 (+\$12.50 for express postage). Or order our Christmas “Gift of Hope” Mass Cards to send to 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 \$12.50 for express postage.

**When you buy our cards, you’re helping us serve communities in Australia and Timor-Leste. To order your cards complete the form, call 03 9690 8822 or email [fundraising@carmelites.org.au](mailto:fundraising@carmelites.org.au)**



When ordering our cards you may receive images different to those shown here.

# YES! I will help transform lives and build communities.

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 Carmel Impact Ltd)

**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 \$25 for 6	\$7.50 (express post)		
Set of 6 Prayer Cards	\$25 per set	\$7.50 (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)		
<b>Total Cost + Postage:</b>				

**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:

Carmel Impact  
Fundraising Development Ministry  
PO Box 5295, Middle Park, Vic, 3206

### 2. Donate securely online

[carmel-impact-remembrance-appeal.raisely.com](http://carmel-impact-remembrance-appeal.raisely.com)

### 3. Contact us

T: 03 9690 8822

E: [together@carmelimpact.org.au](mailto:together@carmelimpact.org.au)

# Transforming lives, building communities in Timor-Leste TOGETHER

This has been another challenging and difficult year for so many, yet our wonderful Carmelite family continued to show their kind and generous support of those we serve.

**Together we are providing children and young adults with pathways to an education, helping disengaged youth find their purpose once again and supporting Carmelite students to continue on their journey.**

**Friends of Zumalai, Coorparoo (FoZ) provide access to clean running water**

Clean water is essential for all of us, and more so to a growing child. Together FoZ helped raise almost \$6,000 so that the Carmelite school in Raimea can have clean water for students and staff to wash their hands, proper toilet facilities with running water and water tanks.

**Schools come out in force for the youth of Timor**

COVID has disrupted the education of many Australian students. Yet that did not stop the school communities of Whitefriars and Avila Colleges from raising vital funds in support of the education of young people in Timor. They raised almost \$5,000 in support of community scholarships, youth engagement programs and volunteer teacher subsidies.

**Their memories shine on**

Over the past 12 months, the Carmelites have lost three beloved Brothers – Fr Ken Petersen, Fr Pat Harney, and Br Sean Keefe. All three were committed to the education of the young men in our Order. Hundreds of mourners tuned in to the livestreaming of their funeral services and donated more than \$38,000 towards the education of our Carmelite students.

**A trusting partnership**

Despite the challenges of the COVID global pandemic, we received generous support from organisations around the world. Our thanks go to: Society of the Little Flower, British Province of the Carmelite Friars, General Commissariat of Portugal, JPIC Commission, Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Irish Province of the Order of the Carmelites and many more.

**We wish we could list every person and organisation that supports us. Please know how grateful we are to each and every one of you.**

## Giving comfort in time of grief

When you send one of our 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 and the person who is grieving. Each card costs \$5 or purchase a set of 6 cards for \$25 (please add \$7.50 postage). Order your Prayer Card/s today by completing the form, call 03 9690 8822 or email [together@carmelimpact.org.au](mailto:together@carmelimpact.org.au)

## The gift that keeps on giving... month after month...

Education is a precious gift that transforms lives and shapes minds. It not only helps children and young adults learn to read and write, education gives them a chance to dream of a future for themselves and their families. For just \$30 a month (that's \$1 a day) you can help Timorese children and young adults realise the gift of education. Take the pledge and sign up to monthly giving today.

**Sign up at [carmel-impact-mission-partner.raisely.com](https://carmel-impact-mission-partner.raisely.com) or call 03 9690 8822 today.**

