

A New Beginning

A new year, a new week, even a new day can bring with it a sense of hope and an opportunity to start over. A chance to leave hurt, grief and disappointment behind and create a new beginning.

A new beginning of hope, renewal and new life for Australians and Timorese.

As Australians reconnect with loved ones and resume their lives after the disruption of the COVID-19 global pandemic, children and young adults in Timor-Leste are embracing the opportunities of continuing their education.

Education not only helps young people learn invaluable skills, but it also has a huge impact on their families and communities. For them, education is a precious gift that will help them realise their hopes and dreams, transform their lives, and rise out of the grips of poverty.

Transforming lives, Building Communities, TOGETHER

Since 2001, helping the Timorese access education has been and continues to be an integral part of The Carmelites' mission. It is the reason for establishing our charity arm – Carmel Impact Ltd – in 2019, so we can have greater impact helping those in need in Timor-Leste throughout the areas where the Carmelites work.

The difference is YOU

Making a positive impact to people living in poverty is only possible with the compassionate and caring support of Australians. Together we can transform lives and help the Timorese build their communities, heal from past hurt and grow even stronger and more resilient.

When you give in support of our Timor Education and Community Development programs, your gift will now be tax deductible.



LATEST NEWS

Our prayers and thoughts go to the people and communities across Australia who continue to be impacted by COVID-19. We also send our prayers to the communities in New South Wales, Western Australia and Timor-Leste who have been hit hard by floods. Homes, livelihoods and infrastructures have been destroyed. Sadly, as Timor-Leste struggles with an increase in the number of people diagnosed with COVID-19, around 46 people have lost their lives or are missing due to the floods. The long journey of recovery begins for those affected. You can support our Timorese neighbours – donate now by visiting timor-floods-emergency-appeal.raisely.com

A Message from the Prior Provincial

Last year was difficult, challenging and for many of us, devastating. Although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc across the world, the roll-out of the vaccine program is giving us all encouragement that life may soon return to normal.

Yet, the past year also served as a reminder of what is important in our lives – the love of family and friends, taking time out to reflect on the past, and to consider what may be ahead in the future.

You never need to feel that you are alone for you are part of our Carmelite family.

Throughout 2020 we reached out to members of our Carmelite family through our Pastoral Care program to ensure they were not alone. Many shared how they were feeling during the lockdowns, but also how their faith was helping them to cope. You can read more about the difference this program made on page 3.

Bringing Carmel Impact to life

It is wonderful to see the new charity arm of The Carmelites – Carmel Impact – be implemented across our organisation. The logo combines the history of the Carmelites through the heart-shaped shield, while the hands represent our caring community of supporters – that means YOU – who lift up those we serve. **Together with your support, Carmel Impact is our commitment so children and young adults, including our Carmelite students, in Timor-Leste receive the gift of an education.**

In loving memory of Br Sean Keefe

Br Sean Keefe brought a love for education and social justice to all whom he met throughout his life, including the staff, students and community of Whitefriars College. He worked tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for the people of Timor-Leste. You can read more about Sean's remarkable legacy on page 8.

Lastly, I thank you, our wonderful Carmelite family, who continued to show your compassion and support for the people we serve here in Australia and in Timor-Leste during the past year. Your generosity helped provide comfort, pastoral care and practical support to those in need. You can read more about the impact your gifts have made on page 3.

I hope you enjoy our new look Carmel Contact and pray that you will continue to support our work through Carmel Impact. Together we can transform lives and build communities.

Yours in Carmel,

Fr Paul Cahill O.Carm
Prior Provincial



The End of an Era for Sancta Sophia

Late last year, the Carmelites made the difficult decision to formally close Sancta Sophia Meditation Community and place the property in Warburton, Victoria, for sale.

Since its establishment in 1996, Sancta Sophia was a warm and welcoming place where people could come together to meditate, share experiences and learn from each other. Founded by the late Fr Ken Petersen O.Carm and Sr Kathleen Murphy OP, Sancta Sophia promoted Inter Religious Dialogue, social justice and human dignity through the practice and teaching of meditation, prayer, retreats and spiritual counselling.

In the words of Sr Kathleen, "We envisioned a life-giving community where the stranger would be welcomed."



Over 100 people came together on Sunday 31 January, for the closing ceremony of Sancta Sophia and to honour Fr Ken and Sr Kathleen. Fr Ken passed away in June last year.

Kevin Dawson, a member of the Sancta Sophia community has put together a moving tribute to Fr Ken, Sr Kathleen and Sancta Sophia. You can view this special video by visiting vimeo.com/507355553.

The difference YOUR support made in 2020

Although 2020 was a most challenging year best left as a distant memory of history, the support from our Carmelite family was truly outstanding. Your compassion for those we serve did not waver.

Here's a snapshot of your support and the difference it made to those in need last year:

Over **\$675,000** was raised from individuals, parish and support groups, Trusts and Gifts in Wills



Donors gave **2,989** precious gifts in support of those we serve

Because of YOU...

25 young adults received scholarships

8 young people graduated with Degrees

500 children continued to go to school

20 volunteer teachers were financially assisted

47 Carmelite students continued their education

THANK YOU! Together we are transforming lives and building communities. You can read more about how your gifts made an impact for the children and young adults of Timor-Leste on page 4.

Our Gift of Pastoral Care for You

As the COVID-19 global pandemic disrupted all of our lives last year, it became immediately apparent that there was a need to significantly boost our Pastoral Care program. From the Prior Provincial, staff, Carmelite students, Lay Carmelites and volunteers, everyone leapt into action to reach out and connect with members of our Carmelite family.

Many donors and supporters expressed their delight in being able to chat with someone who cared and was there to listen to them. Some requested prayers while others gained comfort in knowing someone on the other end of the phone cared.

We will continue to be there for those seeking comfort and companionship. Our intention forms, prayer cards, and mass request allow us to pray for people who face hardships and worries. And we're a phone call away if you are experiencing loneliness, despondency or just simply in need of a chat.

Contact our Carmel Care team - call (03) 9690 8822 or email carmelcare@carmelites.org.au

CARMEL IMPACT

Home to more than 1.3 million people, Timor-Leste is one of the newest countries in our region and also the poorest. More than 70% of its people live in rural areas. They have limited employment opportunities, experience higher poverty and more likely to live in challenging circumstances.

Recognising the increasing need for support, the Carmelites made a strategic decision to help people transform their lives through education, youth engagement and leadership development.

Early last year Carmel Impact Ltd was established as the charity arm of The Carmelites to help those in need in Timor-Leste.

Our work means:

1. Children and young adults can attend our Carmelite schools
2. Carmelite students can receive our La Bruna Scholarships to study philosophy or English in Australia
3. Young women and men can be awarded our Community Scholarships so they can pursue a career or vocation
4. Disenfranchised youth engage in and lead events that bring them together through sports and cultural activities
5. Teachers and volunteers in our Carmelite schools receive professional development



All this can be possible with the compassionate support of our Carmelite family.

We recognise that our Carmelite family wants to do more to help those in need in Timor-Leste.

Your compassion and support are reflected in our tagline because together we can transform young people's lives and help them build stronger and more resilient communities.

Transforming Lives, Building Communities, Together

The inspiration behind the Carmel Impact logo

Our Carmel Impact logo was inspired by the Icon of Mary 'La Bruna' whose origins come from Mount Carmel, the place where the Carmelites were founded.

The logo is made up of three key elements; the organic shapes and colours inspired by the icon come together to make a heart and represent Mount Carmel; the stars connect Carmel Impact to the three Carmelite pillars of Prayer, Community and Service; the hands illustrate God's loving hands, together with ours in giving, supporting and guiding.



comes to life



Carmel Impact in action

Our Carmelite family have been instrumental in helping young people receive scholarships which have helped them achieve success with their studies.

Community Scholarship students graduate

Sabino completed a Bachelor of Petroleum Engineering at Dili Institute of Technology. As part of his degree, Sabino travelled to Indonesia on a 2-month intensive study tour. This enabled him to broaden his knowledge. It was also the first time Sabino had travelled overseas or on a plane.

Julito graduated with a Bachelor of Information Management at the Institute of Business. For his final year project, Julito worked with a dental clinic in Dili, setting up an information system so the clinic could manage their patient information. He then used this experience for his written thesis and oral exam.



Sabino



Julito

If you educate a woman, you educate a nation

Educating girls and young women is an integral part of our education program. Currently we have 10 young women in our Community Scholarships program. **With your help these young women can continue to pursue their education.**

"I want to continue studying because school is a great place for me to learn and achieve my goals. But it is the financial challenge of sustaining my studies."

Zelia hopes to study medicine

"I want to express my gratitude to the donors who have supported me. I can smile at you because you've supported me to achieve my goals."

Elisa dreams of a career in Tourism

"I'm really proud of what Judith has achieved. She'll be the first in our family to go to University if the Carmelites support her. It's very expensive to pay for education in Timor. But it's also important for their future."

Julia (Judith's mum) dreams of her daughter's life being transformed through education



Zelia



Elisa



Julia

Our hope is that every young person in Timor-Leste can pursue an education. With your support they can.

Visit gift-of-education-appeal.raisely.com or call 03 9690 8822 to make your tax-deductible donation today.

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Community Leaders, Because of YOU

Giving young Timorese men the opportunity to become Carmelites helps our Order to grow and enables us to extend the pastoral, sacramental and spiritual care we can provide to our Carmelite family. Here is an update on their Carmelite journey.

Celebrating first and final commitments

More than 3,000 people gathered at the Carmelite community in Hera, Timor-Leste, to celebrate the Solemn Profession (life commitment) and First Profession (initial commitment) of 9 Carmelites. With Fr Carlito Da Costa Araújo, Provincial Delegate for Timor-Leste, presiding, the ceremony began with traditional Timorese dancing and ended with a great feast.



Young Carmelites Graduating

On 19 March, Br Albino Dos Santos joined 400 other students of the University of Divinity, Melbourne, for the Graduation Ceremony where he received his Bachelor of Theology. He is now studying for the Master of Theological Studies degree.



At the end of October last year, Brothers Amandio, Agostinho and Narcizio graduated with Bachelor of Philosophy degrees from the Instituto Filosofico Sao Francisco De Sales in Dili, Timor-Leste. They will continue their studies for priesthood at the Major Seminary of Saints Peter & Paul in Dili.

Our warm congratulations go to each Brother on their Carmelite journey.

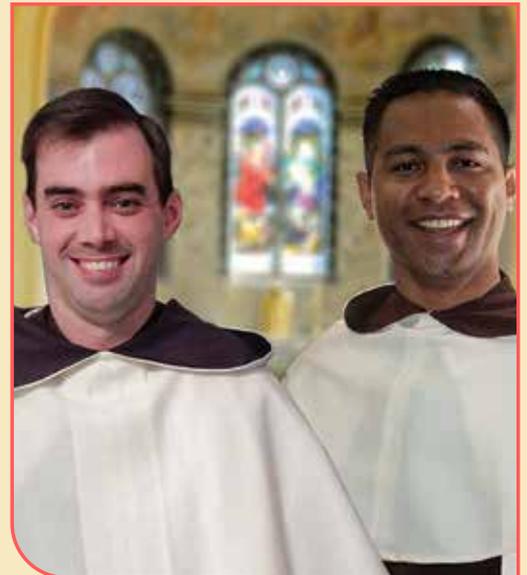
FANTASTIC NEWS!

Two Carmelites ordained thanks to YOU!

It is with great excitement we announce that Br Matthew Tonini has been ordained Priest and Br Agedo Bento ordained Deacon at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Middle Park (Vic) on Saturday 17 April.

Matthew joined the Carmelites in 2012 after completing science studies at university and teaching in rural New South Wales where he was also actively involved in the local faith community.

"The Carmelites have helped me to learn about myself, to grow personally, professionally and spiritually. This personal growth and faith to serve, is where I have found meaning and purpose in life." After his Ordination Matthew will continue as Assistant Priest at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Coorparoo (QLD).



Agedo joined the Carmelites in 2007 after completing his secondary education and working to support himself. Agedo came to Australia in 2013 to complete his studies at the University of Divinity.

Since 2019 he has been pursuing a Master of Teaching degree at Australian Catholic University.

"I feel very enthusiastic on my journey in Carmel. I thank all those people to have helped and continue to help and support me on my journey."

Timor-Leste's Ambassador visits the Carmelites

Timor-Leste's first ever female Ambassador to Australia, Ambassador Inês Maria de Almeida (pictured below centre) and her delegation, met with Carmelites, Timorese Carmelite and Salesian Brothers, students and members of the Timorese community on the last day of her visit to Melbourne.

Ambassador Inês was born in Timor-Leste's capital, Dili, but escaped to Australia as a refugee with family relatives in 1975. She was a strong defender of Timor-Leste's self-determination and founded the East Timor Relief Association providing logistics and financial support for those working for liberation.

During her visit with the Carmelites, the Ambassador also met with a young Timorese seasonal worker who was hospitalised soon after he arrived in Melbourne in March 2019. Fr Hugh Brown, the Carmelites and Timor-Leste Association have been caring for the worker since his discharge from hospital earlier this year.

Ambassador Inês expressed her gratitude for the immense generosity of Fr Hugh, the parish of Port Melbourne/Middle Park and the Carmelites in caring for seasonal workers in need of pastoral care.



Prefer to donate to Carmel Impact by Direct Deposit? Contact us for updated details.

To claim tax deductibility for your donation to Carmel Impact, you must contact the Fundraising Development Ministry on 03 9690 8822 or email together@carmelimpact.org.au for the details you need!

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 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 \$7.50 for Postage & Handling.

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

Visit carmel-impact-new-beginning.raisely.com

3. Contact us

T: 03 9690 8822

E: together@carmelimpact.org.au

Br Sean Keefe O.Carm - A Life of Education and Social Justice

On Wednesday 6 January 2021, Br Sean Keefe O.Carm died peacefully after a short battle with cancer. He leaves behind a legacy of love for community, education and social justice.

It was the love for community, education and social justice that brought Sean to Whitefriars College in 2001 where he joined the staff as Chaplain and teacher. And it was the same love that resulted in Sean working tirelessly to raise awareness and much-needed funds for the young people of Timor-Leste, in particular the Carmelite students.

When Sean first visited Timor-Leste in 2004, he was struck by the poverty of the people, especially in the rural Carmelite parish of Zumalai. *“Many families can’t afford to pay for schooling let alone a university education for their children,” he said. “If we can provide an education for these young people, they can get a job and support their families.”*

Over the years Sean engaged Whitefriars College and wider communities to help ensure that Timorese children and young adults could access education. His efforts saw more than \$265,000 raised since 2010.

Sean dedicated himself to helping young people receive the precious gift of education. He also guided and mentored many young men on their Carmelite journey.

Every person who met Sean was drawn to his enthusiasm and relentless drive to help the people of Timor-Leste. *“I like to stay in the background. My most valuable resource is working with wonderful and generous friends.”*

Prior Provincial Fr Paul Cahill paid tribute to Sean’s life and ministry in a moving homily which you can read by visiting carmelites.org.au/4279-br-sean-keefe-funeral-homily/file

Sean was a Carmelite, brother, relative, neighbour, mentor, dear friend and esteemed colleague to many in Australia, Timor-Leste, USA and around the world. He was a man of the Gospels and a man of the Beatitudes. As we mourn Sean’s loss from our midst, we rejoice in the gift he was to us and the legacy of love he has left behind. May he now enjoy the fullness of eternal life in the Kingdom of God, to which he witnessed so eloquently. May he rest in peace.

Br Sean Keefe was passionate about the education and training of young Timorese Carmelites. You can support Sean’s legacy and help our students continue on their journey to become Carmelites. Every gift received will be acknowledged in Sean’s memory. Visit in-loving-memory-br-sean-keefe.raisely.com to make your gift today.

☆ In loving memory of Br Sean Keefe O.Carm ☆ 1946 - 2021 ☆

