During this season of Eastertide may each of us live with the renewed energy of Christ risen and present in our lives.

Each year, as a result of Lent/Easter Christians can choose a new and fresh approach to life! When I visited Zumalai town a few weeks ago, this is just what seemed to have happened there. Three new beautiful classrooms had been built on the Carmelite Compound. As you drive through Zumalai town they are a landmark with their new paintwork and red roof. These new classrooms have even been wired for electricity. The town now has an electricity supply operating from 6pm to midnight each evening. A Timor Telecom tower has also been erected so what a surprise it was to have a phone call from my sister in the remote south west town of Zumalai. Water is also a little more accessible to the people of the town as there are four pipes now down at the spring instead of one and the Junior Secondary School has water being piped to a tank. More people in the town of Zumalai now have tanks and I saw many new buildings throughout the sub-district of Zumalai.

During this March visit to Timor-Leste I was accompanied by Jenny Wallis from Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Coorparoo, Brisbane. She was a wonderful companion. She appreciated the experience very much and said how much she had learnt about the life and work of the Timorese Carmelites from the visit. It was a very powerful experience for her.

The Carmelite Students in Dili with Jenny Wallis

English Lessons

Jenny and I began our visit to Timor-Leste with a two week intensive English Language Course for the Carmelite students in Dili and Hera. The objectives of the Course were:

- to improve the English language skills of the Carmelite students through conducting training based on the language needs of the Carmelite students and using a student centred approach
- to provide English practice in listening, speaking, writing and reading activities
- to enable the Carmelite students to become more confident in using English especially when communicating with English speakers

We taught through the use of familiar themes and introduced both vocabulary and grammar. On most days there were two English sessions of two hours
each. For group presentations and some of the teaching we divided the group into two so Jenny and I could have more concentrated time with a group. The Carmelite students enjoyed the lessons and demonstrated a strong eagerness to learn English. They especially enjoyed using different mediums. Songs and puppets, were very popular. It was very important using materials that related to their Timorese experience. As English teachers it was wonderful to be able to observe that the students had grown in confidence in using English and also in their ability to ask questions. An improvement in pronunciation was also observed. The English course provided a wonderful opportunity to get to know and build up a relationship with the Carmelite men for future English sessions.

An English resource kit is being developed in Timor-Leste so that when other courses are held resources will not always need to be brought from Australia. All the students were provided with a copy of the Mary McKillop English/Tetun, Tetun/English dictionary.

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**Br Antonio O.Carm, showing the book to some of the students**

Another exciting happening during our visit to Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary School Zumalai was presenting the children and staff with two photo books which had photos of the children, staff, families and buildings in both schools. We visited each classroom and Br Antonio explained why this gift was being given to the students. He told the children how Mt Carmel in Coorparoo wanted to build a friendship between their school and Mt Carmel in Zumalai. I am experiencing the relationship between the two schools growing. The Zumalai children were very excited about seeing their own photos.

Special thanks to Mt Carmel Primary School Coorparoo, Brisbane for the amazing work they have done in raising funds for Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary School Zumalai.

Rosemary Patterson rsm
CarmeliteTimor-Leste Mission Coordinator

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**Zumalai’s New School**

Many supporters of the Carmelite Friars have heard about this new primary school building but it is the students and families of Mount Carmel Primary School, Coorparoo, Brisbane who have waited so patiently for its completion. It is COMPLETED and in the photo above 176 children are assembled at 8am in the morning ready to begin school. This is the first time that I have experienced a whole school assembly as previously the classes were staggered and the students therefore attended school at different times.

Classes 1, 2 & 3 are using the new school classrooms which, in the photo, has the red roof. Classes 4, 5 & 6 are using the other building. The first building was renovated only a few years ago but Br Antonio who is both the architect and project manager organised and planned any improvements he believed would be an advantage in the new three classrooms. The new building is therefore attached to the electrical power supply and has fluorescent lights. The floor in the classrooms is red cement and seats have been built along the verandah. The lower section of the wall has been painted in red so that it does not show the dirt.