

EASTER

Last week, I was fortunate to visit Timor Leste with Paul Smith OFM, Val Mooney (Parishioner from St Francis Xavier Box Hill), Bob Out (Rector, Padua College), Michael O'Brien (Vice Rector, Padua College) to meet with the Friars of the Indonesian Province and the Foundation of St Anthony of Lisboa, Timor Leste. The purpose was to further develop our partnership and to develop new ways to support the communities. After a much anticipated visit from both us and the Indonesian province, we were welcomed with great enthusiasm and experienced incredible hospitality.

During our visit we were fortunate to visit each community of Friars, Franciscan Sisters, Schools and the sites of the eco-pastoral projects that have been supported by our Franciscan Parishes. We celebrated Palm Sunday with the Franciscan Parish in Wekiar.

A comprehensive report will be sent to you in the coming weeks as those who visited Timor Leste discuss the visit with the Friars in Timor Leste and the JPIC Commission, and develop proposals and a programme to support the new Foundation. It is hoped that our relationship with the schools and communities will be strengthened and maintained in the future.

Many thanks to all communities and parishes who have contributed to the Timor Leste partnership over the years. I hope that this support will continue.

During this season of Easter, let us pray for the Friars and communities in Timor Leste:

*All powerful and ever-present God:
 Look with love on the people of East Timor.
 Send your Spirit to guide them on their journey.
 Enlighten the hearts and minds of all engaged in the process of development so that
 true freedom and lasting peace will be achieved.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son who lives with you, in the unity of the Holy
 Spirit, now and forever.
 Amen.*



Best wishes for Easter!!!

Please Note:

I will be away for a JPIC training course in Rome from 15 April until 18 May inclusive. At this time I will also visit the Friars in Singapore and spend some time in Assisi before taking personal leave. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email should you wish.