

St Mary's Catholic School Ellerslie

We provide a Catholic Education for the whole child.



Friday 9th March 2018

Dear Whanau,

It has been a St Mary's tradition to acknowledge St Patrick's Day (March 17th) by having a mufti day where the children come dressed in green. We would like to continue the tradition this year but also ask that they bring in a gold coin donation which will go to the CARITAS appeal with a focus on supporting Timor-Leste, (formerly known as East Timor).

Why Timor -Leste?

All funds raised during the Caritas appeal in 2018 will go towards supporting the people of Timor-Leste. Located in Southeast Asia, just a few hundred kilometres northwest of Australia, Timor-Leste is one of the youngest countries in the world, it gained independence in 2002 after 24 years of Indonesian occupation. During the early years of independence Timor-Leste experienced internal conflict which broke out in 2006, but since then there has been significant effort to build a peaceful country with a stable government.

With your support, Caritas will be able to continue working in Timor-Leste in partnership with Hamahon Feto Timor (HAFOTI) a women's livelihood organisation which provides training, marketing opportunities and revolving loans to rural women in order to generate income for them.

Timorese living in rural areas have limited opportunities to earn cash. Rural households are engaged primarily in low-productivity farming. Women face poverty, domestic violence and a lack of recognition of their contribution. Many are widows due to conflict and have to provide for their families alone. HAFOTI supports members to develop and make products such as coconut oil, handcrafts and banana chips for sale in seven districts in Timor-Leste. The next step for HAFOTI is to improve the processing and retailing of local products through the establishment of production centres in selected districts.

We really appreciate your support in this cause to help the wonderful work that Caritas volunteers do in the areas of the world that most need our assistance.

May God Bless You.

Nga Mihi,

Rachael Hill

Director Of Religious Studies