



*Come and explore  
'the real Timor' and  
experience the global  
missionary Church with  
local Timorese people.*

*You will be forever  
changed!*



## East Timor Immersion Program 2016

### What is an Immersion Program?

A Catholic Mission Immersion is where a small group of adults or students visit church and school communities in an Australian Indigenous context or an overseas country for 10 to 12 days.

Through the immersion experience we come face-to-face with local people and recognise them as our brothers and sisters. We empathise with them and share their daily joys and sorrows, celebrating their richness and gifts, and feeling for their pain. We learn as much from them, possibly more, as they learn from us.

### Why participate in an Immersion?

This immersion experience will touch your heart, engage your mind and nourish your spirit. We will spend time being with people in the local community, appreciating their warm welcome and simple hospitality. Our time will include rich experiences such as sharing cultural traditions and stories over a cup of tea, walking in their shoes for a brief time. Come and experience of prayer, communion, music and Eucharist like no other! Be part of discussions on inter religious dialogue and meet Catholic Sisters who live and work within the communities.

### Expressions of interest

We are now calling for expressions of interest from students who would like to be considered as possible participants for the September 2016 East Timor Immersion Program.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Immersion is to develop an understanding and appreciation of Timorese culture while learning about ourselves.

### What experiences will I have?

Possible visits depending on time and itinerary structure may include the statue at Cristo Rei, Areia Branca beach, Santa Cruz Cemetery, CAVR Truth & Reconciliation and Chege exhibitions, Tais market, Dili Cathedral, The embassy district, Motael Church, John Paul II statue, a Caritas Project, Teachers' College and a stay in the Dominican Orphanage in Bidau, a visit to Laleia to meet with Capuchin Friars and see Catholic Mission projects. Visit Palaka Kindergarten, markets and explore Balibo and if the schedule allows Mass at Maubara Church.

# Partnership with Catholic Mission

*The purpose of an immersion is for participants to experience life, faith and justice from a new perspective and return home inspired to live a personal sense of Catholic 'mission' in Australia.*



## Marymount College is excited to be involved in an immersion partnership with Catholic Mission.

**Catholic Mission is the official mission agency of the Catholic Church in Australia. one of our goals is to continue the mission of Jesus that all may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10b).**

The students will be accompanied by two teachers and the group will be led by an accredited Catholic Mission facilitator. The Catholic Mission Immersion team is made up of over fifteen experienced mission educators who volunteer as trained facilitators and lead immersion trips.

Together Catholic Mission and Marymount College staff will develop a final itinerary tailored to meet the needs of the students, drawing on a wide array of communities across Timor Leste. The immersion experience is an opportunity for your child to experience a different culture and witness the day to day life style of the Timorese people. All applications will be considered and a final group of students will be selected by the school.

### Meet the team

Catholic Mission will be available to support the preparations of the team including a final parent information session, which will occur just prior to the immersion. This final preparation session will provide an opportunity to meet the Catholic Mission facilitator and teachers accompanying the team and ask any questions that you may have.

## Preparation

The preparation process is designed to prepare participants for the Immersion experience by:

- Examining the history, culture and faith of the people in the host country
- Considering the challenges and issues faced by host communities
- identifying and preparing participants for possible personal experiences such as culture shock
- informing participants of practicalities such as what to pack, and health and hygiene considerations

Preparation is vital for every immersion as it allows participants the time and space to be more aware of what lies ahead. It should also demystify any possible inappropriate or unrealistic expectations, fears and stereotypes, while affirming and informing participants of the unique experiences they will encounter.

## Follow up

Most participants will only fully feel the effect of the immersion upon returning home to their own communities. Catholic Mission has an established program to assist participants as they debrief, act upon and integrate their experience at every possible level within their own communities.

*"We are all invited to walk the streets of the world with one's brothers and sisters."*

*-Pope Francis*

# Draft Itinerary



*“Persons always live in relationship. We come from others, we belong to others, and our lives are enlarged by our encounter with others.”*

*Pope Francis*

## Day One

- Depart Brisbane for Timor
- Hosted by the Dominican Orphanage in Bidau, Dili
- Overnight at Dominican Orphanage Bidau

## Day Two

- Hosted by the Dominican Orphanage in Bidau, Dili
- Explore Dili, Cristo Rei walk, time in orphanage with kids
- Overnight at Dominican Orphanage Bidau

## Day Three

- Dili: Mass optional, Orientation. Cristo Rei, John Paul 11, Areia Branca,
- Santa Cruz cemetery,, Cathedral, CAVR Truth & Reconciliation Reception, Chege exhibition, walking tour, Hera farm
- Overnight at Dominican Orphanage Bidau

## Day Four

- Mass. Depart for Baucau. Stop at Manatutu and Laleia.
- Visit Church and Capuchians
- Hosted by the Baucau Youth Commission
- Overnight at Vitoria Lodge Baucau

## Day Five

- Mass optional, explore old town on foot, Baucau projects and NGO's e.g. Leprosy Clinic, silkworm farm, school, day centre for aged, caritas project – Centro

Feto Haburas Dezenvolvimentu CFHD, Marist teachers College, Late afternoon swim at beach in Baucau

- Overnight at Vitoria Lodge Baucau

## Day Six

- Mass optional, Return to Dili, lunch at Hotel Aria Branca and swim
- Depart for Maubara, tias market, cathedral
- Overnight Irmas Carmetite Convent Maubara

## Day Seven

- Mass optional, explore Maubara – ford and village
- Depart for Balibo. Visit border crossing
- Hosted by the Parish of Balibo
- Overnight Madre Uma Convent Balibo

## Day Eight

- Mass optional, visit Balibo markets, explore Balibo, flag house and fort, connecting with significance for Australians, view school and the work of the sisters, visit to Maliana if time permits
- OvernightMadre Uma Convent Balibo

## Day Nine

- Mass, Return to Dili, arrive at orphanage, play with kids
- Overnight TIMOR LODGE and Debrief

## Day Ten

- Depart Dili for Darwin
- Depart Darwin for Brisbane

*We all have the duty to do good.*

*- Pope Francis*



*"I have learned that there are people in the world doing amazing things for others and I believe that I can and should do my part too."*

*Immersion participant*

## Who can participate?

Students in Year10 to 12 and teachers.

Our intent is to travel lightly and with purpose. Our immersion group consists of a relatively small team, comprising 10 to 12 people, to enable us to interact in an appropriate manner with our host communities.

## Safety

The security and safety of all participants in immersions are the foremost priority in designing the immersion program.

Catholic Mission has engaged travel services organisation international sos to assess and manage risks. International sos provides 24/7 medical advice and support for our immersion teams. Catholic Mission also provides emergency assistance 24 hours a day during the period of immersion to assist with any unexpected issues or concerns that may arise.

## Cost

Estimated cost per participant is \$3,500.

This includes 10 days immersed in local culture, international flights ex Brisbane, visas, SOS Int. Risk Management, most meals, insurance, donations to local communities, all local travel and a Catholic Mission professional.

## How Can I Contribute?

### a) **Donate money directly to Timor Leste**

Marymount College bank account 513561602  
BSB 064786, quoting 'Timor Solidarity Fund - your surname'.

### b) **Help students to participate**

Assist in reducing the cost for students to participate.

Marymount College bank account 513561602  
BSB 064786, quoting 'Timor Student Fund -your surname'.

### c) **Submit an application for your child or ward to attend the Immersion in 2016 or 2017**

## Contact

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