

Dying at Home in East Timor

The Corpus Christi Parish Social Justice group (CCPSJ) has expanded the work we are supporting in East Timor from the sale of East Timor coffee after mass.

Dr Helen-Anne OAM and her husband Gerard Manion OAM commenced their program to help people die at home in 1980 and have helped people in many developing countries to die at home with dignity through their programme Dying at Home.

"Dying At Home is a very simple step-by-step program of co-ordinated support by family, friends and neighbours for the family caregiver."

Corpus Christi parish have helped fund two volunteers from East Timor to be trained in how to assist communities to help people die at home. The two volunteers, Maria Dias and Maria Amarin joined with Doctor Noeno Sarmento, an East Timorese Doctor working in Wollongong with Dr Helen-Anne Manion.

The two Marias have now returned to East Timor and will be developing a support network with a view to conducting a training programme early next year in order to commence rolling out Dying at Home across communities in East Timor.

Helen-Anne wrote about the beginning of the mission to take Dying at Home to East Timor:

Maria Dias' brother died of the complications of too aggressive treatment for Leprosy as he was starving and his body couldn't cope with the doses. He was a very young man who was crying out to go home to die in his village, but the doctors wouldn't let him. Maria sat at our dining room table in 2001 telling this story and we all wept. When we told her about the program she seized it immediately and we all knew one day Dying at Home would go to East Timor.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our coffee sales and made possible the education of students and now the training of people to help people die at home. For further information the full report is available on the Parish website.