

I Am With You

We are one people. Loved by God. Without exception. Called to stand together across borders and differences. Heart to heart. In one all-encompassing shared humanity.

When one person suffers, we all suffer. When one person rejoices, we all rejoice.

This is solidarity.

This is what makes it impossible to look away from the injustices suffered by our sisters and brothers. This is what impels us to be present for the other, not as saviour, but as companion. Not there in some kind of self-serving, patronising, holier than thou, way. There – sharing at table – knowing deeply our utter dependence on each other. In communion.



Meet Evangeline. One of us. A little one with hopes and dreams. At home in Zumalai, in the southern part of Timor-Leste. Loving life. A ready smile. Eager to learn.

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June 2026

At her school there is no sign of a computer. Simple walls and desks. A scratchy blackboard. Unpredictable and intermittent electricity. No reliable supply of fresh water.

She holds the cross of the kids at her companion school in Australia. Across borders, present to each other, heart to heart.

Compassion calls us to generous, practical action. The gift of resources for the community to install a bore to enable an ongoing, reliable supply of fresh water. In solidarity.*



“The point of the Christian life is to stand in radical solidarity with everyone and everything else. This is the full and intended effect of the Incarnation – symbolised by the cross, which is God’s great act of solidarity instead of judgement.”

Richard Rohr

Centre for Action and Contemplation 2 July 2023

*Evangeline goes to Our Lady of Mt Carmel School in Zumalai. We met her there, heart to heart, on a journey from Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish in Coorparoo. We remain forever present for each other (2026).

