

## FOR FELICITY

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Felicity's father, Joe Murphy, was my god-father. Joe and my father were best friends here at Xavier, and I believe they would have prayed in this special place, for in those times, during World War 11, the safety and security and even sovereignty of Australia were at stake.

Felicity's work in helping to liberate the East Timorese, and in supporting the work of Mana Lu, was sufficiently known and respected for her to be awarded an Order of Australia in 2009. So today I'd like to honour three other busy gracious matriarchs, who helped and inspired her: her mother Paddy Murphy, her sister Susie White, and her colleague Marga Pires.

It was Marga's daughter Emilia who sparked Felicity's work in East Timor. Emilia was born in Portuguese Timor, educated in Australia, and since 2007 has been the new nation's Minister for Finance. But back in 1997, after her first visit home, Emilia declared she wasn't ever going to eat sweet-corn-in water again, and that I had to find someone to teach the war-weary women another recipe. Felicity accepted the challenge, and I remember sitting with her and Paddy in the MLC foyer on a cold Saturday morning in September 1999 watching the results of the referendum.

Years before, in 1975, Marga, her husband Alfredo, and their children were boat people, asylum seekers, picked up by a Norwegian cargo ship off the coast of Dili and dumped in Darwin. They worked in factories to educate their children, and then spent years educating me before I finally went to East Timor with my own mother in 1996 and met Mana Lu.

Mana Lu's institute then was busy and organized, but it needed material support, and Mana Lu herself needed emotional support. When we met she cried, couldn't stop, told me she was isolated, not by the Indonesian military, but by influential Catholic priests. I asked around Dili, and found, that as a female leader, she did have a few problems! Paddy Murphy managed to fix that, with just one good photo of herself in the Vatican Chapel giving the Pope a copy of Mana Lu's manifesto. This is the photo of Paddy and Pope John Paul 11 which turned Mana Lu's life around, and ultimately changed the lives of so many of you here today, including Felicity's.

Last Monday, Susie, Felicity's sister, and I visited her in the hospice. (Susie's no stranger to East Timor, after two working-holidays at Mana Lu's). It was inspiring to find Felicity as gracious and accepting of her death as she had been so thoroughly wedded to life and life-giving. I asked her what she thought was the best thing she'd done, and will never forget her lifting her frail tiny hands and whispering 'brought good people together', adding, typically 'but not enough'.

Those words 'bringing good people together, but not enough' are inspiring me—even as I stand here petitioning passage for the soul of my sparky little friend—to ask for just one more favour, from wherever she is, and that is for help now in liberating West Papua.