

Let us go
forward in peace,
our eyes upon
heaven, the only
one goal of our
labours.

St Thérèse

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The Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux



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PEOPLE from all over Hallam Diocese and district came to visit the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux at Kirk Edge Carmelite Monastery in Sheffield. The casket was carried by members of Sheffield Lay Carmel and members of the secular disalced Carmelites. The relics were taken first of all to the private enclosure of the convent. They were welcomed by Mother Prioress and the Sisters of the community. This was a very intimate ceremony. Mother Prioress led the prayers. The short service ended with the singing of Salve Regina.

Mgr. Kilgannon opened the service by welcoming the guests and thanking all who had contributed towards the planning, particularly Fr. Shaun Smith. The children came forward and scattered rose petals over the casket. Then the veneration commenced. The Sisters led the singing from behind the grille and read from the writings of St Thérèse. People moved round the casket, some touched reverently; some said a short prayer; some placed a rose and some held precious objects to brush against the casket; but above all there was a deep reverence and quiet joy throughout the occasion.

Hallam Diocese

I HAD been to Lisieux but I couldn't remember seeing the relics and although I did not have a particular devotion to St Thérèse I went along on this occasion to venerate the relics.

I noticed each side of the Alter had confessions being heard and decided to join the queue. From that moment St Thérèse took over, beside the Priest who helped me spiritually he was also able to give me practical help with my concern. I came away from confession and rejoined the overflowing congregation in the Cathedral and thanked St. Thérèse for her intercession with God for me. I picked up a souvenir magazine which had a Novena to St Thérèse in it, I have just completed the Novena and feel at Peace that my problem has been heard and will continue to be solved, therefore I thank you St Thérèse for your visit to Liverpool and the Great Grace I received through visiting you.

Personal thoughts of Angela Moore
St Joseph's Foundation, Penketh
Archdiocese of Liverpool

A GROUP from St Joseph's Luton went privately to see the relics at HM Prison, Wormwood Scrubs.

This was very apt as St Thérèse was such a champion, praying for prisoners, especially the convicted murderer Henri Pranzini, who due to her prayers repented before his execution.

Comments of Fr Bennie Noonan

SO OFF we went on Sunday afternoon - our little 'gang' of UCM members from St Thomas More's Church, Chickenley. Reports had reached us about the strong winds the previous day, AND the massive queue!

Some people had queued 3/4 hours before entering the Cathedral. Our good luck continued as we had to wait only 50 minutes. But what a joyous occasion it turned out to be. It was the sweet joy on peoples' faces that really struck me; the happy uplifting atmosphere that pervaded the waiting crowd; the warm delight within the Cathedral as we entered and paused momentarily as we passed by the casket. Sitting and praying in that happy glow - Thérèse was there with us.

We made our way back home still smiling happily, and thanking St Thérèse for a wonderfully uplifting experience and determined to retain that sense of simple joy in goodness and love.

Aileen Middleton, Leeds Diocese

THE relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux were carried into the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool to spontaneous applause. It was one of the most moving things I have ever witnessed.

I was unprepared for the effect it would have on me and as I looked around me many people had tears streaming down their faces - and I am not ashamed to say they were on my face too. The beautiful opening prayer was just the beginning of a most inspiring and moving service. Afterwards people queued to walk and pray around the reliquary containing the mortal remains of this much loved saint, many carrying a rose to leave with St Thérèse. I was so in awe I think I forgot to pray.

I couldn't believe this was happening and thought how lucky I was to be here at this moment in time. I seem unable to put away the booklet from the visit and I look and talk to St Thérèse every day.

Shrewsbury Diocese



The Reliquary of St Thérèse of Lisieux

THE Diocese of Portsmouth were privileged to be the first to receive her relics as they crossed the English Channel. My husband Dave and I were privileged to be able to get tickets for the Mass of the Sick. The Mass, the choir, the singing, was heavenly and uplifting. I could just glimpse the casket from where I knelt as people filed past, touching rosaries, pictures, hands to it.

Then came the anointing of the sick and Dave went forward being the only one of us with a special ticket. St Thérèse came to the rescue and suddenly, anyone else could come forward for anointing, so there I was receiving the special blessing. And I was blessed again when, that night, I returned at 2.30am along with other Church members of our Pastoral Area for our allotted 'Holy Hour' slot in the Cathedral. This was very precious. The candlelit Cathedral, no harsh lights, seemed to make St Thérèse's casket glow and this time people could file past it, pause to pray and lay hands on the casket and 'feel' her presence. Now I was able to say my own personal thanks to St Thérèse for allowing us to experience her simple holiness, even through a few bones which we could not see but knew, with our faith that she was there.

Val Pearce, Portsmouth Diocese

I AM not sure why I drove to Gerrards Cross to venerate the Relics of St Thérèse but as soon as I entered the Church I know I had responded to a call from Thérèse herself!

For years I have prayed to her twice each day. Going into the church was certainly entering sacred space. This occasion was a bit of heaven come down to earth. The silence and atmosphere of the people was simply amazing. I spoke to several of the 4000 visitors and many were members of UCM foundations around our diocese.

The Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter Doyle brought eternity on earth - this was certainly a 'Thérèse Special' as he prayed and asked her to touch our Diocese of Northampton. His master of ceremonies, Fr Gerard Byrne Diocesan Chaplain to our UCM, made sure his huge team of servers helped us all have that heart-to-heart conversation with Christ.

Fr Tony Parsons, Prior of the Carmelite Community captured the unforgettable occasion in his sermons, reminding us of Thérèse's faith and doubt. Yes, Christmas will be so much lovelier this year for everyone all over England and Wales thanks to Thérèse. Eternity coming in His Little Way as a baby - Heaven come down to earth.

Jenny Hyde,
Northampton Diocese

I HAVE always had a devotion to St Thérèse but in truth I was a bit sceptical about the whole 'relic thing'. That all changed during the welcome service as I was absolutely convinced by a feeling of her presence in the church. I went to all the services and the feeling remained with me, and I am convinced with many others in the congregation.

I was praying to St Thérèse for a miracle for my niece, only a miracle could restore her health, and I begged St Teresa for a sign that my wish might be granted. When I left the church after waving St Thérèse off on her way to Liverpool, I stopped off at the supermarket. When I approached my car in the car park on my return, I saw, within feet of my car the most perfect peach rosebud on the ground. I was elated and took this as a sign I had prayed for. My niece had her surgery and her miracle; she has exceeded even her surgeons' best hopes and is now a confirmed member of the St Thérèse fan club. It was a beautiful event and I will remember it always.

Sheila Polley, Clifton Diocese

ON a glorious October day several members of Horley UCM took a short train journey to Westminster Cathedral. There we waited with a feeling of love and peace, to pray before the relics of The Little Flower. We remembered so many friends, also priests at home and in the missions who were so close to her heart. Our time with the relics was all too brief, but we left with hearts full of peace and joy knowing we were blessed to have been there. Long may this prayerful renewal last.

Jean Kelly, Arundel and Brighton

I FELT privileged to be present and witness the arrival of the relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, to Aylesford Priory, home of an Order of Carmelites.

Before the arrival of the casket carrying the relics of St Thérèse, there was a Welcoming Service led by some of the local Catholic Schools. The singing was wonderful. A small group of teen-age girls enacted in music, movement and dialogue, the life of St Thérèse. As the casket, with its protective glass dome, was carried towards the shrine, a hush descended on the vast crowd.

The silence 'spoke' volumes. The arrival of a pop-star couldn't have matched this!!! No hype. No euphoria just plain, simple calm and peace. Standing in the queue afterwards to go into the Relic Chapel, everyone seemed happy and relaxed and despite the rain, didn't seem to mind how long they had to wait. Apparently about 17 to 20,000 pilgrims attended these ceremonies over the three days Mary Hamblin,

Archdiocese of Southwark

*Beloved St Thérèse,
remember your promise to
do good upon earth. Shower
down your roses on those
who ask your help, and
obtain from God the graces
we hope for, Through Jesus
Christ Our Lord.
Amen*