



NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE OF THE RELICS

Saints

THÉRÈSE
ZÉLIE
LOUIS

Introduction

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux, one of the most popular Saints of modern times, will visit Australia on a four-month pilgrimage along with the major relics of her parents, Saints Louis and Zélie Martin.

From February to May 2020, the family's relics will travel across the country to 17 dioceses in city and rural areas, with major opportunities for devotees in Sydney.

The pilgrimage is being coordinated by Catholic Mission, in partnership with InvoCare, and will link with InvoCare's funeral homes, including WN Bull Funerals and Guardian Funerals in Sydney.

Known as the Little Flower of Jesus, St Thérèse is the patron saint of missionaries.

Her relics last came to Australia in 2002 where they were met with an outpouring of admiration among the faithful in Sydney.

"The plan at St Mary's Cathedral was to have a Mass and about three hours of veneration," recalls Fr Brian Lucas, the National Director of Catholic Mission Australia. "As it happened, more than 20,000 people passed through the Cathedral, which remained open for 36 hours straight. There were also 400,000 people who venerated the relics nationally."

Fr Lucas believes the pilgrimage will be a powerful moment of connection between Australians and an immensely popular and beloved Saint.

"I think the great legacy of St Thérèse of Lisieux is the example she gave through her writings of her connectedness to God," he said. "Her struggle with weakness but her fierce determination to be loyal and faithful to God's will is the legacy that everyone can participate in."

The realisation of the simplicity of her message will give people a firm foundation for their own spiritual journey.

"The pilgrimage of the relics in 2020 will be an opportunity for Australians to come together, to have that sense of belonging, and to find inspiration in the life of St Thérèse and her parents," said Fr Lucas.