

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

30 January 2020

RELICS OF POPULAR SAINTS TOUR SYDNEY

Thousands of Catholics across Sydney are expected at ceremonies across the city and suburbs from this weekend to revere the relics of Therese of Lisieux and her parents, Louis and Zelig Martin who are also saints.

Affectionately known as “the Little Flower”, the French-born St Therese is one of the most popular saints in the history of the Catholic Church, revered for her simple message to the faithful that they can serve God through simple acts of kindness.

The relics of St Therese, St Louis and St Zelig will be officially welcomed at a ceremony at St Mary’s Cathedral on **Saturday 1 February at 4:30pm**. The faithful will be able to venerate the relics during an all-night vigil before they begin a tour across the Archdiocese of Sydney in February and March as part of a broader national pilgrimage.

The Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP said it was an historic occasion, with the last relics tour of St Therese attracting crowds of nearly half a million Australians in 2002, including more than 4000 at St Mary’s Cathedral.

“There is a long tradition in the Catholic Church of the faithful to venerate the relic of saints with religious pilgrimages to honour their memory,” Archbishop Fisher said.

“St Therese reminds us that you don’t have to be spectacular to be a saint through her call to serve God in simple ways which could involve confronting our personal vices or putting up with irritations or being misunderstood and offering these as flowers to God.”

The relics will depart St Mary’s Cathedral on Sunday 2 February at 4pm before embarking on their national tour. A full itinerary for the relics tour is available via this link: <http://bit.ly/2RxwUdm>

Media are invited to attend the welcoming ceremony for the relics at 4:30pm on Saturday 1 February. If you wish to attend, please contact Michael Kenny on 0438 046 406 by 4pm on Friday 31 January to confirm your attendance.

Media attending the ceremony, should meet at the College Street entrance to St Mary's Cathedral at 4pm on Saturday 1 February to be escorted to an allocated area to film and photograph. The ceremony is expected to conclude by 5:00pm.

ENDS

For further information please contact: Michael Kenny, Manager Communications & News Media Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney mobile: 0438 046 406