

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux  
(Doctor)  
1 October



### About Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux (The Little Flower) was born in Alençon, France, on 2 January 1873. Her mother died when Thérèse was four years old from breast cancer, at which time the family moved to Lisieux. Thérèse became a nun at the Carmelite monastery in Lisieux at the age of fifteen. She battled with the Carmelite superior over becoming a nun, because the superior thought that 16 or 21 would be a more sensible age to join the convent. In the convent, the prioress commanded her to write her memoirs. The memoirs were published after her death and made her famous. Thérèse died from tuberculosis at the age of 24 on 1 October 1897 and was canonized in 1925.

### How does the life of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux apply to our lives today?

More was known about Saint Thérèse after her death than during her life. This is so often the case with many people. We only have to look at the “classical” composers, like Mozart for example. He died a poor man. Yet, today his music is played all over the globe and is well known. Likewise, with Saint Thérèse, in 1895, the prioress of her convent (her sister Pauline) commanded her to write her memoirs, which Thérèse did under obedience and filled six exercise books – not a bad effort for only being alive 22 years at the time. The prioress put them in a drawer and it wasn’t until a year after her death that the memoirs were published – only 2,000 copies. The publication of these memoirs made the story of Thérèse come alive. Miracles started to happen – conversions, cures and even apparitions.

Thérèse focused on love – her love of God and God’s love for her. She called her path to holiness the “Little Way,” because she believed that every act no matter how small, brings us close to God just as the heroic acts performed by spiritual giants such as Saint Ignatius of Loyola or Saint Teresa of Avila.

### Quote

Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.

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Collect

O God, who open your Kingdom  
to those who are humble and to little ones,  
lead us to follow trustingly in the little way of Saint Thérèse,  
so that through her intercession  
we may see your eternal glory revealed.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.           Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 18:1-5

Unless you become like little children you will not enter the kingdom of heaven

The disciples came to Jesus and said,  
**'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?'**  
So he called a little child to him and set the child in front of them.  
Then he said,  
**'I tell you solemnly,**  
unless you change and become like little children  
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.  
And so, the one who makes himself as little as this little child  
is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.  
**'Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.'**

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## Antiphon

Thus says the Lord:  
Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

## Hymn for the Feast of Saint Thérèse

Everything we do in this life  
should always be done with love:  
showing our love for the Lord God,  
**Lord of earth and heav'n above.**  
For He was the first to love us,  
sending us His only Son,  
showing His love for us was great,  
He for us the victory won.

Saint Thérèse you persevered in  
all things in your earthly life,  
**off'ring your works up with patience**  
even in times of great strife.  
For we should always do kind deeds  
for our kin, or friend or foe,  
doing all things with greatest love,  
a rich harvest we will sow.

**Saint Thérèse, the "Little Flower",**  
you did all things for the Lord,  
not for your own praise or glory,  
but to witness to His Word.  
Daily you grew in holiness,  
**nourished by God's holy grace,**  
letting the Spirit work in you  
and the love of God embrace.

Saint Thérèse, like you, God made us  
each with our own gifts to share  
with each neighbour who is in need,  
and for them offer a prayer.  
**For we're flowers in God's garden,**  
growing holy, day by day,  
giving God alone the glory,  
as we journey on the way.

87.87D Ode to Joy

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