

A Message from your Parish Priest

Thursday of this coming week is the feast day of one of the most popular saints of modern times. St Thérèse of Lisieux was born in the little town of Alençon in Northern France in the year 1873. She died at the age of 24 in 1897, as an enclosed nun in the Carmelite convent of Lisieux. These meagre facts alone make it astonishing that she achieved world-wide fame in the years immediately following her death, and that she has maintained her place in the devotion of countless Catholics ever since.

The source of her renown was principally due to the fact that during her last illness she was asked by the Prioress of her monastery to write down the story of her life. What was revealed in that remarkable little book was the most extraordinary depth of spiritual insight, which led to her canonisation in 1925. Eventually, her unique spiritual wisdom caused Pope John Paul II to make her a Doctor of the Church.

Thérèse, it must be said, came from a wonderfully devout family. Her four sisters also became enclosed nuns; three of them, like her, in the Carmel of Lisieux, and the fifth, Leonie, a Visitandine nun in the Normandy town of Caen. Her parents, Zélie and Louis Martin, have themselves been canonised, and the cause for the canonisation of her sister Leonie has also been recently opened.

The doctrine which reveals itself in the course of St Thérèse's little book (published in English as "The Story of a Soul"), has been described as "a little way of spiritual childhood." She was the youngest of her family, and must have been rather indulged. We might imagine that she was treated as "the baby" for much of her life. In many people the effect of this sort of thing can be the ruin of a person's character. St Thérèse, however, seems to have drawn from the experience a way of relating to God, as a Father on whom she was utterly dependent for everything. Her trust in God's love for her was absolute: the trust of a child in its father. There is an authenticity in her spiritual vision, which rarely fails to impress those who have read her life. The story of her short life, and the characteristics of her spirituality are so inter-connected that we are left with the impression of a profound integrity.

The Second Vatican Council stressed that every Christian person is called to be holy. Nevertheless, for most of us, the journey to holiness is a difficult one, distinguished by many failures along the way. In our struggle to become saints, how many of us look around for examples of holiness which we might imitate? We possibly have our favourite saints, or we look at people we have known, and we try and fit ourselves into their spiritual shoes, so to speak. I don't suppose there is very much wrong with this. There is no situation any of us is ever likely to face which has not been encountered by others before us. There is no spiritual struggle which has not been overcome in the lives of the saints of God.

The trouble, it seems to me, is when we not only look to others for inspiration, but try and behave in such a way that we become unrecognizable. Our life becomes, in other words, a pretence – not just to others, but even to ourselves. We come to pray to God and, in a manner of speaking, we put on another voice: a holy tone. The thoughts we express to Him are not so much our real thoughts, as the thoughts we think we ought to have. An angry, resentful person will rarely express their anger and resentment to God. A greedy or self-obsessed person will try and keep that from Him. Whatever thoughts are in our minds, we find it easier to say "I love Thee, Jesus, above all things". It is what we feel it is proper to say. Small wonder we so frequently find our minds wandering. The reality of who we are will always tend to intrude on the image of ourselves we are trying to construct. Yet God is not fooled. We all know that.

The example of St Thérèse, shows us the importance of finding our holiness in who we are. It is what happens to *us* which will make us saints, not what happens to others, or to people of our imagining. For Therese, the experience of being treated as the baby of her family was turned into a profound loving trust in her heavenly Father. For other saints, imprisonment, persecution, the struggle against sin and temptation, sickness, married life, the cloister, have all served to bring them close to God. God is calling everyone to holiness in the little plot of earth they inhabit. None of us – whoever we are – is exempt from the calling to turn our own life to the service and love of God.

With Every Blessing,

Monsignor Smith



THE PARISH OF St MARY'S, SELBY and CARLTON

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MASS SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS

Saturday:

10.00am-10.30am (in Selby)

5.15pm-5.45pm (in Selby)

And on request in Carlton.

The Readings for the Sunday

Mass are on page 134.

**Preface 5 of Sundays in
Ordinary Time: Page 67**



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Saturday:

10.00am-10.30am

5.15pm-5.45pm

(in Selby during confessions)

Marriages and Baptisms

By appointment. Please see the
priest after Mass to make
arrangements

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER	26 th	6:00pm	Selby	Karolina (B'day Thanks)	Vigil Mass
SUNDAY	27 th	9.30am 11:15am	Selby Carlton	Pat and John Stronach Pro Populo	26th Sunday in the Year
MONDAY	28 th	10.00am	Selby	Monsignor Peter, and Mollie McGuire	Feria
TUESDAY	29 th	9.30am	Carlton	Marzena (Sick Person)	Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
WEDNESDAY	30 th	10.30am	Carlton	Mary Young	Requiem Mass
THURSDAY OCTOBER	1 st			N.B. No Mass To-day	St Therese of Lisieux
FRIDAY	2 nd	6.30pm	Selby	Charles Hayward	The Guardian Angels
SATURDAY	3 rd	9.30am 6:00pm	Selby Selby	Yorkshire Brethren Private Intention (H.J.)	Mass of Our Lady Vigil Mass
SUNDAY OCTOBER	4 th	9.30am 11:15am	Selby Carlton	Pro Populo Sandra Hugill	27th Sunday in the Year

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy, Baffam Lane, Selby YO8 9AX
Tel: 01757 706616 Email: admin@sm.bkcat.uk Headmistress: Mrs L. Bird

YOUR OFFERINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday 13th September £1,083.97 (Including Standing Orders)

Many Thanks for your Generosity. Thanks also for donations to the parish building fund of: £73.05 (in memory of Jerry Roche), £97.20 (in memory of Maria Coultas), £50 (in memory of Maria Demianiuk)

HOME MISSION SUNDAY

The retiring collection for Home Mission Sunday raised £67.

PLEASE PRAY

For the repose of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially:
Mary Josephine Pinchbeck, Dennis Jacklin, Michael Walker, Gordon Dickens, Dorothy Rawling, Leslie Young, Bryan Joseph Durkin, Jim Clark, Sandra Hugill, Adam Dul, Canon Edward Goldie (Carlton 1875-1882), Ivy Flanagan, Pte Thomas Cronan, Margaret Fairburn, Maria Cieply, William, Roddy, Tyler Howard, Martyn Carr.

May they rest in peace.

Please remember also in your prayers Mary Young and Marina Fenton who have sadly died during the week. The Requiem Mass for Mary will take place in Carlton on Wednesday at 10.30am. The Requiem Mass for Marina will take place on Monday 12th October at 11am in Selby.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please remember very specially in your prayers those who are sick:

Maureen McDonnell, Gerry McCrossan, Shirley Harrison and Jean Wilson, Zita Birchwood, Agnes Duggan, Breda Gallagher, Irene Bradshaw, Pat Lynch and Patrick Tracey.

If anyone knows of anyone else who would appreciate our prayers please do let me know, so they can be included on the list.

MASSES RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK

Marzena (Sick Person), Szymon's Intention

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

During October, the month of the Holy Rosary, we will recite the Rosary twenty minutes before the week-day Masses. There will also be Rosary and Benediction on the Sundays of October at 5.00pm in St Mary's Selby, beginning next week-end.

SELBY SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The First Confessions for our year four children will take place on 12th December this year. Preparation sessions will begin on the week-end of 7th/8th November.

The First Confessions for our year three children will take place on 13th March next year. Preparation sessions will begin on the week-end of 6th/7th February.

First Holy Communion, for children in year four, will take place on the week-end of 19th/20th June next year. Preparation sessions will begin on the week-end of 17th/18th April.

The arrangements for Confirmation and for the Carlton children will follow later.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

I am really very grateful to those people who responded to our appeal for help with the area of parish safeguarding. This is such an important area of life in every parish to-day that it is particularly encouraging that it looks as though we will be able to have a small team to share the work amongst them.

FR. WILSON TESTIMONIAL

The retiring collection this week-end will be for Father Wilson's retirement testimonial. Please be as generous as you can.

Mass Offerings, Notices and News Items for the Parish Bulletin should be given to Monsignor Smith by Wednesday evening.

Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404