

Classroom Prayer Service for lower and middle primary  
in preparation for the veneration of  
*St Thérèse of Lisieux and Saints Lewie and Zélie*

**Prayer Service preparation and required recourses**

- PowerPoint Slides or Worship Aid so that students may follow and respond
- Prayer Focus which includes:
  - cloth the colour of the liturgical season or white for the saints
  - crucifix (with corpus)
  - lectionary or bible- it is best practise that the reading is proclaimed from the liturgical book or from the bible which is also on/ near the prayer focus and is which is used to read from (a copy of the reading could discreetly be placed in the bible for ease of reading)
  - picture of St Thérèse / and her parents Saint Lewie and Saint Zélie
  - candle
  - vase with flowers/ floral arrangement – roses are most suitable on this occasion given their connection to the saint
- individual flowers/ roses/ rose petals/ picture of a rose for each student that will be scattered/ placed around the prayer focus as the response
- If the prayer service is conducted in the church, placing anything on the altar **is not appropriate**. However, a focus with a picture of the saint/s, flowers and candle may be placed to the **side or below the steps of the Sanctuary, but not on it**. The lectionary/bible should be placed on the ambo.



## *We Gather*

**Leader:** Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, known as ‘Thérèse of the Child of Jesus’ and ‘The Little Flower’ was born in France and became a Carmelite Nun at the age of 15. Thérèse loved God so much and showed this by doing small acts of love for those around her. Thérèse also saw each small act of love as a way of showing God that she greatly loved him. Therese shows us that even through the small and ordinary things we do, if they are done with love, they can lead us to holiness.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **All:** Amen.

### Opening Prayer

**All:** God our Father,  
you have promised the Kingdom of Heaven to little children.  
Help us to follow the ‘Little Way’ of St Thérèse  
And that through her prayers to you, we may come to know how wonderful you are.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## *We Listen*

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mathew (18:1-5 9, from the Lectionary for Masses with Children)

*The disciples came to Jesus and asked him who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus called over a child and had the child stand near him.*

*Then he said: I promise you this. If you don't change and become like this child, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven, But if you are as humble as this child, you are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And when you welcome one of the children because of me, you welcome me.*

### Optional Reflection (Upper Primary)

In the Gospels, we hear the disciples a number of times arguing among themselves about who is the greatest. In this passage, Jesus challenges the disciples because he says that they must become like children. He didn't mean to become like children literally, rather, to become small like children by showing humility, to be innocent, to have an open heart that is always willing to forgive and to trust and love unconditionally. The child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven precisely because they show these qualities so often. Little children don't place the conditions that the disciples had and that we may bring to how we love God and live our lives. St Therese understood that to love God she had to be as a little child, living with a childlike heart and with the trust and humility that Jesus asks of us.

## *We Respond*

**Leader:** Dear Lord we have listened to how you welcome us as children into your kingdom of heaven. We now scatter flowers around our prayer focus to remind us that just like St Thérèse, we too can be 'little flowers' who follow your way by doing small things and making small sacrifices for you and the people around us.

Each student places a flower/ rose or petal around the prayer space.

**Leader:** We now pray the 'Novena Rose Prayer' together:

**All:** O Little Thérèse of the Child Jesus, please pick for me a rose from the heavenly gardens and send it to me as a message of love.

O Little Flower of Jesus, ask God to grant the favours I now place with confidence in your hands (silently tell St Therese what you pray for)

St. Thérèse, help me to always believe as you did in God's great love for me, so that I might imitate your 'Little Way' each day.

## *We Go Forth*

### Closing Prayer

**All:** God our Father, as we prepare to welcome the Relics of Saint Thérèse and her parents Saint Lewie and Saint Zelig, may we learn from their example of great love for you. We praise and thank you especially for St Therese and her "Little Way" which shows us we can love you through the small things we do.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



