

A Soul Friend : Fr.Ronald Rolheiser OMI

One of the saints who speaks to me is Therese of Lisieux, commonly known as the *Little Flower*. This wasn't love at first sight. For years I was put off and left cold and uninterested by how her person and her image have become encrusted in an overly saccharine piety. She was too sweet, too pious. Not a saint for me! That changed, thanks to a friend who told me, "Don't read books about her – read her!" I read her and found in her a soul friend.

Who is Therese of Lisieux? She was a Carmelite nun who died from tuberculosis in 1897. She was only twenty-four years old when she died, and as a Carmelite nun hidden away in a convent in rural France, she died in anonymity, probably known by fewer than a hundred people. However, during the last two years of her life, as she lay dying from tuberculosis, she kept several diaries. After her death, her Carmelite sisters sent her unpublished diaries to a few other convents, intending to let a small circle of religious women know of her death and a little about her life.

The rest is history. The manuscripts were leaked to a wider public and in less than ten years, printing presses were literally having trouble meeting the demand for her autobiography. Her little convent in Lisieux was receiving more than five hundred letters a day, and people from all over the world were beginning to come to Lisieux on pilgrimage. A hundred and thirty years later, little has changed. She remains extraordinarily popular.

Why? Why this perennial intrigue about Therese? Because there is something about her that touches the soul in a particularly empathic way. How so?

Therese had an anomalous background that produced an extraordinary character. Her life as a child was in many ways tragic. Her mother got sick at the time of Therese's birth and was unable to care for her during the crucial first year of her life. She was cared for by a nurse and an aunt. As a one-year-old she was returned to her mother, but her mother was already terminally ill and when Therese was four, her mother died. Therese then chose her older sister, Pauline, to be her new mother. Five years later, Pauline entered the convent and as a nine-year-old Therese again lost a mother.

Shortly after this she took ill and almost died. This was triggered by a visit to Pauline who was then a Carmelite nun. Together with her three other sisters and her father, she had gone to visit Pauline in her convent. After Pauline had spent some time focused on her little sister, she naturally became preoccupied in adult conversation. Left out, in sheer frustration, little Therese stood right in front of her big sister and, shaking her dress, began to cry.

"What's the matter?" asked Pauline. "You didn't notice!" cried Therese, "I'm wearing the dress you made me!"

She then became disconsolate and on returning home took to bed and for some weeks; despite the best efforts of various doctors and every kind of cajoling by her family, hovered between life and death. Eventually she recovered. Such was the tragedy and oversensitivity of her childhood.

Yet, and this is the great anomaly, as a child, Therese was doted on and loved in a way that few children ever are. Her father, her sisters and her extended family considered her their little queen and she was cherished and made to feel extraordinarily precious and unique. Her sister Celine photographed her every move. Few children ever grow up as nurtured in love and affirmation as did Therese.

And her personality bore out the effects of both the tragedy and the love. On the one side, she could be heavy, dark, withdrawn, and otherworldly. She made easy friends with mortality, was a mystic of darkness, the austere adult, the little girl-woman, who, wounded early, grew up fast. But, on the other side, she always remained the magical child, Cinderella, who, because she was so loved and graced, developed a very robust self-esteem, a confidence and a capacity to love as few others ever have.

So loved as child, a part of her remained ever the little girl, the *puella*, the incarnation of childlike-ness, innocence, and gaiety. Only a Therese of Lisieux could end all her letters with the phrase: *I kiss you with my whole heart!*

In a soul so formed lies her mystique, that is, her unique combination of depth, insight, and other worldliness, even as she desperately clings to the tiniest gifts from her family and every small token of earthly affection. Only a soul so formed could, at age twenty-two, have the complexity and wisdom to write a mystical and theological treatise that rivals that of great theological doctors, and only a soul so formed could be both a study in hyper-sensitivity and human resilience.

A saint so pathologically complex can be a soul friend to our own complex souls.

Pob Bendith. God bless you&Keep you. Fr Pius CMI



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3rd May 2026 5th Sunday of Easter A

LITURGY OF THE WEEK: Psalter Week I

**Livestreaming (From Mold on Tuesdays, Fridays,
Saturdays 5.30pm & Sundays 11am)**

<https://www.churchservices.tv/mold>

2nd May Saturday 5.30pm

Dea Saul RIP (*Sue Hogg*)

Mary Ann Coogan RIP (*Brenda Beattie*)

3rd May Sunday 11am

Walter Egan RIP& Int.Daniel Egan(*Linda Scott*)

Stephanie Hulley RIP (*John Goggin*)

Dot Finlow RIP (*Sheila McKnight*)

Monday Liturgy of the day **Buckley 9am**

4th May

Tuesday: Liturgy of the day Mold **7pm Rosary** 6.35pm

5th May Int. Rosemary Fenton (*Marie Mercer*)

Wednesday: Liturgy of the day **Buckley 7pm**

6th May

Thursday Liturgy of the day **Buckley 9am**

7th May

Friday Liturgy of the day **Mold 10am**

8th May

Pauline Wilson RIP (*Zelma Roberts*)

Carlo Safina RIP (*Paletta Family*)

Eucharistic Adoration until 11am

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9th May Saturday 5.30pm

Christine Cullen RIP (*Brian Cullen*)

Neil Edney&Carmel Moran RIP

(*Maura Edney&Family*)

10th May Sun 11am

Dea Saul RIP
(*Maureen & Roland*)

Confessions (in Mold)

On Saturdays
and Sundays
before the
Mass
(Saturdays
5pm to 5.20
and Sundays
10.30am to
10.50).
Weekdays
after the Mass,
on Request.



QR Code
To Donate

THE ONLY WAY

In today's gospel Jesus makes four promises to those who follow him.

1. We do not have to fear death. Jesus tells us not to be troubled and anxious about the afterlife. We worry about how our end will come, and that is natural. But he tells us not worry about death itself for he has conquered death by rising again, and because of our baptism we too can rise with him. We tend to view death as the end. Yet really it is the beginning of life, the life that dwarfs this earthly existence and opens us out fully to the vision of what God's love is all about. Those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith already enjoy this wonderful vision of God and we too can hope to share it after death.

2. Jesus has prepared a place for us after death. No one has seen this place, heaven, but we know it to be a place of great beauty.

There are no disabled parking places in the celestial car park, for sickness and anxiety, frustration, hurt and disappointment are things of the past. Pain and failure vanish in the all-consuming love



of God. What we do know is that all of our earthly existence will make sense in a flash as we are finally caught up in God's life.

3. He will be there to greet us. He promises to be there so that where he is we may be too. The embrace of Christ upon our death is one that melts all

hurt, one that enfolds us in such a way that the deepest longings for the love of God are satisfied in an instant. God's love is forgiving and unconditional.

4. The only way to these promises is through Jesus himself. Jesus is the Way that leads us to the Father, by listening and responding to his word. He is the Truth, unwavering in a sea of conflict, a truth that makes sense of our life and sets us free to enjoy it even this side of the grave. He is the Life, the source of all our longing, the way for men and women

to be like God. To follow Jesus Christ is to possess fullness of life, here and now. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.



QR Code for Today's Readings.

News, Notices and Events

Cafod: The collection this weekend is for the people of Sudan. They are suffering severely now in this the 4th year of civil war. Over 12 million people have been displaced, more than half of them women and children, many in overcrowded camps facing extreme hunger and disease. Millions of others have fled to Sudan or Chad. Cafod local church experts are supporting families struggling for survival with food, water, and other vital support. Sudan is now the world's worst humanitarian and displacement crisis. Unfortunately for the Sudanese, the worlds and media attention are elsewhere. Envelopes will be available if you want to direct debit. Also please consider signing the petition at cafod.otg.uk/Stand with Sudan to the Foreign Secretary Rt Hon Yvette Cooper asking the government to act for the people Of Sudan. Thank you all for your support. **Joyce Elcock**

CAFOD Big Lent Walk: Thank you
Many thanks for your support and most generous contributions. The total raised was **£255**. **Deacon John Goggin**

Eastertide Family Day
Sunday 10th May 2026
At Brigittine Convent, Holywell CH8 7LS
Time 12.30-4.30pm
Everyone is Welcome
Booking is essential by contacting **Wioletta Trebska**, Marriage and Family Officer) on **07542268728** or **mfl@recdwxm.org.uk**

We remember in our prayer
Those whose anniversaries Occur this week
Ryle (2nd May) James Walsh, Thomas Hurst, Catherine Wilson, William Brannan, Mary Fleming (3rd May) Mary Catherine Owen, Sarah Ivy Wilson, Kathleen Cartwright (4th May) Mary Vaughan, Sarah Ann Kinney, Dilys Hormell (5th May) John Boland, John Rottgardt, Camelia Williams (6th May) Mary Rooney, Denis Evans, Catherine Bell (7th May) Charlotte Rose Ash (8th May) Elizabeth Jane Murphy, Agnes Gizzi, Hugh O'Neill

Let us Pray for the sick:
Terry Wilson, Chris Jeffrey, Brian Egan, Pat Southall, Pam Cox, and Franciszek Williams

Volunteers Needed
Tea Bar at Mold Community Hospital
St David's Parish are one of the local groups that cover the tea bar at Mold Community Hospital. We are responsible for two hours on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month from 2pm to 4pm. We had a group of eight volunteers but sadly due to various circumstances this is now down to four. With eight, working in pairs, everyone only does three times a year. If you could help or would like more information please contact me, **Judith Green**, on 01352 759336/07845938092. Thank you.

SVP Film Club
The next 'silver screening' will be at **2pm on Wednesday 20th May in St David's Church Hall**. The film will be the acclaimed 2025 release *Song Sung Blue*. If you'd like to come along please sign the list in St David's church porch. Admission is free, and tea and coffee will be served from 1.30 pm. Everyone is warmly welcome! **Mary, Chris and Sr Helen**

Thank you: The Knights of St Columba wish to thank Parishes of the Diocese of Wrexham for their fantastic support for the **race night**. We have Managed to purchase the **Defibrillator**, for the Flint Parish. Also present a cheque for **£1150.00** to the HCPT Wrexham branch. Without the help of the parishioners and others this could not be possible, thank you for your generosity. The race night was well attended and great fun. Thank you and the parishioners are in our prayers. **Terrence Loftus**

Llandudno Retreat
At Loreto Spirituality Centre
19th-21st June 2026
Led by Fr. Bernard Shaw
Theme: "Do Not Be Afraid"
For More Information, Contact **Aelread McIntyre 07887920851**
Or **Teresa Davies 07866906201**