

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, PORTSMOUTH**

#### **RELEASE IMMEDIATE**

**Date of release: 14 September 2009**

This week St John's Cathedral welcomes the relics of the C19th French Carmelite nun St Thérèse of Lisieux, who was canonised in 1925. This is the first time the saint's relics have visited Portsmouth, a town which the young Thérèse yearned to visit when still at school. Catholics from across the region and beyond are expected to visit Portsmouth in large numbers to pay homage. The casket containing the Saint's relics will be on public display from 9.30 a.m. 16 September until 10 a.m. 17 September.

## **STARTS**

### **A MISSIONARY FOR ALL TIME**

St John's Catholic Cathedral in Portsmouth plays host this week to the relics of the C19th French Carmelite nun St Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897). The event is expected to draw many Catholics and others, being open to those with faith or no faith.

St Thérèsè, often referred to as 'The Little Flower', canonised in 1925, is venerated for her love of God and for her missionary zeal. 'I would like to be a missionary,' she once wrote, 'not just for a few years, but till the end of time.'

Canon David Hopgood, Cathedral Dean, commenting on this historic event, said: 'The visit is a great honour. Catholics in Portsmouth, from across our Diocese and from across the nation at large feel great excitement at St Thérèse's visit. This is a time for great celebration among the Catholic community and among all those who espouse Christian principles.'

## **ENDS**

Notes to Editors:

Two electronic flyers detailing the life of St Thérèse and the schedule for the visit of her relics to Portsmouth are available on request.

The Cathedral will remain open for the twenty-six hours that St Thérèse's relics remain in Portsmouth. For further details visit the Cathedral website on: [www.PortsmouthCatholicCathedral.org.uk](http://www.PortsmouthCatholicCathedral.org.uk)

For further information and photo opportunities please contact:

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