



In Loving Memory of



'Tess'

Theresa Mary Mercieca

Born 29th October 1945

Xagħra, Gozo, Malta

Entered Eternal Life 9th August 2026

Beacon Hill, Australia

*'You will Live in
Our Hearts Forever'*



Dearly missed by her beloved husband, Joseph,
her loving children Amelia & Julian, Joyce & Miles,
Richard & Simone and Michelle,
her nine adoring grandchildren, six great grandchildren
and all their partners.

In Loving Memory of Tess

Celebrant: Fr. Paul Monkerud

Introductory Rites (*please stand*)

Processional Hymn Here I Am Lord

Greeting

Fr. Paul: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Fr. Paul: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Blessing with Holy Water

Fr. Paul: In the waters of baptism, Theresa died with Christ and rose with Him to new life. May she now share with Him eternal glory.

Placing of Symbols *(please be seated)*

Pall: Amelia Richards, Joyce Townend,
Richard Mercieca and Michelle Mercieca

Bible: Joseph Mercieca

Crucifix: Coco Miles

Candle: Stephanie Richards

Photo: Kylie Grech

Words of Remembrance

Amelia Richards

Opening Prayer *(please stand)*

God our Father, by the mystery of the cross, you have made us strong; by the sacrament of the resurrection, you have sealed us as your own. Look kindly upon your servant, Theresa, now freed from the bonds of mortality and count her among your saints in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Read by Joyce Townend

A reading from the book of Proverbs 31:10-31

The truly capable woman – who can find her? She is far

beyond the price of pearls. She selects wool and flax and does her work with eager hands. She is like those merchant vessels, bringing food from far away.

She gets up while it is still dark, giving her household their food. She sets her mind on a field, then she buys it; with what her hands have earned, she plants a vineyard. She puts her back into her work and shows how strong her arms can be. She knows that her affairs are going well; her lamp does not go out at night. She holds out her hands to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. She is clothed in strength and dignity, she can laugh at the day to come.

When she opens her mouth, she does so wisely; on her tongue is kindly instruction. She keeps good watch on the conduct of her household, no bread of idleness for her. Her children stand up and proclaim her blessed, her husband, too, sings her praises.

Many women have done admirable things, but you surpass them all! Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is in awe of God is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd, and I want to follow,
Wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.
Over the mountains, the waters and byways,
Valleys and highways, he's waiting for me.

**I want to go to meet him there,
to lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow,
Wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.**

And while on the journey to where we are going,
He promised to be there, to help us along.
And over the mountains, we'll walk on together,
To know all the wonders, he's given to me.

**I want to go to meet him there,
to lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow,
Wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.**



In Loving Memory of Tess

Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

Cantor: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of John 14:1-6

Fr. Paul: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Fr Paul: A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Fr. Paul:

Jesus said to the disciples:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in Me.

There are many rooms in My Father’s house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with Me;
so that where I am you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going, so
how can we know the way?'

Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can
come to the Father except through Me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.



Homily (*please be seated*)

Prayer of the Faithful

Fr. Paul:

Loving God, we gather to celebrate the life and death of
Theresa, remembering that you invite us to present our
prayers and to you.

In Loving Memory of Tess

Joshua Mercieca:

For Nanna Tess, who ate the body of Christ, the Bread of Life: that she may be raised up on the last day. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Madeline Jenkins:

For Nanna Tess' family: that the love she shared with her husband, Joseph, during their sixty five years of married and family life, her children Amelia, Joyce, Richard and Michelle, her sons in law and daughter in law, her nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren, will continue to support and inspire them. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Jake Townend:

For Nanna Tess' family and friends: that they find comfort and consolation in their pain and doubt caused by grief through their encouragement of one another and their faith. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Angus Townend:

For the doctors and nurses who cared for Nanna Tess: that their work will be richly blessed, especially the staff of

Hammond Care, particularly Dr Peter Roach, Lucie and Alyssa, the staff of Northern Beaches Hospital and Liverpool Oncology Department, particularly Dr Bray, Dr Koh and Dr Berry, and Dr Ahmed Faruk and Dr Lavanya Konduru for their continual care. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Christine Moran:

For Aunty Tess' deceased relatives and friends: that they will be reunited with her in heaven, in the company of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, Mary our Mother and all the Saints. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fr Paul:

God our Father, hear these prayers and the ones in our hearts and grant Theresa everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist



Presentation of Offerings

Josephine Gitz, Raymond Grech & Paul Grech

In Loving Memory of Tess

Offertory Hymn

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

Prayer Over the Gifts

Fr Paul: Lord, we are united in this sacrament by the love of Jesus Christ. Accept these gifts and receive our sister, Theresa, into the glory of your Son, who is Lord forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Fr Paul: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Fr Paul: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Fr Paul: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Fr Paul: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. In him the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned, that those saddened by the certainty of dying might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come. Indeed, for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven. And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory as without end we acclaim:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

Fr Paul: The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

Doxology

Fr Paul: Through him and with him and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Fr. Paul: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Fr. Paul: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of Your mercy, we may be always free

from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

All: Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Holy Communion

Fr. Paul: Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Hymn

Amazing Grace

Prayer After Communion

Fr. Paul: Lord God, may the death and resurrection of Christ, which we celebrate in this Eucharist, bring our sister, Theresa, into the peace of your eternal home. We ask this through Christ our Lord.



All: Amen.

Photo Tribute

By Miles Townend

Final Commendation and Farewell

Invitation to Pray

Fr. Paul: Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Theresa and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting but we take comfort

in the hope that one day we shall see Theresa again and enjoy her friendship. Although this congregation will disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of God's kingdom. Therefore, let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Sprinkling of Water and Incense

Song of Farewell

Fr. Paul: Come to her aid, O saints of God.
Come meet her angels of the Lord.

All: Receive her soul, O saints of God.
Present her now to God most high.
Present her now to God most high.

Fr. Paul: May Christ, who called you, take you home.
May angels lead you to Abraham.

All: Receive her soul, O saints of God.
Present her now to God most high.
Present her now to God most high.

Fr. Paul: Give her eternal rest, O Lord,
May light unending shine on her.

In Loving Memory of Tess

All: Receive her soul, O saints of God.
 Present her now to God most high.
 Present her now to God most high.

Prayer of Commendation

Fr. Paul: Into Your hands, Father of mercies,
 we commend our sister Theresa,
 in the sure and certain hope
 that, together with all who have died in Christ,
 she will rise with Him on the last day.
 We give thanks for the blessings
 which You bestowed upon Theresa in this life:
 they are signs to us of Your goodness
 and of our fellowship with the Saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord,
turn toward us and listen to our prayers:
open the gates of paradise to Your servant
and help us who remain to comfort one another
with assurances of faith,
until we all meet in Christ and are with You and
with our sister, Theresa, for ever. We ask this
through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Fr. Paul: Theresa, may the angels lead you into Paradise;
may the martyrs come to welcome you and take
you to the holy city, the new and eternal
Jerusalem.

Recessional Hymn

Christ Be Our Light

Song of Farewell

We'll Meet Again

Thank you for sharing this

Mass of Thanksgiving for the life of Therese with us.

The Rite of Christian Cremation will be a private ceremony.

All are welcome to the Liverpool Catholic Club, 424-458 Hoxton Park

Road Prestons, for refreshments and sharing stories.

The Mercieca family.

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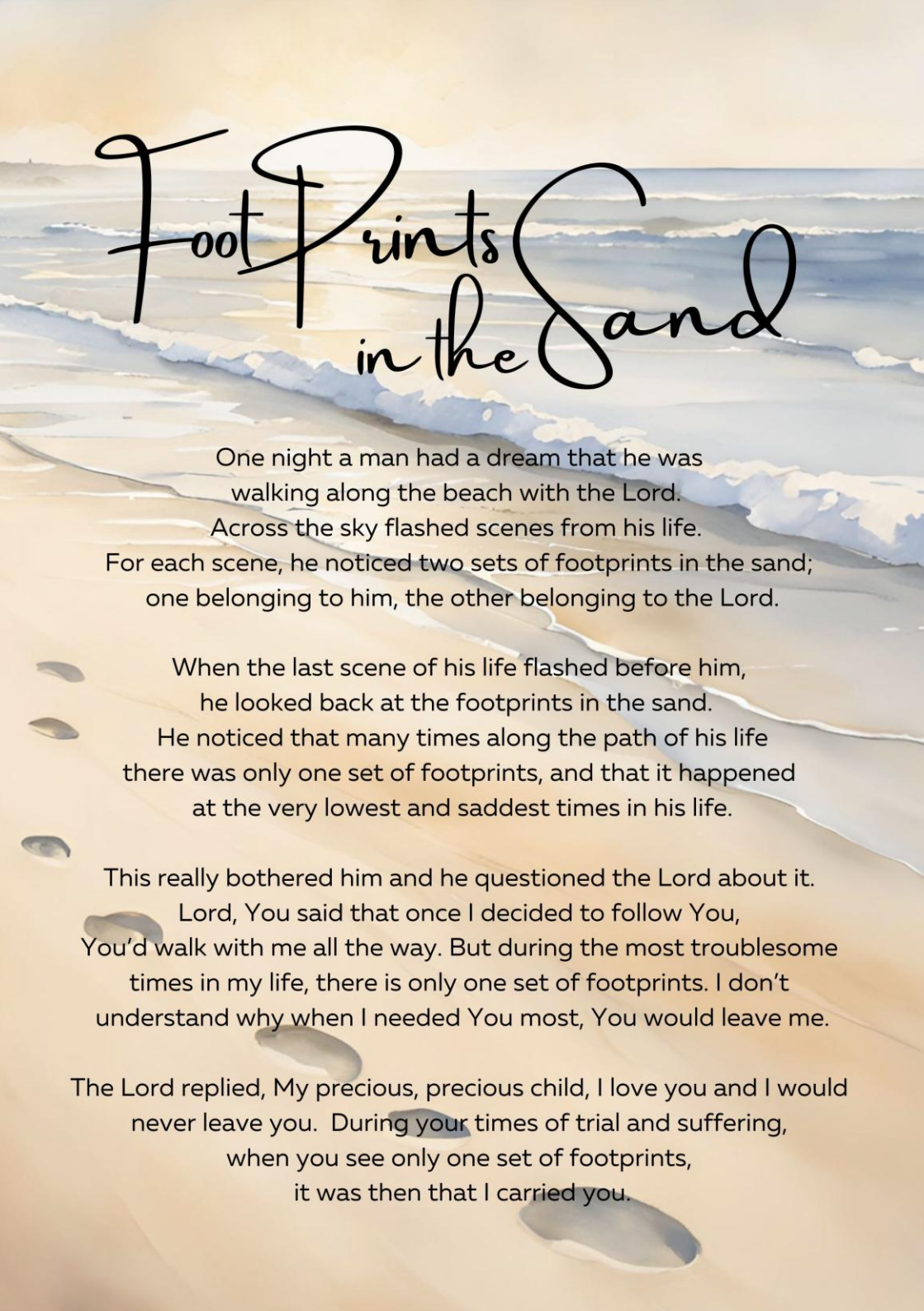
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Foot Prints in the Sand

One night a man had a dream that he was
walking along the beach with the Lord.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.
For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand;
one belonging to him, the other belonging to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.
He noticed that many times along the path of his life
there was only one set of footprints, and that it happened
at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.
Lord, You said that once I decided to follow You,
You'd walk with me all the way. But during the most troublesome
times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't
understand why when I needed You most, You would leave me.

The Lord replied, My precious, precious child, I love you and I would
never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering,
when you see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you.



“... Until we meet again”

