St Thérèse of Lisieux Fund

BURSARIES FOR AUSTRALIAN CLERGY
FOR FURTHER STUDIES



"In the heart of the Church, I shall be love.
Thus I shall be everything."

St Thérèse of Lisieux

The Spirit of St Thérèse

St Thérèse of Lisieux, a Doctor of the Church, was to greatly contribute to the renewal of the Church's understanding of God. She believed the Gospel, as we are all asked to do, and realized that according to the words of Jesus, God is a loving and merciful Father, not the harsh judge her times considered Him to be. Her "little way" – a path of spiritual childhood – is marked by trust in God's love and mercy. Given Jesus' saying, "One who loves me will keep my word", she wrote "it is confidence and nothing but confidence that will lead us to love". Her great desire then was that all people would come to the conviction that indeed "God is Love": that love is His nature and His entire intention is towards us.

About the Carmelites

The Carmelite Order traces its origins to 13th century hermits on Mount Carmel in the Holy land. Seeking a life of union with God in silence and solitude, they lived in the spirit of the prophet Elijah, taking the Blessed Virgin Mary as their Mother and Patroness. In 1206, St Albert of Jerusalem gave them a Rule of Life that remains the foundation of Carmelite spirituality.

The Carmelite Order spread across Europe and the Middle East. In 1562, St Teresa of Avila began the reform of the Order, hoping to return it to its original fervour. This gave rise to the Discalced Carmelite Order with its renewed emphasis on striving for union with God through a life of contemplative prayer and holiness. Today Carmelites continue to serve God and the Church throughout the world through lives of prayer faithfully lived on behalf of all God's people.

Purpose of the Fund

In the spirit of St Thérèse, the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Melbourne have long upheld a ministry of prayerful support for the sanctification and pastoral effectiveness of Catholic clergy. To further this mission, the Nuns have established the **St Thérèse of Lisieux Fund**, providing **bursaries to clergy in active ministry in Australian dioceses** for further studies and educational opportunities that will enrich their priestly service — opportunities that may not otherwise be accessible.

About the Bursary

The Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Melbourne are committed to supporting the spiritual and pastoral growth of the clergy by facilitating opportunities for further study and reflection through this bursary.

Eligible forms of study may include:

- Extended spiritual retreats and sabbaticals
- Courses at recognised spirituality centres
- Accredited academic, vocational, or professional development programs

All applications must be endorsed by the **Ordinary of the applicant**, and the provider or program must be deemed appropriate for the enhancement of the applicant's priestly ministry.

Eligibility

Applications are invited from:

- Clergy incardinated in an Australian Diocese
- Ordained Religious currently in diocesan appointments

- Active Permanent Deacons
- Ordained Diocesan Transitional Deacons

Fund Details

Funds are invested with the Catholic Development Fund, Melbourne. The **annual yield** will be applied to fund the bursaries awarded. The fund will be available for a period of 5 years effective from 1st January 2027.

Bursaries will be paid to the applicant's Ordinary. A brief **progress report** is expected each semester for programs longer than one semester. Reports must be submitted to both the Ordinary and the Carmelite Nuns.

Details of Application

Expression of Interest

Clergy can submit an expression of interest online at mtcarmelkew.com.au/bursaries.

Submission

Applications must be submitted annually by **1 June** and **1 December**.

Requirements

Applications must be accompanied by an **endorsement from the Ordinary**, confirming:

- Approval of the proposed study or program.
- Relevance to the applicant's priestly or diaconal ministry.
- Applicant's good standing and suitability for the proposed studies.
- Any additional financial support available for the applicant.
- Confirmation of academic preparedness for higher studies.

In addition, the applicant must submit:

- A description of the proposed program.
- A statement of objectives and expected outcomes.
- A full budget, including tuition, travel, accommodation, per diem, and other costs.

Applicants and their Ordinary will be required to accept the Terms & Conditions of each bursary awarded.



"St Teresa of Avila stated that her main desire in her work of setting up the Carmelite Reform was to provide a place where she and her sisters would become good friends of the Lord, giving their lives of prayer in support of priests in their mission for the salvation of all people. St Thérèse identified with this ideal when at the time of her religious profession, she declared that she had come to Carmel to give her life for priests, for their greater sanctification and in support of their vocation to live and proclaim the Gospel."

Mother Angela - Prioress | Carmelite Monastery Melbourne



w: mtcarmelkew.com.au/bursaries
e: bursaries@mtcarmelkew.com.au