

# Santa Teresa Mission

1953 – 1977

**Other Names:** • Ltyentye Apurte

## Details

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Santa Teresa Mission was the new name given to the Arltunga Mission after it was moved to approximately 80 kms south east of Alice Springs in 1953. Run by the Catholic Church the Mission included a Mission school and dormitories which accommodated Aboriginal boys and girls aged 5 to 17 years. The Mission's administration passed to an Aboriginal land trust in 1977 and the area was renamed Ltyentye Apurte. The residential sections of the Mission School closed at that time.

The Santa Teresa Mission, run by the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, was previously located at Arltunga and known as the Arltunga Mission. In 1952 a block of Crown Land, approximately 80 kilometres to the South East of Alice Springs, was leased to the Mission by the Commonwealth Government. This block of land was formerly known as Phillipson Block. The mission moved to the new site in 1953 and was renamed the Santa Teresa Mission. A Mission School was established at the Mission in 1953. Original plans for the new Santa Teresa Mission show the School building and proposed dormitory blocks for Aboriginal girls and boys.

At the Mission School the girls were supervised by the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the boys by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. The children's ages ranged from 5 to 17 years. The missionaries provided accommodation, education, medical care and religious instruction. The Mission was paid a subsidy by the government for each of the Aboriginal children it maintained at the Mission.

In the mid to late 1970s, as the settlement developed, the residential sections of the school were discontinued. The day school, however, continued to operate.

In 1976, in accordance with the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976, the lease automatically converted to Aboriginal freehold land. The administration of the area was taken over by a Land Trust comprised of traditional owners and the area was renamed Ltyentye Apurte. Much of the infrastructure of the Mission, with the exception of the school, was handed over by the church to the traditional owners. The school was still operating as the Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School in 2013.

## Gallery

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**Aboriginal housing at Santa Teresa Mission south of Alice Springs, Northern Territory, 1966**

**Description:** This image shows housing at the Santa Teresa Mission in 1966, now Ltyentye Apurte. It is not certain whether or not these buildings would have housed the children in care on the Mission.

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**Aerial view of Santa Teresa Mission, Northern Territory, 1 May 1962**

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a black and white image from the John Mulligan Photograph Collection, ca. 1960-1976, that was created in 2002 by the National Library of Australia.

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## More info

### Chronology

- Little Flower Mission (1935 - 1942)
  - Arltunga Mission (1942 - 1953)
- **Santa Teresa Mission (1953 – 1977)**

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart \(1885 - current\)](#)  
The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart were in charge of the girls at the Santa Teresa Mission.
- [Missionaries of the Sacred Heart \(1885 - current\)](#)  
The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart were in charge of the boys at the Santa Teresa Mission.

#### Related Organisations

- [Kormilda College \(1967 - 2017\)](#)  
Some of the first students to Kormilda College came from the Santa Teresa Mission.  
Date: 1968 -

### Other Resources



**Title:** Roman Catholic Mission - Santa Teresa (1952-1955)

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 1952 - 1955

[Details](#)

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## Records

For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

### Records

- [John Mulligan Photograph Collection, ca. 1960-1976 \(c. 1960 - c. 1976\)](#)
- [Records held by Roman Catholic Church, Diocese of Darwin \(1882? - 1983\)](#)

- [Roman Catholic Mission - Santa Teresa \(1952 - 1955\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/santa-teresa-mission/>