

# Arltunga Mission

1942 – 1953

## Details

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Arltunga Mission was established in 1942 when the Roman Catholic Little Flower Mission was relocated from Charles Creek to Arltunga, 100kms east of Alice Springs. It was run by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. A Mission School was established at Arltungu, it is unclear whether there were also Mission dormitories. In 1953, the Arltunga Mission moved to a new site 80kms south-east of Alice Springs, where it was renamed Santa Teresa Mission.

Arltunga Mission was the new name given to the Roman Catholic Little Flower Mission in 1942 when it was forced to relocate from Charles Creek to Arltunga, 100kms east of Alice Springs. The arrival of the Army and the establishment of Alice Springs as an Army base due to World War II was a deciding factor in the move.

Two Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, and two Sisters from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, along with all the Aboriginal residents of Little Flower Mission, were taken to Arltunga in Army trucks in September of 1942. Facilities at the new site were not ready for their arrival and the two Sisters and one of the Missionaries returned to Alice Springs, leaving the Aboriginal people and one Catholic Brother to work at the Mission site. Building materials were supplied by the Military in March 1943 and over the next few months a Mission School was established. It is unclear whether there were also Mission dormitories. At the Mission the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart were in charge of the boys and the girls were under the control of the Sisters from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

In 1953, the Arltunga Mission moved again to a new site, 80kms south-east of Alice Springs, where it was renamed Santa Teresa Mission.

## Gallery

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**Catholic Mission School**

**Description:** The description states: Motorcycle party and pupils of Arltunga Catholic Mission School.

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## More info

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### 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 ran Arltunga Mission and were in charge of the girls at the Mission.
- [Missionaries of the Sacred Heart \(1885 - current\)](#)  
The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart ran Arltunga Mission and were in charge of the boys at the Mission.

## Resources

- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, *A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families*, November 1999
- National Archives of Australia, [Fact sheet 151 - Bishop Francis Xavier Gsell MSC](#), 2012

## Records

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

### Records

- [Records held by Roman Catholic Church, Diocese of Darwin \(1882? - 1983\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/arlunga-mission/>