

Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross

Sunday 8 August 2021



Readings for
this Sunday

1 Kings 17:8-16
Colossians 3:12-17
Matthew 6:25-34



Readings for
next week:

Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6, 10
1 Corinthians 15:20-26
Luke 1:39-56



Liturgical Jottings

Patron Saints of Australia

The people and their newly arrived pastor, Father John Therry selected Blessed Mary, under the title of Help of Christians as their patron saint of Australia. In 1844, at the first assembly of Australian Bishops Mary Help of Christians was officially declared the patron saint of Australia; feast day is 24 May.

St Francis Xavier (3 Dec) and St Therese of Lisieux (1 Oct), as co-patrons of the universal missions, were also patrons of Australia until 1976, when Australia was no longer considered a mission country.

On request 15 January 2013, of the Australian Church, Rome approved St Mary of the Cross MacKillop as the Australia's second patron saint of. Her feast day is today, 8 August.

Focus on the Readings

The three Scripture Readings for the Solemnity were chosen to express the spirit, charism and faith of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. From the first Book of Kings the widow of Zarephath was down to her last supply of food for her son and herself. She thought they would both perish. Mary, in providing for poor mothers and their children, often wondered if she would have enough food for the next day. Then an Elijah-like person would arrive at the door with supplies. Like the miracle in the first reading, food often appeared by God's providence and human agents.

Mary often suffered at the hands of incompetent leaders: her school master in Victoria, her bishop in South Australia, and some education and welfare authorities. With humility and strength she overcame all opposite and continued to work in generosity and thanksgiving as expressed in St Paul's letter to the Colossians. This passage also expresses her mission: "Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom" Col 3:16.

The Gospel, an extension of Our Lord's "Sermon on the Mount" is a teaching on trusting in the providence of God, God's care for his people and our freedom gained by trusting God. Mary's life and death expressed her "Trust in God" so much so that these very words are chiselled in marble on her gravestone.

Quote of Mary MacKillop

I feel a joy when things go well, for I see God's will in this, and an equal joy when they seem to go wrong or against our natural desire, for there again I see God's will, and am satisfied that He has accepted my prayers and those of many more for some other object at the time nearer to His adorable will. *From a letter of Mary MacKillop to Monsignor Kirby.*

From Today's Readings

Many women were there by the cross, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus and looked after him.
Gospel Acclamation in the Mass of St Mary of the Cross

Pope Francis: Let us Dream

Time belongs to the Lord. Trusting in Him, we move forward with courage, building unity through discernment, to discover and implement God's dream for us, and the paths of action ahead.

On the Lighter Side

Sainthood comes in moments: of gentleness, of humour, of kindness, of times when we choose to do the loving thing. And for our 'companions on the journey', such moments help to keep their hope alive. *The Little Brown Book Too (pages 32-33)*



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Monica Tagliabue
	Our sick and their carers	

Mass Timetable Week commencing 9th August

Weekday Mass

Monday 9 th August	No Mass
Tuesday 10 th August	No Mass
Wednesday 11 th August	No Mass
Thursday 12 th August	No Mass
Friday 13 th August	9:15 am Mass (if allowed)

Weekend Mass

Saturday 14 th August	5:30 pm Mass
Sunday 15 th August	9:30 am Mass

Reconciliation (4th Saturday of the Month)
Saturday 28th August 11:30 am

CHANGE TO MASS TIMES COMMENCING SEPTEMBER

At the last PPC meeting it was agreed that commencing Saturday 4th September and Sunday 5th September, the times for Mass will be altered and Saturday Mass will be celebrated on alternate weeks. Details are as follows:

1st and 3rd Saturday of the Month at 6:00 pm

Every Sunday 10:00 am

Mary Mackillop Rosaries – Purchase at discounted prices until 31 August

Last year the Aid to the Church in Need commissioned a commemorative set of rosary beads for the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop.

The rosaries were very popular and this is an opportunity for those who missed out to order them as we approach the feast of Mary Mackillop. Please note that orders will close Tuesday 31 August.

For any questions or to submit your order form email orders@aidtochurch.org or call 1800 101 201.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Let us bring our prayers to God our Father, knowing that he hears even the unspoken yearnings hidden in our hearts.

1. We pray that the Church may grow in love, charity and holiness, as we take inspiration from St Mary of the Cross to reach out to meet the needs of the poor and destitute throughout the world. Lord hear us
2. We pray that our public leaders in Australia and around the world provide noble service to the people, particularly the poor. Lord hear us
3. We pray that those who are suffering and are overburdened may find hope in people who reach out to them in friendship and solidarity. Lord hear us
4. We pray that all those who are assembled here today may cease to worry and come to truly know that God alone will nourish us, clothe us and save us. Lord hear us
5. We pray that many young people be inspired by St Mary of the Cross and be moved to embrace the Lord's call to consecrated religious life. Lord hear us
6. We pray for those who have died recently in our Parish and those who are grieving. We pray for the anniversary of Monica Tagliabue. And we pray for the sick in our Parish and their carers. Lord hear us

Celebrant: Father, hear the prayers of your faithful gathered here today and help us to grow in faith, love and charity. We ask these prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen

COVID Requirements

Everyone needs to:

- check-in to each Mass service either using the QR Code or the sign in sheet.
- Wear a face mask
- Use hand sanitiser
- Maintain a social distancing (1.5m)

After each Mass service, cleaning has to take place, if you are able to assist that would be greatly appreciated.

Reflection on St Mary McKillop

There is in all of the works of Mary a deep sense of reliance on providence, allowing her to set her heart on the kingdom and God's saving justice.

As an aid to some reflections on Mary MacKillop and her impact through the religious orders she was instrumental in founding, here is some material from the writings of Sr Pauline Wicks rsj. ...

A close study of the foundational materials from Mary MacKillop and the emerging order indicate that the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart were to 'labour for their own sanctification' through Catholic education of the poor and, where necessary, minister in other institutions for the poor. This was a response to the social and religious conditions of the colonies of Australia, and was to 'counteract' the emerging secular education system.

St Joseph was designated patron of the congregation and the sisters' educational model. As such, the sisters were to imitate his virtues. Small communities emerged in outlying areas of the colonies where the sisters were often the only Catholic presence. Community, prayer and teaching were an integral part of their lives that were to mirror the lives of the people amongst whom they lived. Central Government of the Institute facilitated unity of vision, formation and educational practices. It enabled a flexibility to meet needs of the congregation, and respond to requests from bishops to establish schools. All members of the Congregation were to be equal and there were to be no distinctions in their service of education or other works. A missionary spirit of poverty and dependence on Divine Providence was fundamental. Prayer, religious exercises and fasts were modified to be in keeping with the life and mission of the sisters.

Some context on Mary's work

Her combination of care of the poor in faith and secular education:

Australia [in the nineteenth century] is in every sense a dangerous place for Catholics. The Governments' aim, at strict secular schools and institutions for the poor, especially for the children of the poor, the writer of this has had too many sad opportunities of seeing how these latter are often torn away from the true Faith.

Her design of a way of religious life aimed at mission to teach the poor:

[the mission] is to provide for souls in so much danger that their Rule permits an addition to their first duty of teaching, to open house for the souls of the afflicted, of the erring, and poor abandoned children. The Rule permits, nay recommends such undertakings, but only ... where there are not other Religious whose first duty is to attend to such works of mercy.

Mary MacKillop held that: "[the Sisters] cannot undertake more than the cause of the poor".

Pastoral Liturgy, Vol. 51 [2021], Iss. 3, Art. 18

This material is taken from Pauline Wicks, "A Critical Examination of the Theology of Mission of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart", Doctor of Ministry thesis, Sydney College of Divinity, 2018.

Engaging Your Faith

The next series of 'Engaging Your Faith Seminars' is open for bookings with Catholic Theological College. Very interesting topics are explored in 1 ½ - 2 hour sessions at only \$20 each!

Engaging Your Faith is a series of online short sessions offering an opportunity to explore your faith through a variety of topics including: Meditation and Compassion, The Bible as the Great War Story to End All War Stories, Can a Scientist Believe in God? All topics are presented by lecturers of Catholic Theological College.

Visit Engaging Your Faith webpage for more detail: <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

Alleluia, alleluia! Many women were there by the cross, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus and looked after him. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 6: 25-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Do not worry about your life.

I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown in the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS (MACKILLOP), VIRGIN / B

THE SAVING WORD

08 AUGUST 2021



POVERTY AND TRUST

Two themes, 'poverty' and 'trust' leap out from the readings for St Mary MacKillop's feast day, both befitting Australia's first saint.

Poverty in itself is a lack, a harsh suffering, even a death sentence for those like the widow of Zarephath mentioned in today's first reading, as well as many families that Mary MacKillop served in 19th century Australia. From another perspective, poverty can be embraced as a gospel path, as a way to draw close to the poor and to God who loves the poor.

This path refers not only to the vocations of people like Mary MacKillop, but to an attitude to life itself: the willingness to trust not in material possessions but in the steadfast love of God (Gospel), the decision to let go of personal security in order to reach out to others (second reading).

Mary MacKillop lived life on all these fronts. She knew the bitterness of material impoverishment, she embraced God's love for the poor, and she boldly trusted in God to use her life and gifts in the service of the gospel.

As she assured her family, and the sisters in her congregation, on many occasions, and often in the face of material impoverishment, 'God will take care of us all'.

Teresa Pirola

FIRST READING

1 Kings 17: 8-16

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The jar of meal shall not be spent . . .

And then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, 'Up and go to Zarephath, a Sidonian town, and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to give you food.' So he went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks. Addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please', he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth.'

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 63: 1-8. R. v. 8

R. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; / for you my soul is thirsting. / My body pines for you / like a dry weary land without water. / So I gaze on you in the sanctuary / to see your strength and your glory. **R.**

2. For your love is better than life, / my lips will speak your praise. / So I will bless you

all my life, / in your name I will lift up my hands. / My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, / my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

3. On my bed I remember you, / on you I muse through the night / for you have been my help; / In the shadow of your wings I rejoice. / My soul clings to you; / your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

SECOND READING

Col 3: 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

Bear with one another, forgive each other.

As the chosen of God, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another.

The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.

Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond.

And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,

because it is for this that you were called together in one body.

Always be thankful.

Let the Word of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you.

Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom.

With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God;

and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him.

■ The word of the Lord.