

SACPPA CONFERENCE MASS 2018

St. Mary of the Cross - 8th August Solemnity

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Today we celebrate Australia's first Saint, Mary MacKillop. Mary is a Saint for our times. In these present days of financial insecurity and rapid change, we are challenged and encouraged by Mary's strong faith and her ability to trust in the providence of God.

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1842 and died in Sydney on 8 August 1909. She took the religious name Mary of the Cross. Responding to the isolation of colonial families, she pioneered a new form of religious life to provide education for their children. She and her sisters shared the life of the poor and the itinerant, offering special care to destitute women and children. She is remembered for her eagerness to discover God's will in all things, for her charity in the face of calumny, and for her abiding trust in God's providence.

We, too, trust our generous God as we sing:

Opening Hymn: Christ Be Our Light

Fr Rob: Let us mark ourselves with the Sign that Mary MacKillop chose as her new name.

All: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Penitential Rite:

Fr Rob: Loving and merciful God, you welcome all who come to you. Sometimes we are not as welcoming as we could be.

Lord Jesus, you are the heart of welcome. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the heart of hospitality. Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the heart of generosity. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening Prayer:

O God, source of all goodness, who have shown us in Saint Mary a woman of faith living by the power of the Cross, teach us, we pray, by her example to live the gospel in changing times and to respect and defend the human dignity of all in our land.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:12-17

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.

Responsorial Psalm: Response: My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. 63:1-8

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. R/

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. R/

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/

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. R/

Gospel

Acclamation:

Chorus: Celtic Alleluia

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

Chorus: Celtic Alleluia

Gospel:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 6:25-34

Do not worry about your life. Jesus said to his disciples: I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear. Surely life is 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, however much you worry, add one single cubit to your 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 royal robes was clothed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you have so little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear?" It is the gentiles who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, 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.

Homily:**Creed:**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
On the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And life everlasting.
Amen.

**Prayers of
The Faithful:**

Fr Rob: St Mary of the Cross trusted in the loving providence of God. In this same spirit, let us pray for our needs and the needs of the world.

Reader: For the Church: That we will pattern our lives on the Cross through the generous giving of ourselves for the good of others. (pause) We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For the world: That justice and peace may triumph over tyranny and oppression. (pause) We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For the families that struggle with drought and isolation in outback Australia: That they may find caring support from unexpected sources. (pause) We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the leaders of our Church community: That, in the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we may be strong in the face of opposition and never lose our faith and trust in you. (pause) We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For leaders in Catholic Education: That they be global leaders blessed with the grace of capable minds and thriving hearts. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who have died: That they may rejoice today with Mary MacKillop and all the saints of God. (pause) We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Fr Rob: O God, in your faithful love you hear and answer all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**Presentation
of the Gifts:**

Gifts

Prayer Over

The Offerings: As you gather us, O God, at your holy altar on this feast of Saint Mary of the Cross, grant, we pray, through her intercession, that what we offer with praise and petition may strengthen us all in charity and faith. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface of Holy

Men and Women I or II

Eucharistic Prayer: Holy (Sung)
Amen (Sung)

Acclamation: Said

Our Father: Said

Sign Of Peace: Drawn together by the Cross of Christ, And in the spirit of Christ's generous love, Let us share the sign of peace ...

Lamb Of God: Sung

Communion Hymn: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8HN2qb4a_Y
(Audio Visual – St Mary MacKillop featuring Gary Pinto)

Prayer After

Communion: Bountiful God,
May the Sacrament we receive, Lord God, on this feast of Saint Mary strengthen us to walk the way of the Cross and bring us to the glory of the Resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE

Solemn Blessing: Through the example of Saint Mary of the Cross, may you learn to recognise God's will for you and trust in his providence. Amen.

May her life of service awaken in you a deep respect for the poor and a strong will for justice. Amen.

May you share in her courage, see with the eyes of Christian love, and learn from her holy deeds. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, + and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: Song For the Journey