

8th August
Blessed Mary MacKillop

Religious & Educator
FEAST

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne in 1842 and died in Sydney on 8 August 1909. 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.

Gloria

OPENING PRAYER

In your loving providence, O God,
you raised up in our midst Mary MacKillop
as a blessing for those in need.
May her tireless dedication to the poor
inspire in us fresh energies for all the works of love.
We ask this...

or

Holy God, source of all goodness,
you show us in Mary MacKillop
a woman of faith
who lived by the power of the cross.
Teach us to embrace what she pioneered:
new ways of living the gospel
that respect and defend
the human dignity of all in our land.
We ask this...

FIRST READING (OPTION ONE)

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.

(This is) The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING (OPTION TWO)

A reading from the book of Judith 8:11-17, 28-31

You have spoken out of a true heart.

Hearing how the water shortage had demoralised the people, Judith summoned two elders of the town and said: 'Listen to me, leaders of the people of Bethulia. You were wrong to speak to the people as you did today and to bind yourself by oath, in defiance of God, to surrender the town to our enemies if the Lord did not come to your help within a set number of days. Who are you, to put God to the test today, you, of all people, to set yourselves above him? You put the Lord Almighty to the test! You do not understand anything, and never will. If you cannot sound the depths of the human heart or

Prayer after Communion

Bountiful God, may the sacrifice we celebrate on this feast of Mary MacKillop lead us to imitate her generosity and strengthen us to walk the way of the cross. We ask this...

Final Blessing

Through the example of Mary MacKillop, may you learn to recognise God's will for you and trust in God's providence.

Amen

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

Amen

May you share in her courage, see with her vision and love with her heart.

Amen

May almighty God bless you...

Amen

Prayer over the Gifts

One in faith with Mary MacKillop,
we come to your table, O Lord,
with simple gifts of bread and wine.
Hear the praise and thanksgiving of your Church.
We ask this...

PREFACE for Australia Day

[or Preface of Holy Men and Women I or II]

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.
Out of your infinite glory
you have given us the power through your Spirit
for our hidden self to grow strong,
so that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

Through him you have blessed our land.
The fierce flood of your grace sweeps away all barriers,
and soaks deep into our being,
so that the desert blooms with the life that lies in wait.

You will give us the strength to grasp the breadth and the length
and height and the depth of that utter fullness of your love
which surpasses all knowledge.
With all the hosts of heaven,
we give you glory from generation to generation
in our song of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord ...

unravel the arguments of the human mind, how can you fathom the God who made all things, or sound his mind or unravel his purposes? No, brothers, do not provoke the anger of the Lord our God. Although it may not be his will to help us within the next five days, he has the power to protect us for as many days as he pleases, just as he has the power to destroy us before our enemies. But you have no right to demand guarantees where the designs of the Lord our God are concerned. For God is not to be threatened as a human being is, nor is he, like a mere human, to be cajoled. Rather, as we wait patiently for him to save, let us plead with him to help us. He will hear our voice if such is his good pleasure’.

Uzziah replied, ‘Everything you have just said comes from an honest heart and no one will contradict a word of it. Not that today is the first time your wisdom has been displayed, from your earliest years all the people have known how shrewd you are and of how sound a heart. But, parched with thirst, the people forced us to act as we had promised them and to bind ourselves by an inviolable oath. You are a devout woman; pray to the Lord then, to send us a downpour to fill our storage-wells, so that our faintness may pass.’

(This is) The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R/ Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge.
Let me never be put to shame.
In your justice, set me free,
hear me and speedily rescue me. R/
2. Be a rock of refuge for me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me. R/
3. Release me from the snares they have hidden
for you are my refuge, Lord.
Into your hands I commend my spirit.
It is you who will redeem me, Lord. R/
4. O God of truth, you detest
those who worship false and empty gods.
As for me, I trust in the Lord;
let me be glad and rejoice in your love. R/

Gospel Acclamation

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

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

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 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 who 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.

(This is) The Gospel of the Lord.