

B1. Mary MacKillop *religious*

TEXTS FOR THE MASS

8 AUGUST *feast*

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.

THE MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord: I was ill and you comforted me. I tell you, anything you did for one of my brothers or sisters, you did for me.

OPENING PRAYER

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 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 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 the 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 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 31: 1-5, 7-8

Response: Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

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)**

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)**

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)**

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)**

OR

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 102: 1-4, 8-9, 13-14, 17-18

Response: O bless the Lord, my soul.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R)**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry forever. **(R)**

As a father has compassion on his children,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for he knows of what we are made,
he remembers that we are dust. **(R)**

But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth. **(R)**

SECOND 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matthew 27:55

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 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

In your loving providence, O God,
you gather us at your holy altar on this feast of Mary MacKillop.
May the praise and thanksgiving we offer with her and all your Church
strengthen our bonds of charity and faith.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE

Preface of Holy Men and Women I or II; Preface for Australia Day

Preface of Australia Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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:

OR

Preface of Holy Men and Women I

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,

we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

You are glorified in your saints, for their glory is the crowning of your gifts.

In their lives on earth you give us an example.

In our communion with them, you give us their friendship.

In their prayer for the Church you give us strength and protection.

This great company of witnesses spurs us on to victory, to share their prize of everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With angels and archangels and the whole company of saints
we sing our unending hymn of praise:

OR

Preface of Holy Men and Women II

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,

we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

You renew the Church in every age

by raising up men and women outstanding in holiness,
living witnesses of your unchanging love.

They inspire us by their heroic lives,

and help us by their constant prayers

to be the living sign of your saving power.

We praise you, Lord, with all the angels and saints
in their song of joy:

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

By the love you have for one another, says the Lord,
everyone will know that you are my disciples.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bountiful God,

may the sacrifice we celebrate on this feast of Mary MacKillop

strengthen us to walk the way of the cross and bring us to the glory of the resurrection.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SOLEMN 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,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Texts approved by Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

Confirmed by decree of the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments,

29 February 1996 (Prot. 1207/94/L).

© Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

**For More Resources for the Celebration of the Canonisation
you are invited to look at the Mary MacKillop Website**

www.marymackillop.org.au

**There are a number of very useful resources that can be
downloaded to support your parish in having a wonderful
celebration for this major event in the life of the Church here in
Australia**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: With renewed hope and trust, we remember the compassion of Jesus and place our needs in the welcoming heart of our Creator God.

Reader: For the leaders of our church and country: May they govern with compassion, justice and integrity, keeping in mind the welfare of all people. *With trust and hope, we pray....*

Response: Loving God, hear our prayer

Reader: For the mission of the church:

May those called to break the bread of life and to preach the mystery of his cross, be strengthened by Christ to proclaim good news to the poor. *With trust and hope, we pray*

Response: Loving God, hear our prayer

Reader: On the eve of the canonization of *Mary of the Cross*: May we open our hearts to her inspiration in our lives and continue to reach out to those at the margins of our society. *With trust and hope, we pray.....*

Response: Loving God, hear our prayer

Reader: For the Josephite family: May the pervading spirit of *Blessed Mary of the Cross* radiate God's saving love to a world that hungers for justice and peace, dignity and life, education and healing. *With trust and hope, we pray...*

Response: Loving God, hear our prayer

Reader: For the youth of the world: May we, like Mary MacKillop open our hearts to the call of the Holy Spirit in our lives. *With trust and hope we pray...*

Response: Loving God, hear our prayer

Reader: For those who share the vision of Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods, co founder of The Sisters of St Joseph. May this shared vision continue to inspire others to see the needs of the poor and the uneducated and respond. *With trust and hope, we pray...*

Response: Loving God, hear our prayer

Reader: For the sick, the lonely, the grieving and for all who pray through the intercession of *Blessed Mary MacKillop*. May the God of all consolation bring healing and peace to their lives *With trust and hope, we pray.....*

Response: Loving God, hear our prayer

Presider:

God of healing, hope and compassion: hear our prayer and what we ask in faith, grant us through Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

OR

Intercession for the Prayer of the Faithful

Presider: With renewed hope and trust, we remember the compassion of Jesus and place our needs in the welcoming heart of our Creator God.

For all who give witness to the Gospel in word and action: that we, like Mary MacKillop, may have your word on our lips and in our hearts as we proclaim your Gospel. **We pray to the Lord**

For all who share the vision of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, may their desire to serve the poor and uneducated be reflected in our lives as we respond to these same needs in our time. **We pray to the Lord**

For those who work for greater understanding among people of different faith traditions: that we like Mary MacKillop may be open to your presence in the friendships we share with those beyond our Catholic tradition and work together in harmony for the good of all people. **We pray to the Lord**

For the peacemakers of our world: that we, like Mary MacKillop will work without ceasing to establish that justice which alone will ensure true and lasting peace. **We pray to the Lord**

For all servants of the gospel: that, like Mary MacKillop we may be gifted with wisdom and understanding to follow in the way of Jesus. May your love enfold those who bear the responsibility of leadership in our church. **We pray to the Lord**

For the grace to carry our cross each day: that the inspiration of Mary MacKillop may make us strong in faith and hope and deepen within us that love which leads us through death to life. Compassionate God, hear us. **We pray to the Lord**

For those who are in need and those at the margins of our society: inspired by the example of Mary MacKillop's compassionate love, may we be led by your Spirit to respond with generous hearts to the cries of those who are poor in our community and in our world. **We pray to the Lord**

For those seeking Christ: may we grow in the fullness of your love and the depth of your mystery as Mary MacKillop did, so that like her, we may reach our eternal homeland. **We pray to the Lord**

Presider:

God of healing, hope and compassion: hear our prayer and what we ask in faith, grant us through Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

OR

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader Confident in God's provident love we pray in intercession and in thanksgiving.

1. We give thanks for the fullness of the life of Mother Mary of the Cross and for her continued influence for good among her people as St Mary MacKillop.

All We give thanks with grateful hearts.

2. We give thanks for the decades of down-to earth ministry of Sisters in the spirit of the Josephite charism wherever they saw the need, such as in education, nursing, social and community works, religious education and domestic care.

All We give thanks with grateful hearts.

3. We ask that we who now claim the Josephite charism will be as enthusiastic for our part in the mission of God as were those who went before us.

All We give thanks with grateful hearts.

4. We ask that through the celebrations surrounding the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, people will experience the hospitable heart of God in their lives.

All We give thanks with grateful hearts.

5. We pray for all who gather to celebrate the canonisation wherever they are in the world and that those participating in pilgrimages to Rome will be fired with Mary's spirit to advocate for the most needy of our societies.

All We give thanks with grateful hearts.

6. We pray for those who continue to live the vision that was shared by Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, may we all reach out to the poor and uneducated so that they may have life and have it to the full.

All We give thanks with grateful hearts.

7. We remember all those who have gone before us in faith and pray that they may have eternal rest and intercede for our needs today.

All We give thanks with grateful hearts

Leader For these and all our prayers we make through Christ our Lord.

Homily notes for the Feast of St. Mary MacKillop

Readings:

Gospel: Matthew 6: 25-34

First Reading: Judith 8: 11-17, 28-31

or Colossians 3: 12-17

Psalm: 31 or 102

Images

- Life is more than food
- Why worry?
- God's saving justice
- Demoralised the people
- Holy people

Comments:

The Lectionary readings for the Feast could go in many directions:

- Where should we invest energy in our life?
 - What is our commitment to ensure that God's saving justice is implemented in our days?
 - Do we recognise the depression within our society and what do we offer in response to it?
 - Do we recognise our being God's holy people and we do choose to share that with others?
- Mary's life certainly offers us great inspiration in response to these questions:
- She looked beyond the apparent failures around her and could take up life trusting her God.
 - She recognised God's gift in each one she met and tried to respond appropriately.
 - Her energy for God's kingdom inspired others to share her dream.
 - She sat at the feet of Christ's word and drank at the fountain of wisdom to teach and advise others.
 - She could recognise whatever came her way as the gift of God and continued to grow in gratitude.
 - Mary of the Cross was not weighed down by the burdens of life but could recognise God's plan and could take her part with energy and trust.

Prayer:

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.

David Orr osb