



CELEBRATING AT HOME

SOLEMNITY OF MARY OF THE CROSS MacKILLOP

Set your hearts on the kingdom (Mt 6:25-34)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

We are the body of Christ.

**We are gathered with the whole Church
in this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,
you are the kindness of God.

Lord Jesus,
you give us courage and strength.

Lord Jesus,
**you come in word and sacrament to strengthen
us.**

Scripture Reading (Matthew 6:25-34)

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 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 into 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 on 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.'

Reflection - *Set your hearts on the kingdom*

The Gospel reading centres around trust in God
and a warning against becoming absorbed by or
preoccupied with eating, drinking, clothing and
accumulating wealth. These can easily become
idols - things which stand between us and God.
One cannot serve God with a divided heart. The
disciple must make a positive decision to love God
above all else.

The call to trust in God's providence is rooted in
the special relationship we have with God, as the
sons and daughters of the heavenly Father. Ethical
behaviour consists in learning the way and manner
in which God loves and preserves creation.

Jesus counsels the disciples not to worry about food
and clothing, but to set their hearts on seeking the
kingdom of God and on God's justice. The ultimate
goal of all the disciples work must be the kingdom
of God which is defined as justice in this text.
Seeking the kingdom and seeking justice are not
two separate things in Matthew's Gospel. Rather
Matthew insists that there is no authentic search
for the kingdom of God except the quest for justice.
The disciple is to set about producing justice by
living a just life - a life characterised by love of God
and the genuine seeking of the neighbour's good.

This Gospel was chosen for today's feast because
the themes of confidence, trust and reliance on

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God dominated Mary's life. She encouraged her sisters not to get lost in fretting and worrying, but to trust in God and keep working with energy and enthusiasm. Though beset by many problems and difficulties, Mary seemed always to have a quiet energy that trauma and tragedy could not overcome.

Prayers of Intercession

With great trust in your providence, Mary MacKillop was open and ready to meet the needs of her time;
may we meet the challenges of today's world with faith and courage.

Be with all who are one the fringes of our Church and our world.

Help us, like Mary MacKillop, to be your calm warmth and welcome for them.

Mary MacKillop spent her life caring for the poor and the destitute.

Grant that we may bring love and compassion to all whom we serve.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

God of blessing, Source of life,
**live in and through us so that we may love your world as you love it. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Blessing

**Lord, make us your blessing for our family,
friends and those in need during this week.
Amen.**

MARY MACKILLOP - Australia's First Saint - Canonised 17 October 2010

On 15 January 1842 Mary MacKillop was born of Scottish parents, Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald in Fitzroy, Victoria. A plaque in the footpath now marks the place of her birth in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Mary, the eldest of eight children, was well educated by her father who migrated to Australia with his parents. Unfortunately, he lacked financial awareness, so the family was often without a home of their own, depending on friends and relatives and frequently separated from one another.

From the age of sixteen, Mary earned her living and greatly supported her family. In 1861 she went to work in Penola where she met Father Julian Tenison Woods who needed help in the religious education of children in the outback. At the time Mary's family depended on her income so she was not free to follow her dream. However, in 1866, encouraged by Father Woods, Mary opened the first Saint Joseph's School in a disused stable in Penola.

Young women came to join Mary, and so the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph was begun. In 1867 Mary was asked by Bishop Shiel to start a school in Adelaide. From there, the Sisters spread in groups to small outback settlements and large cities around Australia. Mary and these early Sisters, together with other Religious Orders and Lay Teachers of the time, had a profound influence on the forming of Catholic Education as we have come to know it today. She also opened Orphanages, Providences to care for the homeless and destitute both young and old, and Refuges for ex-prisoners and ex-prostitutes who wished to make a fresh start in life.

Throughout her life, Mary met with opposition from people both outside the Church and from within it. In the most difficult of times she consistently refused to attack those who wrongly accused her and undermined her work, but continued in the way she believed God was calling her and was always ready to forgive those who wronged her.

Throughout her life Mary suffered ill health. She died on 8 August 1909 in the convent in Mount Street, North Sydney where her tomb is now enshrined.

This great Australian woman inspired great dedication to God's work in the then new colonies. She stands as an example of great courage and trust in her living out of God's loving and compassionate care of those in need.

Light and Love in the darkness



This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.



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