



St. Mary of the Cross

virgin

TEXTS FOR THE MASS

8 AUGUST *solemnity*

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

see Mt 25:34, 36, 40

Come, you blessed of my Father, says the Lord:
I was sick, and you visited me.
Amen, I say to you: whatever you did
for one of the least of my brethren,
you did it for me.

COLLECT

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.
Through our Lord.

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Kings

17:8-16

The jar of meal shall not be spent... (Lectionary vol. 2, p. 536)

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

63:1-8

Response: *My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.*

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 you strength and your glory. *R/*

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/*

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/*

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SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

3:12-17

Bear with one another, forgive each other. (Lectionary vol. 2, p. 992)

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.

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. (Lectionary vol. 2, p. 558)

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.

SAMPLE

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: That we may model our lives on that of Saint *Mary of the Cross MacKillop*:

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 Saint *Mary of the Cross MacKillop* 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 young people everywhere, like Mary MacKillop, open their hearts to the call of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

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 Saint Mary of the Cross 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Preface of Holy Men and Women I or II

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

see Jn 13:35

This is how all will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

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.