



To know, love and serve Jesus  
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission

*We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.*

SUNDAY 8 AUGUST  
SAINT MARY OF THE  
CROSS  
(MARY MACKILLOP)



**Entrance Antiphon**

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.

**First Reading** from  
the first book of Kings  
17: 7-16

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Ps 623:1-8

(R.) My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me  
fast.

**Second Reading** from  
the letter of St Paul to the  
Colossians 3: 12-17

**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!

**Holy Gospel** according to  
Matthew 6: 25-34

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

## Mary MacKillop

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Imagine this gospel passage sounding in the ears of someone starving without warm clothing or shelter. I don't think it could be piously proclaimed at a refuge for the homeless. It could sound callously indifferent to the suffering of those there. 'Don't Worry, Be Happy' is a great song but not in that context.

But this Gospel is directed to you and me as disciples of Jesus, so we have to check what does it actually say? Rather, what does it *not* say? It does not say we should not worry about what *others* eat or drink or have to wear. In fact, we know that Jesus was moved with compassion when he saw hungry crowds and told his disciples: 'Give them something to eat'.

And won't we be judged on whether we gave 'the Least' food, shelter, companionship, in short, the necessities of life? (Mt 25) *We* should be *very* anxious that we do so, otherwise we will not hear: 'good and faithful servant'.

In mid-late nineteenth century, a young woman was very concerned with the plight of the poor and the marginalised in the colonies which later federated as the Commonwealth of Australia. What were the necessities of life that so many were lacking? Perhaps the most obvious was schooling of the young, as education is a proven path out of poverty.

So, this woman, whose most famous saying was 'never see a need without trying to do something about it', set about remedying that situation. Mary MacKillop established the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart as bands of women who took the traditional vows but who broke out of the confines of enclosed convent life to educate the poor.

She ignored colonial boundaries and set up a network of schools (and much else such as orphanages) throughout the colonies. She exhausted herself and her Sisters in this task, not anxious about food or clothing she or they might have, totally devoted to relieving the legitimate anxieties of others for the necessities of life.

This is well known. What is less well-known is a key factor in her excommunication from the Catholic Church. Why did Bishop Sheil of Adelaide in 1871 move so drastically against this woman now recognised as a Saint?

It was because she reported that a priest, Father Keating, was molesting children at a local church school. The response to his paedophilia led to his being disciplined by the local church authorities (although sent back to Ireland to minister as a priest!) This infuriated the mafia of Irish priests who were bent on the destruction of Mary MacKillop and her Order. Bishop Sheil was like putty in their hands.

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## Mass times

**Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online**

For all of the online Mass options- please visit the  
DoW website <https://dow.sh/dailymass>



**ALPHA Launch night** set for August 3 will be postponed until the Church has opened again.  
At the moment, we are hoping October will be suitable.

**CONFIRMATION Classes** have been postponed until the church has opened again. The date for Confirmation will be set when the Bishop is available. The families who have registered will be notified by email.

### THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Pope Francis on 8 December 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde (With a Father's Heart)*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. You are encouraged to visit the ACBC year of St Joseph page at <https://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

### THE CHOSEN – A TV Series about Jesus – watch during lockdown!

The Chosen is a new 'free to view', television program that creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and is receiving acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen> to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via *The Chosen app*

### CATHFAMILY

CATHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes from their website to assist parents and grandparents in being the first educators in faith for their kids. Don't miss CathKids <https://cathfamily.org/activities/>

### YEAR AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY, 19 March 2021 – 26 June 2022

Pope Francis is encouraging the Church to enrich your understanding of the vocation marriage and the core role of family in the mission of the Church at <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html>

## Prayer intentions

**For the sick & homebound:** Carol Gonzales, Christabelle Adina, Gloria Gonzales Prudente, Allan & Kelvin Marquinez, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Nelia Balingit, John Morgos, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Gabriel Gonzales, Francisco Carmona, Doreen Gribbons, Clayton Diack, Emily Rose Pavicin, Pat & Denise Furner, Tracey Bokor, Lily Pereira, Doris Wahhab, John Kajdrys, Erlinda Hermes, Aurelia Vertucio, Ofilia Mawson, Mary & Frances Raithi, Marie Atkins, Jeanna San Diego, Hugo Garzotto, Eileen Butcher, Josephina Duefries, Austin Taylor, Marisa Aguirre, Joan Wilson.

*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.*

**For our recently dearly departed:** Fr Peter Caruana, Claude Fricot, Uncle Leo McInerney, Angela Peters, Veronica Robins,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Jeff Randal, Anne La Spina, Damien Champion, Frazer Toweel, Isabelo Sitjar,  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



## YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

*"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"*

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021



## Bulletin Notices

**The funeral for Fr Peter Caruana** will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August, at St Francis Xavier Cathedral commencing at 10.00am. because of the current Covid-19 restrictions we can only have ten people attend the funeral, in this case it will be the members of Fr Peter's family.

The funeral will be livestreamed so you can participate if you wish via the livestream link which is

[funeral.lumenchristi.org.au](https://funeral.lumenchristi.org.au)

I ask you to continue to pray for the Caruana family as this is a very difficult time for everyone at his time.

### Marriage Enrichment Weekend

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! **Come and join us on September 10 - 12, 2021** for a Virtual Marriage Encounter Weekend via Zoom. Open to married couples, priests & religious. Book online at [www.wvme.org.au](http://www.wvme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or [nswbookings@wvme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wvme.org.au)

### Meet Me in the Middle Online Retreat

This retreat is based on Charles Peguy's Little Girl Hope from the book: "The Portal of the Mystery of Hope." Hope is both a virtue and a mystery. It is desirable yet elusive. Many dismiss it, misunderstand it, shrug it off and turn their backs on it, extolling faith and charity instead. Whilst faith and charity are absolutely critical in these times of uncertainty and fear in society, there is now a need for hope as never before since World War II. The retreat begins on Saturday 5 Sept. All videos and texts will be available on our website for as long as you need them. There are 6 conferences with 2 uploaded each week. There are also questions for reflection. The cost of the retreat is \$250. Register online at: [jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/onlineretreats](http://jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/onlineretreats)

### The Journey weekly Podcast

On The Journey This Week: Fr Tony Alex MGL says life is about today. Plus, Mother Hilda on a broken heart, Michelle Vass uses the Psalms to pray, and Torrien Lau on being compassionate. Plus, more great music [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).

### St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre - Online LIVE Retreats - August 2021

The current COVID situation means that St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre is not able to run our usual August residential retreats. We are making the most of this time by introducing Online LIVE retreats using Microsoft Teams, as a special offering during the month of August. Please find attached our special program for August providing a range of retreats including day reflections and longer retreats. Spiritual accompaniment is available for all retreats and also for individual accompaniment at any time. Fees are negotiable. For more information and for bookings, email: [contact@towersretreat.org.au](mailto:contact@towersretreat.org.au)

### Plenary Council 2021

With just 60 days to Assembly One of the Plenary Council, you can keep up to date by accessing the Plenary Post on the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the first Assembly will be a mix of in-person and online delivery. See the up-to-date [PLENARY COUNCIL JOURNEY 2020-2022](https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au).

**Lectio: Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God with Dr Tim Gray.** With the clear teaching and artistry of the Augustine Institute's Lectio series, Dr. Tim Gray masterfully uses the discipline of Lectio Divina to show you how to make prayer an effective effort of love and intimacy. During this time of lockdown why not join with other parishioners and deepen your prayer life, by attending a course on lectio divina (divine reading). This is a six-week video series, where each week we will meet via Zoom, to catch up with each other, watch a film from the Lectio series and reflect and discuss each week's topic. **Beginning Thursday July 22 at 7:30 - 9:00pm, via Zoom.** If you would like to attend, please email Donna to receive the link to the Zoom call. [donna.ransom@dow.org.au](mailto:donna.ransom@dow.org.au)

**Urgent Euthanasia Petition** Take Urgent Action today to help save vulnerable lives – Raise your voice to protect life: Sign the Open Letter to the Premier today To help stop precious parliamentary time and health resources being diverted to those with a pro-death agenda, please consider taking two important steps today:  
1. Please sign a petition to Premier Gladys Berejiklian, asking her to reject euthanasia and assisted suicide, and instead focus parliamentary time and precious health resources on repairing the social and economic cost of this latest outbreak. Sign the petition here [https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition\\_2107\\_nsw\\_cas](https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition_2107_nsw_cas)  
2. Please email your NSW State Member of Parliament and ask them to oppose the introduction of this dangerous law

### Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese

Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. A simple way of staying informed and connected is to subscribe at <https://dow.sh/stayingconnected> to receive regular stay connected updates or visit <https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin> to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes weekly

### Online Holy Hour for Young Adults

CYMW & NET are hosting online Adoration every Thursday from 4-5pm. Join our Holy Hour through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cymdow/> or watch via Instagram @net.wollongong – everyone is welcome!

### Online Young Adult Bible Study!

Are you missing your community? CYMW are hosting an online Bible Study for all young adults aged 17-35 throughout the Wollongong Diocese. Bring your bible and your favourite snack as we journey through scripture together... over zoom! **Every Tuesday night. 7PM-8PM.** Check out @cymdow on Instagram or Facebook for more information or email [youth@dow.org.au](mailto:youth@dow.org.au).

### Online Alpha

Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong is holding an online youth alpha series for all young people aged 13 to 18 years Youth Alpha is a video series that tackles questions on faith, life, and God. The weekly online youth group will run from 7PM to 8PM each Friday starting soon. For more information and to register your interest, please visit <https://forms.gle/oXmRjx6QkNeydihs8>



## 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.



## Scripture Commentary *by Nick Brodie*

The Gospel reading for today is, at first glance, an odd choice to pair with the feast of St Mary of the Cross. Mary MacKillop faced more than a few financial challenges, after all, especially in her youth. The burden of supporting her poor family fell to Mary in her teenage years, and surely no one held it against her for worrying about money, food, or clothing.

But the pairing of saint and gospel makes sense in the context of Mary's vocation. Rather than worrying about herself, she cared for others. In this, Mary MacKillop lived the gospel very effectively. First caring for her immediate family, then for wider relations, soon enough Mary was focused on meeting the many needs of the communities in which she and her fellow Sisters of St Joseph lived. Through aid, education, and example Mary offered her contemporaries and us an example of faith through works.

From quietly and unobtrusively teaching in a stable in 1866, to founding a religious order that spread throughout and beyond a continent, Mary's spiritual journey was truly focused on "God's saving justice". Tending to Australia's Aboriginal peoples, prisoners facing execution, children requiring education, the homeless, the orphaned, the sick, indeed anybody she saw in need, Mary shows us how God seeks to answer the day's troubles: through us.

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Despite all of this, and with the full personal backing of Pope Pius IX for her Order, Mary MacKillop and her Sisters went on to educate hundreds of thousands of children in the colonies and the later federation of the Commonwealth of Australia. She and they lived this Gospel passage in their personal and community lives. She and they set their hearts on building the kingdom of God.

Bishop Sheil revoked the excommunicated five months later, but the fact remains that Australia's saint was dealt the most severe blow which a Catholic can suffer (at least in the institutional sense).

Mary MacKillop's education provision is itself a fantastic achievement and legacy. But more should be made of Mary MacKillop's response to clerical sexual abuse of children. She suffered grievously because of her courage in doing so in the face of a clerical culture which could not abide such revelations.

May it be presumed that as St Mary MacKillop entered the celestial Kingdom of Heaven she was surrounded by the thousands of those who as youngsters living in poverty or as subject to abuse, benefited so greatly from the Josephites setting their hearts on [the Father's] Kingdom first, and on God's saving justice.