

## 8 August – St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

SOLEMNITY; white

*RELIGIOUS / Born in Melbourne (Australia) in 1842. Died in Sydney on this day in 1909. 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. 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.*

### **First Reading † 1 Kings 17:7-16**

*The jar of flour shall not be spent according to the word of the Lord spoken through Elias.*

### **A reading from the first book of Kings**

But after a while the stream where Elijah lay hidden dried up, for the country had had no rain. And then the word of the Lord came to him,

‘Get up and go to Zarephath in Sidonia, and stay there.  
I have ordered a widow there to give you food.’

So he went to Sidon and when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks. He called to her and said,

‘Please bring a little water in a pitcher for me to drink.’

She was on her way to fetch it when he called to her, saying,

‘And bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.’

She replied,

‘As the Lord your God lives, 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,

‘Don’t be afraid, go and do as you have said;  
but first make a little cake of it for me and bring it to me,  
and make some for yourself and for your son afterwards.  
For the Lord, the God of Israel, says this:

“Jar of meal shall not be spent,  
jug of oil shall not be emptied,  
till 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 62(63):2-6.8-9*

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

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
For you my flesh is pining,  
like a dry, weary land without water.

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

I have come before you in the holy place,  
to behold your strength and your glory.  
Your loving mercy is better than life;  
my lips will speak your praise.

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

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;  
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you.

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

For you have been my strength;  
in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.  
My soul clings fast to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

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

*Second Reading † Colossians 3:12-17*

*Above all have love, which is the bond of perfection.*

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians**

As the chosen of God, then, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you do the same. Over all these, put on love, the bond of perfection.

And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. Always be grateful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Teach and advise one another in all wisdom. With gratitude sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God in your hearts; and whatever you say or do, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

*Gospel Acclamation † Matthew 27:55*

Alleluia, 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, alleluia, alleluia!

*Gospel † Matthew 6:25-34*

*Do not worry about tomorrow.*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Therefore I tell you not to worry about your life, what you should eat, nor about your body, what you should 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, by worrying, add one single cubit to your span of life?

And why worry about clothing? Learn from the grasses of the fields, how they grow; they neither work nor spin, yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grasses of the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more clothe you, who have so little faith?

So do not worry; do not say, “What should we eat? What should we drink? What should we wear?” It is the gentiles who strive for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all.

Strive first for his kingdom, and 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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