



# Regina Coeli Parish

Beverly Hills - In the Archdiocese of Sydney



## Weekly Newsletter

**St Mary of the Cross MacKillop**  
**8 August 2021**

### Liturgy Times

#### SUNDAY:

8:30am, 10:00am.

Children's Liturgy during school term

**TUESDAY:** 8:30am Adoration, 9.15am Mass

**WEDNESDAY:** 7:00am

**THURSDAY:** 9:15am

**FRIDAY:** 8:30am Adoration, 9.15am Mass

**SATURDAY:** 9:00am

(Adoration and Reconciliation after Mass)

5:00pm (Vigil Mass)

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 9:30-10:00am; 4:25-4:50pm



What I write in parish bulletins are, strictly speaking, not homilies. So I tend to take the liberty to talk about what I might not usually talk about in a homily or to do it in a style different from that of a homily. Sometimes what I write about is light, even frivolous; other times it is heavy, even uncomfortably so. Whenever I am writing about a serious topic the chances are that my views are counter-cultural, that is, they go against the popular view or against what is currently being popularised under the influence of the powerful. Sometimes the counter-cultural view which I espouse is easily supported by Catholics; other times it is not, for one of two reasons: it could be that I am wrong (always a real possibility) or it could be that what is needed is *time*, to say the least. After all, even Catholics, myself included, are unsuspecting victims of ideologies embedded in our culture - false ideas which shape the way we see the world, quite often, *unconsciously*. This means that, in order for us to have a *clear vision* freed from ideological biases, we need to take a step back and undergo a process of patient reflection. In other words, it could be that what we really need is, for example, daily meditation rather than daily press briefing!

Speaking of having a clear vision, we celebrate this weekend the feast day of the greatest visionary that the Church of Australia has seen thus far, namely, St Mary of the Cross. A great way to get to know her is through her letters, of which there are many. Apart from providing precious insights into her beautiful soul, the letters also conjure up the image of a woman with a clear vision who had to navigate through myriads of problems with prudence and unbounded love. For me personally, the most fascinating part of her life - that which reveals the saintliness in her in the most striking manner - was in the early stages of her religious life when the infamous excommunication befell her. It seemed that the worst resistance to her missionary endeavours came from within the Church rather than from without. Her detractors tried to control her by imposing changes to the Rule of her community. Then they accused her of being disobedient when she humbly expressed her conviction that the Rule was the divinely inspired foundation without which the Sisters of St Joseph could not exist, at least not under the same name. Then a local bishop with a compromised vision excommunicated her, that is, locked her out of her leadership role, her own community and communion with the Catholic Church, at least notionally if not in reality. The following excerpts from the letters which she wrote during these unforgettable days demonstrate why she is now the first canonised Australian saint:

*I simply felt like one in a dream all the time. An awful scene, one that I can never forget, followed. When I was ordered to leave the church, my poor Sisters followed, and some, particularly Sister Paula, seemed bereft of all reason. She shrieked like a mad being, and oh dear, I hope I shall never hear the like again. The poor things were for a while utterly unable to control themselves... Though obliged to go to bed, it was about 3 o'clock before I could sleep. I thought of the awful nature of the sentence, and all that I had ever felt when hearing of such things before came back to my mind. I thought of the state in which I was supposing I should die before morning, but with this thought came a calm resigning of myself into the arms of my good God whom I then most lovingly reminded that I was far from feeling rebellious towards my Bishop... In the end I went to sleep very happily with more loving confidence in my good God than I had felt for a long time.* **Continued on Page 2**

#### Pastoral Team:

Fr Peter Kwak PP  
beverlyhillspriest@gmail.com

#### Parish Office Address:

5 Tarrilli Street

#### Postal Address:

PO Box 100

Beverly Hills NSW 2209

**Telephone:** 9554 8155

**Email:** reginaparish@gmail.com

**Web:** reginacoeliparish.org.au

## The Week Ahead

Sun 8 August  
Mary MacKillop

8.30am Mass  
10.00am Mass

Mon 9 August

No Mass

Tue 10 August  
St Lawrence

9.15am Mass

Wed 11 August  
St Clare

7am Mass

Thu 12 August

9.15am Mass

Fri 13 August  
The Transfiguration

9.15am Mass

Sat 14 August  
St Maximilian Kolbe

8.00am Mass  
8.25-9.00am Adoration  
9.55am & Reconciliation  
4.15-4.45pm Reconciliation  
5pm Vigil Mass

Sun 8 August  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

8.30am Mass  
10.00am Mass

### Recently Deceased

Raja Reegon, Eruthai Marie Reegon & Christopher Reegon, Bernie Langtry, Ron Sang, John Harnett, Patricia Hay, Luigia Zegarelli, Peter Peters, Christopher McDowell, Frank Capra

### In Loving Memory

John Bridge, Vanessa Succar, Rosa Germano, Bernie Crawford, Georgia & Philip Spiteri, Fouad Attia, Jeanette Cardoz

### Please remember those who are in ill

**health especially:** Josephina Algozzina, Mil-dred Petit, James Ybasco, Josh Venture, Carmen Bajada, Anne Kensey, Monica Costa, Quang Vo, Matt Nugent, Ann McDowell, Damiano Serravalle, George Dagher, Mrs Saba, Pat Mortimer, Mrs Donald Burch, Mary Daniels, Geoff McDowell, Elena Mura, Mr TD (Terry) Wall, Kim Delaney, Lauren Sotano, Sam Hy, Georgia Brown, Luke Compton, Paul Camelotti.

### Rosary Statue

Mrs M. Tesoriero  
129 Morgan Street  
Ph: 02 9150 5409



#### Parish Secretary

TBC  
9554 8155  
Tues 8:30am-  
1:30pm Wed & Fri  
10.30am—3.30pm

#### Sacramental Coordinator/ PSSO

Mrs Elizabeth Gooley  
9554 8155  
reginasacramental@gmail.com  
Tuesday and Thursday from  
11.30am - 3.30pm

#### School Principal

Mr Chris Egan  
Asst. Principal  
Mr Peter Busch

#### REC

Mrs Elizabeth  
Webster

*Continued from Page 1* Now won't you, dear Father, have courage? (She was writing to her spiritual director and co-founder Fr Tenison-Woods) What matter if we have no convent? Don't you remember 'the foxes have holes and the birds of the air their nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head'? I always loved that, but now more than ever.

I have never enjoyed so sure and certain peace of mind as of late. The majesty of God's ways seems so beautiful, and the poor wavering opinions of man so contemptible, so little to be considered by the soul who purely seeks God and Him alone...For a while I felt inclined to fly away from all to go where no one would ever see me again and where I could hear no more of these sad sad things...But whilst I was thinking thus, such a sweetly comforting thought occurred to me...I cannot tell you how empty and void of interest all human ways of regarding this scandal then seemed to me. Something seemed to whisper, 'A few years and this trying scandal will be completely obliterated from the minds of men and the cause of the Church more firmly established than ever...

Surely, my dear Father, you will not be discouraged, though humanly speaking these trials are a most painful kind. Anything but scandal, yet when God, who reads our hearts and knows how gladly we would suffer rather than that any should be given, still permits things so to happen that we cannot prevent it, is it now then our place to submit ourselves humbly to His ever holy Will, and calmly, lovingly to pray that He may hasten the day when He will show his power and wisdom by bringing immense good out of the very scandal itself? His ways, my Father, are certainly not ours, and he is often served when many even good and holy ones see it not.

### "St Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive

Due to the Covid lockdown the Clothing Drive scheduled for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August has been cancelled. We are hopeful that the next drive on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November will proceed which will depend on any restrictions at that time."

### For Planned Givers

Thank you for your steadfast support. If you would like a receipt for last financial year's giving, please contact the parish office. Please note that there is no longer any tax deductibility. The receipt can be picked by you, delivered or emailed to you.



Free prayer cards have been kindly donated to the parish by the Mary MacKillop Today organisation. These will be placed outside the church side door along with the parish bulletins. Happy feast day everyone. St Mary of the Cross, pray for us!



## Liturgy of the Word

### St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

#### Entrance Antiphon (or a choice of song):

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.

**All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Leader: St Mary of the Cross said, 'How you cope with the Cross spells your success or failure as a human being and as a Christian.' *(Pause)* Let us humbly acknowledge the times when we struggled with our current crosses and lost trust in God. *(Pause)* St Mary also said, 'With these crosses He gives many precious graces to make the soul bear them.' May our souls open up to receive the graces of consolation and strength which come from the Cross of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *(Pause)*

Leader: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray. *(Pause)* 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 Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

- ♦ Please go *slowly* through the readings on Page 4.
- ♦ Pause after each of the readings. Discuss, if you like, what was striking about the reading, perhaps with the help of the reflection questions below.
- ♦ Also, if you like, after the Gospel reading, you can listen to the homily Fr Peter hopes to put up on Facebook/parish website by Sunday morning.

#### Reflection Questions:

*After the 1st reading:* The poor widow felt that she had reached the rock-bottom of her existence and that there was nothing but despair awaiting her. But it is precisely when we experience the limits of our own capabilities that we are well disposed to witness the mercy of God who 'sends rain on the face of the earth.' Where in my life is the dry land in need of such rain from above?

*After the 2nd reading:*

St Paul said, '...forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the

same.' Likewise St Mary of the Cross wrote, 'I have, through God's wise permission at present enemies...but they are loved enemies.' Who are our *resented* enemies in need of being turned into *loved* enemies?

#### The Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: In our responsorial psalm we heard, 'My soul clings to you; my right hand holds me fast.' St Mary of the Cross found her strength in clinging to the good God in whose providence she trusted. Let us also cling to the Lord as we offer our humble petitions.

Reader: We pray that the Church may grow in love, charity and holiness, as we take inspiration from St Mary of the Cross to reach out to meet the needs of the poor and destitute throughout the world. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

**All: Lord hear our prayer**

We pray that those who are suffering and are overburdened may find hope in people who reach out to them in friendship and solidarity. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

**All: Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for those who work in hospitals, aged care homes and medical centres, that they may be inspired to serve Christ in the sick people who are placed in their care. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

**All: Lord hear our prayer**

We pray that all those who are assembled here today may cease to worry and come to truly know that God alone will nourish us, clothe us and save us. *(Pause)* We pray to the Lord...

**All: Lord hear our prayer**

(Other intentions may be mentioned here)

Leader: Let us pray in the words our Saviour gave us.

**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.**

#### Prayer for spiritual communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally at present, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already here, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

*(Pause)*

#### Communion Antiphon (or a choice of song):

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

Leader (while everyone makes a sign of the cross): the Lord bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**



## First Reading 1 Kgs 17:7-16

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

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.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:1-8

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

1. 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. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. 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.)
4. 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. (R.)

## Second Reading Col 3:12-17

*Bear with one another, forgive each other.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message 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 never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 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 Mt 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.



## Reflection by Nick Brodie

God's saving justice

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.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.  
© 2021 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd  
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.