



ST MEL'S PARISH

"BE STILL AND KNOW I AM GOD..."

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 Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 3pm

Parish Priest : Fr Peter Taylor

St Mel's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross

Sunday 8 August 2021

Readings for
this Sunday



1 Kings 17:8-16
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Matthew 6:25-34

Readings for
next week:



Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6,10
 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
 Luke 1:39-56



Liturgical Jottings

Patron Saints of Australia

The people and their newly arrived pastor, Father John Therry selected Blessed Mary, under the title of Help of Christians as their patron saint of Australia. In 1844, at the first assembly of Australian Bishops Mary Help of Christians was officially declared the patron saint of Australia; feast day is 24 May.

St Francis Xavier (3 Dec) and St Therese of Lisieux (1 Oct), as co-patrons of the universal missions, were also patrons of Australia until 1976, when Australia was no longer considered a mission country.

On request 15 January 2013, of the Australian Church, Rome approved St Mary of the Cross MacKillop as the Australia's second patron saint of. Her feast day is today, 8 August.

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Focus on the Readings

The three Scripture Readings for the Solemnity were chosen to express the spirit, charism and faith of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. From the first Book of Kings the widow of Zarephath was down to her last supply of food for her son and herself. She thought they would both perish. Mary, in providing for poor mothers and their children, often wondered if she would have enough food for the next day. Then an Elijah-like person would arrive at the door with supplies. Like the miracle in the first reading, food often appeared by God's providence and human agents.

Mary often suffered at the hands of incompetent leaders: her school master in Victoria, her bishop in South Australia, and some education and welfare authorities. With humility and strength she overcame all opposite and continued to work in generosity and thanksgiving as expressed in St Paul's letter to the Colossians. This passage also expresses her mission: "Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom" Col 3:16.

The Gospel, an extension of Our Lord's "Sermon on the Mount" is a teaching on trusting in the providence of God, God's care for his people and our freedom gained by trusting God. Mary's life and death expressed her "Trust in God" so much so that these very words are chiselled in marble on her gravestone.

Quote of Mary MacKillop

I feel a joy when things go well, for I see God's will in this, and an equal joy when they seem to go wrong or against our natural desire, for there again I see God's will, and am satisfied that He has accepted my prayers and those of many more for some other object at the time nearer to His adorable will. *From a letter of Mary MacKillop to Monsignor Kirby.*

From Today's Readings

Many women were there by the cross, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus and looked after him.
Gospel Acclamation in the Mass of St Mary of the Cross

Pope Francis: Let us Dream

Time belongs to the Lord. Trusting in Him, we move forward with courage, building unity through discernment, to discover and implement God's dream for us, and the paths of action ahead.

On the Lighter Side

Sainthood comes in moments: of gentleness, of humour, of kindness, of times when we choose to do the loving thing. And for our 'companions on the journey', such moments help to keep their hope alive. *The Little Brown Book Too (pages 32-33)*

St Mel's Parish Is...

"A welcoming and caring community that helps all people grow stronger in our Catholic Faith."

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER



Born: 15th January 1842
Died: 8th August 1909
First School: 1866
Declared Saint: 17th Oct 2010
Feastday: 8th August

It's quite comforting for us to pause in our Sunday cycle to bring attention to our faith of Australia's own ... St. Mary of the cross MacKillop. Since her beatification and elevation to the community of the saints Mary MacKillop's life and story has impacted greatly on our Australian life, Church, and where as a pilgrim people, we hold to one of Mary MacKillop's unique words ... "We are but only travellers here"!

Mary MacKillop's legacy will be one seen through the vision she strongly sought for education of the poor in particular through communities across our land. Through this vision Mary confronted the religious authorities of her day, she fought and she won, despite being cut from the Church at one point. If physically present today... I wonder what she might be thinking as to the Plenary Council we are pinning our hopes on? Mary MacKillop would be I imagine be in the thick of it....

It's worth noting Australia at the time of Mary MacKillop in the nineteenth century was not easy for a Catholic mindset. The Government's of the day took aim at strict secular schools and institutions for the poor, Mary MacKillop confronted authorities and won. Federally elected women representatives should look to Mary MacKillop's example of maintaining rights and dignity.

Mary MacKillop's standing for us in our pilgrimage through this life and where we find ourselves seeking a new order amid this Pandemic is worth our perseverance. She might well be saying ... it's a good time to see where God is and what God is wanting to say..." Like the invitation from the organizers of the Plenary Council.... "What is it God is wanting to say to the Church in Australia? "

So we give thanks for our national saint and seek her intercession in our day. As Mary MacKillop identified herself with the poor and marginalised of her day, so too ours is a time of identifying with the poor in our day and where our Church is seen on side, being more humble, and seeking to place the Gospel as a living seed growing and nurturing us.

Fr Peter

A LITTLE NEWS ITEM Last Saturday I watched with interest the live stream of ordination of two new Auxiliary Bishops for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. It was with interest because Monsignor Tony Ireland , one being consecrated as a Bishop, was a contemporary of mine from seminary days. (one year ahead of me in the ordination cycle!). The other being Father Marin Ashe, a good Irishman!!!! It was encouraging to see. Tony was quite unassuming as my memory of him goes, very strong in his knowledge and what I have gleamed very pastoral.... "there's great hope yet!" Reading on his elevation as Bishop, he says ..."Imagine a mirror. On one side of the mirror is you. On the other side is the Lord Jesus. You are reflected in him, and he is reflected in you. We want people to see their value in Jesus Christ and his value for them". Our thoughts are for you in this time as you adjust to being a Bishop in the Church.

Fr. Peter



GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS ... As a Church and following the requirements of our state Government with the latest restrictions being eased, Tuesday 27th July at 11.59pm, one of the continuing requirements we need to be vigilant about is the wearing of masks. I am the first to say mask wearing is not ideal. Given we are in a closed environment as a Church building is Mask wearing is important. So I don't have questions being asked to me of the wearing of masks... you wear a mask unless otherwise you are exempted for health or other reasons. Please make sure you either use the Church QR CODE or SIGN IN PERSONALLY !!! upon your entry into the church. We must be vigilant in the time we are living in I appreciate your understanding of this. Fr Peter

SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST. A lovely celebration last Sunday for our candidates. Comments received were most encouraging, a small group has benefits!!! Thanks to Mel Shiels, Grace Natalizio, Sr Pam, along with Denae Napier, Chris Summers and Chris Quinn from St Mel's School for your presence and support.



SHEPPARTON GREAT WINTER NIGHT SHELTER...Is making an impact across our Shepparton communities. Local Churches are involved in a major way. St Mel's is involved on a Friday night at the South Shepparton community Church in St Andrew's Rd.

I encourage our support of this especially through the leadership of Mel Domaschrenz through our parish. Please pray for Melanie and all involved in the Winter Night Shelter. Fr Peter

"BE THE REASON SOMEONE FEELS WELCOMED, SEEN, HEARD, VALUED, LOVED AND SUPPORTED"

Thank you from GSWNS. *"Never see a need without doing something about it".*

These well-known words of Mary MacKillop are alive here in Shepparton. Thank you for your prayer and help in providing a safe, warm place during these cold winter nights. Great news - two of our guests have permanent housing! We hope other guests find similar accommodation. Mary MacKillop would be also delighted that the Salvation Army are opening their doors every day for all guests. Our Venue Coordinator, Melanie, is also helping them provide this opportunity.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL... Meets this Wednesday at 7.00pm hopefully in the gathering room...

THE CHURCH ROOF PROJECT.... I'm becoming very confident the roof replacement project will begin around mid – August No firm date as yet, but quietly confident,

Fr. Peter



First Reading

A reading from the first book of Kings - 1 Kings 17:8-16

The jar of meal shall not be spent.

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

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians - 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.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew - 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

**Weekday Masses this coming week
9th August to 15th August 2021**

Monday 9th August - NO MASS

Tuesday 10th August - NO MASS

Wednesday 11th August - NO MASS

Thursday 12th August - NO MASS

Friday 13th August - 9.15am

Saturday 14th August - 9.00am Mass

Sunday 15th August - 9.30am & 5.00pm

(Restriction Permitted)



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER

Sunday 15th August 2021

9.30am - John Cortese (Commentator) Zoe Hamilton (L1)
Melissa Hamilton (L2)

9.30am- Special Ministers: Pam Barlow and
John Cortese

5.00pm - Xavier Tanner (Commentator) Helen May (Lector)

5.00pm - Special Ministers : Xavier Tanner and Dom Poppa

Recently Deceased: Maria Maruzza, Carmel Loverso,
Carmela Gallace and Maureen Gervasoni,
Guisippina Cavallaro.

Anniversaries: Giuseppe Primerano,
Emilio Andreola and Sabatino Marino.

