

**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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*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 how you are to clothe it. Surely life means 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, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his 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 regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown in the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and his 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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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS (MACKILLOP), VIRGIN / B

08 AUGUST 2021

**POVERTY AND TRUST**

Two themes, 'poverty' and 'trust' leap out from the readings for St Mary MacKillop's feast day, both befitting Australia's first saint.

Poverty in itself is a lack, a harsh suffering, even a death sentence for those like the widow of Zarephath mentioned in today's first reading, as well as many families that Mary MacKillop served in 19th century Australia. From another perspective, poverty can be embraced as a gospel path, as a way to draw close to the poor and to God who loves the poor.

This path refers not only to the vocations of people like Mary MacKillop, but to an attitude to life itself: the willingness to trust not in material possessions but in the steadfast love of God (Gospel), the decision to let go of personal security in order to reach out to others (second reading).

Mary MacKillop lived life on all these fronts. She knew the bitterness of material impoverishment, she embraced God's love for the poor, and she boldly trusted in God to use her life and gifts in the service of the gospel.

As she assured her family, and the sisters in her congregation, on many occasions, and often in the face of material impoverishment, 'God will take care of us all'.

**Teresa Pirola**

**FIRST READING**

1 Kings 17: 8-16

A reading from the first book of Kings.

*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.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 63: 1-8. R. v. 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. / So I gaze on you in the sanctuary / to see you strength and your glory. **R.**

2. 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.**

3. 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.**

**SECOND READING**

Col 3: 12-17

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

*Bear with one another, forgive each other.*

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.

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YouTube: [www.youtube.com/c/StKevinParishEastwood](http://www.youtube.com/c/StKevinParishEastwood)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic](http://www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic)

Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 10:00am-3:00pm

## Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood



Vigil Mass: Saturday at 5:30pm

Sunday Mass Times: 8am, 9:30am, 11:30am (Chinese) & 6pm

Weekday Masses: Mon – Thurs. 7:30am, Fri 5:00pm

Holy Rosary: Mon – Thu after 7:30am Mass

Eucharistic Adoration: Fri 4:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 5:00-5:20pm

Cenacle Marian Movement of Laity: Thu 7pm

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena: Tue 7-7:30pm

### Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop – 8<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021

**Recently Deceased:** Margaret Ellem

**Our Deceased:** Bro Mark Murphy, Clara and Edmund Bridgewater, Carl D’Lima and deceased members of the Lobo family, Maura Mah, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, John Davidson, Geoff & Patricia Clarke, Jan Brayan, Arch Stewart, John Casey, Roy & Bessie Landon and O’ Connor, Landon, Stewart, Pigott and Casey families. Lastly, please pray for all the souls in purgatory.



**Our Sick:** Sam Wong, Donald Mees, Agnes, Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

#### UPCOMING FEAST DAYS:

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 15<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### PARISH NEWS:

- **Next week is the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. Join our livestreamed Vigil Mass on Sat, 14<sup>th</sup> August at 5:30pm.** Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dify2u61Gr8>
- **Attention First Communion Candidates:** To those who are yet to submit the **form** indicating their intention moving forward, **kindly submit them by Monday, Aug 9**, so that we could send the workbooks by post before preparation lessons begin on Wed, Aug 18.
- **We sincerely thank all the parishioners who are continuously supporting our parish financially during lockdown and all the volunteers involved in the Vigil Mass.**
- **For pastoral care emergencies, reconciliation, and funerals, please contact Fr Martin directly at 0414 841 928 to make a COVID Safe arrangements.**
- **Prayer requests/Mass offerings for the deceased are still accepted.** Send us an email or leave a message at 9874 2533. Donations can be made online via the parish website.
- **Liturgical Rosters have been put on hold due to current lockdown. Fr Martin will contact volunteers to serve at Vigil Mass to continue livestreaming our services.**
- Funerals are limited to 10 people attending, *excluding the person conducting the service.*
- *The parish office is closed until further notice.* Please send any enquiries by email: [parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au](mailto:parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au) or leave a message at 9874 2533. Thank you.

#### AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney invites you to download the Our Faith Our Works App on the App Store or Google Play.** This is your one-stop location for Mass and Confession times, spiritual reflections & meditations, podcasts, local Catholic news, Go Make Disciples mission plan, and much more. This App features a PCI-compliant and secure donation gateway, enabling you to give to your local parish or our Archdiocesan ministries from the comfort of your living room. Visit: [www.ourfaithourworks.org/app](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/app).



#### BLESSING OVER FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES:

*Father, bless these children and make them eager to share in the banquet of our Lord. Give them the strength of the Holy Spirit to profess the faith of your Church. Amen.*

#### FR MARTIN MAUNSELL’S REFLECTION:

##### ***BEING the PERFECT PRIEST!***

Someone far more perceptive than me has written this reflection no doubt after a great deal of wise reflection!

- *If he begins Mass consistently on time then some people will say that he is too efficient, if he is late then he has a habit of holding people up!*
- *If he preaches too long, he is failing to hold the attention of the congregation yet if he is too short, he obviously hasn’t prepared enough!*
- *If he is out visiting families in their homes, then he is never at the parish house to answer the door or the phone when we need some information in a hurry!*
- *If he is spending money on the church, he should know that the money could have been better spent on the overseas missions and if he does not spend money then the place looks to be falling apart!*
- *If he’s young he lacks experience to speak on life issues and if he is old, he needs to retire as he doesn’t understand the concerns people now have!*

And if he dies or retires, we now don’t know where to find someone to take his place!

Jesus of Nazareth also knew what it was like to be *out of step* with others when he said, *“You’re like children in the marketplace - we played the pipes for you, and you wouldn’t dance and when we cried you didn’t mourn.”* (Matthew Chapter 11 verse 16 and 19)

#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

*We encourage everyone watching us online to receive Jesus through the Spiritual Communion Prayer: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, 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.*



#### A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, contact Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office at [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or (02) 9390 5810. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.