

Walk with Us (Luke 24:15)
"Stay with Us" and eat (Luke 24:29-30)
Sharing the Good News with "Hearts Burning" (Luke 24:32-33)



SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP 1842-1909

Mary MacKillop lived out the Gospel values of Hospitality, Love, Service, Humility and Forgiveness.

Hospitality

In early Australian times if you were poor and a Catholic there was little chance of an education. The poor stayed poor, neglected and uneducated. She really wanted to help these poor children and help them know God's love for them.

Together with a young priest Julian Tenison Woods, she began to do something about her dream. They began a Congregation called the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. The Sisters went out to isolated bush places to educate the poor children where ever they were. They went across Australia and New Zealand, not only for education but they also cared for the sick, homeless and orphans.

Love and Service

Mary had a fundamental belief that the Cross becomes the Tree of Life.

Her endurance of suffering seems to have been an intimate part of her experience. When it came to suffering and hardship Mary MacKillop had more than her fair share including many tragic deaths within her family, a life-long battle with ill-health and many challenges from both within and beyond the church as she set about doing God's will. She trusted that through all these circumstances God's love would suffice. She was known as Sr Mary of the Cross. Mary faced many difficulties, hardships and misunderstandings but through it all she had faith in God and worked to bring God's word to the poor people. Where ever there were poor children or a need to be met the Sisters were there for them.

**"Never see a need ...
... Without trying to do something about it."**

Humility and Forgiveness

'There, where you are you will find God,' these words of Mary MacKillop in 1871 and the teaching of Julian Tension Woods **'for us to have faith in God's presence in 'every circumstance'**, sums up what Spirituality is for the Sisters of St Joseph.

They invite all to seek right relationships with God, others, self and the earth. Wherever we are, in Rockhampton or beyond, we trust that we will find God's meaning, purpose and vitality daily in whatever we do; that we will draw on the strength and resilience of God's love, live simply, engage with others to meet human needs, be advocates for the voiceless, care for the earth, wonder at nature and create homely communities.

Prayer (Feast Day August 8)

Dear God , thank you for the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.
She showed us that in the struggles and hard times of her life,
You were there, loving and helping her.
Please be with me when times are hard or when I am afraid.
Please help me to love You, just as she loved You. Amen