



*What does the LORD require of you but to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God. MICAH 6:8*

**NO MASSES—DUE TO COVID LOCKDOWN until further notice. Please stay up to date with Government advice.**

**A CALL TO PRAYER FOR ALL AT THIS TIME.**

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**Parish Account details: For online banking only!!!!**

**EMU PLAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH.**  
**BSB 067 950**  
**A/c No. 00000289.**

**ENVELOPES: You may drop your Planned Giving envelope to the Parish office on Tuesdays between 10am and 12 Midday.**

**Please pray the Anniversary of Moira Thomas and for all those who are sick in our community.**

*Grace Perry, Karen Gulliksen, Harry Beasley, Maddison Farrugia, Leone Kirton Vicki Wells, Mark Simmonds, Max Scott, Anita Glynn, Libby Lawson, Paul Dalton, Shirley Coburn, Michelle Gardam, Jacqui Walker, Mary Berkout, Patricia Knoke, Brian Payne, Mervin McCaster, Marie Mahoney, Jeffrey Ridley, Michael Mercieca, Carmen Smith, Beryl Page, Frances Payne, Gregory Clare, Judy Chesters, Emma Woods, Brian O'Hara, Bruce Gillett, Ray Dukes, Barbara Grant, Mavis Thompson, Laurie Doohan, Nathalie Dhyon, Mike Sayer, Terry Simpkin, Nicole Unsal, Debra Gleeson, Paul Ziberras, Ken Ridley, Joseph Stipich, Joyce Dukes, Tyler Kennedy, Catalina Labra—Knox, Teresa & Larry Dunn, Graham and Christine Hall, Lorraine Lindsay, Maria Chircop, Nerida Fabri, Graeme Hardy, Lynette Hill, Frances Grove, Jennifer Stonehouse, Peter Graham, Megan Hallam & Mandy Parer.*

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** Dear Parishioners Fr Michael's Mass for this weekend will be available from Saturday evening.

Access through Youtube: **Our Lady of the Way Parish Emu Plains** and on Facebook.

This prayer can be said after following mass online before the concluding prayer for mass

**An Act of Spiritual Communion**

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

Dear Parishioners, You are invited to a catch up Zoom Meeting on Sunday 8th August 2021 at 3.00pm. See the link below;

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88307318262?pwd=Mm1oNzRxUFIJZ0ZVZVllcjdqRVh5dz09>

Meeting ID: 883 0731 8262 Passcode: 685101

**Fr. Michael's reflection continued.**

Our prayer today is that witness of a woman who trusted in God's providence, who was not crushed by her burdens but overcame them through God's providence to walk with us, and with generous heart responds to the need of others. May St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop intercede for us all, and intercede for Australia, especially during these difficult times when we are battling with Covid 19. May she always be for us a witness of the marvellous deeds of God and teach us how to always to rely on Him. Mary of the cross a loving and a true patron of our country walk with us, especially this time of pandemic, like you may we be a source of Hope, care, generosity and companionship for each other.

**Homily on the Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross: Mackillop**

Today, the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, we celebrate the feast day of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the first saint of this beautiful country of ours Australia.

This year the Feast falls on Sunday but since she is the only saint we have, we celebrate her, instead of the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year, we recall the type of a woman Mary Mackillop was and her impact to the community, we appreciate, and acknowledge her greatness.

Many of us if not all, when we hear her story, we get inspired by her charism, life and works, her desire and love for those who were in the fringe of the society.

From a very early age Mary experienced hardship, this may have contributed to her awareness of, and sensitivity to, the plight of the poor and destitute.

She learnt to trust in the Divine providence, to foster in her heart a strong love towards those were impoverished and needed help.

The first reading today tells us of the prophet Elijah who asks a widow to provide him with food. In all sincerity, she tells him that she has only a little portion of flour and little jar of oil left, ready to make a meal and when it is finished, she and her son will die.

Although the woman knew the insecurity ahead, her generous heart enables her to overcome her fear, and share what she had.

The scriptures say after that generous act her supply of food was never exhausted. Such is the providence of God.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Christians of Colossi, speaks of the great love God harbours for his "saints", that is, those who responded to God's call and became disciples of Jesus.

He encourages them to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, above all, to put on love, as if it were a cloak or a coat to hold all the other virtues together.

In the Gospel reading Jesus told his Apostle and us in extension to Set their hearts on the kingdom of God first, and on his righteousness, and all the other things will be given to them as well.

St. Mary cared and supported families of destitute women, poor families, and those in the fringe of the society, her love to serve dispel the fear of any sort.

She endured a lot of hardship from within and from without, from the church and from the society but she never faltered, because of love for what she was doing she overcame all hurdles.

She listened to and became very much aware of the needs of poor children, including those of aboriginal background.

She committed herself to their education, and became an inspiration to other women, who chose to follow in her footsteps.

Responding to the needs of the time and with the help of her sisters, she went about founding schools, orphanages, and homes for destitute and vulnerable women.

With or without assistance from parents, whether Christian or not, she accepted all those who wanted to learn without discrimination, believing that in providing them with basic education, she will give them the opportunity to overcome their poverty and have a better chance at life.

Her outlook and new way of doing things gained her the admiration and praise of some, and the scorn of others.

St. Mary's Mackillop founded the order of sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, commonly known as the Josephites, with Fr Julian Woods as a co-founder.

She was great woman worthy to be emulated, a courageous woman who responded to the needs of all. She was focused, not by what she was going through or by her own problem but on challenges others were facing, she rejected discouragement and always toughen up.

St. Mary of the cross invited her sister in the order to live poor for the sake of the kingdom, to rely on divine providence, go wherever they were needed, and do good and remedy evil wherever they are and whenever they can.

This advice to her sisters should be taken by us too today, so that whoever we are and in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in, we endeavour to love and do good to those we encounter, steering away from attachment to material goods, and trusting in the providence of God who takes care of us.

We can do that by carrying our crosses of life and follow Jesus, Jesus invited us to do that if we want to be His disciples. "Whoever want to be my disciple let him carry his cross and follow me".

There are many crosses in the world though, but many of the world crosses destroys the human beings. The only cross that has the opposite effect, it creates the human being, is the cross of Christ.

St Mary of the cross as her name indicate did bear that cross of Jesus, above all she relied on Divine providence in all that she did.

Like Jesus her invitation to the society was, do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life.