

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Aug 2011



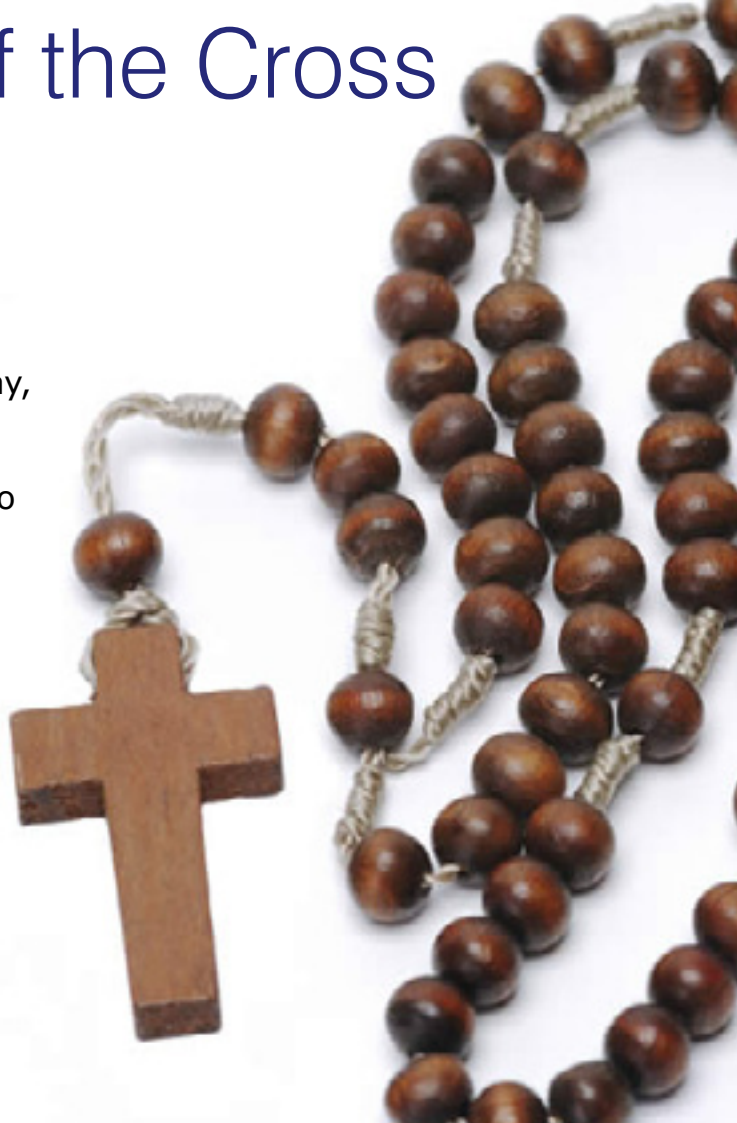
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On August 8, 2011 the universal Church
will honour Australia's first saint

By Marilyn Rodriguez

St Mary of the Cross

For the first time, on August 8, 2011, the universal Church will honour Australia's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. It has always been her feast day, but from this year the liturgical observance of this feast will be raised to a 'solemnity'.



What is a solemnity?

A solemnity is the highest rank in the liturgical church calendar. There are 14 universal solemnities which include the Epiphany, Corpus Christi the Annunciation and many more. From 2011, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop will be added to the solemnities of the Australian Church.

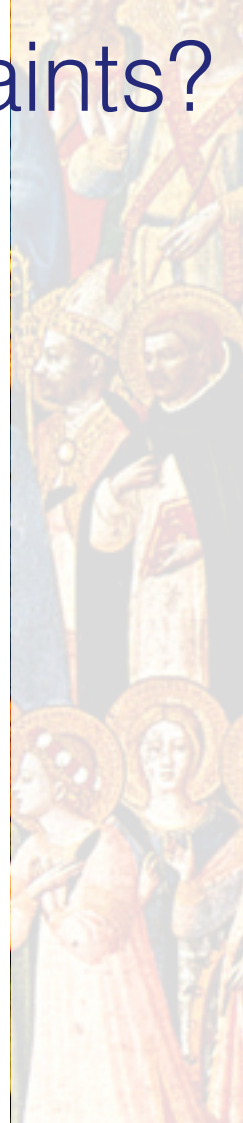
Why do we have saints?

There are millions of saints in the Church, that is, people who have died and gone to heaven. However only a few thousand have been officially recognised by canonisation.

Although St Mary of the Cross was deeply loved during her lifetime, many more people love her now that she has been elevated to sainthood.

And that is part of the reason for a canonisation. It is to formally recognise a person's saintliness but also to hold up to the generations living a model of a loveable, heroic Catholic who intercedes for us and to whom we can go for inspiration, support and guidance.

There's no 'resting in peace' for the saints in heaven! Even after death they are working for God's glory, calling people to God.



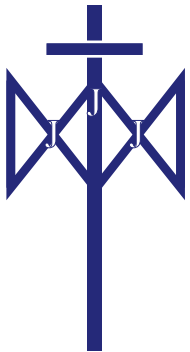
"Mary MacKillop in her sainthood continues to do what she did in her lifetime – lead people to God..."

The call of God is for us all to be saints – to live with extraordinary faith and to live lives of heroic virtue."

Sr Anne Derwin, congregational leader for the Sisters of St Joseph.

Many people considered her a saint in her own day. When she died in Sydney in 1909 the then Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal Patrick Moran, said that he "just assisted at the deathbed of a saint".

The Will of God



In her lifetime, she was known throughout the land for her outstanding record of good works in establishing schools, orphanages and refuges. However, saints are not canonised because of their good works. They are canonised because of their holiness and devotion to God.

"She has been canonised because she did the will of God at every point, and for a lot of her life the will of God was that she should be doing those very things through education, homes for the poor, orphanages and refuges." Fr Paul Gardener, SJ former postulator for the cause of St Mary of the Cross' sainthood.

For St Mary of the Cross the most important thing in life was to do God's will. "The will of God for me is a dear book I never tire of reading," she wrote to Monsignor Kirby in Rome.

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The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart

in 1867, the order has attracted women from Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Peru, East Timor, Scotland and Brazil. Josephites work in a variety of ministries but always seek to live by their founder's motto to, **"Never see a need without doing something about it"**.

Sources:

www.sosj.org.au

www.marymackillop.org.au



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St Mary of the cross MacKillop Class / Family biographical drama



Why not re-enact The life of St Mary of the Cross? To get the class script click on the button below.

Saint Mary MacKillop

*Sisters of St Joseph
Habit*

Materials:

- Brown fabric 2 x the height of Mary plus 1m extra (approx 3-4m total)
- Tan white fabric for wimple (head covering) and sash.
- Needle and thread
- Snap buttons or pins (2)
- Rosary beads

Instructions

- Dress:** Set aside 1m of the brown fabric for the veil. Take the remaining fabric, fold in half and cut a slit for Mary's head.
- Wimple:** Take 50cm of the white fabric. Fit it to Mary's head and mark the position of the darts (at Mary's temples). Fit these darts with a few stitches. Fit the wimple onto Mary's head and mark the position of the snap buttons (see photo). Fit in place.
- Sash:** Use the remaining white fabric to make a sash. Tie the sash around the waist, inserting the rosary beads before knotting off.
- Veil:** Position the veil on Mary's head.

1. Dress

2. Wimple

3. Sash

4. Veil

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Saint Mary MacKillop

Women Of Faith & Courage

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Learning Outcomes:

Activities:

Reflection:

Prayer:

Homework:

Assessment:

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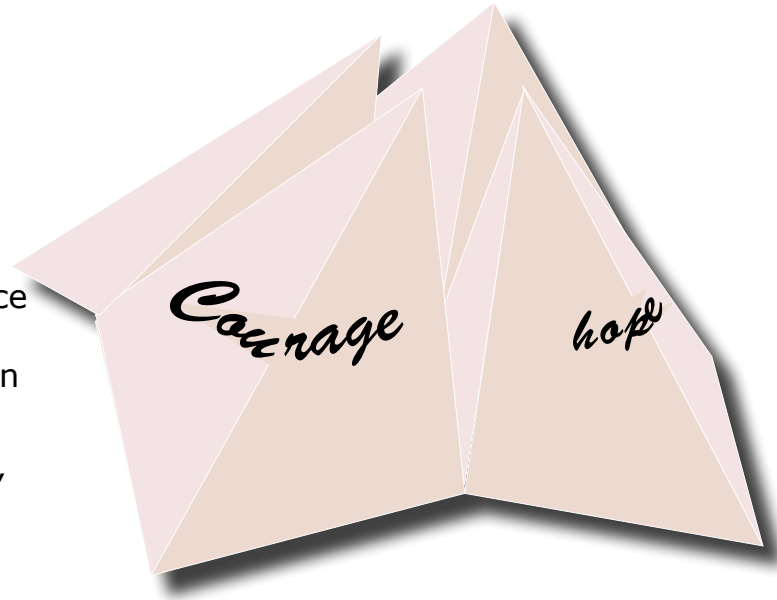
Download
Drama activity
here!

Mary MacKillop

Chatter-box:

Use these quotes to make a chatter-box to use with your family and friends

1. "Be patient and work generously in the service of the Lord."
2. "Do not let your troubles distrurb your trust in God."
3. "Do what you can, with the means at your disposal, and leave all the rest calmly to God."
4. "Help one another and forgive and forget anything painful in the past."
5. "Find happiness in making others happy."
6. "Never see a need without doing something about it."
7. "Be ever ready for God's will even when it takes you by surprise."
8. "Like our patron St Joseph may we always seek to work for God."



A MacKillop Thanksgiving

Menu: Roast Turkey | Aussie Damper | Plum Pudding with Brandy Sauce

Australians are always looking for an excuse to roll out the festive foods that our Northern hemisphere brethren enjoy in their Winter season. Instead of 'Christmas in July', how about celebrating a MacKillop Thanksgiving? The Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross is the perfect opportunity to gather family and friends to give thanks for this wonderful woman.

Did you know?

Native Bush Turkeys, common on the Eastern areas of Australia, were a popular food source among Aboriginal Australians. During the Great Depression, the Bush Turkey population in Sydney collapsed as hungry families took advantage of these ground dwelling birds. Now protected, Bush Turkeys are once again a common sight in city gardens.

I wonder if Mary and her sisters ever ate Bush Turkey?

Damper:

Paint in milk the Josephite symbol on your store bought or homemade damper, dust with flour and shake the excess off.

Did you Know?

Suffering from severe menstrual cramps, Mary was prescribed brandy by her doctor. This was later used against her, with claims that she was a drunk and unfit to lead her order.

Make sure you eat your plum pudding with a generous serve of brandy sauce in Mary's honor!

The Josephite symbol is formed by an A and M drawn over the top of each other – for Ave Maria. The cross recalls the name Mary called herself: Mary of the Cross. The three J's stand for Jesus, Joseph and John the Baptist.

SOURCES:
www.marymackillop.org.au



Mary's Sweet Treats

Mary is known for her habit of carrying sweets in her pocket to reward good effort in her students. Try this recipe for some traditional style sweets typical of those eaten in Mary's time.

Toffee

1 cup (220g) caster sugar

2 tbsp boiling water

2 tbsp vinegar

sprinkles to decorate

Method

Prep: 10 mins | Cook:20 mins

- 1. Stir sugar, water and vinegar in a small saucepan over low heat until the sugar dissolves. Bring to the boil. Boil, without stirring, about 10 -15 minutes or until the toffee turns golden brown in colour.**
- 2. Pour into paper lined patty pan; add sprinkles. Leave to set.**



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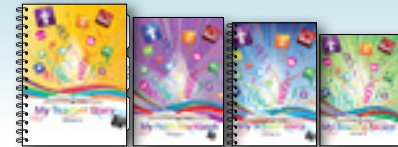


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