

St Mary of the Cross
Mackillop
8 August



About Saint Mary of the Cross

Saint Mary of the Cross was born in Melbourne in 1842 and died in Sydney on 8 August 1909. She took the religious name Mary of the Cross and she very much bore the crosses that came her way. She founded the Sisters of Saint Joseph as a means of responding to the isolation of the colonial families of the day, and so she pioneered a new form of religious life to provide an education for their children. She and her sisters responded to this isolation by going out to where the people lived and living and working among them. They shared in the life of the poor and itinerant by offering special care to destitute women and children.

How does the life of Saint Mary of the Cross apply to our lives today?

Saint Mary of the Cross is remembered for her eagerness to discover God in all things (in good times and in bad), for her charity in the face of calumny, and for her abiding trust in God's providence. Wherever she saw a need she did not hesitate to go and do something about it.

Mary never sought revenge on those who did her wrong, but instead sought to correct their wrong ways and misunderstandings. In the wake of COVID-19 and the trials and tribulations as well as the constant changes we have endured through this pandemic we can respond in one of two ways. Either with anger and frustration or seeking to ensure that the adaptations asked of us will work, and like Mary of the Cross go out to act wherever we see a need.

Mary did not stand by when something needed to be done or wait for someone to tell her what to do. Instead, she was a woman of action and very much a leader who had courage, vision, and trust in God and in the people around her.

Quote:

'Never see a need without doing something about it'.

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Collect

O God, source of all goodness,
who have shown us in Saint Mary
a woman of faith living by the power of the Cross,
teach us, we pray, by her example
to live the Gospel in changing times
and to respect and defend
the human dignity of all in our land.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 6:25-34

Do not worry about tomorrow: your holy Father knows your needs

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 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.

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Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field
which is there today and thrown into 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 on 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.'

Antiphon

This is how all will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another, says the Lord.

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Hymn for the Solemnity of Saint Mary of the Cross

Do not worry about the thing
which to you have not been supplied,
for God alone knows what you need,
trust in Him and he will provide.

Should you find someone with a need,
make sure to them you do attend,
for when prayer and good works combine
the Lord to us will blessings send.

May we always be clothed in love
and with each other's problems bear.
Daily forgiveness we must show,
showing compassion and our care.

Saint Mary of the Cross you showed
trust in God is the only way,
especially when things go wrong,
combined with heartfelt prayer each day.

Saint Mary, patron of this land,
may our weapon of prayer increase
for those who do not treat us well,
so this land will abound in peace.

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Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

Music Links to the Scripture Readings

From Penola's Plains

[Seek ye first](#)

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