

Saint Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop), Virgin

A reading from the first book of Kings

1 Kgs 17:7-16

The jar of meal shall not be spent according to the word of the Lord spoken through Elias.

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 62:1-8

(R.) My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Col 3:12-17

Bear with one another, forgive each other.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message 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 never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

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 !**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 6:25-34

Do not worry about your life.

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 what you are to wear. Surely life is 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, however much you worry, add one single cubit to your 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 royal robes was clothed like one of these.

Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you have so little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear?" It is the gentiles 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 God's saving justice, 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.

Communion Antiphon:

Cf. Jn 13:35

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

Next week's readings:

First Reading: Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 44:10-12. 16. R. v.10

Second Reading: 1 Cor 15:20-26

Gospel : Lk 1:39-56



Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church

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Phone: 97542141
Office Hours: 10am–2pm Tuesday to Friday
Internet: pol.org.au/belgrave
Email: belgrave@cam.org.au

The Parish of St Thomas More and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

Our Parish Vision Statement:

We are called to be a welcoming, compassionate community, empowered for our faith journey for active service.....

CHURCH CENTRES		St. Joseph's Church Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am (on zoom)
	WEEKDAY	(on zoom)	(on zoom)	(on zoom)	

Saint Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop), Virgin - 8th August, 2021

Today, the 8th of August, we celebrate the feast day of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the first saint, the first woman saint of Australia. Although I had heard of her, it is only lately that I have come to know, appreciate, and acknowledge the greatness of St. Mary. With you all, I thank God for choosing her for His great work among His people, and to inspire us with her charisma, life and works. Born in 1842 in Melbourne, from a very early age Mary experienced hardship, and this may have contributed to her awareness of, and sensitivity to, the plight of the poor and destitute. From her mother Flora, she learnt to trust in the providence of God, and to foster in her heart a strong love towards those close to her or in need of help.

We have just read three beautiful readings. The first 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 left, and when it is finished she and her son will die. And yet, her generous heart enables her to overcome her fear, and share what she had. From then on, her supply of food was never exhausted. Such is the providence of God. St. Paul, in his letter to the Christians of Colossae, 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. And above all, to put on love, as if it were a cloak or a coat to hold all the other virtues together.

And then, as if to join the themes of these two readings together, we hear Jesus telling us in the Gospel today: Set your hearts on the kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given to you as well. These words of Jesus resonate with us. The kingdom of God is built of, and on, love, and the true disciple is he/she who commits to love those whom he/she encounters. God will provide for the rest.

St. Mary was truly one of these disciples. In caring for and supporting her family, she showed great love. She endured hardship to provide for them. And when she was sure that they were able to stand on their two feet, she moved on and searched for others who needed her love. 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. And she relied on providence to fund her work. Whether parents could contribute or not, whether Christian or not, she accepted all those who wanted to learn, 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. Unfortunately, she did not find enough understanding among some church leaders. Here was a woman, who was inspired by God's Spirit to think "outside the box". She was given "new wine" by the Spirit of God, but some wanted to hold it in "old wine skins". That cannot happen, Jesus himself tells us.

Probably St. Mary's greatest legacy is the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, more commonly known as the Josephites, whom she co-founded with Fr Julian Woods in Penola, SA, in 1866. They carried on her mission of education and welfare. St. Mary invited them to live poorly, rely on divine providence, go wherever they were needed, and do good and remedy evil wherever they are and are able to. She spoke these words to her Sisters with love. She speaks the same words to us all 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 trust in the providence of God who takes care of us. Her words, spoken to her sisters, will surely resonate in our hearts as well: "Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them bravely, remembering Whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life. God will reward you as only He can."

May St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop bless us all, and intercede for Australia, especially during these difficult times of Covid-19.

Fr Silvio

Source: <https://www.stjamesapostlehcnc.com.au/?p=7006>

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Belgrave: Marie Madden
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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Michael Gatehouse. Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

Anniversaries: Valmai Spring, Nick Spykers, Mary Comer, Bartoli Pepi, Connie Pepi, Joan McCart.

Prayer for the deceased:

Lord open wide the doors of your Mercy to all those who have passed away in the parish of St. Thomas More, Belgrave. In your compassion grant eternal bliss to all of them.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Fiona, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Joy Goodie, Tom Fergus, Leo and Josie Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret & Fiona Gilhooly, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Helen Hermann, Lyn Blackman, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.



INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

DO YOU FEEL LIKE BEING CALLED TO SERVE?

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers.

COME & SEE! Due to Covid restrictions the information session date has been moved into September. No longer on Saturday 14 August, the Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on Saturday **4 September**, 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), East Melbourne.

For further information contact Deacon Kevin Pattison: Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

For more information:

Watch: Melbourne's Deacons <https://youtu.be/q2RhNDbtTSO>

Watch: Pope Francis' 2020 Prayer Intention for Deacons <https://youtu.be/NuG99HD1LaY>

Read More: [Brochure] <https://www.cam1.org.au/permanent-diaconate>

Contact: Office of the Permanent Diaconate (Phone) 03 9412 335 (Email) diaconate@cam.org.au

Catholic Vocations Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002 Australia PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia Telephone: (03)9926 5 733 Email: vocaons@cam.org.au



www.melbournecatholic.org/vocations

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults .

#42 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES



COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Updated: 5 August 2021, 5.00pm

As of 8.00pm, Thursday 5 August 2021, the following 'snap lockdown' measures will be applied across Victoria, and will extend for seven days or until otherwise notified.

Face masks must be worn inside and outdoors: everywhere except your own home.

• There will be 5 Reasons to leave home:

- shopping for necessary goods and services (one person per household, once per day, a support person can accompany if required; within 5km);

- caregiving or compassionate reasons;

- authorised work or permitted education, or work interstate (if you can work from home, you must work from home);

- exercise (up to two hour two hours, with one other person or members of your household; within 5km);

- receive a vaccination.

• Private and public gatherings will not be permitted: Single person bubbles will be allowed.

• PRAYER and RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES: No in-person gatherings permitted. Livestreaming and Broadcast is permitted with a total of 5 people present including technicians.

• FUNERALS: (indoor and outdoor): Permitted with no more than 10 people (and those necessary to conduct the funeral). Children under 12 months old are not counted towards this cap.

• WEDDINGS: (indoor and outdoor): Not permitted unless end of life or for deportation reasons. Involves only 5 persons (including the two persons being married, celebrant, two witnesses).

• AGED CARE: No visitors are permitted into aged care or other residential facility settings, except for end-of-life reasons.

• HOSPITALS: No visitors are permitted into health care settings, except for end-of-life reasons, as a support partner for birth, or a parent to accompany a child.

Catholic Care Victoria Sunday Appeal

7th to 8th August

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. CatholicCare Victoria delivers counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, support for separating families, homelessness support and pastoral care. CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities, to build strength, resilience, and empowerment to reach their full potential.

Please donate to CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your support and generosity will help the vulnerable and marginalised in our community and empower everyone to reach their full potential.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.





Saint Mary MacKillop Prayer

Ever generous God,
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop
To live her life faithful to the Gospel of
Jesus Christ and constant in bringing hope
and encouragement to those who were
disheartened, lonely or needy.
With confidence in your generous
providence and through the intercession of
Saint Mary MacKillop
We ask that you grant our
request.....
We ask that our faith and hope be fired
afresh by the Holy Spirit so that we too,
like Mary MacKillop, may live with
courage, trust and openness.
Ever generous God hear our prayer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.



Sacrament of First Holy Reconciliation

St. Paul's School Church, Monbulk

11th August at 3.30pm (**Postponed**)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

18th August at 3.30pm

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook

10th August at 4.30pm (**Postponed**)



Sacrament of Confirmation

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

14th August at 12pm

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

14th August at 2pm

First Holy Eucharist

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

22nd August at 2pm

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

7th October 6pm

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook

24th October at 9am



A Message from Social Justice Group

Covid and the rain may have kept us indoors but that is the best place to knit. The knitters of the parish have maintained their knitting efforts throughout the pandemic and recently Marilyn Huber, was able to make connection with the Refugee Centre to pass on more than 15 blankets to people who have sought refuge in our safe country. Our usual organisation has not been accepting blankets because of Covid risks, but this did not daunt the redoubtable Marilyn!

In addition to the blankets that went to the refugees from overseas, some locals needed blankets after the storms and these were passed on through emergency agencies. The only criteria for receiving a blanket is need. And there is more comfort in a home made blanket than just the physical warmth.

If you are frustrated by being confined to home and you can knit, crochet or sew, then remember that there are many who need what we can make. If knitting squares, remember that the size is 20cm x20cm and garter stitch is warmest. If you can complete a blanket or garment yourself, that is better, but if you can contribute knitted squares to a blanket, drop them in at the church and they can be put together with others and passed on to someone who needs it. For further details, contact Helen Smith on 0416008628 or a member of the Social Justice Group.

Thanks

Helen Smith

As of now all the Liturgical Celebrations stand suspended until we receive further information from Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Parish office is closed. Weekdays and weekend masses available on zoom only. Monday to Saturday 9.00am

Saturday Vigil Mass 6pm and Sunday 9.00am

Topic: Father Cruz' Holy Mass on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=S0YwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGOT09)

[pwd=S0YwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGOT09](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=S0YwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGOT09)

Meeting ID: 750 464 5976..

Passcode: 7mJTww

FR. CRUZ WILL BE CELEBRATING MASS VIA ZOOM every day.

Fr. Anthony Cruz