



Vox Populi

08 August 2024

This week we marked the Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Our communities, parishes and schools celebrated this day with Masses, quiet reflection or activities as we remembered Australia's first saint.

Born in 1842, Mary dedicated her life to her faith, education, social justice. She co-founded the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Mary MacKillop was certainly a trailblazer in her lifetime, journeying across vast and often inhospitable country to establish schools, ensuring compassionate and holistic education reached children who needed it most.

In a time when women were often on the peripheries of society, she stood as a leader, reformer, and a visionary. Her memorable words, "Never see a need without doing something about it", encapsulate her proactive and compassionate approach to life. Canonised by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome on 17 October 2010, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop continues to inspire across all generations and cultures.

Next week, 15 August, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, one of the four Marian dogmas of the Catholic Church. This significant day, a Holy Day of Obligation, recalls the spiritual and physical departure of the Mother of Jesus Christ from earth, when both her soul and her body were taken into the presence of God.

Our Lady's "Birth into Heaven", or her "Dormition", was celebrated as early as the 5th century but it was not until 1 November 1950, that Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Dogma of Mary's assumption body and soul into heaven. The Virgin Mary, being free from sin, was not affected by natural law. Although the bodily assumption of Mary is not explicitly recorded in Scripture, Catholic tradition identified her with the "woman clothed with the sun" who is described in the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation.

Next Thursday, let us pray the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) with renewed faith-filled vigour, and petition Our Lady, our spiritual mother and heavenly advocate, to intercede for us before God with our prayers.