"THERE WHERE YOU ARE – THERE YOU WILL FIND GOD"
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, whose Feast day is 8th August.

At the centre of our life of faith is our awareness of God in our lives. In this weekend's Readings from Word of God, Elijah and Peter experience this – that God is part of their lives, even in the midst of confusion and turmoil.
How much this was part of the 'driving force' for one of the Patron Saints of Australia– St Mary of the Cross MacKillop!

From the formal Church acknowledgement of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop:
Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne (Australia) in 1842 and died in Sydney on 8 August 1909. She took the religious name Mary of the Cross. Responding to the isolation of colonial families, she pioneered a new form of religious life to provide education for their children. She and her sisters shared the life of the poor and the itinerant, offering special care to destitute women and children. She is remembered for her eagerness to discover God's will in all things, for her charity in the face of calumny, and for her abiding trust in God's providence.

From the Opening Prayer of her feast day Mass:
O God, source of all goodness, who have shown to us in Saint Mary MacKillop 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.

From the Solemn Blessing from her feast day Mass:
Through the example of Saint Mary of the Cross,
may we learn to recognise God's will for us and trust in God's providence;
may her life of service awaken in us a deep respect for the poor and a strong will for justice;
may we share in her courage, see with the eyes of Christian love, and learn from her holy deeds. Amen.
ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP, pray for us!

Look at the website www.sosj.org.au for a wide overview of the story.
In Melbourne we have the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne (
mmhc@sosj.org.au).