

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

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5th August

PARISH UPDATE 72

Greetings everyone!

“Today’s announcement that puts us into COVID lockdown again means that **our churches will be remain closed from tonight** for the duration of the lockdown. There will be no activity in our churches over that time. See attachment for details, and for information for accessing Mass on TV and online.”

Our Parish’s ‘First Communion season’ was due to open this weekend, with three special Masses with our Year 4 young Parishioners from our Emmaus School in Sydenham. The COVID restrictions mean that these – and all Masses – are cancelled. We were really looking forward to great celebrations as these young people came to ‘the Table of the Lord’ for the first time. It would be a great day for their parents who said at their Baptisms that they will guide their children’s ways further and further into lives of faith and into the community of the Church. We have dates scheduled for First Communion with groups from our Cana School in Hillside in two weeks’ time, and from our Sacred Heart School a few weeks after that. New dates for our Emmaus groups will be planned.

Let’s hold all these young Parishioners and their families in our prayer!

Sunday (8th August) is the feast of St MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP, Australia’s first canonised Saint. The feast takes precedence over the regular Sunday’s prayers and Readings!

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne in 1842 and died in Sydney on 8th August 1909. She took the ‘religious name’ of ‘Mary of the Cross’ in the religious order she founded – known as the Sisters of St Joseph (the Josephites). The Sisters have had a very long participation in our own Parish and our Schools.

Responding to the isolation and hardships of colonial families, Mary pioneered a new form of religious life to provide education for their children and care for the deprived, going to where the people are. She and the Sisters shared the life of the poor and the itinerant, offering special care to destitute women and children. She is remembered and honoured for her eagerness to discover God’s will in all things, for her charity in the face of detractors, and for her abiding trust in God’s providence. Mary was canonised as a Saint for the whole Church on 17th October 2010.

At the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre (362 Albert St, East Melbourne VIC 3002 [Phone: 9926 9300, www.mmhc.org.au](http://www.mmhc.org.au)), there is a marvelous display outlining and detailing Mary’s life, and a giftshop with memorabilia - the Centre is open again 10-4 weekdays.

*Holy God, source of all goodness,
who show us in Saint Mary MacKillop
a woman of faith living by the power of the Cross,
teach us, we pray, to embrace what she pioneered,
that, like her, we may show to the world
new ways of living the gospel
that respect and defend the human dignity of all in our land.*
ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP, PRAY FOR US!

This Friday (6th August) is the feast of ‘the Transfiguration of the Lord’. Remember that gospel story in which Peter, James and John are stunned by the vision of the new Jesus to come? It is a story of great hope, of transformation beyond what we experience now, of encouragement and

commitment. We are given this story each year on the Second Sunday of Lent, too, that season of conversion and renewal as we head to Resurrection.

Ironically, August 6th is also the anniversary of the day in 1945 on which the atom bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, killing more than 70,000 people and destroying most of the city. Despite so many changes in so many aspects of life over the years, our world is still not a peaceful place for all people. If we could only make a firm link between this and the feast of the Transfiguration and its conversion, hope, and commitment perhaps peace will come one day!

During next week Catholic Schools across Australia will celebrate Family Week. This year's theme recognises the significant contribution parents, carers and families have made to Catholic Schools in Australia over 200 years. Family Week coincides with the feast day of St Mary MacKillop, who was a passionate educator and advocate for children and families, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Blessings for staying well and being hopeful as we are thrown of balance again!

Maurie Cooney
(Parish Priest)

With this letter come attachments related to Mary MacKillop feast, Family Week and Catholic Education, and the reminder of booking for Masses and accessing Mass in TV and online..

Sacred Heart and Emmaus churches are closed in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions.

**MASS is available through
STREAMING and TV**

Other Options/Alternatives to view Mass

Mass for You at Home, (MFYAH), is celebrated in St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Wollongong. It shows at 6.00am Sundays on Channel Ten and is repeated multiple times a day on Foxtel's Aurora channel.

This Sunday Mass is also available on demand on Channel Ten's platform www.tenplay.com.au/mfyah.

This Mass is also available on Wollongong's YouTube channel which can be accessed on www.massforyou.com.au as well as the Diocesan website, www.dow.org.au. There are also links to it on their Diocesan

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Facebook page and the MFYA Facebook page.

Channel 31 (usually found at '44' on digital TV's):

Mass at 11.00am Sundays from St Patrick's Cathedral or **online at:**

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> at 11.00am on
Sundays and at 1.00pm on weekdays

Mass continuous daily from Lavender Bay Parish, Sydney, **online at:**

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>