

20 August 2025

## St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop  
1842-1909

Our mission is to contribute to the emergence of a world where the healing, liberating and life-giving mercy of God is experienced.

Mercy Partners Mission Statement



May the blessings of Elijah encourage us.  
May the blessings of Mary MacKillop fire us.  
May the blessings of...  
May the mercy of God inspire us always. Amen

"God wants us by every means in our power to lead others to life."  
*Mary MacKillop 1899*

"...we truly know God only in life giving friendship and solidarity with people who suffer the de-humanising forces of culture and society."  
*Mercy Partners Theological Framework p7*

We reflect as ministries of Mercy Partners on the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We reflect and pray, discerning the alignment among the legacy of Mary MacKillop's life and spirit, the charism of our own ministry and the mission of Mercy Partners.

### Listening

This miracle story from the Book of Kings highlights the unfailing mercy of God. It is the story of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. It is a story which resonates with our founding charisms.

### Upcoming in September

- 1<sup>st</sup> Connected Newsletter
- 12<sup>th</sup> R U OK Day
- 24<sup>th</sup> Feast Day of Catherine McAuley

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### **1 Kings 17: 8 – 16.**

Then the word of God came to Elijah and said, “Now go to Zarephath, a village in Sidon, and stay there. I have commanded a widow there to supply you with food.” So, he went to Zarephath.

When Elijah arrived at the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. Elijah called to her and asked, “Could you bring me a little water in a jar for me to drink?” As she was going to get the water, he called out, “And please bring me a piece of bread.”

“As God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread – only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my child. We will eat it – and then we will die.”

Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go home and do what you said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me; and then make something for yourself and for your child. For this is what God, the God of Israel, says, ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day God makes it rain on the land.’

The widow went away and did what Elijah told her to do. And there was food every day for the woman and her family. The jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of God spoken by Elijah.

### **Responding**

Reflecting on the story of the widow, the image of Mary MacKillop, Mary’s words, our Mercy Partners Mission Statement and the words from the Mercy Partners Theological Statement quoted above...

*What are we being called to be and do in our everyday ministry and work?*

### **Praying**

Bringing to mind the charism of your ministry within Mercy Partners...

*How does your charism express the message of this reflection?*

Complete the third line of the prayer above with an expression of your charism.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us!