

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



Saint Mary of the Cross

8 August 2021 - Year B

"Don't worry about tomorrow."

Something to Think About

Do you feel worried sometimes? What does it mean to worry?

When we worry, it means that we keep thinking about our problems instead of trusting God to take care of all our needs. God knows what we need before we even ask for it!

The Story

In today's gospel story, Jesus reminds the disciples that they don't need to worry about what they are going to eat, or drink, or wear. He invites them to think about how much God cares for the birds and the wild flowers. Since we are worth more than birds and flowers, God will surely care for us and give us what we need.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

6:25-34

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Don't worry about having something to eat, drink, or wear. Isn't life more than food or clothing? Look at the birds in the sky! They don't plant or harvest. They don't even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Aren't you worth more than birds?"

"Can worry make you live longer? Why worry about clothes?"

Look how the wild flowers grow. They don't work hard to make their clothes.

But I tell you that Solomon with all his wealth was not as well clothed as one of them.

God gives such beauty to everything that grows in the fields, even though it is here today and thrown into a fire tomorrow. He will surely do even more for you!

Why do you have such little faith?"

"Don't worry and ask yourselves,

'Will we have anything to eat? Will we have anything to drink? Will we have clothes to wear?'

Only people who don't know God are always worrying about such things.

Your Father in heaven knows that you need all of these. But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what he wants. Then all the other things will be yours as well."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video: [Don't Worry](#)



Group Discussion

When we are worried about something, we can pray and tell God about our problems.

Can we trust God to take care of our needs? Yes, we can!

Talk together about any worries the children may have and pray with confidence to God.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader: We pray that all people will put their trust in God. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that we will look with wonder upon God's creation. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for a strong faith that God will always look after us. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that we will be grateful for all God's gifts to us. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear God,
We know that you care for birds and
flowers and especially for us.
Help us to trust that you will give us
everything we need.
Amen.

Group Activity

FINGERPRINT FLOWERS

You will need: white sheet of paper for each child, small paint pots of different colours (or paper plates with small amounts of each paint colour available for each child), wet wipes, markers

God gives beauty to all the flowers in the fields. Use your fingerprints to make some colourful flowers.

1. Make one fingerprint on the page – this will be the centre of your first flower.
2. Then place fingerprints around the centre to be the petals.
3. Then repeat to make a page full of beautiful flowers.
4. Children may like to use markers to draw stems and leaves.



AN AUSTRALIAN SAINT

**A SAINT CAN PRAY FOR US.
A SAINT CAN TEACH US
HOW TO BE GOOD.**

A STORY

Mary MacKillop was born in Victoria in 1842. She was the eldest child in her family and had 3 sisters and 4 brothers.

Mary loved children and became a school teacher.

While teaching at a school in Portland, Mary's students performed far better than the students in the headmaster's own class! However, the headmaster treated Mary badly and blamed her for everything that went wrong. Despite this, Mary forgave the headmaster. Many years later she saw the headmaster dirty and homeless on the streets. She sold her watch so that she could get the headmaster some new clothes and someone to look after him.



In South Australia, Mary and Father Julian Tenison Woods started the 'Stable School' for poor children in 1866. Mary and Father Tenison Woods started the Sisters of Saint Joseph and in 1867 Mary MacKillop became a nun. Mary and the Josephite nuns set up schools in Australia and New Zealand. They also set up houses for elderly women, young girls and women without jobs. They gave their life to people in need, giving comfort to the sick and dying and even visiting people in jail to give them whatever help they could.

LISTEN TO THE STORY AND DECIDE:

Saint Mary MacKillop can help us

- ☐ keep a grudge against someone.
- ☐ love our enemies and forgive them.

Saint Mary MacKillop

- ☐ always trusted in God's care.
- ☐ complained about God.

Saint Mary MacKillop teaches us

- ☐ to help the poor and sick.
- ☐ how to earn a lot of money.

SAINT MARY MACKILLOP, PRAY FOR US