

ST MARY OF THE CROSS

Let's explore St Mary of the Cross Mackillop who is Australia's only saint.



Watch this video about St Mary of the Cross:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxbYpuxzPik>

Now answer the following questions:

1. Where and in what year was Mary born?
2. What nationality were Mary's parents?
3. What group of nuns did Mary found?
4. What were the nuns commonly known as?
5. What did the Josephites set up and for who?
6. What year did Mary die?
7. What does 'excommunication' mean?
8. What was Mary's response to those who caused her trouble?

"Never see a need without doing something about it."

- St Mary of the Cross

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Read this letter of Mary MacKillop to Monsignor Kirby, written in 1874.

Oh, Father, I cannot tell you what a beautiful thing the will of God seems to me. For some years past, my Communions, my prayers, my intentions have all been for God's will to be done. I can never pray for a particular intention, a particular person, or anything particular about our own Institute, but in God's loved will, that is - whilst I desire with all my heart to pray for these, I cannot help at the same time desiring that He only use my prayers for the intention that His own will most desires at this time. Thus I feel a joy when things go well, for I see His will in this, and an equal joy when they seem to go wrong or against our natural desire, for there again I see His will, and am satisfied that he has accepted my prayers and those of many more for some other object at the time nearer to His adorable will. To me, the will of God is a dear book which I am never tired of reading, which has always some new charm for me. Nothing is too little to be noticed there, but yet my littleness and nothingness has often dared to oppose it, and I am painfully conscious that in many ways I still in my tepidity offend against it without perceiving what I am doing. But such dear lessons as you gave me the other evening then come to my aid and encourage me, for the love of my sweet Jesus is too strong, too beautiful, and His merits too great, for me not to cling to Him.

Now answer the following questions:

1. Which line stands out for you in this passage?
2. What does Mary compare the will of God to?
3. How does Mary describe the love of Jesus?
4. Do you think Mary was always this positive? Why/ Why not?
5. What do you think God's will is for your life? Are you as excited about God's will for your life as Mary is?