

ADULT EDUCATION and FAITH FORMATION  
at Our Lady of Dolours Parish, Chatswood

**August 2009**

## Blessed Mary MacKillop



Blessed Mary MacKillop

**Born to eternal life  
8 August 1909**

Mary MacKillop seems to have endeared herself, not only to the people of Australia, but also to many thousands of people across the world. As her feast day approaches on this, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death, may a deeper knowledge of her life and holiness provide us with encouragement in the living out of our own Christian commitment.

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne in 1842 & died in Sydney on 8 August 1909. She took the religious name of Mary of the Cross. Responding to the isolation of colonial families, she pioneered a new form of religious life to provide education for the children of these families. She and her sisters shared the life of the poor & the itinerant, offering special care to destitute women & children. She is remembered for her eagerness to discover God's will in all things, for her charity in the face of false accusation & misrepresentation and for her abiding trust in God's providence.

**Her example challenges each of us to ask:**

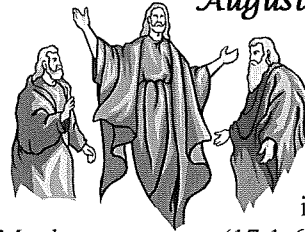
- Do I seek God?
- Is this quest absolutely central to my life or have I given up on the risk of seeking him first?

**Her living memory questions us:**

- Do we serve rather than dominate?
- Do we share resources rather than compete?
- Do we free each other rather than hold one another in fear?
- Do we love freely and warmly rather than judge and condemn?

\* Novena after 9am Mass each day from 31 July \*

*August 6 is the Feast of The Transfiguration*  
and commemorates the manifestation of Divine Glory. It is the culminating point of Christ's public life and is related in detail by St.



Matthew (17:1-6), St. Mark (9:1-8), and St. Luke (9:28-36) and alluded to by the privileged witnesses, St. Peter (2 Peter 1:16-18) and St. John (1:14).

The feast has a special place in the Eastern churches although the Latin Church did not adopt it until the 10<sup>th</sup> century, with the date of 6 August being fixed in 1456 by Pope Callixtus, who composed the Office.

Traditionally the pope uses new wine at Mass or presses a bunch of ripe grapes into the chalice; raisins are also blessed at Rome. The Greeks and Russians bless grapes and other fruit.



## ASSUMPTION of the Blessed Virgin Mary 15 August

This uninterrupted tradition of the Church dates back to 549 AD as witnessed by Gregory of Tours and other Fathers of the Church. According to private revelations by St Bridget & recent archeological findings, Ephesus is the most likely place where Mary died. In 1946 all bishops agreed to Pope Pius XII's promulgation of the dogma of Mary's assumption (see below), made on Nov 1 1950.

**Masses for the Assumption – 7.30pm Fri 14 Aug (Vigil);  
9am & 12.15pm Sat 15 Aug**



### *August 22 is the Feast of The Queenship of Mary*

and was instituted on May 31, 1955 by Pope Pius XII when he issued the encyclical "*Ad coeli Reginam*" and was moved to the Octave of Mary's Assumption into Heaven to link it with

her glorification as stated in *Lumen Gentium* "The Immaculate Virgin . . . was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory when her earthly life was over, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords (Rv 19:16) and conqueror of sin and death"