On Friday August 7 we celebrated school Mass for the feast of Saint Mary of The Cross MacKillop, Australia’s first recognized saint. We here at O’Loughlin Catholic College have a special connection with Mary Mackillop; Year 7 students Alice and Georgia Glover are distant cousins of the saint through their mother.

Our chief celebrant was Fr. Roy O’Neill from the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) who reminded us of the many sacrifices made by our first saint during the course of her life. Larrakia student Kaytlyn O’Neil welcomed us to Country. Fr. Roy was assisted by three altar servers from our own ranks: Josh Arevalo and Lex Salas from year 8 and Kevin Maju from year 9. All three are very experienced in this role and skillfully executed their task.

Mary MacKillop had grown up in a very poor family, and had undergone many difficulties and was sorely tested through the course of her mission. The Gospel for the Feast is Matthew 6:25-34 where Jesus is teaching the disciples how to trust in God’s providence, how they must prioritise their concerns and not worry about all their material needs but rather to and trust in God who will give them what they need. Jesus says reminds them of what is worth worrying about and what is not. He says to them:

> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life?

After Jesus challenges them for having such little faith he makes them a great promise of the Father’s love and care for them. He says:

> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ……your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

In the Sermon Fr. Roy, reminded us of a principle that Mary MacKillop lived by: “Never see a need and not do something about it.” He encouraged us to do the same.

Alice and Georgia Glover assisted with bringing forward the gifts for the offertory procession. They carried a special banner of Mary Mackillop made by students here at the College. Grace Tuiono from year 9 and Jasmine Griffiths from 7.4 brought forward the traditional gifts of the bread and the wine to be blessed during the miracle of the Eucharist. Chloe Brannelly from Year 11 and Darren McDean from year 12 proclaimed The Word of God for us. Chloe read the first reading while Darren read the
Psalm. Year 12’s Nicholas Paice, Thomas Lewis, Sara Maxsted, and year 11’s Hayden Zanker and Ashley Roos read the Prayers of The Faithful for us.

We look forward to our next School Mass when we will celebrate the life of our namesake Bishop John Patrick O’Loughlin and the foundation of our College.

Patrick Sibly
Catholic Identity Assistant Teacher