

Last week we had the story of multiplication of the loaves and fishes. In John's gospel this event becomes the launching pad for the great discourse on the Bread of Life. Bread is one of the staple foods that sustains us physically.

The word 'bread' is also slang for 'money'. Likewise the word 'dough', the mixture of flour and water, is also slang for 'money'. We are familiar, for example, with the expression: "How much bread do you earn?" But in this gospel passage we hear Jesus say, "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life". Jesus is not insensitive to the need to provide for our physical needs, but he is alerting his listeners that their spiritual wellbeing must take priority. Just as work puts bread on the table, so our prayer life provides nourishment for the soul. The Eucharist, of course, is our great source of spiritual nourishment. All we are asked to do is be present. God is the one who provides this bread that endures for eternal life.



Next Saturday we will be celebrating the Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop and Mass will be offered at 10am. Mary MacKillop was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995 and canonized in 2010 as Australia's first saint by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008. At World Youth Day in Sydney 2008 Benedict spoke these encouraging words:

One of the most outstanding figures in this country's history is Blessed Mary MacKillop...I know that perseverance in the face of adversity, her plea for justice of those unfairly treated and her practical example of holiness have become a source of inspirations for all Australians...

***Peace & blessings,
Gerard***