Leader
We come together with joy and thanksgiving on this feast of St Mary of the Cross.

Reader 1
Mary MacKillop expressed her trust in the loving Providence of God by founding a Congregation which was dependent on God’s Providence and was devoted to the service of the poor. Its members were women who worked in a simple, ordinary way to educate the children of the poor and bring them practical help and the message of their human dignity.

Leader
We give thanks for the life of Saint Mary of the Cross and for her continued influence for good among the people of Australia.

All: We give thanks with grateful hearts.

Leader
We give thanks for the decades of down-to-earth ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph who, having seen a need, such as in education, nursing or social work, answered it with generosity.

All: We give thanks with grateful hearts.

Reader 2
He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message. Mk 3.13–14

Leader
Saint Mary of the Cross
Faithful to the will of God
Trust in God’s loving care
Knowing God’s mercy
Responding to the Holy Spirit
Devoted to the Heart of Jesus
Accepting the cross in life
Defending human dignity

Saint Mary of the Cross
On our life’s journey
Living in simplicity
Serving the neglected ones
Teaching God’s little ones

intercede for us
come to our aid
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us

All
provide the power for goodness that Saint Mary of the Cross is for the people of Australia. As we celebrate her feast today, touch us anew with her spirit of charity and her generous participation in the mission of the Church. We ask this in the name Christ, the Lord.

Amen.

Adapted from the ‘Prayer for the Feast of Mary MacKillop’, Sisters of St Joseph.