

# Morning Prayer for the Feast of the Sacred Heart

*'Jesus' Heart is the heart of the Heart of the world,  
and the centre of the Centre of the Universe'*

*(Teilhard De Chardin)*

## Invitation to Prayer

**Leader** Listening Heart of God  
**All** We praise you with open hearts  
**Leader** Compassionate Heart of God  
**All** We praise your merciful love  
**Leader** Responding Heart overflowing with love  
**All** We praise your unending love for Your world

## Hymn

### A New Heart for a New World

*Create a new heart, Holy Lord.  
Beckon our lives through your Word.  
Open our eyes to your call  
United as one for your world.  
Heighten our minds to your thoughts.  
Heal us of pride and of hurt.  
May we go forth in your Name.  
We pray our hearts change.*

- 1. The heart of the Cross, lowly and poor calls us on.  
Lord, it is you promising hope, promising truth. R.*
- 2. Restless the heart that yearns for your peace in this land.  
Deepen the dream. Justice brings life. Justice redeems.R.*

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## Psalm 23 *(alternate sides)*

**Antiphon** The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**Voice(s) 1** My God, you are my Shepherd;  
There is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
Where you give me repose.  
Near restful waters you lead me  
To revive my drooping spirit.



**Voice(s) 2** You guide me along the right path;  
You are true to your Name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
No evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff.  
With these you give me comfort.

**Voice(s) 1** You have prepared a banquet for me  
In the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
My cup is overflowing.

**Voice(s) 2** Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
All the days of my life.  
In God's own house shall I dwell  
Forever and ever.

**Voice(s) 1** Glory to you, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end.

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**All** The love of God has been poured on us by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

## Word of God *John 15, 9-11*

*'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.'*

## Reflection

*'God bless and keep you, and make sweet and easy the individual cross you may each, for his love and your own good, have to bear.'*

*Mary MacKillop 3 December 1873*

*'Another month has passed and now we are in that of the Sacred Heart-and may that loving Heart bring to one and all of you its own true spirit-its spirit of love, true charity and sweet humility.'*

*Mary MacKillop 2 June, 1890*

## Gospel Canticle (may be sung)

### Benedictus *Bernadette Farrell*

Blest be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
Who brings the dawn and darkest night dispels,  
Who raises up a mighty saviour from the earth,  
Of David's line, a son of royal birth.

The prophets tell a story just begun  
Of vanquished foe and glorious victory won,  
Of promise made to all who keep the law as guide:  
God's faithful love and mercy will abide.

This is the oath once sworn to Abraham:  
All shall be free to dwell upon the land,  
Free now to praise, unharmed by the oppressor's rod,  
Holy and righteous in the sight of God.

And you, my child, this day you shall be called  
The promised one, the prophet of our God,  
For you will go before the Lord to clear the way,  
And shepherd all into the light of day.

The tender love God promised from our birth  
Is soon to dawn upon this shadowed earth,  
To shine on those whose sorrows seem to never cease,  
To guide our feet into the path of peace.

All glory be to God, Creator blest,  
To Jesus Christ, God's love made manifest,  
And to the Holy Spirit, gentle comforter,  
All glory be both now and evermore.

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## Intercessions

**Leader**            **Let us gather our needs and place them before the living God whose love for us and our world is overflowing.**

We pray that the Heart of God brings an answer to the needs of people in poverty, danger or war

**Response**        **Heart of God, enfold us**

We pray for those affected by drought, flood, fire and natural disaster that the generosity of peoples may reflect the concerned Heart of God

**Response**        **Heart of God, enfold us**

We pray for the sick and enfeebled that the healing Heart of God be their comfort at this time

**Response**        **Heart of God, enfold us**

We pray for the Church and its leaders that they may be models of love of the Heart of God.

**Response**        **Heart of God, enfold us**

We pray for all who have died, especially all Sisters of St Joseph, that they may experience a joy that the world cannot give.

**Response**        **Heart of God, enfold us**

We pray for our own needs...

*Individual Intercessions may be added*

**Leader**            Let us lift up our hearts in prayer as Jesus taught us

## Our Father

## Closing Prayer

### Leader

*O God, you have revealed your love for us through the compassionate and forgiving heart of Christ. Strengthen in us the desire to live with full hearted commitment as Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. We ask this prayer through the Sacred Heart and the Spirit of Wisdom.  
Amen*

## Blessing

*My Heart is pierced by miserly loving, indifference to others, deliberate injustices and by unexpected kindnesses.*

*My Heart goes out to those in pain, feeling lonely, overcome by life's struggles and to those who seek to understand and comfort them.*

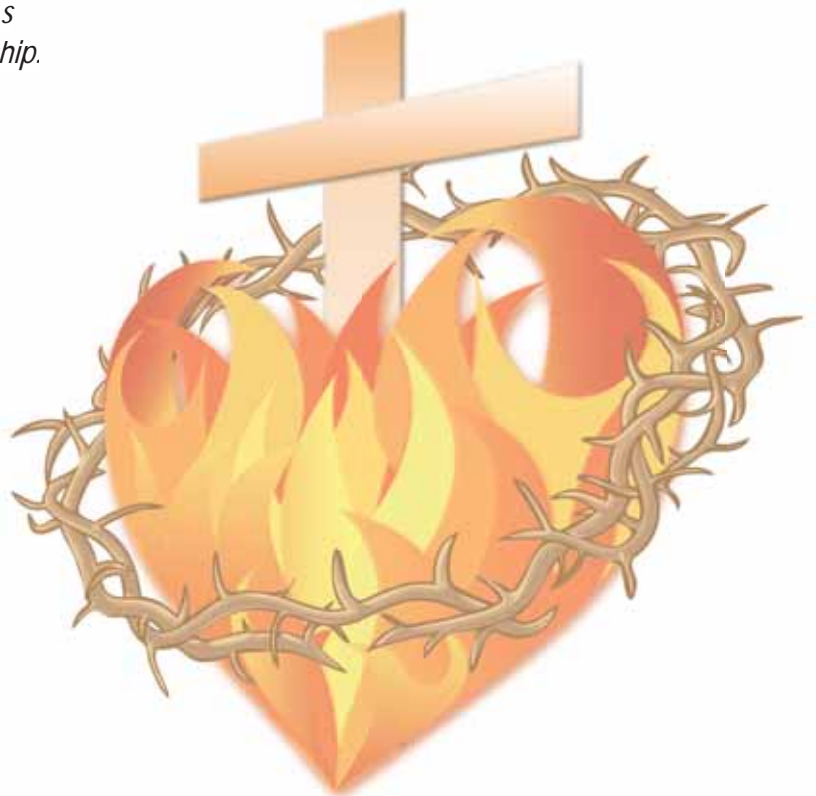
*My Heart draws in those at the edges, those feeling alienated and lost and all those whose arms create community.*

*My Heart is strengthened by day to day faithfulness, standing with, walking beside and when invited – by walking in front.*

*My Heart is ablaze transforming poverty, war, rootlessness and hopelessness and with the spread of reconciling relationship.*

*My Heart cries out for right relationship, meaningful connections, making the most of life now, and for a gentle time with you.*

*My Heart is your heart  
Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.  
Be my heart!*



# Evening Prayer for the Feast of the Sacred Heart

## Gathering

*Lighting of the candles in darkness*

**Leader** Let us take some moments to recall the love of God poured into our hearts this day and thank God for the blessings

*A period of silent prayer*

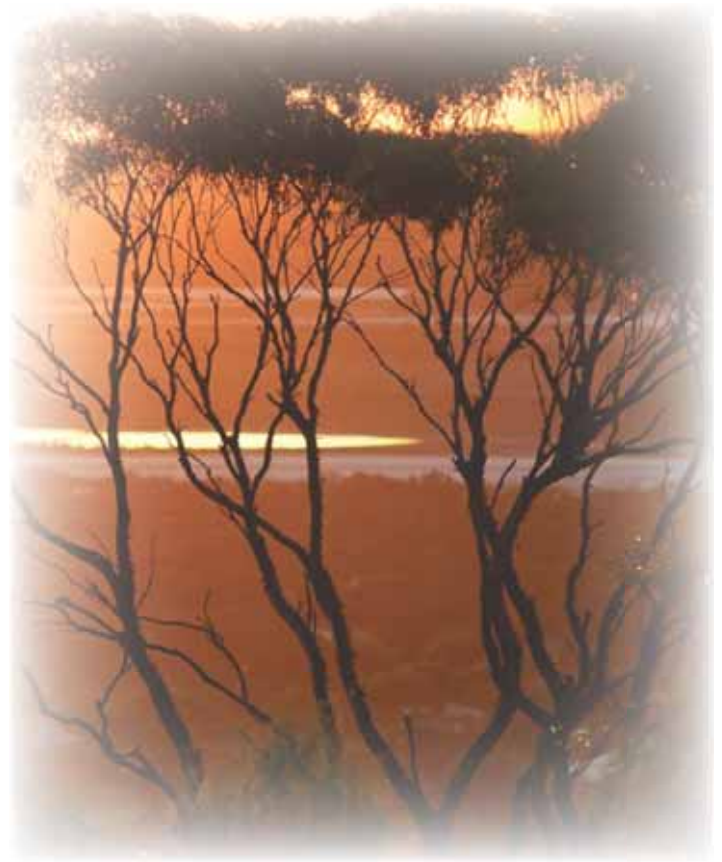
## Hymn

### If I Could Tell the Love of God (C. Willcock)

*If I could tell the love of God,  
I'd sing of one my heart enjoys,  
Of one who whispers warm and calm,  
Of one whose tender touch persists.  
If I could tell the love of God,  
I'd sing of beauty rarely seen,  
Of shadow gums and stringy bark  
Of tracks and water hard to find.*

*If I could tell the love of God,  
I'd sing of women seen as fools,  
Because in Joseph's hidden way,  
They crossed an empty land with trust.  
If I could tell the love of God,  
I'd sing of women working hard,  
Receiving bits of broken bread,  
And poor enough to serve the poor.*

*If I could tell the love of God,  
I'd sing of Christ who chose the Cross.  
His wisdom brings the mighty down,  
His strength uplifts the stable's child.  
If I could tell the love of God,  
I'd sing of Christ who chose the Cross  
His justice mends a broken world.  
His mercy turns the grace around.  
If I could tell the love of God.  
If I could tell the love of God.*



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## Psalm 110

**Antiphon**      **The Heart of Christ was pierced and blood and water flowed out.**

### Alternate sides

*I will thank you, God with all my heart  
In the meeting of the just and their assembly  
Great are your works,  
To be pondered by all who love them.*

*Majestic and glorious Your work  
Whose justice stands firm forever.  
You make us remember these wonders.  
You are compassion and love.*

*You give food to those who fear you;  
Keep your covenant ever in mind;  
show mighty works to your people  
By giving them the land of the nations.*

*Your works are justice and truth,  
Your precepts are all of them sure,  
Standing firm for ever and ever;  
They are made in uprightness and truth.*

*You have sent deliverance to the people  
And established the covenant forever.  
Holy is Your Name, to be feared.*

*To fear you is the first stage of wisdom;  
All who do so prove themselves wise.  
Your praise shall last for ever!*

*Glory to you, Source of all being,  
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning  
Is now and ever shall be  
World without end.*

### Repeat Antiphon

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## Word of God      John 15: 12-13

*This is my commandment:  
Love one another as I have loved you.  
Greater love than this no one has than this, that he (she) lay down his (her) life for his (her) friends.*

## Reflection from Mary MacKillop

*'Let us ask Joseph to teach us, his children, how to love Jesus, his foster Son. Let us ask Joseph to obtain a generous, devoted love of Jesus, a love that will make us like himself, faithful to Jesus' interests.'*

March 10th, 1907

*'Love one another. Bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life.'*

Jan 12th, 1909.

## Silent reflection

## Hymn

### Magnificat

Bernadette Farrell

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
My spirit sings to God, my saving God,  
Who on this day above all others favoured me  
And raised me up, a light for all to see.*

*Through me great deeds will God make manifest,  
And all the earth will come to call me blest.  
Unbounded love and mercy sure I will proclaim  
For all who know and praise God's holy name.*

*God's mighty arm, protector of the just,  
Will guard the weak and raise them from the dust.  
But mighty kings will swiftly fall from thrones corrupt.  
The strong brought low, the lowly lifted up.*

*Soon will the poor and hungry of the earth  
Be richly blest, be given greater worth.  
And Israel, as once foretold to Abraham,  
Will live in peace throughout the promised land.*

*All glory be to God, Creator blest,  
To Jesus Christ, God's love made manifest,  
And to the Holy Spirit, gentle comforter,  
All glory be both now and evermore.*



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## Intercessions

**Leader** Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to cast fire on the earth and would that it was already enkindled!' As evening comes, we pray:

**Leader** That all on our life's journey may experience the fire of God's love through us  
**Response** May the flame of the love of Christ keep burning in our hearts

**Leader** That with listening ears and open hearts, we may be alive to the needs of our world  
**Response** May the flame of the love of Christ keep burning in our hearts

**Leader** That those who are homeless this night may feel the warmth of care  
**Response** **May the flame of the love of Christ keep burning in our hearts**

**Leader** That the mentally ill may have peace this night  
**Response** **May the flame of the love of Christ keep burning in our hearts**

**Leader** That all who are ill may experience in a new way the love of the Christ who suffered and died for all  
**Response** **May the flame of the love of Christ keep burning in our hearts**

**Leader** That those in darkness and the shadow of death may receive a new light  
**Response** **May the flame of the love of Christ keep burning in our hearts**

**Leader** For our own needs, we pray this evening.....

## Our Father

**Leader** Let us now include all our prayers, spoken and unspoken in the prayer of Jesus.

## Concluding Prayer

**Leader** *Christ Jesus, you draw us to salvation with the loving heart of a friend. Teach us to find rest for our spirits in your way of meekness and humility. Set our hearts ablaze with zeal for the coming of your reign, fullness of life, both now and forever.*

**All** *Amen*

## Blessing

**Leader** Stay with us, Sacred Heart of Jesus, for it is getting towards evening

**All** Amen

**Leader** And the sun is setting in the blood-red sky

**All** Amen

**Leader** Stay with, our light and our life, for without you there is darkness and death

**All** Amen

**Leader** Stay with us and bless us for we love you

**All** Amen

