

Resource for Years 3 - 6

Prayers, Reflections and Stories based on Mary MacKillop's value

Listen for God's Call

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Prayers

Listen for God's Call

Sacred Space



You need:

A cloth Candle Picture Bible

- Choose a prayer from the list below.
- Set up the Sacred Space and invite the children to gather around it

OR

- Provide the materials for the Sacred Space and organise the children to put them in place.
- Choose a saying from the one of the values in the theme being studied around Mary MacKillop. Print it out and place in the Sacred Space.

Paper Chain Prayer



- ♣You will need:
 - Several bundles of different coloured 'post it' page markers.
 - Pencils
- Pray the following 'echo' prayer several times.

Leader: Listen for the whispers of God.

All: the whispers of God

Leader: God whispers in our hearts

All: in our hearts.

Leader: Listen!

All: Listen!

- Have a time of silence.
- Invite the children to write a prayer response on a 'post it' marker.
- Link the prayers together to form a chain.
- \clubsuit Place it in the sacred space.



Prayer Walk

- uble with the process of the process walk.
- Before starting on the walk explain to the children that on the walk they are to listen for sounds.



- Invite Jesus to be a companion on the walk.
- On arrival at the end of the walk take a time of silence to reflect on what has just been done.
- Invite children to name some sounds that they heard.

 These could have been loud or very soft sounds.
- ♣ Tell the children that sometimes we hear God speak in different ways through creation, scripture or prayer. Sometimes we have to listen carefully for the whisperings of God in our hearts.
- ♣ Mary MacKillop tells us to Believe the whisperings of God in your own heart. (Mary MacKillop 1868)
- Pray together: God of all journeys
 guide us as we listen for your call.
 May we like Mary MacKillop respond to
 your call to love people creation and ourselves.

Globe Prayer

Have a globe of the world or an atlas.

- Invite the children to stand in a circle.
- Play some quiet music.
- Pass the globe or atlas from person to person.
- When the music stops the child holding the globe or atlas points to a place on the map with their finger.
- Name the country and perhaps a town near the child's finger.
- ♣ Pray: God bless the people of...... May they live in peace. Amen.
- *Pass the globe or atlas around the group once more.



Sign of the Cross

In the Name of the Father Raise arms above head

And of the Son arms outstretched at sides and

legs apart

And of the Holy Spirit legs apart and arms

outstretched in front and move

hips from left to right

Amen Jump once in the air.



- Cut the prayers along the lines.
- Place prayers in a jar.
- At each meeting of the club draw out a prayer which is read for the group.
- Place the prayer in the Sacred Space.
- ul>
 Refer to it again before ending the meeting time.
- Location Location with the compare the compart of the compare of t

For Animals	For Refugees
God, hear our prayer for our friends	Lord, no one is a stranger to you and
the animals. We pray for those who	no one is ever far from your care. In
deal with them that they may have	your kindness watch over refugees
gentle hands and kindly words. May	and exiles, those separated from their
we be true friends to animals. Amen.	loved ones. Bring them safely to the
	place they want to be and help us
	always to show your kindness to
	strangers and those in need. Amen.
For those who have died	Blessing Prayer
May those who have died rest in	May God bless us and keep us. May
peace. Amen.	God's face shine upon us and may
	God be gracious to us. May God bless
	us with peace. Amen.
For Australia	For our MacKillop Club
God bless Australia. May our country	God bless us. May we work and play
be a place of peace where people are	together joyfully as we discover new
free to live in harmony. May we be	ways of living the Gospel. Open our
people who are open, generous and	minds and hearts to you and our
loving. Let our land be blessed	world. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.
forever. Amen.	



Scripture Scripture Listen for God's Call

Scripture quotations from NRSV: Catholic Edition. Used with permission.



Follow Me - Matthew 4: 18-22

As {Jesus) walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Trust in God.

Love your Enemies - Matthew 5: 43-48



"You have heard that it was said 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy," But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

It is by love, God has always led me, by love God reproves me, by love that God lets me see love in all.

Come to me - Matthew 11: 28-30

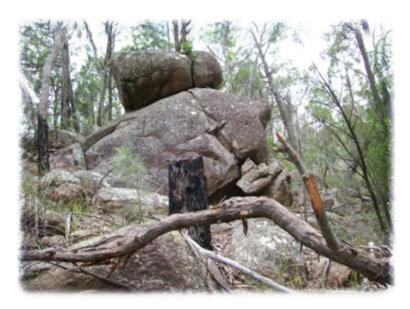


"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

With God on our side what need we fear?

Mary MacKillop 1890





(Jesus said that) the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe. Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went

and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.



May God help me to do what is right.

Mary MacKillop 1898

Good Samaritan - Luke 10: 30-37



A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.

Courage, trust in God who helps you in all things.

Mary MacKillop 1874





Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did.

God's work does not depend on any of us.





While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angle's help was real; he thought he was seeing a v1s1on. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am

sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.

As soon as he realised this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. On recognising Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel." Meanwhile Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed.



There where you are you will find God.





Two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem.



There where you are you will find God.



A Wonderful Father - Luke 15: 11-24

Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he

came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But his father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.



God is so good.

Mary MacKillop 1894





Peter came and said to (Jesus), "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times".

Forgive me everything I have done to pain or disappoint any one of you.



Peter Lied to Save Himself - Luke 22: 54-62

They seized (Jesus) and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him," but he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to

him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.



God is merciful and knows we are weak.

Signs of a Spirit-filled Person - Galatians 5:22



The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Pray to be ever ready for God's will even when it takes you by surprise.



Stories

Listen for God's Call

Mr Cusack and the school in Portland

One day, Mary MacKillop was waiting on the wharf in Melbourne for a boat to take her along the coast to Sydney, when she saw a poor, bedraggled looking man near the jetty. Instantly, she recognised him as Mr Cusack who had done a very nasty thing to her many years before.

Before Mary MacKillop became a Sister of St Joseph, she taught in a school in Portland. Mr Cusack was the principal. He didn't teach his students very well. One day, they heard that the school inspector was coming. Mr Cusack took the students with the best marks from Mary's class and put them in his own. Then he placed the children who didn't come to school much, and so had low marks, into Mary's class. That way, his class passed the inspector's tests and Mary's didn't.

Such a big fuss was made in the town that, in the end, it was Mary who decided to leave the school. Mr Cusack got away with what he did at that time. However, here he was, years later, poor and alone in the world.

Mary realised that God was calling her to forgive this man who had hurt her so much. Mary thought quickly. He didn't recognise her in her nun's dress and she didn't have any extra money with her. Quickly, she took off her watch and went over to him. Mary said, "Here, Mr Cusack. Take this to the cash converters and get some money." Mr Cusack could hardly believe his eyes, but he took the watch gratefully and went away and did as Mary suggested.

Later, a Sister asked Mary MacKillop how she was so ready to forgive people who had deliberately hurt her.

Mary's answer was that she wanted to be like Jesus. "I ask Jesus to help me to forget as well as to forgive. It is with God's help that I forgive people. This is God's call and I depend on God to help me."

Mary Helped a Man in prison

Mary MacKillop had many beautiful qualities. No matter what her own troubles were, she was always easy to approach. One time she acted on the words of Jesus, "When I was in prison you visited me."

Sister Annette loved to tell a story about how Mary helped a man in prison. She wrote it down so that more people would know about Mary's courage and determination.

A long time ago in Adelaide, South Australia, there was a man named Fagan who was in prison for a very serious crime. Some of the priests went to see him but he was like a raging lion when they came near his cell. He wouldn't talk to them. He became so wild that the warders had to chain him down. He screamed and yelled and behaved like a wild animal in a cage. Mary MacKillop heard about him.

Mary took Sister Felicity with her to visit Fagan in prison. The warders told them not to go near him or his cell. But Mary insisted that they open the door and let them in. Mary and Sister Felicity went in and simply knelt down and prayed. As Mary prayed, she began to cry. The tears poured down her face at the sight of the poor man in chains.

Fagan was so affected by this that he knelt down and prayed with them! At first, he would only speak abruptly to Mary when she spoke to him. Gradually he began to trust her and became calm. As the days went by, Mary prepared him to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation which he celebrated in his cell when a priest finally came.

The day after this, Mary and Sister Felicity visited him again. They were pleased to see that he no longer had chains holding him down. When the priest came, Fagan knelt down between Mary and Sister Felicity and received Communion. They all prayed together.

Fagan was one of the worst criminals they had ever seen in the Adelaide prison up to that time, yet Mary was able to help him. She believed God called her to help Fagan and, with courage in her heart, she answered the call.

School in the Garden

Mary MacKillop saw God in everything. Even the flowers in the garden reminded her of the wonder and beauty of God. She loved little children and she thought of them as being like Jesus when he was a child. When she got old and couldn't visit the schools any more she would sit in her wheelchair and listen to the voices of the children playing in the schoolyard nearby.

One day, Mary was sitting on the veranda in her wheelchair when she saw Sister Augustine leading a group of little children into the garden. Mary watched and listened. Then she said to a Sister who had come to visit her, "Would you wheel me down to the children please, Sister?"

When Mary was close enough, she asked the Sister to stop. Together they listened to the children learning about Jesus with Sister Augustine. Then Mary said, "Excuse me, Sister Augustine. May I talk to the children?"

"Of course you can, Mary. Children, listen to what Mary tells you."

Excitedly, the children turned to face Mary. Then, in a gentle, kind way, she told them how much God loved them. "God loves you very much and speaks to you in many different ways. Look around you at the lovely flowers in the garden. God made those. Listen to the birds in the trees. Their songs praise God."

Just then, Donna, one of the children, called out, "I can't hear any words!"

"You are right, Donna. Each creature has its own language that we don't understand," answered Mary. "We need to sit very quietly and listen. If we do, we might hear God's voice through the creatures and the plants. Then, perhaps, we will hear God's call to love each other."

Billy closed his eyes tightly and sat still for a whole second and then began to wriggle. Mary smiled when she saw him try so hard to listen.

"Children, you have been very good listeners today. I'm going to ask Sister Augustine to let you go out to play now. You will get five minutes extra playtime. God bless you all."

The children jumped up and ran from the garden. All except Billy who went over to Mary, patted her little dog called Bobs and said, "Thank you, Mary. I want to be a good listener, just like you."

Mary smiled and said, "You will be one day, Billy. I saw you trying hard today. Run along now and play with your friends. They will need you to play football."

Billy ran happily off to play with his friends.

Collecting the Turkey

One Sunday morning, Mary MacKillop and two Sisters of St Joseph were walking to Mass. As they walked along, they saw people arriving at the church ahead of them. One of the farmers pulled something out of the back of his cart and started to walk across the yard towards the Sisters.

Sister Jane started laughing and said, "Look, Mary. Mr Byrne is carrying a great big turkey. It's nearly as big as he is. He looks so funny."

Mary MacKillop smiled as she saw Mr Byrne starting towards them. She realised the man wanted to give them the turkey before they all went into the church because there was a dog sniffing around his cart. If it found the turkey in the cart, it would try to jump in and eat it.

Mary said quietly. "It's very good of Mr Byrne to bring us a turkey. It's very unkind to laugh at him. Sister Jane, please go and get it from him and put it in the kitchen until we arrove home."

Sister Jane was embarrassed about laughing at Mr Byrne. She realised that the kind thing to do would be to take the turkey before he had to go much further, so she hurried forward to meet him.

"Good morning, Mr Byrne. What a lovely big turkey you have."

"Good morning, Sister. Yes, this turkey is a good one. We killed one for ourselves and then thought of the Sisters. Mary MacKillop was very kind to us when she visited us last week and we want to show our gratitude."

"Thanks Mr Byrne," Sister Jane said. She took the turkey and hurried back to the convent where the Sisters lived. Mary smiled at her approvingly. As she walked along carrying the huge turkey, Sister Jane realised that Mary MacKillop had taught her an important lesson. She talked it over with Mary later in the day.

"I'm sorry that I laughed at Mr Byrne. From now on, I will think before I do unkind things like that."

"That's good," said Mary. "We never know when God will call us to do good for someone."

The Boy who Smoked a Pipe

Mary MacKillop loved to visit the boys at the Kincumber orphanage in New South Wales. One time she visited, she was impressed at the way the boys went to the chapel to pray. The Sisters of St Joseph who ran the orphanage had told them,

"Boys, it would be good if you went into the chapel each day to say a prayer on your way to school."

A lot of the boys did this. Some went before school and others went into the chapel during their playtime or after school. There, they often prayed for their families and friends and for the Sisters who cared for them and taught them.

One of the boys, Johnny, had been in the habit of smoking a pipe. He tried many times to give it up but was not successful. On one of her many visits to Kincumber, Mary MacKillop noticed Johnny's habit. She knew that he wouldn't find it easy to give up so she spoke to him about the good he could do by giving up smoking. She suggested that his health would improve. When this made no difference, she suggested that he go to the chapel and pray to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and ask her to help him to give up smoking.

Johnny went to the chapel. He knelt down in front of the statue of Mary, the mother of Jesus. He talked to her the same way he talked to Mary MacKillop. He told her how hard it was to stop smoking. He knew it would be good if he did, but he just wasn't strong enough to do it. He asked for help.

Johnny could think of nothing more to say. He just knelt for another minute. Then he got an idea. He said to Mary, Jesus' mother, "I'll give my pipe to Jesus. I'll leave it here in the chapel for him to look after. While he has it I can't smoke it!" So, that's what he did. He placed his pipe on the altar!

Later that day, Mary MacKillop went to the chapel to say her own prayers. To her surprise and delight, she found Johnny's treasured pipe on the altar. Mary MacKillop sent for Johnny and said, "Johnny, I am so proud of you. You have listened to God's call to give away your pipe and you have done it. Because you did this today, you will do great things in the future."

Johnny went to bed pleased that he had listened to Mary's advice and had been able to let go of his pipe.

Mary and the Drinking Water

Mary MacKillop lived in Brisbane for over a year from the end of 1869 to 1871. During that time, she lived with a group of Sisters of St Joseph in their convent home in South Brisbane. In those days, there was no water connected up to houses like it is today. People had a well or a container to catch rain water. Some had to buy water. There was no rain tank attached to the convent.

A neighbour had a rain tank and would sometimes give the Sisters some water to take home for drinking. Everyone in the house was very careful how they used the water for they didn't know when the next drink of water would be available. Everyone was thirsty in the hot summer weather. Mary always refused to have a drink until everyone else had had one, so sometimes Mary missed out on getting a drink. The Sisters thought she didn't like the taste of the water, whereas Mary was saving the water for the others because she knew they needed to be strong to teach school.

One day, when she thought no one was around Mary went to the water jug and tipped it up, hoping to find a mouthful of water. Sister Teresa saw her. She felt terrible that Mary was so thirsty and no one had left any water for her. She told the other Sisters.

Sister Clare said, "Here we are sharing everything we get with the poor people around us and we forgot to think of Mary. We all know how much she feels the heat."

"Yes," said Sister Francis de Sales, "we need to listen for God's call to help others but we do need to remember each other as well."

From then on, they insisted that Mary was the first to have a drink from the precious water supply.

Annie and Lexie MacKillop Tease their big Sister

In 1866, Mary MacKillop went to Penola with her two sisters, Annie and Lexie to open a new school. Annie and Lexie were light-hearted young women and sometimes loved to play a joke on Mary, their big sister. There were a number of snakes in the district. One day, while Mary was at the church praying, Annie and Lexie slipped an old cow's tail into Mary's bed, hoping she would think it was a snake. When Mary went to bed later that night she had a terrible fright. She really thought there was a snake in her bed. The girls giggled and laughed in their own safe beds and were delighted with Mary's cries of alarm. When Mary was over the shock, she too had a laugh at what happened.

Not long afterwards, Mary told Annie and Lexie about a dream she had had the night before. In the dream there was a bishop and some sheep. The next day Annie dressed up in a sheet and pretended to be the bishop. She carried a broom which she pretended was the bishop's staff that Mary had seen in her dream. There wasn't much that Mary could do except to join in the fun with the girls. Mary learnt to laugh with her teasing sisters. Sometimes God's call meant having fun.

The Difference an Exercise Book Made

In the Mary MacKillop Museum in Adelaide is a child's exercise book. This is how it came to be placed there.

Some years ago, an old man presented the book to the Sisters of St Joseph. He told them that he cherished it above all his possessions. It was given to him by Mary MacKillop when he was student, at the school in Russell Street in Adelaide. One day when Mary was visiting the school she noticed that he was misbehaving. She asked his teacher about him. Sister explained that the boy's family was having difficulties because his father was in prison, and the boy was ashamed of this.

Mary called the boy aside. She explained that she understood how difficult it must be for him and his family. Then Mary gave him, as a gift, the new exercise book.

Mary said to him, "I want you to do your best work in this book, so that when the display of the children's work is held, your book will be open for all to see. When that time comes, your father will have served his sentence. When he sees your work he will feel so proud of you. He will point it out to others as his boy's work."

This made such an impression on the boy that he tried to follow Mary's advice.

On the day of the school display, it was not his father who was pointing out his son's work, but the boy insisting that his father come to see his book. "Dad, look at my work."

The man then told the Sisters that in this way his relationship with his father was mended. "I thank God for Mary MacKillop. She was wise and good."

He went on to say, "After I left school I was able to secure a job that was well paid. I decided that I too, would make an effort to provide an education for some boy, whose family was in poor circumstances. Each year I make a contribution to a special fund, to cover the cost of the fees, of a student at the Christian Brothers College. I told the Brothers that I did not wish the boy to know who was paying for his education. I hope that the boy, when he reaches manhood, will not pass by a person in need, without hearing God's call to help in whatever way he can."