

# Prayer for the Feast of St Mary MacKillop

## Gathering

**Leader** Let us rest from the busyness of our day and take some moments to quieten ourselves and to be present to this moment....

*There where you are you will find God*

*Mary MacKillop 1871.*

*Either sit in silence pondering the Mary MacKillop's words, or listen to the song "There Where you Are" by Jen Charadia on CD In God and For God.*

**Hymn** *Choose a suitable hymn*

**Psalm 71: 1-3; 5-6; 14-15; 19, 22-23**

**Antiphon** **The calm, beautiful presence of God I shall never forget.** (Mary MacKillop 1871)

In you, O God, I take shelter  
let me never be disappointed.  
In your justice, rescue me, deliver me.  
Turn your ear to me and save me!  
Be mine, O mountain of strength!  
Send your decree – deliver me,  
for you are my rock, my fortress!

For you alone are my hope, God my sovereign-  
I have trusted you since my youth.  
I have relied on you from the womb;  
You sustained me from my mother's breast;  
To you I give constant praise.

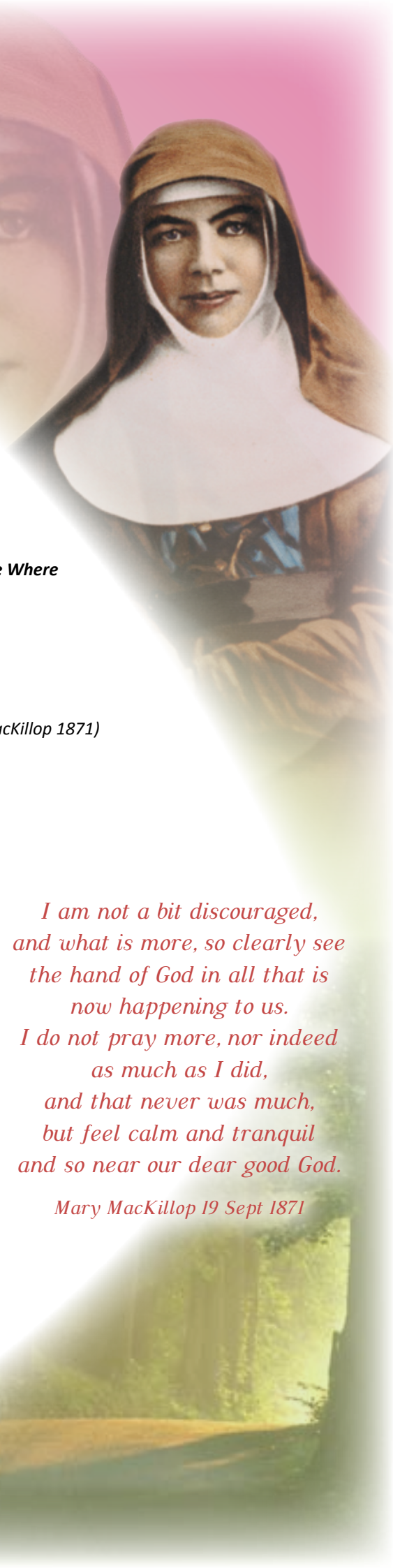
As for me, I'll always have hope,  
and I will add to all your praises.  
My lips will proclaim your deeds of justice and salvation  
all day long, even though they are innumerable.

Your justice, O God,  
is higher than the heavens.  
You have done great things;  
Who is comparable to you?

And so on the lyre I will praise you,  
my ever-faithful God;  
I will play the harp in your honour,  
Holy One of Israel.  
My lips will sing for joy while I play for you-

*I am not a bit discouraged,  
and what is more, so clearly see  
the hand of God in all that is  
now happening to us.  
I do not pray more, nor indeed  
as much as I did,  
and that never was much,  
but feel calm and tranquil  
and so near our dear good God.*

*Mary MacKillop 19 Sept 1871*



My whole being, which you have redeemed, will sing.  
And all day long,  
my tongue will speak of you beneficence.

Glory to you Source of Life, Incarnate Word and Holy Spirit,  
Glory and praise to you forever.

**Antiphon**    **The calm, beautiful presence of God I shall never forget.** *(Mary MacKillop 1871)*

## Scripture Reading - 1 Kings 17:8-16

Then the word of God came to Elijah and said, "Now go to Zarephath, a village of Sidon, and stay there. I have commanded a widow there to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath.

When Elijah arrived at the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. Elijah called to her and asked, "Could you bring me a little water in a jar for me to drink?" As she was going to get the water, he called out, "And please bring me a piece of bread."

"As God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread – only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my child. We will eat it – and then we will die."

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go home and do what you said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me; and then make something for yourself and your child. For this is what Yhwh, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day Yhwh makes it rain on the land.'"

The widow went away and did what Elijah told her to do. And there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. The jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of God spoken by Elijah.

**Pause for reflection**

## Reading from the 25th General Chapter

The clarity of Mary MacKillop's vision impels us to identify and walk with those who are today's poor;  
those who are isolated, deprived, marginalised and rejected.

Those abused and lacking opportunity and choice.

*From the 25th General Chapter of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, 2007.*

**Pause for Reflection and Sharing**

## Prayers

**Leader**    We bring our prayer to you Provident God, confident in your hospitality for all of your creation:

We pray in gratitude for the life of Mary MacKillop and her great influence in our Josephite lives. We pray that we deepen our unity in love, joy and mission.

**All**        **God of Providence hear us.**

We pray with grateful hearts for the spread of Mary MacKillop's charism and for the many women and men involved in working for the good of all through her influence.

**All**        **God of Providence hear us.**

We pray for Mary MacKillop's people - those struggling in their lives, those needing accommodation, justice, friends, safety, understanding, comfort, advice and encouragement. May they find in their communities the people and relationships they hope for.

**All**        **God of Providence hear us.**

We pray with Mary MacKillop for those who are suffering ill health or mental anguish, that they will be listened to and receive beneficial treatment, kindness and good care.

**All      God of Providence hear us.**

*Invitation to include other prayers...*

We pray for our Sisters who are celebrating their birthdays today. May they be showered with love and joy.

**All      God of Providence hear us.**

We pray in gratitude for our Sisters whose anniversaries we celebrate today, and who kept the legacy of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods alive through their lives.

**All      God of Providence hear us.**

### ***Litany of Blessed Mary MacKillop***

*Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, hear us.*

*Lord, have mercy on us  
Christ, have mercy on us  
Lord, have mercy on us  
Christ, graciously hear us.*

*God Creator of all things,  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, One God,*

*Have mercy on us  
Have mercy on us  
Have mercy on us  
Have mercy on us*

*Holy Mary,  
Saint Joseph,  
Saint John the Baptist  
Blessed Mary of the Cross  
Faithful to the will of God  
Trusting in God's loving care  
Knowing God's mercy  
Responding to the Holy Spirit  
Devoted to the Heart of Jesus  
Accepting of the cross in life  
Forgiving all who hurt you  
Defending human dignity*

*pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us*

*Mary MacKillop intercede for us  
On our life's journey come to our aid*

*Blessed Mary of the Cross  
Living in simplicity  
Serving the neglected ones  
Teaching God's little ones  
Standing with the vulnerable  
Serving with compassion*

*pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us  
pray for us*

*Mary MacKillop give us your passion  
May we respond to all those in need.*

*Blessed Mary of the Cross  
Gift of God to us today  
Witness of the gospel  
Pilgrim on life's way  
Comfort of the sick and dying*

*journey with us  
journey with us  
journey with us  
journey with us  
journey with us*



*Strength for all the weary  
Leading by example  
Open to God's presence  
Prayerful and courageous  
Mary MacKillop remind us always  
We are but travellers here in this world.*

*journey with us  
journey with us  
journey with us  
journey with us*

*Jesus, Son of the living God  
Christ hear us.  
Lord Jesus hear our prayer.*

*Lord hear our prayer  
Christ hear us  
Lord Jesus hear our prayer.*

*CD Litany of Blessed Mary MacKillop Words by Monica Barlow rsj & Therese McGarry rsj. Music by Joseph Drzyzga. (Distributed to Communities in 2008). CDs also available from Mary MacKillop Place On-Line Shop <http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au>*

## Prayer

Provident God,  
with grateful hearts we remember  
the power for goodness that Mary MacKillop is in our world.  
On this her feast day  
may we be touched anew with her spirit of prophetic charity  
and generous participation in mission.  
We ask this in the name of Christ, the Sacred Heart, and of the Spirit of Mission.  
Amen.

## Blessing

May the blessings of our hospitable God be among us  
abundant, overflowing, extravagant  
spreading over all.

May the blessings of St Joseph rest well with us  
wherever we are called to be Josephite in the world  
especially in Australia, Brazil, East Timor, Ireland, New Zealand, Peru and Scotland.

May the blessings of our Father Julian Woods grow in us  
a great love and curiosity about the landscapes of Earth,  
and appreciation of the down-to-earthiness of our lives.

May the blessings of our patron John the Baptist sustain us  
with a heart for mission until our last breath  
in making the cause of the poor our cause.

May the blessings of the prophet Habbukuk encourage us  
with a vision for this time  
and patient working out its interpretations.

May the blessings of the charism fire us anew  
with generosity and openness  
stretching our imaginations to see its new forms.

May the blessings of our Good God,  
Remain with us always.  
Amen.



The Cross becomes the Tree of Life  
- Therese Quinn

## Hymn Choose a suitable hymn

**Note: The Mary MacKillop Website [www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au) has a list of Mary MacKillop songs in the Resources Section.**

*Scripture Translations: The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation. Rowan & Littlefield Publishers, Inc, 2007.*