

# FEAST OF MARY MACKILLOP

## blessing

With the bounty of the fig tree  
and the graciousness of the vines,  
with the yield of the olive  
and the abundance of the apple harvest,  
with the industry of the honey bees  
and the fatness of the cattle,  
with the sturdiness of the mountain  
and the agility of the gazelle,  
with the responsiveness of Mary  
and her creative imagination -  
bless us,  
live graciously with us,  
and hold us in your heart, Living God.

# Amen

*Background photo by Mary Ryan rsj (Vic);  
Sculpture by Judith Rolenvink;*

## gathering

*As you sit quietly allowing the joy of God's presence embrace you on this feast of St Mary MacKillop, reflect on her words:*

'A certain sense of God's watchful love wonderfully strengthens me.'

*MMK. 25 March 1873.*

*Sing a gathering hymn.*

## praying

*The Psalm of Habakkuk,  
the Prophet 3:2; 17-19*

**Living God, come among us as new life and energy**

O Living God, I have heard of your renown,  
and I stand in awe, O God, of your work.  
In our own time revive it;  
in our own time make it known;  
in wrath may you remember mercy.

You came forth to save your people,  
to deliver your anointed;  
you have razed the evildoers' house  
laying it bare from foundation to roof.

Though the fig tree does not blossom,  
and no fruit is on the vines;  
though the produce of the olive fails,  
and the fields yield no food;  
though the flock is cut off from the fold,  
and there is no herd in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

God, the Living God, is my strength;  
God makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
and makes me tread upon the heights.

Glory to you God of our waiting,  
promising, appearing, fulfilling!  
Glory praise and honour to you  
today, tomorrow and always.

*NRSV. Used with permission*



## listening

*Habakkuk 2: 1-3: 20.*

Habakkuk said to the Living God:

“I will stand at my watchpost,  
and station myself on the rampart;  
I will keep watch to see what God will say to me,  
and what the Living God will answer  
concerning my complaint.”

Then the Living God answered:

“Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.  
For there is a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.  
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come, it will not delay.”

“The Living God is in the Holy Temple,  
let all the earth keep silence  
in God’s presence!”

NRSV. Used with permission

## savouring

*Sit in quiet reflection savouring the Scripture and the way  
it speaks to you of Mary MacKillop’s life, and of the way it  
engages with our Josephite lives now. When you feel ready,  
share some of your reflection.*

## responding

All: *Hear us and animate us, Living God*

Just as Mary trusted deeply in God’s presence even in the darkest times, may we too deepen our relationship through reflection, prayer and contemplation.

Just as Mary’s whole life resonated with her vision for the poor, may we too reveal God’s hospitable heart wherever we are.

Just as Mary stood against injustice and inequality in the care and education of poor people and provided hope-giving alternatives, may we too continue to minister joyfully among the poorest and those at the edges of church and society.

*Invitation to include other prayers*

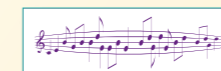


*Birthdays*



*Anniversaries*

## rejoicing



*music or hymn*

*Sing the Litany of Mary MacKillop or another song.*

## reflecting

Living God,  
animating presence in our world,  
with gratitude we remember the life of Mary MacKillop,  
her influence in our world  
and her legacy in our Josephite spiritual homeland.  
Inspire us, as her women,  
to be fully alive in your mission  
and faithfully kind among your people.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, friend of the poor,  
and the Spirit, filling us with confidence.  
Amen