

Mary MacKillop -  
St Mary of the Cross  
MacKillop



*Mary MacKillop*  
*Pre-Canonisation Liturgy*  
*15 October 2010*

## Acknowledgement of Country

Student: As we gather today, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Cammeraygal and Eora people, who have walked and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge their descendants who maintain these spiritual connections and traditions. We celebrate their continuing culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.

[Lighting of the Indigenous Candle – ‘Spirit Alive’]

## Introduction

Student: Today we gather as a community of faith anticipating with great joy, the canonisation of Australia’s first Saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop!

We, the students of MacKillop College Bathurst feel very privileged to have been invited to lead this community in prayer on such a significant occasion.

We are honoured to have a historical connection to Mary MacKillop. In 1872 Mary MacKillop began a foundation at Perthville, near Bathurst, at the invitation of Bishop Matthew Quinn. It is at St Joseph’s House, Perthville that we the Boarding students of the College, reside.

Mary MacKillop stands before us as an example of faithful commitment to bringing God’s Word to a world in great need of tender love and compassion.

With thankful hearts and giving praise to our God, who knows our every need, we celebrate and remember Mary MacKillop and all that she did in Jesus’ name.

## Greeting

Presider: Let us place ourselves in the presence of our Gracious God  
May the Spirit of God’s peace rest gently upon you

All: And also with you

Presider: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen

## Call to Prayer

Reader 1: God, Most Holy  
You have walked our past journeys with us...

ALL: With grateful hearts we thank you.

Reader 2: God, Most Holy  
You share our every moment...

ALL: With grateful hearts we sing your praise.

Reader 3: God, Most Holy  
You walk with us into our unfolding future...

ALL: With grateful hearts we entrust ourselves to you.

Reader 4: God, Most Holy One, Giver of all life you embrace us and bless us...

ALL: With grateful hearts we gather to celebrate and rejoice in your wondrous love.

## Invitation to Listen to the Word

Presider: Gracious and all loving God, through Jesus you invite us to listen to your Word and the unfolding story of your love, as written in the heart of your faithful servant Mary MacKillop. May we listen with hearts open to receive the Good News as Mary MacKillop once did, finding comfort and courage in the wisdom of your Word. We ask this in your name.

ALL: Amen



## Readings from the Gospel of St John and the Writings of Mary MacKillop

Student: *I am the light of the world;  
Anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark but will have the  
light of life. [Jn 8:12]*

Student: *Let God guide you In all your life. [Mary MacKillop 1909]*

Student: *If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples;  
[Jn 8:31]*

Student: *Only what you will my God [Mary MacKillop 1898]*

Student: *Whatever you ask for in my name I will do. [Jn 13:15]*

Student: *I do want with all my heart to be what God wants me to be [Mary  
MacKillop 1899]*

Student: *I give you a new commandment:  
Love one another;  
You must love one another  
Just as I have loved you. [Jn 13:34]*

Student: *If we have love in our hearts,  
We shall have God with us. [Mary MacKillop 1890]*

Student: *You did not choose me,  
No, I chose you  
To go out and bear fruit,  
Fruit that will last. [Jn15:16]*

The Word of the Lord

All: ***Thanks be to God***

## Response to the Readings

### *We are Travellers Here*

Refrain: We are travellers here,  
Called to embrace the world, inspired to love,  
United we stand as one.  
We are travellers here,  
Stirred by a burning desire,  
Christ offers hope, a spirited holy fire!

The world is in need of healing grace,  
Crossing the bridges of culture and race.  
With pioneer courage, make sacred this place.  
We offer our lives as pilgrims of peace,  
working and praying so love may increase,  
a heart full of yearning that hardship may cease.

Our hands are a blessing of care and concern.  
We reach out to others, so others may learn  
The Spirit is with us, this we believe!  
No boundary, no challenge will silence our dream,  
A fire of justice the world has not seen,  
Christ ever shining, the life giving stream!

© 2008 Trisha.Watts & Monica O'Brien Published by Willow Publishing Pty Ltd.



## Quiet time for Personal Reflection

[ Invitation to light a taper and place within the prayer space provided... for personal intentions.]

### Prayers of Intercession

Leader: Gracious God, we remember and celebrate Mary MacKillop. With courage and love she lived a life of faithful service, bringing your Word to all those in need. Mindful of the many concerns and struggles of our community... we quieten our hearts so that your Spirit may find deep within the prayers we long to share...

Reader: *For Mary MacKillop's Canonisation:*  
God of Celebration, as we prepare for Mary MacKillop's canonisation may we do so with joy and a generosity of spirit. May it also be a source of unity for all Australians. We pray...

ALL: **Gracious God hear our prayer**

Reader: For the Sisters of St Joseph:  
God who calls us to follow, mindful of this group of women who, inspired by Mary MacKillop, bring your loving compassion and hospitality to all in need, may their endeavours continue to be fruitful. We pray...

ALL: **Gracious God hear our prayer**

Reader: For those members of our community who are sick or carrying heavy burdens:  
God of Healing, may your loving embrace surround those who are suffering in body, mind and spirit. May they know your courage and strength in the face of their difficulty. We pray...

ALL: **Gracious God hear our prayer**

Reader: For those within our community who are grieving:  
God of Comfort may your mantle of Peace rest gently upon all who feel the heaviness of sadness and loss. May they come to know the joy of life that exceeds all suffering and death.... We pray...

All: **Gracious God hear our prayer**



MACKILLOP

BATHURST - P.

Reader: For our world:  
God of Truth, guide us with your compassion and gentleness so that we  
may always work towards justice and peace in our world.... We pray...

ALL: **Gracious God hear our prayer**

Reader 13: For the prayers of our hearts... We pray...

ALL: **Gracious God hear our prayer**

Leader: United with all our brothers and sisters gathered in prayer throughout the  
world we pray as one, just as Mary MacKillop once did, in the words that  
Jesus taught us...

**Our Father...**

**Prayer of Blessing – [Paraphrased from the Book of Numbers 6:24-26]**

Leader: — May God bless us and keep us —

All: Amen

Leader: May God's face shine upon us,  
And be gracious to us.

All: Amen

Leader: May God's presence be always with us,  
giving us peace of mind and heart.

All: Amen

Leader: Let us go in the love and peace of our God  
sharing the Good News with others and following in God's ways with a  
spirit of Mary MacKillop

All: Amen

*'Be A Light To  
The World'*



*MacKillop College Bathurst*