

Prayer for the Feast of Mary MacKillop

August 8 2010

Leader We come together with joy and thanksgiving on this feast of Mary MacKillop, soon to be St Mary MacKillop. We gather as ones who find inspiration from her living of the Gospel.

All We gather in the name of God,
Provident One, Sacred Heart, and Advocate of Mission,
Three in one, Community of Love.
Amen.

Gathering Song (or other suitable hymn)

Gather us now in this hour,
Join with us here in this place.
The charism is our own special gift
To share as we journey through life. (rep)

(From CD: *Josephite Dreaming* 2006. Christina Neunzerling rsj; Mary Fletcher and Anne-Marie Wilkinson. CD available from Mary MacKillop Place On-Line Shop <http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au>).

Psalm 42

*I thirst for God
Like the deer that clings
To the shadow of the bush
Craving the bubbling waters,
Afraid to venture from safety.*

*Tears have been my steady diet.
I recall the days of my first fervour
When all was joy
In the service of God.*

*I ask myself, "What has changed?
Why am I so easily upset by people's
Attitudes and opinions?"
Prayer is difficult.
I feel sad and grieve for the past.*

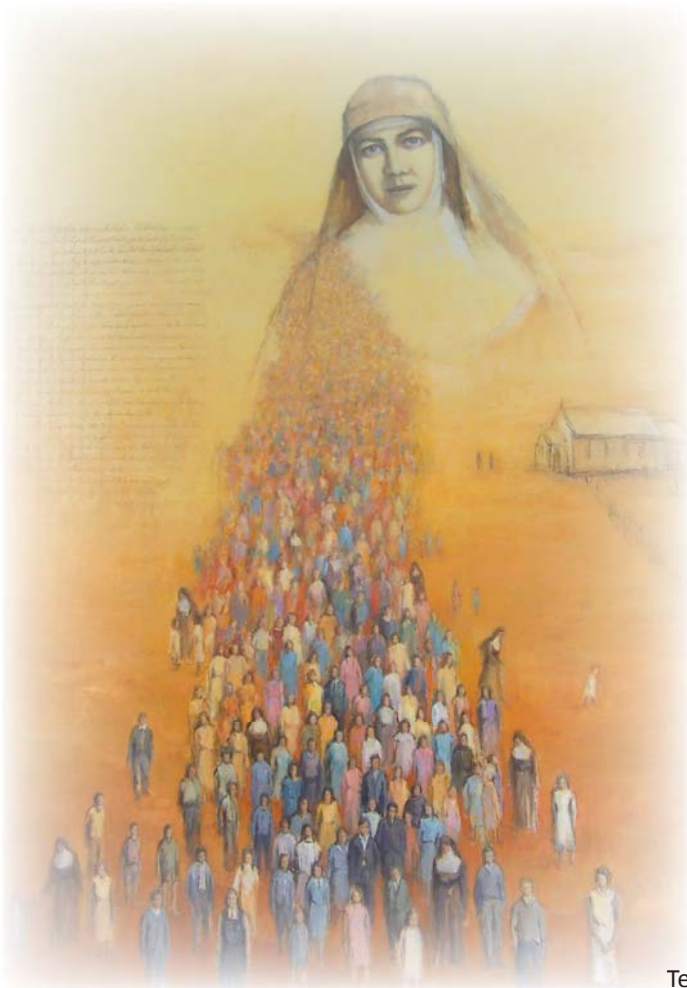
All *Then the memory of God's goodness
Bubbles up in my heart.
I rise to praise God even in darkness.*

Painting used with permission - Artist M Brigg

(From: Patricia Stevenson rsj. *Psalms: Songs from a Pierced Heart*. Sydney: Sisters of St Joseph, 2003: 30. Book available from Mary MacKillop Place On-Line Shop <http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au>.)

Readings

Mary MacKillop believed
that God was active in her life
and in the lives of her early companions
and was calling them
to the service of others.
She expressed her trust
in the loving Providence of God our Father



by founding a Congregation
which was dependent on Providence
for its support
and was devoted to the service of the poor.
Its members were women
who worked in a simple ordinary way
to bring to the poor
the message of their human dignity
and of Christ's saving love.
Mary MacKillop believed that in this way
God's compassionate love,
symbolized for her by the Sacred Heart,
would become a reality for her Sisters
and for the people
with whom they shared their lives.
Her call as foundress
was to be one with Christ,
faithful in life and in death
to the will of the Father.
She called her Sisters
to be open to God's action
In and through their weakness
in a joyful and generous spirit
for in fidelity to the Cross
they would be open to love and
freed for mission.

Text From: *Constitutions of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart*
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Mark 3:13-15

Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those followers he wanted, who came and joined him. He named twelve as his companions whom he would send to preach and to have authority to cast out demons.

Reflection and sharing

e.g. *What seems to be important for me in these readings?*
What do I now understand in a new way?
What images of God stand out for me?

Prayer of the Community

Leader Confident in God's provident love we pray in intercession and in thanksgiving.

1. We give thanks for the fullness of the life of Mother Mary of the Cross and for her continued influence for good among her people as St Mary MacKillop.
All **We give thanks with grateful hearts.**
2. We give thanks for the decades of down-to earth ministry of Sisters in the spirit of the Josephite charism wherever they saw the need, such as in education, nursing, social and community works, religious education and domestic care.
All **We give thanks with grateful hearts.**
3. We ask that we who now claim the Josephite charism will be as enthusiastic for our part in the mission of God as were those who went before us.
All **We give thanks with grateful hearts.**
4. We ask that through the celebrations surrounding the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, people will experience the hospitable heart of God in their lives.
All **We give thanks with grateful hearts.**

5. We pray for all who gather to celebrate the canonisation wherever they are in the world and that those participating in pilgrimages to Rome will be fired with Mary's spirit to advocate for the most needy of our societies.

All We give thanks with grateful hearts.

Invitation to add own prayers.

6. We remember all those who have gone before us in faith and pray that they may have eternal rest and intercede for our needs today.

All We give thanks with grateful hearts

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
Strength for all the weary
Leading by example
Open to God's presence
Prayerful and courageous*

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



*Mary MacKillop remind us always
We are but travellers here in this world.*

*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.
As we celebrate her feast today
touch us anew with her spirit of prophetic charity and generous participation in mission.
We ask this in the name of the Sacred Heart and the Advocate of Mission.
Amen.*

Blessing

May the abundant blessings of God and of God's friend Mary MacKillop be with us:

1. May we embrace life wherever we are and, with fresh hearts, put our reliance on Providence.
2. May we see the suffering, neglected ones of our societies and do something to relieve their plights.
1. May we listen for the insights and wisdom of those of different cultures, social classes and religious traditions and be prompted by the Spirit to respond with reverence, hospitality and neighbourliness.
2. May we run with whatever life deals us personally and bow receptively before the Source and Mystery of Life.
1. May we become aware of where and how we are stuck and open our hearts to conversion.
2. May we appreciate the rich Josephite tradition of spirituality and share generously with whoever seeks.
1. May we live lovingly and faithfully inspired by Mary of the Cross.

All St Mary MacKillop rejoice with and through us!

Hymn

If I Could Tell the Love of God *(or other suitable hymn)*

*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 barely 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 grave around.*



(From: CD If I Could Tell the Love of God. Christopher Willcock/ Noel Rowe 1995. Published by the Secretariat of the Sisters of St Joseph: Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph. Word of Life License No. 2366. CD and Sheet music available from the Mary MacKillop Online Shop.)