

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*

*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*

*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 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.