

## A Woman of God

*God is all goodness and love. MM 1880.*

Mary MacKillop was a woman who believed that God loved her. She felt and experienced the abundance of God's love for her. At the time of her excommunication she wrote: 'The calm beautiful presence of God I shall never forget.'

She spent time in prayer reflecting on the many ways God was active in her life. She made an annual retreat and attended Mass whenever she could. She made a pilgrimage to Paray-le-monial in France in 1873 - a special place dedicated to the Sacred Heart - the symbol of God's love for her.

She once wrote: '*God's presence seems to follow me everywhere, and makes everything I do or wish a prayer*' (1870).

She encouraged people to find God in the midst of their everyday life - in their joys and their sorrows. She had a special love for St Joseph.

Today many people come seeking the intercession of Mary MacKillop because in her they believe they have a friend in heaven. Many people say 'she understands my story' because she too suffered with ill health, she too knew sorrow in her life, she too had to face difficult situations, she too had a special place in her heart for God's poor.



*Painting by Andrea Meltzer - used with permission*

***This is my beloved with whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:17***