

# Finding God in a grain of sand

*In working for God, we must have little trials ...* MMK 1874

There's an old saying that goes:  
*'It's not the mountain ahead that matters, it's the grain of sand in your shoe.'*

In 1873-74, Mary MacKillop had to be away from Australia. She travelled alone to Europe, an astonishing thing for a young woman to take on in those days. The 'mountain ahead' for her was getting the Sisters' *Rule* approved. The 'grains of sand' were the setbacks she met along the way:



*Image: Mary Ryan rsj: Used with permission*

*Had some little crosses and was silly enough  
to feel very lonely and sad ...* MMK 1874

We all struggle, at times, to focus on the vision that keeps us going, especially when those 'grains of sand bring us down to earth. But really, *that can be a good thing!* Because they can help to dispel unreal expectations we may have of ourselves. Wouldn't the 'music of life' be very bland without an underlying bass beat? When we try to befriend our dark moments, we can start to recognise 'God's whisperings' within them ...

*I am weary, but I love God's dear will ...* MMK 1874

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**"Awaken, O love! O You who created me, return to my side;  
forget me not in my weakness ..."**

*Psalm 10:12*

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