

MOTHER MARY OF THE CROSS

Little baby born in Brunswick St – Fitzroy – 1842
When her mother and her father held that girl
They never dreamed what that little one would do
Towards the poverty and pain – like a moth to the candle flame
Mary and her sisters came – and their question still remains
How to love God?
How to work for God?
How to do – all for God?
Still teaching us - still teaching us
Mother Mary of the Cross
Mother Mary of the Cross

Like the Fisher Folk of long ago
In twos – and threes – off they'd go
Mary said we must not lean on wealth
But just lean on the good God that you know
Walked through the heat and the dust and stones
To seek out the children in the far-flung homes
To share their knowledge and the faith they'd known
And their prayer is a holy poem
It's how to love God?
How to work for God?
How to do – all for God?
Still teaching us - still teaching us
Mother Mary of the Cross
Mother Mary of the Cross

The crosses and the blessings came
Like glowing cloth across the weaver's frame
Through jealous gossip and disdain
Her song remained the same

It was how to love God?
How to work for God?
How to do – all for God?
Still teaching us - still teaching us
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John Coleman July 20, 2020

About John Coleman

John Coleman is an Australian singer/songwriter from Tasmania. His music is in the acoustic folk/rock tradition and over the years he has produced ten albums of original songs. *Many of John's songs have been inspired by the spirituality of the L'Arche and Quaker communities to which he belongs.*

I met John on a week-long Zoom retreat from Alice Springs in May 2020, at the retreat centre of Campfire in the Heart. The music used was John's own songs sung live.

Weeks after the Retreat the voice of the Holy Spirit continued to speak to my heart drawing me to ask John to write a song about Mary MacKillop that speaks of her heart's desires of God and of us. I have to say I was totally humbled by John's humility and his readiness to take my request to prayer. John accepted my request and this beautiful song deeply spiritual and grounded in the ordinary, was the result of his prayer.

You can hear more of John's music by going to johncoleman.bandcamp.com

John my heart is filled with gratitude for the generosity of your heart, a great reflection of Mary's own generosity.

Bernadette Carr

