

SPRING PRAYER

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



During Mary MacKillop's lifetime, and during the childhood days of many of us, devotion to Our Lady, as she was usually called, was very prominent in Catholic spirituality and devotions. eg: The Rosary, the Brown Scapula given by Mary to St Dominic and the Miraculous Medal revealed to St Catherine Labouré.

Some titles used by Mary MacKillop in her writings are "The Immaculate Heart", "Our Mother", "Sorrowing Mother" and "Gentle Mother".

Quiet Reflection

How would you describe your devotion to Mary, the Mother of God?

What title do you give to Mary?

What place does she have in your prayer life?

What relevance does she have to your faith journey?





“Mary was deeply troubled by the Angel’s message, and she wondered what his words meant.”

Lk 1

WHEN HAS A MESSAGE COME TO ME FROM THE GOD OF SURPRISES?

WHAT IS IT LIKE FOR ME TO BE LED INTO AN UNMAPPED PLACE?

HOW READY HAVE I BEEN FOR GOD TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I PLANNED?

“Let it be done to me according to Your will.”

Spirit of love, linger long in our hearts. Call to us time and again until we hear your voice and respond to you.

Teach us to listen for you in every corner of our lives, awaiting your messengers in all situations.

Open our minds and our hearts so that we respond as your servant Mary did. Help us to give our ‘yes’ to you even though we are filled with doubt and concerns.

Encourage us to recognise our fears when they arise. Give us the strength we need. Keep us moving toward growth.

Still and quiet our souls.

May we hear the whisper of your divine call, asking us each day to accept the treasure of your life within us.

May the music of Mary’s own trustful response sing in our spirit.





“Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to the town in the hill country of Judah.”

Lk 1:39-44

“The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy.”

Lk 1:39-44

HAVE YOU EVER VISITED ANOTHER PERSON TO OFFER COMPASSION AND COMPANIONSHIP, TO SHARE JOY, TO HELP TALK THROUGH A PROBLEM OR DILEMMA?

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN VISITED BY ANOTHER WHEN YOU WERE IN NEED OF A 'LISTENING EAR'?

Then you have been living out this Gospel story. These are your moments of visitation.

In your prayer, imagine being graced with the presence of compassion, care and kindness.

MY SOUL IS JOYFUL

Frank Anderson (msc)

Words and Music; First Line: My soul is joyful, my spirit is glad

Language: English

Contributors: Frank Andersen

Tune: Text based on Luke 1:46–55. Music and text © 1979, Chevalier Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

**My soul is joyful; my spirit is glad!
Yahweh is my Saviour! He is my Lord!
Deep is His mercy, gentle are His ways!
He has filled me with gladness all my days.**

**I am His servant; He is truly my God.
I will serve Him forever; strong in His love.**

**From this day onward all people will see
God has fashioned His handmaid;**

God lives in me!

Holy is His name! Mercy given to all...

Sure and simple His wisdom! Proud ones will fall!

Good news for children! Food for all who need...

Strength and life in the spirit... given to me

Luke 1: 46-55 'The Magnificat'

Let this hymn echo in your mind and heart today. Sing it, hum it or whistle it.



“Mary gave birth to her first born.”

Lk 2: 7

“...and this life brought life to humankind.”

John 1: 4

Recall times when your greatness has been born of ‘littleness’.

Think about the various ways in which ‘littleness; and vulnerability can be experienced.

CONSIDER HOW YOU GIVE JESUS BIRTH IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU HELP TO CREATE THE UNIQUE AND THE WONDERFUL...AND

WHEN YOU ARE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WEAK AND THE POWERLESS OF OUR WORLD.

Bring these people before the protective gaze of Mary. Pray that God’s love will make them greater than they know themselves to be.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of
our death.
Amen.

