A heart full of love ...

“If you have love in your hearts you will have God with you”

Mary MacKillop 1890

Mary MacKillop’s heartbeat was in unison with the heartbeat of God. From here she drew the energy to be a heartbeat of God’s love in the world especially for - those most disadvantaged in our society. She herself described this in 1907 by saying,

*When storms rage, when persecutions or dangers threaten, I quietly creep into the deep abyss of God’s Heart; and securely sheltered there, my soul is at peace.*

Love was her driving force. God was the origin and source of her love. She knew deeply within her that: ‘God is love and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.’ 1 John 4:16.

Mary loved all with an undivided heart. As Pope John Paul II spoke during his visit to Australia for her beatification in 1995:

*Mother Mary’s life speaks eloquently because it was firmly anchored in something which every human heart longs for: inner peace, that peace that comes from knowing that one is loved by God and from the desire to respond to this love.*

Hers was a spirituality of the heart, holding in balance a contemplative stance with a concern for justice. Mary entered into the mystery of God’s love and allowed herself to be transformed by it in order to become a voice for the voiceless. Hers was a practical holiness - she rolled up her sleeves, got her hands dirty and responded to the cries of those who struggled in life. She was indeed a woman who remained grounded in the reality of life, and through all her experiences learnt to ‘act justly, love tenderly and to walk humbly with God’. (Micah 6:8)

Mary MacKillop does not outline a specific tradition of spirituality. She draws on the wisdom of others to create a spirituality to respond to the needs of her situation and community. It is a spirituality that emphasised a love of God leading to the service of one’s neighbour.