

ST MARY OF THE CROSS FEAST DAY PRAYER REFLECTION

We come together on the feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Today, we give thanks for St Mary MacKillop's life and the many ways that bless us with her legacy. We give thanks for the many people who have gone before us, who made enormous sacrifices to pass on their faith. We give thanks for our faith which sustains us in the good and difficult times in our life, knowing You are always near.



I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10

Mary MacKillop wanted all to enjoy God's promise to have 'life to the full'. Mary knew that to enjoy 'life to the full', to reach the fullness of our humanity, you need to know God and be educated. Mary spent her life working to give all children, especially the poor, this opportunity, to know and love God.

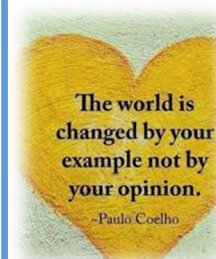
Mary MacKillop worked to ensure all children experienced the liberating and empowering nature of a faith education.

ALL: We thank God for the gift of our faith education and we ask that we never take for granted the many privileges that we enjoy.

Help us today to know and love God more.



Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph went out to the people. They travelled to remote areas of Australia and New Zealand to educate children in the faith. Mary loved others not just 'In word or speech' but in 'truth and action'.



ALL: We ask God to help us to be strong, to live in Truth and to show we are followers of Jesus not only by word but by our actions.

Mary MacKillop experienced the presence and power of Christ in her life. She experienced the power of prayer. Christ inspired her work and sustained her when she needed help. Mary understood the importance of keeping God near in drawing strength from her prayer life.

when life gives you more than you can stand...
kneel.

ALL: We call God to strengthen our commitment to prayer. Help us to understand the importance of keeping God near.

Mary MacKillop recognized 'the divine equality of all'. Everyone she encountered was treated with respect—the illiterate, the sick, the poor, the ignored, the homeless. Mary writes: *reject no one, you never know what grace can do*. Mary understood the transformative power of human dignity and to feel whole again.

ALL: We ask God for the alertness to all of those amongst us who do not feel included or special. We ask God for the compassion to understand their plight and the courage to extend a hand of welcome to them.

ALL: Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop pray for us





Gospel

Matthew 6:25-34 (Theme: ***Do not worry about your life.***)

I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear. Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin: yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field will he not much more look after you? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we wear? Your heavenly Father knows you need all these things. Set your hearts on his Kingdom first, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We are in God's hands... let us not be troubled...Let us all, one and all, simply do the little we can as far as the necessary human means given to us, and beyond that, let us without a shadow of fear leave the rest to our Father and God.

December 19 1871 Mary MacKillop to Father Woods.

Loving Father,
As we remember St Mary of the Cross MacKillop on her feast day,
May she always be a bright light that brings us closer to You.
Help us to be inspired by the words and actions of St Mary MacKillop,
And to commit to our faith, during every season of our lives.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, *prayer for us*

Amen

