

# CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY



## PARABLE OF THE TEN BRIDESMAIDS

In this parable we have five bridesmaids who were prepared for the role to meet the Bridegroom. They had thought ahead and had taken extra oil no doubt realising they could be later than expected.

Mary MacKillop knew the importance of being ready for what was to come and the unexpected..

1. Mary's preparation for her future role was begun by her Father, Alexander, a very well educated man who developed her skills in handwriting, faultless spelling and her ability to handle delicate and difficult subjects. She knew the teachings of the Church and could speak Gaelic.

2. After the experience of the excommunication, and the attempts made to destroy the Congregation, Mary realised, unless she had the protection of Rome, the threat would always be there. So plans were made to go to Rome. One can imagine the preparation she had to do to get there. Get a ticket, write to the Sisters to tell of her journey, prepare Sr Monica to run things while she was away, and she had no idea it would be nearly two years before she returned. She wrote to Fr Woods but unfortunately her letter did not reach him until after she sailed and he was angry she had not consulted him.

Her wardrobe was one of a widow—black, a cloak and bonnet. Her habit packed away for when she needed it. A lot of prayer, as she had to rely of the Providence of God to pave the way for she had very little money. A passport, a letter of introduction to assure Roman authorities her mission was authentic, copies of the Rule to present to Rome, etc etc. No photo copiers, but all written by hand. .

**SIT WITH MARY AND REFLECT ON THIS OCCASION IN HER LIFE.**

**LISTEN TO HER TELL YOU ABOUT HOW SHE TRUSTED IN GOD.**

**ASK GOD TO GIVE YOU THAT SAME TRUST IN PROVIDENCE TO FACE THE FUTURE.**

We all have to prepare for our death—our meeting with our good God.

**How are you doing this? Maybe reflect on this meeting—what will you say? What will God say?**

**PSALM 23 From Psalms Now - Leslie Brandt Used with permission Aust. Lutheran Church**

The Lord is my constant companion  
There is no need that He cannot fulfil  
Whether His course for me points to the mountains of glorious joy  
Or to the valleys of human suffering,  
He is by my side, he is ever present with me.  
He is close beside me  
When I tread the dark streets of danger  
And even when I flirt with death itself.  
He will not leave me....  
My security is in His promise to be near me always  
And in the knowledge that He will never let me go.



**INTERCESSIONS:** Resp. *You are by my side, you are always with me.*

1. When I come to the time of my death, R
2. When I face time in a hospital for a surgical procedure. R
3. When a loved one is facing death and saying goodbye R
4. When I feel depressed and lonely R

**PRAY SLOWLY: OUR FATHER.**